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HANSARD

Speaker: Honourable Derek Bennett, MHA

The House met at 3:10 p.m.

SPEAKER (Bennett): Order, please!

Admit strangers.

In the public gallery, I would like to welcome Nicholas Codner. Nicholas is the subject of a Member's statement this afternoon.

Welcome, Nicholas.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Statements by Members

SPEAKER: Today we will hear statements by the hon. Members for the Districts of Mount Pearl North, Baie Verte - Green Bay, Grand Falls-Windsor - Buchans, Lake Melville and Cape St. Francis.

The hon. the Member for Mount Pearl North.

L. STOYLES: Speaker, I rise in this House to acknowledge a young man in my district, Alex Taylor, who is a Grade 8 student at Mount Pearl Intermediate. Alex is just 13 years old. Alex has a love for music and can play various instruments; also, he has the gift in singing.

He has used his talent to help out in various community events. He has also done several fundraising events to raise much-needed money for local communities groups, such as the local food bank, Make-A-Wish campaign for the Children's Wish Foundation, mental health and so on.

April of this year, he organized an event for the Red Cross efforts for Ukraine, raising almost \$2,500. Alex not only excels in the community, but he's also on the principal's list with a very high, impressive grade average.

Alex is very lucky to have the support of his family. I ask all Members to join me in supporting Alex.

Thank you, Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

SPEAKER: The hon. the Member for Baie Verte - Green Bay.

B. WARR: Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge two constituents: Eric Colbourne, author of *The Diary of a Fishing Master*, written with Skipper Keith Bath from the resettled community of Horse Islands, now residing in LaScie. Author Eric Colbourne is from Lush's Bight, Beaumont.

Mr. Colbourne gives the reader an accurate account by expressing the risks of life at sea. For those who know Skipper Keith Bath, he has the ability to turn a near-death experience of falling into the frigid North Atlantic Ocean into a comedy.

Skipper Keith Bath and Author Eric Colbourne captivate the reader with intrigue and interest of those earning a living at sea. The book includes fascinating life experiences of an accomplished skipper of more than 50 years in pursuit of a well-earned and honest living. One such experience was coordinating the rescue of Little Jack, a fishing boat disabled by high winds on the Grand Banks.

I ask all hon. Members to join me in offering Skipper Keith Bath and Author Eric Colbourne heartfelt thanks for capturing a clearer understanding of the life of those who earn a living at the sea.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

SPEAKER: The hon. the Member for Grand Falls-Windsor - Buchans.

C. TIBBS: Thank you, Speaker.

I rise today to honour the students and staff of Exploits Valley High on their most recent production of the high school musical *Footloose*.

This past weekend, Grand Falls-Windsor had the pleasure of witnessing a spectacle of dance and song that showcased some of the greatest talents in this province. The Gordon Pinsent Centre for the Arts not only kept us entertained, but played a larger role in bringing a community together. After more than two years of living in a global pandemic, our beautiful town was brought together under one roof, in a packed theatre, with no shortage of smiles.

Special congratulations go to the production team of Jennifer Clarke, Sandra Goudie, Dawn Oldford and Scott Simms for their amazing work and dedication. The commitment these young people put into this show during the past school year should be commended, and their hard work shone through with each 2¹/₂-hour performance.

As MHA for Grand Falls-Windsor - Buchans, I want to thank the cast and crew, not just for their presentation but after two long years of despair, you have brought hope and inspiration to so many, and for that we are a stronger community.

Thank you, Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

SPEAKER: The hon. the Member for Lake Melville.

P. TRIMPER: Today, I pay tribute to a friend of mine, Marion Broomfield, who died in February of this year.

Very much the heart and soul of the community of Mud Lake, Marion lived there for over 85 years. She spent four years living in Happy Valley-Goose Bay with her husband, Sam, before they moved back to the village where she was born.

In her pursuit of improved services for Mud Lake, Marion could be both elegant and intimidating. Her particular focus was the beautiful United Church and as the proceeds from the long-running Mud Lake Fair were dedicated to the upkeep of this church, Marion was a dedicated promoter and lifelong contributor to the annual fair. With the popular quilt auction, target shoot, canoe races and plenty of good food, people would arrive by boat from all over Lake Melville.

In 2012, Marion received Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, recognizing her contribution to Mud Lake. She will always be remembered for her love of family – children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren; the warmth of her kitchen; and her welcoming hospitality.

I would ask the 50th General Assembly to join me in thanking Marion Broomfield for a life well lived in service to her community.

Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

SPEAKER: The hon. the Member for Cape St. Francis.

J. WALL: Thank you, Speaker.

I rise in this hon. House today to recognize the outstanding accomplishment of two constituents who represented our province at the 2022 Tim Hortons Brier in Lethbridge, Alberta, in March.

Skip Nathan Young and alternate Nicholas Codner, both from the town of Torbay, competed against the country's top curlers in Canada's national men's curling championship from March 4 to 13. Young, age 19 and gold medalist in mixed doubles curling at the World Youth Olympics in 2020, and Codner, age 15, the youngest player ever to compete at the Brier, were joined by Sam Follett, Nathan Locke and Ben Stringer to round out Team Newfoundland and Labrador.

Speaker, they may be a young team, all being under the age of 20 years; however, Team Young has certainly proven that they deserve to be at the big game. Support from family, friends and fans from across our province has added to the excitement of their first of, I'm sure, many Brier appearances.

Speaker, I ask all hon. Members to join me in thanking and congratulating Nicholas Codner and Nathan Young for representing our province at the 2022 Brier and wish them every success in their curling careers.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

SPEAKER: Statements by Ministers.

Statements by Ministers

SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Justice and Public Safety.

J. HOGAN: Thank you, Speaker.

Speaker, police in our province often face difficult and dangerous situations. Today, I would like to acknowledge the important work of the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary and Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Every day the dedicated members of our police agencies show their professionalism and commitment as they work to ensure the safety and security for the people of our province.

