



**PROVINCE OF NEWFOUNDLAND**

**THIRTY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
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**VERBATIM REPORT**

**MONDAY, APRIL 14, 1975**

**SPEAKER: THE HONOURABLE M. JAMES RUSSELL**

The House met at 11:00 A.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER (STAGG): Gentlemen before commencing today's proceedings it gives me great pleasure to welcome to the galleries nine students from Grade X and XI who attend Mountain Field Central High School in Forteau, Labrador accompanied by their Principal, Mr. Melvin Small. I trust that your visit here will be interesting and informative and educational. And on behalf of all honourable members I welcome you here.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTER

MR. SPEAKER (STAGG): The Hon. the Premier.

HON. F. D. MOORES (PREMIER): Mr. Speaker, last week before going to Ottawa I had been asked a question. I said we would report back.

On coming back to the House I know the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs answered questions on Friday regarding that particular trip. But I thought this morning I should review for the benefit of the House a few of the things that did happen in Ottawa and try and clear the record as far as the government's position is concerned.

First of all there were three items on the agenda - or two items rather - on the agenda at the First Ministers' Conference. As people know they were oil and gas prices and the state of the economy. As far as Newfoundland and Labrador is concerned, there are three real headings that came out of the Conference, one being oil and gas prices, one being the state of the economy and the position on restraints taken by Mr. Turner, and also the potential for hydro development in Eastern Canada.

Regarding the first of those items, the oil and gas prices, I might say at the outset that there was no deal with Alberta as we suggested in The Daily News of this morning, but rather this is a position that we have taken for sometime as have other governments. Now, Mr. Speaker, there are benefits to keeping the prices of oil and gas down. I do not think anyone denies that. But I would also say at this time that even if we wanted to in Newfoundland we could not with the federal government position and the position of the producing provinces.

I think the other thing that should be looked at is that if oil and gas prices are kept down it is in fact just for very short term relief, the benefit of doing that would be accrued. And I mean very short term, Mr. Speaker. It does not deal with the situation that they were kept down, because it would be not only unfair to producing provinces - and some people could say, why should we not be unfair to Saskatchewan and Alberta - but I wonder how we would feel in Newfoundland if, for instance, we could sell our fish to the U.S. at whatever say \$0.60 a pound but we were told no, this year you are going to sell half of it to Nova Scotia for \$0.30 a pound. I do not think that, or any other resource we have would really be - that would be the fair way nor the realistic way to do it.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. MOORES: It creates an artificial protection situation, Mr. Speaker. The Member for Bell Island says, where did I learn my economics? Obviously the same place as the federal government and indeed other Canadian provinces. But the fact is, Sir, that keeping the price of oil and gas down would create an artificial protection situation. And if the price of oil and gas remained low the demands would become excessive in Canada, and the more expensive alternative sources of energy would have to be found. Now the fact is, Sir, that oil and gas reserves in Canada, I think, is eight years and these have to be conserved as quickly as possible and as much as possible.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. MOORES: The fact is, Sir, that the - no the taxpayers of Canada. The Opposition have always lived in a dream world, Sir.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. MOORES: They always went for a short term convenient situation even at what was in fact a terrible cost for the future of this Province in the long term. And if anyone

wants to deny that, they can look at ERCO and the Upper Churchill Falls and all those other places where the giveaways happened on just short term viewpoints. There were eight governments in Canada agreed with this position and the three who did not were British Columbia, whose main complaint was the multinational oil companies versus provincial ownership rather than the price; Ontario, which has a unique situation, being the most, certainly, industrialized Province in Canada where they are suffering greatly right now from recession as well as inflation, probably more than any other Province and are very worried, particularly about their economic future in the short term until the present recessionary trends turn the corner, if and when they do. Nova Scotia took the same position because they are solely dependent on oil, Mr. Speaker, for their creation of electricity. They have no hydro power. They have no nuclear power. They are totally dependent on oil.

The great Liberal Governments of Quebec, the Federal Government and P.E.I. took the same stand as Newfoundland. Prince Edward Island even did the same thing. Mr. Speaker, the reason why the prices have to go up -

MR. NEARY: Inaudible.

MR. SPEAKER (Stagg): Order, please! Order, please! While a minister is making a statement, it is completely uncalled for and it is unparliamentary for any member to be interjecting remarks of this type. It then brings the element of debate into a statement and I ask the honourable Member for Bell Island to refrain from these unsolicited comments.

PREMIER MOORES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The fact is why do the prices of oil and gas have to go up? The fact is, Sir, that Canada is presently self-sufficient in oil. Things will not carry on that way much longer if exploration and badly needed exploration in Canada is not encouraged. This will not happen if prices are almost double everywhere else in the world. What would happen is we would become in Canada totally dependent on the Mid East as other countries are,



and with the traumatic effects that that has in other parts of the world. This exploration is not just for Saskatchewan and Alberta but also includes areas like the offshore here in Newfoundland and Labrador.

We have stated in Ottawa and on any other occasion that any increase should not be severe on low income groups and to qualify that, Sir, in the statement I read in Ottawa, I would like to quote from it, "While we strongly believe in the above principles, we recognize that this long run objective cannot be attained immediately without various severe economic and social dislocation. We are particularly concerned about the effects which major price changes would have on an economy already experiencing high unemployment and rampant inflation. We are also aware of the serious strain which rising energy prices place on the lower income groups in our society. Therefore, while we recognize the need for an upward adjustment in petroleum prices so that the oil producing provinces can begin to receive a more realistic return on their nonrenewable resources, it is vital that the effect of this increase not be passed on in full measure to low income groups. This can only be accomplished by the Federal Government through the wise use of its monetary and fiscal powers. We are advocating therefore that the oil producing Provinces gradually increase the price of their resources to those obtaining internationally and that at the same time a national programme be instituted aimed at lessening the adverse effect on the economy particularly in the have-not parts of Canada."

MR. NEARY: Inaudible.

PREMIER MOORES: The fact is, Mr. Speaker, - the Member for Bell Island does not pay any attention to the Chair, but be that as it may, Sir. But when the oil and gas is found off Labrador it will be definition be expensive to produce. We will need a maximum return if it is to be brought into production because it is not going to be cheap oil and gas to produce, Mr. Speaker. It is critically important to the

future of Newfoundland that it be brought into production when it is found in commercial quantities.

The other thing, Sir, is that this does not apply to the petroleum and oil resource. It would also possibly in the future not apply to other natural resources in the Province. That is, for instance, where - where would that lead Newfoundland, for instance, if Alberta was asked to, or Saskatchewan, asked to sell their resources at half price, where would that leave a resource rich Province like Newfoundland, say, with hydro, which is an energy product the same as oil and gas, where when we develop the hydro potential of this Province, we want a fair market value and no more giveaways. The fact is that the same thing could be easily argued the other way.

Mr. MacDonald on television last night illustrated very well the need for monies for exploration and also the monies from the taxes on oil and gas are presently being used for such things as the transmission line from the Lower Churchill.

These are very important to this Province. No one likes to see increases in prices, Sir, but in the case of oil and gas we are presently paying half what the rest of the world is paying. Now, all in all no one wants increases. But, I suppose there is no other area in the economy of Canada where one has to be instituted over a period of time, not rapidly, more so than oil and gas. In the long term of the future of our country and our Province, it is even though not desirable, something that I am afraid will have to be done.

Sir, regarding the hydro discussions in Ottawa, we went into the second day's meeting a wee bit frustrated, if I might say so, on the business of oil and gas being the only subject under discussion when energy really was the matter that we should have been discussing because it is energy of all forms really we are talking about. Now, at that time we said that there is between some 6,000 to 10,000 megawatts in Labrador and from 20,000 to 25,000 megawatts in Quebec still undeveloped even after Baie James, that big development in Quebec and after the development of the Churchill River. The fact is that if you take that energy equivalent in megawatts, hydro megawatts and convert it into equivalent in barrels of oil per year it works out to 500 million barrels of oil per year. The fact is that we converted it to that sort of figure so that they could obviously listen to what was being said because when you are talking oil and gas terminology, everybody seems to listen more attentively in most of the rest of Canada.

The fact is that 500 million barrels of oil per year is what we have in Quebec and ourselves in hydro potential. This in effect is seventy per cent of Canada's total petroleum consumption today. We presently consume some 700 million barrels of oil per year in Canada, of an unrenovable resource. The Province has agreed that a study should be done for all potential sites to find out each site's potential and the approximate cost of development at the time that we could bring it on stream, and hopefully as quickly as possible.

Now, this study should be done totally differently from the Lower Churchill River Development. We plan to co-operate and work jointly with Quebec who we have had discussions with and who have been

very co-operative, if I may say, Mr. Speaker, in this regard regarding the sites themselves. As the two producing Provinces, we will, together with the federal government do an analysis on all the hydro sites we have in both Provinces. We will also work with the other Eastern Provinces regarding a distribution system for the supply of hydro at the earliest, which all of them so badly require. That includes Ontario and Quebec and the three Maritime Provinces as well as ourselves.

It was suggested at the conference that possibly for such a scheme the federal government would pay the transmission cost for the regional grid, if you like, and the site development would be the responsibility of the producing province and the customers eventually. Because, I think it is fair to say, Sir, that when we talk about customers, Newfoundland obviously would have recall on whatever power it required. When we talk about a further 6,000 to 10,000 megawatts in Labrador plus the 1,400 at the Lower Churchill plus the 5,000 at the Upper Churchill it will be a great many years in the future before we could possibly use even a large percentage of that power. I think our present rate on the Island is something like 850 megawatts in total.

We plan to go ahead, Sir, with the overall development schedule to maximize the hydro resource potential as quickly as it is feasible. We would like to think that preliminary studies would start this year and no way would they conflict with the development of the Lower Churchill. In other words, Sir, get an information bank of all the rivers we have on the Island and in Labrador, as well as Quebec doing their's, so that as far the energy future is concerned in this Province we would have the information at hand, and together with the other governments be able to develop them as rapidly as possible.

In presenting this position at the conference, Sir, we had the support of all the provinces that spoke after us, particularly Ontario, Alberta, Quebec, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Mr. MacDonald was also strong in his support of the principle and as far as the federal government was concerned, it was prepared to grant money in support of same.

Equally, Sir, the last subject that came up at that conference was the matter of restraints. That, Sir, could apply, I suppose to the

was the matter of restraints. That, Sir, could apply, I suppose, to the conference but particularly to the Member for Bell Island. But, the fact is, Sir, that Canada so far in the international community has been pretty lucky as far as inflation and recession is concerned.

The fact is, Sir, that I suppose we have been lucky more by luck than good management. And something has to be done in Canada, that was put across very forcefully by Mr. Turner. We admire Mr. Turner's objectives and we will co-operate in every way to help him obtain them. But for the Opposition or anyone else, Sir, to think that the people of Newfoundland or the people of Canada are facing an easy year would be absolutely wrong. And not to face the realities of the present international situation regarding recession and inflation would be not just wrong but very, very dangerous. I would suggest, Sir, to the Opposition or to anyone else that responsibility is the key word when we are talking about the seriousness of restraints. Mr. Turner will be making his position public, I would assume, on the latter part of May when he gives his new budget. But until such time, Sir, as that can be analyzed and properly looked at I think it would be terribly wrong to try to make cheap political points at the expense of the economy of Canada, the Canadian people and the people of Newfoundland.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. SPEAKER (STAGG): The Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

HON. E. M. ROBERTS: (LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is most unfortunate, Sir, that the Premier chooses to hide behind the rules of the House in making a debating statement when I am not allowed to debate it in reply.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: I cannot debate it in reply and so I shall not, but let it be noted that the Premier does not have the courage to bring the matter before the House for debate.

Now, Sir, his statement, which he said would clarify the Province's position, if anything, has made it worse. There is only one issue which should be looked at by the Government of this Province when they go to Ottawa or anywhere else to speak for the people of this Province and that is this, what is best for the people of Newfoundland, what will best serve their interests. The fact remains that despite all of the words used by the Premier and all the figures he threw about and all the talk he used, Sir, the position taken by the Government of this Province in Ottawa last week was the wrong position for the people of this Province.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. ROBERTS: In an age of increasing costs there is no way in which the Government of this Province should be supporting or doing anything but opposing a proposal to increase the price of oil. If the Premier wishes to talk about realities then I say to him, Sir, that is the reality in the minds of our people today. There are used in Newfoundland, I am told, about 500 million of gallons of oil and oil products a year. A six cent a gallon increase will cost the people of this Province \$30 million. A ten cent a gallon increase would cost the people of this Province \$50 million. And if we take roughly, that is roughly \$100 per person in Newfoundland. We do not need that extra cost, Sir. The people of Newfoundland are now faced with the rising cost of living. They are now trying to cope with the situation caused by the fact that in three years in office the do-nothing Tory Government have yet to create any jobs -

MR. SPEAKER (STAGG): Order, please! The Leader of the Opposition's general comments are on the borderline between debate and comment, if there is such a borderline. But his last comments are completely out of order, are provocative and I will ask him to refrain from using similar remarks.

MR. ROBERTS: Thank you, Your Honour. And I shall, of course, try to do so. But as I have said it is not Your Honour's doing but it is a weakness in the procedure of the House that the Premier can be as provocative as he wants and that the Opposition are not allowed to reply.

Sir, the Premier misrepresented the positions of several other provinces. He did not deal with the points that had been raised, substantive points of criticism against this Province's position. He talked of low income groups and made some platitudes about it, but put forward no proposals as to how it should be cushioned, the effect of a price increase. He talked about the fact that increasing costs somehow will reduce consumption. And I would ask the Premier or anybody else, how a person who heats his home by oil is going to be able to reduce consumption. Our people now, Sir, are consuming the least they can. There is nobody

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voluntarily in Newfoundland using more oil than he has to to keep his house fit to live in, not the way costs are.



What then are we going to do? Are we going to reduce the heat in our homes even further? Sir, it is a foolish position and it is an evil position and it is a fraudulent position because it is one that does not serve the people of Newfoundland.

MR. SPEAKER (STAGG): Order, please! Order, please! I think the honourable Leader of the Opposition has indeed begun to debate this matter and some of his remarks are, if not unparliamentary, they are very close to it. They probably are unparliamentary, however I am not prepared to rule on them at this time. I believe that the short period of time devoted to this comment has expired.

MR. ROBERTS: Has Your Honour ruled I cannot go on?

MR. SPEAKER (STAGG): You may go on for a short period of time.

MR. ROBERTS: I thank Your Honour.

MR. SPEAKER (STAGG): You cannot have a full scale debate.

MR. ROBERTS: Well I realize that Your Honour and I very much regret it indeed. It is pointless to go on in the face of this but let me just conclude by saying simply a question to the Premier, is the Premier prepared to allow debate this day on this issue in this House? We have not been allowed to debate it. The Premier obviously feels confident in his position, will he put it to the test this day in this House? We stand ready to debate it now.

MR. MOORES: Mr. Speaker, the estimates of Mines and Energy will be coming before this House this week and I would suggest that that is the correct place to debate it.

#### PETITIONS:

MR. SPEAKER (STAGG): The honourable the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture.

HON. H. COLLINS, MINISTER OF FORESTRY AND AGRICULTURE: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition which I have received from approximately 170 residents of the Town of Gander who are occupying C.M.H.C., D.O.T. owned housing units. The houses are owned by C.M.H.C., were built by C.M.H.C. about fifteen, sixteen years ago, were turned over to the Ministry of Transport who rented the houses to their employees.

A number of years ago some of the units were sold. However,

there were approximately 170 left to be rented to various tenants and during the past month or six weeks the federal agency, C.M.H.C., have decided again to sell the remainder of the houses.

I understand that the federal agency again have an appraisal done of the various properties and the prices which they have, the price tags which they have put on those houses ranges from \$24,800 to \$34,000, dependent upon the size of the unit involved.

The tenants who occupy those houses would very much like to buy them. They find that in a great many cases they cannot afford to buy them. On the other hand maybe the greatest objection they have is the fact that after paying rent to C.M.H.C., to D.O.T. really and back to C.M.H.C., after paying those rents for a period of fifteen or sixteen years, those people feel that they should be given some recognition in terms of building up an equity in the unit and this is a very valid argument in my opinion, and a very valid argument in the opinions of all of the tenants of the housing units.

The prayer of the petition, Mr. Speaker, is rather long. I will mention some of the more important issues which they raise. Those people say we consider the prices much too high for the following reasons: these houses are all approximately twenty years old. Now when they say twenty years old, they know more about it than I do but I thought they would have been about seventeen or eighteen, but they say twenty. They say that they are insulated to a standard that satisfied the price of energy in that era. They now need to be re-insulated to satisfy a standard in accordance with today's energy crisis.

Number two, the furnaces in a lot of these homes will have to be replaced in the near future. Number three, the hot water and oil tanks are reaching a critical age level and might have to be replaced shortly. Bathrooms fixtures and faucets in many cases are due for replacement. A lot of the homes are showing the scars of large families and little maintenance in the last few years, because proper maintenance procedures were not followed apparently by the landlord. Mildew forms on the walls of many homes. A lot of basements have cracks that have only been temporarily repaired and need extensive work done on them.

The windows will have to be replaced in nearly all of the units for comfort and satisfaction over the years with the varied elements that one encounters in this Province. Extensive work is required on the landscaping of the majority of the homes. The inner design of these homes is not built to accommodate today's type of kitchen or bedroom furniture. Hence a major expense is necessary if one is to design the houses to accommodate a moderate size family. The wiring in the houses is well below today's standards.

We have been told that these houses are now a burden as far as CMHC is concerned due to maintenance costs. How do they expect us to maintain them and pay a mortgage as well? Then in parenthesis here they say that a spokesman for CMHC in a news release last winter on the local broadcast station said they were beginning to be a liability and needed extensive repairs.

In Gander we have a sizeable section of retired people on fixed income in these units. How can they possibly buy one of them on a salary of \$3,000 or \$4,000 a year? We believe that some local politicians - I am not sure what they mean here - we believe that some local politicians have a vested interest in the price of these houses for purely personal reasons. I do not know what they are saying, what they mean by that. But, I have heard that there have been some allegations that somebody might have thought that the prices would have to be kept up to keep the property tax rates up, and that is not true, of course.

We feel the prices of these houses were deliberately assessed high to protect the local market. The truth of the matter is that all people in these houses are only looking for homes at a fair rate -

MR. SPEAKER (STAGG): Order, please!

Some of the matters in this petition that the honourable member is presenting would appear to violate section 90 of the Standing Orders, that it should not contain impertinent or improper matter. Some of the allegations as read out by the honourable member appear to the Chair to be rather serious ones. I suggest that the honourable member might peruse the petition for matters that are of provocative nature.

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, what I have been trying to do is to tell this

House exactly what the tenants of those houses have been telling me to tell to the House. They say that the majority of the houses do not have any dining rooms. In 1967 - this is interesting, Mr. Speaker - in 1967 the same houses were offered by CMHC for \$11,000 and they question now why the increase to \$34,000 in view of the fact that CMHC is a federal agency set up to provide housing to middle income and low income groups and not be involved in terms of the profit motive.

At any rate, Mr. Speaker, what we are saying here is that the tenants in those houses in Gander feel that they are being ripped off, if you want to, in terms of CMHC charging what is about 150 per cent more than the houses cost in years gone by. Of course, when we think about that we also have to consider the depreciation in terms of some of the items which I mentioned earlier where the houses have not been properly maintained.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that the petition be tabled and since it is a federal matter, I suppose, we can refer it to my colleague, the Minister of Municipal Affairs who I am sure will take it upon himself to have it referred to the appropriate federal authority.

MR. SPEAKER (STAGG): The Member for Bonavista North.

MR. THOMS: Mr. Speaker, I rise on this side of the House on behalf of my colleagues in support of the petition presented by the Member for Gander on behalf of some 170 people who are residents of Gander. Mr. Speaker, I am quite sure this honourable House is aware that these homes were built between sixteen and twenty years ago, and the construction of these homes at that time would certainly not meet with the criteria of the construction trade today.

Many of these homes, if they are the homes that I think they are, like the ones up on Bowes Street and the area, they are very small homes with a story and a half. Possibly some of the ones on Edinburgh are up for sale also. Mr. Speaker, if one considers the rent that was paid in these homes over a period of between sixteen and twenty years, one will find that these homes have been paid for already at least twice by the present occupants, or if not the present occupants, the previous occupants.

So, we on this side of the House fail to see why such a large amount is being asked for these homes at the present time. We believe that the amounts should be substantially reduced. These homes are small homes. They are on very small lots, sixty by 100, the most of them are. I know that for a fact because I am willing to bet that I set up an instrument on possibly every corner of these lots myself. So, Mr. Speaker, we on this side of the House support the prayer of this petition and we trust that - I suppose it should go to the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs so that he would present it to the federal government and strongly urge that these prices would be substantially reduced.

NOTICES OF MOTION:

MR. EARLE: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a bill "An Act To Remove The Legal Restrictions On The Assignment By Her Majesty Of Certain Rights To The Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro-Electric Corporation."

MR. SPEAKER (STAGG): Are there any other notices of motion?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

MR. SPEAKER (STAGG): The Hon. Minister of Manpower and Industrial Relations.

HON. E. MAYNARD (MINISTER OF MANPOWER AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS): Mr. Speaker, I have the answer to one question, No. 34 on the Order Paper of April 1, 1975 asked by the Hon. Member for Bell Island. The question was: What is the number of industrial accidents reported that have occurred since March 31, 1974 as of the current date? The answer is that there were 14,572 industrial accidents reported to the Workmen's Compensation Board for the period the 31st. of March 1974 to April 1, 1975.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER (STAGG): The Hon. Member for Bell Island.

MR. S. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, in view of the information that the Hon. the Premier gave the House this morning about the government's position at the recent Energy Conference, would the Premier care to tell the House if the adjustment in this year's equalization payments to Newfoundland as a result of the tax on Western oil, if that adjustment, the increase will be passed on to the consumers in Newfoundland as was originally intended by the Government of Canada?

MR. MOORES: Mr. Speaker, when we see what the equalization payment is we will certainly pass on the full benefits of any equalization payment we get to the people of this Province.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Will it be used to subsidize the price of heating fuel and gasoline? Or will it be passed on indirectly in some other way?

MR. MOORES: It will be used in such a manner to give the most benefit to the people of the Province, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (STAGG): The Member for Bell Island.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, evasive and general. Would the Premier care to tell the House if Eastern Provincial Airways approached his government as well as the Government of Nova Scotia with a proposal to consolidate their operation on the Mainland and build a hanger in Halifax? And if so, why did the Provincial Government not take the same initiative as the Government of Nova Scotia in this matter?

MR. MOORES: Mr. Speaker, we were approached by Eastern Provincial Airways to assist them in approaching the federal government and others regarding the establishment of a major overhaul facility in Gander. Certainly we did all in our power and are doing to try and encourage that approach. We were not approached, Sir, as far as the personnel located in Moncton and Halifax of E.P.A. were concerned and where they were locating then.

MR. ROBERTS: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Did the Premier say that the government were not approached at all with respect to this decision by E.P.A. to - no, I will put it as a question because the Premier, I think, used some words very loosely, and I want to give him the opportunity to state specifically what the position was. Perhaps he could tell us whether there were any approaches made from E.P.A. with respect to their decision to build at Halifax a large training centre and a base for their flight personnel?

MR. MOORES: I would not say we were approached, Mr. Speaker, I suppose one could say we were advised that this was being done for the simple reason that the staff of E.P.A. in Montreal and Moncton, and in Gander to a lesser degree, being at both ends of the system, they felt that the majority of their personnel should be at Halifax. We were advised of that. But also I would like to reiterate the emphasis being placed on Gander was certainly no job reduction. As a matter of fact with the repair facility that we are talking about for Gander and the service facility we are talking about for the aircraft, it seemed to me to make inimitable sense that this sort of development for Gander was what was required it is what Gander does well. And E.P.A.'s internal decisions as to where they place their personnel, unfortunately if they are out of this Province we cannot say that we want the people from New Brunswick to come to Newfoundland, I wish we could. The fact is that they told us



that they were doing this. We said, we wish they were here. They said it was impossible to bring them here. But in the meantime the Gander development as a service area for E.P.A. was going to be expanded.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, a further supplementary. And I thank the Premier. Could he tell us please what efforts the government made to persuade E.P.A. to base these flight personnel at Gander?



MR. MOORES:

Other than through - we asked them to locate in Newfoundland Mr. Speaker, in the form of a request, and this request was turned down, if you like, on the basis of explaining why they had to be located in Halifax and also I might say, the demand for having the repair facilities in Moncton and Montreal was equally, I understand, turned down in other Provinces because of the desire to have it at Gander.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, a further supplementary; is it fair to say then that the Premier and the government accepted E.P.A.'s reasons for moving this from Moncton and other places, Montreal, and into Halifax?

