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**VERBATIM REPORT**

Thursday, June 1, 1972

SPEAKER: THE HONOURABLE JAMES M. RUSSELL

The House met at 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER: Order! I would like to welcome to this honourable House today, two groups of students. Forty-five students from grades V to VIII of St. Alban's Integrated Elementary School, Gooseberry Cove, with their teachers in charge, S.M.Avery and H.Grandy. Also, seventy girls from St. Pat's, Grade VIII, St. John's, with their teachers, Mrs. Meaney and Bird.

We trust that your visit here is most informative and most enjoyable and indeed we welcome any other visitors who might be in the galleries today as well.

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Speaker, before presenting petitions I would like to make an announcement on behalf of the government in connection with the Federal - Provincial Employment Loans Programme. I had a telex yesterday from the Minister of Finance of Canada, the hon. Mr. Turner, and the telex says, "in recent weeks the Federal Government has received numerous requests for an extension of the forgiveness feature of the Federal - Provincial Employment Loans Programme. These requests have been made because projects have been delayed by procedural problems, labour difficulties and unusually adverse weather conditions, with the result that governments, particularly at the municipal level will be forced to carry a large and unanticipated debt load. With this situation in view, notwithstanding that the purpose of this particular feature of the programme was to stimulate employment during the winter months, I am pleased to inform you that the government has decided to meet these requests. Specifically, the government" (that is the Government of Canada) "is ready to grant an extension to June 30, 1972 of the deadline for incurring forgiveness of seventy-five percent of direct, on site labour costs. All provincial projects will be eligible for the extension. This extension will also be available to any municipality which lodges with its provincial government an application for such extension, supported by a statement outlining

reasons for delay in affecting satisfactory progress by the original May 31, date.

I trust that we can count upon your co-operation in receiving and approving applications from your municipalities for this extended forgiveness period and in advising the Federal Government of such applications and approvals as quickly as possible. If this amended arrangement is acceptable to you, could you please advise me promptly. I will then propose an exchange of letters between ourselves to amend our original agreement on this programme."

The Government of Newfoundland has agreed, Mr. Speaker, and I sent the minister a telex just this morning, "Re your telex concerning the Federal - Provincial Employment Loans Programme, the Government of Newfoundland accepts your proposals with reference to an extension to June 30 of the deadline for incurring forgiveness of seventy-five percent of direct, on site labour costs. We agree with reference to receiving and approving applications from our municipalities for this extended forgiveness period."

So, Mr. Speaker, any municipality that was engaged on a Federal - Provincial Employment Loans Project where the deadline was May 31, 1972, with respect to the Government of Canada paying seventy-five percent of the labour costs or forgiving seventy-five percent, should now contact the Department of Municipal Affairs here and advise the department whether they wish an extension to June 30 of that deadline for incurring forgiveness of seventy-five percent of the direct on site labour costs. They have to apply with a statement outlining the reasons for the delay in affecting satisfactory progress by May 31. Then we will advise the Government of Canada of their applications for that additional period.

They should now note that if they want that additional month which will be very important to quite a few municipalities. There are copies here for the press and the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. ROBERTS:

Mr. Speaker, this is very welcome news indeed and I may add it is another good move by the Liberal Government at Ottawa. I suspect there will be several more. I wonder, one or two very minor points which I think are important in context, first of all would the Minister of Finance undertake to communicate with his colleague and indeed seat mate, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, and perhaps the Minister of Municipal Affairs could ask his staff to communicate this information directly to the municipalities throughout the province. In view of the hard winter we have had which in Northern Newfoundland is still continuing, I think this is all the more important. I know many municipalities in the north in particular have not been able to get ahead with this. I wonder if also, and perhaps the Minister of Finance would take this as notice and when we come to his estimates or the municipal affairs whichever is appropriate, he could tell us how much the Newfoundland Government did apply for and for what it was used out of this money made available by Ottawa to the government of the province for so-called winter works projects, one of the three programmes initiated by the Government of Canada last year. I do not expect the minister to have it now but perhaps he could take this as a form of notice and arrange to have the information.

I am also interested in the Grand Falls Golf Club, a pet subject of mine.

PETITIONS:

MR. F.R. STAGG: Mr. Speaker, I have another weighty petition from the citizens of the District of Port au Port. I have the weightiest one of the lot and it must weigh about a pound and a-half with a very weighty prayer as well. It concerns an area on the tip of Long Point formerly known as Blue Beach Pond. It is a salt water pond in which the tide rises and falls and it is unfortunately separated from the

sea by about forty feet of beach. This needs to be buttressed on either side and open to the sea and would be an ideal boat shelter for that area of the West Coast.

This petition is signed by 2,776 people in the District of Port au Port. There are no people living at Blue Beach Pond so this is not a parochial petition. It does not come from a particular area but comes from the whole district and it is one of the main contributions to the eliminating of unemployment in the district if this could be done. It would be both a federal and a provincial problem and this is where it has been bogged down in the past. During the past election campaign the Minister of Mines, Agriculture and Resources and the Minister of Supply and I flew over it and they were suitably impressed I am sure, and I look to them for support for it. I am sure that the previous Minister of Mines, Agriculture and Resources was also aware of this possible project and its contribution to the District of Port au Port.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this be tabled and referred to the department to which it relates.

MR. S.A. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to support that very weighty petition

presented by the hon. member for Port au Port on behalf of a group of his constituents near the tip of Long Point who wanted some cribbing done so they could have a boat shelter there. I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that I do not envy the hon. member in trying to get the prayer of this petition granted for his constituents after what we heard in this honourable House yesterday afternoon.

On motion Petition received:

MR STAGG: Mr. Speaker, if I may add another word. It is quite possible that we may be able to use some of the left-over building materials from the District of Bell Island.

HON. F. D. MOORES (Premier): Mr. Speaker, I would like to at this time make a statement regarding the policy of the Government regarding planning over the next few years. The Government is keenly conscious of the very great need for Newfoundland to engage in full and intelligent and comprehensive long-term planning. The recent visits which my colleagues and I had to Ottawa confirmed the Federal Government's interest in an emphasis on planning. While Ottawa is willing to aid us in this, exercise in responsibility for such planning rests squarely on the Government of this Province. We have accepted this responsibility and have previously publically announced our firm intention to initiate a major planning thrust without delay.

It would appear, judging from past results, that existing planning procedures and practices have not been successful. It is absolutely essential if the primary objectives of effective planning and prompt action are to be achieved that an entirely new approach to planning be adopted. I shall now outline the first steps which my Government is taking to initiate a new system for planning in the province.

The Government established a Cabinet Planning Committee which I head and of which the Hon. C.W. Doody, the Minister of Mines Agriculture and Resources, and the Hon. G. Ottenheimer, Minister Without Portfolio, are the initial members. This Committee shall be aided in its mission by a Planning Task

Force of some twenty senior and experienced public servants including a senior faculty member from Memorial University and headed by my Chief Executive Assistant. The names of the initial Planning Committee Task Force members are attached to the statement which I will file for the benefit of the members opposite and for the public at large.

