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VERBATIM REPORT

TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 1975

SPEAKER: THE HONOURABLE M. JAMES RUSSELL

The House met at 3:00 P.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS:

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Fisheries.

HON. J. C. CROSBIE, Minister of Fisheries: Mr. Speaker, I would like to announce the appointment of Mr. Gordon C. Slade as Deputy Minister of Fisheries. The post has been vacant since the appointment of the former Deputy Minister, Mr. Rupert Prince to the position of Chairman of the Fishing Industry Advisory Board in September, 1974.

Mr. Slade is presently Assistant Deputy Minister of Development with the Fisheries Department. Prior to joining the Provincial Department of Fisheries in August, 1973 he was employed for thirteen years with the Federal Fisheries and Environment Department. Previous to the 1973 appointment he worked as chief of programme planning with the Environmental Protection Service in Edmonton, Alberta. Prior to this he was employed with the Personnel Branch of Environment Canada for four years in St. John's and Ottawa. He was born in Placentia Bay.

Between 1961 and 1967 he worked as Field Officer and District Supervisor in the Conservation and Protection Branch of the Federal Fisheries Service in a number of locations throughout the Province including Burgeo, Lewisporte and Corner Brook. He attended Memorial University and the University of Alberta and has as well completed a number of management and personnel courses with the federal government.

I believe that Mr. Slade with his proven administrative ability and his extensive knowledge of the Newfoundland fishery will do an excellent job in his new position. He is thirty-three and married to the former Agnes Parsons of Lewisporte and they have two children.

So, Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pleasure that I announce the appointment of this young Newfoundlander as our Deputy Minister of Fisheries. He is well respected and regarded in Ottawa, and I believe here in the Province, by those who are involved in the fishery and who know of him.

and I hope that he will have a very successful career as Deputy Minister of Fisheries in the Province.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Bell Island.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, we welcome the appointment of Mr. Slade, Sir, as the Deputy Minister of Fisheries. The post has been vacant in our opinion probably too long. But finally the minister and the government have gotten around to appointing a deputy minister which will give the minister the badly back-up expertise that probably needs to run that department efficiently, Sir. We do wish Mr. Slade every success in his new appointment, Sir.

MR. CROSBIE: I should have mentioned in making that last statement that Mr. David Vardy, who is the Executive Secretary to the Planning and Priorities Committee, was the Acting Deputy Minister of Fisheries. I would like to say publicly that he has done an excellent job there and has been very helpful and he will continue to be associated with the fishery generally, in particular the plans now in progress with the Government of Canada as to what should be done in the fishing industry and what assistance there should be and he will continue to be involved in that.

Now I have another statement, Mr. Speaker, in connection with loss of gear in Placentia Bay. During the months of February and March most unusual heavy ice conditions destroyed approximately 1,100 set cod gill nets and 150 herring nets in Placentia Bay, leaving over twenty longliners presently inoperative because their owners do not have the cash or credit capability of replacing their fishing gear. In some cases these fishermen still owe their suppliers for the lost gear.

In Chance Cove, Trinity Bay, a similar situation exists but on a much smaller scale, where three or four crews lost a total of forty to fifty gill nets. Now this happened, Mr. Speaker, because they set their gear in January and in a most unusual circumstance Placentia Bay froze over for the first time in I do not know whether it was thirty or forty or fifty years, anyway it was an unusual event. They were not able to get back to get their gear until April and most of their gear was lost. There were about seventy fishermen involved altogether

including the crews of these longliners.

Strong representations have been made by the fishermen and the Member of the House of Assembly for the area, the Member for Placentia East, for full replacement of their losses, without which they will not be able to continue fishing, so that they and their crews, totalling possibly seventy family men might likely be forced on Social Assistance unless some special plan is devised for them.

The Federal Provincial Gear Replacement Programme of 1974 in connection with heavy Artic ice conditions on the Northeast Coast is not applicable to these fishermen, nor is there any other fishing gear replacement programme other than the present subsidy programme available. That is the programme that is in effect now for anyone who wants to buy gear who is a fisherman and that roughly amounts to twenty-five or thirty per cent of the cost of the gear.

The government have decided that in view of the disastrous circumstances that occurred with reference to these men under most unusual conditions that the government will implement a special assistance plan whereby those fishermen in Placentia Bay and at Chance Cove who lost fifty per cent or more of their fishing gear, if they lost over half the fishing gear that they own, due to these most unusual ice conditions would be assisted and replaced in the gear lost for the value of seventy-five per cent of the amount of the loss. In other words, the fishermen will have to meet twenty-five per cent of the amount of the cost of replacing their lost gear with the government to contribute the remainder. This proposed special programme will be restricted to cover only those fishermen in Placentia Bay and Chance Cove whose losses have been reported to the department before April 22, 1975 and who lost fifty per cent or more of their fishing gear so that the individual has suffered a disaster.

If any other claims are made other than those already reported to the department, and it will be unusual if there are because anyone who lost a lot of gear like that would report it to the department or to the Department of Fisheries of Canada, the department will examine them strictly to ascertain whether a claim would be entertained or not. There may be some who, and if they do apply we will certainly have a look at it, but this plan is to apply to those who have all ready reported their losses over the last six to eight weeks.

The total number of fishermen involved are from forty to fifty in number and the claims of each of these fishermen will be carefully examined to insure that they did indeed lose over fifty per cent of the gear they owned due to those causes and to insure that they are bona fide fishermen who earn the majority of their income from fishing. The communities involved include Little Harbour, Arnold's Cove, Southern Harbour, Fair Haven, Jersey'side, Freshwater and Ferndale.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, of course we welcome the news that the government are going to help the fishermen in the Eastern side of Placentia

Bay and in the community of Chance Cove in Trinity Bay who were affected by this unusual disaster. I suppose any disaster is unusual but this disaster was unusual even beyond the unusual range because, of course, Placentia Bay is generally considered to be an ice free bay and I suppose almost universally is an ice free bay except during the sort of circumstances the minister described.

Sir, to us the government's decision while it is welcome is an indication of a very unpleasant state of affairs, a very unacceptable state of affairs because it shows once again the need for two types of programmes for our fishermen. One is for a realistic gear insurance and replacement programme. We have had a series of ad hoc programmes, some of which have been administered satisfactorily, some of which have been administered unsatisfactorily. In addition, Sir, we need a gear bank in Newfoundland whereby our fishermen will have gear made available to them at the lowest possible cost and if there is to be a subsidy element built in, if the public Treasury is to pay part of the cost of fishing gear, and I think that is a case that certainly should be considered, then the way to build in that subsidy is through a gear bank and not the present programme which is only having the effect of driving up the prices, or so the fishermen tell me and so the people who are looking into the matter advised me.

Mr. Speaker, we think there should be a gear bank programme. We think that there should be a permanent disaster replacement or a programme on a permanent basis to replace gear lost in disasters. We have seen the joint federal-provincial programme last year. We have seen now this special ad hoc move to help a relatively few fishermen in Placentia Bay. I would urge the minister to give renewed consideration to the problems of fishermen on the Port au Port Peninsula who have had considerable trouble and have not been able to get any assistance. Also, the fishermen, some of them in my own district and in other communities throughout Newfoundland who have lost their gear through heavy storm damage and the heavy storm, Mr. Speaker, can be every bit as devastating as ice and equally, Sir, a loss of gear through a heavy storm from a man who has no credit left to him and has no cash available to buy new gear

can be just as devastating on that man's ability to prosecute the fishery.

So, the programme is welcomed, but, Sir, it is only scratching the surface and it is not, it is not enough. It is not nearly enough. We do need a gear bank and we do need a permanent programme, a programme on a permanent basis to help fishermen to insure against, to guard against loss of gear through natural disasters.

MR. SPEAKER: Before we continue, it has been brought to my attention that we have a delegation from the Hermitage Community Council in the galleries consisting of the Chairman, Mr. Herbert Rose and councillors Mr. Wes Harris, Mr. Doug Rose, Mr. John Hollett and Mr. Calvin Crew. On behalf of all the honourable members I welcome you to the galleries today and trust that your visit here is most interesting.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any other ministerial statements?

I have just been handed a note saying we also have in the gallery from Pilleys Island community council Mr. Payne, Mr. Rice, and Mr. Anderson. On behalf of all honourable members I certainly welcome you gentlemen to the galleries today.

NOTICE OF MOTION:

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Fisheries.

MR. CROSBIE: I give notice that on behalf of the Minister of Finance that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a bill, "An Act Further To Amend The Department Of Finance Act."

MR. ROBERTS: Are you going to abolish the minister's new budget?

MR. CROSBIE: Not yet.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN:

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Transportation and Communications.

HON. J. ROUSSEAU (MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS): Mr. Speaker, I undertook to get some information for the honourable Member for Hermitage on Friday, and I have the information now. It was a question posed in respect to a recruiting trip that was made to England by the Department of Transportation and Communications. I affirm that there was. I did not have the details at that time, and I undertook to get the figures why this trek was undertaken. I have checked with the people in the department.

Right now we have four district engineers, four positions, two are filled and two are vacant. We have eleven civil engineers, of which nine are filled and two are vacant. We have fourteen civil engineers I's, two filled and twelve vacant. So, out of the twenty-nine engineering posts, we have a total of thirteen filled and sixteen vacant. Since April we have had some people who have left, April 1, 1974. We have had four engineering I's who have left us, two engineering II's and one district engineer has left, and we have had two engineering I's who have commenced work. We have two new graduates now who are coming out on June 1, one from Memorial. There were four interviews and we offered all four the positions, all four of the students, but only one accepted. We have one also from

Nova Scotia Tech. So, that will be two new graduates coming in.

So, on the basis of that, of course, we have to find some engineers to cope with the large programme we have in the department. We need the engineers to assist in that. You know, it is thirteen people now. We are spread pretty thin. It is very difficult to get the many requests you get or the many complaints you get, to have them checked out from an engineering point of view. Also in respect to the design work, the design work for bridges and the road work and so on, it is a very difficult thing to do. We need engineers badly. As I suggested on Friday, we certainly would give preference, no question about it, to Newfoundlanders if they were available.

Normally many leave once they get the experience, leave and go into private industry for a number of reasons I would assume. Where they are available, we certainly would like to have them. We have not contracted with anybody yet as a result of our trip although we are showing some interest in three of the interviewees we met while in England. So, right now the situation is that nobody has come as a result of that trip, but there are three people in whom the department is interested. We have, as I say, thirteen out of twenty-nine posts filled which puts the engineering aspect of the department in sort of a difficult position.

So, the honourable member knows when you are asking for things that we have to send engineers in to do, with the lack of engineers, of course, it is going to take a little longer to do it. That is the reason why we are anticipating that we might be able to pick up a few over there and try and fill those posts.

ORAL QUESTIONS:

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Hermitage.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, just to pursue the matter which the Minister of Transportation has just been commenting on. Is there any particular reason why the numbers of vacancies insofar as engineers in his department is concerned, why the number of vacancies is so high. Is there some particular reason over the past few months or year or so which has contributed to an unduly large number of vacancies or is it the problem

of competing with private industry from a salary standpoint?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Transportation and Communications.

MR. ROUSSEAU: I cannot specifically answer your question, but I would assume that, you know, the pressure in the department is quite hard when the staff is small and probably without a full complement people are carrying big loads. I presume that probably the pay and the chances for advancement may be better in private industry. I do not know. But, it would appear - I could say, although I am not certain of this - that those who have left, I guess, would prefer to work in private industry than in government. You know, outside of that, I do not know - and even that, I am assuming that to be the case.

Afternoon.

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MR. SIMMONS: Another supplementary for the minister. The other day when I raised the matter I also mentioned what I thought was an existing shortage of mechanics as well. Is the minister satisfied or can he assure the House that there is a sufficient number of mechanics now to keep ahead of the problem? Can I assume from what he answered a few days ago that the real problem is not a shortage of mechanics but a shortage of parts to repair the highway's equipment? Is that a fair assumption?

MR. ROUSSEAU: No. I did not exactly say that. I accepted the fact that we do not have all the mechanics we want. But I say the delays are also complicated by the fact that materials are not as readily available as we would want to have them available, these two things rather than just the parts. I have the numbers, as I say, of the mechanics in each of the depots and so on and so forth and all the information that I would have had, had my estimates been discussed, which they may not now with the time left. And if not, well, I would be prepared to table any information in respect to that, you know, when the estimates are over. But I had that information for the estimates.

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Member for Bell Island.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Hon. Premier. Would the Hon. Premier inform the House whether or not the Marystown Shipyard is up for sale? If so, have there been any offers? Is it going to be placed on public tender? Just how will the sale be brought about?

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Premier.

MR. MOORES: Yes, Mr. Speaker, there was some misinterpretation I would suppose from yesterday's Daily News headline in that particular story. When I was down in Marystown this weekend, the question was asked, what was the future of the Marystown Shipyard? During the course of answering that question it was explained by me that the future of the Marystown Shipyard at this present time looks particularly good. It looks particularly good not just from the trawler building point of view but also the point of view of building

vessels that could possibly service the offshore oil and gas exploration, and certainly if there is any production even more so.

Now at that time as well I said that there were people who had contacted the government, who are interested in the yard as such, It is not the government's intention to sell the yard, Mr. Speaker, unless it is a much better proposition than the government themselves could do. And at the present time there is no intention certainly of - there is no offer as such that the government would countenance. And it is the government's very clear position that the shipyard shall operate to the fullest capacity. If that could be done more and better by private hands, that is the way it would be done. We certainly then would look at any proposition we received. The main thing we will, Sir, is to ensure that the shipyard and the activities there will be kept operational for the benefit of the people of Marystown.

MR. NEARY: Well, Mr. Speaker, a supplementary. Are there any negotiations at all going on at the moment for private enterprise to take over the shipyard?

MR. MOORES: Mr. Speaker, there are always negotiations going on between government and private enterprise. There are people who have asked questions, would we consider certain things under certain circumstances? At the present time there are no serious negotiations for the Marystown Shipyard.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary. If there are any serious negotiations, would the Premier undertake -

MR. MOORES: I just said there was not.

MR. NEARY: No, but if - the Premier also said that there are continuous negotiations going on with private enterprise. If there are any serious proposals will the Premier undertake to make a commitment to this House that nothing will be done to unload the Marystown Shipyard until and unless the people in the area are consulted on the matter?

MR. MOORES: Mr. Speaker, this government would never unload an industry of that sort. The Marystown Shipyard is one of the few Crown Corporations that is doing well economically. It is working out very well.

And certainly under no circumstances would the government unload the shipyard, as the member for Bell Island, says. What we will do is always look after the interests of the people of Marystown and -

MR. NEARY: Without prior consultation with the people in the area?

MR. MOORES: - make sure that they get the best possible deal.

We are always in consultation with the people in the area.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I do not know what kind of trip the Premier had to Marystown but there seems to be a fire sale going on down there. What about the Atlantic Fish Processing Company Limited? Are they going to sell out? Have they been put up on tenders? What is happening there?

MR. MOORES: Mr. Speaker, first of all that was not of the subject of anything that I had to talk about at Marystown. As I recall the president of Atlantic Fish in Toronto mentioned the fact that they were negotiating a sale of the fish plant in Marystown. Now, I think, Sir, it should be stressed, as far as the government's viewpoint is concerned, that in this plant in Marystown, which is a large, modern and very efficient plant and has also a very large and modern fishing fleet of trawlers operating out of it, it is

in fact one of the best physical plants in Eastern Canada. Should there be any fishing companies interested in obtaining this fish plant, I think that one thing that would have to be ensured by government, and government are in the position to ensure this because after all Atlantic Fish paid for the leases to government, and also the government has the mortgage on the trawlers, I believe it is, as well as having the guarantees of the Jannock Corporation, which is a controlling Corporation of Atlantic Fish, which government holds as well.

Now, Sir, if the Jannock Corporation want to sell their fish plant in Marystown the only thing the government can do - well, there are two things, really - one is to ensure that the guarantees that have been backed up by the Jannock Corporation are lived up to with the same security; And secondly, and more important, that any one who is going to operate in the Marystown area if an agreement is reached will be someone who is fully interested in the fishery in this Province, not as a part of maybe a national or a multinational company but rather someone who wants to make a greater contribution to that area than is presently the case.

MR. NEARY: Like Spencer Lake.

MR. MOORES: But certainly, Sir, as far as we are concerned we have not been involved in any of this, and before anything happens I would think we will be.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary. Do I understand, Sir, from the Premier's statement that Atlantic Fish Processing who are right into their ears in debt to this government, do not know anything about these negotiations to sell the Fish Plant in Marystown? Is it the first knowledge that the Premier had of it? Do I get the impression when he read it in the newspaper or heard it on the radio? If so, Sir, I mean this is scandalous. And what is the Premier doing about it?

MR. MOORES: Mr. Speaker, it is still a private company. As I said before the guarantees that Jannock has with this government we will ensure that that security is fully secured, and we have no intention of listening to any proposals unless that is the case. And secondly, anything that Atlantic does, or a private company, they can make any statements like they did at their annual meeting without consultation with this

government, but before they can take any steps or have any definitive action, they could not do it without contacting and liaising with the government.

MR. NFARY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary. Would the Hon. the Premier tell the House if the government has a member representative on the Board of Director's of this company to protect the government's investment in Atlantic Processing?

MR. MOORES: Not only that, Mr. Speaker, but the cabinet itself, the government itself is fully aware that we have to protect this investment. And we certainly intend to do just that.

MR. NFARY: Well, Mr. Speaker, a supplementary. If there is a member, and I presume it is a cabinet minister, if there is a representative on the company why did not that representative not report the meeting of the Board of Directors to the Hon. the Premier and the administration? Why did the Premier have to hear it on the air or read it in the newspaper?

MR. MOORES: Mr. Speaker, the meeting that was held in Toronto, as I understand it, was the Shareholders of Jannock Corporation, and the government does not have a member on the Board of Jannock Corporation which is the controlling Corporation of Atlantic Fish.

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

MR. E. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, would the Premier assure us that the government will ensure that the contractual obligations which the Atlantic Sugar Company undertook are preserved in any settlement. Now I am not allowed to make a speech, but I would remind the Premier that in 1969 Atlantic Sugar wished to close the Marystown plant, and they were prevented from doing it because the contract which they entered into between the government on the one hand, and the Atlantic Sugar people on the other with the backing of Gairdner and Company required them to keep it open if it was economically viable so to do, and we so proved at the time. So the point of my question, Mr. Speaker, is will the government ensure that the rights that the government now have and which the people now have are preserved in any proposal by Jannock to sell their shares - that is what they are talking of - selling their shares in this subsidiary.

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. the Premier.

MR. MOORES: Mr. Speaker, I thought I had made that clear. Absolutely, the government will protect the interest of the people of Marystown by ensuring that plant is kept open, and certainly no one is going to be allowed to duck out from in under just for the sake of convenience.

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Member for Bell Island.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I have another question for the Hon. the Premier. Before I get to the main question, Sir, the Premier owes me an answer to a question I put to him the other day about the spuds. I asked the Hon. the Premier the other day if the government would consider government institutions buying these potatoes from the Newfoundland producers, and the Premier said he would give me an answer the next day.

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. the Premier.

MR. MOORES: Yes, Mr. Speaker, the

Minister of Health, Department of Health, Department of Rehabilitation and those departments that have government institutions directly under their control have been asked to investigate the matter with the intention of purchasing Newfoundland vegetables first and foremost.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, is the honourable the Premier aware that the ERGO plant is back in the news again and is the Premier aware that a report submitted to both the Provincial Government and the Federal Government shows that the whole area, the whole Long Harbour area is being poisoned? If the Premier is aware of this, would the Premier undertake to table these reports, to make the reports public? Would the Premier also tell us what action has been taken on these reports, if any?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable the Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge there is no official report. I am certainly familiar with what the member is talking about and it is a subject of very considerable concern by the Federal Government officials and ourselves right now. As soon as a conclusive position has been taken which hopefully will be very shortly I will gladly advise the member in this House.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications. Has the minister received any representation either orally, in writing or in person from the people living in the Winter Brook, Jamestown, Brooklyn area in the district of Bonavista South complaining about the road conditions in that area?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Transportation and Communications.

MR. ROUSSEAU: I really do not know. Probably I have. I do not think there is an area in the Province that I have not received representation from. It is kind of hard to follow them all. Undoubtedly if they have had roads there I or somebody in the department must have heard from them but I cannot recall. It might have been by letter, telegram. There are so many that go across your desk in the run of a day that you cannot follow them all. I do not know really. It could be and it could have gone down departmentally. It could have gone in the field but I cannot

recall it. That is not to say it has not come. If it did come to my desk, directions or instructions would have been passed on to the officials to attempt to reckon whatever the problem was, to attempt to rectify it.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, perhaps the minister would undertake to get me the information because I understand that they have been in touch with the minister from that area and they would like to know what is going to happen concerning the road down there.

MR. ROUSSEAU: What area was that again?

MR. NEARY: In the Winter Brook, Jamestown, Brooklyn area in the district of Bonavista South, and I am not going to run down there by the way. Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister of Tourism could give us an updated report on the Norma and Gladys? Is she or is she not fit to sail across the Pacific, the Atlantic and the Pacific to Japan? Is the minister having second thoughts? What is happening? Has there been a recent inspection of the Norma and Gladys? Is she still going? Is she going to be piggy-backed to Japan? Just what is happening in this regard?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Tourism.

HON. T. HICKEY: Mr. Speaker, if I had my way the honourable gentleman might be piggy-backed on her but we do not have any plans for any piggy-backing. I am sorry really to report to the honourable gentleman, but very pleased to report to the people of the Province through this honourable House that the voyage is still on. The honourable gentleman would be very happy if it was cancelled but we have no intentions of cancelling it. We have met with the Newfoundland Cruising Club, discussed the report, very unfortunate that that report was used by the paper. It was simply a working report, a basis for discussion. As a result of a meeting with the Newfoundland Cruising Club it was very quickly pointed out that almost ninety per cent of the points raised, or more than ninety per cent of the points raised in the report had all ready been taken care of. The both groups, my staff and the club are continuing to work together to co-operate with one another in insuring that all safety features are implemented and taken care of.

The matter of the seaworthiness of the vessel, I am given every assurance of. We have had a consultant advising us from the very early

stages of the project in the person of Mr. P.A. Harvey. Maybe the honourable gentleman might like to know what his qualifications are. He is a fellow of the Royal Institute of Naval Architects. He is a fellow of the Marine Engineers, a British Board of Trade Certificate, served on seventeen ships, nine years at sea, inspector of ships for Newfoundland pre-Confederation, Director of Vessel Construction for Newfoundland, exclusive Lloyd's surveyor for Newfoundland for over thirty years. This gentleman has been on the job on this vessel right from the beginning, still is and will continue. As well we are working with the people at the Fisheries College and as far as I am concerned, Mr. Speaker, I think that is sufficient to show everyone concerned or everyone interested that this voyage is not going to take place without every precautionary step being taken. There was no cause or no reason for concern.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for St. Barbe North.

MR. F. ROWE: A question to the Minister of Mines and Energy, Mr. Speaker. During the consideration of the estimates, the minister undertook to get answers with respect to the establishment of converter stations on the cable switching stations on either side of the Straits of Belle Isle, when the main transmission line is put there. Could he indicate whether he has got the answer to that question or not yet, please.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Mines and Energy.

HON. L. BARRY (MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY): Mr. Speaker, I have been speaking to the officials of the Crown Corporation Newfoundland Hydro on this matter. Their preliminary conclusions are that it would not be feasible to tap off from the high voltage direct current transmission line from Gull Island for the Great Northern Peninsula, the tip of the Great Northern Peninsula area because the number of customers would not warrant the extremely expensive and complicated, technologically complicated operation that is necessary.

As I understand it from them, you cannot tap off from a line. You have got to terminate the line in order to bring it down to AC current. You cannot tap off a DC line and have the line continue. However, Mr. Speaker, the corporation has been looking into the feasibility, and it looks quite encouraging for bringing, in addition to the high voltage direct current line, bringing also an alternating current line in the same tunnel from potential hydro sources on the Labrador side. In other words, it is feasible to contemplate a smaller hydro development near the Straits on the Labrador side that could be used to service both the Labrador side of the Straits, the St. Anthony area and the Great Northern Peninsula, Roddickton area, the entire tip of the Great Northern Peninsula.

I think that that approach would meet the concerns that the member has for the district understandably for getting his constituents tied into a hydro system rather than having to rely on the diesel plants.

MR. F. ROWE: Has the corporation looking into the possibility of extending the existing power grid there? I think the existing power grid now goes

up as far as Eddy's Cove West, is it?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Port au Choix.

MR. F. ROWE: Port au Choix. What is the feasibility of extending that compared with bringing an alternating current across the Straits?

MR. BARRY: This is the type of review, Mr. Speaker, that goes on almost constantly with the corporation. Every year there are a number of what they would call hydro ties where new communities are taken into the hydro system where that is feasible, economically and technologically feasible. To my knowledge this is not as economically or technically attractive as tying the tip of the Great Northern Peninsula into a Labrador hydro source at this time.

As the population and load growth grew of course then this becomes more feasible. But, at the present time and just as of this morning, the corporation indicated to me that they were looking at the development of a smaller hydro site across the Straits of Belle Isle to serve the tip of the Great Northern Peninsula.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Bell Island.

MP. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Premier, Sir, has any information that the House does not have or the people of Newfoundland do not have concerning secret expansion of the terms of reference of the Dalton Report that indicate that if Marystown is made a port of call for the CN ferries, will Argentic be phased out? Does the Premier have any information on this matter at all?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable the Premier.

MR. MOORES: Mr. Speaker, I have absolutely no information on that subject whatsoever. That is a totally federal responsibility, and you know, this has been bandied around recently but certainly we have no information on it, We will do our utmost to find out. But we have at this time absolutely no knowledge of it whatsoever.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I hope the honourable the Premier will try and get the information for the House.