MR. MOORES: We accepted their reasons as to why they did not move them to Newfoundland. It is not our business, Mr. Speaker, for a private company to tell them where or where not to move.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary; would the Premier tell the House if there was any correspondence back and forth between E.P.A. and the government on this matter and if so, is the Premier prepared to table the correspondence in the House?

MR. MOORES: I will check and find out, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I have another question for the honourable the Premier. Would the honourable the Premier care to tell the House if the government is accepting applications for the position of Ombudsman?

MR. MOORES: Mr. Speaker, as was announced in the Throne Speech I guess it was, we will be bringing in legislation and the name of the Ombudsman during this session.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker; would the Premier care to indicate whether the Ombudsman will be a former Member of Parliament from Newfoundland, a P.C. Member of Parliament?

MR. MOORES: At the appropriate time the gentleman's name will be announced, Mr. Speaker. The Member from Bell Island need not apply if that is what he is interested in, Sir.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I have another very delicate question for the honourable the Premier. In view of the fact that advertisements in the newspapers are being interpreted as meaning that Come-By-Chance is now almost on the brink of going ahead, all the obstacles have been removed, would the Premier care to tell the House if this is so and when construction on expansion of the oil refinery will actually get underway?

MR. MOORES: I was not aware of the advertisements, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NEARY: Well then a supplementary, Sir. Would the honourable the Premier care to tell the House if the difficulties have been removed and that the expansion to the Come-By-Chance Oil Refinery will be going ahead, when it will start, when actual construction will get underway and when men will be hired on the site? Would the honourable Premier care to tell the House?

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister of Industrial Development.

MR. DOODY: Mr. Speaker, it has been indicated by me and by others in this House on several occasions recently that the difficulties have not been overcome. The Shaheen people are still negotiating in Ottawa. The export permit situation, the long term contract situation is, to the best of my knowledge, as it was during the past several months. They have not resolved that difficulty. E.C.G.D. will not advance the financing until this difficulty is removed. We hope that it will be done shortly. We are not in a position to say when because we do not have control the National Energy Board, nor over the Federal Department of Mines and Energy.

MR. ROBERTS: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker, to the minister. Is he telling the House, Sir, that the only barrier standing between Newfoundland and this expansion of the refinery is the National Energy Board and the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources in Ottawa, that if they would agree to whatever it is they are being asked to agree to, things would go ahead?

MR. DOODY: To the best of my knowledge that is so, Sir. I cannot say if it is the only reason, if it is the only obstacle. It is certainly the major obstacle and it is the one that we are acquainted with and the one that we are familiar with and the one that we have been working on, if there are other obstacles they have not been made known to us up to now.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable the Member for Hermitage.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries. I understand that the herring seiners are creating some problems in Bay D'Espoir, problems for the inshore fishermen, and I believe the minister has had some representation from people at Hermitage concerning this matter. I wonder if the minister would give his department's view of the problem and if there is some way to resolve it?

HON. J.C. CROSBIE (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, I have not yet received any message from Hermitage although it may be at the Department of Fisheries. I do know from other sources that - I know what they are objecting about - I believe the herring seiners are now taking herring just outside the ice in the Bay D'Espoir area, and that they are taking quite a bit of herring. That is a matter, of course, that is within the jurisdiction of the federal government as to what area you can take herring by seines or not take herring by seines. The honourable gentleman should get in touch with the regional director here also. But I have not yet heard from them but when I do I shall see what information I can get and I will also have the regional director contact him.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary. I have been in touch with the regional director this morning and I am aware of where the jurisdiction lies here. I wonder, though, would the minister indicate what his department's position would be on a proposal to seek a restriction on the Bay D'Espoir area, such as the restriction which now exists in Fortune Bay in terms of the herring seiners.

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Speaker, we would have to know exactly what the proposal is and then decide whether or not we agreed with it. I mean, there is a delicate balance to be kept here between the rights of inshore fishermen who fish for herring and those of inshore fishermen who fish on herring seiners. They both have to be able to catch fish and it is not an easy matter to decide. One

would need the wisdom of Damocles to - so I would need to see a concrete proposal.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. CROSBIE: Damocles is the one who had the sword, yes. Anyway, you would need a lot of wisdom. Our position has been that the herring stocks in the various bays have to be protected for inshore fishermen, and all the herring not just taken by herring seiners.

On the other hand there has to be a decent balance between the two so I would have to see exactly what was being proposed.

MR. SIMMONS: Thank you, to the minister. A question for the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. I heard second-hand this morning a radio report in connection with the McCallum water situation and I was rather disturbed by the report. Now the minister may have been quoted incorrectly but my question is: has the government or has his department given up on efforts to assist the people of McCallum in their efforts to get a water supply?

HON. A.B. PECKFORD (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing): No, Mr. Speaker, we have not given up on our efforts in getting a water supply for any community in the Province. However, the situation in McCallum is one of the more difficult ones to deal with, to grapple with as is the case with Francois as well, next door to McCallum.

MR. NEARY: Rose Blanche.

MR. PECKFORD: Rose - do you want to go on? Dover and Embree, Main Brook, Conche, Bell Island itself. One could spend all day at that. But anyway, Mr. Speaker, we have not given up on our efforts. What I was trying to paint was a realistic picture of the problems in McCallum in finding a decent water supply. We are still trying to grapple with it and some of my engineers have been working on it for quite some time to see what can be worked out at a reasonable cost.

If you heard the news release this morning, we seem to, perhaps, have some answers for Francois, but we are still working

on McCallum. So it is one down and one to go.

MR. SIMMONS: A supplementary for the minister. Is he in a position to say now whether the idea of further drilling has been scratched as a reasonable proposal for McCallum?

MR. PECKFORD: I do not know if the idea of drilling has been scrapped. I think it is a matter of being able to get the right kind of equipment that can travel over difficult topography and apparently that kind of equipment is not easily accessible right here in the Province. But if there is some kind of unit that some contractor has that can be more easily mobile so that we can get into the area, we can not only do places like McCallum but other places where we are having difficulty in obtaining water. That is the problem of the technology of the thing as it relates to well drilling rigs right now.

MR. SIMMONS: A further supplementary for the minister. First I refer him to Waltsons Drilling from which I got a letter this morning on the subject of deep well drilling. A supplementary, he made reference, the minister did, to the matter of Francois. Can I assume from his press statement that he has or that his department has made a decision to make available the additional money that is going to be required to facilitate the completion of the Francois water supply this year? Water system, I ought to say.

MR. PECKFORD: Number one, if the honourable Member for Hermitage has any references for well drilling firms in North America who can assist this government in providing water for the various communities in the Province, I suggest that he immediately get in touch with the Water Services Division and pass along those gems of wisdom.

Number two, on Francois, the department is concocting or preparing a proposal to present to the Water Committee of Francois. We will present that to them and wait for their answer to our proposal.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable the Member for Labrador North.

MR. WOODWARD: Mr. Speaker, thank you. I have a question for the Minister of Manpower and Industrial Relations. In light of the news this morning, it appears that the strike at Wabush will drag on for a considerable amount of time. I am wondering if he can tell the House if his department is taking any action and is there any end in sight as to when the strike will end? If he would care to comment on the fact that the skilled trades are paid far less in that section of the Province than they are in the Island section of the Province today and it is difficult to attract the skilled people to the Labrador sector.

HON. E. MAYNARD (Minister of Manpower and Industrial Relations):

Mr. Speaker, to answer the last part of the question first, it would be highly inappropriate for me to comment on the wages being paid in the Labrador West area for any segment of the work force while negotiations are still ongoing between the company and the union, and I have no intention of making a comment on it. Neither should anyone else, I do not think, as that is certainly an internal matter.

As far as the length of the strike is concerned, I am not aware of how long it is going to go on. We have been in contact with both parties. As a matter of fact, last night I talked to officials of both the company and the union. There is no intention at this time of our department getting involved if involved means imposing or trying to impose any settlement on it. Our conciliation officer has been available to the parties since some time in the first of January. He is still available to assist the parties in any way possible if and when they request his services. That will continue to be the situation for the time being.

MR. WOODWARD: Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Tourism. I wonder if the minister can tell the House if his department has any plans in conjunction with the federal government



to develop a national park in Labrador?

HON. T.V. HICKEY (MINISTER OF TOURISM): Mr. Speaker, I have to take that question under advisement.

MR. SPEAKER (STAGG): The Member for Labrador South.

MR. MARTIN: I have a question, Mr. Speaker, for the honourable the Minister of Mines and Energy. I wonder if his department has any plans to hold meetings on the Southern Coast of Labrador, that is in the Straits of Belle Isle section similar to those which he held in Northern Labrador in order to brief the people there on what they can expect from construction on the tunnel and hydro line.

HON. L. BARRY (MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY): Mr. Speaker, we attempt to go to the areas where we could foresee some immediate developments taking place based on the fact that this is the area where the companies are now working, where gas discoveries have been made, say from Cartwright North. Our understanding is that Eastcan itself will be moving further North again this Summer rather than South. It will be going to the Northern part of its acreage for this Summer's drilling. B.P. on the other hand is moving further North on its East Coast Newfoundland, South Coast Labrador acreage. So, it should be coming closer to Southern Labrador. Again, B.P. will be operating from either Botwood or a new base at Cartwright.

We do not see any immediate developments taking place to affect the Southern communities along the Coast of Labrador. But, of course, time permitting and resources, personnel and so on permitting, we will be happy to go to the communities in the Southern part of Labrador and arrange similar meetings there. We will be happy to get the honourable member's comments as to the most effective way of doing this.

MR. MARTIN: I feel I should clarify that, Mr. Speaker. The question concerned the construction which is about to get under way on the tunnel and the hydro line. The people in the local area are concerned that their local economies are going to be affected to the same degree as those in the Northern communities. They were in fact planning on asking the minister to go up there and hold similar meetings. I am wondering if anything has transpired in that respect.

HON. MEMBERS: Inaudible.

MR. BARRY: I thought similar to the ones that we had recently given on the Coast of Labrador with respect to oil and gas. I thought that was your reference. Yes, Mr. Speaker, I think that this is a very worthwhile suggest. It is one that we had intended to comply with. Initially we believe it is necessary to hold certain meetings in the Goose Bay-Happy Valley area. Conceivably there should be meetings as well on both sides of the Straits. And this is something I will pass on specifically to the Newfoundland Hydro people and get their suggestions as to how we can most effectively meet the needs of the people on the Straits area for information on this project.

AN HON. MEMBER: Both sides.

MR. BARRY: Both sides.

MR. SPEAKER (STAGG): The Member for Fogo.

CAPT. E. WINSOP: Mr. Speaker, I want to direct a question to the Hon. Minister of Fisheries. But I would ask Your Honour if he would bear with me for a few minutes I want to give a little preamble, a little background so that the minister will be familiar with the problem involved. Last week several longliners of Change Islands blasted their longliners out of the ice. Consequently one of the longliner operators damaged his prop or propeller. On arriving at Twillingate he tried to get the longliner lifted out at the marine service there, and he was told that how he was refused to get permission to do this until he had the cash to pay for the job or lifting out the boat. Would the minister confirm that that is a regulation pertaining to those service stations that in order to get the services available that a man should have the money ready to put on the barrel head so as to speak?

MR. CROSBIE: I cannot confirm it, Mr. Speaker. It is the first I heard of it, you know. If the honourable gentleman wants to give me the name of the man in question I will have it all looked into. There is a charge for having your boat taken out and a storage charge while it is stored. But whether you have to have the cash on the barrel head before or what the rules are.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.



MR. CROSBIE: When we err, Mr. Speaker, we always err on the side of generosity and magnanimity. And if that did not happen in this case there may be some reason. If the honourable gentleman will give me that man's name I will have it checked into, and in addition, I will find out what the general rule is.

MR. SPEAKER (STAGG): The Member for Twillingate.

MR. H. W. C. GILLETT: Mr. Speaker, I am wondering if the - a question for the Minister of Fisheries - I am wondering if the Minister of Fisheries inadvertently mentioned the fact that there was a storage charge. There is a storage charge. But that is not in effect yet, is it?

AN HON. MEMBER: No.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. GILLETT: Pardon?

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. GILLETT: Tell us what is going on down in your department, boy.

MR. NEARY: Inaudible.

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Speaker, you know, with respect to Durrell, I think, it was at Twillingate where boats were taken up on the marine service centre before any charges were set or told what the charges would be special arrangements were made for that. There will be a charge for storing a boat and hauling a boat up and so on when these get in to full operations. Special arrangements were made at Durrell, I think it was, because the people involved all had their boats hauled up there before charges were instituted. So that is what he is referring to. There has been no change in that, you know.

MR. GILLETT: Mr. Speaker, this was the Durrell Service Centre that the honourable Member for Fogo was talking about.

MR. CROSBIE: They charged him for hauling the boat up.

MR. GILLETT: Oh, yes. But not for storage.

MR. CROSBIE: Right.

CAIT. WINSOR: Mr. Speaker, may I direct another question to the Honourable minister. Would he undertake - because this time of the year, of course, the fishermen are very anxious to get their longliners out especially if they have trouble in order to get out sealing - would the minister undertake to make sure that these fishermen can get their

boats out and to make some tentative arrangement for payment after?

MR. CROSBIE: An arrangement for what?

CAPT. WINSOR: For repairs which might have to be made.

AN HON. MEMBER: Give him a bit of credit.

MR. NEARY: Give him a bit of credit, yes.

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Speaker, I do not know what the honourable gentleman is asking. Is the honourable gentleman wanting me to go around blasting the longliners out of the ice all over the Island? I mean, what is your question?

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

CAPT. WINSOR: Mr. Speaker, I do not think that the honourable minister is listening attentively. I am sure he is not.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

CAPT. WINSOR: Those fishermen who come in with damage, as a matter of fact, there are three or four on the Northeast Coast over the weekend which had damage in going through the ice. Now when they arrive at Durrell or wherever that marine centre is they do not have

the ready cash in your pocket, some arrangement. What I am asking the minister is would he make some arrangements in order that fishermen would not be delayed, take his boat out of the water, get it repaired and get back to whatever type of fishing he is engaged in.

MR. ROBERTS: Or else he will never make the money to pay for it.

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Speaker, there is no need for any special arrangements to be made. Obviously that would be done in any event. You know, the honourable gentleman -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. CROSBIE: Everybody who gets their boat hauled up is going to be charged.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SPEAKER (STAGG): Order, please!

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Speaker, I resent this attack upon my generosity. I have had no complaints from anyone in this connection. The honourable gentleman has a complaint. I say, give me his name and I will have the whole situation checked out and then I will report on all the facts to the House. You know, that is all.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, under the provisions of Standing Order (23) I ask leave to move the adjournment of the House - we do not seem to have a - if the clerk would be good enough - to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the failure of the government of this Province to support the efforts being made by other Provinces to prevent an increase in the price of fuel and oil products to the consumers in those provinces, which failure by the government will result in the people of Newfoundland and Labrador paying substantially higher prices for gasoline and for heating oil in the very near future, which failure is a direct result of the government's refusal to stand up for the true interests of Newfoundland and of Canada as a whole.

As Your Honour has doubtless realized, Your Honour being as quick as Your Honour is, this is exactly the same motion that I have attempted to, or that I have asked leave to move twice in the last week. I feel

the matter is serious and urgent. It should be debated. I asked earlier today whether it would be debated, and I was told, well, the Energy Department Estimates will come up at some point this week. Sir, this matter should be debated now. The Premier has committed this Province to a position which many people feel is wrong. He has done it without any debate. I ask now if the motion could be accepted so that we could debate the matter and get the sense of the House on it, get the feeling of the House. It is still not too late for the government to come to their senses, Sir.

MR. CROSBIE: I know it is hardly necessary to address you on this. The question is whether this is a matter of urgency and such utmost importance that it must be debated now.

I point out first, Mr. Speaker, that the conference involved terminated last week, that there is to be no change in the prices of oil or gas in Canada for at least another two months, until the end of June. That hardly indicates any urgency. I point out to Your Honour that the estimates of the Department of Mines and Energy are to come before the House this week when the matter can be discussed in detail and will. We will be proud to discuss it and explain it to honourable gentlemen opposite so that they will stop this silly harassment. Therefore, under all the rules that appertain to a debate of this nature, plus the fact that it has been moved twice before, last week when the conference was on and is now being moved with the conference having terminated without any change in oil and gas prices, I would ask Your Honour to find that it is not suitable to be debated at this time.

MR. SPEAKER (STAGG): Order, please!

Well, there have been two previous rulings, at least two previous rulings on this matter. I find that the circumstances have not substantially changed. Although the matter is one of great importance to everyone, it is not a matter which demands immediate debate and consequently is not one of these matters for which the ordinary order of business would be suspended.

On motion the the House resolve itself into Committee of Supply.  
Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Page sixteen of the estimates.

Head 11 Legislative

MR. ROBERTS: It is sort of a changing of the guard. May I go ahead, Your Honour. The Head has been called.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Dunphy): The honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. ROBERTS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is traditionally the Head which goes through at five minutes to eleven on a Friday evening and I guess ten minutes after twelve on a Monday morning is a modern equivalent of it.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: Yes. For the benefit of the honourable the Member for Green Bay, this is the Head out of which our own salaries are paid and it is usually done in the dark of night for a good reason. I only have one question really on the salaries end of it, Sir, because there are no changes proposed in members salaries, nor should there be in my view at this time.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: Well, my bank manager would not be very keen on that. If the honourable gentleman wants to take a cut, I would be the first to encourage him, but my bank manager has strong views on that sort of thing.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Dunphy): Order, please!

MR. ROBERTS: Well, that may have, that -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: A number of honourable gentlemen would debate that. Mr. Chairman, the question I have applies throughout really. This amount of \$204,100 is a very substantial increase from last year. It is thirty-one - the reason for the increase, as far as I can see, is and this appears throughout the estimates, so probably the Premier or the Minister of Fisheries or the Minister of Finance or whoever is to speak on these estimates could explain to us on what basis

are the amounts calculated which are shown as new positions, reclassifications and salary adjustments. Now, these are obviously legitimate items and they are obviously items which cannot be ascertained definitively in advance, particularly the salary adjustments because, of course, they are a matter for negotiations and it should be noted, I think, for the purpose of all concerned that these are not the salary adjustments that will affect M.H.A.s. Our allowances as M.H.A.s are paid out of 201-02 under the heading, or 201-02-01. That little item of three quarters of a million dollars there, that is where our money comes from as M.H.A.s.

I am concerned, Sir, with the general practice throughout the estimates. Large items are put in and they may they may or may not be justifiable, but I wonder if some spokesman for the ministry, and I would assume the Minister of Finance, if he is allowed to, give his opinion on this matter and could tell us just what is the basis on that on which that \$31,000, in this case \$31,100 is computed. Is it a percentage? If so, what is the percentage and on what basis is it taken?

MR. DOODY: Are you talking about -

MR. NEARY: Will the real Minister of Finance please stand up?

MR. DOODY: No, I was outside and I heard salaries mentioned and I darted back in again. I am sorry. Treasury Board -

MR. ROBERTS: The junior Member from Harbour Main holds other offices temporarily. My question, and perhaps it should have been addressed to him in his capacity as Chairman of the Treasury Board - It is hard to know, Sir, who is who over there most of the time - There is an item shown here, \$31,100, under the heading, New Positions, Reclassifications and Salary Adjustments, and, of course, that comes throughout the estimates. There is not a salary Head in the estimates, I am sure, that does not have a similar item in it. That amount is approximately twenty per cent of the total expenditure last year. The total expenditure last year was \$165,000 and that amount is eighteen or twenty per cent of that.

What I want to know, Mr. Chairman, is on what basis are these amounts calculated? How much, you know, what part of it is for reclassifications and I was not aware there were any reclassification exercises underway? Perhaps the minister could tell us about that. What new positions are contemplated? What proportion is for that and what proportion is for salary adjustments? Let it not be said, Mr. Chairman, that this somehow affects the government's overall position in negotiations. The government's position in negotiations is well known at least to the negotiating parties and there is no reason why the House cannot have some indication of what sort of blank check the government are asking for because throughout the estimates, I have not totalled them all, but there is an amount of about \$50 million under these various little headings of new positions, reclassifications and salary adjustments and the votes out of which hospital workers are paid and teachers are paid. I wonder if the minister could give us a little information on that please?

MR. DOODY: I cannot give you



very much information, Mr. Chairman, because obviously we will not know how much will be required for increases for the various sectors of the public service until after the contracts are signed. We do have, as the Leader of the Opposition suggested, a vote in there, an amount of money in there which hopefully will cover the major amount involved. But, as he has indicated himself on several occasions, these are indeed estimates. We would hope that we are estimating well, but certainly we have no real knowledge of what the final fee will be until the various negotiations are concluded.

The amounts of the breakdown between the new positions and new classifications and increases in salaries, it is not my privilege to divulge at the present time. Certainly the information is within the confines of Treasury Board now. These people are discussing it over the bargaining table with the various public service unions and organizations. There is a reclassification assessment going on across the table. There are some sectors of the public service who are most unhappy with the present GS ratings, scale and steps and so on. A lot of work has been done on that during the past year by the people in Treasury Board. It has been discussed with the representatives of the unions and so on.

So, until such time as the position is clarified by the people negotiating I really cannot say anything other than the fact that we estimate that we have enough money in there to cover the situations that are described. If we do not, then I am afraid we will have to look at it again later on. But that is all the information we can give at the present time, Mr. Chairman.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, I cannot make the minister say what he does not want to say. If he is going to evade the issue, then all I can say is that he is evading and avoiding the issue and without reason. But, I wonder then if he could come back to another point. On what basis are these amounts estimated? Does the secretary of the Treasury Board or some official down there pull them out of the air? You know, on what basis? Do we look at a Ouija Board? You know, there must be



a basis. I wonder if the minister could indicate on what basis it is because the matter is of importance, Mr. Chairman. We are being asked as a Committee, as a House, to approve expenditures. That is a very fine thing to be asked to do. It is also very necessary.

As part of that process, we, as a House, or as a Committee in this case, have a right to know what the money is going for. Throughout the estimates, Your Honour, there are large amounts of money. They total, I am told - now, I have not run them up myself, but I have had somebody do it - that total approximately \$50 million which is about twenty per cent of the current Salary Bill taking it at \$250 million. That is about an extra \$50 million being laid out for these items, these so called reclassifications, new positions, and salary adjustments.

Now, I am not asking the minister to give away his negotiating strategy with the NAPE and the CUPE and the other groups with whom the Treasury Board are negotiating. That is fair enough. But, can he tell us on what basis these amounts are put in. What I am trying to get at is trying to figure out - there is nothing devious or secret about it - trying to figure out just what standards the government have taken in working out the budget. In other words, how much leeway have they built into it. This government, Sir, have a nasty habit of asking for blank checks. They are now asking for a blank check of about \$50 million. The bland statement that they are negotiating is not quite enough, at least to satisfy me. So, I wonder if the minister could tell us on what basis he and his staff have arrived at these figures.

MR. DOODY: Sir, the staff in Treasury Board did not use a Quija Board, nor to the best of my knowledge they have not used that system since the honourable leader and his group departed from the scene. I can assure him that there will be a far more scientific system than that used during the current year and the years to come. I can only tell the honourable member what I have told him before. We did not know how much money was going to be necessary for the various items that we mentioned here, increased and salary adjustments, extra positions, reclassification and so on, for the simple reason that the negotiations are not even started. We have not received submissions from the various unions and associations involved. It would have been impossible to come up

with the correct figure until such time as the negotiations are finished.

We did take what we felt was a reasonable estimate and it is just an estimate. We may be out some money one way or the other. When the final figures are known, certainly this honourable House will be told about it, but I certainly cannot tell you something that I do not know. Nobody knows because the bill is not in yet. I do not mean the bill. I mean invoice, the amount that has to be paid, is not known at the present time. So, unfortunately I cannot tell you what I do not know. I am sure that the public service unions do not know. That is all we can say, Sir.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, I am not asking the minister to tell us if he does not know, Not even the minister with his marvelous facility for garbling things could come to grips with that one. But let me again ask him a question which, you know, I am not saying he does know. I will accept it if he tells us he does not know, although he ought to know and he should know, and I believe until he says the contrary, he does know. It is quite simply this--on what basis are these amounts calculated? He can make his little smart cracks about ouija boards.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: No, I asked if that was the basis? And I was assured it was not, and then the minister obviously reacting on a Monday morning asking - you know, what I want to know is what basis are they calculated? Because if he gives us no basis then a ouija is at least as rational as any other assumption. Now I do not think it is a ouija board. The minister may have some other weird calculations in mind but I do not think he uses the ouija board system. All I ask is on what basis are these amounts calculated? Why is it \$31,100 and not \$131 or \$13? There obviously is a basis. I know not what it is. The minister may not know what it is.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: I suspect he does. If he is as well informed as people, particularly those who do not know him, give him credit for -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: No, I do not know the minister, and that is a matter for which both he and I, I would hope are grateful. And I can assure him that I am. But he must know the basis. Can he just tell us what the basis is?