The main responsibility of the Planning Task Force shall be (a) to act as technical assistants to the Cabinet Planning Committee in the selection of appropriate short and long-term objectives for Newfoundland's development. (b) to immediately initiate research and studies which will lead promptly to the development of alternative policy proposals for the accomplishment of the objectives selected by the Cabinet Planning Committee, and (c) the assembling of these policies into specific multi-year plans which shall have a financial as well as programmed dimension. In this process, priorities will be decided and plans will be formulated by the Cabinet Planning Committee and these tentative plans shall be subject to final approval by the Executive Council.

The individuals comprising the Planning Task Force shall for the present remain in their present positions but will be required to serve the Planning Task Force as a matter of very high priority. Members have been selected not only for their known ability, but because of the work they are now performing in the departments, it is important that they retain such linkages. The Cabinet

Planning Committee deems it desirable, individual members of the planning task force shall be asked to establish individual advisory groups comprising persons with expertise in any particular field which they represent, either on the task force or in the community at large, to advise the task force and provide impetus into the planning task force programme.

The activities of all existing planning groups and/or committees now operating within the public service shall be subject to suspension or realignment as to objectives by the Cabinet Planning Committee. The committee has been gratified by the response of the Government of Canada to its recent inquiries concerning the planning assistance and the government has written to, or I have written to the Minister of Regional and Economic Expansion and his colleagues, asking them to name officials to jointly work with the named members of the Task Force so that the planning can be done on a joint basis from day one.

From the work of this task force and the recommendations of the Committee on government administration of productivity it is likely that there will emerge, on a permanent basis, a planning secretariate that will perform an important planning and policy formulation advisory service to the government.

I have some copies here, Mr. Speaker, for the members opposite and for members of the Press.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, I will make a very brief comment on the statement just read by the Premier. I think I could say three things only at this time because the subject matter of his statement is not the sort of thing that can be commented upon in a statement, indeed it would presumably underline a number of debates in the House. First of all I would say that everybody welcomes planning. It is one of the jargon words in government. Secondly I would say that the statement read by the Premier and the statement of the government's policy can mean either



everything or nothing. The results will show and we will know very quickly. Thirdly I think it should be drawn to the attention of the people of Newfoundland and to the House, Sir, that it is quite interesting that the Minister of Finance, Minister of Economic Development and President of the Treasury Board, is not a member of this Committee. In view of his very long speech yesterday and his statement of philosophy, coherent and articulate statement - I do not accept the statement but it is coherent and articulate, I find it most interesting. It would be most noteworthy that he is not a member of this committee that will apparently be the inner group determining the policies, planning and priorities.

I suspect though, Sir, that I am getting into debate. The Premier and I could perhaps have a go at this on the budget debate and other times. I will not be nearly as long as he was but then again I do not have Information Newfoundland drafting my statements for me, not yet and never.

MR. MOORES: Mr. Speaker, I was sorry if the Leader of the Opposition was upset by the length of my statement, but as opposed to himself who apologized for his shortness, I hope I had something to say.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Premier who had little to say will have to analyze the statement carefully but it is exactly the sort of statement I would expect.

Order, Mr. Speaker, The hon. the Premier is out of order too and I did not hear any of the puppets on the other side calling him to order.

PRESENTING PETITIONS:

MR. PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, I ask leave of the House to present a petition on behalf of the residents of King's Point, Harry's Harbour, Jacksons Cove and Silverdale, and Rattling Brook, to petition the Government of Newfoundland to reconstruct and pave that section of the highway consisting of seven miles of road from the Springdale intersection to King's Point

Mr. Peckford

This is a very dangerous stretch of road, Mr. Speaker. There is one part of it which is a very long hill, about a mile and a-half to two miles long. There is a certain part on that hill that is so steep that it is commonly being called "Devil's Drop." I am sure that the residents of these various communities are considering this particular part of the road when they ask for reconstruction of the road. It is interesting to note - well tragically to note really, Mr. Speaker, that in the last three or four years there has been a number of very serious accidents on this stretch of road. There was one accident about three years ago claiming the lives of a young couple in their twenties, from Nova Scotia. In the last year there have been also a number of very serious mishaps on this road. I wholeheartedly support this petition, Mr. Speaker, and move that the petition be placed on the table of the House and referred to the department to which it relates.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt at all that if the hon. member for Port au Port keeps up these wisecracks that he will make the junior cabinet. I would like to support the petition presented by the hon. member for Green Bay, on behalf of the residents in the Community of King's Point and the two communities between King's Point and Rattling Brook, to have that seven miles of road upgraded and paved. I suppose after all we heard in this honourable House yesterday afternoon, Mr. Speaker, you could call it "Peckford's Plunge." I do hope, Sir, - I do not envy the honourable member in trying to get this badly needed improvement for the residents of his district. I do not envy him at all, Sir, in approaching the hon. Minister of Finance whom I am sure would be very happy to see that this work is carried out in this fiscal year in the honourable member's district.

On motion petition received.

#### QUESTIONS

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the

Mr. Neary

hon. Minister of Mines, Agriculture and Resources. I would like to ask the minister: Have negotiations resumed between the government and the employees of Newfoundland Farm Products?

MR. DOODY: Mr. Speaker, this is a matter that we spoke of a day or so ago of great urgency right now. I would like to say that progress is being made but I would not care to make any further comments because it might prejudice the position as it now stands. It is rather delicate. It is very important. I think if we can try to contain ourselves for just a day or so, I think that we might be in a position to make a comment at that time.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I thank the honourable minister for his answer and I would like to ask the Minister of Mines, Agriculture and Resources a second question: Would the minister inform the House as to what steps are being taken to collect the accounts receivable owing to Newfoundland Farm Products?

MR. DOODY: I will take that as notice, Mr. Speaker, and I will get the necessary reply.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the hon. Minister of Finance.

MR. NEARY: Will the minister inform members of this honourable House, consequently the people of Newfoundland, if the \$2,600,000 paid to Spencer Lake for the Burgeo Fish Plant is in addition to \$1 million that was paid previously or is this firm, final payment to Spencer Lake?

MR. CROSBIE: Certainly I will, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker the honourable minister has not answered the question.

MR. CROSBIE: I said I will, that is what you asked, I will.

MR. NEARY: I would like to ask the honourable minister Mr. Speaker, - Mr. Speaker, the honourable members on the opposite side this is funny. \$2,600,000 lashed out to Spencer Lake -

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. NEARY: May I rephrase the question Mr. Speaker? Will the honourable minister inform this honourable House now, at this moment, if the \$2,600,000 paid to Spencer Lake for the Burgeo Fish Plant is in addition to the \$1 million that has already been paid to Mr. Lake?

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Speaker, the proper time to discuss this is on the estimates. The amount given in the Budget Speech of \$2,600,000 is the only amount paid.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question? Would the honourable minister inform the House what other concessions have been granted to Mr. Lake in addition to \$2,600,000?