Sir, would the honourable Minister of Transportation and Communications inform the House if he has received any representation from the people who live in the St. Jacques to Coombs Cove area, Belleoram area, Pool's Cove and all the various town councils down there, if the minister has received any communications from these people about road conditions and what action the minister has taken on their demands to get the roads improved and is the minister going to exceed to their request to resign?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Transportation and Communications.

HON. J. ROUSSEAU, Minister of Transportation and Communications: In three years and about two weeks it is the best offer I have had yet. I took a long time over the weekend to decide on it and my wife thought it was a very good suggestion, I woke up with one eye open yesterday morning and I heard this headline, somebody is demanding Rousseau's resignation. I think they are a very intelligent bunch down there.

No, I had a telegram from them. I did not receive the telegram actually until this morning -

AN HON. MEMBER: Then you should resign.

MR. ROUSSEAU: But why should I resign?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Inaudible.

MR. ROUSSEAU: I was on the job, believe me I was on the job. But I received the telegram this morning and I am now in the process of drafting a reply. I was on Open Line on CJOX this morning and explained the situation.

MR. NEARY: What is it?

MR. ROUSSEAU: The situation is that nobody said that, for example, last week I believe I stood up and I supported a petition from Wreck Cove and I mentioned Boxey as well. Nobody said they were not going to be done

which does not mean they are going to be done, by the way, as I explained this morning. What we attempted to do and what I have been saying in this House for a couple of weeks is we are trying to find out just how much it is going to cost us to pave a mile of road and how much it is going to cost us to upgrade and reconstruct a mile of road. We called a tender there and we have a certain amount allocated for that job and when we get the tenders in we will take a look at the total cost of the ones we have called and if there is any money left over we will certainly give consideration to expanding what might be done in the area. But we are drafting a reply to the good people. I appreciate their concern and if I was in their position I would ask no less than the minister's resignation. I am certainly most -

MR. NEARY: Inaudible.

MR. ROUSSEAU: - most disappointed that they feel that there is any disregard or 'blatant disregard' as they used it because certainly there is no blatant disregard for anybody in this Province as far as I am concerned, We try and do what we can but you know you cannot always not cross somebody somewhere along the line.

So I have the telegram. I received it this morning. They will have a reply hopefully sometime today or tomorrow and we will see what happens from there.

MR. NEARY: A favourable reply I hope.

MR. ROUSSEAU: A reply they will have.

MR. NEARY: A favourable, Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the sleepy old Minister of Manpower and Industrial Relations, Would the minister care to tell us what is happening now concerning the strike at Wabush? Is anybody in the minister's department helping out, helping parties to get back to the bargaining table? Is the minister involved himself? Tell us what is happening?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Manpower and Industrial Relations.

HON. E. MAYNARD, Minister of Manpower and Industrial Relations: Mr. Speaker, I have answered that question about five times already and I do not know what else I can report to the House. Obviously it is not getting through

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the thick head of the honourable Member for Bell Island. I do not know what he wants me to do to get involved. Our department has been involved since back in January sometime, through conciliation services, unless the member is trying deliberately to get a confrontation with the union-management effort in Wabush, I do not know what other reason he would have for answering the question. Our department is available. it has made its services available, at any time the union or the management or both request it and there is nothing more that I can say. There is nothing more that should be said.

MR. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the honourable

the Minister of Provincial Affairs and the Environment.

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Member for St. John's North.

MR. CARTER: In view of the growing concern over the proposed dump site on the Ruby Line, has the minister given any further thought to upgrading the present site at Robin Hood Bay?

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister of Provincial Affairs and the Environment.

HON. G. DAWE (Minister of Provincial Affairs and the Environment): Mr. Speaker, some months ago I wrote the St. John's Council outlining what steps they should take to upgrade and properly maintain the present site at Robin Hood Bay. There are some people, of course, who feel that Robin Hood Bay could continue to be used. Experts tell us that it is good for around fifty years. But, of course, if a decision is ever made to the effect that Robin Hood Bay would have to be the continued site then there will be many improvements required and, of course, the method of management would certainly have to change drastically. There would have to be a much larger annual expenditure, and at the present time which is around \$80,000 a year, it would probably be ten times that much. But in any event it would cost almost that much annually to maintain even a sanitary land filled site elsewhere outside St. John's.

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

MR. ROBERTS: I have a question, Mr. Speaker. Does it then follow in the minister's opinion or is it the minister's opinion that it then follows that the dump, or whatever the eloquent name for it is, will remain at Robin Hood Bay?

MR. DAWE: It certainly does not, Mr. Speaker. I am just saying that experts have told us that it could be used and could last for about fifty years. But the member for St. John's South has suggested an alternate site. And I have through the media and so on suggested that now the councils should get together, the councils which are going to use this proposed site, should get together and have it studied by a group of consultants.

MR. ROBERTS: A further question; in view of the fact, if I may mix my metaphors, Mr. Speaker, that the minister is washing his hands of the issue, could the minister indicate when the matter will be resolved and the people of the Metropolitan area will have some indication of exactly where the garbage generated by Metropolitan St. John's will be disposed off?

MR. DAWE: Well, since the question of an alternate site came up at the meeting and the member for St. John's South recommended it, of course, the winter set in, and we have had heavy snow, and there has been heavy frost. And under these conditions it is not possible to properly survey the site and study it. I do not think it is even possible today because there is still frost in the ground, and we have to know how much over-burden there is at that particular site.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate what the minister says but can he give us some indication? I mean the snow will go. Can we give us some indication of when we might expect an answer? This issue has been, you know, very much a live one for the last two or three years, and we seem to be in many ways no closer to a decision now. But meanwhile while, you know, the minister is studying and dithering and dodging the garbage continues to pile up.

MR. DAWE: Mr. Speaker, I was in over or near the site proposed only this weekend, and I would say that only the Almighty can answer that question adequately because there is still about five or six feet of snow in that area and surely there is frost under that snow. We will just have to wait until whatever time it is taken away from us and the frost leaves the ground so that we can get out there and have a look at it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Member for Bell Island.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary. Would the minister care to indicate what particular site he looked at over the weekend? Was it the one on the Ruby Line?

MR. DAWE: I said I was out in the general area of the Witless Bay Line.

MR. NEARY: What site was the minister on over the weekend?

MR. DAWE: I was not on the site. I said I passed by it, you know, the area, the general area. I did not have to be in on the site.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: No. Mr. Speaker, would the minister care to indicate to the House whether or not the consultants have already reported on a site in the minister's own district, on the Foxtrap Access?

MR. DAWE: I never suggested on the Foxtrap Access Road.

MR. NEARY: But is there a report?

MR. DAWE: No, there is no report.

MR. NEARY: What about the Ruby Line? Did the consultants do a report on the Ruby Line?

MR. DAWE: Well if you have not seen that one, brother, you are really missing.

MR. NEARY: No, I have not seen it. I want the minister to stand up in the House like a man and tell us.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: Come on.

MR. DAWE: Sit down boy, Sit down for jumpins sake and get on with order of business

MR. NEARY: Come on Pooh. Come on Pooh, get up and tell us.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

ORDERS OF THE DAY:

MR. SPEAKER: Motion one, Bill no. 23.

On motion of the Hon. Minister of Health, a bill, "An Act To Amend The Medical Act," read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

On motion of the Hon. Minister of Education, a bill, "An Act Further To Amend The Memorial University (Pensions) Act," read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

On motion of the Hon. Minister of Education, a bill, "An Act Further To Amend The Education (Teacher Training) Act," read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

On motion of the Hon. Minister of Education, a bill, "An Act Further To Amend The Schools Act," read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

On motion of the Hon. Minister of Transportation and Communications, a bill, "An Act Further To Amend The Highway Traffic Act," read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

On motion of the Hon. Minister of Public Works and Services, a bill, "An Act To Amend The Department of Public Works and Services Act, 1973," read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

On motion of the Hon. Minister of Social Services, a bill, "An Act Further To Amend The Welfare of Children Act," read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

On motion of the Hon. Minister of Mines and Energy, a bill, "An Act Further To Amend The Agreement Ratified, Confirmed And Adopted By And Set Forth In The Schedule To The Leitch Gold Mines Limited (Agreement) Act, 1964, And To Make Certain Statutory Provisions Relating To That Agreement," read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY:

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1001-01. The honourable the Minister of Health.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, I rose on -

MR. CHAIRMAN: I recognized the honourable the Minister of Health.

MR. ROBERTS: If I may rise on a point of order, Sir. When the Committee rose on Friday I had the floor. I would like to conclude my remarks, if I might, and I would ask that I be recognized for that purpose, Sir. I believe the rule in Committee, our rules say the rules in Committee are the same as that in the House. The rules of the House specify that when a debate is adjourned the member who has the floor when the debate adjourns

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is entitled to carry on when the debate resumes and I had the floor
when the Committee rose.

MR. CROSBIE: I do not think there is a similar rule in Committee but if there is some reason the honourable gentleman has to leave -

MR. ROBERTS: I do. I have to go.

MR. CROSBIE: Well, I think the minister agrees with that.

MR. ROBERTS: Well, I will not be very long, either.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: Oh well.

MR. BARRY: To the point of order. Well, if it is not to be a ruling, I do not think that is the rule. I believe that when the Committee rises and reports progress it starts from scratch when it comes back again the next day, on my reading of the rules. It may be -

MR. ROBERTS: In view of the fact, if the minister will let me do it for a minute, it, you know, it is a moot point and we will argue it another time, Your Honour. All I want to say was that I understand the minister met this morning with Dr. Thomas and some representatives of the Grenfell Association, and I wonder if the minister, when he speaks, I know he will want to deal with the matter, if he could give us some assurance, I do not know what went on at the meeting. I was not there, you know, I have no idea what went on. But I am wondering if he could give us an assurance, and this is what I seek, that the I.C.A. will be provided with sufficient funds that they will not have to reduce the services which they are now offering. And, of course, that was that threat of a reduction affecting St. Barbe North and my own constituency and Labrador South and Labrador North and St. Barbe South, the five constituencies that were subject of quite extensive, and quite heated discussion in the Committee on Friday.

So I do not want to go over the issue again, although if the minister wishes to reopen the matter I will gladly reopen it. But what I seek now is an assurance, presumably coming out of the meetings this morning and as a result of what was said Friday, that the I.G.A. will be provided with sufficient funds to enable them to continue to offer the level of services and the types of services that they now offer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Health.

DR. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, I do not wish to get involved in the gross issue on this matter. It was thoroughly discussed on Friday. And that

the Hon. the Premier and myself and others met this morning with Dr. Thomas and a delegation from I.G.A. I would think that the Premier would wish to make any specific statement. But I think it suffices for me to say that the I.G.A. were informed that their request for further funds in this respect will be considered in the total context of needs of hospitals throughout the Province. It will not be dealt with in isolation and we have given the assurance that in due course their matter would be investigated and they would be so informed. I think that that is a reasonable statement which I think the Premier himself may wish to enlarge on. That is all I would say on that issue, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to go back if I may and refer to questions which were asked on Friday. I think I will start and work my way back which is the easiest way. And the final question I was asked by the honourable Member for Labrador North, on the question of what has the Department of Health done regarding the Snowden Report and the formal recommendations on Health in the Snowden Report? Very briefly the recommendations in the Snowden Report numbered from forty-two to fifty-seven included Health specifically, and he asked a specific question regarding air transportation charges. And the answer from the department is that there is no charge whatever by I.G.A. for transportation in any government aircraft. And free air transportation has been provided for many years for all who cannot afford to pay and for those who are medically indigent, that is for those upon whom payment would impose hardship. In the case of emergencies evacuated by air ambulance with the Province, both necessary air and ground ambulance services are supplied free. I think it is only fair to say that it is not economically feasible to provide free medically authorized air transportation without the Province to all residents of Labrador because some other areas of the Province, notably the Southwest Coast are equally isolated. I think if free services were provided to those who could afford to pay such a benefit could hardly be resisted elsewhere.

However, I would like to make the point that there is no charge whatever by I.G.A. for transportation of any patients in any government

aircraft. I could add to this that the I.G.A. operates themselves an all-weather twin Navajo aircraft which is provided entirely by and is operated by the I.G.A. with no grant from government for this particular plane. The aircraft travels mainly between St. Anthony and Goose Bay, and I think that air fares at regular rates are charged for those who can afford to pay in all cases whether or not they are emergencies. And this is an I.G.A. operation, it is not a government operation. And I think that sort of answers that particular question.

His next question was with regards to the nursing station facilities at two particular places on the Coast of Labrador, at Davis Inlet and at Postville. Well, at Davis Inlet

there is population of approximately 200 and an expansion of the existing nursing station that is presently underway. This expansion includes staff accommodation for one nurse, but there are no in-patient beds which would not be feasible economically when you think of the population of 200. The cost implication already approved is approximately \$30,000. The annual operating cost will be about \$15,000 and of this amount ninety per cent will be recoverable from the Government of Canada.

This question regarding Postville, and here again a problem, there is a population of 130. There is a lay dispenser at present and plans exist to train this person to a nursing assistant level and currently the community which is supported by IGA are applying for the Local Incentive Project grant to cover the cost of labour for the purpose of construction of a permanent clinic similar to that which we operate at Davis Inlet.

His third question, I think a rather important one, and on the subject of more liaison between the people and the IGA and the whole question of boards. I think I have to say here that the policy of this government has been and is that as and where possible we prefer to have people of the community take an interest in their health operations, take an interest in the health facilities and in the local management and local government of such operations. We certainly would welcome an extension of the policy of community participation. In fact, I believe the honourable Member for Labrador North himself is Chairman of the Community Health Council in the area. I would think that the basic answer to his question is yes. We certainly agree with local participation, inclusion of local personnel on hospital boards, and I think that it is a matter really for liaison between the people and the IGA and certainly government is quite happy to assist the public in endeavouring to organize such discussions and such arrangements. The policy is to wherever possible encourage local participation. He spoke about the question of Happy Valley as a regional hospital for Labrador. Now, as is well known the Happy Valley, or the Paddon Memorial Hospital, is operated by IGA. It is in a very exciting community really when you think that it has been said on one side the development of the Lower Churchill and the other side

the possibility of oil exploration that Happy Valley medically will become a very worthwhile centre. In this regard, a delegation from the Town Council in Happy Valley met recently with the Premier, myself and others to discuss the future of this hospital and it was agreed there would be certain expansions to take care of the needs arising from the development of the Lower Churchill and the increase in population of work-force that is settled in Happy Valley within the last two or three years. This expansion is underway. Additional staff have been approved and one would hope that later this year there will be very specific developments in this regard.

The next questions deals with the whole question of industrial health. Certainly, as I have said in my opening statement, we in the department are extremely concerned regarding the industrial health problems. I would remind the Committee again that we advertised in journals in the United Kingdom, in Canada and the United States for personnel. We received three applications from doctors who were trained in industrial medicine. We did not feel that either of these doctors was of the calibre or the training that we wish to have within the Province and so we are re-advertising but again, as I mentioned in my statement, it is quite possible we will have to take one of our own personnel and have him sent away to take the requisite training for I think that overall we must protect the health of the people when we take about industrialization.

In this regard, the honourable Member for Bell Island asked a question recently on certain operations within the Province. I think this might be an appropriate time to answer some of his questions. He will undoubtedly remember that I have all ready answered the question in which he asked regarding Buchans and I now

answer his question with regard to the phosphorus plant at ERCO. The health hazards encountered in this operation are exposure to dust when the phosphorus rock is unloaded in the mill and also in the pellet plant where the rock is crushed and pelletized. Now, constant monitoring of the air contaminants is carried out. Air contaminants mentioned are carbon monoxide, phosphene, sodium fluorides. The monitoring is carried out on a regular basis by the Department of Mines and Energy and the company with the results being sent to the Department of Health.

When I conclude this statement on the industrial plants or the plants where there are potential problems in health, my colleague, the Minister of Mines and Energy is going to give the Committee some information regarding the input of his department into this very important aspect of the health programmes.

But, I would wish to say that as far as the Health Department is concerned, that during the period of operation of ERCO there has not been a case of any lung abnormality discovered. ERCO themselves have a part-time medical officer, a dental officer and a full-time industrial health nurse and their medical and dental clinics. The number of workers is approximately 400. There are about fifty workers employed in the Villa Marie portion of this operation where some dust exposure is encountered. No report of any lung abnormality was ever discovered.

Now, I think that my colleague may wish also to refer to a study recently undertaken by the federal government who will be looking into the whole question of affect on the vegetation in the ERCO or Long Harbour area. He has detailed information on this study which indicates to us that there is an increase in fluoride levels in the vegetation. And, I will leave my colleague to -

MR. BARRY: Maybe you had better do that. You have a statement.

DR. ROWE: Well, the statement is - I would just, as far as this particular aspect is concerned, I could inform the Committee that a study of the fluoride concentration in berries in Long Harbour is undertaken by the environmental section of the Newfoundland Forest Research Center and was prompted by concern of the Province regarding fluoride damage to vegetation in the Long Harbour area. For health reasons it was decided

fluoride levels in berries near the phosphorus plant should be determined so that the necessary restrictions on berry picking could be implemented.

It was also indicated that the fluoride concentration in berries which are closest to the area of operation showed a higher content than those picked from controlled areas. So that, I think, is fairly reasonable. But, I would like to say that after evaluating the amount of the daily dietary ingestion of fluorides excluding berries and the absorption and excretion patterns of fluorides in humans in relation to age and general health, it is said the consumption of berries picked in the Long Harbour area does not indicate a significant health hazard. All I am saying is that we recommended upon general principles and the principles of hygiene and health, that the picking of berries in the vicinity of any large industrial plant -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

DR. ROWE: Not of the levels which we have been told exist at the moment. How it would be a year or two years as far as - what we are saying, for general information of people, that if you live or you want to pick berries in the vicinity of a large industrial plant of any kind, you would be very unwise. There are lots of other areas where they can be obtained.

MR. NEARY: Is there any problem (Inaudible)

DR. ROWE: No, there is no indication, Sir, among the people of the area, exactly that there is any specific problem. We are trying to ensure that no problem is going to develop.

I would like to pass on now to - I am answering your question by the way; does the Iron Ore Company of Canada in Labrador City -

MR. NEARY: The pelletizing plant.

DR. ROWE: Right. I would like to say that as a result of abnormal findings in chest X-rays of certain miners working in the pelletizing plant of this company, a full industrial study has been undertaken. One study carried out by industrial health officials from the Trudeau Institute, Saranac Lake, has been requested by the company. And a similar study has been undertaken at the request of the Provincial Department of Mines and Energy and our own provincial Health Department. This was done by the Health Protection Branch of the federal government.

Now, the final results of these studies are not yet available, but, all workers who are employed in the dusty areas of the plant have a pre-placement and annual medical examination which includes a chest X-ray. As stated above the result of abnormalities in the chest X-rays, as a result of these abnormalities, further investigations were instituted.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Are there any known cases?

DR. ROWE: Now, here are the figures if you are - sixty-four workers who have worked for a period of over eight years in the concentration plant were for one reason or another further examined.

Nine were discovered to have dust in their lungs as diagnosed benigna by biopsy, nine, and yet we take the figure that the total work force is about 3,000, the number of people adjust to the atmosphere was about 1,2000. So really if you take nine cases that have had to be investigated out of this potential number, that that is not at the moment of any serious concern but it infers to us that we have to become much more strict in the controls -

AN HON. MEMBER: Does that prove silicosis?

DR. ROWE: In a certain number of these cases, yes.

MR. NEARY: The whole nine or -

DR. ROWE: Not the whole nine, nine were discovered to have dust in their lungs as diagnosed by lung biopsy. And all these men have been removed from the concentration plant area and employed in other dust free areas of the country. One of these cases has to be considered as a certain disability and has been referred to the Workmen's Compensation Board and receiving - one case has been referred to the Compensation Board. I think again my colleague might expand it for you, a little more information on this aspect of it.

I would like to touch now on -

MR. NEARY: Is there going to be a continuous watch kept on this?

DR. ROWE: Yes.

MR. NEARY: There is.

DR. ROWE: Very much a continuous watch, monitoring studies will be discussed by my colleague. To touch on the St. Lawrence mines, and this is the story with which you are well familiar, but the operation by Alcan employs about 400 workers. The health hazards of this operation are radiation and dust exposure and the workers here have a pre-placement and an annual medical examination which includes a chest x-ray, Medical officers employed part-time by the company are responsible for the maintenance of health standards. And I would to pay attention to the next part.

Prior to 1960 workers were detected to have developed lung abnormality in the chest x-rays. They were eventually diagnosed as lung cancer and disposed of. But strict radiation control was introduced and

by constant monitoring of radiation levels being carried out, and the excess radiation being removed from the affected areas, and control reinstated.

Now there have been no case of lung cancer among workers who have been employed since 1960 when the strict radiation control was instituted,

MR. NEARY: Is that a long enough period?

DR. ROWE: Well, you know, that is fifteen years. That is pretty good. But with the strict controls - the people who had the five deaths were people who were working there prior to 1960, but since 1960 when the controls went on there have been none.

The other one you asked about was Advocate Mines, Baie Verte.

MR. NEARY: And Buchans.

DR. ROWE: Buchans I have already given you. I tabled it in the House. This mine produces asbestos fibres from the ore mined in the area, in the crushing operation handles up to 1,000 tons of ore a day, produces approximately 250 tons of asbestos fibres a day. There is a total work force of approximately 450 men of whom 133 work in the sort of crusher in the dust area and it is in the crusher and the mill areas that the dust gets into the atmosphere.

The Department of Mines and Energy has laid down acceptable levels of dust that may be maintained to protect the health of the workers. And constant monitoring of the dust levels is carried out by both the company and the Department of Mines and Energy. Pre-placement and annual medical examinations are done on every miner. These examinations include a physical, a chest x-ray, and this new pulmonary function test that we have instituted and these people are advised also to curtail or cut down smoking while they are working within the crushing plant. And the Advocate Mines have been in operation for eleven years and no case of asbestosis has been detected in any of the workers.

Now the honourable the Leader of the Opposition on Friday asked for the asbestosis content in fibres and water and I think that my colleague in general, so I would like to let him give his information on this subject

and go back then to answering the other questions which were asked of me on Friday.

MR. BARRY: This, Mr. Speaker, this is an area where there are several related jurisdictions within the various departments. The honourable Minister of Health, the Department of Mines and Energy, Mines Inspection Branch, the Workmen's Compensation Board and their investigation staff, to a certain extent the Department of Provincial Affairs and Environment, all of these have certain responsibilities in various areas, and the Manpower and Industrial Relations also in certain types of inspections with respect to possible more accidental hazards than occupational health hazards has also responsibility.

There have been certain steps taken by this government over the last several years in an attempt to improve the situation with respect to the prevention of industrial or occupational diseases, with respect to minimizing as much as possible the risk of occupational health problems, minimizing

the health hazard of working in Newfoundland industrial enterprises. One of the things that we found was that there was no co-ordination of the X-rays that were being taken. For example, the miners' X-rays - they were all miners except some who qualified under a grandfather clause which we since removed - had to have an annual miners' medical. But there was no provision for having all these X-rays come to the one central registry.

MR. NEARY: Did not Dr. Peters make a study?

MR. BARRY: Dr. Peters was involved with us prior to his retirement and was kept on for a time afterwards, passed his retirement to get this thing started and since then Dr. Knowling is carrying on, and we now have a Central X-ray Registry where we hope to be able to do a number of things. First, you had previously people leaving from one area and going to work in a dust laden environment for another company, say, and there was no follow-up to make sure that his previous X-rays were looked at as well as his new ones. We also had the situation where, unless you have a central registry, there is a possibility that you could miss certain problems that are developing. So we have the central X-ray monitoring being carried out now. It has been given to the Department of Health, this responsibility. And there are routines, procedures whereby doctors, employed by companies to do these X-rays, must forward X-rays to the Department of Health.

We have also brought in a requirement that there be a pulmonary function test given in conjunction with the miners' medical. The initial test will not show anything but you will from then on have a base line against which the operations of the person's lungs can be compared to again attempt to see if there are any problems developing.

The third thing that is being done of some significance is the fact that a Division of Occupational Health has been created within the Department of Health. Unfortunately that position has not yet been filled as mentioned by the Minister of Health, but the position is now being advertised.

Next we have had a complete review of the inspection responsibilities of the various department, because we have discovered that there were gaps and there may still be. This review is still going on. For example, the Department of Mines had a responsibility for inspection in connection with ERCO in the quarry. But inside the plant itself, apart from the general over-view that the Department of Health has anywhere in the Province with respect to potential health problems, there was no specific responsibility given a department to go in and monitor within the ERCO plant itself. This responsibility has now been allocated to the Department of Mines and Energy, and we have clearly defined the responsibilities between the various departments and between the Workmen's Compensation Board to ensure that there will be no problem areas overlooked, to ensure that all the gaps are filled and complete inspection of all industrial enterprises are carried out.

And another area where we have started work in connection with I.O.C., as I will mention in a moment, but where additional work must be done right around the Province, and that is with respect to the standards that have laid down for levels of dust. This is an area where we cannot be complacent, either with the potential silicosis danger or with respect to the potential asbestos fibre danger, for example, or the potential radiation hazard at St. Lawrence. All of these places have certain levels set. And we must keep these under constant review to ensure that they are set at the proper levels. And I will go into some of the problems in this in a moment.