Police Week 2022, being recognized from May 15 to 21, has a theme of 'Connected to Our Communities.' Members of our police agencies, both uniformed and civilian, put an emphasis on working with communities and community organizations to best provide support to the people they serve.

We all have a role to play in keeping the people of the province safe and the RNC and the RCMP are examples of how we can work together with communities to make Newfoundland and Labrador the best place to live, work and raise a family.

Speaker, as a government, we have put an emphasis on working with police and community partners to ensure we are living and raising our families in one of the safest provinces in Canada. That security and peace of mind is a direct result of the hard work and dedication of the members of our police agencies.

While policing is a very rewarding job, it comes with significant risks. The sense of security and quality of life we enjoy is because of the risks they take every day and their devotion and passion for helping others.

Our government continues to support the provinces police agencies and announced in *Budget 2022* almost \$21 million for a new radio system that will enable the emergency responders to communicate in a timely manner with each other.

Speaker, I ask all hon. Members to join me in thanking members of the RNC and the RCMP for their service and the important work they do to protect the people of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

SPEAKER: The hon. the Member for Harbour Main.

H. CONWAY OTTENHEIMER: I thank the minister for an advance copy of his statement.

On behalf of the Official Opposition, on the occasion of Police Week, I would like to thank the brave, hard-working and committed Newfoundlanders and Labradorians who attend work every day to keep our communities safe. However, I do want to urge the government to provide the needed resources and equipment to our province's police forces. With the ending of the RNC vehicle replacement program, I am concerned that the fleet will deteriorate and officers will be forced to drive ill-equipped, damaged, or poorly maintained vehicles. Going forward, we must ensure that the workforce and the people they serve are as safe as possible.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER: The hon. the Member for Torngat Mountains.

L. EVANS: I thank the minister for an advance copy of his statement.

We thank all police across our province for their work. While we recognize policing is a thankless and dangerous job, many members of our society still have trust issues when they deal with the police. To re-establish trust, we call for a more community approach to policing and for the creation of a civilian oversight authority to build greater transparency.

Thank you, Speaker.

SPEAKER: Are there any further statements by ministers?

Oral Questions.

Oral Questions

SPEAKER: The hon. the Leader of the Official Opposition.

D. BRAZIL: Thank you, Speaker.

The Prince of Wales asked the British parliament – and I quote his words – to find a way to help ease the cost of living for families.

Will the Premier take the advice of His Royal Highness?

SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board.

S. COADY: Thank you.

It is wonderful indeed to have the Prince of Wales here visiting today, and his wife, and I think we had a wonderful recognition and celebration at Confederation Building, and certainly in the spirit of reconciliation, I think it was particularly poignant that we were recognizing our Indigenous leaders.

I say to the Member opposite that this government has made an investment of \$142 million to help with the cost of living. As I have said in this House, and will continue to say, we are hopeful to do more to alleviate the concerns of the people of the province; this is very difficult. But as the Prince of Wales has said to the parliament of the United Kingdom, this is indeed a global issue and one which all governments and all societies are dealing with.

Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

SPEAKER: The hon. the Leader of the Official Opposition.

D. BRAZIL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

For the last four weeks we've heard from the people of Newfoundland and Labrador that what's being done by the Liberal administration is not enough. More needs to be done to address the cost of living and the peril that it's having on people's lives here in Newfoundland and Labrador. The Premier said that today is a historic day: Gas prices are historically high. Is this the history the Premier wants the people of our province to remember on this historic day?

Can you outline a relief program for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador that will do real justice to addressing the financial woes that they're facing right now?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board.

S. COADY: I say it is a historic day. We spent this afternoon celebrating Newfoundland and Labrador history, recognizing our Indigenous history, our Indigenous leaders, recognizing the role of Newfoundland and Labrador in Canada, as well as our historic – being the oldest colony for the British colonies. So it was a historic day, it is a historic day.

I will say, regarding the price of fuel and the cost of living, it is very, very difficult times for the people of the province. That's why we were able to provide the most vulnerable with 10 per cent increases to the Income Supplement, to the Seniors' Benefit, a cheque to those receiving Income Support and lower cost fees and taxation for the people of this province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

SPEAKER: The minister's time has expired.

The hon. the Leader of the Official Opposition.

D. BRAZIL: Thank you, Speaker.

I would hope that it's a historically warm spring, summer and winter for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador to be able to heat their homes and be able to have some sense of stability in their lives.

Speaker, the prime minister only had half an hour to listen to the needs of Newfoundland and Labrador this morning.

Did the prime minister offer support or was this yet another photo op?

SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board.

S. COADY: Speaker, the Premier speaks regularly with the prime minister. It was wonderful to have the prime minister visit Newfoundland and Labrador today. They had an opportunity to have a conversation around Canada Health Transfers, around the cost of living, around immigration, reconciliation – there were a number of topics that they did have the opportunity to speak about today.

I think it's important that Newfoundland and Labrador is always represented to the prime minister. I think the Premier has a very strong relationship and that is why we were able to get the \$5.2 billion that was required to help with Muskrat Falls and rate mitigation.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

SPEAKER: The hon. the Leader of the Official Opposition.

D. BRAZIL: Thank you, Speaker.

Conversations are fine but we need tangible programs and supports for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

D. BRAZIL: Speaker, the Bay du Nord Project faced many scrutinies, more than any other offshore project in our province's history. The prime minister said that the future projects will face even more stringent conditions.

I ask the Premier: Is this how the federal Liberals will prevent future development in our offshore industry?

SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology

A. PARSONS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I am always happy to have an opportunity to answer questions on the oil and gas industry and, again, the efforts that we have made to help it succeed, especially, during this time of transition – one that we all recognize as happening, but we certainly realize there's also a future right now for oil and gas.

What I can say is that, obviously, Bay du Nord has gone through a stringent environmental process; one that took longer than we thought it should take; one that we defended. Again, I would point out, I got some questions from the other side about when I spoke up about the project, people saying I was questioning the merits of the science on the project.