AN HON. MEMBER: It is a legal thing.

MR. DOODY: Mr. Chairman, we go through the exercise again. The knowledgeable people, the professional staff in Treasury Board looked at what they thought might be requested of government by the various unions involved, they looked at the negotiations that were on-going in other parts of the Western World, they looked at the cost of living, they

looked at the Province's capacity to pay, and then they came up with a reasonable estimate. Now as I said from the beginning on this, it is only an estimate. What the figure is, they do not know. Even the best professional advice does not know. We have dispensed with the ouija board but the crystal ball or the prescience or omnipotence or nothing else knows. Because the deal, the arrangements, and negotiations, the contracts have not been signed, and indeed, Sir, in many cases the negotiating packages are not in from some of the unions, or some of the sectors of the public service. What our people have felt as a reasonable amount of money to ask the House for, to talk to these people with, is included in these estimates. That is all we can do, Sir, make an estimate, make a guess. We hope we are right, if not we will have to talk to the House again. If we are right I am certainly sure we will receive no great congratulations for it, but if we are wrong I am certainly sure the House will be most sympathetic.

MR. NEARY: Are you going to bring in a mini budget?

MR. DOODY: No, if I can avoid it, Sir. I hate bringing in budgets.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): Shall 201-01 -

MR. MURPHY: Mr. Chairman, if I may? We are discussing now, as I see it, Sir, this House of Assembly. What makes it tick? The sessional pay and so on and so forth.

MR. ROBERTS: No, we are discussing the salaries of the staff.

MR. MURPHY: The salaries of the staff and under 201 sessional. And I will treat it here, if I may, this actual House of Assembly here and those who are connected with it.

MR. ROBERTS: Why do you not do it under the proper heading?

MR. MURPHY: Which one is that?

MR. ROBERTS: Well, we are on the salaries of the stenographers (inaudible) and down below we come to 201-02-01 which is our vote. You know, our own vote.

MR. MURPHY: Well, okay. It does not matter if you want to wait seven seconds,

MR. ROBERTS: Inaudible.

MR. MURPHY: if you want to be technical.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. MURPHY: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): Shall 201 - 01 carry?

On motion 201-01 carried.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, I have one other question, Sir, On 202-01, there is an amount of \$16,000 in there for extra assistance. Now I was wondering what extra assistance we have in mind? That is an amount equivalent to about one-seventh, it is a fifteen per cent amount in for extra assistance. What precisely do we have in mind for extra assistance? Have we spent anything out of that head this year for that purpose? You know, the salaries of all the staff are there, the Editor of Debates and the Librarian and the secretaries and the clerk typists and all that sort of thing. They are all there. Then there is an amount for overtime that is fair enough. Then \$16,000 for extra assistance. What do we have in mind there? Either the President of the Treasury Board or the Finance Minister possibly could tell us.

MR. DOODY: I do not know. I will have to get the information for you. I quite honestly do not know. I can check it for you and find out.

MR. ROBERTS: Well I would appreciate it. Then maybe we could let 201-01 stand until the minister - we can go on. The gentleman for St. John's Centre wants to say a word or two.

MR. DOODY: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: All right. We will go on and listen to the gentleman for St. John's Centre whatever he has to say, but let us let 01 stand and go on to 02, Sir?

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: That is in order, if it is acceptable?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall 02-01 carry?

MR. ROBERTS: ... the honourable Member for St. John's Centre.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): The honourable Member for St. John's Centre.

MR. MURPHY: Mr. Chairman, at this time I would like to say a few words on the House of Assembly as such. And perhaps, it has always been understood, Sir, that this is the place where the elected members come together, where we frame laws, where we do actually the business of the country, of the Province.

These past couple of years, Sir, I have been somewhat amazed, puzzled as to what has happened to this House of Assembly. When I read the resignation of the honourable the Member for Labrador South, when I hear him make his statements about his being in this House and in two years or two and a-half years he has gone in debt, I think, \$35,000 - it has been an economic disaster for him - he states, Sir, that this House of Assembly is the rich man's game and he mentions that if there are clowns here, the people are responsible for sending the clowns here.

I read, and I have not a copy of it here, only on Friday or Saturday Mr. Collins' write-up about this House of Assembly. I am speaking now as a member of this House as I think it pertains to every other member of this House of Assembly and what his feelings are. When I read the same thing, Sir, an editorial on the conduct of the Leader of the Opposition with reference to challenging speakers, and I think it has been the only case as far as I know, in - I do not know about North America - but in Canada where a Leader of the Opposition had to be removed from the House.

There have been cases, Sir, of people being thrown out of the House, if you like. Fair enough! It has happened in our day. But I am just wondering now, with all of us here - the old saying again: wherefore and wither tending - is this just going to be some kind of an amphitheater where we come to try to destroy each other? We read all over the place, Sir, that it is not a fit place to bring children. The conduct of members! you listen to the different open lines and everything else and hear the impression people have on this House of Assembly. There is one question I would like to ask someone if they would answer me and that is on the vote to the Opposition office, Sir. How much is it? How much do they get? How much assistance is there? I ask that for a special reason, Sir. Because when I happened to be Leader of the Opposition, I inherited it from the Honourable the Minister of Education, there was a \$10,000 grant to the Opposition office for three people.

We had to research nineteen departments, that was six each, and we got \$10,000 to do it, pay a secretary -

MR. CHAIRMAN (Dunphy): Order, please! If the honourable gentleman would permit for one moment.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. MURPHY: - I am dealing with the House of Assembly.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Dunphy): I find what the honourable member has to say certainly is in order but it is becoming increasingly difficult to hear what is going on in the House because of chatter that is taking place behind me, behind the Chair. I would ask honourable gentlemen, whoever it is, to take their business elsewhere so that I can follow the business of the House.

MR. MURPHY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am trying to, Sir, if I can, talk about matters that happen or are supposed to happen within these four walls and this ceiling here. I have asked a question as far as the Opposition are concerned; just what monies are made available to them to carry on their newspaper clipping and this sort of thing and to compare it to what happened, Sir. They have nine members over there as far as I can understand. They only have to research two departments each because we have a great nineteen departments, I think.

Three or four years ago when another party was in power and another party was in Opposition, I happened to be one of three in that office, Sir. The vote was \$10,000 out of which we had to pay a secretary, a researcher. I collected unemployment insurance, I did collect income tax and so on. As a matter of fact, it was \$10,000 to administer that - that special office which is a department of this honourable House. I am wondering when I hear reports of \$40,000 or \$50,000 or whatever it might be, and I think it is absolutely too much for the job that is being done by this Opposition, Sir, and I may make a move to reduce that before I finish my few words. But I am basically concerned,



Sir, with the image - I am absolutely serious, never more serious in my life. Never was money so absolutely wasted, peoples' money on such a contemptible attitude that members have taken in this House and that is why I am trying to say, Sir, that this honourable House in the past two, three years, the reputation of this House, Sir, has come to such a stage that we are just a laughingstock of the people of this Province. Now, people can say, what the heck am I talking about. I am talking about something, Sir, that concerns everyone of us here and with me being in this honourable House, Sir, since 1962 with some others here, and look back on attitudes and conduct that is happening in this House, the great areas of what I might call is permissiveness, Sir, that has been given to the Opposition in the past three years since we have come in, Sir, your question period, your so on and so forth and the absolute abuse, Sir, of these privileges, the absolute abuse, Sir, has brought this House down to a level, Sir, where I dare say people would not come here if it was the last place in the world to come to sit in the galleries. I say that quite frankly. I think now, Sir, we have talked about select committees on this and select committees on that, it is time for us to set up some kind of a committee, Sir, to look at this honourable House. I could quote from editorials or anything else what has happened. The Leader of the Opposition objects to us. He calls the Speaker prejudiced, so on and so forth. The whole side over there gets up and walks out with him. Say no, the heck with the Speaker, let us throw him out. We have done away with authority. We have done away with everything else and still we have another member up there talking about vandalism and disregard for the law and disregard for this, that and the other thing.

I think, Sir, and I say it quite frankly, that it starts right here in this honourable House. If we cannot give the example, Sir, if we cannot give it, what do we expect other people to do? So, Mr. Chairman, on this -

MR. NEARY: Did you put him up to this, Frank?

MR. MURPHY: No one put me up to this. No one put me up to this, brother. As I said to Joseph R. Smallwood at one time -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Dunphy): Order, please!

MR. MURPHY: You can own a lot, but what I have, my own mind belongs to myself and no one can buy that. I have not been bought yet. I have not been bought yet, have not been bought yet. But when I listen to some people, Sir, some people who have been here a few years and come in here and perhaps they feel they have a license, but when I hear of someone else who has been here a year or so and take over, take over with insinuations and everything else in this House, Sir, I am just wondering and I say this quite frankly, Mr. Chairman, just where is this House of Assembly going? How long is it going to last?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Name names.

MR. MURPHY: Name names. The honourable Member for Hermitage, I think is the most insidious of all the members in this House.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Withdraw that.

MR. MURPHY: I will withdraw it if he does not like it. I will withdraw it if it is not parliamentary, Sir, but I think it is terrible some of the stuff that is thrown out across this House at other members. I think we come here -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Give examples.

MR. MURPHY: We come here, I think we come here, Sir, to try to do a job to the best of our ability, but we have reached that stage, Sir, where this House of Assembly, someone has got to have a long hard look at it, Sir. How long is it going to last or will we do away with it altogether? It is just as well. It is just as well, Sir, to see and watch the conduct that is happening in this honourable House. Thanks be to God, Sir, the galleries are not full, are not full. I tremble sometimes to see school children come in here in this House.

MR. NEARY: You are the biggest culprit -

MR. MURPHY: If I am, I plea guilty to it. Perhaps cases should be brought where I am a culprit, but I have never yet stood up, Sir,

with every word and insinuated that everybody in the House is a crook or a gangster. I have yet to do that.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: You have come pretty close.

MR. MURPHY: We had occasion. Oh, they were investigated and I was proven right. But, Mr. Chairman, again I do not know of anybody else who feels about this matter as I do, but I feel very deeply about the whole thing, Sir, that we come in here and as far as the House of Assembly is concerned we watch many things happening in the world today. The other night six young men jumped on a policeman. Oh, the heck with him. What is worse than that -

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

MR. MURPHY: - than six of seven members of this honourable House jumping on the Speaker.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! I feel compelled to bring the honourable gentleman to attention because expansion on the remarks which he has now begun would lead into a full-scale debate on many matters that would be totally irrelevant. I believe the honourable member must direct himself to the Head 201-01 which is Allowances to Members and that really does not give him that very broad scope that he is moving into. It is very interesting but his remarks will have to be replied to and eventually there would be a confrontation on what was relevant and irrelevant, provocative or is not provocative, is parliamentary or not parliamentary. So, maybe the honourable member might use some other time during the debate, say, in the Throne Speech or the Budget Speech debate to put these remarks before the House.

MR. MURPHY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is no other time I can

do it because this is the matter we are dealing with but I will not be too long at the thing. I think I will put it across. All I am trying to say is this, Sir, that we are here as elected members, forty-one or forty-two of us, whatever it is, to come here to do the business that the people sent us here for. We come here, I hope, as gentlemen to do the business we are here to do and not to degrade this honourable House. To degrade this honourable House, Sir? We did not come here for that, Sir. I think we talk to the Speaker, His Honour, we talk to the Chairman of Committees and so on and so forth. They are entitled to respect, Sir, I think, but I do not think they have been shown the respect that we should show them, whether it be from any side.

I am just saying, Sir, that I do not know if anybody else feels as strongly as I do but this is my fourteenth year in here and I can say this: that during the past three years, each succeeding year the standard, the morality, if you like, or how ever you want to phrase it, of this House is gradually, gradually going down. We have reached the stage now, Sir, where it is almost a circus. And I say this, particularly when I heard the honourable the Member for Labrador South at his resigning.

Some of the reasons are economic, Sir, which is another matter for members to discuss. If they think this is a rich man's game, good enough! But when we mention the clowns being in here and this type of thing and then the write-ups in the papers, I just say, let us see ourselves as others see us. And anybody who feels about it as I do have the right to speak. If not, -

MR. NEARY: Are you running any more?

MR. MURPHY: I do not think it is of any concern to the Member for Bell Island whether I am running or not. If I am running I feel sure that I will be elected.

AN HON. MEMBER: You are going to retire, are you?

MR. MURPHY: I am not retiring, not yet.

AN HON. MEMBER: Not yet?

MR. MURPHY: I cannot afford to retire, boy. I cannot afford to retire, quite frankly.

So, Mr. Chairman, those are the few remarks I have. As far as anything else is concerned, Sir, the sessional pay or anything else, that is absolutely up to the members of this House. If they do not feel they are getting enough pay and everybody feels as another member from another district who told me the other day that he is losing money by being here, well, let us have guts enough as we always did, stand up and vote ourselves twenty-five or fifty - I am not advocating it at this time but there are members who feel - let us look at the thing seriously and all the rest of it. I know there are other members who feel as I do, or perhaps they do not, perhaps I am just a little bit rocky or something.

AN HON. MEMBER: We are getting more now than we are worth.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, is the gentleman from Bonavista South saying that -

MR. MORGAN: (Inaudible)

MR. ROBERTS: Oh! I pay due deference to Mr. Collins, whatever that may mean. I am sorry! I thought the gentleman from Bonavista South was talking about the gentleman from St. John's Center. I agree, we do not take him seriously.

Mr. Chairman, I have no intention of getting into debate with the honourable gentleman on this issue. If he would like to debate it there is a time and a place to do it and I should be delighted to do so. All I can say to him is that the people of Newfoundland are, if you wish, the committee to judge the conduct of this House, and I for one am happy at any time to have my conduct or that of my colleagues, and for these purposes I will include the gentleman from Labrador South, submitted to the verdict of the people. Any time the Premier would like to slip down and wait upon His Honour, we will have the election and we will get the verdict. That is all it takes. Until then, to get into the mire with the honourable gentleman from

St. John's Centre, Sir, is something I do not want to do and do not intend to do. The honourable gentleman, Sir, gets up in his cloak of seamless cloth and wraps himself in that garment and I for one would never attempt to get into a row with the gentleman from holier than thou. He is an expert at being holier than thou and I have no intention of getting into it.

Now, Sir, I am quite happy if he is so uninformed as to not to know what is in the estimates that his colleagues and he have put before the House. If he merely takes the trouble to look at the salary details, the separate appendix that we have been given he will see on page 5 that the amount of \$40,801 has been allocated for secretarial help to the Opposition office, and I believe there is an amount of about \$11,500 in the appropriate heading for the other Opposition expenses, and in addition we have the same privileges as any member of the House, including the honourable gentleman, with respect to telephone calls, telegrams and letters.

I am quite

happy to say as I have said here many times - I will go on saying it as long as I am in Opposition in the next year or so. Then when the shoe is on the other foot, no doubt it will be the other way - that the administration have taken a very reasonable attitude towards this. It is essentially the same as the attitude taken in Ottawa by the government there or by the governments of other provinces. I have no hesitation in - I said so to the Premier in the House and I said to him outside, I will give credit where credit is due. But, as for the honourable gentleman's holier than thou lecture, Sir, I could reply to him in kind. I really could, Sir. I really could. But, the only thing is that would touch off a first class brouhaha. The honourable gentleman might think that would help the House. But, Sir, it is the type of comment he has made that is causing whatever feeling there may be in his mind.

I notice he said with great vigor that he was possessed of his own mind. I have never doubted that, Sir. I can go further and say that the honourable gentleman is a self-made man because nobody else would take the responsibility for it. Now, Mr. Chairman, as I said, if we wish to debate this, if a motion is brought in in the appropriate way, I would be quite happy to debate it. Indeed if it is in order to debate now, let us do it. But I do not think it would serve any purpose. I think that if the honourable gentleman feels that the House is not measuring up to what the people of Newfoundland expect of it, let him go look in his own mirror first.

I am not saying any of us is perfect. But, I say the honourable gentleman, Sir, the old biblical quotation applies - let him among you who is without sin be the first to cast the stone. By that standard, Sir, he should not be casting any stones about conduct or public morality.

MR. SIMMONS: Before this matter passes, I feel much as my colleague, the Leader of the Opposition does, that it would be a mistake to reply in kind to the remarks made by the Member for St. John's Center. Were it parliamentary, I would quote from an old saying that, one should never get into a stink match, etc. But, it is not parliamentary. I



realize you could not win on that kind of an argument. So, I shall refrain.

Mr. Chairman, when I hear the minister talk about, rather piously talk about his concern about destroying each other, are we trying to destroy each other, well I think not. I hope not. But in the event we are, I cannot think of anybody more qualified to engage in that kind of an exercise than the minister if I can judge by his performance in the short time I have been here. I have never heard more piety from such an unexpected source, Mr. Chairman, in all my life.

I cannot sit here, in particular, and allow him to misrepresent the role of the Opposition. Of course, Mr. Chairman, we do a lot of things the minister is not going to agree with. We do not particularly do them for that reason. But, if we are getting to him in some respect, well, be that as it may. Mr. Chairman, for him to stand there and idly dismiss, mischievously dismiss the amounts of money that have been voted to the Opposition, really is an indication that he is not at all aware of what is going on.

While I would be the first to concede that we do things that he does not particularly like, I would also be the first to point out that I do not do things on the basis of whether the Minister of Social Services is going to like them or not. I think he should also recognize - I am sure he does but chooses not to mention it - he should also recognize, Mr. Chairman, that the Opposition, notwithstanding the comments made by the Leader of the Opposition, the Opposition is still operating in pretty cramped conditions. One only has to compare.

You can do this by stopping the elevator on the fifth floor and seeing the labels of the government M.H.A.'s who I understand have never been in the offices, but I understand they have an office for every two hackhenchers. In our case, we have, of course, an office measuring about twelve by fourteen for two secretaries and seven M.H.A.'s.

MR. MORGAN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

MR. SIMMONS: I knew I was getting touchy.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. Mr. Chairman, if the

honourable gentleman is going to refer to the offices used by the members on the fifth floor, I hope he would use the correct information. Because the offices on the fifth floor - I know my own is being used extensively every day. I take strong exception to these irresponsible and untrue remarks.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, to the point of order, if it is one, just allow me to say that I in no way inferred - if to make a statement that there are offices on the fifth floor is an irresponsible statement, well, I plead irresponsibility. I simply said that there are offices on the fifth floor which to the best of my knowledge are for two government M.H.A.'s. Am I correct in saying that or not?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Never used.

MR. SIMMONS: I never did say - oh, Mr. Chairman, if I did say never used I did not intend that because I -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Never used by some members.

MR. THOMS: Never used by some members.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I think that was one of the other M.H.A's who might have said that, I did not even say those words, I think the tapes will show.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! Well the Chair has no intention of ruling on this point of order. It is basically a matter of a difference of opinion between two honourable members. It does not affect the privileges of the House. It is not a matter of privilege that was raised. Consequently the honourable member is stating or attempting to recapitulate what he said or what he did not say. It is irrelevant as far as the Chair is concerned. Indeed the whole argument in many instances is irrelevant to this subhead. However, the honourable member is being given a certain amount of leeway in replying to some of the remarks made by the Minister of Social Services. So consequently if the honourable member wishes to clarify his position he may do so, but I am not prepared to consider the point of order raised by the Member for Bonavista South.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I do not particularly want to raise at this time the matter of the degree to which these offices are used. The members can judge for themselves on that matter. I am talking about the space made available to various M.H.A's. And I have said, and I am subject to being contradicted, I have said that in the case of government M.H.A's there are semiprivate offices for backbenchers. Whether that is so or not I can report on what is the case on this side of the House. For the seven Liberal M.H.A's excluding the Leader of the Opposition there is an office measuring about twelve by fourteen, for those seven M.H.A's and two secretaries. Now if anybody, be it the Minister of Social Services or anybody else, can stand up and say that is fair, well I do not agree with them. I happen to know, because I myself and at least one other M.H.A on this side have had to look for space elsewhere outside of the building so that we can be enabled to do our work in terms of telephone and in terms of answering mail and that kind of thing. So I do take pretty strong exception to what the minister says, but since it was that minister who said it I cannot get particularly worked up over it.

One other point, Mr. Chairman, which relates is the matter of expenses of M.H.A's, and I believe if this is not the appropriate heading perhaps the next one is, so I will just be very brief on it. I have long felt that expenses of M.H.A's should be related to the amount of expense allowance should be related to the expenses they are incurring. Now, Mr. Chairman, by way of example, in the first calendar year of my election, in other words in 1974, according to my tabulations which I kept for the purpose of knowing what I was spending, I spent \$5,600 -

AN HON. MEMBER: That was all?

MR. SIMMONS: and I am prepared to show that documentation to anybody who wants to see it. I spent \$5,600 in getting to my district, expenditures directly related to the district in the first year. What I am saying, of course, is that I believe a member who serves a very rural district, and there are a good many of them in this House, a good many members who represent such districts, ought to have their expense allowance related to the kind of expenses they actually incur. Because while we have a number of people representing rural districts we have a number of other members who are not called upon to spend anything near the \$4,000 allowance which is set aside for members. It is a matter I think that needs to be taken under review pretty soon.

Mr. Chairman, just finally before sitting down I was particularly stirred by the statement by the minister to the effect that the standard, the decorum of the House has gone down in the past three or four years. Well I have not been here that long and I cannot judge, so I will take the minister's word for it. But in making that statement he is doing one or two or three things, Mr. Chairman. He obviously intends to cast some aspersions on members in Opposition. It is worth pointing out that we represent a minority in this House, and if the decorum of the House has gone down, I would like to ask, first of all, is he indicting the Chair? Is he saying to the Chair that it is not doing its job? If so, he should do in a less cowardly fashion, he should do it according to the rules of the House. Or is he questioning the leadership on his own side of the House? He said the decorum of this House is gone down. In large measure the responsibility must lie with the House leadership, and I would say to the Minister of Social Services that what he ought to

be doing instead of making pious statements in this House is getting together with his buddies and suggesting some concrete action so that the decorum of the House does not continue to slide, if indeed it has according to his statements.

Mr. Chairman, the abbreviations

for his department are S.S. He is truly called the Minister of S.S. in my opinion.

MR. DOODY: The honourable Leader of the Opposition asked me to get some information for him on 201, I think it is 201-02-02. Anyway it is one of these subheads here. It is on salaries, \$16,000 for extra assistance. People down in Treasury Board tell me that this amount corresponds to the amount that is voted in every department, indeed, in every division of department and it is specifically to give the administration of the department some leeway, some flexibility in hiring outside assistance whether it be professional help or clerical help, extra stenographic help. In this particular case, he mentioned the fact that there is an extra girl for the Speaker's Office hired for six months while they are trying to get an extra permanent position approved. So, this is the sort of flexibility that it allows. Whether or not that is of any - applies to the Opposition office as well, it is something that you could discuss either with Treasury Board people or with the Speaker's Office.

In this particular instance, as indeed as in all of the other departments and divisions, that is the object of that vote.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, I thank the minister and I accept what he says, but I do not believe it. We will leave it at that. I mean very few votes, looking through it, have specifically quite as high as this in extra assistance, But I mean if extra staff is needed I would be the last to deny the extra staff. I think all I need know is that we are being asked, and I assume will approve, out of a total of salary head of \$204,000, \$47,000 which is near enough to twenty-five per cent, will be unallocated. That is a pretty large blank check and the proportions are nowhere near as high in other departments. Anyway, I mean, how big an issue can you make out of \$16,000? I have asked the minister. He has given us his explanation and all that he and I can do if we go over it is that, is to go over it and I suggest that is relatively pointless.

On motion, 01 through 04 carried.

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to move in addition to the

estimates here that an amount of \$15,000 be added to a new subdivision to be known as 201-02-05 and to called select committees so that - select committees - so there will be another subhead here (05), select committees, \$15,000.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. CROSBIE: As soon as we get it underway.

The purpose of that vote would be, Mr. Chairman, for the expenses of select committees. We have a Select Committee in the inshore fishery now, of course, which is incurring some expenses and if the principal of that \$15,000, I would think that a substantial amount of it would be spent on the Select Committee in the inshore fishery, most of which is for travelling of the members and expenses in connection with it and the results of it being, we hope, a select committee on election expenses which may require some -

MR. NEARY: Is the minister -

MR. CROSBIE: Twenty days.

MR. NEARY: No, fourteen days.