But first I would like to discuss the situation with respect to the Iron Ore Company of Canada, because this has been a matter of some concern obviously to the people in Labrador City, to the men and women working in the mine and concentrator, and to government. Now we have received one of the reports that has been

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carried out, the report carried out by the company's consultants, consultants retained by the company itself. We have not yet received the report that we requested from the Federal Department of Health and Welfare. That

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report is being compiled now. The work is being carried out, the tests carried out. We expect that report to be received around mid May. But the preliminary report, this is only a preliminary report by Trudeau Institute, the consultants retained by the company, indicate that the main toxic substance that appears to be causing the respiratory problem is quartz dust or silica, that there is not the unknown factor, apparently, that the experts were saying there was likely to be, that it boils down purely and simply to unacceptable levels of dust, silica laden dust in the mill and in the concentrator at IOC. The concentration of fiber, there is a certain amount of fiber, of a type of asbestos fiber, in the air as well that is found in a part of the ore that goes through the mill but that fiber has been calculated at less than one-tenth of the acceptable threshold limit value or one-tenth of the acceptable standard. So it does not appear to be a problem. But the high levels of silica laden dust is apparently the problem and we hope to obtain confirmation of this when we get the further reports from the Trudeau Institute who have also evaluated the monitoring procedures that we have been carrying out, that the department, the mine inspectors have been carrying out to determine whether these are still adequate and whether they should be revised.

The threshold limit value, the standard that has been applied all along is seven million particles per cubic foot and we are not sure whether this standard must be changed at this stage. We are awaiting the opinion from the federal department before we make a decision in this area. The Trudeau Report stated that more than half of the samples taken during the December and January survey that they carried out were from three to seven times the threshold limit value, three to seven times the standard or level that was set. Now, we have held discussions with the company. We have also met with the employees, the union representatives of the employees. There were lengthy discussions carried out and finally this department laid down certain directives to the company and set certain action which we required the company to take both in the mill and in the concentrator. This was prior to

the receipt of the Trudeau Report but we proceeded on the assumption that whether it was an unknown factor or whether it was merely the silica that was causing the problem, in any event, it was a dust related problem and we had to start action immediately to get the dust levels reduced. The company has agreed with the recommendations, has agreed to implement the directives that we sent to it. As a matter of fact it did not have very much choice because under the authority the mine safety regulations of the department, once it set directives, if the company must follow then the company has to follow them.

So they have said that they are making a total commitment to getting the dust levels to an acceptable level and they have indicated that they expect to be able to achieve this goal in approximately six months time. I should not say in six months time. That was as of, over a month ago now. So in approximately another five months they expect to have the dust levels down to an acceptable level in all parts of the mill and concentrator. Let us see what else I have here.

MR. BARRY: The same problem does not exist to the same extent with respect to the Wabush Mines because they have a wet process within the mill but there are a couple of stations, four stations around the load out building, where the dust levels are being exceeded and the mines inspectors are working with the company there to get these to acceptable levels.

Now we have decided that because this situation got to the stage it did that, and because there is always the danger that the pressure of production, the pressure on a company to keep up production may lead to not sufficient emphasis being put on keeping these dust levels down in the future, once we get them down to an acceptable level this government has committed itself to having a continuous government presence at Labrador City to ensure that the proper dust levels are kept and in order to do this we have undertaken to have a dust technician employed who will be constantly monitoring the dust concentrations and we have also made arrangements and are in the process of attempting to recruit another mines inspector, one of whose main responsibilities will be the continuous monitoring of the iron ore operations in Labrador.

As I say, we believe that some form of continuous government presence is needed to keep the pressure on the companies, to compensate for the, I suppose, natural inclination or natural pressure that exists on the companies to keep up production, sometimes to the detriment of the dust levels that have been sent, but we are determined to compensate for this by having our people on the spot on a continuous basis to make sure that the problem does not get out of hand the way it did over the past several years, mainly since the expansion started at I.O.C., that is when the thing started to really go to pot.

Now there are other areas of the Province where we also have potential health hazards related to mining operations, relating to industrial enterprises generally. Our inspectors will have responsibility for all mining-related activities, not just the supervision of safety in the mines themselves, but inspecting conditions in plants related to mining

activities.

We still have a couple of areas where I believe we have to more clearly define jurisdictions between the departments, such as responsibilities for the Come-By-Chance Refinery. Within the Come-By-Chance Refinery you have hazardous, potentially harmful material within the refinery that could cause danger to health. So we have to ensure that proper investigation and inspection is carried out in the refinery, as in all other industrial enterprises.

I am not sure that this should be the responsibility of the Department of Mines and Energy. This may be a case where the better jurisdiction is in with the Workmen's Compensation Board. But wherever, there has got to be some department of government responsible to ensure that any potential occupational health hazards are alleviated. Now we are in the process of reviewing procedures, reviewing standards in all mining related industries within the Province. And we are prepared if necessary, we do not know if it will be necessary, but we are prepared if necessary to have a commission look into what should be done to control to a minimum occupational hazards within Newfoundland. Because we do not subscribe to the theory that human beings are expendible. We do not subscribe to the theory that you should treat them as disposable, as if they were machinery, or parts of the phsycial plant -

AN HON. MEMBER: Throw aways.

MR. BARRY: - Throw away after so many years, we do not subscribe to that theory, Mr. Chairman. Now, we have to face certain hard realities of life too you know. It may be that in certain industries there is no way you can either economically or technologically achieve a certain safe working environment without, for example, requiring continuous wearing of masks.

It may be that in some cases that is essential. It may be that in other areas we conclude that the industry itself is just not the type of industry we want in the Province, in the case of new industry, and looking at the information coming from some of our older industries I have my doubts there as well as to whether some should have ever gotten in. But there you have it. You have the constant balance that must be kept between the desire for people to have employment and the desire for people to be able to live like human beings. There is an interesting book put out in the United States called The Expendible Americans, the incredible story of how tens of thousands of American men and women die each year of preventable, industrial disease. What is in this book has relevance to the Canadian situation as well. Indeed, they specifically refer to the asbestos situation in Quebec. We have an asbestos mine in Newfoundland. I have some comments I want to make on it in a moment.

If I could just read some of the comments in the flyleaf of the book here. His thesis is that there is too close a relationship between - and he is not too complimentary. I do not think the same thing can be said here in Newfoundland because from my experience the doctors, particularly the, is it the Thoracic Society, I believe it is, that are specialists dealing with respirable diseases? They are very concerned about the problems stemming from industrial hazards, occupational hazards and they have done a lot of good work in this IOC situation for us. But this author, his thesis is that there is too close a relationship between what he calls the, well he describes it the medical industrial complex, and he talks about the difficulties of establishing that the working conditions of the particular are hazardous when you have the medical people who are mainly involved are at times the employees of the company itself. We do not have, as I say, the same problem, I do not think, in our Province but it is an area where we have to keep a constant vigilance, and a criticism is also made of -

MR. NEARY: IOC have their own medical doctors.

MR. BARRY: But the people are -

DR. ROWE: Only part-time.

MR. BARRY: - inspected by their own doctors. They go to their own doctors for -

MR. NEARY: _____ (First part inaudible) on the payroll of the company involved.

MR. BARRY: But anyhow, that is a criticism that this writer makes and I think it is a natural -

MR. NEARY: _____ Conflict of interest.

MR. BARRY: He has one chapter entitled conflict of interest. He also points out that often there is just too cozy a relationship between government and between industry and this is another thing that we have to watch. We have to make sure we keep the proper prospective. Naturally, we are zealous to insure that we get as much employment for our people as possible. We have got to be careful though that we do not ignore the health aspects, the working conditions, the human side of industry.

He points out here that, he says, he painstakingly documents how this entrenched group of industry doctors and consultants allied with key public health officials at various levels of the state federal governments appear to be involved - and he calls it - in nothing less than the blatant and pervasive effort to, first, suppress and ignore medical information concerning hazardous substances that are estimated by the government to be not only killing 100,000 workers a year but disabling 390,000 more. One half a million men and women a year in the United States they say. He says, indeed the feeling grows and it is more feasible for industry to replace the dead and disabled as if they were so much defective machinery than it is to set and enforce adequate safety standards.

He uncovers a long and dismaying history of corporate and governmental neglect. He shows how we as a people are playing a vast and intricate game of Russian Roulette by allowing thousands of toxic chemicals and harmful substances to be introduced casually into the work place and the market place without even a rudimentary understanding of their effect upon the health of the millions of workers and consumers who daily come into contact with them. So we are determined as a government that we will not have expendible Newfoundlanders. We are not prepared to accept the concept of expendible Newfoundlanders.

April 22, 1975.

Tape 1628

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We want to insure that where possible, where safe working levels can be set, dust levels can be set to permit people to operate comfortably and safely that these should be set and enforced, strictly enforced.

We believe that if there are areas where it is not possible for people to work safely without special equipment then this special equipment must be not only supplied but the regulations requiring the compulsory wearing of it must be enforced.

And finally we believe that if there are certain types of industries where it is just not safe for men and women to work that we do not want to see these industries developed within our Province.

Specifically with respect to the companies operating now in Newfoundland, ASARCO at Buchans, in response to being advised of five cases over recent years of varying degrees of silicosis disability arising out of long term employment in the underground workings at Buchans, and another six cases diagnosed as early stage silicosis but without disability, together with the recommendations of the Dyer Industrial Enquiry Commission, additional high volume dust samples were recently taken in January of this year and analyzed for free silica content. And we have just gotten the results of this analysis. And the results show at least seventeen per cent free silica presently in the mine, much higher than results of previous sampling on file with the department. Now this is not saying that the dust levels are higher, it is saying that the amount of silica in the air at the present time, because of the particular type of ore that is being processed right now, is higher than normal. And therefore, of course, that means that the dust levels should be kept lower than they possibly were kept before.

We intend to do further high volume sampling to affirm this preliminary result and to set an appropriate threshold limit value. We intend to take a survey of air-borne dust concentrates within the mine and plan to determine the significance, if any, of this higher percentage of free silica in the breathing zone air. And we hope to get this work started immediately. Both the company and the union are aware of the results of these inspections and our intentions up to now.

With respect to the Alcan works at St. Lawrence, as far as radiation is concerned the workings of each of Director Mine including the canal vein, the Tarefare Mine including the blow out vein, and the Blue Beach Mine are monitored by technicians of both the company and

this department on a regular basis. The company monitors each working place at least once a week at each mine, and the department monitors each working place at least twice a week at Director and once a week at the other mines, as well as rechecking where a high reading is encountered.

Now the average readings expressed in working levels, with the suggested working level of one-point-three-zero times ten to the fifth million electron volts of alpha energy - this is the threshold limit value for this radiation, or the suggested working level. One-point-three-zero times ten to the fifth million electron volts of alpha energy per litre of air. And the recent readings over the last three years from 1972 to 1974 indicate that the average readings are much lower than this. For the Director Mine, which is the largest mine where most people are employed, the readings have gone up from point two two as opposed to the safe level of one point three zero, from point two two to point one two to point zero seven over the last three years. This significant decrease in radiation levels is due mainly to more effective use in control of ventilation. The company provides individual exposure records for each individual whose work takes him into the mine whether daily or infrequently in compliance with the regulations. And at present as far as we can determine, to the best possible information, the standards for safe suggested working levels are being met by the company.

The most recent independent study of radiation conditions in the mine was made by Mr. Yourt, a professional engineer, during 1973. We retained him by the Department of Mines and Energy. We got his report in March 1974. And it contained certain recommendations that have been passed on both to the employer and to the employees, and are in the processing of implementing several of these. We also have a certain dust control at the mine that has to be continuously surveyed and

the last readings we had there was that the dust concentrations are well below the safe limits.

With respect to Advocate Mines at Baie Verte, I might say that from the bit of reading that I have done, there appears to be a considerable amount of controversy as to what the acceptable safe working level or threshold limit value, as they call it, should be with respect to asbestos fibers in the air, the number of asbestos fibers in the air.

The recommended threshold limit value applied to air-borne asbestos dust generated throughout the mine and mill complex to the end of 1974 was 5 million particles per cubic foot of total respirable dust. They define a fiber, by the way, as a piece of material whose length is three times its width. That is the arbitrary definition of fiber. Now, the standard of 5 million parts per cubic foot was recommended by the American Conference of Governmental, Industrial Hygienists up to 1968 at which time they gave notice of intended change in the standard to one of either 2 million parts per cubic foot or twelve fibers per milliliter of air, twelve fibers greater than five microns in length.

It was not until 1974 that the conference finally adopted the fiber standard, that is the number of fibers per a particular unit of air. Instead of saying the number of particles, the numbers of millions of particles per cubic feet, particles could be both fiber and dust. They talk now in terms of the number of fibers greater than so many microns in length, greater than five microns in length per milliliter of air or per cubic centimeter of air.

In 1974 the American Conference of Governmental, Industrial Hygienists, which has been setting the standard in this area for North America, finally set a new standard of five fibers per milliliter of air as the threshold limit value. This was in 1974. In December of 1974 the chief mines inspector for Newfoundland advised the company at Baie Verte that it intended to implement the fiber per milliliter standard, and therefore the previous method of assessment and control of dust or asbestos fiber would have to be changed. We have requested the company

to arrange for the necessary equipment to implement this new method. This can only be done over a period of time because there is significant cost and it takes time to install the new equipment.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Inaudible.

MR. BARRY: The number of fibers. They are talking about five fibers per milliliter of air, five fibers per milliliter of air, five fibers greater than five microns in length.

Now, I am not satisfied that this is still the acceptable standard even though it is a new one recommended in 1974 by this North American group. It appears to be the standard being applied in the industry across North America. We have a couple of problems. We have first that the standard is laid down more for plants, manufacturing plants where they are using asbestos material. It may be that different standards should be applied for mining operations.

But, secondly, we find that in Britian there is a significantly stricter standard set. In Britian, the honourable Member for Bell Island might be interested, in Britian they have the standard of two fibers per milliliter of air as opposed to the five fibers that has been recently set in North America. At year's end, the October to December, 1974 survey of the sixty-three stations at the asbestos mine in Baie Verte showed that sixty-one of the stations were within the 5 million particles per cubic foot, the previous standard that had been applied. Sixty-one of the stations were within the safe standard and only two stations exceeded the standard, and these two did not all the time exceed it. But, at the time

of this test they did exceed it. So, the situation there looked fairly good with respect to the standards as they applied last year.

Now, as we improve the standards, of course, as we make them more stringent, then presumably more of the stations or areas around the plant will exceed this new standard and it will take a certain time for the new levels to be met. Unfortunately, there is no way you can directly compare the two different standards that are applied in this industry, the number of million particles per cubic feet as compared to the number of fibers per milliliter. But, 2 million parts per cubic foot is about equivalent to twelve fibers per milliliter, as far as we can determine.

The mines inspection people are now evaluating the results of the first quarter report from Advocate Mines to determine from both the fiber and dust particle concentrations reported a reasonable time period for the company to be expected to comply with the new standard throughout its complex.

Members may be aware of the fact that there has been a recent serious problem exposed at the asbestos mine in Quebec where some sixty, I think, in excess of sixty per cent of the working population were found to have various stages of asbestosis. Now, we do not want to see -

MR. NEARY: They have established the standard of five fibres per milliliter.

MR. BARRY: They may have them now but they did not have them previously.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. BARRY: This is the reason I pointed out that that standard may be too high. I have asked our mines inspection people to communicate with the government of Quebec to find out what their experience has been, to find out what they are prepared to do, too, and what they believe should be done to alleviate the problem and hopefully we can learn by other peoples' errors here and avoid having similar situations develop in the Province.

So, basically, Mr. Chairman, that is all I have to say on that. I am sorry it took so long but when you get into an area that affects the health and welfare of Newfoundlanders you have to be careful

that you have your facts right and we have to remain aware of the effect of what we say upon the people who are working in the mining operations around the Province, in various industries around the Province.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, I just want to take a moment to say that it is good to hear the reassurance of both the Minister of Health and the Minister of Mines and Energy, Sir, that they are keeping a very close watch on some of the hot spots, if you want to put it that way, in Newfoundland, some of the areas that have very severe pollution.

There are about five, I think, and the minister outlined them there, five major sources of pollution that could endanger the lives of the employees in this Province. Namely, Sir, starting down here at the ERCO plant, the phosphorus plant at Long Harbour, the mine at St. Lawrence, the mine at Buchans, the pelletizing plant at Labrador City, Iron Ore Company of Canada and the asbestos mine at Baie Verte. These are all hot spots, Sir, and they require continuous study. They need to be watched carefully twenty-four hours a day. I was glad to hear about some of the plans and proposals that have been implemented by the Minister of Mines.

Some of the technical information given out by the minister, I was rather baffled by some of it. But, I did remember the other day when they were talking about the asbestosis over in the Province of Quebec that they consider five fibers per milliliter of air to be too high. The minister agreed with me there when I interrupted him and suggested to him that this is a big issue in the Province of Quebec at the present time.

The minister raised a number of other matters, Sir, that were very interesting and very reassuring. One interesting point that was raised by the minister - I do not know how widespread this is in Newfoundland at the present time, Sir - but there was a time when all the big mining companies retained their own doctors.

MR. NEARY: They either retained them on a full-time basis or on a part-time basis, and perhaps the minister -

AN HON. MEMBER: I audible.

MR. NEARY: No, they were retained.

DR. ROWE: Are you referring to the medical examiners?

MR. NEARY: They were retained, well -

DR. ROWE: Appointed as medical examiners.

MR. NEARY: No, they were in private practice. In some cases they were full time for the companies. In most cases I would say that they were in private practice but retained by the company. They were being paid a retainer. I know DOSCO, I can tell the minister that when DOSCO -

DR. ROWE: But he was not entirely DOSCO.

MR. NEARY: No, no, this is what I said. They were in private practice but paid a retainer by the company and there may or may not have been a conflict of interest but I always had the impression myself that a doctor in that position would be inclined, you know, if he was pushed, in the crunch, he might be inclined to lean a little bit, to be a little bit lenient towards the company and I am glad to hear now that this situation is dying out in Newfoundland. But I believe there are a number of instances of where doctors, although they are still in private practice, I do not know of any instance now where a company has a doctor employed full time.

DR. ROWE: The last one I think was Bowaters.

MR. NEARY: Bowaters was the last one.

DR. ROWE: As far as I know.

MR. NEARY: But I would suspect, Mr. Chairman, and perhaps the minister could enlighten me in this regard, I would suspect that there are a number of instances still in Newfoundland where companies, big companies, retain a doctor, they do not pay him the fee for service, they pay him a retainer. Now I do not know how widespread it is -

DR. ROWE: I know ERCO does.

MR. NEARY: ERCO does.

DR. ROWE: And I think probably Alcan of St. Lawrence does.

MR. NEARY: They pay him a retainer? Well I do not know if that is a good thing, Sir, I think they should be paying him fee for service instead of a retainer because there could possibly, and there may not be, but there could conceivably be a conflict of interest and I would like to see all medical men paid a fee for service by the company and not on their payrolls, not be placed on the payroll and paid a retainer because they may be genuine, they may be quite sincere and conscientious and honest but there is that tendency that in the crunch that they might tip the scales in favour of the company.

DR. ROWE: You would like them to be absolutely independent.

MR. NEARY: Completely free and independent and if they want to sock it to the company when they do work for them on a fee for service basis, by all means sock it to them and get paid for their service, but get them off the payrolls.

DR. ROWE: Well I do not know about that because I think someone still has to be responsible for the annual medicals and the periodic check ups. That can be done but there are other independent studies that the outside person could do.

MR. NEARY: Well, the minister probably knows more about this subject than I do, but I was always a little bit suspicious of it.

DR. ROWE: I can agree with you in principle.

MR. NEARY: Yes, that is right, Sir, I am glad the minister agrees with me in principle because I was always a little bit doubtful about it, whether this practice was a good practice or not. And maybe in the olden days a lot of the doctors had to go on the companies' payroll to survive, I do not know. But certainly in this day and age, there is no need for a doctor to put himself in a conflict of interest position.

DR. ROWE: Make a note of that for next year.

MR. NEARY: The minister will make a note of it for next year. Well I am not going to make any long speech because as I say it is good to be reassured by both ministers that a close watch is being kept on these operations, Sir.

Because you know, Mr. Chairman, you can talk all you like about whether or not the phosphorous plant should have been established at Long Harbour, whether they would not allow it to go in Ontario or they would not allow it to go somewhere else, the fact remains that it is there. It is creating employment for Newfoundlanders. I do not think that partisan politics should enter into it at all, if it is a danger to the health of the people in the area, if it is a danger to the employees who work in that plant, if it is destroying the vegetation, if it is destroying the animal life and the birds in the area then I do not care, Sir, what party you belong to, and I do not care who brought the plant in there, then we as elected representative of the people of this Province should do something about it.

That is all I am saying, Sir, and that is why I, on a number of occasions I have put questions to the Minister of Health, to the Premier, to the Minister of Mines and Energy, I will continue to do so. It is

a very delicate area. I realize that. It is an area that requires continuous study and continuous watching. You cannot watch it close enough as far as I am concerned. Only the other night I was down in Catalina, and I was going around this jammed, packed hall, the Canadian Legion Club in Catalina, shaking hands with all the people that came out to that great meeting there at the Legion in Catalina, and I came across one gentleman that looked a little bit different, I would say, probably than the others, maybe a little more prosperous, I do not know. But anyway when he stood up he said, I am from this area all right Mr. Neary, but I work in Labrador City, but I am certainly glad to meet you. He said, I have heard so much about you, and I have listened to you on the radio so much and saw you on television so much that I am certainly glad to meet you. I said to him, well, Sir, are you home on vacation now? Have you moved back to Catalina? He said, no. He said, I am one of these men who is being examined now, under the programme the minister spoke about, for a respiratory condition or for a possible silicosis that was developed as a result of his working for the last six or seven years in the pelletizing plant in Labrador. And you know, Mr. Chairman, being an old employee of a mining company myself, and I think the minister will probably agree with me on this, that you can almost tell when you talk to a man who has worked in a mine for a long time, exposed to dust, you can almost tell by the sound of his voice that he has a chest condition. This particular gentleman in Catalina, as soon as he spoke to me, he reminded me of a man I used to know on Bell Island that I felt had silicosis but I do not believe there was ever one case of silicosis proven on Bell Island.

DR. ROWE: That is interesting, because you had tremendous dust problems for years.

MR. NEARY: No, proven I said, not one case was proven. But, Sir, I would suspect, and it is too late to talk about it now, that there was more than one case, and there was more than

one person that was buried with silicosis because silicosis is something that does not show up on the X-ray. I do not know if members are aware of that. The minister could probably verify that. It is very difficult to detect it.

DR. ROWE: In the early stages.

MR. NEARY: In the early stages with an X-ray.

DR. ROWE: That is why we are doing the pulmonary function.

MR. NEARY: That is right.

But anyway, this particular gentleman in Catalina as soon as he spoke to me I said he sounds so much like a gentleman I knew on Bell Island who worked down in the mine, who I always claimed had silicosis but it was never proven and sure enough the man up and told me he was working in the pelletizing plant in Labrador City, and he was going back again, and he was one of the ones now who was going to another job. They would not put him back in the pelletizing plant and expose him to the dust hazards any longer. So it is a very touchy subject. It is a very delicate area, but one that we must not be afraid of. And, you know, Mr. Chairman, if to improve conditions, to rectify something that is going wrong, even if drastic action is necessary, I think we should lay our politics aside and not just say, well, the Liberal Administration brought this industry, or the Tory Administration brought in this industry, or you are trying to take the bread and butter out of our mouths, you are trying to put us all on unemployment. That should not enter into it at all.

Sir, personally, myself, I would place a higher value on one life than I would on all these industries put together that I just mentioned. You can take St. Lawrence, Buchans, I.O.C., Baie Verte and the phosphorus plant down at Long Harbour and as far as I am concerned, Sir, if you put them all together and you added up all the millions of dollars that they pay out in the run of a year and that they put into the pockets of their shareholders, in the way of profits, in my opinion, Sir, they would not compensate for the loss of one Newfoundland life. That is how sincere I am

about this matter. So I am rather reassured, Sir, to hear the comments of both honourable gentleman. I trust that they will continue to keep a very close watch on these five operations in particular.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Hon. Member for St. Barbe North.

MR. F. B. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, I just have a few brief comments and questions on the Department of Health vote. Sir, needless to say when my colleague the Leader of the Opposition revealed the contents of Dr. Thomas' letter last week, I became extremely concerned over the situation in Labrador and the Northern Peninsula in general, Sir, but more specifically -

AN HON. MEMBER: Did you see a copy of the letter, by the way?

MR. F. B. ROWE: No, because it did not directly affect my particular district. But indirectly it does affect my district and that is why I am speaking to this particular point at this present time.

I was disappointed that

the minister really did not answer the charges, if you will, that the Opposition Leader made or did not answer the question as to what the government intended to do about it, but probably the minister has some very good reasons, and I guess we can expect an announcement from the Premier or the minister within the near future if that is my understanding.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROWE: Right. But not a formal announcement - well I was probably outside when it was made. But I understood from the minister that the Premier will probably be making an announcement at a later date.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. F. ROWE: Right. Right.

DR. ROWE: my point of view as to what will happen.

MR. F. ROWE: Exactly.

Well, Sir, the point that I want to bring up is in view of the fact that there was a possibility that the I.G.A. would have to close some nursing stations or medical clinics and cut back in certain services provided by the hospital, and this sort of a thing, I was wondering if the minister would indicate to the Committee, Sir, what -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. F. ROWE: - is likely to happen at the Flowers Cove nursing station?

Because it was my understanding that if the medical clinic at Port Saunders proved a success that the government would give serious consideration to building the same sort of a medical clinic or renovating the existing nursing station at Flowers Cove and providing the same type of a service in the Flowers Cove area which would be more or less the central part of what is now St. Barbe North, will provide them with the same kind of a medical service that is now being provided by the Port Saunders medical clinic. Now I understand, of course, that this was an effort on the part of the local citizens in Port Saunders and surrounding area, as well as DREF I believe, as well as the Provincial Government. So I do not know what the situation is with respect to local involvement in Flowers Cove.