But do you know what? Those are the questions I'm going to ask. Those are the questions I'm going to keep asking. At the end of the day, we will do everything we can, whether it's with this province, the feds, you name it, anybody. We feel this industry has a way to succeed.

Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

SPEAKER: The hon. the Leader of the Official Opposition.

D. BRAZIL: Thank you, Speaker.

And we acknowledge the minister's work in pushing forward, as it is on this side of the House and the thousands of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians who work in the industry, to make sure this happens. Our worrisome issues here are about the federal government having a hidden agenda to end the oil and gas industry in Newfoundland and Labrador. So we all collectively have to stand up to make sure that it doesn't happen under anybody's watch in this province.

Speaker, the Finance Minister has repeatedly used the federal government as an excuse to not take action.

Did the prime minister agree to provide immediate relief to motorists in the province by lowering the carbon tax?

SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board.

S. COADY: I certainly haven't used the federal government as an excuse; I have merely pointed out the rules around which we have to operate in

this province. As I have indicated, we have provided back to the people of the province the entire amount of provincial gas tax that we gain from the price of fuel in this province. I have also indicated that we're prepared to do something further as we progress through this year.

These are indeed very, very difficult times for the people of the province, but we have addressed the most vulnerable. We have provided for all residents in this province through lowering of the tax on their home, of lowering the fees on motor vehicle registration – just to give an example. These are the types of things that we're trying to do to put money back in the people's pockets.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

SPEAKER: The hon. the Leader of the Official Opposition.

D. BRAZIL: Thank you, Speaker.

It was your prime minister who imposed the carbon tax on the people of Newfoundland and Labrador.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

D. BRAZIL: It should be him who takes it off and does something for the people in this province.

People in this province are suffering because they cannot get access to health care. The Health Accord has been released but we still have not seen the implementation plan's outline. The Health Accord will need federal funding.

How much funding did the Premier receive today from the prime minister to assist with the implementation of the Health Accord?

SPEAKER: The hon. the Member for Finance and President of Treasury Board.

S. COADY: As I indicated in an earlier question, this was one of the most important things that the Premier has been speaking to the federal government about, the Canada Health Transfer. Indeed, all First Ministers, all premiers in this country are speaking about this in a

united voice. This is very, very serious and they need the support of the federal government in order to have the strength that we need in our health care system.

I would also say to the Member opposite about carbon tax, it is the federal government's policy to help address climate change. I'm sure the Member opposite would agree that is a need within not only Canada but indeed the globe to address climate change.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

SPEAKER: The hon. the Member for Stephenville - Port au Port.

T. WAKEHAM: Speaker, I can tell you that the people of Newfoundland and Labrador are suffering now. They can't even afford to drive their vehicles to their medical appointments and they certainly can't afford to be paying to see a nurse practitioner.

I simply ask the minister: What do you say to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador who have seen another giant increase in the price of gasoline today?

SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board.

S. COADY: I say what I heard; I think President Biden said yesterday, facing the same situation all across North America and indeed the world. It is because we're emerging from the pandemic and, of course, the war in the Ukraine. These are the situations that we're facing.

We're trying to manage as best we can in this province. As the Members opposite are very well aware, as all of us should be aware, the money that we've already provided to the people of the province, the \$142 million, is borrowed from our children and our grandchildren. We have to be responsible in the way we're doing things, as we face this very difficult situation globally.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

SPEAKER: The hon. the Member for Stephenville - Port au Port.

T. WAKEHAM: Speaker, first it was the federal government, now we're hearing it's the United States that's the problem and were going to give us the answers. I would just suggest enough time has passed us by. We're not asking for a deficit to be increased, we're suggesting go back and take a look at the monies that you already have budgeted.

So I simply say to the minister, the people of this province are calling out. They need your help. They need you to step up now. You've admitted that your budget was not enough.

I ask once again: Will you acknowledge today and provide us with what exactly you will do to help the people in Newfoundland and Labrador?

SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board.

S. COADY: Newfoundlanders and Labradorians are intelligent enough to know that this is a global situation. I merely pointed that out in my answer to the previous. I did not blame the United States, Speaker; I merely pointed out as Biden had said yesterday this is a global problem. I know that Newfoundlanders and Labradorians recognize same.

But in the same voice I will say, Speaker -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

S. COADY: My goodness there's lots of banter back and forth today. I will say that's why in the budget we provided \$142 million in relief that we borrowed to be able to provide the people of the province.

I know and understand, and our government understands, how difficult this is on the people of the province. That's why we're going to continue to try and do everything that we possibly can to help put money in their pockets.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

SPEAKER: The hon. the Member for Bonavista.

C. PARDY: Mr. Speaker, a little segue into the next question would be from the Member for Baie Verte - Green Bay when he mentioned

Skipper Keith Bath, a sealing master. Of course, we just heard Rum Ragged – Rum Ragged, what is it about fish that keeps us here, the question. The team tasked with studying seals is reporting the largest concentration of seals in the world, the largest seal population in the recorded history of our region and fish stocks in jeopardy.

When will the minister insist DFO take seal predation seriously and take efforts to maximize our provincial quota?

SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture.

D. BRAGG: Thank you very much, Speaker.

I guess I should inform the hon. Member that last week or the week before, the federal minister was in Corner Brook for an announcement on the seal science task force. It was well received. It showed where it's going to be.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

SPEAKER: Order, please!

D. BRAGG: She's taking a serious look at the sealing.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

SPEAKER: Order, please!

The hon. the Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture.

D. BRAGG: Thank you, Speaker.

As I tried to say, the federal minister was in the province last week. She's very serious at looking at the science on the seals.

I look forward to further conversations with her when I'm in Ottawa next week for the summit on the seals.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

SPEAKER: The hon. the Member for Bonavista.