MR. CROSBIE: Put it on the Order Paper, when the estimates come up, the right way.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, is the honourable minister afraid to answer the question? What does the honourable minister have to hide, Mr. Speaker?

MR. CROSBIE: He has not a thing to hide.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. Would the Minister of Labour inform the members of this honourable House now, today, if steps have been taken to see that Newfoundlanders get preference in the job opportunities that are offering at

the Linerboard Mill construction in Stephenville?

MR. MAYNARD: Mr. Speaker, I think the honourable member asked that question yesterday. The answer is exactly the same today -

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, will the nonourable minister inform the House if the committee has been set up and if they have started work yet?

MR. MAYNARD: Yes, Mr. Speaker, the committee has been set up. They have started work.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Labour a question. Would the Minister of Labour give the honourable House a progress report on what steps have been taken to remedy the safety hazards in the phosphorus plant at Long Harbour?

MR. MAYNARD: If the honourable member would like it I will prepare a ministerial statement and present it to the House on Monday or Tuesday.

MR. NEARY: I would like to thank the honourable minister for answering the question, Mr. Speaker.

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. CROSBIE: Openslime Neary.

MR. ROBERTS: That is pretty good! That is wonderful!  
Family contacts make so much for Clean Crosbie.

MR. CROSBIE: Fogue Roberts.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, the honourable gentleman, I do not think he was insinuating. Perhaps he would care to withdraw the remark. The remark in which he referred to me as "Rogue Roberts".

Mr. Speaker, to a point of privilege. If he feels that he is not clean, then I withdraw the remark in which I called him clean. If he says he is unclean, I accept his word. Now let him withdraw the other remark, Sir.

MR. ROBERTS: Then fine, Mr. Speaker, I take note that I raised the question of privilege. I will research the thing properly and we will follow it from there. But the arrogance of that certain young gentleman will no longer go in this House, Sir. If he is going to be unclean, let him be unclean.

MR. SPEAKER: Order! order!

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, I raised the question of privilege and in due course I will ask you for a ruling.

MR. GILLET: Mr. Speaker, with your permission I would like to address a question to the acting, the hon. Minister of Highways, the answer of which is of very grave and immediate importance to not only my district of Twillingate, but to the entire area and to the entire bay. The question is this: In view of the fact that the contractor on the causeway connecting the two islands is withdrawing his equipment, I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Highways if and when the next phase of that causeway is going to be let, or called, or awarded, please?

HON. E. MAYNARD (Minister of Highways, Acting): I will be glad to take the question as noted and provide the answer on Monday if that is all right with the hon. gentleman.

MR. GILLET: Mr. Speaker, if I may answer that, I am told that by Friday the equipment is going to be out. I would like to ask a supplementary question and that is this: Is the hon. Minister of Highways and also the hon. Minister of Finance, for that matter, aware of what will no doubt happen if the construction of this causeway is discontinued? It was started in January and it was frozen, the ice was there all the winter, but should we get a gale of northeast wind coming in from the North Atlantic without the armour stone on the outside, I am very much afraid that causeway will be no longer, at least above the water.

It is very important, Mr. Speaker, and I would love to have an answer today, because he started withdrawing his equipment on Monday.

MR. MAYNARD: Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge there is no intention of discontinuing the work on the causeway. It will be continuing this year. The exact amount of money that has been allocated for it, I do not know the exact figures at this time. I do know that there has been monies allocated for additional work on the causeway and to the best of my knowledge the contract has been let. Whether it is the same contract or not I do not know right at this time. This is something else again that I would have to check out.

There is work continuing on the causeway, unless, well I am sure it has not been cancelled in the last two or three days.

MR. GILLET: Mr. Speaker, if I may rise again. The second phase I believe is just about finished, at least it will be on Friday. Once that equipment is moved out we can all appreciate what it is going to cost to get any contractor to bring it back again. It is of the utmost importance to hold that equipment there right now, tomorrow or this afternoon. They started moving out on Monday. I would love, Mr. Speaker, I would love to know today if it is possible at all.

MR. MAYNARD: I will check with my officials this afternoon and see if I can provide the hon. gentleman with a statement.

MR. GILLET: Sir, I appreciate it very much. Thank you!

MR. CROSBIE: Before we proceed any further, I do not want to ruffle the sensibilities of the Leader of the Opposition. He does not need to research Beauchesne. I withdraw the word rogue with reference to him, it was not meant seriously anyway, as he knows.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that the member for St. John's West has withdrawn it. I will not withdraw the word unclean even though he has asked me to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

On motion, Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, does the minister make an opening statement?

HONOURABLE C. WILLIAM DOODY (MINISTER OF MINES, AGRICULTURE AND RESOURCES):

No, not really but I would rather get straight into the estimates, if I may and take it from there item by item and pound by pound.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, if I might just say a few words. We are on 801(01) - the minister's salary, and it has been the practice in past years and I assume it will be practice again, Your Honour, that the more general debate will take place on the first vote, 801(01). The minister will doubtless be relieved to hear that in view of the fact he has been such a good minister in his short tenure we will not be trying to reduce his salary at least at this point of this year.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. ROBERTS: I am glad, Sir, that is I would think quite a large group, is it not? I have no such claims. Well some of them are children, I quite agree, Mr. Chairman. Anyway there are one or two larger topics that perhaps I could raise and there may be some of my colleagues who have some points to raise and the minister could then touch upon them. But first the procedural point, the estimates, Mr. Chairman, as they have been supplied to the committee, have the 1972-73 estimates of course but only the revised figures for 1971 and 1972.

Now, Sir, the financial year of the government ended on March 31 of course and the books are closed as of the 30th day of April. This is now the 1st of June, a full month after that, and I would hope that the minister could have the actual expenditure figures available as there may be some items that we would want to have and I am sure that his officials could supply him with that information.

MR. DOODY: I do not have them with me but they are available. If you so desire any of them I can get them for you.

MR. ROBERTS: I think, Mr. Chairman, if all the ministers on the



estimates could have the actual expenditures available as revised figures are normally done in December or in January. I do not know when they were done this year but normally they are done in December and January and I think the Mines and Resources officials are nearly as good as Health and Health, as my relative the present Minister of Health knows, the officials can supply him with the information usually within a week of the closing of the year. They are exceptional officials of Health. So I think the officials, Mr. Chairman, if they could have the actual figures available would make legislation - Also when we come to the salary appendices, I think this is a change from last year because we have the breakdowns by the number of staff proposed to be hired, if you wish the authorized positions, for the current financial year but we are not being given any information as to what the established staff was last year.

Now I can think of technical reasons why the information is not here but the ministers might perhaps be armed with the information in cases where there are large increases in the staff or indeed any new positions or that sort of thing. It would make the committees work go more quickly.