I can only point out, Mr. Chairman, that in Flowers Cove or in St. Barbe North you do have a slightly different situation with respect to local involvement. As I mentioned so many times, Sir, in this House, St. Barbe North is composed of a string of relatively small communities, whereas the Hawkes Bay-Port au Choix-Port Saunders area represents a concentrated population, so you can quite easily see how a Lion's Club or how a group of people in that area could get together and very forcefully make a contribution along with the federal and provincial governments towards the building of a medical clinic. Whereas in St. Barbe North with your thirty or forty smaller communities distributed over a greater geographically area you can quite easily see how it would be more difficult to get local input, and that is a problem, rivalry between the communities and this sort of thing that exists. And I would suggest, Sir, that we might even have that medical clinic, equivalent to the one in Port Saunders, in Flowers Cove or some other area in the district at this point in time if it were not for the fact that we do have this geographical dispersion of the communities and people in St. Barbe North. So I would appreciate if the minister could ask what is on the platter for St. Barbe North as far as medical service is concerned.

Another couple of points, Sir. Needless to say, and I hope the minister does not take this personally, I was extremely disappointed with the estimates of the Department of Health and the contents of the Throne Speech, or the Budget Speech, I am sorry, as it relates to the Department of Health. And I fully realize that this Province, you know, only has a certain amount of money to go around, and there are constraints and you cannot expect to get everything overnight in the way of medical services, educational services, highway services or this sort of a thing. But, Sir, it is a simple case of this government's credibility cropping up once again. Because in 1972, Sir, the Throne Speech, the Throne Speech now, said that the government will aim for the construction of viable regional hospitals and that examples of areas to be considered for hospitals include Clarendville to Whitbourne, Bonavista Peninsula, Burin Peninsula, Northwest Coast. And, of course, the Throne Speech reiterated that these areas should have better health facilities. So Clarendville,

Bonavista, Burin, the Burin Peninsula, and the Northwest Coast. Now, Sir, these were mentioned back in 1972, and I believe, of course, during the campaign it cropped up on several occasions, some of these areas, promises and an indication to the people that once this administration got into power, and indeed they did get in power, that they would get straight to work and provide reasonable medical services in Clarenville, Bonavista, Burin, the Burin Peninsula and the Northwest Coast. Now, Sir, that was in 1972.

In 1975 we read in the Budget Speech under the Health Programmes that the great need of Newfoundland for additional and better hospital and health facilities poses a difficult financial problem for government especially in view of staggering, escalating costs. Outside St. John's we are committed to meet the needs for new hospitals for Bonavista, Clarenville, Burin Peninsula and Channel. It goes on.

Funds have been provided in 1975-1976 so that planning and progress can be made for the projects at Bonavista, Clarenville, the Burin Peninsula, Placentia, and Grand Falls. Funds have been provided in 1975-1976 so that planning and progress. Now, Sir, I just want to reiterate my extreme disappointment and point out that this administration has to be losing every bit of credibility it might once have had because three years ago in a Throne Speech the impression was left to people that these things would be undertaken immediately. This was the impression. It is all you have to do is mention a hospital, mention the word and mention an area and people being what they are, and the needs being what they are, automatically assume that, okay, we are getting it.

Sir, if plans or money is being provided in 1975-1976 for planning and progress in these areas, I would say obviously we will never see the fulfillment of promises made in 1972 during this term of office of this present administration. For that, Sir, I am sincerely sorry and disappointed. So, I will leave it at that and will not go into, launch into a great partisan speech on it. But, I thought I would point out that that particular aspect, or my impressions of what I see in the Budget Speech and what I see in the estimates as far as

the Department of Health is concerned, is just one of extreme disappointment in terms of what was promised and what the expectations of the people must have been back in 1971-1972 when the present party in power saw fit to raise the expectations of the people and make these promises that have not been kept.

It is a case, Sir, where the government can come out and give the reason and rationale. The government finds itself in a very tight financial situation, as do most governments. They can easily rationalize why this situation exists at the present time. But, Sir, I would submit that it would have been much better if the present administration during their election campaign and during their first few Throne and Budget Speeches levelled with the people, took into consideration high costs, escalating costs, inflation and this sort of a thing and had been a little more candid with the electorate of this Province. It is as simple as that. Now, Sir, that is the second point that I wanted to make.

The third point is dental nurses. I cannot remember the minister having referred to this during the consideration of his estimates this year. But, I would simply point out that in September, 1973 the present Premier during the speech said that active study has begun on a dental nursing programme and said further that they are studying a dental recruiting programme. Now,

I do not know if I just have not been reading the news enough or listening enough lately but I myself have not heard anything further with respect to a dental nursing programme and a recruiting programme for dental nurses. Obviously, this is a very important factor in the health needs of our Province when you consider the ratio of patients per dentist in this Province. I cannot remember the exact figure but I know it is - I beg your pardon?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROWE: One to seven thousand which compares nationally one to three thousand. So obviously the more dental nurses we can get in under these circumstances the better. Of course, my other colleagues have mentioned the denturists aspect of it as well. A third point or is it fourth, that I would like to make, Sir, is that in October, 1971, again in a campaign speech, the present Premier said that it was the P.C.'s plan and commitment to set up mobile medical and dental clinics throughout the Province, mobile and dental clinics throughout the Province. As a matter of fact there was consideration being given to a dental clinic and possibly a medical clinic, a mobile one in the district of St. Barbe North first when I was elected because of the poor medical services in that particular area. I think the minister has mentioned an example of one dental clinic somewhere in the consideration of his estimates but certainly we do not have any great programme of mobile medical and dental clinics in this Province and this is a five year old promise now that to my best knowledge has not been kept by this present administration.

Lastly, Sir, the whole question of the price of drugs and, Sir, I feel compelled and I feel that I should bring these matters up because after all these were planks in platforms in campaign speeches, these were either planks in promises or platforms in campaign speeches or they were commitments made in Throne and/or Budget Speeches. I think it is only responsible of me to bring up in this Committee stage, Sir, where these promises and these commitments stand. Again, in October, 1971

during a campaign speech the present Premier said that the price of drugs must be reduced one way or another and in the March, 1972 Throne Speech it was said that the government is alarmed, alarmed at the high cost of drugs. So, in 1971 in a campaign speech the cost of drugs, the price of drugs must be reduced in one way or another. In 1972 in the Throne Speech the government is alarmed over the high cost of drugs in this Province and in January, 1974 in the Throne Speech the government is considering methods to reduce the price of drugs. So, must be done one way or the other, then alarmed and now is considering methods to reduce the price of drugs, I think it is only a legitimate question for me to ask, what is going on with respect to the price of drugs?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Getting closer all the time.

MR. ROWE: Getting closer all the time. Well, Sir, for the government's political sake I sincerely hope that they are able to come out with their great programme before the next great election because they are going to need all the help they need Sir. I am starting to get political now and I do not want to do that. But I would ask the honourable the minister if he would indicate specifically, not in - I do not want to hear about the fact the administration is considering a programme. We do not want to hear that you are alarmed, that the administration is alarmed. We want to hear some action or see some evidence of a five year old promise that this government would reduce the price of drugs one way or another - five years ago, 1971 and to my knowledge, Sir, the government has had enough time to try to implement some sort of a programme or take some action in that particular area.

Sir, I might ask the minister in closing how many Newfoundland students are at the Dalhousie dental school. That is Newfoundland students, the numbers each year and the numbers graduating this year. I think we do have a programme of assistance or bursary programme of some kind for the dental students the same as we do for medical students. I would like to get some indication of the retention rate of these students who go through their bursary programme. Presumably the same problem exists with respect to graduating dentists as exists with respect to graduating medical doctors as far as retention and getting them to come back in concerned.

So, Sir, basically and just to review in closing, just in case the minister did not catch all my questions, the situation on the Flowers Cove medical clinic. If the minister does not have the answer he can rebut my disappointment over stated promises with respect to the location of hospitals. Certainly I would like to hear something on these dental nurses, the mobile medical and dental clinics and what the government is doing about decreasing the price of drugs in this Province.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, before the minister answers my colleague, I wonder, Sir - I was not here when the minister gave his introductory remarks the other day on his estimates - but I wonder if the minister would tell us now the state of the health of our Newfoundland people. Are we in good physical condition? I notice the Minister of Fisheries is taking off a little weight over there lately. It is probably a good thing, Sir. He looked like a walking, massive coronary there for a while looking for a place to happen.

But, Sir, how are we psychologically are how are we physically? Are we over-eating? Are we over-fed? Are we living too high off the hog? Are we developing a soft race? Are we developing a soft race of Newfoundlanders. I think, Mr. Chairman, that all these matters are very important. I would like to hear the minister sort of state of the Province's health. We can make political points about putting a hospital here and an ambulance here and a dental clinic here and this here, but, Sir, what is the overall picture of the health of our Newfoundland people?

Are we getting enough of exercise?

MR. EVANS: There is a pretty good example right here.

MR. NEARY: Are people living longer? I notice in the morning news that the birth rate in St. John's is decreasing again, going down, declining. Is the birth rate going down all over Newfoundland? What is the reason for it?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: I beg your pardon?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: I want to give the minister a sort of a chance to make a general kind of a statement because, Sir, I think this is very important that the Newfoundland people be in a good state of health, that they be up psychologically if we are going to be able to produce in this Province. When I look across at the honourable gentlemen, Sir, I cannot help but asking the minister what the state of the people of this Province is psychologically.

Another things that worries me - I do not know if the minister, if this will involve professional ethics or not - but it seems to me, Sir, that the psychiatrists are somehow or other out to sabotage our society, not only the Newfoundland society but the whole North American society. The psychiatrists and the psychologists seem to have some kind of a plot to take over society. They have taken the place of the clergymen now. Instead of going to your clergyman, you go to a psychiatrist. My honourable friend from St. John's South who has had a tremendous -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: No, the honourable member took off I would say, thirty-five or forty pounds recently.

MR. EVANS: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: The member looked very bad for a while, but now he is bouncing back. He is getting his color back. But, the member has had tremendous experience down in the courts. Every time that there is a serious case before the courts, you will always see, the lawyers especially, producing the psychiatrist's report, nine times out of ten conflicting reports, Mr. Chairman, no more really than opinions. They will say, oh, the

poor fellow, this was not his real personality, this was not his normal temperament, his normal personality. He was under the influence of drugs or he was under the influence of liquor. And this goes on all the time, Sir, and it becomes aggravating and irritating after a while. Do not blame it on the fellow that is being charged. Do not blame it on the accused at all. Blame it on liquor and blame it on drugs.

I would say, Sir, that anybody who goes into the Court and commits a very serious crime and there is an admission that he took liquor or drugs into his body, nobody forced it on him, then he should be charged with some other kind of an offence in addition to the one that he is being charged with. Instead we have got a tendency to allow the psychiatrists to almost determine the outcome of a case. Go down to Waterford for thirty days examination and you can almost get away with murder. I would like to get the minister's reaction on this.

DR. ROWE: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Well it is becoming a bit of a nuisance. You know should - look, let me put it this way, and perhaps the minister can see what I am getting at, that a large number of our people at the present time are on tranquilizers. A fellow will go out and peddle a little marijuana and he will get caught and he is hauled into Court for selling drugs, selling marijuana, probably convicted and sent for two or three years to Dorchester Penitentiary. But we have these other nincompoops in our society, who should be all locked up themselves, hooking our people on drugs, the psychiatrists. They are the biggest drug pushers that we have in this Province and probably in this nation.

Look, Mr. Chairman, when I was Minister of Social Services, the two Boys' Training Homes and the Girls' Training Home came under my care and as everybody knows, as everybody knows in this Province, it is very difficult to deal with juvenile delinquents. It is probably one of the most difficult problems that the police have. You cannot take them to Court. You cannot put them in jail, they have to be sent to a detention home. I was amazed, Mr. Chairman, the first time I went into one of these

homes. I went in just around the time that the boys were getting ready to go to bed and I saw about fifteen or twenty boys lined up, going into this little room and I said to the supervisor there, I said what is going on, why are they queued up? Are they getting their lunch? He said, no they are all going in for their pills. For their pills, I said, Yes, they are all lined up for their pills. And sure enough I went in and here was this little cupboard and here was the supervisor in picking out little pink pills, little red pills, little blue pills and giving them to the kids.

I said, what are all these pills about? Oh to make them sleep, they cannot sleep without their pills.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: They could not sleep without their pills. Well, Sir, when I was knocking around, I am sure when the honourable minister was knocking around, that you would get out and you would find something to do that would make you so tired that when you got in in the evening that you would almost fall down on your bed, too tired to take your clothes off, but not any more. Everybody wants to get the pills. They walk into the nursing stations and the cottage hospitals and they say to the doctor, give us a few pills like I had last week. And if he gives them a pink one instead of a red one or a blue one instead of a red one, and he could give him probably a candy and he would not know the difference, they are back complaining, probably complaining to the minister, I did not get the right pills, half the country is hooked on pills.

I may be wrong and members may think it is funny but to me it seems to be a very serious problem, I am wondering if the psychiatrists are not going too far, if they are not trying to

The psychiatrists talk about the new morality, the permissiveness. The new morality they are talking about, I think, is the old immorality. And I am wondering, I do not know, Mr. Chairman, if we in this committee can do anything about it, or if the minister can do anything about it, but I would certainly like to get the minister's reaction to this sort of thing. It seems to me to be a big problem not only in Newfoundland, I suppose, but probably right across the whole nation, right across North America. People seem to be taking the easy way out. They want to opt out. They cannot cope with life. They want to get on the pills, and I am not talking about the birth control pills. I am talking about the pills that will make him sleep, a pill to make you sleep and a pill to wake you up and then during the day a pill to make you go. It is true, Mr. Chairman. It is true. Sometimes when I look across the House, maybe the minister should issue some pep pills to his colleagues. But, Sir, this seems to me to be a real, real problem. So I would like for the minister, before we get on and pass his estimates holus-bolus to give us an opinion, to give us a statement of the health of our people. Are we in good shape? Are we getting too fat? Are we developing into a soft race? You know, are we lazy? Is alcohol a bigger problem than drugs?

AN HON. MEMBER: It is worst than drugs.

MR. NEARY: Worst than drugs.

I am told that ninety per cent of the accidents on the Trans-Canada Highway are caused by - there is liquor involved in some way, shape or form. I do not know if the Alcohol and Drug Foundation comes under the minister's department, but it is certainly a health problem. What are we going to do about this great problem of alcoholism, of drinking? It is, Sir, a serious problem in this Province. It is the most serious social problem that we have in Newfoundland and Labrador - booze, liquor, drinking. Last year we were told by the Minister of Finance that the government collected, in revenue, \$25 million from the sale of liquor, and I do not believe, Sir, that included the sale of beer. That is everything? Well, that

is everything. Well, I can take a little consolation in that, I suppose - \$25 million, Sir.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. NEARY: I beg your pardon?

AN HON. MEMBER: Thirty million dollars.

MR. NEARY: Twenty-five million, I believe, if my memory serves me correctly. And you know, Mr. Chairman, out of that amount, I would say no more than \$150,000 had been put back to educate our people into the evils of liquor, the evils of alcohol, the damage it can do, not only to your mind, Sir, -

MR. EVANS: What percentage does Billy Graham receive, "Steve"?

MR. NEARY: I beg your pardon?

MR. EVANS: What percentage does Billy Graham receive?

MR. NEARY: Oh, I may sound like an Evangelist, Sir, but, Mr. Chairman, the minister, I believe, when he rises in his place, will confirm what I am saying that liquor is the biggest, single problem that we have in our Newfoundland society today, the abuse of it, and something needs to be done about it. And perhaps, Sir, we need to devote more of this \$25 million. I believe one of the provinces has recently decided to take ten per cent of what they collected in revenue on booze and put it back into programmes to try to rehabilitate people who are hooked on liquor. I am sure the minister will not mind giving me a general run down on the state of the health of our people. The minister, I believe, is very qualified to do it, and I would be very interested in hearing what he has to say.

MR. ROUSSEAU: Finally.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Transportation and Communications.

MR. ROUSSEAU: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to add a few comments to the comments already suggested about the Department of Health and about the minister. We had a run on the efforts to stand up on Friday but we were unable to do so. But I think it would be appropriate now to say a few words. I would say, and I know the Hon. Member for Bell Island, if nobody, will understand what I am going to say that there were certain remarks made on Thursday or Friday about the Hon. Minister of Health and about the Department of Health

which are unacceptable as far as thirty-one members on this side of the House are concerned. Not too often you can stand up and say that you know that you echo the sentiments of all your colleagues and be one hundred per cent accurate that you are doing so.

And it is not because we are coming to the rescue of the Hon. Minister of Health. The Hon. Minister of Health, and a good doctor, is well capable of taking care of himself. But we on this side of the House feel so strongly about some of the comments made by the Leader of the Opposition the other day that a number of us have already been up the - my colleague for Bonavista South and my colleague for Trinity North, and I would certainly like to add my comments to theirs, and I know that all other honourable members on this side of the House would like to too. I would have liked to have gone through the estimates fast to get to get to the wonderful Department of Transportation and Communications, and I am not attempting to hold up the estimates, but I think it is important that we go on record in a few instances in respect to the actions of the honourable minister and the conduct of his department for the past three-plus years. And as I say, Your Honour, it is not an attempt to come to the rescue of the good doctor. He is well aware of the esteem he is held in by all members of this honourable House. But I think certain suggestions made by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, and I am sorry he is not here, during the opening remarks on the minister's salary. They were such that we cannot agree with them, and certainly each of us in our own way I suppose without protracting the debate would like to go on record and suggest our feelings.

I know that in my particular instance when I was elected in March of 1972 in the Town of Labrador City of some 15,000, 16,000 people, and the Town of Wabush of some 3,000 people we had one doctor - one doctor. The health situation was in sad, sad shape. And the good doctor and the Newfoundland Medical Association set up a rotating system of general practitioners where we had two G.P.'s who went in by week, rotating from all the areas across this Province, which the people of Labrador very much appreciated, and which has resulted in some of the ones who went in with a permanent staff now of G.P.'s and specialists of some eight or nine doctors at this point in time. The programme now has been enlarged to include rotating specialists who go in every week. And it is a Godsend to the people of Labrador

City-Wabush where three years ago there was only one doctor serving that very great expansive country up there. Now we are, of course, in Labrador City and Wabush the only area in that mainland part of our Province which is not served by the International Grenfell Association. A part of my district Churchill Falls is, but Labrador City and Wabush is not. And certainly the people in Labrador City and Wabush, and myself in particular, can heap great praise on the minister for that novel concept of the rotating G.P.'s, of the great co-operation from the Newfoundland Medical Association, and the doctors themselves when they went in, nobody went in, by the way, to ski or to relax or anything else, they worked their full hours, and it was something because when you are in an area like that where you have no accessibility to the outside world as much as you do in other areas where you are connected by road or some other frequent transportation system, that an emergency in there is really something, and when you are talking about 15,000, 16,000, 18,000 people served by one doctor then there is cause to worry. That system has been rectified and I think it is a magnificent pat on the back for the minister. And all our thanks in the district of Labrador West go out to him for that.

The rotating doctors now - I remember in one instance a very good personal friend of mine had a heart attack six, eight, ten months ago, and one of the rotating doctors happened to be a heart specialist from St. John's, and I can say, and the doctors will verify this that had not that doctor been there that man would have died. I know a gentleman by the name of Nelson Avery from the Bonavista Peninsula originally, he has been in Labrador for quite a while, enjoying good health now, but had not that medical specialist, heart surgeon not been there he would have never lived through that heart failure he had. So things like that, of course, I am sure make the honourable minister proud of these programmes.

Recently we had problems with the dentists. We had a dentist who left our larger Town of Labrador City with merely two weeks notice. We only had two dentists, one in Labrador City and one in Wabush. This gentleman had been paid by the government to complete his schooling and left

when the dentist in Wabush was on holidays, He left us virtually without a dentist in Labrador City and Wabush for some three weeks, four weeks. The honourable Minister of Health, when it was brought to his attention, did everything possible to rectify it, even to the point of having one of the government dentists go in on a part-time basis, set it up so that the equipment could be used of the private doctor and did everything in his power to assure that the people had a dentist during the time that no dentist was available. And then went ahead and secured with the assistance of the department a new dentist in Labrador City so that now we have two dentists, and also assisted in the purchase of dental equipment because dental equipment, of course, takes quite a while to order and certainly assisted in making sure that that dental equipment was in on time. For that, of course, we must also thank the good doctor, the honourable Minister of Health.

Very recently, and I think that was shown quite well today, the honourable the Minister of Health and the honourable the Minister of Mines and Energy, both colleagues of mine in the pursuit of the topic of dust in the Labrador City plant, the Iron Ore Company of Canada, what has been done jointly by the Department of Health and by the Department of Mines and Energy and the ministers involved as well as their officials, how they reacted to a situation that could be much more serious and may be in the future, that the problems that were encountered in respect to the dust, the ongoing monitoring, both from a Department of Health point of view and from a Department of Mines and Energy point of view were both rectified as soon as was humanly possible and the ongoing monitoring now that will hopefully save lives, possibly in the future. These are things that have been done in my particular district only and these are only some of the things in the past three years.

Two members have already stood up and talked about medical services in their district and I am sure that each and every one of us on this side of the House would like to compliment the minister on his dedication to the field of health in this Province. I know that

as a member of Treasury Board for awhile, of which I am no longer, and as a colleague of Cabinet, he is a natural spendthrift. There is no way we can put a rein on him at all, absolutely none. He manages to squeeze a buck out where I think very few other people can squeeze it out. The ongoing Health Programme now is one that is fantastic, and all ready you see them coming up with another programme of years, seven years I believe, in which he is going to try and provide further improvement for the medical services of this Province.

So, I would think that the Minister of Health - and I was very pleased today with the last two speakers in that they spoke in a tone that showed respect for the work that the honourable minister had been doing, and that is appreciated. He is a gentleman, in the old sense. He is quite concerned with the health of this Province and I say that knowing him as well as I have, and as well as the rest of us have, that he is genuinely and honestly concerned with the health of this Province. So, I wanted to go on record as saying that after the comments made by the honourable Leader of the Opposition. I am sorry he is not here for them. I do not know whether it is personal or partisan politics or what have you, but I cannot think, and I do not mind saying this, I cannot think of one colleague whom I would rather not have this sort of insinuation or suggestion made of than the honourable the Minister of Health and I say that without any shame of not pleasing any other colleague. I think we all feel that way. Certain suggestions I am talking about that the Health Programme in the Province was not good or that the minister - I do not know if the term incompetent was used or so on or what by the honourable Leader of the Opposition when he opened his remarks but whatever terms -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: He dealt with some of the facts.

MR. ROUSSEAU: Well, whatever terms were used the suggestion was there, I think. At least I read, I read it and I wanted to go on record, and I think some of the rest of us felt that way, we do not want to hold up these estimates but we feel that way and we feel very strongly the dedication to the field of health and his ability and concern and ongoing concern for it and I think that he is to be greatly complimented. And I am sure that all members on this side of the House and I would hope that

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all members on the other side of the House recognize and acknowledge the dedication portrayed during the past three years by our colleague, the honourable the Minister of Health.

DR. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank my colleague for his commendation. To go back and try to review some of the questions that have been asked, I can do this, I think, fairly rapidly. My colleague, the Minister of Mines, spoke and I think we have to ask ourselves the question what price industry? The protection of the future health is essential. Everyone has to be

concerned about the fact that we bring in different types of industry within the Province. There have to be very stringent monitoring precautions taken to prevent the development in years to come of specific illnesses related to industry. I would like to see on our staff a medical doctor and an industrial engineer, two people who spent their time almost continuously going around this Province investigating the various industrial plants and keeping their fingers completely on them.

It is more than one man. Dr. Severs is a chief medical health officer who does a tremendous job, but it is more than he can possibly do to keep a continuous review of the various industrial plants. I certainly hope that in spite of the fact that our advertisements have not drawn very much in the way of fruitful results, that we will be able to obtain these, or at least one of these two important people within the next - perhaps I will go out on a limb and say within the next six months.

The next question I was asked - I am taking them in order as they were asked - I was asked about the question embalming in Newfoundland. I would like to make it quite plain that as far as the department is concerned we are not contemplating the adoption of any proposal which would require the embalming of dead human bodies, nor live ones. But, I think what we are in the process of developing is a bill related to the Funeral Directors Association. All this bill does is notify that we will train people to become embalmers. The question of whether you become embalmed is a personal choice, except if you have to be taken out of the Province there are federal regulations which require you to be embalmed. But, I hope nobody gets the impression that under this Funeral Directors Bill that we are now advancing and hope to bring into this House within the near future, there is no question in here of bringing in any regulation regarding embalming. This will be a personal, private matter for a family to decide unless there is some specific reason for having the body taken out of the Province, then there are federal regulations which cover this. So, I just wanted to clarify that point.

Now, for my friend from St. Barbe North on the question of what is happening on the Northwest Coast: Well, I am happy to say that on the drawing board today are two specific community health centers, one for Trepassey and one for Flowers Cove. I promised the one for Flowers Cove, and I said we would do it after we had completed the one for Port Saunders. A few months ago we opened for the benefit of my colleague, the Minister of Manpower and Industrial Relations, I think, a very excellent extension to the Port Saunders nursing station which gives him a permanent doctor, dentist, a certain number of beds. I think that this type of programme will be extended. I get concerned about the large number of miles from the Cottage Hospital at Norris Point to St. Anthony, the number of miles from Port Saunders around to St. Anthony with nothing much in between.

I think it is imperative that that part of the Northwest Coast from Flowers Cove gets this what I consider to be an essential facility.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

DR. ROWE: Well, it is on the planning board. Again I will go out on a limb and say that when we get Trepassey started, we will start Flowers Cove. That is the way they have been promised and the way they have been committed. But, it is on the go.

Now, the other point. On the Northwest Coast you have now a doctor stationed in Flowers Cove who travels. He goes there and he travels using Flowers Cove as his nucleus. He travels from there around your area. This is a fairly considerable improvement. Also you now have the ambulance service which has been planted at Port Saunders, and there is one a bit further up the coast. I have just forgotten at the moment where it is located.