C. PARDY: I'm glad she does acknowledge now that seals eat fish. I think that is a good start.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

C. PARDY: One little note, one of the 17 conclusions – and I just want to share this one before the next question – the total prey consumption of harp seals in 2J3KL during 2014 was estimated at 3.2-million metric tons. That was the same year our commercial landings totalled 256,000 tons. The report stated that scientific research is needed to establish the magnitude of the impact of the out-of-control seal population.

With this level of understanding of seals at the federal level, how does this minister plan to restore the balance in our ocean ecosystem?

SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture.

D. BRAGG: I guess that's a question best asked to the federal minister, but I'm pleased that the federal minister is taking our seal problem in this province very seriously. I am very pleased with that.

I look forward to continued conversations with the minister on how we can go into a harvest of the seals. I know in our province alone we spent over \$700,000 in the last three years on marketing opportunities for seal products.

Thank you very much, Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

SPEAKER: The hon. the Member for Conception Bay South.

B. PETTEN: Thank you, Speaker.

Speaker, the minister's mandate letter says: To ensure that the province fully benefits from government investments by prioritizing local hiring including women, Indigenous peoples and apprentices.

Can the minister provide an update on the implementation of a local benefits policy for

public infrastructure and resource projects in Newfoundland and Labrador?

SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure.

E. LOVELESS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's an important question because local employment is certainly first and foremost when doing projects in this province, like the hospitals that we've built, and most recently work on the mental health facility. I'm happy to report that in the last three months we've been 100 per cent Newfoundlanders and Labradorians employed there.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

SPEAKER: The hon. the Member for Conception Bay South.

B. PETTEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, and also on November 13, 2019, he stood and told the House the same thing: 100 per cent support of a local benefits policy. Yet, three years since, the Liberals have failed to take any meaningful action.

I ask the minister: Why isn't he taking action to ensure local Newfoundland and Labrador workers are given priority on hiring on public infrastructure and resource projects?

SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure.

E. LOVELESS: I'm not sure how much more I can make it clearer, Mr. Speaker. We strive on all projects to get 100 per cent employment; we have a good record of 90 per cent-plus.

Like I said, in the last three months, we've done 100 per cent. How much better can you do than 100 per cent?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

SPEAKER: The hon. the Member for Terra Nova.

L. PARROTT: I'd suggest the minister go to Corner Brook and pay a visit to the plasterers from Quebec and ask them if they have Newfoundland birth certificates.

Thousands of people are currently employed in Texas and Spain working on Newfoundland resource projects, all the while our skilled workers are stranded without a job to support their families.

When is this government going to stand up for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians and stop letting our jobs leave the province?

SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology.

A. PARSONS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I presume that the Member opposite, who is my shadow critic, is asking about the resource projects, is my assumption, so I'll take this question.

What I can point out is that every agreement comes with a benefits agreement and, again, the same as done by the previous government. The reality is we want to have as many Newfoundlanders and Labradorians working as possible on these.

As it relates to the offshore projects especially, we do have the C-NLOPB or soon to be C-NLOEB that are looking at this that keep an eye on it.

If I ever hear a complaint from somebody, I certainly pass it on to them to ensure compliance with the agreement. But right now, I can tell you I get far less emails from people looking for work than I did about two years ago.

Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

SPEAKER: The hon. the Member for Terra Nova.

L. PARROTT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The minister understands the amount of work that went on in Corpus Christi certainly with the West White Rose Project. Recently, we've seen Quebec MPs impeding the approval of the Bay du Nord Project while hundreds of Quebecers are crossing the border taking jobs in Labrador West and Voisey's Bay.

Why does this government refuse to put Newfoundlanders and Labradorians first on these projects?

SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology.

A. PARSONS: Certainly, I don't want to conflate the two issues. The political support for Bay du Nord on a federal level is one thing; when it comes to our resource projects, that's another thing.

What I can tell you is that we've sat here in Estimates, and I believe the Member asked questions on this before. The reality is that we have benefits agreements in place, which are strictly monitored. We do everything we can to have Newfoundlanders and Labradorians working.

I can tell you, honest to God, I haven't had a Newfoundlander or Labradorian, as it relates to those projects in Labrador, call me saying that they never got that opportunity. But if one were to do so, I would certainly check into it to ensure that we have as many Newfoundlanders and Labradorians working as possible.

Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

SPEAKER: The hon. the Member for Ferryland.

L. O'DRISCOLL: Speaker, driving schools in this province are reeling after being placed in the Facility Association for vehicle insurance. These small businesses are now being forced to pay thousands extra as they are forced into the insurer of last resort.

Speaker, the minister has ignored their concerns and suggested they contact insurance brokers.

Speaker, why is the minister ignoring the legitimate concerns of this industry, which your department regulates?

SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Digital Government and Service NL.

S. STOODLEY: Thank you, Speaker.

So when we think about auto insurance in Newfoundland and Labrador, the Public Utilities Board regulates auto insurance for people and consumers. When we talk about commercial auto insurance, that's not regulated by the Public Utilities Board. Recently, in the last insurance review, we did make a change so that companies such as taxi companies could access fleet policies by insurance companies and not go through the Public Utilities Board.

So it's unfortunate the taxi companies have been unable to secure insurance through the brokers that are available, and Facility is always available to them. It's certainly something that we're going to take away and look into the next auto insurance review.

Thank you, Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

SPEAKER: The hon. the Member for Ferryland.

L. O'DRISCOLL: Speaker, I'm referring to driving schools, not taxis.

Speaker, the media story states that these operators cannot even get the minister to respond to the emails.

Why is the minister telling operators to make representation at the next five-year statutory review committee, when the minister's department still has not implemented all the recommendations from the last review?

SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Digital Government and Service NL.

S. STOODLEY: Thank you, Speaker.

I've spoken to many owners and drivers in driving schools. I'm not aware of any that we haven't responded to; I certainly apologize if we haven't. It's certainly something that was raised at the last auto insurance review; we'll certainly take a closer look at the next review.

Facility is available to them and they are able to go and leverage any broker who's available to sell insurance in Newfoundland and Labrador. We've provided driving schools with a list of those brokers.