Mr. Chairman, there are one or two items I would like to raise in a more general way and in raising them, as throughout the estimates we will be raising items, I realize that the ministry is quite new, as they have only been in office three or four months or whatever the period is, and they really are just getting used to the job which they have to do. So it is not a matter at this stage of so much, I suppose with the notable exception of the Minister of Education who has already made a mess of that department, there is no real need I would not think to go into detail on what ministers have done because I think, quite honestly and quite candidly, the ministers have not had a great deal of time to establish themselves and to implement new programmes

and to change existing programmes and all that sort of thing. We would not expect them to but next year, a year from now, well we will have time. But there are some

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partisan policy items where perhaps individual ministers could enlighten us on the administration's views and several of these occur within the areas of government activity administered by the Minister of Mines, Agriculture and Resources. Let me touch on them briefly. We will have other opportunities to debate them in other years. I wonder if the minister, to begin with, could talk about the forest tenure situation in the province. This is an item, Sir, which has occupied the committee before, which has indeed occupied the full House on occasion. The situation in the province is that briefly and basically almost all of the forest land available in this province is tied up. The Reid Newfoundland Company owned an outrageously large amount of land which they got for building the railway. When we were the ministry, they had the gall to ask us for \$46 million for the return of their rights. We spurned that offer and I have heard nothing further. I would not expect to because shortly thereafter we left office. I am glad to see the present minister smiling. I assume he shares my view that even \$.46 is - I think the Reid family were adequately compensated over the years for what they have done for Newfoundland. They have had this land, the Reid Newfoundland Company, for fifty, sixty and seventy years. If they are not using it, I think it is high time that it came back to the province, and to me a dollar would be fair and adequate compensation.

The other large areas of the province are held by the Crown and by the two paper companies presently active in the province: the Bowater Organization and Price, the old AND Company. Now, Sir, I think it is an established -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. ROBERTS: I am sorry. Well no, the Crown lands - I will come to those but Shaheen owns no land, surely to God! It is the Crown land that is reserved for Shaheen. I will touch upon it but I quite agree with what the Finance Minister said yesterday about the Crown limits reserved for Shaheen, the so-called

"Third Mill Limits" is the term I have always used.

The paper company, Sir, owe -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. ROBERTS: Indeed if the minister wishes to bring in a bill today to end them, I will. It is valid to reserve wood limits for the purpose of a mill and not dissipate them. The third mill has really been around a great length of time. Unless something radical has happened since the 18th. day of January, I do not think I will get my hard-hat ready to wear to the sod turning at Come-by-Chance for the third mill. It is much talked about but it has not materialized as yet. The land is there.

The paper companies I think have too much land. Indeed I think the paper companies themselves will be the first to agree that they have too much land. They have too much in one sense and not enough in another. The age structure in particular of the forest stands in this province is becoming quite unsatisfactory. The Bowater people - I remember seeing a table a number of years ago, with Mr. Joyce, who is now with Bowaters in Connecticut, at their sales office, their North American sales office. He is head of that. Mr. Joyce was in Corner Brook and I remember seeing a paper, a table that indicated, I think the year 2004 Bowaters would run out of wood supply. I do not know if that is correct. I do not know if my memory is serving me correctly. I do not know if the statement was correct but it is an alarming prospect. Two thousand and four is only thirty-two years from now. It is not very long at all really. It certainly is not very long when you come to think of an industry as essential to the future of this province as the Corner Brook Paper Mill.

The Price people have more land and I believe their forests are in better shape. Indeed I understand that in certain areas of the Price Newfoundland Forests they are now logging for the third time. They have cut over once originally, 1904, 1905, 1908, 1910, the early years. They cut over again in the late 1930's and early 1940's. Now they are cutting that

Mr. Roberts.

land for a third time.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. ROBERTS: Right! That is the point I was coming to. There is land that Price have not logged at all. There is a two million cord stand in my own district and in White Bay South called the "Mooney Block." It was acquired under dubious circumstances, a legislative authorization which cancelled the term of the lease and conferred a lease-hold interest into a free-hold interest. That was about 1933 or 1934, the last Conservative Administration just before Commission came. Price have never lost that land. I can remember in 1966, the year the Trans Canada Highway was open, the then Premier, Mr. Smallwood, and the then Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. Pearson, lunched at Grand Falls House, in Grand Falls, the Price guest house or whatever it is, the residence they have there. The Grand Falls House was built in six weeks actually for Lord Northcott, so legend has it. Anyway, Mr. Pearson and Mr. Smallwood were there to lunch and I think Mr. Larry Wickwire was then the general manager at Grand Falls and there were a number of other people there. I was one of them. They fell to talking about timber limits. I just had a visit from one of my constituents who live in Harbour Deep which is in the Mooney Block. The Mooney Block stretches to the north of Harbour Deep and to the south. I, being very brash even in those days, as the Minister of Provincial Affairs will agree, brought up the point: Why did Price have two million cords of wood that they never lost, never touched? Mr. Wickwire was anything but pleased at this. The Prime Minister expressed an interest and Mr. Smallwood expressed some interest. We just chucked it around. This was the time when Ottawa was talking about lending us enough money to buy back all the timber limits. That plan has now been discarded because it is not the best one. That was on the go then. Mr. Sauve was the Minister of Forestry in Ottawa and he was quite keen on lending us \$20 million or \$30 million or \$40 million to buy back all the limits, manage

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them under the Crown estate, guaranteeing the paper mills a supply of wood for which they would pay enough to amortise these costs of repaying the loan. Something very strange happened just after that. My friend from Harbour Deep was in St. John's a week or so later and he came to see me. He said, "you know something unusual happened." I said, "what is that?" He said, "well every year in the past when I have gone to Price or AND, in the old days, to ask if I could cut a few cords of wood on the Mooney Block, near Harbour Deep, they would not hear me. I would spend days sitting in the waiting rooms of offices and when they were ready they would see me. They would not pay much attention to me or anything. But the other day I got a phone call from Mr. Williams (I think it was), Nelson William who, for all I knew, was still the woods manager at -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible):

MR. ROBERTS: Oh, no! This was 1966, six or seven years ago. "I got a phone call, would I like to come up to Grand Falls to talk to him about cutting on the Mooney Block." He said, "they paid my way up and I went in and they just took me right in. There were no days and weeks of waiting. They offered me 10,000 cords and up to then I had only had a couple of thousand. Everybody in Harbour Deep had worked that winter." Now the only point in that anecdote, Mr. Chairman, is this: Not public pressure but just a mere mention in quite casual circumstances to the man who was then general manager of Price (he is now running a Bowater Mill at South Africa, Mr. Wickwire) that that produced this little response right in Harbour Deep. The paper companies know they have too much land. They know they do not intend to use it. I think they would be quite willing to give it up under appropriate circumstances. I think this forest tenure question is one of the big issues facing us in the field of policy administered today by the Minister of Mines, Agriculture and

Resources and indeed if he achieves nothing else during the terms which he has in that department, if he achieves nothing other than the rationalization of our forest industry in this province, he will achieve more than most men every achieve. I told him privately one day and he agreed with me and he is agreeing again. It is a monumental achievement. A monumental undertaking too!