MR. CROSBIE: You cannot be up to everything. We will get her appointed as soon as you are ready.

MR. NEARY: Is that so?

MR. CROSBIE: Anyway, this is select committees.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall 05 carry?

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, we are on (05), select committees, are we? Just a couple of questions for the minister: I understand from talking to some people around the Province that the times of meetings of the Select Committee are not particularly convenient for a lot of fishermen. I am wondering if it is contemplated having meetings at more convenient times in certain places, like seven or eight o'clock in the evening? A good many fishermen, in order to get to these meetings, have had to forego a day's fishing and I know in my own area a number of people who very much wanted to get to meetings could not for that kind of reason.



Also, the Chairman of the Select Committee on the inshore fishery has been quoted, I think, just over the weekend in the papers as saying that he is having difficulty cramming all the meetings and the overall work assignment into the time allocated.

I think at one point the minister indicated there might be an extension but I am a bit vague on that. I wonder would the minister comment on that matter and just indicate when the Committee might be submitting its final report.

Finally, back to the subject of meetings. A number of areas have not been included in the schedule. I am wondering if there is an extension, a deadline, whether the Committee will be going to additional areas which are not on the original schedule.

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Chairman, I am trying to get together with the Chairman of the Select Committee and will in the next day or two to review what extension they want. As we made clear before, there is no problem if the Committee feels they need an extension. I understand that they do. We will ask the House to give them an extension of another month if that is what they feel they need. I think the resolution now says April 30 but that can be changed, if the House agrees, very easily. Once I have discussed it with the Chairman and see what date he suggests or the Committee suggests, then we will suggest amending the resolution to the House.

As to the meetings, if they are given more time of course then they have got less pressure on their schedule. They have had evening meetings as well as meetings during the day. Because they have been trying to get to a number of areas and hold a number of meetings, they have had to have some during the day also. But, I will pass that on to them. If we do extend the time, I am sure they will be able to arrange more evening meetings.

So, that will be reviewed with the Chairman and the Committee this week and then we will ask the House to make a change there. Also if we do extend the time, I am sure they will be having more meetings in the areas such as you suggested.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, just on this item quickly again. Another criticism I got of the Committee's operations was the lack of publicity with respect to meetings in a given area. I have examples in mine where on the day that the Committee was to be in Harbour Breton, I received calls that morning from three separate fishermen in Harbour Breton who

were not aware of where the meeting was to be held. Now, that is just a detail but it is an important detail. If in the process some fishermen who were planning to attend the meeting cannot get there because they do not know the day or the place of the meeting.

It is true that it is getting some general publicity. But, I am wondering how specific the publicity is in the local area affected by a given meeting.

The other comment that needs to be made here, I think, Mr. Chairman, is the significance of the minister having the vote inserted at this particular time. I think it demonstrates the afterthought of the select committee's word in that at the time the budget was being sorted out the whole matter of select committees was not even a matter for budgeting. For whatever reasons which I will not go into now, somebody decided these select committees were a good thing after all, and posthaste came in with some resolutions and here they are and here is the vote. I submit, Mr. Chairman, it is very much of an afterthought and I am not at all saying they were not necessary a long, long time ago, the one on the fisheries. The one on the election expenses, of course, is an item I cannot - well, I can because of select committees.

The one on the election expenses, I would suggest, is here for a different kind of reason altogether and would not be there if my colleague from Twillingate had not given notice to introduce a bill on the subject. The government had lots of opportunity last year to propose such a committee after one of their own colleagues - I believe the Member for St. John's South - had raised the matter by way of a private resolution. So, in both cases for very different reasons I would say they are afterthoughts. I would say they are very necessary. I say that they should have been set in motion a long, long time ago.

My only point right now is to draw the Committee's attention to what I feel is the significance of the government inserting this vote at this particular time, to catch up on what a few weeks ago constituted an afterthought at best insofar as the decision to set up these select committees is concerned.

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Chairman, it must have been a blessed relief to some of the school children of this Province when the honourable pedagogue from Hermitage left the teaching field and moved into politics. He is now lecturing this House and lecturing the government and waving his little finger -

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

MR. CROSBIE: - about afterthoughts.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

I must direct a comment to the honourable Member for Bonavista North. Maybe the member was away last week when I brought to the attention of another honourable member that the Chair is not going to be intimidated or abused or importuned or shooed at or any other way is it going to be -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Or bullied.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Or bullied, thank you, very much.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the honourable member has a point of order, I suggest he raise it, but not sit and make the type of remarks he was making.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. CROSBIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is, of course, a further illustration of what the honourable the Member for St. John's Center was saying just a few moments ago.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: (Inaudible)

MR. CROSBIE: Now, Mr. Chairman, the honourable pedagog from Hermitage says that these two Select Committees were afterthoughts. Well, the honourable gentleman has never been in government and does not realize that the estimates are put together in November or December of the year. And, of course, he is conveniently forgetting that in the Speech from the Throne it was promised that the House would be asked to set up a Select Committee on election expenses and the fact that the vote is only being inserted now does not show that it was an afterthought, a forethought or any other kind of thought, Mr. Chairman. The point is that the government have asked the House to appoint these Committees and they have been appointed.

The honourable gentleman complains. He says there was not sufficient publicity about the meeting in Harbour Breton. So what is wrong with the honourable member for the district? Did the member for the district not publicize that meeting? Did he not call open line in his usual way? He is on the open line, he is calling the open line every day, every time he can think of something to criticize the government about. Why did he not call the open line and say that there is a meeting in Harbour Breton today? He could have called the open line the day before and the day before that and the day before that and told all the people in Francois, and McCallum and Boxey and Foxey or whatever other places are in his district.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. CROSBIE: Well, all right! He could have told all the people. Is he going to discriminate against people who are not in

his district? Why did he not get on the airwaves and make the welkin ring advertising the fact to his constituents that the Select Committee on the Inshore Fisheries was meeting in Harbour Breton? I say that shows a lack of get-up-and-go and a lack of keen interest on the part of the Member for Hermitage District. A shameful admission for him to make before this Committee.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. CROSBIE: Thank you. I am told, Mr. Chairman, by a member who was there, the honourable Member for Bonavista South, that there were over 150 fishermen at the meeting in Harbour Breton. That does seem to indicate any lack of publicity in the area about it. Their meetings have all been well attended with one or two exceptions. But we will ask the Chairman of the Committee and the members, that in areas where the member for the district cannot be expected to do his job and to let his constituents know that there is a meeting being held, that they take special pains themselves, and if they go back to Hermitage District do not depend on the Member for Hermitage, get out themselves and let the fishermen of Hermitage know that they are having another meeting in the area.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: (Inaudible)

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, first of all the minister badly misrepresents the numbers of persons who were at the Harbour Breton meeting. I am not surprised that his misinformation comes from the Member for Bonavista South, that is typical for him. But there were fewer than one hundred people at that meeting, Mr. Chairman. And in addition, while I do not intend to have the Minister of Fisheries tell me when I go on open line, just for the record, just for the record I did, Mr. Chairman, mention on a couple of occasions about the Select Committee being in Harbour Breton, I mentioned the date and so on.

But what I said to the minister, which he chose to skate over, is that sometimes persons, particularly persons who do not live right in the community itself where the meeting is being held, and I mentioned people from Harbour Breton, but I could also mention a

number of fishermen from Seal Cove and a couple who wanted to attend from Hermitage and from Gaultois as well, that they were not aware, in some cases, of the date.

It is one thing for me to be on the open line and another thing to assume that everybody is listening. Some of them, as much as they love to listen to me on the open line, Mr. Chairman, have other things that they regretfully have to do at that particular moment, such as go out fishing, and sometimes they do not take their radios with them, unfortunately.

But, Mr. Chairman, there were people, notwithstanding my usual magnificent efforts to publicize the event, who did not know where the meeting was being held and in some cases did not know the date. I do not think it is a major issue but I am just saying in the interest of helping the situation as the Committee goes to other areas, I am just gently saying to the minister, I do not know why he gets so worked up, perhaps it is Monday morning, perhaps it is because of the company he is keeping this morning, Mr. Chairman, but for whatever reason, I just said to him rather gently - I did not want him to get upset about it, I did not want him to wake up on account of it, Mr. Chairman - I just wanted to say to him very gently, could he ensure that the Committee is giving adequate publicity so that all who want to come to these meetings have a reasonable opportunity of knowing about it and of getting there.

On motion, 05, carried.

On motion, 02-02-01 through -08, carried.

On motion Head II (Legislative) with amendment, carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It now being one o'clock I leave the Chair until three o'clock this afternoon.



The House resumed at 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

Head 1901-01

MR. CHAIRMAN: The honourable the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

HON. B. PECKFORD: Mr. Chairman, it is with a great deal of pleasure that I introduce the estimates for the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing. This department, as is well known to all honourable members of this House and to all the people of this Province, is one of the departments that is involved with the public perhaps more than any other single department. It is not unknown to most honourable members, I suppose, how the department is set up, but I would like briefly, very briefly to run over it because there has been some significant changes made and I think some very important ones for the future.

Presently the Department of Municipal Affairs, that part of the whole department - of course, I will come to housing later - involves the local government division, finance division, which I will come back to later, administration division, engineering division, water services division, development control division, planning division and the assessment division.

Now, Mr. Chairman, this past year or so has been this government's, not only intention, but some concrete contribution to establishing a separate division of finance in the Department of Municipal Affairs. I am pleased to say that as of a couple of weeks ago we have our full compliment of individuals in that division. Upon until very recently, it has been very difficult in the department to ascertain quickly just exactly where a given municipality stands financially with the government, with the department. There are many, many water and sewer systems that were installed over the last fifteen or twenty years and there is a fair amount of subsidy that the department pays on behalf of the municipality because the municipality does not have the financial wherewithal to do

it themselves.

So when over the years a given council came to the department and was suggesting various improvements to the community, it took some time for the officials or for the minister to ascertain just how that community stood. With this new finance division we have been putting a real push on having a complete community profile on that community and all the municipalities in the Province. Up to now, using the computer services in the past few months, we are able to tell at a moment's glance just exactly the kinds of assistance the municipality received from the department, the direct and indirect debt that that municipality owes as of a current date.

It is the intention of the department through the finance division and the planning division to enlarge that community profile, not only being involved in the financial aspects of the community, its direct and indirect, the amount of subsidy it has, the arrangements on all capital projects, the arrangements on revenue grants, but also to have a complete community profile. What I mean by that is whether it has a full scale water and sewer system, the population of it, the kind of municipality it is, whether it is a town or community, local improvement district, rural district, council or whatever. So, all that information will be on one print-out from the computer.

Really, when you look at the department of the honourable gentlemen who have been in that department on this side of the House especially, I do not know if anybody on the other side has over the years as minister, will realize that this is a pretty significant step forward. So, the streamlining of the financial arrangements as it deals with the Municipal Financing Corporation with the department directly in its given programmes in relationship with the community will now all be on one print-out from a computer and we will be able to tell at a moment's glance the population, the kind of tax base it has now and those kinds of things, where it stands financially from its last budget that was submitted a year previous, the kinds of subsidies that

the department is into, if there was any firefighting equipment, that programme, that fifty-fifty programme, if they have any of that, the paving or reconstruction of local roads. I cannot emphasize enough, Mr. Chairman, the importance of this division, and I think it has gone unnoticed up until now, that this division does exist and it is performing a very useful function within the confines of the department.

Also, Mr. Chairman, it should be noted that the assessment division of the department which is now located at Elizabeth Towers will soon be moving to a new location, a better location and we are trying to enlarge that division. Of course, this is long overdue as well because -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: The assessment division.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: No, no, it is a

separate division. This division over the years has had four or five assessors there. Any honourable member here who has a number of municipalities where they are into the property tax, they will fully realize that it has been pretty difficult over the last couple of years to nail down the Assessment Division on just when they will be able to do a new assessment in a given municipality, And a municipality is very eager to have this done because from the five years previous the values of the various properties has escalated. So, therefore, they would like to get the additional revenue with a new assessment.

Of course, not only are we dealing with municipalities that already have property taxes, but each year more municipalities are getting into the property tax field. And hence it puts a heavy burden on the Assessment Division. Add to that, Mr. Chairman, the assessment that is going to have to be -

MR. NEARY: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: There is a -

MR. NEARY: But is the minister leaning that way?

MR. PECKFORD: I will come to that before I finish. There is - add to that the problems that the Assessment Division has, add to that the school tax authorities and their demands in certain areas for assessments, and are looking to the Department of Municipal Affairs to assist in that, and it puts an even heavier burden on it.

Most of the assessors, qualified assessors that we have, get their training in Nova Scotia. There are some moves under foot now within the department and with the assessors at the City Council and in Corner Brook and the ones that we have on our staff to try to implement that kind of course that they have in Nova Scotia here in this Province. I might just add while on the Assessment Division the importance that it is going to play in the future because more and more municipalities are going to see fit that the only way they can really broaden their tax base, to do the things they want to do, is going to have to be through property tax.

So, all I want to say here is that to young people who are looking

for some occupation in which to go, very seldom, I would suggest, do the schools have in their counselling services any prominent place for this kind of occupation. It is a fairly lucrative one. After you have your training it is one that I think a lot of young people would enter if they knew about it. I do not know how many offhand now are on staff over there. We will come to that, I guess, through the estimates and I will be able to give the specific numbers. It suffices to say now it is a very important division of the department, and will gradually escalate in its, if not popularity, at least importance, in the scheme of things in municipal government in this Province, and at the same time its involvement with the various school tax authorities which puts a heavier burden on it.

Besides these two particular divisions that I have picked out separately, of course, one could also mention the contribution that the Water Services Division has been making over the last few years in the installation of water services or water systems in communities that are unincorporated. Mr. Chairman, honourable member will note from the budget here that it has increased again this year to \$1 million, I think, over a revised estimate of \$850,000 last year. I think in last year's estimates the amount allocated for that division was in the range of \$600,000. It was moved upwards during the year as greater

demands were placed on the department. So, the final figure for 1974-1975, was somewhere around \$850,000. This year it is up to \$1 million.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: Oh, it is back up again.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. MURPHY: 1971-1972 - that is significant.

MR. PECKFORD: Now, Mr. Speaker, other aspects of the department which are worthy of note when talking about expansion in various divisions and the inclusion of various programmes, I should also mention our regional offices in Gander and Corner Brook and the valuable service they are starting to play in those regions trying to decentralize the department and make available expert people in those areas so that the various councils do not always have to be - especially the ones that are far removed from the capital - they do not have to always rely upon the center here, but rather to go to their area administrator. So, we have now in Corner Brook an area administrator, Mr. Colbourne and under him he has one gentleman, a Mr. Dunphy, working with him as a senior inspector.

We are attempting to enlarge these offices. We have, thanks to Treasury Board, a number of other positions becoming available to try to put not only the area administrator who is the overall boss if you want of that office, but also a number of inspectors and an engineer and an assessor when we get to that point in time so that we will have a fairly well staffed office out there to help take care of the municipal needs of that region.

Now, we also have a regional office in Gander. Mr. Clarence Randell is the area administrator. I think he has got one municipal inspector on stream right now, and we are advertising for engineers for those offices. So, you know, this, Mr. Chairman, is extremely important to make the department more accessible to the various municipalities in the various regions. Also, when we get engineers in these regions, they can act as supervisors on new projects that are going to start in those various regions.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: Well, this is the only way. We have to enlarge the Engineering

Division, and that is one of the sad things right now in the department, that it is difficult to attract engineers into government service, we are having some job trying to get engineers into those areas of Corner Brook and Gander. We hope, as the year goes on, if we get the -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: We hope to be able to increase the number of regional offices. Right now Mr. Colbourne is responsible for even Labrador.

MR. WOODWARD: Inaudible.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: How many did you have when the Liberals were in?

MR. PECKFORD: Well, it is a start, Mr. Chairman. I suggest that as we go on and increase the number of regional offices that we will get - and more municipalities in Labrador, that they will come. We are going to need a special area office for that area. These are important and they are playing a very vital role.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: Pardon?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: Oh, we hope to get local Newfoundland engineers wherever we can. We will hire them if they are as qualified as any other individuals. We will not go to England or we will not go anywhere else. We will not even go to mainland, Canada.

MR. MURPHY: Inaudible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! Order, please!

Some honourable gentlemen carried on a rather interesting display of unparliamentary language this morning in their discriptions of one another. I can see they have the willingness to continue it this afternoon. Well, the Chair is not willing to entertain these things any longer, gentlemen.

MR. NEARY: Your Honour, the Member from Bonavista South, Sir, is not a dumbbell and I agree with Your Honour.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Obviously the honourable member is not willing to take the Chair's interruption seriously. I hope that is not an indication of his actions or his anticipated actions for the rest of the afternoon.

MR. PECKFORD: Mr. Chairman, to continue, hopefully uninterrupted,



I was talking about the regional offices and the important role they are playing and will continue to play as we get additional personnel staff at those offices. I know only recently the area administrator in Gander has travelled extensively on the Baie Verte Peninsula, and has travelled fairly extensively in the Gander Bay area, and is doing a yeoman service for us there. But he needs some back up and needs more inspectors and staff to help him. We are hoping to increase the number of regional offices. Once we have these two in place - and there is no use going ahead with another regional office until we have those two in place and sufficient staff to look after the problems that they have, to go along ad hoc, and add more regional offices just for the sake of adding regional offices and not being able to staff them. It would not be of any benefit to anybody. So when we get our inspectors, our engineers and so on staffed in those two regional offices we will be ready to proceed on to enlarge the number of regional offices in number.

Mr. Chairman, there has been a lot of talk in recent weeks and months about the Whalen Royal Commission which was submitted to me as minister some time ago. And just for the benefit of the Committee, Mr. Chairman, I would like to indicate now that the Whalen Royal Commission is at the printers, and as soon as it has printed its copies and the Executive Council has had a chance to look at it, I am hopeful that it will be released right away after that, so that we can get public reaction to the various recommendations in it, and move ahead on the recommendations that seem to be reasonable ones -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: - and which the Councils and the department think should be brought in. Hopefully before this year is out we can take some action on some of those recommendations.

In line with that, Mr. Chairman, many of the honourable members present have from time to time approached me concerning new incorporations. And the department's policy up to now has been to limit incorporations until such time as we all have a chance to look at what Mr. Whalen has to say in his initial report before bringing in others. This has caused

some pretty frustrating moments for I am sure some of the honourable members present, and also for the officials of the department because there is a fair amount of pressure has been placed on the department to incorporate given communities. I think right now we are talking about somewhere between twenty-five or twenty-six communities who expressed the desire to be incorporated, and went ahead and went through the legal machinery that they had to go through. All they are waiting for now is approval from the department. They have all of their work done, and they are asking the department to do its work. Most of these twenty-five would be community councils, although there is a fair number of other kinds of incorporations.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: Late last Fall. What has happened since late last Fall on that report - it is a very lengthy one, four or five volumes, each one, you know, yea thick, that officials of the department and of the secretariat here have been pursuing it and trying to come up with a précis of it, because it would be difficult for cabinet to really read every volume there and come up with what their attitude towards it. So we have a précis of the report done for cabinet so that they will be able to look at it fairly quickly, and, you know, eliminate some of the time involved. I can just say, Mr. Chairman, as minister I am as eager as anybody to see that that report is printed and gotten out as quickly as possible. It has many, many recommendations in it, many different recommendations. And I think it is very important for a time lag of at least three to four months be given, every council given a copy of it - and I do not know, we might have to travel around the department to get reaction, but from the Federation of Mayors and Municipalities, no doubt, and from some of the councils because -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: Yes! Quite a few recommendations there have to be looked at very closely.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: I do not foresee it in this Spring session. If there is a Fall session I foresee that we could be ready to bring in a

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number of legislative changes as a result of the Commission's Report. You know, that is as quickly as it can be done right now. Although the department is well versed in the report, and we have done our homework on it, and it is just to get the printers to get it printed and we will get it out as quickly as we can. In that same vein, Mr. Chairman, the Henley Urban Region Study, or a study into a study, more or less, is finishing its second report, and I should soon have that, it is on servicing, and then the next one is

on taxes and on the kinds of municipal government that you should have here in St. John's, in the St. John's region. And so some things are held up because of that.

It is unfortunate that the Henley Commission Report for a study is at a time when it is because the department and government has had to go ahead on the regional water supply because it is a pressing matter, one that could not wait and hence we have moved ahead very quickly on the regional water supply and last year, as most honourable members are aware, we called tenders for material for that water supply, amounting to over \$3 million, a lot of the equipment is now being put in place near Bay Bulls Big Pond, or on the right of way coming down from there, and we are here in the estimates allocating something around \$10 million for the continuation, so tenders can be called for the actual construction in the Spring.

The Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and myself have on a number of occasions in the last month indicated that the Department of Regional and Economic Expansion will be signing an agreement with us for cost sharing on this major project and we have approval in principle on that, so the provincial government is not worried about whether this agreement is going to be signed or not. As far as we are concerned it is going to be signed and we have every indication it is and we are going ahead with huge expenditures, from \$3 million last Fall to \$10 million now, to go ahead on it.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible

MR. PECKFORD: I do not know now. We might come to it somewhere.

So I thought I would mention this, the Henley Urban Region Study as well, because there are quite a few members interested in that and needless to say, Mr. Chairman, when you look at the whole St. John's region, the St. John's regional water supply is not going to service all the outlying communities to this water supply. I think we are talking about St. John's itself, we are talking about Conception Bay South, we are talking about the Goulds. Torbay is a bit of a question mark, they might have to go with their own system.

Of course the business of the St. John's region just does not apply to services. It applies to development control regulations

and planning regulations and so on in the whole region so that there is a standard that everybody can adhere to rather than have some ad hoc arrangement in a multiplicity of jurisdictions which would only tend to complicate an already disastrous situation in the way of planning and development control throughout the whole region.

In any case that is moving ahead and I should have the report from Mr. Henley in June, I think, on the latest phase of it and that is the servicing phase. It will be very interesting, Mr. Chairman, to see what the Henley Report will indicate in the way of jurisdictions and the kind of local government that should be followed in this whole region, so that we can compare or contrast it with what the Whalen Royal Commission says at the same time. No doubt the Henley Study will look more deeply into the St. John's region because that is its only terms of reference whereas the Whalen Royal Commission deals with kinds of municipal government that should be implemented in the whole Province.

Right now, this present agreement on the St. John's regional water supply deals with the first three phases of, I think, thirteen phases overall. So these first three phases involve somewhere in the magnitude of \$30 million, much of which we hope to reclaim through our DREE agreement that should be signed shortly. But in any case the point should be made here now that there is no holdup whatsoever on the St. John's regional water supply. The provincial government is moving ahead as fast as is humanly possible to get this water on stream and the engineering consultants tell us that everything going as quickly as possible from a week or two ago would mean that the quickest time you can get water on stream for the St. John's region is July 1977. So that is the quickest time and the provincial government and the department for which I am responsible is moving ahead as fast as we can to ensure that there is no holdup. If the agreement is signed or not signed we are moving ahead and calling tenders for contracts this year for the right of way for getting part of the work done.

will bring the water from Bay Bulls Big Pond out the right of way to near Kilbride, and another line then going off that into Mount Pearl to connect with the reservoir in New Town, and another line going up towards Mundy Pond, on the hill up there, where another reservoir will be built. I think these are the three phases which will cost \$30 million. So you can see that the other ten phases will amount to a fair sum of money, too, when we start talking about getting into Conception Bay South, the Goulds and other areas of the St. John's region.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to move on to another aspect of the department which I think has been very important to date, and perhaps is borne out by the presence in the galleries of the President of the Federation of Mayors and Municipalities, and that is our Liaison Committee. This was instituted before I became minister of the department and I think it is an excellent idea. And since I have been minister we have met on three or four occasions, I guess, to discuss matters that the Federation brought to us from the various municipalities in the Province, and to give them a chance as a body representing all the councils to get some input into government policy, not only as it applied to the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Mr. Chairman, but as it applied to many, many other departments where that department was developing a policy that was going to have a direct effect on municipalities around the Province. And so the Federation has, through the Liaison Committee, has had input into the school tax question here in St. John's, for example, last Fall. It has had some input and will be continuing to have input into the snowmobile regulations.

What the Liaison Committee does is its members of the Federation and the department - and the Federation indicates to the department topics it would like to discuss at its next meeting, and if it involves any other departments we get the minister and his officials together of the other departments to sit down with the Federation and officials of the Department of Municipal Affairs. So I think it is a great avenue through which good work can be

done. And I have been extremely pleased to keep that Committee going and hopefully to make it a pretty lively vehicle through which the Federation can have a real sound voice into the development of policy by the various departments. Out last meeting I think, was down in Labrador, in Labrador City, a few weeks ago. And we have another one -

AN HON. MEMBER: Dunville?