Now, another point that the honourable Member for White Bay North mentioned was the question of drug cost. Sure I am aware of the fact that each year we have mentioned this, but I am hung up on two or three things. First of all there is the dollar cost on this, and we have got this worked out. That is one thing. But, I, perhaps I would like to speak sort of my own personal opinion. I think we have to develop something like co-insurance. Now, there is another province that does this, that after you spend a certain amount then the government

will take it from there on in. Say you and your family spent \$50.00, once you have spent that much on drugs a year, we will cover you from there on in.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

DR. ROWE: Well, I do not know if it is senior citizens. Now, they can get - the person who worries me is the chap who is on the low economic scale. He is not getting welfare. He is not in a high income bracket, but he is marginally economic with three or four small children. I am trying to promote the idea that this is perhaps the group

of people who we should try to help first.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

DR. ROWE: Yes, that is what I am - I am speaking, of course, as to what I am trying to propound.

Now, the honourable Leader of the Opposition brought up the question of hospital boards and what we were doing with all the promises that I had made. Well, we have fulfilled quite a few promises with putting hospitals under boards - Gander, Buchans, Channel, Stephenville, Springdale was just done, I am now ready to talk about Bell Island, ready to talk about Bonavista.

Now, the other point he made about the business of having promised a board to the Burin Peninsula and Clarendville. Well, from the point of view of negotiation, I consider that the people who have formed the hospital committees in both these areas are the nucleus of boards people that we deal with now. We meet regularly and give them upgoing data on the programmes. So, I do not feel that we have been at all negligent. We are quite happy to keep on putting more hospitals under boards because I feel that when a community gets an interest in it, and gets some responsibility for its operation, you get a much more efficient operation.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

DR. ROWE: Trusted public citizens.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: They could not be produced right now.

DR. ROWE: Trusted public citizens. You can go to any board.

Now, you asked a question about the dental services and the dental nurses, and you talked about the need for, you know, dental programmes. God knows nobody more so than myself is concerned about the need for dental services. I mentioned the figure in my statement to the House the other day of the percentage of our children that have availability to dentists, and this concerns me greatly.

There is a programme, the one you spoke about, it is the dental nurse training programme which was initiated in Saskatchewan two or three years ago to train dental nurses to do pediatric dental work. We looked at that and we had hoped that in co-operation with the Province of Nova Scotia we would establish one in Nova Scotia which would be

beneficial to both provinces. But, for one reason and another this has not yet, sort of, gotten off the ground.

From the point of view of the mobile dental clinic I am happy to say that through the generosity of the Lions Club of Western Ontario, who put a certain amount of money into this, we are arranging now for two drivers from the car pool in the Province to go up to Toronto to drive this down. It is due to be available to drive down to Newfoundland about the end of April and put into operation, I think, in this year somewhere between Port aux Basques and Stephenville, in that area. Now, you have a dentist at Port Saunders now. So, you have a little more improvement than what you had a few years ago, but no doubt between the South Coast and that part of the St. Barbe Coast, that will be one of two areas where it will next be done.

You asked me about the number of dental students at Dalhousie Dental School, and I suppose I could say there was tremendous concern about this. There are very few. We have got three graduating this year. We have got two graduating in 1977 from McGill, and one in 1978. Now, what is wrong - two years ago we had seven qualified Newfoundlanders who applied for Dalhousie, seven Newfoundlanders who were fully qualified to go into dentistry had applied. The Dalhousie Dental School said that that was fine but they had more people with better qualifications from the other Atlantic Provinces. So, we did not get any of these seven admitted to Dalhousie. We have been in contact with the dean of the dental school. We are quite concerned over this. This is the reason now that we are recruiting people from the United Kingdom. Since 1972 we have brought in fifteen dentists, and I can tell you where these were put, these fifteen. Fifteen people have set up since 1972, Doctor Robert Betts in Port aux Basques; Doctor Bruce Roberts, Stephenville; Doctor Eric Parsons, Labrador City; Doctor Hunt, Lewisporte; Doctor Greene, Placentia; Doctor Rodriques, Whitbourne; Doctor Gamble of Trepassay; Doctor Richards, Clarenville; Doctor Gushue, Bishops Falls; Doctor Giberson from Deer Lake; Doctor Easton, Stephenville Crossing; Doctor Disney, Bishops Falls; Doctor Delaney, Bay de Verde; Doctor Bennett, Department of Health in Whitbourne. Now, in addition to

that we are at the present time arranging, we have advertised and we have quite a number of applicants to be interviewed in England from the point of view of coming out to serve indefinitely. So, the dental and the other question the honourable Leader of the Opposition wanted to know about, Grand Bank - well, Doctor Penwell is graduating from "Dal" next month and he is going to take over the practice of Doctor Parson in Grand Bank.

Now, since we opened our own medical school the government is not now giving a terrific grant. We gave a tremendous grant to Dalhousie before we had our own medical school but we are not now doing it. Now, the other questions that the honourable Leader of the Opposition asked was where were we with the Medicare Programme, as far as costs were concerned and he asked about the recoverage from the Government of Canada or I think his question was of the increases that the doctors had been given, what proportion comes back to us from Ottawa. I think he is well aware that the formula for sharing is that we recover in Newfoundland fifty per cent of the national average medicare costs per capita multiplied by the provincial population and you take your estimated population of 549,000, the latest figure on the national per capita cost is \$78.60. The latest figure for provincial Newfoundland cost is \$51.90. In 1974-75 we expended \$22.8 million and we recovered eighty per cent of that cost.

I would like to read to you the other Provinces. Estimated of provincial costs payable by the Government of Canada, Newfoundland recovers for its medicare eighty per cent of its cost; Prince Edward Island recovers only sixty-eight per cent of its cost; Nova Scotia, sixty-two per cent; New Brunswick, our nearest rival, seventy-four per cent; Quebec only gets back fifty-one per cent; Ontario, forty-three per cent; Manitoba, fifty-nine per cent; Saskatchewan, sixty-three per cent; Alberta, fifty-five per cent; British Columbia, forty-eight per cent. So, Newfoundland still is getting the highest return from the Federal Government on medicare costs.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

DR. ROWE: Well, because in spite of the vast increase we have had in doctors we still do not have enough. Our doctor population is not up to what it is in Ontario. Our individual costs are not up to what it is in Ontario and this Province is still getting eighty per cent of our costs back. We have quite a way to go yet in increasing our number of doctors and the type of medical services and I am not at all ashamed that this is going to drop next year probably to seventy-eight per cent because of the money we have added on. I am quite satisfied about that.

Now, another question this afternoon - they were all your questions "Fred", were they not?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

DR. ROWE: Oh! Hospitals, you wanted to know about hospitals. Yes, you were hot on hospitals and you mentioned the fact that we had been somewhat tardy, I think, in finalizing the programmes. You were quite disappointed in the Health Hospital Programmes that have gotten underway since -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

DR. ROWE: So, if you would like me to give you a rundown on what we have accomplished which I have already given in my statement, the number of hospitals now being built and, you know, you can only spend so much money in a year. If you say -

MR. ROWE: Inaudible.

DR. ROWE: But the expectations of the people and I am not going to get into an argument about Carbonear, but I could quite readily talk about the ten years, I could readily talk about going downstairs as Minister of Health in January, 1972 and finding there was no file on the Carbonear Hospital. It had been called the Conception Bay North. They had even taken the name away. I can go into the fact that there were no finalized plans for that hospital. There was not in the department a specific statement as to where it was going to be located. So, you know, if we are talking about - we do not want to get emotional but these are facts which have been established downstairs.

The two important ones now are Clarendville and Burin. Bonavista is underway. The Waterford is well underway. The function of planning is

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finished for Clarenville. My colleague, the Minister of Transportation, now acting Minister of Public Works, has got his proposals out for the architects and project managers. As I told the House in the answer to the question of the honourable Leader of the Opposition a week or two ago, the experts or the officials tell me that once these people are appointed in four to five months we will be ready to get some excavation and construction underway. You asked,

I am not sure who asked on Friday the question of where are the promises we have made to Placentia and Channel? We have put money in there to do the functional planning. And I think you have, before you start talking about building hospitals you have to have a functional planning study done. You have to know - it is not just a point of picking a site, excavating and pouring concrete as has been done in certain times in the past, just get the whole thing organized, planned and ready to go. And I am quite happy on the record of this government in endeavouring to promote the regional hospitals in the concepts of health.

Now my colleague for Bell Island is interested in the health of Newfoundlanders. And as an opening statement on this I think you would have to be aware of the Canada Health Survey which is being done, and what Mr. Lalonde, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, a very able man with whom I have a great regard has come down hard on what he calls diseases of choice.

MR. NEARY: Inaudible.

DR. ROWE: Diseases of choice.

MR. NEARY: Of choice?

DR. ROWE: Yes. The main problems that are filling our hospitals today are the problems related to obesity, of being over weight, leads to blood pressure, it leads to heart attacks, the problems of smoking which leads to emphysema, other respiratory diseases, The problem of alcoholism which leads to sclerosis of the liver, and certain other -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

DR. ROWE: We could -

AN HON. MEMBER: What am I going to do?

DR. ROWE: You have broke my trend of thought. There are certain diseases like that, that we call diseases of choice. But even if we could get people to alter their way of life, and this is a most difficult or almost impossible task, we would need less hospital beds, we would have to spend less on treating these people and trying to cure them of disease which they have brought upon themselves.

MR. NEARY: What about liquor?

DR. ROWE: In other words people will have to take a greater personal responsibility for their own health and they can do that with the knowledge that is available today.

Now you asked about-the infant mortality in this Province is down. The number of babies that die each year the infant mortality, the child dies in the first twenty-eight days of birth - that number is continually going down. We are not quite up - we are something like 13.1 per thousand and the average in Canada goes from fourteen to seventeen, so we are improving that way. People are living longer. And if you look at some of the things that you have to do in health the renal dialysis is a good example, where people have chronic kidney failure and we put them on these machines, we dialyze them, we change the blood every week or twice a week, and these people live a lot longer. So if you take that as an example, the type of advance who can say that we cannot afford the cost to operate these dialyses units. The number of cases getting into these is increasing all of the time.

AN HON. MEMBER: How many have we got now in the Province?

DR. ROWE: We have two - no we have three, we have the Grace Hospital, we have a small one at the General and we have one at Corner Brook.

AN HON. MEMBER: There is one at Corner Brook now, is there?

DR. ROWE: You know, a few years ago when you got kidney disease and it got to a certain stage that was it. But now with the dialysis which is becoming costly, but who is to say that these people should not have the benefit of this modern treatment which prolongs their lives.

Do you want me to call it 6:00 o'clock, Mr. Chairman? Or do you just want us to carry the first head?

AN HON. MEMBER: Carried.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, we will be interested in hearing the rest of it after 6:00 o'clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It now being 6:00 o'clock I do leave the Chair until 8:00 o'clock this evening.

The Committee resumed at 8:00 P.M.

Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! The Member for Bell Island.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, before the Committee rose at six o'clock, Sir, I was making a few comments and asking the minister to react to my comments on the general state of the health of the people of the Province and I had taken note, Sir, that the Member for St. John's South seemed to be in a rather good shape these days. I do not know if he is doing any exercises or not, I mentioned the fact that the member had lost thirty pounds, I understand, Sir, it is over fifty pounds. Absolutely fantastic! I would say that there is a gentleman, Sir, who has a lot of will power, a man who is able to discipline himself.

And then we have the Member for Placentia West, the Minister of Mines and Energy who is out, Sir, every other night I suppose doing karate -

AN HON. MEMBER: Judo.

MR. NEARY: No karate, just judo?

AN HON. MEMBER: Judo.

MR. NEARY: Judo. In good shape, Sir, I would say the honourable member is getting himself in condition for the next election and I am glad to see that the Minister of Justice, Sir, is back from his useless jaunt to Geneva where he went over for a joy ride at the expense of the taxpayers.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: As an observer, now the Minister of Justice, Sir, the Minister of Justice to me looks to be in very poor physical health. I do not know what the mental condition of the gentleman is, Sir, but he certainly is grossly overweight, and looks to me to be -

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! While it may be in order for the honourable member to comment on the health of other honourable members in a complimentary fashion, when the honourable member becomes abusive or insulting I am afraid I will have to interrupt.

MR. NEARY: I certainly do not mean to be abusive or insulting, Sir.

I am merely giving the Minister of Justice, Sir a bit of -

AN HON. MEMBER: Free medical advice.

MR. NEARY: Free advice and I hope that the minister will pay attention to my advice, Sir, because in this day -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: I beg your pardon.

MR. HICKMAN: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: I certainly have not, Sir, I just lost about fifteen pounds myself. I am proud of it.

SOME HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: The Minister of Fisheries has slimmed down considerably, so the point I am making here, Mr. Chairman, is that members of the House seem to be setting an example for the rest of the people of the Province, an example that I hope that they will follow, Sir, except for the Minister of Justice. The Minister of Justice to me, Sir, strikes me as being -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: -at least, I would say at least -

MR. HICKMAN: I am the only member of this honourable House who can still play a good game of soccer.

MR. NEARY: I would say the minister is at least fifty-five pounds over-weight. And can you imagine, Mr. Chairman, look, the Minister of Health can tell us, can you imagine going around with a suitcase in your hand all day long with fifty-five pounds in it. You would soon get pretty tired. And I would make no wonder that the poor old Minister of Justice looks so tired and forlorn and exhausted these days. Apart from the fact, Sir, that we have increased vandalism and lawlessness, lack of respect for law and order, and I am sure the minister is awake night after night worrying about this, that the minister really I think should -

AN HON. MEMBER: What heading are we under?

MR. NEARY: No, we are doing Health - that the Minister of Justice should, Sir, should go down to the Recreation Centre at Torbay and try to get himself

in good physical condition and get ready for the next election. And the poor old Minister of Education, Sir! You know Your Honour says that I am being abusive when I talk about members being overweight. Well I would not dare comment on the Minister of Education, Sir.

Mr. Chairman, I have to tell you this. Today in the House when I was talking about alcoholism being one of the biggest problems that we have in society today, when I left the House somebody said to me, your wife left a message and she is having somebody in for supper, would you go over to the liquor store and pick up a bottle of wine and bring it home for supper. So on the way out of the liquor store I met the Minister of Education coming in and he said to me, it is a good thing the television cameras are not here. I was coming out with a bottle under my arm. But I assured the minister it was only a bottle of wine.

MR. OTTENHEIMER: Same here, same here.

MR. NEARY: Well, I am certainly glad to hear that, Sir.

MR. EVANS: Inaudible.

MR. MOORES: That is where he went to buy his straws.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman,

you see that fellow on television? Who is it? Buster Crab on television advertising these shirts, you know, that keep your belly tucked in. Well, if some of the honourable members of the House, Sir, do not get on a diet and start to discipline themselves, they are going to have to buy these stretch shirts to tuck in their tummies when they are campaigning in the next election.

AN HON. MEMBER: Muscle shirts.

MR. NEARY: Muscle shirts. Well, the Hon. Premier knows. I do not know if the Hon. Premier is wearing one or not.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. NEARY: But, Mr. Chairman, I want to get back for a moment, I know the Minister of Health is anxious to wind up his estimates and we will rattle off the item by item analysis, but I want to get back to something that I mentioned this afternoon, and I did not follow through on it, as I probably should have, and I want to raise the matter again and that is this matter of dispensing tranquilizers and pills and Librium and Valium. And I mentioned the fact, Sir, that the biggest drug hazard that we have in society today, the biggest pushers we have are the psychiatrists. Well I should have gone on to say, Sir, I mean, the psychiatrists are not alone. They are not the only ones who are guilty, and I think the minister will see what I am getting at in a moment, and I want to get the minister's reaction to this because this is a big problem they had in England years ago, and they have tried to take steps to rectify it, and I do not know if they have plugged all the loopholes or not. But the psychiatrist are not alone. The G. P.'s, the general practitioners, are also, maybe not intentionally, maybe it is not deliberate, but they are also, Sir, guilty of getting a lot of our people hooked on tranquilizers and on Librium and Valium. And I will tell you how they do it, Mr. Chairman. Here is how it happens.

A poor old soul will go down to a general practitioner and say, doctor my nerves are gone. I could not sleep a wink last night. I was crying and bawling all night. So the general practitioner will write off a prescription for Librium or Valium and away goes

the poor old soul down to the druggist to get the prescription filled. Now then the next day the same individual goes to another general practitioner and goes in and says, doctor, me nerves are gone. I could not sleep a wink last night, up all night walking the floor, crying and bawling, So he writes out another prescription, off to the drugstore again for another bottle of pills. And the next thing, you know, Sir, this individual has a whole cupboard full of pills issued by various and sundry general practitioners.

AN HON. MEMBER: Where were they bought?

MR. NEARY: Pardon?

AN HON. MEMBER: Where were they bought?

MR. NEARY: Bought? I am coming to that, too. If they have the money, they go and buy them themselves. But if you are on social assistance, you can use your drug card and that drug card, despite the fact, Mr. Chairman, that the drug card is stamped by the druggist showing that you received one hundred, say, librium today, they could take that to another general practitioner tomorrow, he will give him the same individual prescription, take it down to the drugstore and it is stamped again and the druggist can look at the stamp probably put on it the day before.

MR. NEARY: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The minister is nodding no, but that is so. That can happen and it is happening. And what is happening, Mr. Chairman, is that you are getting a lot of people who have an over-supply of pills on hand. And I would say, as a result of this, Sir, that the number of people who are victims of overdoses is occurring in this Province.

MR. HICKEY: How did the member find out about this?

MR. NEARY: How did I find out about it, Sir? I found out about it when I was Minister of Social Services.

MR. HICKEY: I was just going to say.

MR. NEARY: And I tried to take steps to correct it.

MR. HICKEY: I was just going to say.

MR. NEARY: I had a new medical card, if the member will remember, I had a new medical card drawn up and unfortunately I did not get a chance to finish it. I did not plug all the loopholes in it.

MR. HICKEY: Do you not think that had to do with the isolated case?

MR. NEARY: No, it is not the isolated case, Sir. It is not.

MR. EVANS: - to take all the Liberal pills.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, what I am going to suggest to the minister is this, that they try to do the same thing as they did in England.

Now, and while all of this is going on, Sir, they are flogging it to MCP because the general practitioner could not care less. He is making out his bill and sending it in to MCP. But what I am going to suggest to the minister is this, that every person who is registered with MCP be given a card and you take that card to your family doctor, take it to your G.P., your family doctor and that card will remain with your family doctor until you change doctors, because everybody has a right to pick the doctor of his choice. So that if I have one of these cards and I give it to my family doctor and I go to another doctor that doctor will refuse to see me until I bring my card. Now, maybe the minister will tell us that that cannot work, but it is working in England. They are doing it in England. Or if I am away somewhere on vacation and I get suddenly ill the doctor can pick up his phone and call my family doctor and say, look, do you have a card there or are you treating so and so, and my family doctor will say yes, and then the doctor can issue me an emergency prescription. Otherwise, Sir, the general practitioner should refuse to treat that patient without the card. So, if you want to change doctors, you go back to your family doctor and you say, look, I am fed up with you, you are no good, you have not been giving me the pills I want, you have not cured me - now give me back my card, I am going to another general practitioner. So, you take that card down and the other G.P. can look at it and he knows precisely the treatment that you have been getting, say, over the past twelve months.

Now, Sir, the minister may say it is not workable. Well, they tried it in England. They had the same problem in England under Medicare that I am outlining here for the honourable the minister. This is the way that they decided that they would attempt to cope with it. It has to be done, Sir, because I met people practically every day of my life, they take up their handbag. She is loaded down with pills, not from one doctor. They get them from three or four doctors. They have got a system now. They complete the circuit. They go around from one to the other and the next thing you know they get so depressed and so fed

up and they want to opt out that they swallow the whole works in one crack.

MR. EVANS: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: No, these are not birth control pills. These are tranquilizers, Librium and Valium and it is a problem. I would like for the minister to consider using this card system, putting it into effect to try to cut down on the abuse of, not only MCP, but the abuse of drugs whether they are free or whether they have to pay for them. The general practitioner, in my opinion, Sir, is equally as guilty as the psychiatrist, maybe more so, I do not know, because he is not trained that way. He will just make out a prescription to give you a few tranquilizers, to put you up on cloud nine or to make you sleep just to get rid of you, nine chances out of ten. And it is a real, big problem, Sir, and the minister may not agree with me, may say no it is not, but I personally think it is, Sir, because I have seen it. I have been in the homes where the medicine cabinets are blocked off with pills and sometimes the pills are within reach of children and I do not think, Sir, that this is right and I would like to hear the minister's reaction to that problem.

MR. EVANS: Inaudible.

DR. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, there are two or three points that the honourable Member for Bell Island made which are worthy, I think, of a few minutes of discussion. To take first his question with regard to drugs and psychiatrists, certainly it is true that a large number of our population today are receiving tranquilizers or other types of psychiatric drugs for one reason or another. But the problem is not as simple as the honourable member would indicate. You get a person coming to you with a problem, maybe a woman coming with a financial problem, a marital problem or some other type of problem and essentially, you know,

one of the only ways that that problem can really be treated is by changing the person's environment, and it is extremely difficult and almost impossible to change the person's environment. And so to help the person, you would give them something to help them make their life bearable with regard to the problem that they have.

Now I am not sure that this is right. But I think if you have a problem and someone is trying to give you a crutch to get by with that problem until either your environment changes or your mental attitude changes, I do not see that there is any other alternative. But it is interesting that in the figures today about one in five people at some time or another need treatment for mental conditions. So that if you take the people who leave here tonight, one out of five of us.

MR. NEARY: One out of five members of the House.

DR. ROWE: Yes, one out of five members.

MR. NEARY: Eight members of the House will need -

DR. ROWE: At some time in his lifetime.

MR. NEARY: - tranquilizers.

DR. ROWE: No, but will need some form of treatment for mental condition, depression, some form of a nervous breakdown or something of that nature.

MR. BARRY: It is directly related to the length of time we spend in here.

MR. NEARY: That crowd on that side -

DR. ROWE: Pardon?

MR. NEARY: That crowd on that side -

DR. ROWE: Yes, but just the right number.

AN HON. MEMBER: - over there.

MR. BARRY: That is from listening to you.

DR. ROWE: So, it is not just that easy. The general practitioner who also is faced with people with insurmountable problems, insoluble problems, either financial or related to pregnancy or marital problems.

The stresses of society today if you have children who have gone off the rails, all these worried parents, you know, there are many reasons why people want some sort of a crutch. At the present time this is the only sort of crutch. And I think also you can say that it does have some curative effect. So whilst we can perhaps regard with some serious degree the number of people taking these, I think that really when you are faced with a problem the individual has there is little other alternative.

Now on your point about the card, I think your card is an exceptionally good idea. I accept that. The drug card works reasonably well. And I would have to take issue with you that any druggist who would see a statement that a person had one hundred librium today and tomorrow refill the prescription, I would take issue with that. But in the main, I think, yes. If we could encourage people to take a card with them, as the welfare person does now, he gets his drug card stamped, that every time you went to the doctor this card was stamped and signed by a doctor. Now you mentioned the English system whereby each doctor is responsible for a certain number of patients. They have the capitation fee. But you do not have the freedom of choice of doctors with that. But I still think if every person had a card they would still have freedom of choice and that card would indicate how many visits they had had. Because we are really concerned about the patient who two or three times a week sees a different doctor. And the abuse is not only on behalf of the doctor. The abuse is also on behalf of the patient. I can see it as being somewhat administratively difficult, because you would be quite surprised now how often the person who comes in does not bring their MCP card. If they do not carry their MCP it is difficult to say that they will carry any other type of card. But I would agree with it. I will talk to the officials if it is administratively possible. I think it is an excellent idea because it immediately gives the doctor a record of how many times this

patient has been seen and some idea what goes on which they do not have at the present time.

I will come back to your other point about the general state of the health. And as I mentioned in my opening statement, with the infant today with just five visits to a doctor immunizes them against seven diseases. So you are immunized against diphtheria, lockjaw, measles, German measles, mumps, polio, whooping cough and so on, about seven. I mean this has made a tremendous difference.

Now last year, as I mentioned, we had a few cases of diphtheria and this was simply because -

AN HON. MEMBER: There is one now.

DR. ROWE: I have not heard too much about it.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

DR. ROWE: If he has had his shots he should not really.

But what I was going to say was that the number of a few cases of diphtheria last year was a great warning to us that we have to be very vigilant in our programmes of immunization.

I was interested, too, in your remarks about certain members have taken off weight. I admire this organization you call, TOPS, Take Off Pounds Sensibly. This is a very excellent idea, and you commend those members of the House also who employ their time jogging, cycling, walking and all of these things help. Because if you look at the figures of the causes of death across Canada, and Newfoundland is pretty much the same, at the top of the list is heart disease.

list heart disease accounts for thirty-one per cent of all deaths. Strokes account for another ten per cent. Respiratory diseases, ten per cent. Motor vehicle accidents, 7.6. of all deaths in Canada each year, about that number are caused by motor vehicle accidents.

Then you get into the question of compulsory seat belts and the fact that it has been proven beyond all doubt in Australia and other countries that this does save lives. Yet, every year seven to eight per cent of Canadians, most of them young, the very younger age groups, die as a result of motor traffic accidents.

Cancer of the various systems, the gastrointestinal tract, cancer of the breast and these things account for another five per cent. Another interesting figure is the increase in suicides. We are now up to something like two per cent. I think that is probably not a very true figure. The figures are probably very much higher because an awful lot of death certificates do not indicate that the cause was suicide.

MR. NEARY: How about the number of deaths.

DR. ROWE: Well, I have not got the figures but they are considerably high and this is where the overdosage thing comes into effect. But suicides are climbing, and we have not got the right figures. I have had several discussions.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

DR. ROWE: Pardon me?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

DR. ROWE: Oh, well say, ten, fifteen, twenty years ago. The figures are increasing whether it is through distress. And interesting enough one of the highest groups to commit suicide are university students, where the stresses of university life presumably has something to do with it, and there may be some drug associations.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: I was wondering why I got out of there.