The third mill limits, I quite agree with cancelling if they are not to be used. It is ridiculous to tie them up. If the Shaheen organization cannot produce the package, then let it go and look elsewhere, if that is the way to develop it. If not, perhaps they could be saw logged. We are losing wood throughout Newfoundland now and one of the things about this administration which I welcome and which I hope they will carry through, I have seen no sign of it yet, is this commitment to small industries. The minister will doubtless remember that most of my constituents have written to me. I faithfully send them on and support their requests because, Sir, saw mills and this sort of thing, if properly managed, properly encouraged, can employ a fair number of people.

I really hope it comes about. It has been talked about for years. When we were the ministry we talked about it and nothing ever seemed to happen. There are problems. There are real problems involved with the economics, with the economics of these small saw mill operations. The fact remains that much of the wood being used in Newfoundland in building supplies and the like is imported, some of it will always have to be imported. Much of it does not have to be. There are places in White Bay North where you can cut sticks, Mr. Chairman, that are twelve by twelve square sticks, near Roddickton. The forests are one hundred and one hundred and fifty years old. The wood is rotting and the men are rotting with it. So perhaps the minister can tell us a little of his thinking on the question of forest tenures.

My friend and former colleague, Mr. Callahan, who was the Minister of Mines and Resources in the last administration, had done a great deal of work on this and he had evolved what I think is an amazingly good plan, the Commercial Forests Corporation, a good concept. Put all the forests under one management, have all the people interested in using the forests, the paper companies, the Crown, involved in the management and then of course the charges will be paid for in proportion to the amount of wood cut.

Mr. Chairman, the paper companies have high graded their wood. They have cut the cheap wood first. I do not think they are now but they have high graded their wood. The Crown area in the main has not as well managed as it should be. It is not being managed even now as it should be. So perhaps the minister could tell us a little of his thoughts there. It is a subject we will be coming back to again and again because I believe it is one of the great questions facing Newfoundland. It is one of our major resources. It is not being fully used. I thank whatever kind soul sent me that, Sir. I hope it is water and not vodka or gin. Although it is cigarettes that we are not allowed to use any more.

I wonder also, Mr. Chairman, if the minister could tell us a little of his thinking of the administration policy on this contentious issue of mineral concessions. I long had issue or doubts, if you wish, with the system we have. I have argued. I do not mind saying that I have argued with the officials concerned. They tell me that the present system, the system that has always been in effect, is the best one, of giving large concession areas under statutory lease to companies, exploration permits and then they shed so much over a period of years and they are allowed to turn exploration permits into development permits and licences and so forth.



I have argued with them. They never really convinced me, Mr. Chairman, every time it came up in the previous administration, we were convinced. I may add the Federal Government officials are not convinced and never have been of the wisdom of our policy. I think there was a DREE report two or three years ago, was there not, that criticized very heavily this type of concession.

I wonder if the minister, I rather think there should be some changes. Today, I never carried my point before and I may not carry it now but it is an area, most of Newfoundland if you look at the map, Mr. Chairman, of mineral concessions in this province. Your Honour doubtless stays up nights looking at that particular map, that is when Your Honour is not looking at the map of the forest concessions. Little red and yellow skirts, it is very pretty really. But much of this island and much of Labrador is under mineral concessions and I wonder if this is the way to get the maximum prospecting activity. I assure you that is what we want.

Now thanks to Bill Callahan and some substantial assistance from Ottawa, we now have a major mineral resources exploration programme under way. It is in the Estimates this year. It is one of the nice programmes. It is a shared-cost programme - one hundred per cent Ottawa, zero per cent Newfoundland. I think even the jovial Minister of Finance would agree that that is the sort of shared-cost programmes we should have.

But it is not enough. That will give us some geological maps. We have a lot now but it will give us more. It will give us perhaps even a geological inventory of this province. It will not give us the exploratory activities. It will not give us the prospects we should have. Similarly on the mineral thing again, I wonder if the minister, I do not want to interrupt him, the premiers do take precedence at times.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: I could add, a touching humility both on my part and on the Premier's part because he has taken his seat again. It is nice to see him in the House. I am always pleased to see him here. I was just going to say that there was a time when premiers spoke to me. Well the cat can look upon the Queen.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: One could speak back. Now they speak back but the Premier does not listen. So it is the same thing. At least he did not have a reserved parking place at Elizabeth Towers anyway, Mr. Chairman.

MR. MOORES: It was on the Roche's Line.

MR. ROBERTS: No, he did not have one at Roche's Line, anymore than the present Premier does not have one in his legal place of residence in Harbour Grace. After all, did the hon. gentleman not vote in Harbour Grace district in the last election?

MR. MOORES: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: No, but on the other hand the hon. gentleman owns it, not the people. Newfoundland House, Roche's Line, is owned by the people of this province, subject to a life interest by Mr. Smallwood and his wife, Mrs. Smallwood, and it reverts to the province, I do not know what it will ever be used for, the hon. Minister of Provincial Affairs perhaps has some use for it, maybe a baseball clinic.

MR. MURPHY: It could be a house of flowers.

MR. ROBERTS: I do not think that is worthy of the hon. gentleman, really. I really do not.

MR. MURPHY: It could be, I said.

MR. ROBERTS: Well it could be, sure. But I do not like the insinuation. I do not think it is a worthy one, so we will just pass on.

MR. MURPHY: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: I brought it up because the Premier raised it. I believe in referring to the proper minister, I am just trying to help the Premier and the minister, that is all.

MR. MURPHY: I will leave my remarks on record if you are prepared to leave yours.

MR. ROBERTS: Oh I am quite prepared to leave mine on the record.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, we are on travelling and we are travelling rather widely but that is part of the Estimate procedure. But I was talking, before the Premier drifted across and that is what began it all, Mr. Chairman. I was talking about the mineral concessions and leading on to a very few remarks on local processing.

Ontario and British Columbia have now passed legislation requiring the processing of minerals within the province wherever possible and practical, a broad loop-hole. I think we should have it in Newfoundland, perhaps the minister could say a few words on that as well, particularly appropriate in view of the fact that the iron ore mines, the Minister of Finance referred to them yesterday, are continuing to expand. Iron ore is a diminishing resource, Sir. Once it is taken out of the ground it is gone. It is not renewable. We should make sure we get the maximum benefit out of it.

I am not suggesting that we should require it to be smelted in Newfoundland, and that includes Labrador, for the benefit of the member for Labrador West.

MR. ROUSSEAU: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: I am glad the hon. gentleman accepts it, because that is the way it should be. But can we refine these metals further? Can we refine the copper and other concentrates that come from Buchans? Is it possible to refine these further? At some point,

BRINCO are bound to be mining uranium up in Makkovik, Monkey Lake and Seal Lake, in that area of the province. Can anything be done to refine it or further process it in Newfoundland? Again in a general way perhaps the minister can say a few words.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, perhaps the minister could indicate the administration's policy on off-shore mineral rights, an old question, one that has legal implications and one that has implications in the mines and resources category.