MR. PECKFORD: No, Dunville was last night. We have another one coming up very shortly. I think that is a very important Committee because the Federation, I think, would back me up on this if they had a chance in this honourable House, to say that it is working fairly well and that it gives them a chance to really express what is on their minds and what is on the minds of a lot of municipalities. Of course each year they present their annual brief to cabinet which was done this year during the hazardous snow storm here in St. John's. But nevertheless, it did get presented to a Committee of Cabinet at that time.

This is an ongoing committee which should be retained. And I shall see, as long as I am minister, that it is, and expanded so that we can get the right kinds of input from the various municipalities. It is a very important committee.

Now, Mr. Chairman, these are briefly the main parts of the Department of Municipal Affairs I would like to touch on right now. But there is another very important part of this department and that is housing. I suppose, Mr. Chairman, one could talk till the cows came home on this important topic.

As most honorable members are aware the major thrusts of housing in the Province are done by the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation, which comes under the Minister of Municipal Affairs. It is this agency acting on behalf of government that signs agreements with Central Mortgage and Housing to bring money to the Province for various housing projects. They are involved, of course, in many, many things and have expanded quite rapidly over the years. It is very interesting to note, Mr. Chairman, that in recent talks in Ottawa and also in Halifax, that this



Province through the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation is getting more money out of C.M.H.C., fortunately, than any of the other three Maritime Provinces.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: (Inaudible)

MR. PECKFORD: The reason for it, Mr. Chairman, is primarily because we have an extremely efficient group of people in the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation who know that National Housing Act and various sections of it fairly thoroughly. And it was amazing to me, Mr. Chairman, to learn at a recent meeting at Halifax that the Province of New Brunswick up to that time was going to receive something in the neighbourhood of \$11 million from federal sources through C.M.H.C., while

at the time we were negotiating for over double that amount as our share, as CMHC's share to us. So that will give you some idea. In Nova Scotia is somewhere the same as us in the amount of money they get from CMHC. So it can easily be seen when you talk about Nova Scotia which has a higher population than we do -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: - well I suppose the natural and logical to conclude therefore that many more housing problems - and that we are getting whatever dollars we can squeeze out of Central Mortgage and Housing.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: And so I think that is something to be very proud of.

AN HON. MEMBER: Even if we only go away for even a day.

MR. PECKFORD: I should also like to mention in talking about the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation that I mentioned just briefly a few minutes ago -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: its efficiency and so on. And I am just glad to report to the Committee that that Corporation has attracted a fair number of young capable -

AN HON. MEMBER: Of our children -

MR. PECKFORD: Newfoundlanders in the various divisions of its jurisdiction. And I think this is all to the good. And with young people like that, young engineers, young researchers, young planning people, architects and this kind of thing, we cannot help but continue to do those things well.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: The Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation is into land banking in a fairly big way around the Province, land servicing, of course, subsidized rental housing, our own Rural Loans Programme which has been extremely popular.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: Homes for the needy, housing for government staff, in support of industry around the Province, in various areas where there are fish plants, and now CMHC is gone in there and put up various subdivisions. And this year we are hoping to get into an experimental

mobile home park,

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: to try and indicate to the private sector the kind of thing that the government would be interested in supporting in the future.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: There are -

HON. MEMBERS: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: There is a trailer park. That is a little bit different than the mobile home park. It is not the same thing.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: No, it is not really the same thing.

HON. MEMBERS: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: We are developing regulations now, Mr. Chairman -

MR. NEARY: A rose by any other name, eh!

MR. MURPHY: A mobile home is movable.

MR. PECKFORD: We are developing regulations now, Mr. Chairman, in relation to mobile home parks in various municipalities and hope to have them ready for this session of the House.

MR. NEARY: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: This is the whole reason why, Mr. Chairman, we have gone into an experimental mobile home park because we want it developed in the same way as you would develop a normal subdivision, a normal housing subdivision. And if you look at many of the so-called mobile home parks in this Province today, or trailer parks or whatever you want to call them, they do not have the frontage or the lot size or the basement and this kind of thing that we envisage in a mobile home park. Mobile homes now are being recognized by the federal government and by most of the provincial governments -

MR. NEARY: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: Mr. Chairman, would you please ask that gentleman over there to keep quiet while I am speaking.

MR. NEARY: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: You are disrupting me.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): Order, please! I am sure every honourable gentlemen in this honourable House knows the rules of the House. that when another honourable gentleman is speaking he has the right to be heard in silence. I would ask the honourable Member for Bell Island to take note.

MR. PECKFORD: Mr. Chairman, it is amusing, you know, when very often the Opposition and other people often accuse this government of doing nothing over the last two or three years since we gained power. And -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): Order, please!

MR. PECKFORD: - since we took office in January 1972 -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: - in water and sewer projects around the Province, and this do-nothing government have put on stream in the way of dollars something over \$86 million -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: - that is money that the Department of Municipal Affairs has guaranteed or loaned, most of it is guaranteed loans through the Municipal Financing Corporation for long term financing in the last three years. These are the kinds of figures that the Opposition do not like to hear because it indicates that we are trying to make progress in a very difficult field, because when one talks about water and sewer, every day in the media one hears of places that have a severe pollution problem -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: - wells that have been polluted that the Department of Health has turned down,

AN HON. MEMBER: Bell Island.

MR. PECKFORD: and we have to try and grapple with them.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

to try to grapple with them. But, let the record show, Mr. Chairman, let the record show that in three years the Department of Municipal Affairs under this administration has allocated over \$86 million to municipalities to help alleviate the water and sewer problems that various municipalities have, \$86 million.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: Yes, I would not doubt that, by going out with checks to various communities. You even went to communities with recreation money when there was not even a recreation commission. If some guy came along the road who was a citizen there, you gave him the check. That is the way you distributed money.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): I would ask the honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing if he would address his remarks to the Chair.

MR. PECKFORD: Then, Mr. Chairman, you come to - besides that \$86 million of new capital funds that were dispersed by the Department of Municipal Affairs in projects around the Province -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: How much? How much?

MR. PECKFORD: \$86 million. Not \$10 million. Not \$20 million, Not \$60 million but \$86 million smackeroos.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: Then, Mr. Chairman, you have to consider that is new projects that were started by the department since January, 1972. Then you have to consider the amounts of money this department had to be responsible for as a result of projects that were started before 1972 which we had to continue paying subsidies on. That amounts to another \$21 million. So, in total you have the \$86 million that the great Tory Administration of three years has dispersed around this Province. Then you have in addition to that to pay off some of the Liberal catastrophes before 1972 amounting to \$21 million. So, over \$100 million has been dispersed by the Department of Municipal Affairs since January, 1972 - I think a major, significant accomplishment in this Province in the way of providing basic services to the people of this Province.

Of course, Mr. Chairman, that does not include a lot of other programmes and monies that are dispersed by the department, for example, under our Fire Fighting Programme where we agreed to pay municipalities fifty per cent of the fire fighting costs for that municipality. In other words, if a municipality is looking for a fire truck, we agree automatically to pay fifty per cent of the cost of that fire fighting equipment. This year we have increased our share of reconstruction and paving of local roads in municipalities. Up until 1975 the programme was that the government would pay fifty per cent of the cost of reconstruction and paving of roads in municipalities. As of this budget which was brought down some time ago by the Minister of Finance, we have agreed, the government have agreed to pay sixty per cent of the cost of reconstruction and paving of local roads that are within the municipalities, that is roads that do not come under the Department of Highways or now the Department of Transportation and Communications.

So, all these programmes are monies that are in addition to the \$86 million and in addition to the \$21 million previously mentioned as capital projects. The others are current projects that go from year to year. As one looks at the budget one can notice the increases in the allotment for these particular programmes in the coming year.

So, you have not only your capital water and sewer projects, you have not only the maintenance of paying subsidies on existing systems, but you also have your Paving and Reconstruction Programme, you have your Fire Fighting Programme, and then you have your Revenue Grant Programme which is very important. The Province will pay \$2.00 for every \$1.00 collected locally up to \$1,000, \$1.00 for every \$1.00 collected locally from \$1,001 to \$5,000, ninety cents for every dollar collected locally from \$5,001 to \$15,000, seventy cents for every \$1.00 collected locally from \$15,001 up to \$25,000, and fifty cents for every \$1.00 collected locally from \$25,001 upwards to a maximum of \$100,000. Of course this is a programme that most, that all municipalities get automatically as soon as they send in their revenue for every month. Then they claim the normal Revenue Grant.

So, Mr. Chairman, these are some of the things the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing are up to.

No doubt there will be questions on the various subheads as we go through. Suffice it to say now that we are trying to move ahead as much as we can in providing water and sewer services. It is often asked by the Committee from year to year, what is the criteria for establishing who is going to get a water and sewer system this year and who will have to wait until next year. Sometimes it is very difficult to develop those criteria. But as a broad general rule, the department usually looks at the need in the community, whether you are talking about pollution or not, whether you are talking about what kind of population you are talking about, the tax base it has, are two of the major factors that are looked at in trying to come up with a capital works project.

As will be noticed, Mr. Chairman, nowhere in these estimates is there an amount for capital projects this year because it is not done this way. It is done through the Municipal Financing Corporation who raises money on the bond market and then we list our capital projects in line with the amount of money that was raised through the Municipal Financing Corporation. Nowhere in the estimates, as we see them here now, will you find an allocation for capital projects. It is done separate from that, through the Newfoundland Municipal Financing Corporation.

I should like to indicate to the Committee that when we come to 1906-03-05 Contributions to Water Systems, where there is no dollar value there now, that it will be my intention, Mr. Chairman, to make an amendment there to insert \$100 into that subhead when we come to it. Other than that, Mr. Chairman, I will take my seat and we will go through them as the honourable members see fit. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): The honourable Member for St. Barbe North.

MR. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, the first thing that I would like to do, I think this is the first occasion I and my colleagues have had to congratulate the minister upon his appointment to the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing and this is the first opportunity he has had to present estimates for that particular department and needless to say, in the interest of all the people in Newfoundland and my colleagues and I



wish him all the best in his portfolio.

Now the minister, Sir, gave a reasonably lengthy opening to his introduction of the estimates and it consisted of nothing more, Sir, than a methodical description of the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing, something which any honourable member or any citizen of this Province could find in the Annual Report of the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing. What was conspicuous by its absence, Sir, in the minister's speech was the fact that he did not give any indication of any increased activity in his department for the forthcoming year nor any real statement of philosophy with respect to regional government or to taxation or to the provision of water and sewerage services to rural or urban Newfoundland. And we are extremely sorry, Sir, that the minister consumed three quarters of an hour giving what amounted to the Annual Report of the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing without indicating to this Committee what his department's plans are and the government's plans are to tackle the many, many problems facing Municipal Affairs and Housing in this Province.

MR. NEARY: Wasting our valuable time.

MR. ROWE: Wasting our valuable time, Sir. And the minister mentioned at one point that we accused the government of doing absolutely nothing. Nobody on this side of the House has accused the government or his department of doing absolutely nothing. What we accused this government of doing is simply not doing enough

or are not doing the equivalent of what was done previous to 1971. A case in point was the Water Services Division, Sir. The minister took great pride in announcing the fact that in the Water Services Division the vote has gone up to \$1 million. That is for water services to unincorporated communities. The minister took great pride in making that announcement here this afternoon which, of course, we can all see in the estimates.

Mr. Chairman, do you know that back in 1972 the sum voted for community and water services was \$915,000, almost \$1 million. Every year since this honourable crowd took over, Sir, the water service vote has been less than in the previous -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROWE: Well, in that case, this might be a sign the thing is coming, Sir, if this was what the honourable junior Member for Harbour Main is saying. Every year since this government became the government of the Province or this party became the government of the Province, the water services vote has been drastically less than in the last year of the Liberal administration and they have gradually climbed back to that same level and they are boasting about it, Sir. I do not think, Sir, that is anything to boast about.

Now, Sir, in replying to some of the remarks made by the minister, and I am not going to spend too long on this, he mentioned a separate division of finance that has been established. Sir, that is good. Nobody can complain or criticize the fact that a division has been set up to analyze and assess the situations in the various municipalities or financial situations. I think this is a good step forward, Sir. However, Sir, if this is not followed up by action and expenditure and leadership on the part of this government, this is of no avail whatsoever, no avail. It is something similar to another Planning and Priorities Committee or another select committee or another Secretariat or a royal commission.

Now, if as a result of this division, finance division, in the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing we can get action from the

government, we will go along with it, obviously, one hundred per cent and we would endorse the concept. Sir, the minister mentioned that they beefed up the assessment division. They have increased the manpower and capabilities and they are making use of computers, I believe, -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROWE: No, that was left for the finance division, for the assessment division. But, Sir, the minister in announcing the increased staff and presumably efficiency of this division did not make one single comment on his department's or his government's philosophy regarding the method of taxation in this Province, the method of municipal taxation. Is the government leaning towards poll taxes or property taxes or assess values based on a rental basis or what? Is it going to be the same or different for rural as compared to urban parts of our Province? We would like a clear understanding, Sir, of what the government's thinking is in that particular direction.

The minister also mentioned regional offices. Sir, this sounds great. This sounds like a good concept, but let the record stand that it was this administration that in 1972 promised regional offices, not only for Municipal Affairs and Housing, but for Fisheries and practically everything else, regional offices in various strategic locations in our Province. Three and a half or four years later the government is getting around to completing that particular promise. Sir, regional offices by themselves may sound good on the surface, but when you have presumably, and a sort of a rhetorical kind of a question to the minister, presumably the development control divisions of the

Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing would be a division within these regional offices, is that correct? Okay. The regional office concept is good, but if the various divisions within these regional offices are understaffed and are rendered inefficient because of the lack of personnel and the territories they have to cover, this concept of regional offices is nothing but a big camouflage, a big bluff. It is nothing more than that.

Now, the minister, office personnel, the director of the Development Control Division, as a result of two years of me practically wearing a groove through the floor down to his office and meeting with the other ministers, finally got around and has improved the situation with respect to the Protective Road Zoning Regulations. I must say that particular division has done an excellent job for my district as a result of one heck of a lot of representation. But, my understanding, Sir, is that they are still grossly understaffed in the various parts of the Province.

On the West Coast, I think, they have to go from Port aux Basques to Baie Verte to St. Anthony. That is the triangle that they have to cover. That is a monumental job for how many over there - two or three people, the two or three people in that particular division.

Sir, while I am on this particular subject, I would suggest that probably another division that is required in the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing, another division - I do not know, we can come up with a name after describing it probably - is some sort of a division whereby people can build homes, get leases to their land or grants to their land without having this two or three year waiting period that some of them have to wait. Now, the main bottleneck is in the Crown Lands Division. But you also have to go through the Highways Department to find out where prospective highways are going to go. You have to go to the Department of Health in connection with water and sewerage. You have to go - well, that would be the Clean Air, Soil and Water Authority - you have to go to, certainly, Crown Lands. You have to get surveyors up to and in some distant portions or isolated portions of our Province which is a very expensive undertaking for an

individual.

I would suggest that some sort of a division within the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing that will co-ordinate the work of the Crown Lands, Highways, Department of Health and, you know, surveying work and all this sort of thing, some sort of a division that would streamline and organize and co-ordinate all of the activity associated with a person trying to get a little piece of land where all kinds of land is available within a reasonable period of time, would be a wise idea. I would make that recommendation to the minister that this is the kind of a division that is probably needed, regional offices.

Sir, the minister mentioned the Whalen Royal Commission which of course ties in with the whole concept of regional government. This government, Sir, in terms of Municipal Affairs and Housing, if there is one characteristic that is outstanding, is its complete lack of leadership in developing some semblance of regional government in this Province. What the government has done is it has promised to improve the situation over the previous administration. Fine and dandy. But, what has happened? They have put a moratorium on incorporations, or the next thing to it. There have been one or two exceptions to the rule. They put a moratorium on incorporations. They promised to do something about regional government. They set up a royal commission, and they have had the report for six months approximately. The minister gets up and says that it is now before the printers and he hopes to get it out so the public and the various councils can have a look at it within the year.

Still, where is the action? Where are the regional governments? Where is the organization or reorganization of regional government in this Province? Sir, as -

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): Order, please!

MR. F. ROWE: Sir, as far as tackling the difficult problem with respect to local government organization it is a big problem, Sir. And this government gave every indication that they were going to do something about it.

AN HON. MEMBER: We will do something about it.

MR. F. ROWE: "We will," this is what we have been hearing for three and a half years, Sir, "We will! We will! We will! We will!" And every Throne Speech and every Budget Speech is dwindled down in the number of promises that are "wills." The "wills" are becoming less valuable, Sir. It is as simple of that. "We will set up a system of regional governments in this Province," 1972. In 1975 we hear that the Whalen Royal Commission Report will be sent to a few councils and let people have a look at it, and then the government will decide what they are going to do with it.

MR. NEARY: A few words of wisdom.

MR. F. ROWE: Sir, if it is going to take two or three years to get a report, how many years is it going to take to implement or modify the recommendations and implement some of the modified and/or unmodified recommendations of that Report. Sir, I would say that we are looking to three and four years before we see any action on the part of this government as far as straightening up the mess with respect to local government is concerned.

AN HON. MEMBER: You are a pessimist.

MR. F. ROWE: I am not a pessimist - well I got good reason to be pessimistic, Mr. Chairman,

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. F. ROWE: because of the action of this government or the lack of action of this government over the past three and a half years. I got good reason to be pessimistic.

MR. EVANS: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: I wish the Member for Harbour Grace would give you a set of mobile .....

MR. F. ROWE: Sir, we should get him into one of the circuses when they arrive.

MR. EVANS: Inaudible.

MR. F. ROWE: Now, Sir, -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): Order, please!

MR. F. ROWE: So I am disappointed, Mr. Chairman, extremely disappointed, and my colleagues are disappointed in the fact that the minister has not indicated what his direction is with respect to regional government. They are still talking about what they will do based on a report that will probably be modified or may even be shelved, We do not know what is going to happen to a report. Sir, this is the problem with this administration it has got reportitis, commissionitis -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

HON. MEMBERS: Inaudible.

MR. F. ROWE: Yes. I did not suggest another one. I suggested a division.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. F. ROWE: I suggested, Mr. Chairman, that we have a division within the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing to coordinate and speed up and streamline the leasing of land and the granting of land for people who wish to build a house.

AN HON. MEMBER: More bureaucracy.

MR. F. ROWE: More bureaucracy. What can be worse, Sir, than the bureaucracy that we have at the present time, when you had to go to three, four, or five different departments and wait three years for a young couple to build a house? That is bureaucracy. Cutting down on the bureaucracy would be setting up a division within the minister's own department to take care of that very thing, namely; applications to get a piece of land to build a house.

AN HON. MEMBER: A liaison committee.

MR. F. ROWE: A liaison committee, well that is reasonable.

Sir, a couple of other points in passing is that the government, of course, are talking about its progress in housing and residential development.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.



MR. F. ROWE: About the only thing that I can say about that is if you referred to the estimates of the department you will see \$13,837,000 from the federal government for industrial and residential servicing. And contributions from DREE under less related revenue is \$8,878,000. Sir, I would say simply what we have said on a number of occasions that without the assistance of the federal government, residential development and housing in this Province would be in a sorry state indeed. And the same thing can be said of certain things in the Fisheries and in Education.

A few other points I might note, Mr. Chairman, is that, if you look at the total estimates of the departments you will see something that I cannot quite understand.

Now the minister may understand what I am trying to understand, when I explain to the minister. But, Sir, the total provincial increase in Municipal Affairs and Housing from last year to this year, amounts to 21.7 per cent, that is the approximate increase in the estimates of this department.

But if you look at the salary increases, if you add up all the salaries within the department you will see an increase of 69.5 per cent, of 70 per cent. Now I do not know what this reflects, Sir, if this reflects more people in the field that are doing work or what, I do not know. But there is a 70 per cent increase in salaries and one wonders who is being employed or what additional staff is being employed and what their functions are, and are tangible benefits being realized in our Province as a result of this increase in the salary vote. That is not the salary vote of the minister's office, but, you know, when you add up all the salaries under the various headings.

More dramatic, Sir, you will see that the federal government increase is 77 per cent. In other words, the federal government, and of course the honourable minister will get up and use the well known Minister of Fisheries argument on this one, the federal government has put an additional 77 per cent into this department. The provincial government put an additional 21 per cent in this department. The minister's argument will be that the federal government has such great faith in the provincial government now that they have sound, sensible government since the 1971-72 years, that they are willing to do this. So that does not wash down at all.

The fact of the matter is that the federal government is continuing to pour money into this Province and the provincial government is subtly trying to take credit for the projects that take place in this Province, that are ongoing in this Province as a result of federal government expenditures.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROWE: Oh no, I did it twice before. But it only gets through

to the honourable minister now, Mr. Speaker. It only sinks through now.

Pavings grants - Sir, in the Budget Speech, it was mentioned as one of the three paragraphs devoted to Municipal Affairs and Housing. One of the three paragraphs devoted to Municipal Affairs and Housing was devoted to this great announcement that they are increasing the paving grants to communities from fifty per cent to sixty per cent, so that now the local government has to assume only forty per cent.

Well, Sir, that sounds good on the surface until one looks at the Paving Grant Vote and you see the Paving Grant Vote which is 1903-03-07 - \$1.3 million -

AN HON. MEMBER: \$1,320,000.

MR. ROWE: - up from \$1,100,000 last year. Now, Sir, that does not even pay for the increased rate of inflation. So what we are saying, Sir, although this government's formula sounds better on the surface, although this government's formula sounds better on the surface from fifty to sixty per cent, we only got a reasonably small increase of about 20 per cent for paving grants capital to the community, which just barely takes care of inflation, which means dollar for dollar the communities are going to receive practically the same amount they did last year and Sir, this 50 per cent to 60 per cent amounts to almost a deception, almost a deception, Sir.

I realize I am skating on thin ice, Mr. Chairman. You do not have to jump. Mr. Chairman, I will withdraw it if it is unparliamentary, but it does not give quite the actual facts, shall we say. When you make an announcement of a 50 per cent to 60 per cent increase for paving grants to communities and the actual dollar value made available to those communities is practically the same as last year, it simply means that fewer communities will get paving grants and the few who do of course will get the increased 10 per cent. That is all that means.

Sir, water services, I have mentioned that. They are just climbing back to the Joey years, the great Liberal years in that respect, the good old days of Liberalism, Sir, just crawling back. Sir, I think the -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROWE: Oh! You do not have to worry about buddies. All Liberals are buddies, Sir. You do not have to worry about that. If this honourable crowd are pinning their hopes on Liberal versus a third party, they might just as well give up, Sir. A great family, Sir, the family gets together every now and then, Sir, for the meeting. We settle our differences. We carve up our jurisdictions, Sir, and we go about our business.

Now, Sir, the last point that I wanted to make is increased taxes for -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROWE: Oh, yes! Sir, I think probably one of the greatest indicators of the complete and utter failure of the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing over the past three years, and hopefully with the new minister he might be able to grab it at the last minute and bring it back to life -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Going down for the third time.

MR. ROWE: - she is going on for the third time, Sir, and with this minister, she may stay above water this time. But the thing is, Sir, is this - is the greatest indicator of the complete and utter and dismal failure of the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing is that every single, practically, every single municipality throughout this Province during this year have announced or said they will likely have to announce great tax increases within their own municipalities. Now, Sir, I think that is a reflection on how this government has exerted its leadership in the field of local government. Council after council, local improvement district after local improvement district announce, or they announced that they will announce an increase in taxation. Sir, now that in itself is bad enough, but Sir, what has made it even worse, and I beg leave of the

Chairman to mention this because the honourable minister did get into this area when he spoke himself, what has made matters worse and the minister has admitted it, is that they have allowed school tax authorities to creep into the situation. Oh, yes! School tax authorities, Sir, are now encroaching on municipal revenue and it is a very difficult situation, simply because this government and the Minister of Education's department, in particular, have not taken their responsibilities seriously and have not taken the responsibility of financing education in this Province because those school tax authorities are making a difficult situation even more difficult because as the minister well knows, the assessment process throughout this Province is in a complete mess and the honourable members opposite inherited that particular mess. It was not created by any particular government. It is just a proper method of assessment never evolved. Hopefully, it will evolve. But in a Province where we do not have a proper method of assessment, even within the capital city, even within the capital city, so you can imagine what the situation is like outside.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROWE: Oh yes, it does follow. It does follow. It certainly does follow. With the encroachment of school tax authorities, Sir, this government or the municipalities are going to find themselves in a very difficult, difficult situation indeed. So, Sir, I have said that I would not spend too much time on this particular department and I will not. There might be a few odd - there are a few points that we may wish to bring up on the individual votes. But, Sir, in conclusion, about the only thing we can say is the minister has given us something that we could have read, namely, the annual report of the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing. He has not stated specifically the government's direction and policy with respect to several major problems, regional government being one of them, water

services in rural Newfoundland being another one of them, and what they are going to do, what their direction is or what their leanings are with respect to tax structures for regional governments or existing local governments. So, Sir, with these few brief remarks I will sit down and allow any other of my colleagues or members opposite to ask questions or reply.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, I have but one small question for the minister. It is a small question but a very important matter. I think he is familiar with it, and that is the situation in the town of Botwood where the Town Council, Sir, speaking through Mr. Art Lee, their Town Manager, have indicated that they are going to have to lay off some members of their staff. And in a letter dated March 6 addressed to the shop steward of the union there, copies of which came to me through the union, have asked our help. The following statement is made that at recent meetings with the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing we were asked to take remedial action in this area with the size of their staff as well as in others. Because of the huge deficit that we incurred in 1974 council has no alternative but to comply with their request.