I really feel for them that they've been unable to find a reasonable rate and they have to go through Facility.

Thank you, Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

SPEAKER: The hon. the Member for Ferryland.

L. O'DRISCOLL: Speaker, these are single individuals that have driving schools and the cost of living for them is really too high, so you really have to have a look at that and get to them.

Similarly, the minister did not meet the insurance industry prior to announcing her Turo, blindsiding them.

Again, why does the minister have a closed-door policy for driving schools who are being forced out of business by her hands-off approach?

SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Digital Government and Service NL.

S. STOODLEY: Thank you, Speaker.

So when we think about Turo – and we're very excited by the announcement that there will be another option for transportation this summer for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians. When we have a new entrant, a company coming here and offering a similar type of service, whether it's a pizza delivery company, or Turo, and they have commercial insurance fleet policies that cover people when they're driving, that's not something that we would go to all brokers and say: oh, by the way, there's this new company and this new policy. We've been working with the Insurance Bureau of Canada and they are working with their members just to make sure that those companies, who are interested, can accommodate drivers who are interested with Turo.

Thank you, Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

SPEAKER: The hon. the Member for Grand Falls-Windsor - Buchans.

C. TIBBS: I think many companies are just asking for more communication, which is essential to running a good business.

Speaker, over the past 30 years, Newfoundland and Labrador established a world-class workforce; however, the average age of a journeyperson is 55 years old, and our apprenticeship numbers are cut in half. Stats Canada is projecting 4,600 trade workers will retire within the next eight years.

Is the minister concerned that the province will not have local workers for the workforce to construct our own projects?

SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Immigration, Population Growth and Skills.

G. BYRNE: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

This is a very important question. It's one of the reasons why our government has prioritized over \$150 million per year to train Newfoundlanders and Labradorians for the jobs and the skills of today and for tomorrow. It's also one of the reasons why our province feels there is a strong necessity to recruit and attract new talent from abroad, newcomers to come our province, to fill those jobs.

The hon. Member is quite right, by 2028 the average age of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, 50 per cent will be over the age of 55.

This is a very significant event, which we have to plan for. That's why I'm very pleased to receive the support from Members opposite for the plans and initiatives of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

SPEAKER: The hon. the Member for Grand Falls-Windsor - Buchans.

C. TIBBS: Thank you, Minister.

My hope is that we can keep these people here to get over that hump as well.

Without Newfoundland and Labrador benefits agreement there's no provision for the inclusion of new young apprentices to enter the workforce. The Liberals have a responsibility for workforce development, but are failing to provide opportunity on their own projects.

Can the minister tell us how many young apprentices are given an opportunity to enter the workforce and develop their skills on public projects in Newfoundland and Labrador? How many are employed today?

SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Immigration, Population Growth and Skills.

G. BYRNE: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I really appreciate the opportunity to address this question. In my own hometown of Corner Brook, where a major construction project is under way, the number of apprentices both male and female are quite significantly incorporated into that particular project.

But what the hon. Member speaks of is something which is of a higher order thought; it is to change. The hon. Member supporting the notion of an industrial benefits plan and incorporation of increased diversity within the workforce, he recognizes and he endorses, as do we, that the workforce of Newfoundland and Labrador on the jobsite must change, there must be more Indigenous people that are hired. There must be more women. There must be more diversity.

Mr. Speaker, coming from a community with a significant Indigenous population as Corner Brook, I welcome that particular initiative.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

SPEAKER: The hon. the Member for Exploits.

P. FORSEY: Thank you, Speaker.

Having safe and easy access to firewood is a major factor in offsetting Newfoundlanders and Labradorians cost of living.

Why does the minister continue to impede fair access to domestic cutting permits?

SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture.

D. BRAGG: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

It is very important that we have domestic cutting permits in this province because many people do rely on the ability to go out into the great outdoors, boil the kettle and cut a cord of wood or two. Most people cut, maybe, up to 10 for the year. There is no shortage; there is no limit. You can have as many people as you want on a permit to assist you. I think 10 or 15 is the number you can have on a permit to help you cut a load of wood, Mr. Speaker.

It is a great opportunity; we have ample wood in this province for firewood. We never run short on the domestic permits and we continue to go down that road, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

SPEAKER: The hon. the Leader of the Third Party.

J. DINN: Thank you, Speaker.

Speaker, the Minister of Education's answer to my question about the replacement of school electronic devices demonstrated a penchant for avoiding the question and for stating the obvious.

Since the minister acknowledged in his answer yesterday that electronic devices don't last forever, what financial assistance is his department prepared to offer schools to help them replace the devices that have been deemed insecure and a security risk by the district?

SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Education.

T. OSBORNE: Mr. Speaker, there were schools, prior to government, providing about a \$20-million investment to provide a Chromebook to every single Grade 7 through 12 student in the province, so there is no need to replace those. Those devices are still very new. The school districts still have a good supply of devices for Grade 7 to 12 students.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the school district is working with schools that have, many years ago, bought devices – we're talking six, seven, eight, nine years ago and these devices have aged out, but they are working with them to try and reformat those devices to keep them viable.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

SPEAKER: The hon. the Leader of the Third Party.

J. DINN: Speaker, we're talking about the primary grades, K to 6. Some schools are facing replacement costs, probably in the tens of thousands or over \$20,000 worth, and will not be able to replace them without help from the government.

Considering that government controls the purse strings, not the NLESD, can our students, teachers and parents count on government's financial help in replacing these school electronic devices that can't be repurposed?

SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Education.

T. OSBORNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As I mentioned in my previous answer, Mr. Speaker, I know the school district are working with schools that have devices that have aged out to see if they can be reformatted, at which point there won't be a need to replace those devices. It is an important issue, Mr. Speaker, but if they can be reformatted, they will be, and the school district is working with them to try and assist.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

SPEAKER: The hon. the Member for Torngat Mountains.