I believe that Newfoundland's case in law, I spent a long time on this in law school. I believe in law that it is better than any other provinces and I think it is superior to the position of the Government of Canada.

The British Columbia reference, the reference by the Government of Canada on the British Columbia case does not apply in Newfoundland. The only worrisome thing about it, for anybody who has read the judgement of the Supreme Court of Canada in that case, is that it was a clear policy decision. It read like an American Supreme Court decision in that the judges said, "This is our opinion, it is not just what the law says, it is a matter where we are making the law." If that attitude is in effect still, then perhaps our case will get shot down too.

Despite that, I think we should pursue it. Mr. Smallwood a number of times pressed, I guess Mr. Pearson was the Prime Minister then, and then also pressed Mr. Trudeau, subsequently, Mr. Callahan when he was the Minister pressed:

to have Ottawa take a position. I quite agree with the Premier's view, the Government's view, that administration should be done by Ottawa. Indeed that is the view we put forth as an Administration. But I think we should take the matter legally. We should take a reference. We should make a test case to see where the legal matter stands. The fact remains that it has not been settled by negotiation. It has been on the go now since 1963 or 1964. The Atlantic Provinces including Quebec for these purposes have a common position. They pressed Ottawa. Ottawa made a proposal which we rejected as unsatisfactory. The provinces pressed Ottawa with alternate proposals and to my knowledge have not had a reply as yet.

I think, Sir, that Newfoundland owns the offshore mineral rights. I think we own them in law. I believe that we own them in policy and in equity. And I urge upon the Administration that they adopt a policy saying that these are 100% Newfoundland's. We will let Ottawa administer them by all means. They are better than we are at it. We will pay them a nominal fee for administration. That is analogous to what is done in tax collections. The Minister of Finance taxes through the Income Tax and the Corporation Tax, the Government of Canada collects, and we pay them a nominal fee for it.

So, Mr. Chairman, these are just a few of the items that in a general way I would like to raise. There may be some of my colleagues who want to say a few words. We should say a few words about the Egg Marketing Board which Savoury John is going to end. Whether it will be ended or not is a matter I think we should know about. Again there are certainly two good sides to that argument. There is a case from the processors point of view for containing them. It is a case from the consumers point of view for ending them or for changing them. The minister might, if he - I was going to say it is a hot potato but it is certainly a warm egg. If the minister wishes to avoid having egg all over his face; might wish to say a few

words on it. And then of course I suspect that during the Estimates we will have to press the minister to some extent at least upon the situation down at the Farm Products. We all agree that negotiations can not be done publically. But I think the minister will have to allow us to press him a little. The situation is serious. The people who are supplying on schedule as a roster of some sort and you bring your broilers in one day and somebody else the next day, they are about to run into a crisis if they have not already. I think the Administration are going to have to act in some way. It is not for me to suggest how they should act, Sir. Our job is to be the people who question, who prod and as best we can we will try.

Anyway it is all for me, The nicest thing about Estimates, Sir, is that we can keep coming back, and we will. We look forward to the minister. He is one of the more pleasant as well as one of the more able gentlemen on the other side, and I know that he will - I am quite impressed that he is here without any of his officials. I think that is the mark of a good minister. It shows he memorized everything. If you are like a minister who once sat in this House, many years ago, whenever the Opposition asked a question as to how much was spent on this purpose last year, he would say, 'oh, \$112,408.07.' I was up in the Press Gallery then, Sir, decended somewhat since then I fear. I remember being marvelling at this minister and marvelling at his command, his recall of complex details of administration. The Minister of Health, no more than I can, can not say to the nearest \$50,000 how much Medicare is going to cost the Province. You know, you do not remember everything, you look it up when you need it. But this particular gentleman remembered these facts, instant recall, and I was amazed and perplexed and filled with admiration. I asked Mr. Smallwood, outside the House, how does he do it? And nobody ever picked him up. He said that he was just making them up, he just went on. We do not expect that from -  
Sir?

MR. MURPHY: - You cannot tell a minister he is a liar, you know.

MR ROBERTS: Oh, I would not dream of telling a minister he is a liar, even when any of them are.

MR MURPHY: I remember the hon. Mr. Browne used to ask these questions.

MR ROBERTS: Yes. Well, I saw Bill Browne the other night, down at the Historical Society. He is in great shape. Great shape! He and I agreed that opposition - Oh no, he was in great shape. We are travelling again. Mr. Chairman, but that is part of the estimates, Your Honour will agree. Well when we come to historic sites we will talk about Bill Browne again.

Anyway, Mr. Chairman, I wish the minister well, and will now turn him over to the more tender ministrations of some of my colleagues. I see the member for Bonavista North is sharpening his pencil there. Mr. Chairman, if the minister could at some point in his opening vote touch upon some of these broad topics, briefly or at length, as he wishes. There are very few other items we wish to go into in any detail at this stage. Most of our chatter will be on the 801-01 vote.

Another thing the minister might want to touch upon now or we will deal with it later as he wishes is the Gros Morne Project. I am not asking on behalf of the member from Green Bay despite the Press reports, but the minister may wish to say a few words. He has said some already which perhaps were a little ill-chosen but he may want to make a general statement on where it stands, particularly the question of land acquisition. There is a fifty-fifty shared cost arrangement with Ottawa. Is that to be continued? Is that to be negotiated upwards, which is always the hope? Delegations come to Ottawa, Sir, and delegations go from Ottawa. Ottawa goes on! The minister may want to say a few words on that. If he wishes, Mr. Chairman, or if you wish, we can deal with it - you know there is an item in the Estimates - but we will deal with it whenever you wish, but we would like to deal with it. Thank you!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, before the minister replies to some of these questions and comments that were made by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, I would like to raise one or two matters. My colleague, the hon. Leader of the Opposition, already raised one or two of the points that I have in my notes here. But I will be interested in finding out what the policy of the new Government is on the Newfoundland Egg Marketing Board. You will recall, Mr. Chairman, that this was one of the most controversial matters I suppose that has been raised in this Province since Confederation. There is character assassination in the last couple of years brought about because of the Egg Marketing Board. A former premier of this Province was viciously attacked and it was said, by certain members on the Government side of the House, to be unconstitutional and it should be done away with. I would like to see now what the policy of the new Government is on this Newfoundland Egg Marketing Board and I would also like the minister to tell us if there will be other marketing boards set up in the foreseeable future.

Mr. Chairman, there is one point that I want to raise (and the hon. Leader of the Opposition touched on this also) that I am very very concerned about, and that is the matter that was raised yesterday by the Minister of Finance in issuing ultimatums to companies both inside and outside this Province. I am thinking especially about the third paper mill.