DR. ROWE: But all in all, and I think you should read the very excellent book that I recommend to all members of the House of Assembly or anybody else, Mr. Lalonde's new perspective on the healthy things which can be

gotten free. You can get this free from the Canada information office wherever you get publication.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: What is it? What is it?

DR. ROWE: It is called "A New Prospective On The Health OF Canadians". This is a very excellent publication which covers a lot of facts about the health of Canadians in general in some detail. It is well worth the time.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: We are in pretty bad shape.

DR. ROWE: Well, we are not in too bad shape at all. People are living longer. In there it will give you the figures of when you are born today a woman can expect to live seventy odd years, a man to the late sixties, no, the figures are -

MR. PECKFORD: A woman has a longer life expectancy.

DR. ROWE: Right, yes.

So, I think that about covers the questions, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall 1001-01 carry?

MR. CARTER: Before 1001-01 carries, I have a couple of points that ought to be made. On the matter of diets I would like to ask the Member for Bell Island if he would like to lose fifteen pounds of unsightly fat. He could try cutting off his head. However, that is not meant seriously, Mr. Chairman, so I withdraw it.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. CARTER: 500 years ago a very avant-garde formula for medicine would probably read like this, eye of newt and toe of frog, wool of bat and tongue of dog, adder's fork and blind worm's sting, lizard's leg and owlet's wing. Fortunately we have advanced beyond that now. I do not know what pharmacological use an owlet's wing would do. I do not know what disease it would relieve or what condition it would cure. However, I would suggest that our reasoning and our level of our debate is probably back at about that period. We seem to be satisfied with making small debating points without grappling with what I think are the very important issues of the day.

Now, probably only two departments of government contain great moral issues or moral dilemmas, and those would be the Department of Education and the Department of Health. Now, I am not suggesting that the

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Department of Tourism is immoral or even amoral. I am merely suggesting that it does not contain the great moral dilemmas that we have to face. Fortunately or otherwise the previous government passed over to the churches the moral dilemmas in education. Since this is the Department of Health estimates we do not need to go into them.

But, I would like to ask the minister before his salary is passed if he would comment on some of the very troublesome points that bother society today. I would say that two of the most vexatious points are that of abortion and the cessation or the unnecessary prolongation of life, two very, very difficult aspects of modern life and two very difficult and aggravating concepts that we have to face and have to struggle with.

Otherwise I must say I commend the Department of Health for the excellent job that it is doing. It is possible today within an hour of receiving a serious injury to be receiving competent medical attention in most parts of Newfoundland. And certainly I do know that if one is seriously injured in any part of Newfoundland, no matter how inaccessible, government or the Department of Health will do everything in its power to bring relief and bring that patient into some hospital or some place where some relief can be given and active treatment commenced. So it is with compliments and also questions that I ask the minister to comment upon.

DR. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, these are two subject about which there could be a great deal of philosophizing. And if I take the first question first on the subject of abortion - I am not an abortionist, the idea of abortion is abhorrent to me. But there is a Criminal Code of Canada which indicates that accredited hospitals, these hospitals which are accredited by the Canadian Council on Accreditation can establish abortion committees. And within these abortion committees the female who is pregnant and who has reason to consider abortion can approach the committee, and her case can be studied and a decision made. And this is in accordance with the Criminal Code of Canada. And I would say that beyond this I am not getting into the debate regarding the desirability or otherwise for more liberalized abortion laws. I would however go on record as saying that I am in favour of a great deal more of family planning, family planning information. I do not think that abortion should in anyway be considered as a means of family planning. And I think that the Criminal Code of Canada as it applies to us covers adequately the situation at the present time. I would like to add to this the fact that our records show that Newfoundland has the lowest rate of abortion of any province in Canada.

Now on the second question of prolongation of life, this again is a question of philosophizing. And I mentioned earlier this afternoon the tremendous advance there is with kidney disease now that we are doing renal dialysis which enables a person to be kept alive for long periods of time by changing his blood once or twice a week, and that there are

many people having this done who are in productive operations, and I think this is an example where it is most desirable and essential that we prolong life as far as possible in conditions such as that.

Now there are other types of illnesses where a person may be considered a complete vegetable, a person with no apparent future but who knows if you were to consider something like euthanasia that tomorrow there may not be a cure found for that particular type of person. So I think on a question of philosophy I would have to say that it is the medical practitioners teaching, it is the medical practitioners duty to endeavour to prolong life, and the question of any other aspect of it we leave to the philosophers.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, a quick word or two before this head passes. I would like to also reiterate what the Member for St. John's North said so far as commending the minister is concerned. I must say in the short time that I have been involved in elective politics that I have had complete co-operation from him and from his staff in all matters that I have gone to him and his staff on. And I just want to say that publicly.

And particularly I want to single out the air ambulance service as it applies to the South Coast, and particularly my district. It was in many respects an experiment when it was first implemented, Nobody could foresee the kinds of problems you get into, I am sure. After a year or so I would just like to say that my assessment is that it is working extremely well. It is a much needed service. And one of the reasons it is working so well is because I believe the staff that the minister has assigned to it is making a pretty determined effort to see that it is available for the purpose for which it was originally intended. And you know that is tremendous. And it is providing a very real service. I can think of examples, one in the past two or

three weeks as a matter of fact affecting one of the more remote communities in my constituency. Well, I could dwell on that but the message, I believe, is clear that the air ambulance is serving a very real need. I would like to say that the minister and I would like for him to pass on my sentiments to the people who are directly involved in it. I had the occasion on Sunday of this week, Mr. Chairman, to visit the Orange Lodge down near the General Hospital. It is not a government institution, of course, but perhaps it is the time to salute the efforts of that particular institution. It is an amazing example of what can be done when a private group, a large group mind you, the Orange Lodge Group of Newfoundland but the Orange Societies, nevertheless, it is an amazing example of what a large, what a private group can do when it sets its mind to something and the service that is being performed there to cancer patients must be second to none in this particular Province. It is a spotless institution. I have never been inside the doors before Sunday but I was really amazed at the facilities available there for cancer patients who come in and the obvious excellent way in which they are being looked after. As I say, it does not particularly apply to the minister's department although I am sure there must be co-operation between the two institutions, the department on one hand and the Lodge on the other.

A point I would just like to raise very briefly with the minister is a matter that again is not specifically the responsibility of this department but I believe it might be something that, it is certainly something he would have views on having been a practitioner himself and it is something that I would appreciate his considering taking some initiatives on if it is within his purview. I am not at all sure it is. I am thirty-five years old. I do not think I ever had a medical in my life. I never said I never went to a doctor to get one. I have gone many times and I have had lots of bits of paper saying that I am in fine shape and all that kind of thing. But I repeat, I have never had a medical in my life. I would say that most people in this room have never had a medical in their lives.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SIMMONS: No, I am just - yes, I do. I am just - with that yes, I

am coming to that one. I see what you mean.

DR. ROWE: (Inaudible) an adequate medical.

MR. SIMMONS: Exactly. Exactly. And the minister brings up the - do you want to pursue the question?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SIMMONS: Yes, sure.

MR. EVANS: Inaudible.

DR. ROWE: (First part inaudible) presumably that you have life insurance and you must have had a life insurance examination. This is supposed to be a very sophisticated type of complete medical I would be interested in hearing how you got on on that.

MR. SIMMONS: Yes, I was coming to that. I was about to say as the minister interjected that the closest I ever came to getting a complete medical was for the purposes of qualifying for insurance coverage. Even then -

MR. EVANS: Get on open line.

MR. SIMMONS: Even then I feel that somehow the doctor thought he was doing me a favour by not giving me a once-over. You walk in and I need a medical to get a job or I need a medical to get some insurance. Do not worry about it, boy, and he fills in so many forms and so on and so forth and you are out of there in a few minutes. I have talked to others about it and I think it is fairly general that somehow there is this attitude among practitioners, private general practitioners that they are doing you a favour by not giving you the once-over, by not giving you a thorough medical examination. I repeat, it is my opinion that it is fairly general across this Province and it may be general elsewhere, I do not know, but it is difficult for the average Joe to establish whether he is indeed in good health because if he goes for a medical it tends to be a fairly superficial affair and we can all tell cases of fellows who were supposed to have had complete medicals and a short time thereafter were seriously ill and very often with ailments that should normally have

been diagnosed a week previous or the two weeks previous. Now, you know my comments can be taken as generalizing too much because there are examples, obviously, where a fellow has got a very serious ailment that no amount of diagnosing at a particular point in time could have detected. I am aware of that too but I do not want to get into the - I am not a medical man at all and I am sure the minister recognizes that. I am not wanting to get into areas of expertise insofar as diagnosing illnesses is concerned but what I am saying and I just repeat it one more time is that I am a bit concerned about this apparent ease with which you can get a doctor to certify you are in fine shape whether or not you are at the given time. That is my impression. It is an impression that is shared by other people. I hope I am wrong. If I am right I hope there is something the minister can do or suggest that would help to correct the situation. Would he care to comment?

DR. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, I thank the honourable member for his kind comments. I would like to point out a point he brings up about the Orange Lodge which I would really like to go on record because he has mentioned an area where they can set a great example to government because they are running an institution there, the Cancer Hospital which he is referring to, and running it at a cost which is much less than government is able to do a similar thing. I have been down there. I have been through it. I have discussed it with officials of the Orange Lodge. I have been very, very impressed indeed with their operation and I have indicated to them that they must have ideas and methods or advantages which are unknown to government. In fact, I have gone so far as we have had several discussions within the department of one or two of their high officials and we have sort of been through their budget and their methods of management. But I would pay a tribute and I think it is a good point that has been brought up, that they are running a very excellent institution and I think there is a suggestion that they might get more involved in similar types of institutions for which I would be very pleased.

Now, on the question of medical examinations, there are two or three schools of thought on this. There are some people who say that the annual medical checkup is really not of any great importance. I

think a classic example was one of the recent Presidents of the United States was taken into the very superior hospital near Washington and given a complete physical. The next day he collapsed with a coronary which was not at all evident the day before. So, there are schools of thought which say that the annual checkup is perhaps not as important as you would like to think it is. But one of the basic things, I would be very surprised if any doctor would sign his name giving a certificate of good health unless he himself was certain that he had covered the, say, the points of examination that indicated that he was putting his name on the line. If anything was found which would have been apparent at that time, it does not go too well with his reputation. So, I am surprised that a doctor would give out a certificate of good health without doing a necessary examination. But I would suggest to the honourable member that it is possible to arrange to have a complete medical and if he is not able to arrange it I can arrange it for him. I think if you are thirty-five and you are worried, certainly -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

DR. ROWE: Pardon?

MR. NEARY: The Rowe Well Clinic?

DR. ROWE: No, not the Rowe Well Clinic. You would have to pay his transportation out there, you see. There is no cut in that for me. But I think one of the important things, the pre-school examination. Now we have the school medical health officer, Dr. Clair Neville-Smith. We have recruited a doctor for Corner Brook who is starting very soon. We have another person being recruited for Grand Falls. So, as more and more pre-schoolers, and really they should be examined by their family practitioner before they go to school, but if these pre-schoolers have an initial basically sound complete examination and you have got a base line from there to work on, I guess will omen good for their future annual checkups. I think that the appointment of two more school medical health officers is going to be quite an upgrading in that particular direction. So, I would think that this is a step forward.

Another thing that is happening in the near future through the

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offices of Memorial University Medical School and they came to us and indicated they would like to do a pilot study on this health survey that you mentioned, annual checkup and so we have agreed down in the Department of Health to set the example that the people of Memorial University will come to this Building and do medicals on anybody in the Department of Health who agrees to go and have the medical done. If this private project works out we will extend it to the whole of Confederation Building, whoever would wish to have an examination and that is a fair advance as well.

On motion (1001-01) through (1005-02-02), carried.

MR. SIMMONS: (1005-02-03) Sir, just a question for the minister on (05-02-03) the doctors residences, what is the policy or the practice now insofar as those residences are concerned, are they really subsidized, do they constitute subsidized housing or is the department requiring the fair market rental for these particular properties? That is question one. And I guess the next is really a comment, in a case where a residence is erected, a medical doctor's residence, I understand that there are cases where the department is kind of left holding the bag in a sense in that the doctor makes quite a case for suitable housing, has the residence constructed and then within a reasonably short period of time decides he is going to built his own private home and the department is left with usually an empty residence, Is there any obligation on the doctor in a case like that or is there any terms in the agreement which would require the doctor to occupy the residence for a period? It is a difficult one to administer, I am sure, but I can see that very often, I do not know about often but I know of a case where -

DR. ROWE: Inaudible.

MR. SIMMONS: Yes, yes, okay, or perhaps the minister might want to comment on that but my first question stands insofar as whether the rentals are subsidized or not.

DR. ROWE: The rent was subsidized but to a lesser degree all the time, and I do not have the figures in my head now, but I think a year or two ago doctors were paying say \$100 a month and last year it went up to \$125 and now maybe it is gone to \$150. So the subsidy is being reduced all the time. At one time government paid the whole amount of the rental cost but now the doctors are paying more and more towards the cost.

But the one you bring up is an interesting point. We built a new house with a clinic attached and this cost a considerable amount of money, something in the area of \$80,000 to build, I have forgotten what the rent is being charged but the doctor felt that he could obtain cheaper rent in the community. But it is amazing we could never find a house there before that was suitable but as soon as we get his rather sophisticated place built he has found a place which he can rent cheaper and, if he can

find accommodation which is cheaper, we are not going to insist that he stays within our premises but what we will have to do, and this is the first time this has happened, what he will have to do is make some arrangement whereby it is occupied either by a Public Health nurse or somebody within the Health or perhaps one of the other government departments.

MR. SIMMONS: It is available for someone else then, or it will be.

DR. ROWE: I would like to say hopefully someone else within the government service.

MR. SIMMONS: Yes. Yes.

DR. ROWE: And we would have to do something to separate the clinic from the house, at the moment they are sort of combined. We would have to make some changes but we obviously cannot let a house like this remain empty and vacant. It is a good point.

On motion (1005-02-03), carried.

On motion (1005-02-04) through (1006-04-02), carried.

MR. SIMMONS: (1006-04-03) Sir, just explain what is involved in aircraft charter here?

MR. SIMMONS: 04-03.

MR. ROWE: Yes, Under this subdivision the vote of \$160,000 is shown which provides the necessary funds for the contracting of a Turbo-Beaver at North West River. Its contract is with Labrador Airways Limited. And the portion of this contract applicable to Indians and Eskimoes is paid directly to Labrador Airways by the Department of National Health and Welfare under an existing agreement between the two governments. This vote also provides funds for the charter of aircraft when government aircraft are unavailable. The services of Newfoundland and Labrador Air Transport, Deer Lake; Gander Aviation, Gander; and Universal Helicopters are often utilized for the airlifting of patients to regional hospitals from isolated areas of the Province. So essentially the first line that I have read out this provides the necessary funds for the contracting mainly of the Turbo-Beaver at North West River which is used to bring patients or to take medical doctors out to the nursing stations and when necessary to bring patients in, and back and forth.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall 03 carry?

On motion 03 carried.

On motion 04 through 1007-06-05 carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall 06 carry?

MR. GILLETT: Mr. Chairman -

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Twillingate.

MR. GILLETT: I was just wondering under this grant for the Memorial University School of Medicine, Mr. Chairman, and I am wondering whether or not the minister has given any consideration to this School of Medicine doing a survey in industry such as we talked about this afternoon. For instance, doing a medical examination in any industry where it might be suspected that asbestosis or silicosis or some sort of a disease could be prevalent among the employees. I am thinking of some of the surveys similar to those carried out in the United States in industry for instance where they carry it out even for a cholesterol count. I am wondering if this would come under the administration and the jurisdiction of the School of Medicine of the University rather than the medical officer of the department?

DR. ROWE: No. Mr. Chairman, I think there are two points, one is that my colleague this afternoon, the Minister of Mines, went into this question of industrial health rather thoroughly, and I said quite a bit about it. But when we looked at the appointment of an industrial health officer, we have spoken - we have had liaison with the University that this person would be part-time at the University from the point of view of teaching. And I can see that the idea that you proposed is one that could well be developed, that with the research facilities that are present at the University School of Medicine it may well be possible that they could take part in a number of the industrial surveys. I will be happy to discuss that with the Dean of the Medical School. That is a very good point.

MR. GILLET: Mr. Chairman, in addition to that it is a good way to ascertain other various ills and ailments and as we have talked about this evening the condition of Newfoundlanders per se by making these surveys in an industrial centre. I would recommend it to the Department.

DR. ROWE: I thank the member. And I will see that I will have discussions with them - or that discussions will go on with the University in this regard.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall 05 carry?

On motion 05 carried.

On motion 06 carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall 07 carry?

MR. SIMMONS: Under 07 - Medical Students. The original estimate for last year, that is 06-07 Medical Students. The original estimate for last year -

AN HON. MEMBER: 07-07

MR. SIMMONS: Yes 07-06-07.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SIMMONS:

The original estimate for last year was \$100,000 in this one here. The revised shows \$45,000, and the estimate for this year is down to \$10,000. Does this suggest some change in programme or -

DR. ROWE: If you remember in 1973 we cut out the programme of assisting medical students except for those who were already under the scheme. This was entirely with regard to the number of bursary students who did not fulfill their obligation. Each year when the estimates came on the previous administration have had this problem. We have had the problem. The number of doctors who are educated at the expense of the Province and who on completion of their education fail to give their return in service. All at the moment we can expect to get is the money back in. They is not what we want. We want doctors to go out and work in the rural areas. The \$45,000 last year indicated the amount they were giving the grants to, and I think some eighteen of those qualify this year and we only have, I think, it is fifteen left altogether. These are people who were on the scheme at the time we cut it out in September of 1973.

I would like any member of this House to give me ideas as to how we can effect or get these people to accept some degree of moral responsibility or live up to their moral obligation. My colleagues previously who have been Ministers of Health, and the Leader of the Opposition himself was Minister of Health, have all had this - it is a problem, I suppose, of a lack of moral responsibility as much as anything else because you cannot force a person, you cannot by law force the person to go to work in St. Alban's or Belleoram or Port Saunders or Fogo. You can just ask and hope that they, you know, will meet it.

I must say perhaps the majority of the graduates have fulfilled their obligation, but we had four last year. I am expecting there will be at least that number again this year who will not fulfill their obligation.

On motion head 07 to 04-01 carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall 02 carry?

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, before we pass over 02, the equipment allowance, perhaps it is the appropriate head under which I might refer to the need for a clinic at Harbour Breton. The minister and

I have discussed this matter, so I will not take any time to go into detail. One of the problems - not the only one - but one of the ones that can come under this heading is the need for a properly equipped facility. There are dentists, including those in Grand Falls, who would be quite willing to go in there on an itinerant basis until such time as we could find a resident dentist prepared to do so if there were properly equipped clinics. I understand that the dental clinic which is part of the larger clinic at Bay D'Espoir will shortly be equipped with equipment provided through government funding, and that the equipment in the old building at St. Alban's will no longer be needed.

It is my impression that that equipment is privately owned, or does the minister - it is privately owned, is it? I see.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SIMMONS: The people who go in there own the equipment. Is that correct? The people who go in there, the dentist, he owns the equipment himself, ah?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: That is right.

MR. SIMMONS: Yes. In any event, could the minister indicate if there are any plans to provide a clinic at Harbour Breton in this fiscal year?

DR. ROWE: We are talking about Harbour Breton?

MR. SIMMONS: Harbour Breton, yes.

DR. ROWE: Well, the priorities that I am working on at the moment are Bonavista, Harbour Breton, Burgeo and Fogo. These are the - we have a fair number of applicants of dentists now from the United Kingdom whom we hope to interview very shortly. These are the four immediate priorities.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

DR. ROWE: Pardon?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

DR. ROWE: Probably.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: The clinic at Harbour Main.

DR. ROWE: Yes, I expect so.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

DR. ROWE: My own secretary is not pregnant.

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AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: ... at Clarendville.

DR. ROWE: So, that the four immediate priorities are - I think for Bonavista we have now pretty well clinched a doctor and wife team, a doctor coming down to Bonavista whose wife is a dentist. We hope they will be established in July. And, we have Harbour Breton, Burgeo and Fogo. They are three other places that we are very anxious to get them. We have another dentist for the mobile dental clinic. We have just placed the last one up in Trepassey. So, we hope that these four slots at least will be filled this year.

MR. SIMMONS: Would the minister

pursue the mobile dental clinic. It was probably done during my absence in the past couple of days. But what is the plan for it in terms of the areas of the Province it will cover and so on?

DR. ROWE: The plan at the moment is that it will be staffed by a dentist and a dental assistant and a maintenance person. It is due to come down from Toronto. It is ready to be driven down somewhere about the end of April. Our immediate plan for this summer is to place it in the area between Port aux Basques and Stephenville, where there is a paucity of dental services, start it on the West Coast. Hopefully in the Fall we will use it either on the Northwest Coast or on the Southwest Coast, one of these. It is due to start operation not later than June.

On motion 02 through to 1011-04.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall 1012-01 carry?

DR. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, this heading concerns the amount of money, and this is to establish six new posts for public health inspectors within the Province. We are adding six new public health inspectors and that accounts for it.

On motion 1012-01 through to 1015-07-03 carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall 04 carry?

MR. GILLETT: As a matter of interest, I wonder if the minister could give the committee an idea as to how much the Notre Dame Bay Memorial Hospital is eventually going to cost? What the final and eventual costs will be? I know it must have escalated tremendously from the initial estimate.

DR. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, at the moment it is \$7.9 million.

MR. GILLETT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is much below what I heard it might reach. It is really encouraging.

On motion 1015-07-04 through to 1015-07-06.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall 07 carry?

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, there are a couple of points that I would like to raise here. One, I am in a bit of dilemma where to raise it. I wanted to raise it under the heading of construction except

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since the hospital I want to talk about is not listed, it is difficult to know whether I can do so, but I will try. I am talking about the need for an extension at Harbour Breton. The minister has received

some representation, oh just over a year ago now, in the Fall of 1973, about the need for additional facilities, namely a children's ward -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SIMMONS: All right, well, I will raise it there. The other matter I want to raise relates to the Central Newfoundland Hospital. The figure here now of \$400,000, is the minister going to amend this to up the amount because I understand from announcements the Premier has made that new decisions have apparently been taken since the budget was brought down in March? Does the minister want to indicate what the new amount is going to be for this subhead, Central Newfoundland Hospital?

DR. ROWE: We cannot really put in the amendment figure now, Mr. Chairman. As you know, a little while ago, I had the figure that this was going to cost \$36 million. As a result of meetings with the honourable the Premier and the Central Newfoundland Hospital Board the figure they were given was that they would have to operate their expansion within \$20 million phased in over a period of a few years, and that the point this year, we are providing money to finish planning also to redirect or relocate the sewer system through the hospital area and this is tied up with Municipal Affairs and Housing because a part of it is going on to the Grand Falls Town Council's specific area. So, I cannot give you an amended figure but I would suggest to you that the construction, the \$20 million, will be undertaken when we have done this final planning and relocation of the sewer lines and some site work which with the input of Municipal Affairs and Housing will be about \$2 million.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

DR. ROWE: Yes, so there will be an adjustment. Much of that will come - some of that will come out of the budget of Municipal Affairs and Housing but I cannot tell you exactly how much.

On motion, 07 through 13 carried.

On motion, 1015-08, and 1015-09 carried.

On motion, 1016-01 and 04 carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall 1017-01 carry?

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to raise the matter of the Harbour Breton Hospital. I was making the point earlier that the minister has received some representation back in the Fall of 1973 about the need for additional facilities at Harbour Breton, particularly children's ward, maternity ward and laboratory. As the minister knows, I believe, from having visited the facility, the staff at Harbour Breton, Doctor Hastings and his staff are operating under pretty cramped conditions. They serve essentially a population of 7,000 or 8,000 people on the West side of Fortune Bay on the Connaigre Peninsula and I believe a good case can be made and indeed has been made to the minister for an extension of facilities. I am very disappointed that I do not see in the votes anything that might provide for that extension and I am wondering if the minister will comment on it?

DR. ROWE: If you take the subhead 1017-09-02 you will see construction and alterations capital for cottage hospital and this vote which is there shows \$665,300 is to make some constructions and alterations in certain cottage hospitals around the Province. I am aware of the

request that we have had from the Harbour Breton area. I am aware of the need for some isolation facility for pediatrics to segregate the infants from the adults, which is one of their major problems. I am aware of the fact that one of the indications was to put a very small extension on to the pediatric upstairs and a dental clinic downstairs, and this is the theory we have been working on, and I am not sure when it can be done but that is what is in the pipeline that we sort of considered. They also had an unused building at the side of the hospital which we thought we could use to enable them to have a slightly enlarged out-patient clinic if we put the dental suite within the hospital. So it is being looked at. If the member would like to get in touch with me he can come down to the office, I will get him the people who can give me the actual detail on it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall 1017-01 carry?

On motion 1017-01 carried.

On motion 02-01 through 1018-03 carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall I report Head X without amendment?

On motion Head X passed without amendment.

Head 1X - REHABILITATION AND RECREATION

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable the Minister of Rehabilitation and Recreation.

HON. T. DOYLE (MINISTER OF REHABILITATION AND RECREATION): Mr. Chairman, I am pleasantly surprised to have this opportunity to get into my estimates tonight. I just have a few opening remarks to make, and then I will be open to any questions which honourable members may wish to ask. I would like to say at this time, Mr. Chairman, that the amalgamation of the two complementary services of Rehabilitation and Recreation is a feat which is being watched very closely by some of the other provinces in Canada as it is felt that we are blazing new ground in this combination of these two services which really in their indepth and interpretation can be described as looking after people of all ages.