L. EVANS: Thank you, Speaker.

I ask the Minister of Health: What are the wait times for mental health and addiction services in Labrador-Grenfell Health for residents who are looking for treatment?

SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Health and Community Services.

J. HAGGIE: Thank you very much, Speaker.

I don't have an up-to-date answer but the last time I inquired, which was in the last couple of months, we were aware of minimal or no wait times for counselling. Addiction services are delivered on a walk-in basis. There is no appointment necessary. Doorways provide those, as well as local mental health and addictions hub.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, in the near future, we will be announcing an alcohol action plan for the province, which is part of Recommendation 47 from *Towards Recovery*. This has been crafted with significant input from Labrador and the Indigenous groups because we acknowledge that we, as a province, have a significant challenge there. I look forward to being able to present more about that in the near future.

Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

SPEAKER: The hon. the Member for Lake Melville.

P. TRIMPER: Speaker, originally intended as a temporary solution, the Labrador Inn is now the largest shelter in Labrador, supporting up to 38 vulnerable people on any night.

Given the business plan of the Labrador Inn is to provide Level 1 and Level 2 assisted care, with over 33 apartments scheduled to open by the end of this year, will government have an alternate, hopefully permanent, solution in place and in time for the winter? **SPEAKER:** The hon. the Minister of Children, Seniors and Social Development.

J. ABBOTT: Thank you, Speaker, for the opportunity to respond to the question.

Right now I am happy to report that we are working with the Action Team in Happy Valley-Goose Bay on a long-term solution. We are securing land. We have design in progress and we will be looking to finalize funding during the course of this year.

I want to thank the Labrador Inn, the manager and the staff there, for supporting the guests at the Labrador Inn while we are going through this period of looking for a long-term solution.

Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

SPEAKER: The hon. the Member for Lake Melville.

P. TRIMPER: Speaker, again, residents in Mud Lake and vicinity are anxiously watching Mishta-shipu start to flood and crossing their fingers that this will not be the disaster year the government has predicted will occur in the next 15 years.

Will government finally meet with these residents and provide the support to move them out of harm's way?

SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Environment and Climate Change.

B. DAVIS: Thank you, Speaker.

As the hon. Member would know, we have made great strides with the residents of Mud Lake, preparing for a potential high water levels, to ensure residents have a stringent monitoring system. He has worked very closely in the past and currently with that process. As the Churchill River increases, based on that, we are going to monitor that situation. I understand this weekend the levels began to fall again.

To answer your question, Member, we're definitely going to sit down and willing to sit

down with the residents of Mud Lake to discuss the options that may lay in front of them.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

SPEAKER: The hon. the Member for Lake Melville, quick question, no preamble, please.

P. TRIMPER: Minister, will the relevant government departments arrange to meet together with the concerned residents soon to make a plan and offer their support for this relocation?

SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Environment and Climate Change.

B. DAVIS: Thank you, Speaker, and thank you for the question.

Of course, as I said previously, we'll be willing to sit down and bring the departments together that need to be together to sit down and talk to the residents about this very important issue. We established this flood risk area as well. I know the hon. Member was involved quite heavily in that, and I thank him for his involvement in that and look forward to sitting down with the residents.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

SPEAKER: Time for Question Period has expired.

Presenting Reports by Standing and Select Committees.

Presenting Reports by Standing and Select Committees

SPEAKER: The hon. the Member for Stephenville - Port au Port.

T. WAKEHAM: Speaker, I am pleased to present the first report of the Public Accounts Committee for the 50th General Assembly. I thank Members of the Committee for their diligence, as the Committee carried out important work in the fulfilment of its mandate.

Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

SPEAKER: Any further presenting reports by Standing and Select Committees?

Tabling of Documents.

Notices of Motion.

Answers to Questions for which Notice has been Given.

Petitions.

Petitions

SPEAKER: The hon. the Member for Ferryland.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

L. O'DRISCOLL: Thank you, Speaker.

The background to this petition is as follows:

Route 10 on the Southern Avalon forms a large section of the Irish Loop. This is a significant piece of infrastructure and is the main highway along the Irish Loop. This highway plays a major role in residential and commercial growth of our region.

Therefore, we petition the House of Assembly as follows: We, the undersigned, call upon the House of Assembly to urge the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador that immediate brush cutting is required on Route 10 of the Southern Shore Highway, as large sections of brush along this highway are a significant safety hazard for the high volume of travelling motorists who travel this highway daily. This work is essential in the prevention of moose accidents along Route 10.

Speaker, I've presented this before on a couple of occasions. It's something that hopefully the minister can get figured out, how to get some brush cutting done in the area. I went through Trepassey last week – I had to go up to a meeting – and the alders are actually growing out through the guardrail, and there are no leaves on it yet. And that's just in one section. Along some of the sides of the roads, especially in the areas where there are moose, it is pretty evident that they're popping out on the road and you haven't got any time to react. So it's something that we certainly should be looking at. I'm sure the minister is hopefully looking at that and will be able to take care of it and look at it in the region. Whatever we have to do, hopefully we can get it done.

Thank you.

SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure for a response.

E. LOVELESS: Just a quick response. It is beyond important, the safety of all of our roads and the Member has brought that to my attention a few times. Certainly, it will be a part of the discussion as we plan for brush cutting for this year.

SPEAKER: The hon. the Member for Harbour Main.

H. CONWAY OTTENHEIMER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The background to this petition is as follows:

WHEREAS individual residents and municipal leaders have spoken to the deplorable road conditions in the District of Harbour Main; and

WHEREAS the district is made up of many smaller communities and towns: like Holyrood, Upper Gullies, Seal Cove, Cupids, Colliers, South River, North River, Roaches Line and Makinsons, who have roads in desperate need of repair and paving; and

WHEREAS these roads see high-volume traffic flows every day and drivers can expect potholes, severe rutting, limited shoulders and many washed-out areas along the way;

THEREFORE we petition the hon. House of Assembly as follows: We, the undersigned, call upon the House of Assembly to urge the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to immediately take the necessary steps to repair and repave these important roadways to ensure the safety of the driving public who use them on a regular basis.