Mr. Chairman, in a phrase or two the point of it is this, that the town of Botwood have been told by the government to cut their expenditures. I think that is an accurate statement. That is how I understand it from his correspondence. But the result of this is going to be that four men now employed with the Works Department of the Council are to be laid off. The union representing these men which is the International Union of Operating Engineers has taken a strong exception to this. It feels that if the government would not press the department in this way and they so wrote the minister on March 13 that the situation could be alleviated. The letter of March 13, Sir, to the minister reads, "It would appear that a layoff which is to take effect on May 1, 1975 has been caused in part by your department. This Mr. Minister is very repungant to say the least. This union hereby demands that your department ensures that there will be no such layoff due to repayment of debts to the provincial government. I am sure, Mr. Minister that it is not the intention of the government to create

unemployment but rather to create employment. Should these four employees be placed on the unemployment rolls it will cause undue hardship to the taxpayers of the Province. Submitted for your information and necessary action."

All I wish to say on it, Sir, is that I think those are very strong statements for a responsible body, such as the union, to make. The facts appear to support them. And if in fact it is so that the action by the minister and his officials in forcing the town of Botwood to reduce their expenditures is going to result in four permanent members of the staff of the Works Department being laid off then, Sir, I think that is reprehensible. So I would ask the minister if he could tell us the story, and if these facts are not correct, if he could set us straight. If they are correct I would ask from him an assurance that he would take the appropriate action to ensure that these four men are not laid off. Surely in a time when 45,000 Newfoundlanders are out of work, to add even one more to those rolls is too many to add, four more by the direct action of the government is really quite unacceptable. To say, Sir, the union have chosen to make an issue of it, I think it is a fair issue to raise. Because if the action that they describe is taken then, Sir, that is reprehensible, not upon the town of Botwood, they have no choice, but rather upon the government that has caused these four jobs to disappear. So perhaps the minister could deal with that as well, Sir.

MR. PECKFORD: Mr. Chairman, first of all let me deal with some of the points made by the honourable Member for St. Barbe North. Mr. Chairman, it is almost saddening to me, I can get mad about it, and then I can forget it. But for the honourable Member for St. Barbe North to suggest that the Water Services Division of the Department of Municipal Affairs has only now \$1 million in its vote for providing water services to unincorporated areas when the amount in 1971-1972 was \$900-and-something thousand dollars, is he not aware that



that amount of money came about directly as a result of an election on at that time and that money was not first appropriated to that division but came to it from the resettlement vote of the day, that it was a matter of expediency for the shaky administration of the time to try to cling to power and in previous years to 1971, 1972 it had only somewhat over \$100,000 in that very important vote as the honourable member for St. Barbe North indicates? So, he tries to string across the floor of this House the idea that the former administration for many years, and that is the implication he has made, had supported as much as possible financially the water services in unincorporated areas when in actual fact the amount of money voted in 1971, 1972 was transferred from a vote on the resettlement into the vote for water services, thereby making it \$900,000. Every other year before that they were way down to \$100,000 for that vote. If one had to take the average, the annual average amount of money spent under that vote by the previous administration, one would find a dismal lack of interest in any community that was not incorporated. For him to try to suggest here today, and try to draw it across the floor of this House some indication, some contention, however weak it may be, that the former administration allocated huge sums of money to provide water services for unincorporated areas, it is nothing near the case at all.

If one had to take an annual average for the last three years, the amount of money -

MR. ROWE: On a point of order. I would submit, Mr. Chairman, with all due respect that the minister is deliberately misrepresenting what I have said in this House. I did not say in any way -

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

MR. ROWE: Okay, he is unknowingly misrepresenting.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is quite a difference. Unknowingly is quite - -

MR. ROWE: On the point of order. The minister unknowingly is misrepresenting completely what I said with respect to the water services

division. At no time, Sir, did I indicate that the previous administration had spent huge sums of money on the water services division. In fact, it was under the Department of Community and Social Development, you know, right, but it was - and the other thing about it is that it was the beginning of a great new programme which amounted to \$1 million that particular year, 1971-72.

I compared that with the amount being expended by the present administration. So, at no time, at no time did I -

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! Order, please! Well, honourable members have no restriction on it in the debate on the estimates as to how many times they can speak. However, if an honourable member rises on a point of order, he should really make a point of order and not a speech. I suggest the honourable member was doing that. His point of order really was a difference of opinion between two honourable members and, of course, that is the substance of debate, differences of opinion.

MR. PECKFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once again we are proven to be right on in what we are saying. Just to recap, Mr. Chairman, the implication in the honourable member's remarks on water services division -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: This is my - well, who is speaking? - is simply that the Liberal administration or the former administration was spending huge sums of money in this division. The facts of the matter are that until 1971-72, which was that great election year, the former administration did not see fit to put anywhere near \$900,000 into that water services division. It was down to around \$100,000 and we have consistently put close to \$1 million in that vote since we have been in office. So,

us lay to rest any indication that this administration is not trying to assist those communities that are unincorporated. We are trying to assist them, and this \$1 million is evidence of that fact. We will continue to try to bring to those smaller communities some semblance of a water system so that they can at least feel that they are not totally forgotten because they are so small or so scattered that they cannot truly have an elected council of some sort.

Mr. Chairman, on another matter brought up by the honourable Member for St. Barbe North who talks about the Finance Division, and that is a good step forward in one breath, but it is no good, he says, unless they have not got any money to deal with. He almost referred to it as some kind of a committee. He mentioned the word committee when he talked about the Finance Division and that it would not really be of benefit unless they had sufficient funds to deal with.

Now, the whole point, Mr. Chairman, of a Finance Division - there are quite a few funds down in the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing to deal with, and there is an increase as the honourable member himself said of over twenty-one per cent, which I will deal with later in the department. Even if you are dealing with a small, little business, Mr. Chairman, it is not a matter of whether the Finance Division has \$100 million or \$50 million to deal with. The whole point that I was trying to impress upon honourable members and on the Committee in this regard is that up until now the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing has not had a bona fide Finance Division so that it could regulate and administratively put into prospective all the financial arrangements between the Department of Municipal Affairs and all the individual municipalities throughout the Province. Whether you are dealing with \$10.00 or \$15.00 per municipality or \$2 million or \$3 million per municipality, is not the point at issue. There is always going to be plenty of action for any accountant or any finance office in any department of government as long as there is any kind of money there at all, even if it was down to \$100.

The whole point of the Finance Division which the honourable member does not understand is an attempt to streamline the finances, financial

arrangements between the various municipalities and the department. That is the whole point of the Finance Division, and that it will continue to have a leading role to play in that department. It is not connected really to the sums of money being spent because there is still a fair amount of bookwork that has to be done when you are spending \$1,000 or \$1 million. You still only have to write down or type up a few more zeros or ones. The whole point of it is an attempt by the department to streamline its own books to make it easier, more accessible to find out exactly where all the municipalities stand.

Now, on the Assessment Division, the honourable member talked about it and asked what was the philosophy of the Department of Municipal Affairs as it related to municipal taxation. Mr. Chairman, the department has not taken a definitive stand on municipal taxation for the very reason of the Whalen Royal Commission. We want to see what this commission suggests as a - it is not a panacea, it could never be that - as methods that could be used in the Province, in the municipalities to increase their tax revenues. It suffices to say, Mr. Chairman, right now that the Department of Municipal Affairs is extremely concerned about the various municipalities today where they are charging \$10.00 or \$20.00 a year service fee and simultaneous with that kind of revenue, they are requesting of government \$1 million or \$2 million or \$3 million of capital construction, and that we are now saying to municipalities that they must try to enlarge their tax base. The best way for them to enlarge their tax base we have not defined clearly. They can either go the route of increasing their service fee which under the act can only be \$40.00 per year. They can increase their business taxes if they want which is very often in many municipalities only about one-tenth of one per cent.

But, I think that we are going to have to recognize that some other forms of taxation are going to have to be introduced into the municipalities if they are going to have any chance at all of at least maintaining services that are installed by the Provincial Government. It is interesting to note,

Mr. Chairman, that if you are talking about a municipality of around 1,000 people or even more than that, that if the government installs a water and sewer system of \$1.5 million or so that what happens in most cases now is that the Provincial Government puts an outlay of \$1.5 million into the construction of that system, then it has to pay both the interest and the principal on that amount of money. Very often because of the municipalities low tax rate, on a \$1.5 million system, a municipality of that size, it will cost perhaps \$30,000 or \$40,000 a year just to maintain that new system. That is not to do their local roads. That is not to plough their snow. That is not to do the other things that are necessary in a growing municipality or in a progressive municipality, So that one can see by an example such as that that other means and methods must be used by municipalities to expand their tax base in order for them even to maintain a system of a capital cost of \$1 million or more, just to maintain it, forgetting all about the interest on that \$1.5 million and forgetting all about the principal which would have to be taken care of by the Provincial Government.

It would seem to me that we are going to have to move with the assessment division getting larger because more communities are getting into the property tax field, to move towards a property tax situation. But the department's - that is what it seems to me right now. We are not going to move and show any real definite leadership in that area to municipalities until such time as we see what the Whalen Royal Commission has to say about it, get reaction from the Federation, from other interested parties around the Province and then bring in programmes to help solve it. But the point has to be made that municipalities are going to have to expand their tax bases and increase their tax revenue if they are going to be even able to maintain a capital cost of \$1.5 million or \$2 million and that the service fee tax is not one that brings in all that many dollars. So, other methods are going to have to be found to do it.

So, that is where we stand as it relates to municipal taxation. It

would seem, Mr. Chairman, that we must move towards a sensible property tax system. It would seem that way to us now. We are going to wait and hear what the Whalen Royal Commission has to say and then we will bring in relevant legislation or take relevant stands based on that kind of a policy. So, that is where we stand on municipal taxation. But we are very, very aware of the problems. Now, the other problem, Mr. Chairman, related to that: It is not only the kind of tax base which has become somewhat obsolete - it is almost an anachronism now in today's society - it is not only the method of taxation or the kind of taxation that the municipality has, that is one. Number two, it is a matter of collection. In many of these municipalities their collection rate is way down to fifty per cent, so that they get their collection up on the outmoded taxation system that they now have, they would improve their financial lot considerably. So, you have to consider that also, is that their collection rate very often is extremely low and causes real headaches.

Then, thirdly, you have the problem in many municipalities where they became incorporated long before they were really ready for incorporating, that they really did not know what incorporation was all about, that they had not read the act governing their municipality and knew really what they were supposed to do or what kinds of regulations or taxes that they really had the authority to bring in. So, these are factors that have contributed towards a rather low tax revenue in many of the municipalities in Newfoundland.

Now, to try to offset that, Mr. Chairman, the department has decided a couple of weeks ago to start a series of seminars around the Province. Our first one is either going to be in Port Saunders or Deer Lake. We have written all the municipalities on the Southern Labrador, St. Anthony area, Raleigh and that area, St. Lunaire and Griquet and EngLee, Roddickton, Main Brook area and on down the St. Barbe Coast to ask them which area they would like to go to, either Port Saunders or Deer Lake. The whole purpose of the seminar, there is going to be a couple of days seminar, is to get every division of the department out to that seminar in Deer Lake

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or Port Saunders and to go over the various divisions of the department,  
to indicate what their functions are and to go over the various acts  
that govern the various municipalities, and through



dialogue, through the seminar approach, we hope to be able to tell the municipalities, the town clerks and the councillors, more about their roles as councillors in their area, either as a local improvement district or a community council, and this kind of thing, and after we finish with that part of the coast, St. Barbe Coast area, Deer Lake area, we hope to move on later, early Fall, September sometime with the second seminar in another area of the Province where we think that leadership in municipal government is rather weak and where this kind of a seminar could inject some more information on the scene and perhaps improve the capabilities of those people serving on council.

So that is another problem that we have, that there was a wholesale incorporations over the years without any regard for what their responsibilities were and then you had this problem that very often this attitude which grew up, which has been so wrong, this attitude that every time a municipality gets in trouble they turn for some kind of a special grant from the department, and we are all aware of that.

Now there is a subhead here in the department which is called, what is it now, what is it called - Special Assistance Grant or something, it is supposed to be an emergency assistance grant. When a municipality really has an emergency on its hands it cannot cope with, something that was completely - it could not foresee, that they could not budget for, that was not in their budget, their water line broke and water was flowing all over the place and they did not have anything in the budget to cover it, well then the Department of Municipal Affairs would see fit to provide a \$5,000 grant or a \$2,000 grant or something to try to get them over the hump.

But what has happened over the last decade is that it is no longer, it is no longer regarded as an emergency grant, at any time you find yourself in any kind of a financial bind, before you really take a look at your situation, wire the Department of Municipal Affairs and ask for a special grant. In order to handle

that kind of a situation since I have been down in the department we have set up some kind of a Finance Committee, which meets each week to decide upon these kinds of requests coming in. This is why these regional offices are very important and have a real role to play because if we get requests from some municipalities and it is only requests and does not detail it, we have our regional men go to the municipality and take a first-hand look before we allocate any funds there to ensure that the request that they are asking for is a reasonable and just one. So this is the other thing that must, you know, that we are way behind on in this Province, is that very often municipalities will wire or write in requesting \$10,000 without even indicating what they want the \$10,000 for. They might say in a general way it is for water repairs. Well, you know, how many pieces of pipe are they going to need, or how many feet of ditching are they going to do, and this kind of thing. And we must move towards a more responsible attitude on behalf of councillors whereby they will detail, and through seminars like I am suggesting -

HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: - they have lacked the knowledge of how to manage their affairs, they have just lacked the knowledge.

AN HON. MEMBER: They do not get paid.

MR. PECKFORD: I know they are volunteers and there is a lot of credit due them. But I think you know what I am trying to say, and I think I know what you are trying to do, and I think we should leave it right there. I think that would sum up there. I am not trying to say anybody is irresponsible, you know I am not trying to say that. I am trying to say that -

MR. ROBERTS: To a point of order. I resent absolutely the minister's implication that he feels that I am trying to make him say that people are irresponsible. The minister's words are on the record and they can be determined. All I wanted to say was whether he was the one who said that he hoped councils would become more responsible. I think I am quoting him word for word. And all I wanted to know was whether some councils have not been as responsible as perhaps the minister feels they could have been or should

have been in this process. That is really all I want. Now I resent very much his impugning my motives and I think, Sir, there are precedents and there are rules against that sort of thing in this House, Sir, and so there should be, so I would ask Your Honour on this point of order, please do ask the honourable gentlemen to rephrase his remarks and to address himself to the point at issue, and not to be impugning other people.

MR. PECKFORD:

Mr. Chairman, anything I said that is unparliamentary, that the Leader of the Opposition takes exception to, that is unparliamentary, I totally and unequivocally withdraw it. And, I have no intention of getting into any -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: What I was trying to indicate was when you get a municipality of 500 or 600 people where you have a large outlay of capital expenditure of \$1 million, very often you have people on that council who have never, ever dealt with more than \$300 or \$400 a month in their lives. Now, there is suddenly thrust upon them the responsibility for managing a project of \$500,000 or \$1 million and they just lack the expertise to follow through in the reasonable way that they should. Sometimes this causes severe problems and often to alleviate those problems they will go after special assistance grants. They have not got the accounting procedures they should have for this kind of expenditure, this kind of thing. That is what I have been talking about.

The honourable Member for St. Barbe North mentioned the business of regional offices, and that they must be well staffed. I could not agree with him more, that they must be well staffed. He talked about the Development Control Division and the great work it has done in his district in the last couple of years. It has taken a lot of work by the division, and they have done a real bang-up job there. I agree with him that as they get more municipalities and more controls and this kind of thing that you are going to need a lot of staff, especially in the planning and development control area.

As it applies more particularly to the inspectors, I would just like to suggest to the honourable member that in this area it comes back to my previous point, that we have found in the last six to seven months on the West Coast that through Mr. Colbourne and his municipal inspector that they have been able to go into various municipalities and assist the town clerks and town managers. We find

now that we have budgets coming in from these municipalities where the regional offices were involved. For the first time their budgets are being compiled correctly, that we do not have to send the budgets back again any more, and that as opposed to your comment that they must be well staffed in development control and so on, so must the other aspects of it, the accounting procedures. Two or three people in a regional office can do a bang-up job for a lot of municipalities. You do not need to have ten or fifteen municipal inspectors to cover from Port aux Basques to Port Saunders. They act as assistants, if you want, to the municipalities.

Now, the budget has to come in to the department here. So, all that the inspectors do is to help show very often the clerks and the councillors the proper accounting procedures to be followed. We have found over there a fantastic difference in the caliber of the budgets that are coming in from that area. We think it is directly attributable to Mr. Colbourne and his inspector and the running around that those two gentlemen have done over the last six months. At least we like to think so. I do agree with him that in order to do any job, if you decentralize any department or any government agency without the proper staff, the job just cannot be done and you are stretching things too thin. It could end up being a real catastrophe. So that we must insist and continue to address ourselves to the problems of staff and to ensure that we get sufficient staff to do the job that has to be done.

The honourable Member for St. Barbe North brought up an interesting question, one which we could spend a lot of time on, that is, setting up a separate division in some department to expedite Crown Lands applications. It does not come directly under this department. It is an idea. I do not know if it is a very practical one. It is a good idea. Perhaps we can talk about it sometime. I doubt whether it is any more Liberal than it is anything else. It is an idea, some way to expedite that process, but I do not know if it can be done. The idea seems to be good. I do not know if its practical application is still good or not.

Now, Mr. Chairman, on the business of the Whalen Royal Commission

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and so on and the honourable member saying that we are dragging our feet and so on. You know, you cannot proceed on an ad hoc, disorganized basis. Sometimes - I think it was Shakespear said something about patience and it was the sign of a great man or something - sometimes a little patience has to be exercised in order for us to get the best long-term benefits out of anything. I think it is true in this case. As soon as that is printed and the cabinet has a chance to look at it, we are going to move ahead as fast as we can on that. We do not want to in an ad hoc way now incorporate areas where we might be talking about some kind of regionalization where you can bring it in fairly quickly.

There are areas of the Province who seemed aware that - I know of

areas in my own district, and areas even in Conception Bay, and down the Burin Peninsula where quite easily you could implement the regional government approach. Of course, a large lot of work could be done on that now. And in many areas we have, for example, a duplication of services, where you have five or six communities all within a radius of ten miles of one another, and every one of them got a large fire hall and a large fire truck.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: They got a region there. You can go on out in to Bay Roberts area where it could be tried. And they could have a permanent fire brigade rather than just a volunteer thing they have now in each community, a multiplicity of small fire brigades. You could have one central fire station and each municipality pay into it. All right? And it would be cheaper in the long run to pay three or four employees, firemen, permanently, to be there permanently to service the whole area.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: I think there was some connection with the French shore -

AN HON. MEMBER: The French shore?

MR. PECKFORD: Yes.

MR. DOODY: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: I am not sure if it is Croque or Grandois, or St. Julien's or Grey Islands or Fishot Islands, I do not know if it is Southeast or Northeast Crouse.

AN HON. MEMBER: Northeast Crouse.

MR. PECKFORD: Southwest Crouse, Northeast Crouse or Conche.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: I do not know exactly where it is.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: Now, Mr. Chairman, I am only on point seven, and I think the honourable member made eleven, so you will just have to sit back for a little bit longer.



The honourable Member for St. Barbe North says on housing - here is the great statement on housing. This one took me for a loop completely - without the federal government involved in housing we would be in a sad state indeed.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. PECKFORD: Mr. Chairman, this country is called a Confederation and one of the purposes of it is to disperse from the central government monies for various programmes to assist the provinces.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: And one of those areas happens to be housing. Now it is not only -

MR. NEARY: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: Mr. Chairman, it is not only true for - CMHC is even more, a more important agency and applies more directly to all the provinces of Canada regardless of size than does some of the other federal programmes. It is a more confederate kind of philosophy behind CMHC then it is for some of the other programmes that they have, Without federal aid to housing in Ontario, Ontario would be dead, without federal aid to housing in Alberta, Alberta housing would be dead, and so it goes right across the country. And the honourable member does not seem to understand that CMHC, the federal government, the provincial government approach to housing is one where the federal government have recognized for many, many years, the absolute necessity of, you know, millions of dollars infused into all sectors, of geographical sectors of the nation in order to guarantee the housing starts that we need. And it is sad to me talking about how much we get in this Province in the way of housing. It just goes to show how great a job the department is doing through Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation in getting those terrific infusions of funds that the honourable member mentioned. The federal government's increase is seventy-seven per cent. Yahoo, I wish it was one hundred and seventy-seven per cent. And I will say, Mr. Chairman, and I know I cannot be contradicted on it, as I said in my opening remarks, that the Newfoundland is getting through the National Housing Act, through CMHC more money for housing proportionally than

in any other province in Atlantic Canada. We can match Nova Scotia's budget from CMHC. We can surpass and support more than double the budget of New Brunswick, and P.E.I., of course, have shown some interest in housing, they were getting most of their housing money through a DREE agreement up until this year, and now that has been cancelled. They have never looked at the National Housing Act very closely before, and they find themselves out in the cold right now as far as housing money through CMHC. So let us not talk about this business of, you know, without the federal government and the housing we would be in a sad state. Surely we would be in a sad state, that is the whole point of having the CMHC there, that is why it was set up. That is why it is on the go.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: What are you talking about. You know,

MR. DOODY: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: it defies reason that kind of a criticism. It is neither constructive nor destructive, it is just plucking something out of the air. Mr. Chairman, the honourable member has not had time to do his homework on the estimates of the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing. He is trying to pluck out of the air various gems, various phrases that sound sort of glowing but under close scrutiny, Mr. Chairman, they become nothing.

MR. DOODY: I am glad the Premier's administration did not take advantage of it.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: Now, Mr. Chairman, his eighth point had to do with the increase in salary, if you add up all the salary units in the estimates you will come up with sixty-nine per cent, the overall increase in the whole financial outlay in the department is twenty-one per cent. And so, you know, this is something shocking. So that, you know, he can say that. About five minutes after he will say we need more staff. He says a sixty-nine per cent increase in salary payments, but five minutes earlier he talked about you cannot have regional offices unless you have a big staff. Well this is why there is a decided increase in the salary allotment here this year, because we are trying to beef up those regional offices that the honourable member wants beefed up,

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. PECKFORD: you see.

AN HON. MEMBER: Yes.

MR. PECKFORD: and why we had the finance division that is there, that is so important to the department that is going to function effectively in the future. So this is the whole point of it. You know he wants, on the one hand additional staff, and on the other hand he is criticizing it because the percentages are up. So you know it is a matter of inconsistency ...

MR. F. ROWE: On a point of order.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. F. ROWE: I did not criticize the increase in - that sixty-nine per cent increase in salaries. I asked the question, you know, how come the increase? So, you know, again the minister is misrepresenting what I am saying, willingly or not I do not know. But I would just like for it to go on record as saying that I did not criticize that aspect of it. It was a question that was put to the minister that he has seen fit to answer in a form of a political slap in the face. It is as simple as that.

MR. DOODY: Very partisan.

MR. F. ROWE: Very partisan, yes. Vicious assault.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! I think this comes under the general heading of a difference of opinion between two honourable members. And honourable member has again availed of the useful device of raising the point of order to make a debating point.

MR. PECKFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once again the honourable member has found himself -

AN HON. MEMBER: Shot down!

MR. PECKFORD: - shot down by the wise intervention and great ruling of the Chair.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: Mr. Chairman, then the honourable member proceeds on his tenth point to show his complete lack of knowledge in the estimates for the department -

MR. NEARY: The member only made the seventh point, can he not count?

MR. PECKFORD: - by suggesting - I am on a different base than you are. You know, you ususally go under base ten.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: No, no, I changed.