More specifically, Mr. Chairman, I would like to just highlight a few points in the estimates. I am pleased to announce at this time that effective the 1st. of April we are giving an increase in the amount of assistance paid to people who run boarding houses on our behalf or homes

for ex-psychiatric patients. The increases in the case of ambulatory patients are from \$180 to \$240, or \$60 a month increase, and in the case of bedridden patients the increase is also \$60 per month going from \$240 to \$300 per month. At the present time we are involved with four Inter-faith homes for senior citizens which are under construction. These are in Grand Bank, with a capacity of eighty-five beds expected to be in operation in another month or two; in Lewisporte, seventy-five beds, this is the inter-faith home, expected to commence this Fall; St. Anthony, fifty-five beds expected to open late this Fall, and Stephenville Crossing, eighty-five beds, completion date not yet decided.

In the case of our childrens' homes at Exon House and Water Street West I am pleased to report that there is a fair amount of capital expenditures being involved this year particularly for Exon House where at long last we have funds to build a new gymnasium, which is long overdue at Exon House, I am sure all members will agree,

for the completion of an elevator, construction of a fire escape and some other assorted smaller items. In the case of our training schools, members will be interested to learn, I am sure, that we are very seriously and very actively pursuing a form of co-education in our training schools starting this September. This is something that has been tried in a few other Provinces and found to be most successful and we think it is worth the effort to try it here.

Under our recreation and sports services division there are several new programmes available starting in this year and I would like to refer here to an item which will be a first if we can manage to carry it off and that is that we have applied to send a contingent of some 200 athletes from Labrador to the Arctic Winter Games. These games, Mr. Chairman, are for athletes in Alaska, the Yukon, Northwest Territories, Northern Quebec and Labrador and heretofore this Province has never been involved because the distance has been too far, they have been held in places such as Alaska and the Yukon. Next March, however, the games will be held in Schefferville, Quebec and we have applied to the Games Committee for permission to enter a team of up to 200 athletes, all of whom will be from Labrador.

At the same time, Mr. Chairman, the Newfoundland Summer Games for next year will be held, being hosted jointly by Stephenville and Corner Brook. The interest in our own games, which started some four years ago and are held on off years from the Canada Games, is mounting and I feel that next year's provincial games, in particular, will create more interest than normal because of the training which is now being undergone and will be for the next couple of years in preparation for the Canada Summer Games in St. John's in 1977. In this connection, Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to advise the House at this time that the government has committed an amount of \$5.25 million to the 1977 Canada Summer Games to be held in St. John's. In the estimates of my department for the current year, there is an amount of \$2,325,000 showing and it is proposed that the balance, the difference between that and the total of \$5.25 million will be in the estimates of my department for next fiscal year.

In addition, Mr. Chairman, there is obviously a tremendous amount of preparation of athletes which has to be done if Newfoundlanders as the hosts in the case of the 1977 Games are to put our best foot forward. The interest among the various, the forty-seven different sports governing bodies in the Province, particularly the sixteen or seventeen which will be participating in the Games, is mounting daily and I am pleased to advise at this time that we expect this year to be in a position to financially assist some six or seven sports governing bodies with technical direction. A programme, Mr. Chairman, which has received a tremendous amount of success in the last two years is our Community Sports Facilities Capital Programme. In last year, my department spent an amount of \$1,875,000 for various and sundry recreational facilities all throughout the Province and this year I am pleased to say that we have an amount of \$2,500,000 to spend on similar projects. I feel, Mr. Chairman, that this is probably one of the most successful programmes of its type ever instituted in the Province because at last count we are assisting in one way or another 432 communities throughout Newfoundland and Labrador in the construction of just about any type of recreational facility from stadiums to soccer pitches to playgrounds.

I have just recently, Mr. Chairman, as the committee will know, announced our new stadium policy and at the same time I announced that for the present fiscal year there is a moratorium on further stadium grants during which time we expect to hire a new staff person to be known as a recreation consultant engineer, the main purpose of which is that, hopefully, by this Fall or next Winter we will be able to give communities sets of standardized plans for various recreation facilities. In other words, if a community comes in next year and says, we would like a grant to build a stadium, and if it is agreed to give them the grant we will then give them the choice of two or three or four different sets of standardized plans thus avoiding the necessity for the community involved to get involved with extra funds for planning purposes when really, when you boil it down, a stadium is a stadium, and if money can be saved that way it should be done so.

Before sitting down, Mr. Chairman, I would like to refer to three very major, in my way of thinking and in the way of thinking of the government, programmes or studies leading to programmes which we are currently involved in. I mentioned briefly one of them here in the House the other day in answer to a question from the Hon. Member for Twillingate and that is that for about a year we have had a very active committee studying on a provincial basis the need for beds for senior citizens. It has come to our attention very forcibly in recent months that the need now is for more and more beds for extended care patients and less beds for ambulatory patients. This study, I am glad to say, has already been discussed at the cabinet level by the Social Policy Committee of cabinet on several occasions and hopefully I will be in a position to bring a final report before government in about a month. A newer committee we just started recently is to study the delivery of comprehensive services to the mentally handicapped in the Province. In recent months, not recent months, in recent years, really, there has been a trend

establishing throughout the Western World that we know of towards a system of group homes for mentally handicapped. Mr. Chairman, nobody is saying for one moment that group homes are the answer to people who are mentally handicapped. But what we believe and what we have set up this committee to study is that some combination of a group home system and limited use of institutions may be the answer. Obviously there will be certain cases who would not be able to be cared for in a group home and an institution will be the answer and will continue to be the answer for them.

When I was out West in February, I took three days, a day each in Lethbridge, Calgary and Winnipeg to talk to government and private organizations involved in the care of mentally handicapped people, and I was really amazed at what is being done right here in Canada. In addition to that information we have firsthand information from several of the states, and we are getting some from Europe. So it would seem, Mr. Chairman, that one hundred per cent institutions is not the answer for most of the trainable mentally handicapped. And I am

hopeful therefore that in several months we will be in a position to announce new directions in this regard.

The third programme, Mr. Chairman, is a study which was commissioned by my colleague, the honourable Minister of Health, last Summer, and it was undertaken by a committee of senior civil servants from various departments involved and also by outside agencies interested in the problem of the rehabilitation of Newfoundlanders suffering from alcohol and other drug abuses. The report which was submitted a month or so ago, Mr. Chairman, was passed on to my department for any deemed action.

I should say at this point in time, just for emphasis purposes, that unfortunately the Province of Newfoundland is the only Province that I am aware of that does not have nor ever did have any direct policies or directions in this regard. We have been involved in ad hoc grants to agencies such as the Salvation Army and the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Foundation who are obviously very much interested in this problem and very deeply involved in it. But, we have never had any hard and fast government policy. I am hopeful, as the result of this study which is now being looked at very closely by my department and others and we are having discussions with the federal government at Ottawa to see at what level and to what extent they might become financially involved, I am hopeful that by early Fall we will be in a position to announce for the first time that the Province does have from that date on positive policies and direction in this very important field.

That is all I have to say in a general way, Mr. Chairman. I would be glad to answer any questions that might be asked or attempt to.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member for Bell Island.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, first of all I want to deal with the last item mentioned by the Minister of Rehabilitation and Recreation that has to do with the Alcohol and Drug Foundation, Sir. The grant to that organization by the minister's department, I think, is in the vicinity of, I think, it is \$40,000, is it.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: \$45,000.

MR. NEARY: \$45,000 a year. \$45,000 last year. \$45,000 this year, Sir. And, I must say it is going to come, Sir, as a great disappointment to the chairman and the members of the executive of the Newfoundland Alcohol and Drug Foundation to discover that there is no increase in their annual grant this year despite the fact, Mr. Chairman, that they have had a number of meetings with the honourable minister, and I would not be a bit surprised but they had met with the honourable the Premier, and were given every encouragement and every assurance that every consideration would be given to their request to have this grant increased. It is going to come, Sir, as a great shock and a great disappointment and it is going to severely restrict and handicap the work that this great organization will be able to undertake this year in what the Minister of Health admitted this afternoon in this committee is one of the biggest problems that we have in society today, in our Newfoundland society today, the problem of alcoholism.

All the minister is able to say tonight to the Committee is that a committee of officials of various government departments have been looking at this matter and have submitted a report and they hope to take some action on the report in the Fall of the year. In my opinion, Sir, that is not good enough. These people were expecting this year to get a substantial increase in their grant so that they may expand the services to help the alcoholics and the people who are affected by drugs in this Province. They put together, Sir, over the last few months a very comprehensive brief that has been submitted to the minister. Now the minister tells us tonight that their brief has been completely ignored.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: No, I did not.

MR. NEARY: Well, Sir, the minister did not come out and say that but I am saying it, ignored.

The minister left the Committee with the impression that the brief was ignored, that now they are going to wait until the Fall of the year to see what they are going to do.

MR. DOYLE: I did not mention the brief.

MR. NEARY: The minister did not mention the brief but I am mentioning. The minister did not even tell us there was a brief submitted but there was a very comprehensive brief, a very well thought out brief by a group of people who have had more experience in this field than the people the minister had on his Committee. I can tell him that. Yes, Sir, that is necessarily so.

AN HON. MEMBER: They were on the Committee.

MR. NEARY: They what?

AN HON. MEMBER: They had members on the Committee.

MR. NEARY: They had members on the Committee. Sir, this is going to come as a great disappointment and, Sir, I would hope that the minister would reconsider this. In other Provinces of Canada, Sir, I think it was in Ontario recently, but I know in other Provinces of Canada they are now taking a certain percentage of the revenue on liquor and devoting it to education and to treating alcoholics and to showing people the effects of alcohol. I believe it was in Ontario recently where they decided to take ten per cent of the revenue of liquor and devote it for that purpose. In Newfoundland, if we took ten per cent of the revenue on booze and beer in this Province, Sir, tonight the minister would be standing in his place and announcing that the Newfoundland Alcohol and Drug Foundation would be getting a grant from the Provincial Government of almost \$3 million and to that I say, hear, hear. But I have nothing but strong words of condemnation for the minister for not having, and the Premier and the administration, for not having the compassion in their heart for not showing a humanitarian attitude in this whole matter of treating the alcoholic and the drug addict. \$45,000! Well, it is going to cost \$75,000 to send the Norma and Gladys to Japan. That is only the provincial share and all we get is a \$45,000 grant.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! The honourable member is getting into a debate on a particular item. I suggest he might wait for that time because if he is allowed to make the argument now he would also be able

to make the same argument later on. Of course, in any event, he can only argue for twenty-five minutes.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, at this point and I am glad Your Honour reminded me, I understand that the zero hour in five minutes to ten.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: More or less.

MR. NEARY: More or less. Well, we would like to have more. Sir, here we are discussing the poor, old Department of Rehabilitation and Recreation. I wanted the Government House Leader to call Rural Development or Transportation and Communications or one of the departments that we really wanted to get our teeth in, but the Government House Leader elected to call what you might call a non-controversial department and hoping, Mr. Chairman, hoping that the time will run out. Well, we only have another twenty-five minutes and then that is the end of it. All that happens after that is that the government will sit over there while the clerk calls item by item by item. No comment, we cannot make any comment, calling the items where we would like to cross-examine the Minister of Rural Development and the Minister of Transportation and Communications and the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture and there is no way we can do it, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! Order, please! The honourable gentleman is making a speech on a matter that is irrelevant to Head 901-01. It might be more properly reserved for the budget debate.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, the minister in his intro - I am finished now, Sir, with the Newfoundland Alcohol and Drug Foundation but it is going to come as a great disappointment, Sir - the minister in his introductory remarks made no reference at all, Sir, to one of the most important branches of his department, the

Department of Northern Labrador Affairs, absolutely no reference at all, did not tell us what plans his department had.

MR. DOYLE: I wanted to get down to it vote by vote.

MR. NEARY: Well the minister, Sir, made a few minor announcements, tossed out a few little goodies in his introductory remarks, a few little goodies that he hopes the press will pick up and report, and salt down a few more votes for the next election, Sir, made a couple of little minor announcements, little tidbits that do not amount to a row of beans.

MR. DOYLE: Please stop talking and get on with the vote.

MR. NEARY: We will get on with the vote. The minister had his say now I will have mine. It is not a -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Sir, I would sit down now if I was sure that in the next half hour the Government House Leader would call Rural Development or Transportation and Communications. If I had that assurance me and my colleagues would keep quiet, let this go through without any sweat and let us get on to Transportation and Communications or Rural Development. Can we have that assurance from the Premier?

MR. MOORES: I will check with the House Leader.

MR. NEARY: Well where is the House Leader? Get him in his seat.

MR. MOORES: I think that is a good idea.

MR. NEARY: Well I mean I am not going to yield until I find out if they will do it. Can we bring on Rural Development?

AN HON. MEMBER: What about the Recreation Vote, do you not want to hear about that?

MR. NEARY: Well, Sir, yes, there is one thing in recreation that I want to hear about, Sir, I want the minister to explain this, back in, let me see when it was, back in - the honourable (sic) Collins should be asked for an explanation of his bribery of Gander voters at the time, I am quoting from a letter here, Sir, that I am prepared to place on the table of the House -

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! The honourable member is not going to be permitted to read into the record a matter which apparently is an accusation of the most gross variety concerning a member of the House. It was more properly framed for a motion to be placed on the Order Paper or some other procedure, certainly not -

MR. NEARY: Sir, this has to do with recreation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It has to do with parliamentary and unparliamentary language at the present time, and I have to interrupt him. It cannot be read into the record in that form.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, I want to ask the Minister of Rehabilitation and Recreation if it is true that the Member for Gander authorized, gave instruction to EPA to provide transportation to and from Labrador for a scratch hockey game to be played in Labrador following the last provincial general election. I want the minister to check his records to find out who authorized this trip, if the bill was paid, on whose instructions was the bill paid?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! Order, please! A matter of this type has to be dealt with rather strictly by the Chair and this might be something which would be more properly framed for the Order Paper or some other procedure.

MR. NEARY: But we are dealing with the minister's estimates. He has to answer the questions now. You can put the questions now, you cannot put them on the Order Paper.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I believe this matter that the honourable member is dealing with has to do with something that happened two or three years ago, I believe. Certainly the last election happened two or three years ago.

MR. NEARY: Well it is still improper, if it happened it is still improper. I was asking the minister to check it out for me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If there are no objections from the -

MR. NEARY: Look I have no intention of pursuing the matter. I could put it on the Order Paper, Sir, if you want me to. But the bill was paid, Sir, and I want to know who authorized the payment of it. Who gave the instructions to send this scratch team from Gander down to play a team in Labrador and perhaps the minister will get me the information.

MR. COLLINS: (Inaudible) something to do with a NAHA team?

MR. NEARY: No, it had nothing to do, it was a scratch game.

They were told if they voted for the minister they would get a trip to Labrador to play a scratch game of hockey.

Now then, Mr. Chairman, as far as the minister's announcement about homes for the aged are concerned, Sir, three out of the four that were mentioned by the minister were on the drawing board when we got kicked out, the home for Grand Bank, the home for St. Anthony, and the home for Lewisporte were in the process. They were on the rails.

AN HON. MEMBER: They had been for ten years.

MR. NEARY: No, they had not been, Sir. As a matter of fact the one in St. Anthony was approved. The one in Lewisporte was approved. We were negotiating for the one in Grand Bank and the only new one, the only new one out of the four announced by the minister tonight is the one in Stephenville. That is the only new one that is there.

The minister mentioned

that the one big problem in Newfoundland today is not with homes for ambulatory patients but the big problem is homes for nursing care. And the minister said that they were undertaking a study of this matter. He was happy to say that this matter had now reached the cabinet stage and that they were going to undertake a study. Well, I have got a little bit of information for the minister that that study was done years ago. All the minister has to do is go down to the Department of Health, down to his own branch of homes for special care and the minister will discover that all the studies necessary on this have been done, and it has been proven beyond any doubt that the greatest need in Newfoundland, and this was determined three years ago, four years ago, that the greatest need in Newfoundland today is nursing care homes, homes for nursing care, homes for -

MR. DOYLE: The Opposition -

MR. NEARY: I beg your pardon?

MR. DOYLE: The Opposition need that nursing care, tender, loving nursing care.

MR. EVANS: (Inaudible).

MR. NEARY: Sir, there is nothing new in that. The administration have dilly-dallied. They have procrastinated. They have not done a thing about it. They have not made any plans as far as we can learn from the minister to deal with this most serious problem that we have in Newfoundland today. We have, and the Minister of Health will probably concur with me that we have a large number of people who are occupying hospital beds that should be in homes for nursing care, and we have a lot of bed-ridden people, especially old people, in private homes that should be in homes, in nursing care homes. And there is no announcement on this, none whatsoever. And as far as the co-education is concerned at the Boys and Girls Training Home that is something, Mr. Chairman, that was implemented four years ago, following a study done by a Mr. McGrath - Mr. McGrath he used to like it pronounced, Mr. McGrath, Mr. McGrath - who was an expert

in criminology, an expert in penal institutions and who was considered the top man in Canada.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. NEARY: He was.

MR. EVANS: (Inaudible).

MR. NEARY: Pardon? He was an expert, and he made a report that the minister probably still has down in his department and following the submission of that report the co-education system was implemented. There is nothing new in that.

So really, Sir, when you get down to brass tacks this whole department, Mr. Chairman, is just an off-shoot of the Department of Social Services. Once upon a time, Sir, before that great reform of restructuring, that great Tory reform of restructuring took place, rehabilitation was a part of the Department of Social Services and as far as I am concerned, Mr. Chairman, and from the remarks that we heard from the minister tonight, Sir, it may as well still be a branch of that department. Certainly, as we are coming down the last ten or fifteen minutes we have left in discussing the estimates, Sir, there certainly could be much more lively debate, much more interesting debate and much more information gotten out to the people of Newfoundland if we had just by-passed this department without discussion.

Now the other day, Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Premier announced that there is going to be a great youth conference in the Province, a great youth conference. The Premier was very -

PREMIER MOORES: Want an invitation? For me, you are over age.

was very vague and general about what form this great youth conference would take place. Another little tidbit thrown out as an election bait.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Oh, yes. No election yet.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: We should do it.

MR. NEARY: I certainly say we should do it, Sir. But, we have had youth conferences before. This may be - it could be a good thing, Mr. Chairman. It could be providing - and here is a word of advise to the honourable the Premier.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: And you stay out of it.

MR. NEARY: I have given the honourable the Premier advise before and he has paid attention to my advise on a couple of occasions, bounced the Minister of Fisheries around two or three times on my advise. Oh, yes. But, Sir, this conference could turn out to be a good thing providing that the Premier and the administration do not allow these young people who come into this conference to use it to make up a Santa Claus list, do not turn it into another conference where everybody thinks that they are going to get handouts and goodies and write a letter to Santa Claus, compile a list, put it into the government and we are going to get all of these things. If it turns out to be that -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: No, the Premier is nodding his approval because I think he agrees with me that the young people are going to have to use their imagination, use their creative minds, not come to the government with a Santa Claus list and say, here is what we want the day after tomorrow. So, enough on that, Sir.

The only other thing I want to make a comment on before I take my seat is the Summer Games, the Summer Games. The minister stated that the government will contribute five and one-quarter million dollars to the Summer Games. The minister did not indicate to the Committee whether or not the amount now has been frozen. How about, Sir - it has been frozen?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Frozen.

MR. NEARY: It is frozen. The Premier says, frozen. The minister did not say that. I am asking the minister now to tell us what happens if

the cost escalates as it did in Montreal. Will the government have to bail out the City of St. John's?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: There will be an increase.

Sir, with galloping inflation that is not beyond the realm of possibility, is it. But, one thing that concerns me about the Summer Games, Sir, and where they are building the facilities -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Where are they?

MR. NEARY: Well, as far as I know, the original plan was to put the facilities over on the campus of Memorial University. Well, I do not know. There has been no announcement that this has been changed.

MR. EVANS: We are going over to the Tickle.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Go ahead, 'Steve boy'.

MR. NEARY: Sir, we have been told, and there has been no denial, no contradiction, that the great swimming pool, the great track and field, the great stadium, will be built on the campus of the Memorial University and when the Summer Games are over the facilities would be placed at the disposal of the people of Newfoundland, the people of St. John's especially, the people of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Well, Sir, if that is so my objection to that is that once you put these facilities on the campus of the university, the university once they take control after the Summer Games are over, once they take control of these multimillion dollar facilities there is no way they will allow the ordinary person to go in and use these facilities.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: No.

MR. NEARY: No? It is not going there?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Well, Sir, I wish the minister would tell us. All the minister got up and said was there is going to be five and one-quarter million dollars, another big announcement.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Pardon?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Going to Cander, boy.

MR. NEARY: Going to be a five and a quarter million dollar grant. But, the minister did not tell us where it is going to be built, who is going to build it. Will public tenders be called? Who is going to be

responsible for calling public tenders? I have nothing against the gentleman who is chairman of the Summer Games. But, Sir, there is an appearance of conflict of interest there. What steps is the minister taking to ensure that the people who bet on these facilities will get a fair chance at it, that it will not be hogged by one party or one group of individuals? What assurance can the minister give the Committee that the taxpayers' money will be spent wisely, and no sweetheart agreements?

If the facilities are not going to be built over on the campus of the university, where are they going to be built? If the cost does escalate, who is going to provide the difference? Are we going to have a lottery? Are we going to get the Mafia in here to run off a sweep? Where will the money come from? Will the taxpayers of St. John's have to cough it up?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: These are some of the questions, Sir, that we would have expected the minister to answer in his introductory remarks.

There is not much else, Sir, I can say about this matter of rehabilitation and recreation except, Sir, that if the Premier ever decides -

MR. MOORES: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: - if the Premier ever decides that he wants to reduce the number of members in his cabinet as he promised the people of Newfoundland he would do in two general elections -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: All right I will take my seat if the minister is ready to go. If the Premier wants to reduce the number of members in the cabinet I would suggest that he take Rehabilitation and Recreation put it back where it was and then he can dispose of one minister, that would be one minister less than he would need in his cabinet. Well, I did it while I was there. No sweat. I ran two or three departments but I -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: - ran this one for three and a-half years, as a matter of fact I was the one who changed the name, and called it the Department of Social Services and Rehabilitation.

MR. EVANS: It was just as well to leave her and put her on welfare.

MR. NEARY: And so, Sir, this is one of the department's, and I agree with Wick Collins that there are a number of government departments that can be wiped out, the various branches can be shifted over to other ministers and other departments, and this is one of the departments, and that was proven tonight when the minister - when you would expect the minister to get up and give us a lively interesting introduction to his estimates. The whole thing has fallen completely flat, Sir, and I would suggest that the minister - that the Premier put the department back where it belongs and drop that minister from his cabinet.

MR. DOYLE: Mr. Chairman, before I get the flick I would like to answer a couple of questions that the honourable gentleman put. I would like to say first of all that I stated when I got up that I was going to give a few introductory remarks, and that I then hoped that when we got to the estimates, vote by vote, any questions would come out. But the honourable member chose to get up and speak for a half an hour and say nothing and take up the time of the Committee.

On the first item he mentioned, Mr. Chairman, first of all it will come as no surprise to the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Foundation that their grant this year is \$45,000. They already know it. They know that it is in the estimates. They have been in conversation with me several times. And as I said in my remarks, Mr. Chairman, we are in the midst of trying to come up with some policies on the rehabilitation of alcoholics and those suffering from other drug abuses. And like so many other things that were not in existence when we took over this government a couple of years ago, this is something we have to do for the first time. And therefore it makes no sense in any reasonable person's thinking for us to get involved at this time in any more ad hoc financing of this or any other programme that we feel we are going to have a full and new positive policy on in the not too distant future. I am quite aware, Mr. Chairman, of the excellent work which the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Foundation has been doing and is continuing to do in this Province, and as I have said I have had several conversations with Mr. Mercer the President and other people lately, and we are keeping them particularly in the picture.

On the question of the three senior citizens homes, the inter-faith homes which the honourable member claimed were on the drawing board - Mr. Chairman, there were many, many things on the drawing board and they could have died there, but this is just one of most of these things that were taken hold of and carried on by this government.

Insofar as the Summer Games is concerned, Mr. Chairman, the Committee will recall that this government's first commitment to the Canada Summer Games, made about a year ago, was for \$3 million. We have now agreed to change this amount to \$5.25 million. Where the facilities go is in the hands of the Summer Games Society under the Chairmanship of Mr. Andrew Crosbie who was appointed to that Commission by the Mayor, Her Worship, as these games are the prime responsibility of the municipality. I understand that it is quite likely that the facilities, the major facilities will not be going on the Campus of the University but where they are going at this point in time I am not aware.

And, Mr. Chairman, speaking of recreation, the honourable member does not seem to want to go through the votes, one by one, like any normal person would. So I would therefore like just to refer to one or two

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programmes which are new this year, and one which is of particular interest to hundreds of communities throughout the Province is our

new system of grants to Community Recreation Commissions. Up to last year the basic grant was \$300 for each Commission. I am pleased and proud to announce at this time, Mr. Chairman, that the grant, the basic grant has now been increased from \$300 to \$1,200, \$300 to \$1,200. In addition, Mr. Chairman, our grants to communities for the hiring of recreation directors or assistants are increased from a basic grant for a full time person of \$4,000 to a basic grant up to \$6,000 for directors will degress and three years of experience. I should say here, Mr. Chairman, that we are encouraging, trying to encourage not only our people, Newfoundlanders, to become trained in physical education at Memorial but also to take the new course instituted last year at the College of Trades and Technology through the auspices of my colleague, the Minister of Education for training in the position of recreation directors and therefore happy to announce in the case of a recreation director who has three years or more experience and also an academic degree, my department will assist to the extent of \$6,000 through the Recreation Commission.