It does not take long, Mr. Chairman, for word to get around the international business world of the hostile attitude of the government on this little rock here stuck out in the middle of the Atlantic. I think, Mr. Chairman, that the ministers and the Premier, especially the Minister of Finance should refrain from issuing ultimatums of this nature, because I think it will keep industrialists and businessmen from investing in this Province. I hope, Sir, that there will be a proposal for the third paper mill in the near future and I hope that if that proposal is put forward that the new Government will be most receptive towards it. And, I hope they will go out of their way to see that we get this third paper mill. We do have the resources to support a third and a fourth paper mill.



I hope that in the future the Minister of Finance will refrain from making these wild statements. I think he is going to do Newfoundland a lot of harm in the future, Sir.

Yesterday, also, Mr. Chairman, and I would like for the minister to comment on this while we are going down through the Estimates, we saw a belt-tightening budget and an austerity programme announced by the Minister of Finance, yet I think the allocation in the Mines Agriculture and Resources Department for the Fishing Lodge on the Gander River is increased.

if it is not increased, Mr. Chairman, it is the same as last year. I think the time has come - last year the government in its wisdom decided to scale down that operation on the Gander Lake, because we felt that it was not really serving any useful purpose. I would prefer, Sir, to see the mothers of this Province get the Mothers' Allowance than the ministers of the Government down enjoying themselves on the Gander River. I hope that the Minister when he gets down to that vote in the estimates will tell us what the future of that lodge is on the Gander River.

Mr. Chairman, Clean Air Water & Soil Authority, I do not know what the problem is with the Clean Air Water & Soil Authority and the Department of Municipal Affairs. There seems to be a conflict of interest continually going on between the two departments. There seems to be a complete breakdown in communications between the Department of Municipal Affairs and between the Clean Air Water & Soil Authority. I know of projects, Sir, that have been started by the Department of Municipal Affairs, about a month later or two months later the Clean Air Water & Soil Authority move in and say, "I am sorry but you did not consult with us. You did not make an application to the Clean Air Water & Soil Authority so you have to halt work on the project." It causes tremendous inconvenience Mr. Chairman, let alone adding to the cost of the project. I would like for the Minister to enlighten the House on what steps he intends to take to create a better liaison between the Clean Air Water & Soil Authority and the Department of Municipal Affairs.

Mr. Chairman, also in the estimates there are a number of subheads where we have surveys and professional fees, surveys of Crown Lands and the like. Now, Sir, I want to issue a word of warning to the honourable Minister if he will accept my advice: That when you have this kind of situation, you will have people in Newfoundland especially in St. John's who are watching these estimates like a hawk. They will go out, Sir, and they will form dummy companies, they will form new companies, they will put them under all sorts of strange names. They

will come in and try to get the contracts. You would be surprised sometimes, Sir, who are behind some of these companies. The honourable Minister of Finance is well aware of what I am talking about, Sir. The Honourable Minister of Finance is well aware of it. Sir, in connection with this, I would like to ask the Minister-if the Minister is paying attention to what I am saying - I would like to ask the Minister, if he could tell the House just what it is that Dr. Stuart Peters is doing for the Government. Dr. Peters, if you recall, is a former deputy-minister of Mines, Agriculture & Resources, former deputy minister of Rescouses I think. Is he a civil servant? Is he working for private enterprise? Is he on the payroll of the Government or if he is, is he allowed to go out on a contractual basis to private enterprise, just what- I know the Honourable the Premier announced that he is heading up some sort of a productivity committee, I think he called it. I would like for the honourable minister to tell us just what it is Dr. Peters is doing? I mean, is this ethical, to work for private enterprise and be on the payroll of the government?

So, Mr. Chairman, I know this is getting through to the honourable Minister of Finance, he cannot take it. The honourable minister cannot stand the heat, I suggest he get out of the kitchen. If the hon. minister cannot stand the heat he had better get out of the kitchen.

I am sure, Mr. Chairman, that the honourable minister, from what he gave us in this House yesterday, is certainly not a graduate of MacLean's Advertising from Bay Street in Toronto. Such garbage we never heard the like in our lives in this House, Sir. A real "Tory" speech if I ever heard one.

So, Mr. Chairman, I would like to give that little word of warning to the honourable minister because this is bound to happen. I would suggest that any contracts that are not already let, the honourable

minister proceed with extreme caution, because you never know where they are going to come from, they will swoop down like vultures when you least expect them.

Mr. Chairman, there is only one other point that I want to make. The item in the Budget headed Bell Island, we can deal with that when we come to that part of the heading in the Estimates. Mr. Chairman, it has always been a matter of concern to me in this Province, the farming policy that we have. I personally feel myself, that we are not really doing enough for the farmers even though I think the loan has been increased to \$20,000 recently, Is that correct Mr. Chairman? They are able to borrow up to \$20,000.

Mr. Chairman, it is my own thinking that we should start using our creative minds in this Province. I do not think that we are doing enough to get farms started in Newfoundland. The Premier may be interested in this, I am so happy he remained in his seat this afternoon and did not take off after the question period - I think myself, Mr. Chairman, that what we really should do, the government should do, is start up a farm, start it up themselves. Mr. Chairman, there is the junior member for Harbour Main - Mr. Chairman, I am sure the honourable member will never make the senior cabinet he is lucky if he makes the junior cabinet.

MR. NEARY: The Premier has his ear cocked over there, Mr. Chairman, listening to what I am about to say. You know, I think the Premier has a little bit of a creative mind. He comes through fairly well on T.V. Not so good in the House, but his television image is not too bad. Maybe he will steal this idea and go out and we may hear him out tomorrow telling the people of Newfoundland that this is his idea. It is an original idea, but I think the government should start up farms, and then turn them over to people. Because, there is no way in my opinion, Mr. Chairman, and I may be wrong, (some people belonging to me were farmers) there is no way that, but a man is defeated before he starts, he is already defeated financially or psychologically.

The hon. member for Bonavista North here could probably elaborate on what I am about to say, but I think myself, what the government should really do is go out and develop a farm, start it up and then take out a couple and say; "here you go, here is a farm now you go ahead and operate it." Then they should go on and develop another farm and say to another couple: "Here is the farm." There are too many obstructions thrown in the way of people who want to start up farms.

I think this is the only way we are ever going to develop the farming industry in this province, Mr. Chairman.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, the hon. gentleman...

MR. NEARY: That is right. You know, Mr. Chairman, there is another suggestion I would like to make to the hon. Minister. I do not think that we have really gone enough into greenhouses in this province. The hon. minister did me the honour of coming to Bell Island. I am not sure if he came over in the October election, but he certainly came over in the March 24th. election.

MR. CROSBIE: March 24th. I was more interested in that election.

MR. NEARY: Yes, that is right. The hon. minister came to Bell Island and I think he visited two or three of the greenhouses.

MR. CROSBIE: I saw the mushrooms.

MR. NEARY: Yes, that is right, and found out that they were there and we are just waiting for one large enough...

MR. A.J.MURPHY: (Inaudible)

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, the hon. members really think this is funny. You know, they think it is funny. One day they come out and they slash the mothers' allowance, they put up the price of tobacco, they bring in a great Tory Budget into this House of Assembly and then they come in the next day full of laughter. It is a laughing matter. The people of Newfoundland will show the hon. minister and his colleagues what a laughing matter this is.