AN HON. MEMBER: The minister is gone metric.

AN HON. MEMBER: Gone metric.

MR. PECKFORD: You know, I am gone metric. It is not thanks a million any more now, it is thanks a bunch. That is the new metric system.

MR. SIMMONS: Bunch is unparliamentary.

MR. NEARY: What about that for last year?

MR. PECKFORD: And I do not know what they are going to do with halfyard on the metric system.

But he shows his complete lack of knowledge of financing when he talks about the paying grants, and where the government glowingly announced, and rightly so, their new programme of providing sixty per cent of the cost of paying for local roads in the municipalities as opposed to the previous fifty per cent, and says that it is only increased from \$1,100,000 to \$1,320,000. Well, just as a matter of interest, Mr. Chairman, the way you finance that kind of a project that the officials

of the department have worked it out, and that on \$500,000 from the government you can finance \$8 million worth of work. And so that when you see an increase of \$200,000 it means a substantial amount. And this is why the honourable member, without too much research, tried to make some kind of a point about this small increase.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: But he does not - the way the thing is financed that \$500,000 of provincial government money would stimulate, would cause \$8 million worth of work to take place, you see. So with \$200,000 increase, you are talking about around \$3.5 million of work extra, over and above what it was last year. Everything costing about 53.5 million more work possible through an increase of the \$200,000 allocated as an increase over last year's amount. So therefore his allegation proves once again to be extremely false on the point that he made.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Carried, carried, Mr. Chairman.

MR. DOODY: Not yet, no, no, not yet.

MR. PECKFORD: Now, Mr. Chairman, his eleventh point was that the greatest single failure of the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing is that many municipalities in the Province have to increase taxes. Now, Mr. Chairman, I do not know what, if you had to try to think or imagine the kinds of things that were going through the honourable member's mind when he mentioned that, I do not think, Mr. Chairman, that that shows a failure on behalf of the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Most people are aware - look, we went over it already, Mr. Chairman, that for many, many years most rural municipalities in this Province did not increase substantially taxes for quite a few years. We might even be talking about a decade, in some cases, that the tax base remained essentially, substantially the same, whilst at the same time costs in every other sector of the economy were increasing until the day of reckoning comes as it does with inflation. Now, in the last couple of years with the added inflation, the increased inflation over previous times, previous blocks of years, two or three or whatever, many municipalities find themselves in a pretty tight bind.

I do not think, Mr. Chairman, that in fairness to everybody that one can say it is because of lack of leadership on behalf of the Department of Municipal Affairs. The point is now that we have quite a few municipalities who did not, over the years, and many of them tell me - you know, I saw about twenty-five or thirty of them last week - and they tell me and they acknowledge the fact, that for many years they remained where they had been for four or five years, a \$10 or \$12 a year service fee that was instituted in 1966, say, or 1967. They might have put it up a dollar or two since. So, this is one of the reasons why a lot of municipalities find themselves in the position they are in right now and it is not a failure on behalf of the department, not at all. I think it was a failure on behalf of the previous administration who helped to cultivate an attitude

which permitted municipalities, as they thought anyway, to continue on at a very low tax rate. Whenever they get in trouble they get a special assistance grant. That is one of the things that contributed to the delays that a lot of the municipalities find themselves in right now.

That brings me directly to what the Leader of the Opposition had to say about the Botwood situation where we have a financial problem. Now, I would like to take issue, first of all, Mr. Chairman, with the phraseology that the Leader of the Opposition used. He said, in more or less rhetorically, I guess, or in the way of a question, is the Department of Municipal Affairs forcing the town of Botwood into this unfortunate situation? Mr. Chairman, if he means by that, has the Department of Municipal Affairs dictated or told or ordered the municipality to take these measures, that is not true. I have sat down with the Town Council of Botwood on two, if not three occasions now and I think the first time that they mentioned a reduction in their Public Works Department was in Grand Falls, the Provincial Building in Grand Falls a couple of months ago. I think it was the mayor at that time who first suggested it to me that we have a very large Public Works Department and that is where a lot of our money is going. The Public Works Department is too big for the municipality, away too big, too much machinery, too many men on not doing very much,

Now, I do not want to get involved because I do not have the facts and figures here before me on Botwood. Suffice it to say that it was decided between the municipality and the department collectively  
AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.  
MR. PECKFORD: No, the municipality was not saying, being reluctant about it at all. They saw it as one of the areas where they could cut corners, where they could reduce an expenditure to help them meet some of their financial obligations because they have financial problems as has other municipalities like Botwood. That is one of the measures that was decided upon,



a reduction in the Public Works Department. As far as I had the letter that the Leader of the Opposition talked about, this is one of the decisions we came to collectively, the town councillors and the officials of the department. There was no reluctance. Like I say, Mr. Chairman, I can pretty safely say that the first time I heard it suggested was in Grand Falls by the council themselves that this is one area where they would like to cut back because the Public Works Department was too large. We are well up on that situation, Mr. Chairman, and we will take whatever measures we see are in the best interests of the full population of Botwood.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I think I have dealt with most of the points outlined by some of the honourable gentlemen on the other side. The last three points mentioned by the honourable Member for St. Barbe North, where he was summing up, he talked about municipal government which - I have covered. He talked about water services unincorporated, and I have indicated how wrong he was on that one, and our position on tax structures in the Province.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman -

MR. CHAIRMAN: I believe the Member for St. Barbe North was on his feet first. However, the honourable members can just decide among themselves, between themselves.

MR. F. ROWE: I only have a very short comment, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, of course the minister and myself could go on trying to win debating points in this whole issue. The minister's rebuttal to my points were really based on an interpretation of my remarks. I must say, Sir, I was severely shaken over the vicious onslaught from the minister. Sir, he accused me of implying that the Liberal Government spent great huge sums of money on water services. He actually accused me, Sir, of almost saying something, almost saying something. He used that as a basis at one point.

Sir, I am about ready to get into my car and go down to Government House and hand in my resignation, you know, the rebuttal from the minister.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. F. ROWE: But, Sir, we have - all help would be gladly accepted, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the minister was basically getting to the realm of rebuttal here. He has not enlightened us at all on any statement or philosophy. Instead, he has given us a long catalogue of the problems facing the department. He has not given us really their stand because they have none on taxation policy, or regional government because they have none, and this sort of thing. So, Sir, it is quite futile to continue on with asking questions of the minister at this stage, except, Sir, to ask the minister one more question.

Could he indicate approximately how many municipalities have had to increase their taxes this year?

MR. PECKFORD: No, I cannot answer that. I would have to ask the -

MR. F. ROWE: Well, has -

MR. PECKFORD: Inaudible.

MR. F. ROWE: Well, I will put a supplementary to it. The question was how many have had to increase their taxation this year, how many municipalities, and how many are likely to have to increase them. Secondly, has any letter or correspondence gone out to the various mayors of councils in the Province in connection with taxation for this year or any coming year. Could he answer that question?

MR. PECKFORD: The answer to the first one first.

The situation - but answering the first question, how many have had to increase and how many are likely to increase, it is difficult to say. I can not get where it is right now because all the budgets for the municipalities are not in yet. You know, in many cases we would not know. It would be difficult to -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: Yes, Corner Brook I think is gone up, yes.

MR. NEARY: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: Yes. Yes. A lot of them have, but I can try to get the information for the honourable member.

On your second point - is there a page around so I can get a glass of water. They are gone on holiday, are they? It is holiday early this year. On your second point, there has been a letter go out to

all the municipalities, to the town clerks and so on, town managers, indicating the department's position on bookkeeping because there has been some discrepancies that some municipalities have been taking money out of the utility budget and using it for something else, which is not really allowed under the act. Since the Finance Division came into operation, they have been able to more closely scrutinize. So, we are trying to improve the bookkeeping and accounting procedures of municipalities. We have done it by way of a fairly long circular to each municipality, which tries to detail

the kinds of practices we would like to see them pursue for their next budget, 1976.

MR. ROWE: Would you table that letter if we -

MR. PECKFORD: Oh! I can get you a copy of that letter, sure.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Burgeo-LaPoile.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, I feel I would be remiss if I did not have a few words to say in Municipal Affairs and Housing after hearing the remarks from some of the members opposite as to our lack of effort, especially in regard to water services. If every district in this Province had been neglected in that respect as my district was, Burgeo-LaPoile, I can say that the only contact that they ever made toward putting water through communities in this Province is that they are all wet. In my district, when I was elected in 1971, West of Burgeo, from there to Cape Ray, we had one part of a water line. That was in Port Aux Basques. It was so bad that we had to start immediately to raise funds through DREE and our own resources to install a water line in that town, a town of about 7,000 people and with one of the biggest industries in the Province, CN, paying so much in taxes to this Province and to the Federal Government of Canada and only having a part of a water line. We did one stage of it last year and this year we are hoping to complete the rest of it. Isle aux Morts, a town of 1,500 people with no water services. Very good, Sir, very good! I hope they do not want the member up there. Our garbage dumps are full now. Our garbage dumps are solid full now, so we do not need him. Today we have two stages of a water line completed in Isle aux Morts. We are on the third one this year. Bird Islands is getting a water line. Rose Blanche is getting a water line. Even LaPoile, one of the smaller communities got a water line last year through water services. Margaree got one a year before, very hopeful that we are going to get one this year for Cape Ray and for Petites.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: What about telephones?

MR. EVANS: Telephones? I am already expecting a reply back from that.

They are going to be installed in May or June at the latest.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. EVANS: You can. As for other areas covered by this government, Municipal Affairs, we had an agreement whereby the government of this Province paid fifty per cent of paving costs in municipalities. This year that is extended to sixty per cent by the government and forty per cent by the municipalities. I would say that compared with what the former government did and the ease with which they could secure money back in the days when we went under Confederation and at such minimal cost, today you imagine that after eight years of financing, you have doubled your original cost. You are paying about twelve or thirteen per cent. Over a forty year period a waterline that costs \$1 million is actually costing about \$8 million or so.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Is that right?

MR. EVANS: Yes, that is right, and then these people who were in for twenty-three years and never came close to putting water through to our people in Newfoundland, they are the ones who criticize the government today for not doing it. But as far as my district is concerned, there is nobody who can criticize what they are going to get in the shape of waterlines because this year it will be all done. Rose Blanche will be done this year, Sir.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. EVANS: Yes.

MR. NEARY: Inaudible.

MR. EVANS: That is no difference about the minister. The minister knows what he is doing. I wish the member opposite knew half as much.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! Order, please! There are two or three different conversations on the go here and I am finding it difficult to hear the honourable member.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: He should be thankful for small favours.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, I thank you for your advice to the unruly elements.

MR. EVANS: Because it is like water on a duck's back. That was the closest time they ever came to knowing what water is.

As I was -

MR. ROBERTS: The honourable gentleman opposite who has a ....

MR. EVANS: You have it on the brain.

AN HON. MEMBER: In its solid form.

MR. EVANS: Yes.

AN HON. MEMBER: Ice.

MR. EVANS: Ice. Well that is about the same type of blood the Liberal Government had for years, ice blood in its veins, that is why our people were treated so badly by them.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. EVANS: And I have not too much more to say, Mr. Chairman, but all I hope is that this government will continue to operate as it has in the past three years, and by the time we get another term of office I think that everybody in Newfoundland will have water services which it would never had in the next ten generations if they had to get it from the former government.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to say a word or two, Sir, and then the honourable gentleman can, you know, obviously have to say whatever he wishes subject to the rules. For our part, Sir, we feel that Municipal Affairs is obviously a very important part of the governmental activity in this Province. It affects a lot of people. And there are some very real problems. But, Sir, we are coming close to the end of the estimate period, the clock is ticking ominously, and I gather that as of 6:00 o'clock tonight there will be approximately eighteen hours left. My colleague for Bell Island is sort of timekeeper. That is right, is it?

MR. NEARY: Roughly eighteen hours left.

MR. ROBERTS: Approximately eighteen hours left.

MR. NEARY: That is the advice I have from the Chairman.

MR. ROBERTS: Well the honourable gentleman is relying upon the Chairman, and I cannot say anything more than that, except that he is relying upon the Chairman, and eighteen hours is what we are told.

Now, Sir, for our part, and I can only speak for honourable gentlemen on this side of the House, we propose to say nothing more on this Municipal Affairs thing as important as we believe it is.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: Millions of dollars, I say to the honourable junior Member for Harbour Main, many millions of dollars. And we could quite usefully spend the next eighteen hours just debating the needs of communities in this Province, and I know the minister would welcome it, and unlike his friend for Burgeo, the minister would come well armed to the debate, and it would be good fun. But, Sir, we are anxious to get on to at least the next department, the Mines and Energy Department, where we think there is a very real need for a debate on an issue which the administration have been ducking with all the duckability at their command. Accordingly on our part - now honourable gentlemen opposite obviously are going to have a little filibuster and that is their right within the rules. I would be the last to deny them that. But for our part, Mr. Chairman, we intend to say nothing more in this debate on Municipal Affairs and Housing but rather to let the matter go through quickly not as any indication of our contempt for the minister - we hold no contempt for the minister, he has not earned it, nor as an indication of any lack of importance on our part. We think that Municipal Affairs is infinitely more important than many other issues this government have chosen to bring before this House. But I will say to the minister we will be taking care of that at question period and he can expect a number of questions on the oral question period, and he can display his knowledge there. We will give him the opportunity to shine as I am sure he will.

But for our part, Sir, we would like to see this one, and for our part we will try to get it cleared up quickly so that we can go on to debate with the Member for Placentia West and his associates what we believe to be the government's quite infamous policy with respect to oil and gasoline prices. So now having said that other honourable gentlemen will doubtless get into it. The gentleman for Grand Falls will tell us about his problems and his failures to solve his problems,



and so forth. And we could go through every district in the Province. My own district has a number of water and sewer matters that need to be discussed. And the minister - I suppose I have contributed greatly to his incoming correspondence basket by letters in behalf of constituents and communities. There are many other municipal problems that my colleague, the Member for St. Barbe North, has outlined. The minister has made a general statement dealing with them.

So I think it is in the interest of the Committee now that we go ahead and that we get on to the Mines and Energy Department and allow the minister - the minister is not going to be far away. He is nipping out for a cigarette or whatever vice he practices in the halls - and to allow the minister to try and defend his policy if he can, which I doubt, to allow the Minister of Fisheries to give us another tirade, to allow the junior Member for Harbour Main to exhibit a little of his verbal pyrotechnics. We think these should all be done because this energy policy, this infamous sellout policy of the government, Sir, should be debated and this is the place to debate it.

AN HON. MEMBER: Sticky-wicky ...

MR. ROBERTS:

For our part, so for our part, Sir, we have said what we intend to say. We have not said all that we could say. But, in view of the fact that the clock is ticking ominously away, we will leave it to the gentlemen opposite, Sir, to determine whether this subject now can be closed quickly - there may be one or two detailed questions on the estimates we wish to raise - or whether they intend to filibuster on this subhead of Municipal Affairs and thus prevent the House from coming to grips with the important issues of the Energy Policy adopted by this government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Minister of Fisheries.

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Chairman, the honourable gentleman's remarks are a confession of the bankruptcy of their approach in considering the estimates or anything else in this House of Assembly. There are seventy-five hours allotted for the study of the estimates in this House. That is as much time if not more than is allotted in the Parliament of Canada for the spending of some \$28 billion to \$30 billion. Because honourable gentlemen opposite like to make long speeches on the estimates instead of treating the estimates properly, and finding out what the money is spent for, and for explanations of what the money is being spent for, or for explanations of government policy, it is a confession of the time that they have wasted in this Committee to date in the debate on the estimates. They have spent four days on certain departments. They have spent a couple of hours on other departments. Well, that is an admission of their total inability to organize their time in a way that will be of the best service to the people of this Province.

If backbenchers on this side of the House want to ask questions of the Minister of Municipal Affairs as to what is being planned for municipalities in their districts, can anyone say that this is a waste of the time of the House? If honourable gentlemen opposite are not prepared to exercise a proper function when the estimates are going through, there is no reason why members on our side of the House should not at least find out what the money in the

Department of Municipal Affairs is being spent on or how it affects their districts. I certainly hope they will do that if they wish.

I want also to point out, Mr. Chairman, that there is still to come a Budget Speech and there is still to conclude the Address in Reply to the Speech From the Throne. And, in the Budget Speech and in the Address in Reply is the time to discuss generally the policy of the government, or if honourable gentlemen want to argue, lack of policy. That is the time that they can discuss those matters, that is when they can discuss the energy policy of the government or the gas and oil policy. All of that is yet to come. Those great, general issues do not have to be discussed on the estimates. We do not accept any pious admonition from the Leader of the Opposition that sufficient time is not allotted for the estimates. It is more than sufficient.

Unless the Opposition spends at least four or five hours in discussing the estimates of this most important department that affects every single nook and cranny of the Province, both Labrador and on the Island, it is the saddest confession of the failure of an Opposition to properly perform their function that I have ever seen. The least they can do is manifest some interest and stop trying to make cheap political points when they think they are on some point that has got political wallop and deal seriously with the business of the people of this Province.

To hear the Leader of the Opposition say that after this cursory little general debate on the Department of Municipal Affairs, they are going to discuss no longer the amounts of money to be spent on water or on sewerage, on housing,

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: \$38 million.

MR. CROSBIE: \$38 million, yes - on housing and on municipal affairs about this Province, is - well, one could only really ask them to resign. If they cannot perform, if the Leader of the Opposition cannot perform his function, he should resign and allow Mr. Smallwood to come back in or somebody who would put some oomph into the job of Leader of the Opposition. I would say that a cablegram from the Opposition tonight to Mr. Smallwood

in Florida asking him to come back immediately to the Province, and we will arrange a quick by-election and will not contest it to get them a proper Opposition Leader who will show them in the House what should be done when it comes to the estimates. What a shameful and pitiable display of intellectual and political bankruptcy on the part of honourable gentlemen opposite, and I invite all our own backbenchers and anyone else who wants to know what is happening in Municipal Affairs, Mr. Peckford's Housing Policy, his Water and Sewerage Policy, his Water Lines Policy, his Subsidization Policy.

We have as the present Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing a young and brilliant minister who is receiving praise on all sides. The leaders of the municipalities around Newfoundland are delighted with him. He tells it as it is. He does not attempt to bluff them. He agrees if he can agree. He says no if he cannot do something, and explains why. That is the kind of minister we need in that department.

For him to have his estimates treated in this shameful fashion, shameful fashion, is pitiful to behold. Now, Mines and Energy are going to be called next.

Do not worry, we are coming to Mines and Energy. And we will come to it in the Budget Speech. And we are proud of our oil and gas and energy policy and we are prepared to talk for hours or days on it, either now or on the Budget Speech. But do not let us hear any more of this flimflam. The flimflam man is back again. He is the Leader of the Opposition. Remember the Music Man, Mr. Chairman, that had the flimflam man, the man who flimflams everybody, who bluffs them into believing that he is like the Pied Piper? This is an attempt in flimflamery by the Leader of the Opposition, and never in the history of this House has there been such a disgraceful admission of ineffectiveness and complete dilatoriousness and complete lack of planning and co-ordination as we just heard from the Leader of the Opposition.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. CROSBIE: As a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, I think I will act as the Leader of the Opposition myself and grill the Minister of Municipal Affairs and make him justify every cent he has in his estimates, because I know he can do it. That brilliant young minister has to be put to his test and if the Opposition will not do it, we will ourselves.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. CHAIRMAN (Dunphy): The Honourable the Member for Grand Falls.

MR. SENIOR: Mr. Chairman, thank you. It is not my intention to delay the Committee. I think that is evident by the fact that I speak very occasionally in this honourable House, but today I feel compelled to zero in on at least one particular item which was mentioned by the gentleman from St. Barbe North in some of the comments that he made. I would also like to comment on it for another reason, that I think it is a major accomplishment by the Minister of Municipal Affairs, and that is in the provision of \$1 million for water services in small communities that are not incorporated for this year.

I would mention by comparison that in 1971 - 1972, the former administration had provided something over \$900,000 for the

same water services programme under the old Department of Community and Social Development. This is in fact correct. But what should be pointed out, and which has been pointed out already by the minister is this; that the average amount spent on water services under the previous administration was approximately \$125,000 a year.

In 1971 - 1972, there was an election on, as we know, and by Order-in-Council it was ordered that several hundreds of thousands of dollars, I think it was something over \$700,000 or between \$700,000 or \$800,000, would be transferred from the resettlement vote in that department to the Water Services Division to carry out water projects around the Province, as in the small communities.

Of course this was not the policy of the government at the time they brought down their budget that year, but it was an on the spur of the moment sort of thing to provide what could be referred to as a slush fund for an election. I think it is a major accomplishment because we have come from an average of \$125,000 a year, in this programme, to \$1 million this year to provide water in these communities. And this is a well planned programme. By comparison to how the money was spent in the past, this particular \$900,000 that was referred to, in my opinion, the majority of that money was wasted because the programme was not planned. Just as a specific example, there was approximately 120 artesian wells drilled in the Province that year and less than sixty of these wells were operating. We had projects where communities attempted to provide small gravity flow water systems with pipes running up the sides of the hills that were not connected to any water source, were not connected to any distribution system in communities. Nowhere was this more evident than in the District of St. Barbe North, where I suppose there was nowhere else in the Province where they needed water as bad as they did in that particular district. And they spent somewhere in the vicinity

of \$175,000 in that particular district that year, and we did an investigation at that time because it was a disgrace, Sir, the way that the programme was handled in that particular district, the way the funds were thrown around and wasted in a district where they needed water so badly -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. SPEAKER (Stagg): Order, please!

MR. SENIOR: - worse than probably any other district in the Province of Newfoundland. Sir, I consider this a major achievement by the minister and his department and I would like to commend him for it. I would also like to commend him for the job they are doing specifically as related to the District of Grand Falls, where the federal government three years ago undertook a project involving several millions of dollars, completed two-thirds of the project and then left the community stranded without a water supply ever since, and apparently has little or no intention - or at least if they do, they have not indicated such - of completing this project. So the minister has indicated, his department have indicated, the government have indicated that this year they will out of necessity, out of desperation, out of the tremendous need that is in this community for an upgraded water system, to go ahead with it anyway and complete it out of provincial funds when it should not be necessary, when the federal government



had the rationale for this project presented to them, when they accepted it, when they started the project, completed two-thirds of it and then fell down on the job and left us stranded.

So we are not dealing with that kind of government here, Sir, We are dealing with a government that is concerned about people, that is concerned about the needs of communities, I think it is evident in the water services programme and the amount of money that is provided for it this year.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): The honourable Member for Bell Island.

MR. NEARY: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for your recognition. Sir, I just want to take a moment or two to make a couple of comments on the remarks that were made a few moments ago by the Minister of Fisheries, Sir. I do not believe that the minister's remarks should be allowed to stand on the public record, should be allowed to go unchallenged, Sir. Because, Mr. Chairman, and I am sorry that the minister is not in his seat, Sir, the last day that this House met, the Minister of Fisheries, who is the Government House Leader, told me over there by his desk that we would deal on Monday with either the Department of Mines and Energy or the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing, depending on which one the Opposition wanted the minister to call first.

Today my colleague -

MR. CROSBIE: Nonsense.

MR. NEARY: No, that is not nonsense, Sir. Today my colleague, the Member for Fogo, the House Leader on this side of the House, went to the Minister of Fisheries and he refused to call Mines and Energy. Sir, the whole problem with the way the estimates are being dealt with is the fact that we cannot get an agenda from day to day. The minister and the administration will not tell us what is coming up next day. They will not give us an agenda. They are playing a cat and mouse game with us, Sir, and we do not know from one day to the next what we are going to discuss in this honourable House.

AN HON. MEMBER: Do your homework.

MR. NEARY: We have got our homework done, Sir. Our homework is done on every department. The minister has welched several times on a deal that he has made with the Leader on this side of the House to call certain estimates the next day. They will wait and see if a certain member on this side of the House is out of the House and then they will call estimates that he is shadowing. They are playing a cat and mouse game with us, Sir.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: They are scared, Sir.

MR. ROWE: Social Services the other night.

MR. NEARY: The other night they tried to call Social Services when I was over on Bell Island to a meeting.

MR. DOODY: We thought you needed a grant to get back.

MR. NEARY: And Social Services, Sir, we were told would not be coming up for a couple of days. So the minister has welched. If the minister would only give us an agenda and let us know what we are going to discuss over the next two or three days, perhaps we would not be getting all these unfavourable comments from Flicky-Wicky. The whole trouble, Sir, is with the government and the Government House Leader and until we get an agenda the whole thing is going to be in a shambles, Sir.