We also, Mr. Chairman, have assistance to the various sports governing bodies to the extent of \$150,000 and in addition, we fund the Newfoundland High School Amateur Sports Federation and the Newfoundland and Labrador Amateur Sports Federation. Mr. Chairman, I am sure that all honourable members of this Committee, if they are close to their districts at all, will be quite aware of the ever increasing movement among their constituents as far as recreation in general is concerned. With the advent of more and more leisure time to Newfoundlanders it is becoming very obvious that we, as a government, will have to provide more and more facilities and programmes to accommodate our people in their increased leisure time. This we are trying to do, Mr. Chairman, and from reports we are receiving our present plans and programmes are being accepted all over the Province.

I should like to refer once again before I sit down, Mr. Chairman, to our Children's Home at Exon House and at Water Street West and say

that since the unfortunate occurrences there last Fall we have been attempting to avoid any such reoccurrences. We have added approximately twenty-five per cent to the staff of these two institutions and we are attempting to introduce a system of normalcy to these Homes which is being accepted elsewhere.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, all the time, Sir, all the points of order that were raised and points of privileges, was the clock not stopped during all this time? The clock kept ticking on. My God! It is terrible, is it not, Sir! We just want to say that, you know, we did not put the restriction of seventy-five hours on. We would like to carry on by leave, Sir. Maybe we can carry on for another fifty.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: By leave, we would like to discuss Transportation and Communications and Rural Development and Forestry and Agriculture. Can we have leave? Would the minister give us leave to carry on?

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Chairman, we have had seventy-five hours in this Committee and if the Opposition has not put their time to good use, they can spend seventy-five hours on the budget debate. But I mean the work of this Committee is at an end and because the Opposition is disorganized and unco-ordinated and incoherent and wish to make long

ideological speeches when they should be getting to the estimates, it is not our fault. It is now five minutes to ten.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The seventy-five hours allotted for the discussion of estimates has elapsed and accordingly, according to the Standing Orders, the heads of expenditure will be put individually without debate and voted upon.

On motion 901-01 through 905-03, carried.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, point of order, seeing that estimates, even though Your Honour is just reading them off, I think it would probably be a good idea, Sir, if we had a quorum in the House. Could we have a quorum call, Sir?

On motion 905-04-01 through 908-02-03, carried.

MR. CROSBIE: I move we set the rest of the motions _

MR. NEARY: No, Mr. Chairman, we cannot do that, Sir. The tradition of the House is that we call it item by item, Sir, and as much as I would like to agree with the minister and speed the thing up, Sir, I am afraid we would be creating a very dangerous precedent and I think we should call item by item, Sir. That is the way it has been done in the past and that is the way it should be done now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Since there is not

unanimous consent, we will carry on in the traditional way.

On motion, 908-03-01 through 912-03-08 carried.

On motion, Head IX, Rehabilitation and Recreation without amendment carried.

Head I, Consolidated Fund Services.

On motion, 102-01 carried.

On motion, Head I, without amendment, carried.

Head 401-01, Finance.

On motion, 401-01 through 408-04 carried.

Head XIII, Tourism.

On motion, 1301-01 through 1304-04 carried.

MR. CROSBIE: (first part inaudible) - we have a 1304-05 has to be added now in administration of Gros Morne Park which was taken out of Forestry and Agriculture. Have you got that there? It is a new 1304-05, Gros Morne National Park. Then underneath that (01), operating expenses of \$220,000; (02), development capital, \$1,665,000. You have got the details, have you? And (03) is park development, DREF capital, \$9,431,000; total, \$11,316,00. Then redated revenue, 1304-10, redated revenue, (01), Government of Canada capital, \$8,685,000 and (02), Government of Canada, \$118,000 for a total of \$8,803,000.

On motion, 1304-03 through 1307-05-01 carried.

MR. CROSBIE: 05-02, Mr. Chairman, I move that an amount of \$200,000 be inserted in 1307-05-02, library building.

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On motion 05 as amended, carried.

On motion 1307-06-01 through to 1308 carried.

HEAD XVI - RURAL DEVELOPMENT:

On motion 1601-01 through to 1603-01 carried.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

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

On motion 1603-02-01 through to 1606-04 carried.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

HEAD XVII - TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS:

On motion 1701-01 through to 1709-06 carried.

HEAD XVIII - PUBLIC WORKS AND SERVICES:

On motion 1801-01 through to 1809-03 carried.

HEAD XIX - PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND ENVIRONMENT:

On motion 2001-01 through to 2007-03.

MR. NEARY: We might as well carry the Order Paper as well.

MR. HICKMAN: I ask that the Committee rise and report progress.

On motion that the Committee rise, report having passed certain heads of expenditure with and without amendment, and ask leave to sit again.

MR. CROSBIE: Before the Committee rises, Mr. Chairman, I would like to congratulate you on the very fine way in which you dealt with the work of the Committee under very onerous conditions. You and the Deputy Chairman of Committees did an outstanding job and we would like to thank you very much.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply have considered the matters to them referred and have directed me to report having passed Head X, Head I, Head IV, Head IX, Head XVI, Head XVII, Head XVIII, and Head XX without amendment, and Head XIII with some amendments and ask leave to sit again.

MR. SPEAKER: The Chairman of Committee of Supply reports that they have considered the matters to them referred and report having passed Head X, I, IV, IX, XVI, XVII, and XX without amendment, Head XIII with amendment and ask leave to sit again.

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

MR. CROSBIE: Order 4.

Motion second reading of a bill, "An Act To Provide For The Direction Of Intergovernmental Affairs In The Province."

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs.

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Speaker, it is with great deference that I rise to move the second reading of this bill. The purpose of the bill, which is not a very long one, is to set up an intergovernmental affairs secretariat in the government of the Province. Now the bill proposes that there be an intergovernmental affairs secretariat as part of the executive council which will function in addition to the others secretariats of the council that now exist. Those secretariats are the Planning and Priorities Committee on the Executive Council, Treasury Board which is

a secretariat of the executive council, and this would be the other secretariat, the Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat. The purpose of the bill and the purpose of this organization is for the better co-ordination of all policies, programmes and activities of the government of the Province or agencies of the government in relation to any other government and its agencies.

Section six of the bill sets out the objects of the secretariat. The objects of the secretariat are, firstly, to ensure that all federal-provincial and interprovincial activities of the Province are effectively co-ordinated. There has been a tremendous expansion, Mr. Speaker, in intergovernmental activities in Canada in the last ten years and particularly in the last four or five, particularly between the Government of Canada and the Province, but also between this Province and other provinces of Canada. There are some fourteen, fifteen or sixteen departments of government. Most of them in one way or the other have some kind of activity they are involved in with other provincial governments or with the federal government. There is obviously a great need to have that activity co-ordinated.

The purpose of this legislation is so that there will be a secretariat in the executive council which will try and co-ordinate the activities of the various departments and departments of other governments and in particular with the Government of Canada. One of the main responsibilities of the secretariat is to co-ordinate and to negotiate on behalf of the Province with the Department of Regional and Economic Expansion which of course is a very important department of the federal government insofar as this Province is concerned. So, the main function then is to ensure that all our federal provincial and interprovincial activities are effectively co-ordinated, and then to see that such activities are implemented, that they are implemented effectively, and that any agreements entered into are followed up.

The secretariat will participate in the negotiation of proposed federal-provincial or interprovincial agreements. In other words, it is planned that there will be someone from the secretariat involved in the negotiations of all departments so that this co-ordination is achieved. The Department of Education, for example, or the Department

of Justice would do the negotiations in matters that affect education or justice, but there would be an observer or someone there from the intergovernmental affairs secretariat to make sure that what is being negotiated corresponds to other activities of government or of other government departments in that the whole thing or that the various departments are not at odds with one another or taking a different direction on any of the intergovernmental negotiations that have to go on.

So, I mentioned the secretariat is responsible for directing all DREE negotiations, to undertake research and gather intelligence that concerns intergovernmental relations, to review the policy implications of intergovernmental proposals, to insure that our overall objectives of the Province are achieved, to review the fiscal and financial implications of any intergovernmental proposals, to insure that requirements are met, to review the legal and constitutional aspects with the Department of Justice of intergovernmental proposals, and to maintain liaison with all the various departments of our government and our agencies, with the federal and provincial governments so that there is one central agency that is fully informed of what is happening in this field across Canada.

The secretariat is also responsible for briefing material for the First Minister's Conference, Premiers' Conferences, would have an input in the material that is going to be used for other ministerial meetings, and would participate, if it is deemed necessary or important enough, in various federal-provincial or interprovincial negotiations and meetings. In addition the secretariat is responsible to co-ordinate certain special federal programmes, such as the winter works programme or the local initiatives programmes or special programmes like that that the federal government sponsors and that need to be co-ordinated on the provincial scene by some central agency.

The secretariat will also be responsible to see that if there is a federal-provincial or an interprovincial conference held in this Province that the requirements of the secretariat are met. For example, there will be a Premiers' Conference in this Province this Summer. The

annual meeting of the ten Premiers of Canada will be held in Newfoundland this Summer, and the secretariat will be responsible to make the arrangements for that, and they will be responsible to maintain a current inventory of federal-provincial and interprovincial agreements and programmes. What we need and what we need kept up to date is a current list of what all these various agreements are, there are dozens and dozens of federal-provincial and interprovincial agreements now, and to keep them under review.

Now, this is not a department of government. It is a secretariat of the executive council which is the central - it is a central body of the provincial government, including the cabinet secretariat, and therefore can take an overall view and act as a co-ordinating agency.

Now, the idea is to keep the secretariat as small as possible. It is not envisaged that there should be any huge group of people involved in it. I do not think that the size of the secretariat will ever exceed twenty or at the most perhaps twenty-five. The intergovernmental affairs secretariat is headed by an executive director who reports to the minister responsible. The minister responsible at this time is myself as the minister responsible for governmental affairs and the executive director is Mr. Cyril Abery, who is a very able civil servant and has been of the present government for some, I guess, six or eight years. He was formerly the director of fiscal affairs in the Department of Finance, and he is now the executive director of intergovernmental affairs secretariat which has deputy minister status.

The way that the secretariat is organized is there is an executive director, as I mentioned, and then there is a director of resource programmes, who is also the assistant executive director, and that person is Mr. John Fitzgerald who was formerly assistant deputy minister of mines and energy. That division is responsible for DREE negotiations and to co-ordinate activities of mines and energy, forestry and agriculture, industrial development, fisheries, rural development and tourism insofar as

there are any federal-provincial or intergovernmental relationship.

The second branch of the secretariat is the Social Programmes Branch. As the Director of Social Programmes is Mr. Peter Poder, and that branch that secretariat looks after Health, Social Services, Rehabilitation and Recreation, Manpower and Industrial Relations, Justice, and also it is in charge of research and making an inventory of all federal-provincial programmes, and it includes the DREE claims section, Winter Works and the LIP programme. Now it is envisaged that those programmes will be transferred to the Department of Manpower and Industrial Relations. The third branch of the secretariat is the Service Programmes Branch headed by a director, Mr. Wayne Mitchell, who was formally with the Fiscal Policy Division. And that branch is to look after fiscal arrangements with the Department of Finance, Transportation and Communications, Public Works, Municipal Affairs and Housing, Provincial Affairs and the Environment, and, as I mentioned, Finance. So that the secretariat has three under the executive director has three directors in charge of co-ordinating activities of those various departments in their relationship with the federal government principally or with other governments. Now this kind of a secretariat - in some provinces now there is a Department of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs as they have in Alberta, with a minister heading a department. In some provinces there is not a department, there is a secretariat as we have here in this Province. We feel that it is not necessary to have a department that this kind of activity is better carried out at the centre under the Executive Council or the minister responsible, and that is what the government have organized and now would like to ask the House to approve, by means of approving this bill.

So this is set out in principle in the bill. I do not think there is anything really to say about it. When we were setting up the Intergovernment Affairs Secretariat we did visit Alberta where this has been done very successfully and got a briefing from them as to how it operates there. The Government of Quebec, for example, has an Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat which is headed by their Deputy Premier, Mr. Levesque is it? -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. CRSOBIE: Your man in Bay D'Espoir, yes.

MR. HICKMAN: Levesque.

MR. CROSBIE: - and four or five of the provinces now have this kind of organization. It has become essential, Mr. Speaker, because of the multiplicity of dealings now between the Province and the Government of Canada principally but even with the various other provinces of Canada. I therefore take pleasure in moving second reading and I hope we will have an enthusiastic reception for this tremendous step forward in the field of human endeavour from honourable gentlemen opposite.

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Member for Bell Island.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, after such a strong appeal, I hardly have the strength, Sir, to comment on this bill. Did you ever in your life, Mr. Speaker, hear such foolish nonsense? All this is, Sir, is another monkey on the taxpayers back. It is typical of the sort of stuff, Sir, that we had been asked in this session of the House to debate. It is a useless -

AN HON. MEMBER: Empire building.

MR. NEARY: Yes, that is what it is, Sir, it is empire building. It is useless to the people of this Province. It is just a means to salve over the minister's ego by the Premier, a move by the Premier to try and smooth over the minister's ego after flicking him out of Finance and putting him over in Fisheries, he had to give him a little extra responsibility.-

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: to try to smooth over his ego. Sir, the history - Mr. Speaker, look back at the history of this Department of Intergovernmental Affairs. First of all it was given to the Minister of Education, the Member for St. Mary's, as a scholarship so that he could go off and finish his law degree, And then for the longest time the minister had a - he was Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs with no staff - over in Cambridge getting his law degree - no staff - I do not think the minister even had a secretary. To be quite honest, Sir, I doubt very much if he had office.

MR. EVANS: Saving money for the taxpayers.

MR. NEARY: And then I think the member for, it was hinted that

the Member for St. John's South was going to be offered this grand and glorious and important position of Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs. And the member quite rightly so, quite wisely, said no, I do not want it. It is a waste of time and money, of the taxpayers money. I do not know whether the member was offered it or not but the reports that we have that the member was offered this position and would not take it. I do not blame him. What an insult to offer an honourable gentleman of integrity and honour and intelligence. What an insult to offer him Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs. But now, Sir, now they have managed to build up their little empire, it is getting bigger all of the time. Now it is costing the taxpayers of this Province \$283,000 approximately this year.

AN HON. MEMBER: It is worth every cent of it.

MR. NEARY: It is worth every cent of it, Sir. I have no doubt, I have no criticism of the people who are on the payroll of this department. Sir, it is not their fault. We have a director, an executive director, Mr. Abery who is a fine gentleman, who we brought forward when we were in the government, one executive director \$31,500 - \$31,500!

MR. EVANS: You really begrudge him that, do you not?

MR. NEARY: That is one, Sir, that is one of the top salaries being paid to any civil servant in this Province. If Mr. Abery was doing another job for the government maybe he would be worth it. And then we have one director of Industrial and Resource section, \$26,000; one secretary to the minister, the minister already has a crowd of secretaries down in his office, now he has another one here, \$9,000; one secretary to the deputy minister, just imagine, Mr. Speaker, a deputy minister in this little secretariat that the minister tried to leave the House with the impression, oh, all it is, is a secretariat. Well, it has a deputy minister, Sir.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Pardon?

AN HON. MEMBER: An executive director.

MR. NEARY: The executive - no but he has a secretary - a secretary to the deputy minister.

AN HON. MEMBER: He has to have a secretary.

MR. NEARY: He has to have a secretary.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Why does he not use the secretary to the minister?

AN HON. MEMBER: If you were the deputy, yes.

MR. NEARY: And then we have one provincial co-ordinator of works programmes - whatever he does - whatever kind of a job that is, fancy grandiose title -

AN HON. MEMBER: That is you old friend Alex Stacey.

MR. NEARY: - \$17,600 - Mr. Stacey was doing a good job, Maybe Sir, he should be deputy minister of Industrial Development. I am merely pointing out, Sir, the titles and the salaries that are being paid for these positions under this great farce that we are having inflicted on us here when we pass this bill. And then we have a Director of Financial and Administrative Services, \$16,500; and a civil engineer III \$15,500; a Director of Service Programmes, unclassified - whatever that means - \$16,500; a financial analyst II, \$13,000. What fantastic salaries, Sir. And I have no doubt but these gentlemen have worked their way up through the civil service, that if they were in a position, Sir, where they could produce for the people of this Province that they would be worth every cent that they are getting. Mr. Speaker, if this Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat were wiped out now, Sir, if we snuffed it out here in this House tonight, as we should, it would not be missed, and everyone of these gentlemen, these fine Newfoundlanders were put into a position, Sir, where they could produce for the people of this Province they would be worth every cent that they are being paid, but where they are now, Sir, they are not worth their salt. It is not their fault. It is the fault of the administration for creating this little bureaucracy, for creating these high paid bureaucrats, that it will only become a burden to the taxpayers of this Province, and will accomplish nothing, Sir, they will accomplish nothing.

The minister in introducing this bill read from a few sheets of paper that he had

in front of him. It is very seldom that the minister does that, Sir. But when he does, you know that he has got a very weak argument. He has got a very weak case, and he probably went down to one of these gentlemen in this Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat and said, look, I have to go up to the House of Assembly, and I have to justify this expenditure of \$283,000, and I have to justify setting up this Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat so will you write me out some kind of a description, some kind of a piece of paper so that I can sell this to the members of the House because that is what I have to do. And the minister's statement that he read was typical civil service language, not the minister's own words. The minister could do better than that himself if he were just a little original and got up and introduced the bill as he usually does and put on a little bit of a show for us, dance a jig, have a little few flicks at the Opposition, little humour, maybe quote a bit of poetry for us. The minister could have done a better job but he decided that he would read from the prepared statement, no doubt prepared by somebody in the Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat. The real author, Sir, will probably never be known. But I am sure that the minister could have done better, Sir, on selling this Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat to the House.

Mr. Speaker, there is no way, I suppose, that we can move that it be wiped out.

AN HON. MEMBER: The six month hoist.

MR. NEARY: I suppose, Mr. Speaker, we could give it the six month hoist. It is not going to accomplish one thing for the people of this Province. All it is going to do is bolster the minister's ego. And I will make you a prediction, Sir, right now that every minister and every deputy minister will resent any interference from the minister responsible for this Secretariat or the deputy minister of this Secretariat. Every department of government will resent the interference that they are going to get from this minister and from his staff.

Ministers like to go to Ottawa, Sir, and carry on negotiations. They like to attend federal-provincial conferences. Now every time they move now does that mean that the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs has to be hot-foot behind them looking over their shoulders seeing what they are doing. There will be a tremendous amount of resentment, Sir, as a result of the establishment of this bureaucracy, this little empire down in the minister's office. All these fine people, Sir, who are listed here under this department could be placed in productive jobs in other government departments and this whole thing could be wiped out. But, of course, that would not be good for the minister's ego. He has to get off to Ottawa once in a while to do a little bit of wheeling and dealing with the boys up in Ottawa. He does not want the Minister of Social Services or the Minister of Rehabilitation and Recreation or the Minister of Justice. Would the Minister of Justice like for Mr. Abery and this crowd here in the Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat, would the Minister of Justice like for them to go up to Ottawa and negotiate for a new penitentiary for Newfoundland on his behalf? Would the minister like that?

Will this have anything to do, Sir, with relations with foreign countries?

AN HON. MEMBER: Oh, yes.

MR. NEARY: It will. That is why I presume, Sir, that the minister is so anxious to get this bill rammed through the House tonight so when he goes off to Japan that he can say, I am the minister responsible for Intergovernmental Affairs. That means that - who is the Premier in Japan now?

MR. EVANS: (Inaudible).

MR. CROSBIE: I cannot pronounce his name.

MR. NEARY: I cannot pronounce his name either, Sir.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: (Inaudible).

MR. NEARY: And in that way, of course, he will get a rickshaw place.

AN HON. MEMBER: General Tao.

MR. NEARY: Yes, General Tao. That is right.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

But, Mr. Speaker, I do not want to waste any more time of the House, Sir. You know, it really breaks my heart when we should be debating in this honourable House, Sir, the measures to cope with the high cost of living in this Province, measures to deal with record unemployment in this Province -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

The Hon. Member for Bell Island is not being relevant to this particular bill.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. NEARY: - when we should be out Mr. Speaker, when the Minister of Fisheries should be out looking for markets for our fish, here is wasting his time, Sir, on this foolish nonsense that we have before us tonight of Intergovernmental Affairs. I would submit to Your Honour that there are more important items that need to be dealt with in this Province. And if this, Sir, is an example of the government's Planning and Priorities then I would say God help Newfoundland and her people.

MR. SPEAKER: If the honourable minister speaks now he closes the debate.

MR. CROSBIE: Well, Mr. Speaker, I thank the honourable gentleman for his warm support of this measure. I really cannot get annoyed with him, he is behaving himself so well today. But, Mr. Speaker, this is not going to be a monkey on the taxpayers' back. This is a gorilla, it is a veritable gorilla hauling money out of the Government of Canada at Ottawa and lashing it into Newfoundland. Last year, Mr. Speaker, we had the greatest cash flow from the Department of Regional and Economic Expansion in this Province than we ever had before. It is going to go over \$70 million in the fiscal year ending March 31, which comes on for another month. The money that comes in in April we can include in it. Over \$70 million from DREE into the Province of Newfoundland in this last twelve months due to the efforts, and I am not speaking of the minister so much as do the efforts certainly of Mr. Abery and the people who have been working in the Intergovernmental Affairs Division which does the DREE negotiations for this Province. The salary of \$31,500 to

a man like Mr. Abery is nothing. It is a nothing compared to what the man is worth to this Province. And one of the things we have to recognize is that the Government of Canada has got unlimited cash. And every time you got a good man in your government, in your civil service, it would almost make you despair. They could go with the federal government tomorrow, the best civil servants we have, they could go with them tomorrow and get \$8,000 or \$10,000 a year more if they went to Ottawa tomorrow. We are in an awful unequal position, an awful competition. They stay with the Newfoundland Government, one, because they are enjoying working for a government that is going about things in the right manner and where their advice is paid some attention to. And they stay with the Newfoundland Government because they like the Province of Newfoundland and most of them were born here, the type that I am talking about, and they want to help build up their own native Province. And thirdly because of the change in atmosphere and attitude that has occurred here over the last two or three years.

Today and since 1972 the government prepares for conferences. But before that the individual in charge of the government did everything off his hat, and I am not saying that he was not pretty good at doing that. But there was very little preparation for conferences and very little room for people with these kinds of abilities to do the spade work that you need today when you are dealing with the tens of thousands of civil servants at Ottawa and in the other provincial governments. So we are very lucky to have men like Mr. Abery and Mr. Fitzgerald - Mr. Fitzpatrick is it - Mr. Fitzgerald, who used to be with the Minister of Mines and Energy, Wayne Mitchell and the like, serving in the Secretariate, and they are a very great value for this Province in just DREE negotiations alone.

There are underway now DREE negotiations in important areas like infrastructure criteria. There is about to be an agreement signed now with DREE or will be in the next few days. There are dozens of negotiations going on which I cannot reveal here now nor

the ministers until they are completed where these people are going to be of great assistance.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the honourable gentleman from Bell Island he did not learn the lesson of the Leader of the Opposition who said, when I was appointed Minister of Fisheries, that this was a demotion. The honourable gentleman from Bell Island takes the same approach. He still has not learned, you know, that to become Minister of Fisheries in Newfoundland can in no way be termed a demotion. Can you imagine, Mr. Speaker, any Newfoundlander getting on with that kind of talk? It is political suicide. The poor devils are running over the head of the wharf, and they cannot swim. To say that somebody, you

MR. CROSBIE: know, would not want to be moved from Finance, that department where you are a curmudgeon, where you do your job, you are hated by everyone, you are a penny pincher, and if you stepped over a nickel, you know, your what-not would snap at it and all these terrible things are said about you, to get into a Department like Fisheries where you are in the real guts of the country and that of 20,000 people working in the Fishery, 100,000 people affected by it and 300,000 experts who can advise you on it. I mean anybody who got that chance, you know that is not a demotion, that is a promotion. So this was not just solace because I was flicked to Fisheries. In fact I do not know what it was, I never did ask the Premier what the purpose was but I am glad to try to perform the function in addition to being Minister of Fisheries and there is a lot of of course federal-provincial negotiations in the Fisheries alone.

He did inspire me to one piece of poetry, Oh dear, Oh dear I greatly fear/My next Intergovernmental Affair/Whether long or short or fair or tall/ I wonder will I have a ball. We do not want this copied by the press mind you.

And Japan, Mr. Speaker, you know the honourable gentleman talks about Japan, well I mean how can I go to Japan if I do not have a worthwhile title. You know something like Minister of Plenipotentiary whatever it is. The Minister of Justice will have to help me there, ambassador at large. I well remember when the late Mr. Smallwood, the late Premier, not late but the gentleman who used to be Premier, was going to appoint Mr. Ross Barbour as his diplomatic representative, if Ross would give up his seat in Bonavista South so there could be a by-election to bring somebody in, I forget who it was. He was going to be made the travelling ambassador of Premier Smallwood.

MR. NEARY: Inaudible.

MR. CROSBIE: Well, today the position has been regularized and as the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs I can only say that I think this is a worthwhile advice. I do not think it needs to be a department. I think it is in the right place in the Executive Council and I believe that it can be of great assistance to the other departments and to the government

and the results will speak for themselves.

Is there anything else I can say. I think tonight, Mr. Speaker, we should end at least five minutes early having gotten through so much of the estimates.

On motion a bill, "An Act To Provide For The Direction Of Intergovernmental Affairs In The Province," read a second time, ordered referred to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow.

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Speaker, I would move that the remaining Orders of the Day do stand deferred and that the House on its rising do adjourn until tomorrow, Wednesday, April 23, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

On motion that the House at its rising do adjourn until tomorrow, Wednesday at three o'clock.

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Mr. Crosbie announced the appointment of Gordon C. Slade as Deputy Minister of Fisheries. Responded to by Mr. Neary.	4791
Mr. Crosbie announced government policy on assistance to fishermen of Placentia Bay and Chance Cove, T.B. who suffered gear loss because of ice conditions. Mr. Roberts responded.	4792
Notice of Motion	
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