Speaker, the people of Harbour Main District and myself included are beyond disappointed. Yesterday the Provincial Roads Plan outlined the construction projects and there will be no paving at all for any of the District of Harbour Main.

I can't even say how upset I'm already hearing that people are about this. How is this possible? The first question I ask: Is it because politics is out of paving? No, I suspect not. I believe politics is still in paving and I am surprised that the minister here, he got up in debate last week and said that he was listening to the Member for Harbour Main when I was speaking. Well, he was not listening. He came out to the District of Harbour Main and went from one end of the district to the other, with me, to see the condition of the roads out there. He is well aware of how deplorable these roads are.

These are safety issues that we're talking about now, Speaker, yet it is being ignored. The concerns of the people have been ignored; they have been overlooked once again. I don't understand how this government, who is supposed to be concerned about the safety of the people that it represents and governs, is overlooking the serious condition of the roads. When we look at from Holyrood to Upper Gullies, it is deplorable. Look at the road down in South River; it is deplorable. Down in North River, in Colliers – Speaker, this is beyond acceptable. We are so upset that this has been ignored once again, despite our advocacy and lobbying for this minister to listen.

We have to be concerned about the condition of the roads for the safety of the people who travel over them and there are many important thoroughfares that we are referring to. As well, Roaches Line – nothing.

So, Mr. Speaker, we are very disappointed and it's just a very sad situation,

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure for a response.

E. LOVELESS: I understand that you can be disappointed but if the Member can find me that money tree, then I would be happy to accept that money tree to invest in the roads.

It is a challenging situation, no doubt, but I challenge the Member to travel across the province and have a look at the road system. I did a lot of that last – and I reference this man's district as well. Not because it is a Liberal district because ambulance travels over his roads as well, absolutely. It is a difficult task in trying to plan, but I still have to live within the financial means.

I travelled your district and I travelled other parts of the district. There is a lot of demands and –

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible.)

E. LOVELESS: Yeah, no problem. I did take the time to visit your district. I am listening, but because there is no answer that I am giving you, what you want, it doesn't mean that I am not listening.

So bring me your money tree that you are talking about.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

SPEAKER: The hon. the Member for Bonavista.

C. PARDY: Thank you, Speaker.

Before I start my petition, I want to acknowledge Mrs. Rita Durdle from Bonavista who is 88 years young today, as a history and generations of family being involved within the fishery and, thus, the petition.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

C. PARDY: With the release of the Atlantic Seal Science Task Team report and the significance of the commercial harvest to the fishers and plant workers in the District of Bonavista, we feel that the seal population is far greater than the ecosystem can sustain and, as a result, the large population is certainly preventing the rebuilding of our valuable groundfish stock and the very significant landed value of our commercial harvest.

We, the undersigned, call upon the House of Assembly to urge the Government of

Newfoundland and Labrador to immediately address the seal predation by taking proactive measures on fulfilling our current provincial quota of seals and enhancing the markets of seal products within our province and other jurisdictions. And the petition ends with: Action is long overdue.

Part of the report mentions a seal summit. I know that a lot of fishers in my district are saying, just what we need, another summit or another report or another study. This has been studied for years. I quoted John Efford back in his time; Tom Rideout, back in his time. They were stating the same thing as what we're stating now: We don't need another summit. Summits are always good where people can converse and discuss the issue, but we certainly don't need that as our first priority action – that, the fall, we're going to have a summit to sit down and we'll talk about the seal population.

The report states: "... that the high population abundance of grey seals and harp seals, which are at or approaching historic levels, are having a serious impact on the ocean ecosystem in Atlantic Canada." For most people listening now you'll find that harp seals, in 2019, they determined they were at about 7.6 million. They spend about six months in our waters. Imagine what they eat in the six months. The growing population of grey seals back in 2016 were reported to be close to half a million. All I'm saying is they're year-round in our waters. If we don't soon start to take action, we're going to have no stock that we can commercially harvest.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

SPEAKER: The hon. the Member for Torngat Mountains.

L. EVANS: Thank you, Speaker.

We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens of Newfoundland and Labrador who urge our leaders to return the marine shipping service between the Island portion of our province and our Northern Labrador communities of Rigolet, Makkovik, Postville, Hopedale and Natuashish and Nain. This marine service was removed in the spring of 2019, resulting in freight services having to be trucked to the port of Happy Valley-Goose Bay then shipped to our Northern Labrador communities. Since then, additional shipping has directly impacted the prices of food, building materials, vehicles, including trucks and off-road vehicles, household goods and many essential services for our communities.

Our Northern Labrador communities are totally isolated with no road access and marine transportation services are limited to five months out of the year, on average. With the cancellation of the direct marine freight service from the Island portion of our province to our communities, residents are witnessing exorbitant price increases and basic needs impacting overall quality of life.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important petition for my communities, because it's impacted, basically, the cost of living in the district. It was taken off in 2019, and we've seen the prices of food, building materials, machinery, equipment, infrastructure, even the cost of houses have gone up. Today, while the Minister of Finance was answering questions, and while the Minister of CSSD was speaking in this House of Assembly, I heard the words – and it's important words, and I really would like to acknowledge the fact that they spoke about it – they talked about Indigenous leaders. They talked about reconciliation when answering questions.

Do you want know something? Reconciliation is about past harms done because of government policies in residential schools. Actually taking the Innu and Inuit of Northern Labrador and putting them into residential schools, removing them from their parent's influences, from their culture and from their language. I've got to say, Minister, in my district, many of the people, the Inuit that were harmed, have died before it was ever acknowledged the harm done to them.

I'd like to say now we hear in this House of Assembly talking about the prices of gas, but right now once the price freeze comes off in Northern Labrador, because the ship can't get into the ports yet, the price of gas will probably go up to about \$2.57 a litre. The caribou has been decimated, through no fault of the Innu and Inuit of Northern Labrador – the main staple of food. Now, people are struggling to actually feed themselves, to heat their homes, to actually have a roof over their head, Minister.