Mr. Chairman, I want to make one other comment before I take my seat, one other comment, Sir, that is very important to anybody following the item by item analysis of the estimates that government ministers, Sir, have logged, I would say, twice as much time and have made more long-winded speeches than all the members on this side of the House. Government ministers, Sir, have logged the time, two to one I would say. Go back to Hansard.

MR. MURPHY: How much money will you put on it?

MR. NEARY: I would put any amount of money on it.

MR. MURPHY: Will you make a bet on it?

MR. DOODY: \$95.

MR. NEARY: The ministers, Sir, it is the ministers who have taken up the time, not the members on this side of the House. We have given the

administration and the ministers the odd little flick and then we, after that, we are quite prepared to go down through the estimates item by item and ask questions and get out the extravagance and the waste that is in here and the fat that is in here. But, Sir, it is the ministers, and we see this in the Committee this afternoon, it is the ministers who are using up the time. It took the Minister of Fisheries ten minutes to give the Leader of the Opposition a flick. That is ten minutes, Sir, taken off our time.

MR. DOODY: Ask a question. Ask a question.

MR. NEARY: I am replying to some -

MR. DOODY: You are wasting the House's time.

MR. NEARY: I am not. I am going to take my seat now because I would not -

MR. ROWE: Replying to some remarks made by the Minister of Fisheries.

MR. NEARY: I am replying to some remarks that were made earlier by the Minister of Fisheries. That were unjustified, Sir, typical of the Minister of Fisheries, trying to get his little bit of political mileage and trying to poke a little bit of fun at the Leader of the Opposition and cause dissension between he and poor old lonely old Mr. Smallwood.

MR. DOODY: What?

MR. MURPHY: Oh come on!

MR. NEARY: That is what the minister is up to, Sir. But, Sir, if we only had an agenda, if the Minister of Fisheries is sincere and genuine in seeing that

the item by item analysis of the estimates is carried out in the proper way, give us an agenda and tell us what departments are going to come up in the next two or three days and maybe we will get somewhere, Sir, if the minister would only do that.

MR. DUNPHY: The honourable Member for St. John's West.

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Chairman, I am disconsolate at the fact that I have apparently got the honourable gentleman from Bell Island upset, disconsolate. I do not like to upset him or corrupt his feelings. Now, I deal, Mr. Chairman, with the House Leader, the Leader of the Opposition. I do not deal with the Joe boys on the other side of the House and I have made no commitment to the House Leader opposite or to the Leader of the Opposition that has not been carried out. I said on Friday that we planned to do Municipal Affairs and Housing next and when we finished Social Services unexpectedly, quickly on Friday, I said we would call Legislative because we only had a few minutes left and we called Legislative this morning followed by Municipal Affairs and Housing.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Chairman, I am saying what I said. And I said we would call Mines and Energy next, if the Minister of Mines and Energy was ready. He was not here on Friday. He was still out of town.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

MR. CROSBIE: I said you could have Health or Mines and Energy, whichever you preferred. Now, Municipal Affairs, when that is concluded we are going to do Mines and Energy. We are dying to get at Mines and Energy. We are frothing at the mouth to get at Mines and Energy and that is going to be followed by the Department of Health. That was told to the Opposition several days ago. So, the honourable gentleman's arguing, the honourable gentleman is just trying to raise up a false issue.

Now, as far as government ministers' logging time is concerned, Mr. Chairman, any study of the tapes would show that the Opposition talks at least six-eighths of the time in the estimates. Surely, a minister

would have a right to explain his estimates. If points are brought up or questions are asked, the ministers have the right to answer them. So, I hope they have logged considerable time. That is the whole point. Can you imagine now a committee on the estimates meeting and government ministers do not say a word, that all that happens is that the Opposition speak for seventy-five hours and government ministers do not answer or defend government policy? Now, let us stop this juvenile dementia. I would accuse the honourable gentleman of being a victim of juvenile delinquency except that he is older than that. So it is probably senior delinquency. Government ministers log whatever time is necessary to answer questions that are raised. As far as the Lonely Hearts Club is concerned, government ministers are spending half their time these days answering questions that are coming from Mr. Smallwood in connection with his new encyclopedia. We have had more questions from the honourable Mr. Smallwood, our former Premier, in connection with his new encyclopedia than we have had from the Opposition on the estimates.

I myself answered at least twelve letters from him asking questions about this, that and the other for the encyclopedia and I would say this, that he would do a lot better job in this Committee, Mr. Chairman, than honourable gentlemen opposite. Many of us are thinking very fondly of his possible come back. We look forward to seeing him as Leader of the Opposition in the next House.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Dunphy): The honourable Minister of Tourism.

MR. HICKEY: I just have a couple of comments to make. I do not wish to delay the Committee.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Dunphy): Order, please!

MR. HICKEY: I would like the honourable minister when he rises again to tell the House whatever he can with regards to his plans for the town of Torbay and also the town of Pouch Cove. Both areas, Mr. Chairman, have acute problems with regard to water and sewerage. The town of Pouch Cove, to the best of my knowledge, has made representation to the former

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administration, certainly has made representation to this administration for a water and sewerage system. I understand that there has been a plan prepared or an estimate, a very costly one in terms of a total project, but nevertheless, Mr. Chairman, a very necessary project. So far as the town of Torbay is concerned, it is a very new town as honourable members know, and the people of Torbay are the type who are patient and understanding. They would need to be, having received the treatment they have received for twenty-three years until the blessing came when this administration took office, when they saw something done for a change. But they are not difficult to get along with, Mr. Chairman. I think their minister will bear this out when he rises. He himself has told me that it is one of the best council groups that he has done business with. Their

requests are not unreasonable. They are not unreasonable people. They certainly appreciate the problems we in government have by way of budgetary constraint. Nevertheless, Sir, I would be failing in my duty if I did not rise in my place and bring to the attention of the House two very serious problems which are evident in the Town of Torbay at the present time. One is the trailer court, and the other a relatively new housing area on the Marine Drive section of the town.

We are not asking, Mr. Chairman, that a water and sewerage system for Torbay be completed this year or in fact next year. The town is not asking that. They are simply asking that a start be made over a number of years. There are sections of the town that will not need water and sewerage for some time to come. The town is simply asking - I share their view and support it - that a plan be devised where the town is given water and sewerage over a number of years. However many years that might be is certainly not for me to decide. But, I am sure the town in conjunction with the minister and myself can come up with a plan which will see everyone in the town eventually get water and sewerage.

But the two areas I mentioned, Mr. Chairman, are very serious at the moment. The trailer court, before the town was incorporated, was allowed to develop in a haphazard way. The people who live in that trailer court have had all kinds of problems. Certainly none the least, the lack of water and proper sewerage facilities. I do not think, Mr. Chairman, it is unfair to say that this cannot be allowed to continue. Myself and my colleague, the Minister of Environment, have done everything possible to get the developer to improve and correct the very sad situation that exists there. The council have made its efforts. To date, Mr. Chairman, all has failed. The only answer now is that my colleague, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing take some action which I am sure he will.

I want to say to him that we appreciate on behalf of the people in that town, appreciate very, very much the fact that a plan is being devised, that he has seen fit to make monies available to have that plan devised. I say to him now if there is any way that he can find funds during the present year to make a start on a water and sewerage system for that



town giving priority to the two areas that I have mentioned, namely, the trailer court and the Marine Drive section, and certainly the people of the town would be most appreciative. As I said before, I do not think they will press him to have it all done yesterday. They are not that unreasonable. As I said earlier, they have been without services for so long that those people are probably the most understanding people in the Province.

With regard to the Town of Pouch Cove, Mr. Chairman, the town which is in my constituency at the moment under the new system of boundaries, I feel obligated as well to bring to the attention of the minister - I understand he has already had some discussions with the town council of that town - also the necessity to have something done, at least a start made with regards to that area. There are sections of that town where certainly pollution is a very great problem. I do not think either he nor myself combined have the answer for the Town of Pouch Cove. It is not as simple as the problem in Torbay where a particular section or two sections of the town are somewhat isolated or separated and can be done in terms of water and sewerage. It is not as simple as that in the Town of Pouch Cove. The problems are spread over a different area, and there are problems really throughout the town. One almost comes to the conclusion that the entire Town of Pouch Cove is such with regards to pollution that immediate attention is required for the entire population.

Nevertheless, Sir, whatever can be done, the peoples of those two towns will greatly appreciate it. I would appreciate it very much if my colleague would make some reference to what the plans of his department are when he rises to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): The honourable Member for Bonavista South.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, just a few brief words on these estimates, the heading of the minister's office, 1901. First of all I think I would be very remiss indeed if I did not congratulate, I think, the youngest minister in the cabinet right now in the government here. The youngest minister, and if not, maybe one of the most effective ministers, a man who has been travelling throughout the Province and bringing government

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to the people which was a strong policy of the Progressive Conservative Government in taking office, that government would be brought to the people. The

Hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs has no doubt carried out that duty in a good way because he has travelled throughout the Province and met with councils in their community halls and the town council offices and not as we have seen in the past, having delegations coming back and forth to St. John's continuously, some times unable to even meet with their minister as we saw in the previous administration. Decentralization of government was also outlined quite well during the past number of months by the minister's department where we saw the setting up of offices in the Western part of the Province and the central part of Newfoundland. For example in the Gander area now we have, as the minister outlined, we have regional field staff of the department that is doing an excellent job.

Mr. Chairman, there are a number of problems in my district that were there when I became the member for Bonavista South but today they are not there, and it is because of the workings of the Municipal Affairs department, some of them since the new minister took over office. But there are a number of other problems that are pending and need to be looked into. Mr. Chairman, the last two or three years were indeed very productive for my district through the efforts of the Department of Municipal Affairs. We saw over \$2 million spent in the town of Bonavista on water and sewer and \$1 million last year and \$1 million the year before. And we saw the much needed and long awaited for water and sewer project for the town of Port Blandford. We saw that commence last year, over \$200,000 in the first phase. Last year we also saw the new programme of water supply for the community of Sandy Cove in my district on the Eastport Peninsula. We also saw the replacement of all the old water lines in Happy Adventure last year in my district. We also saw the extension of a water line in Eastport during the past year. And also, I can go on, also in the community of Duntara and the community of Keels a water supply is being installed.

So, Mr. Chairman, these are the kind of things that this 'do-nothing' P.C. Government are doing in Bonavista South. I am afraid today, Mr. Chairman, no matter what political belief the people are in Bonavista South at least they will not say that this government is not a do-nothing government because they can see the activities and the actions and the projects that have been carried out during the past two and one-half, three years.

But there are more problems to be solved. For example - also before I forget it, there is a very important project for Bonavista. Last year the Municipal Affairs department through the Housing Corporation purchased land and we now have the engineers doing the site development for a housing development project in the town of Bonavista where we are going to see, at least, I think, sixty-five to seventy new housing lots, which are long over-due.

AN HON. MEMBER: Right in the town of Bonavista.

MR. MORGAN: In the town of Bonavista.

These are the kind of things that we are doing as a government. But, of course, there are many more pressing problems that need to be looked at. For example, the community of Salvage, the community of Salvage is a fishing community, and the people there are an industrious type people. There is a fish plant in operation there, seasonal operation, and they have a very serious problem with a water supply system. There is no water there in the summertime. There are a few artesian wells that were put in there a few years ago that are now turned down by the Department of Health. But there is a desperate need for a water system, and I am pleased that the Municipal Affairs department has engaged the engineering company of Noel, White and Associates to carry out the necessary engineering work there. And I am confident that this year this new minister now in the department will be looking at this problem in a very serious way, and I think he will give every consideration to it.

MR. MORGAN: Nolan, White and Associates one of the better -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. MORGAN: While we are on the subject of engineering companies I do like to emphasize one thing, I may not be in the good books of the companies tomorrow, of the engineers but I have to say it, it is in my mind, and being a politician who speaks his mind I am going to say it. I think it is very, very important in future years that the Municipal Affairs Department have its own engineering department, and when I say its own engineering division, not what we have now, two or three engineers, but have a whole engineering division. Because too many times in my view the engineering companies are ripping off the councils, I have seen it happen, and they are ripping off the government in many cases.

MR. NEARY: It does not speak very well for the minister.

MR. MORGAN: And this has been going on for year, going on for years. Now some engineering companies, and I am not putting them all in the one category, some engineering companies are excellent companies. But others are there, and they are ripping off from the top every time, and the main concern is how much money can we make, not the feasibility of the project, not the project after it is completed whether it is good or bad. For example, I think it was last year there were two major projects that were carried out and when it was completed there were some problems, and the problems really should have been laid in the lap of the engineering companies. It was not the actual construction company who carried out the job, because he was doing it according to the design of the engineers. But the design was not a proper design. And these are -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. MORGAN: And these are the kind of things - but I think it would save the department a lot of money, it would make more money available for more water projects if we had engineers like the minister mentioned today, for example, stationed in Gander - if we had two or three engineers working with his department who would go out and visit these communities that have water supply problems, do the necessary survey work for them. Not only that but when the money is allocated to the community council and town council, that these engineers would then also

supervise the project, have the councils carry out the work. In many cases a tender is called, a construction company comes in, he brings in a man, maybe his one man, his foreman, and the foreman hires on local men, he takes off the profit from the top, and there is so much money missing that could have gone into the community project in that area. And in the future, I think, we should have more of these projects carried out by the councils. We have two right now in my district, one in the community of Keels and one in the community of Duntara, and these water projects are not carried out by a contractor, they are carried out by the councils, but in this case they are supervised by an engineering company. And the same kind of work, I think, hopefully, will go on in Salvage where there will not be a tender call for a contractor to do the work, but supervised by an engineer and in this case, because we do not have the engineering staff on hand, that we have to engage engineering companies, and to use these companies to supervise the job and the councils do the respective work.

AN HON. MEMBER: By local labour.

MR. MORGAN: By all local labour. The councils can arrange through the engineering company to hire their heavy equipment, their bulldozers, or their backhoes or whatever is needed, and do the work themselves, and this would save money and would mean more money for the project, and in the long run we would save money for government. So I cannot over-emphasize that point in my own point of view of in the future of having a very large expanded engineering division in the Department of Municipal Affairs, much expanded as to what it is now, and to have the engineers stationed in the regional offices around the Province, and to carry out not only engineering survey work, a preliminary type surveys but also do the actual supervision of the projects. And I think this would be a saving, a substantial saving in the long run.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I noticed the minister did mention in his opening remarks, I think it was, about the land lots that could be developed for mobile homes. And being a member of the House of Assembly who resides in a mobile home, I think I am the only one here, I have been living in it for the past three years on a private developed land lot in the St. John's area, on the Torbay Road. I

strongly recommend that this be carried out, that government develop as many as possible land lots for mobile homes. It is in my view, it is the answer to the housing problem for young couples, people who cannot normally go out and afford to pay down \$5,000, \$6,000, \$10,000 for a home. However, they can scrape enough money for a down payment on a mobile home and if the lots were available in proper government approved lots, or government approved mobile home parks, in towns like, for example, even in Bonavista, in my own district, or in Glovertown or in Wesleyville or in any of these places of that nature where the town councils, existing local government, that development of these lots, I think, would help to overcome the housing problem and go a long way to solve the problem because the young people would be able to afford to buy the land lots and to buy the mobile homes. In fact, I would even go so far as to recommend that government may get involved in a rental of these lots, through the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation, that the housing corporation could develop the land, service it and rather than sell them they could get to the point of renting these land lots to the young prospective home owner.

These, Mr. Chairman, are a few points. There is one more point I would like to make and that is with regard to the applications that are on hand right now, that has been submitted to government after going through the proper process for the formation of local government. I think the minister mentioned twenty-six communities that presently have applications processed, approved by his department, but have not been approved by government because of the fact they were awaiting the Report of the Whalen Royal Commission and that report had to be studied to determine what actions would be taken by the government. I cannot emphasize the importance of getting that report studied as soon as possible possible because I have got applications. Alone in my district there are two applications pending for quite a number of months and these communities are very anxious. They went through all the proper procedures. They held public meetings, circulated petitions and they are very anxious to get some form of local government, and the only reason I can tell



them is because there is a delay, the government is waiting to study the Report of the Whalen Royal Commission on local government in the Province. So the fastest we get that report looked at and a Cabinet decision on the whole thing, I think the more important it will be to some of these communities who are waiting their application to get approved. Places like in my district, like in Newman's Cove - Amherst Cove area and also the Stock Cove - Knight's Cove area, these two in particular.

So, Mr. Chairman, in closing my few remarks I would like to wish the minister well and to carry on the good work he is doing in that department and I am sure he will get the good wishes of all the municipalities around the Province. Thank you very much.

AN HON. MEMBER: Dumb-dumb.

MR. MORGAN: You will get dumb-dumb one of these days, boy.

MR. PECKFORD: Mr. Chairman, there were a couple of questions brought up earlier by a number of honourable members. One question brought up by the honourable Member for St. Barbe North relating to how many municipalities had to increase taxes or are likely to have to increase taxes. Here is a rough answer to that. Eight to ten fairly substantial increases brought about mainly because of assessment of properties after a five year lapse, every five years they assess the properties again, so the increase in taxes is not necessarily a result of an increase in the rate, but rather an increase in the assessment because a dwelling decreased in value over the five year period and hence the amount of tax, probably tax that the individual house owner would have to pay would necessarily increase even with the same rate.

So we are talking about eight or ten or that category, fifteen to twenty municipalities with moderate increases to meet increasing costs or anticipated expenditures. I had some of my people check that out since you asked the question. That is what it boils down to. The Opposition were right, when we started getting into the business of naming some of the municipalities, Mount Pearl, Corner Brook, Grand Falls, these were the municipalities.

AN HON. MEMBER: Happy Valley.

MR. PECKFORD: Happy Valley and Goose Bay.

MR. WOODWARD: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: That is right. Absolutely fantastic.

MR. WOODWARD: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: Yes. That is right.

MR. MURPHY: How do the rates compare now "Brian"? -

MR. PECKFORD: That is not a very nice comment for the honourable Member for Labrador to make. That is awful. That is awful.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: No. No. No. I do not believe in socking it to them, Mr. Chairman, let us not be petty on this now. Let us be -

MR. NEARY: That is not being petty. That is being factual.

MR. PECKFORD: That is not being factual. We are not trying to sock them. When you have your own budget to look after and you have to cut your expenses in certain areas or to increase somewhere else, there is no alternative to it. Especially when you are dealing

with fairly large municipalities. So, that is the rough figure on it. I can get more specific later on on that.

The second thing was, they wanted me to submit a copy of the circular that was submitted. I have that here for the honourable member if he wants it. So, that takes care of those questions.

The honourable Minister of Tourism had a few points to make about his district of the Town of Torbay. The Town of Torbay, as the honourable minister indicated, I have found to be an extremely co-operative and responsible group of councillors. We have discussed the problems of water and sewer in their municipality on a number of occasions, and the department has agreed to finance a planned engineering study of the area which should be under way any day now if it is not already. I think the council has decided upon a consultant, and the consultant is to proceed immediately to do the design work on that system.

As I mentioned in my earlier remarks, Mr. Chairman, in relation to Torbay, of course, which is in St. John's urban region, places like Torbay and Pouch Cove and Petty Harbour and Flatrock, for example, will not come within the confines of the St. John's regional water supply. So, it is going to be necessary for the department, the provincial government, to get involved in the local water supplies. I think there is, there has been some question about Torbay. If my memory serves me correct, I think that FENCO who are the consulting engineers on the St. John's regional water supply with some figures that they have presented and then with some other figures that were done up for a local supply, that it is much cheaper to go with the local supply as long as you have an adequate source of water, water not only having the volume there but also the quality that is needed. This is the reason why we have gone ahead with a local engineering study on Torbay because it will not, as far as the water supply goes, be into that St. John's regional water supply in Bay Bulls, Big Pond. That is what I am talking about.

So, I am happy to tell the honourable minister that Torbay has been given every consideration. We have gone ahead with an engineering study to just determine what the costs are there, and to

try to come up with some phase-in plan for that municipality. It is going quickly. It is going very fast, rapidly. Something is going to have to be done in that area to ensure proper or basic services for, I guess a dormitory town to the city .

On Pouch Cove, that the honourable Minister of Tourism mentioned, here again I talked with Pouch Cove on a number of occasions. Like so many areas, what we have been trying to do, where we have had a preliminary engineering study done, where the cost has come into \$2 million or \$3 million or even \$1.5 million to \$2 million, we are trying to now isolate. For example, in the Pouch Cove case, which could be an example for a lot of other municipalities in the Province, you have a community where you are going to get into high capital costs. You have a pollution problem, a real severe pollution problem in one area of the town. Okay, the whole town perhaps needs sewerage, but some need it worse than others. You know, they are really in bad shape.

So, what we have said, Pouch Cove, okay, we are talking about a very high capital cost. Let us get realistic on it. Let us look at it this way for this year. We will get the engineers to zero in on the exact cost of bringing your supply line from your source of supply, from your pond. How much will it cost to bring it from the pond to the edge of the community? Isolate that cost. Then, isolate the cost to go from the edge of the community to the area, you know, where the concentrated area is, and supply it with water. And isolate the third one, to isolate the area where sewerage is desperately, absolutely desperately needed, and then see what costs we are talking about.

We have reason to believe, of course, it is quite logical, quite obvious, that the cost will be much reduced from the overall cost as previously given by the consultants. Then, that might be a little more manageable from a cost point of view, from the municipalities point of view and obviously from the government's point of view. So, therefore even if we could get in to the supply line and a part of a water and sewer line into the concentrated area of pollution in the community, in the municipality, I think that the council and the people of the area would be very appreciative of even

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that. Then, as another year goes by, the sewerage can be added to or the water can be added to as the desperate areas come on stream, if you will, as they get

worse and worse, so that phased in approach, and even in some municipalities, of course, we are talking about partial sewerage permanently. There are a lot of communities in this Province that the Department of Health and the Department of the Environment will say, especially where you are talking about the sparsely populated on the periphery of the main town where you do not have to put in sewerage facilities, the houses are far enough apart that an ordinary septic tank disposal system is adequate. As a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, in my own case, in my house that I built through CMHC five or six years ago in South Brook, Halls Bay has a septic tank disposal system which was passed by the Department of Health and by the Department of the Environment five or six years ago, which is quite adequate to that community water supply, albeit inadequate.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: But the sewerage is no problem, and hence this can be repeated many times over. So where you are talking about an extremely high capital cost with a community of 700 or 800 people that has a very low tax base, it is going to take a few years to graduate that tax base up to a reasonable level, it is much more realistic to look at a water system for the whole community. Sometimes you might get away with two or three houses that have their own artesian wells and a partial sewer system, and in that area of the town where pollution is really now a problem or will be a problem in a year or two hence. So there is Torbay and Pouch Cove and what we are trying to do there for the honourable Member for St. John's East Extern, the Minister of Tourism.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: And then the honourable Member for Bonavista South had some very constructive suggestions to make about the department. And I have to go along with him in many cases, and I just want to elaborate or comment upon his suggestions relating to the engineering division. And as I mentioned in my opening remarks we are attempting to enlarge that division -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. PECKFORD: and to put some engineers in the regional offices. And to that end we are permitted and hopefully this year throughout

our advertisements in the paper we will be able to place an engineer in Gander and Corner Brook.

I guess, Mr. Chairman, it is approaching 6:00 o'clock. So I will sit down before -

HON. MEMBERS: Carried. Carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall 1901-01 carry?

On motion 1901-01 carried.

MR. F. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, -

AN HON. MEMBER: Is it carried?

MR. F. ROWE: No, that is why I am standing up. I do not want it to carry.

AN HON. MEMBER: A delaying tactics.

On motion that the Committee rise, -

HON. MEMBERS: Inaudible.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): Order, please!

- report progress and ask leave to sit again, Mr. Speaker returned to the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply have considered the matters to them referred and have reported passing the following Head of Expenditure, Head II Legislative, all items with some amendment and ask leave to sit again.

MR. SPEAKER (STAGG): The Chairman of the Committee of Supply reports that it has considered the matters to them referred, and reports that they have passed the following Head of Expenditure, Head II Legislative, all items with some amendment, and have made further progress and ask leave to sit again.

On motion report received and adopted, Committee ordered to sit again on tomorrow.

MR. CROSBIE: I move that the remaining orders of the day do stand deferred and that this House at its rising do adjourn until 3:00 P.M. tomorrow, Tuesday, April 15, 1975.

MR. SPEAKER (STAGG): It is moved and seconded that this House do now adjourn, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, April 15 at 3:00 P.M.



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Under the provisions of Standing Order (23) Mr. Roberts asked leave to move the adjournment of the House to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the failure of the Government of this Province to support the efforts being made by the other provinces to prevent an increase in the price of fuel and oil products.	4067
Opposed by Mr. Crosbie.	4068
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