So I ask if the freight boat, the Lewisporte ferry as we call it, could be returned so that we could actually have some reasonable relief from the price of food and the prices of all the materials that we need in our communities.

SPEAKER: Order, please!

The hon. Member's time is expired.

L. EVANS: Thank you.

SPEAKER: The hon. the Member for Labrador West.

J. BROWN: Thank you, Speaker.

The reason for the petition:

The need for senior accessible housing and home care services in Labrador West is steadily increasing. Lifelong residents of the region are facing the possibility of needing to leave their homes in order to afford to live and receive adequate care. Additional housing options including assisted living care facilities like those found throughout the rest of the province for seniors have become a requirement for Labrador West. This requirement is currently not being met.

WHEREAS the seniors of our province are entitled to peace and comfort in their homes where they have spent a lifetime contributing to its prosperity and growth; and

WHEREAS the means of an increasing number of seniors in Labrador West to happily age in place are not currently available in the region;

WHEREUPON we the undersigned, your petitioners, call upon the House of Assembly to urge the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to allow seniors in Labrador West to age in place by providing affordable housing options for seniors and assisted living care facilities for those requiring care. Again, thank you, Speaker.

I bring this petition again on behalf of the residents of Labrador West and the residents of Labrador, actually. This one has a lot of residents from Happy Valley-Goose Bay signed it, actually, because they also understand the needs of Labradorians.

I know I did speak to the minister and there is some movement, but I do bring it again because it is a very important topic for the people of Labrador West. They just want to age in place happily just like everybody else. They want the same services that everyone else in this province gets to enjoy. They shouldn't be forced to leave their community to retire and live in peace. They should be able to retire around their friends and family. I know I want to retire around my friends and family when that time comes and age in place with everyone that I hold dear. So the people of Labrador West deserve the same.

Once again, Speaker, I do want to bring this petition forward. I think this is very important. As a population, we should actually take our seniors into consideration when we do make decisions. One of them that is important is finding the resources and the services so people who've spent their entire lives building something can enjoy it in their golden years.

Thanks again, Speaker.

SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Children, Seniors and Social Development for a response.

J. ABBOTT: Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to respond.

As I mentioned to the Member earlier this week, I had a meeting with a committee from Labrador West to look at affordable housing options. It was a very positive, constructive meeting. I think we are trying as hard as we can, through the provincial government, working with our federal partners and the community that we will find the path forward in short order to start addressing the affordable housing issues in Lab West.

SPEAKER: Orders of the Day.

Orders of the Day

SPEAKER: The hon. the Government House Leader.

S. CROCKER: Thank you very much, Speaker.

Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Finance, for leave to introduce a bill entitled, An Act To Amend The Revenue Administration Act No. 5, Bill 63, and I further move that the said bill be now read a first time.

SPEAKER: It is moved and seconded that the hon. the Government House Leader shall have leave to introduce Bill 63, and that the said bill now be read a first time.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt this motion?

All those in favour, 'aye.'

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Aye.

SPEAKER: All those against, 'nay.'

Motion carried.

Motion, the hon. the Minister for Finance and President of Treasury Board to introduce a bill, "An Act To Amend The Revenue Administration Act No. 5," carried. (Bill 63)

CLERK (Barnes): A bill, An Act To Amend The Revenue Administration Act No. 5. (Bill 63)

SPEAKER: This bill has now been read a first time.

When shall the bill be read a second time?

S. CROCKER: Tomorrow.

SPEAKER: Tomorrow.

On motion, Bill 63 read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

SPEAKER: The hon. the Government House Leader.

S. CROCKER: Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Health and Community Services, for leave to introduce a bill entitled, An Act To

Amend The Forestry Act, Bill 61, and I further move the said bill be now read a first time.

SPEAKER: It is moved and seconded that the hon. the Government House Leader have leave to introduce a bill entitled, An Act To Amend The Forestry Act, Bill 61, and that the said bill now be read a first time.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt this motion?

All those in favour, 'aye.'

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Aye.

SPEAKER: All those against, 'nay.'

Motion carried.

Motion, the hon. the Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture to introduce a bill, "An Act To Amend The Forestry Act," carried. (Bill 61)

CLERK: A bill, An Act To Amend The Forestry Act. (Bill 61)

SPEAKER: The bill has now been read a first time.

When shall the said bill be read a second time?

S. CROCKER: Tomorrow.

SPEAKER: Tomorrow.

On motion, Bill 61 read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

SPEAKER: The hon. the Government House Leader.

S. CROCKER: Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Children, Seniors and Social Development, for leave to introduce a bill entitled, An Act To Amend The Child And Youth Advocate Act, Bill 62, and I further move the said bill be now read a first time.

SPEAKER: It is moved and seconded that the hon. Government House Leader shall have leave to introduce a bill entitled, An Act To Amend

The Child And Youth Advocate Act, Bill 62, and the said bill be now read a first time.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

All those in favour, 'aye.'

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Aye.

SPEAKER: All those against, 'nay.'

Motion carried.

Motion, that the Government House Leader to introduce a bill, "An Act To Amend The Child And Youth Advocate Act," carried. (Bill 62)

CLERK: A bill, An Act To Amend The Child And Youth Advocate Act. (Bill 62)

SPEAKER: This bill has now been read a first time.

When shall the said bill be read a second time?

S. CROCKER: Tomorrow.

SPEAKER: Tomorrow.

On motion, Bill 62 read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

SPEAKER: The hon. the Government House Leader.

S. CROCKER: Thank you very much, Speaker.

I move, seconded by the Member for CBS, that this House do now adjourn.

SPEAKER: It is moved and seconded that this House do now adjourn.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

All those in favour, 'aye.'

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Aye.

SPEAKER: All those against, 'nay.'

Motion carried.

This House do stand adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

On motion, the House at its rising adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, at 10 a.m.