MR. MURPHY: Like they shoved them in March. Putting a tax on the candy bars.

MR. NEARY: It is very funny, Mr. Chairman, very funny indeed! Mr. Chairman, when I am finished with the hon. Minister of Finance in the Budget debate, I will tell him all about chocolate bars and Newfoundland lease-back, and Eastern Provincial Airways. When I am through with the hon. member he will either come over and sit on the other side of the House again or he will run out that door and hide and never show his face back in this House of Assembly again.

MR. MURPHY: What item are we on now, Mr. Chairman?

MR. NEARY: Can you imagine, Mr. Chairman, little Newfoundland subsidizing an airline in the Atlantic Provinces? Little Newfoundland and we cut out the mothers' allowance. The Premier looks at me quizzically but that is a fact, refinanced recently, \$12 million. I did not hear the hon. minister mention that in his speech. The hon. minister did not mention that in his speech yesterday.

MR. MURPHY: I did not hear the hon. member vote against it.

AN HON. MEMBER: Who did it? Who did the dirty deed?

MR. NEARY: It was the hon. member's family compact that did the dirty deed.

MR. MURPHY: I doubt that, but the great Liberal Government...

MR. NEARY: Ah! Mr. Chairman, they tried to get us to sell out to Quebec Air. What a devious scheme that was, but that backfired. That backfired in their faces.

AN HON. MEMBER: Tell us all about it.

MR. NEARY: I have a rude awakening for the hon. minister.

AN HON. MEMBER: Be careful.

MR. NEARY: The hon. minister will regret the day that he ever singled out Bell Island. Welfare recipients not only went to Circular Road, Mr. Chairman, I can assure the hon. minister of that.

MR. MURPHY: Very little of it went to St. John's Centre either, I will guarantee you that.

MR. NEARY: Anyway, Mr. Chairman, as I was...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order! The hon. member has a certain amount of leeway in discussing the general management of the department whose estimates are under consideration. However, there is the question of relevancy there and if the hon. member will keep that in mind.

MR. NEARY: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate your ruling but what can you do, Mr. Chairman? What can you do when you have such ignoramuses?

AN HON. MEMBER: Sit down.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I believe the hon. member is permitted to address an hon. member as ignorant, if it can be established, but I think "ignoramus" is considered to be a lable which is unparliamentary.

AN HON. MEMBER: Sit down, sit down.

MR. NEARY: Anyway, Mr. Chairman - Mr. Chairman! Mr. Chairman! are they invoking closure in this House?

MR. MARSHALL: On a Point of Order, Mr. Chairman. When the Speaker or the Chairman of Committee is addressing members, the member who is on his feet is supposed to sit down. The hon. member understands that and the hon. member should comply with the rules.

MR. NEARY: There is the great expert on the rules of the House,

Mr. Chairman.

MR. ROBERTS: He has a lot to learn over there too.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, when I was so rudely interrupted I was talking about greenhouses. I think, Sir, despite the fact that the hon. Premier thinks it is funny, I think that...

MR. MOORES: You lost me in between, that is all.

MR. NEARY: I think that we should get more into greenhouses. With the climatic conditions that we have in this province, Sir, I think that we should lean more towards greenhouses. I do not know whether the hon. minister has this in his - I do not know if the hon. minister has it...

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, if I could only get a mushroom large enough to put in the opening, but I am sure, Sir, they do not grow them that large. We will have to settle for a zipper.

MR. MURPHY: This should be a regular one hour laugh-in.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, I would like the hon. minister to tell us whether they intend to develop the greenhouse programme. The hon. minister - we are not talking about swimming pools, Mr. Chairman, we are talking about greenhouses. We are not talking about golf courses we are talking about greenhouses. The minister inspected two or three greenhouses on Bell Island and I am sure that he was impressed with what he saw. I would like to inform the minister that they are now growing tomatoes there and I hope that in another month or so, they will be providing tomatoes on the local market.

Mr. Chairman, I would love for the hon. minister to come over to Bell Island and perhaps he and I could have our pictures taken together, while they are picking the tomatoes. The hon. minister is one of our favourites on this side of the House. He has not made a mess of things like the Minister of Education or the Minister of Social Services. He has not become a source of embarrassment like the Minister



of Finance. He is one of our favourites and we are not going to be too hard on him in the estimates.

Just one other point I want to raise, Sir, before I take my seat and that is under the heading; Wildlife Park. I do not think the hon. minister is talking about Elizabeth Towers. I am sure it is the wildlife park at Whitbourne that is -

AN HON. MEMBER: On the Salmonier Line.

MR. NEARY: On the Salmonier Line and I would like to ask the minister if he could tell the House whether - I notice most of the vote is for capital \$90,000 - whether this is being established as a tourist attraction or is it being established for research purposes? If so, if it is and I agree with it, Mr. Chairman, I agree it would make an excellent tourist attraction and I would like to know if it is going to operated on a year-round basis.

MR. DOODY: I have just been assured by the hon. editor of the "Daily News" that it is a tourist attraction.

MR. NEARY: A tourist attraction? Well then I congratulate the former minister for taking the initiative in establishing this wildlife park and I am sure that it will be a great, great tourist attraction. I would like to see it operated on a year-round basis. I think \$90,000 capital is probably to put up some buildings and so forth, but maybe a lot of the animals will be spending the winter out of doors. I am sure that a lot of school children will come from all over Newfoundland to see the wild-life park down on the Salmonier Line.

MR. MURPHY: That was excellent.

MR. DOODY: Is it all right?

MR. MURPHY: When the Chairman calls the -

MR. DOODY: May I speak regarding this, Mr. Chairman, or do I wait until you call the number?

I was particularly impressed with the cataloguing of all the things that needed to be done with the department and all the problems that Newfoundland was facing with its based resources, by the Leader of the Opposition. He was acting minister for a little while during the interregnum while we were waiting for the new order to take over and the light to shine in the province.

I agree wholeheartedly that the biggest single problem is the forest tenure system or the lack of management with the forest problems. I am sure that the honourable House will be pleased to learn, Mr. Chairman, that we have, with the assistance of the federal authorities, established a giant provincial-federal forestry committee and they are going to provide tremendous help and assistance in rationalizing the problems we have with the forest system in Newfoundland. The previous administration, I must say in all fairness, spent considerable time in trying to find a way out of that tangled web. The years and years of indifference which were finally started to be sorted out during the declining years of the previous administration brought forward some, I would say in my limited experience, some very tangible suggestions which could very well be of great assistance in this matter of great importance.

The present paper companies, the two existing paper companies I think are just as concerned or possibly more so than the honourable members of this House, if that is possible, in rationalizing the timber resources and timber reserves of this province. I do not really think in the short discussions that I have had and that our people have

had with them since we took office, I do not honestly feel that they are all that anxious to hold all these large reserves of unmanageable and unproductive wood lots. I think that they would be very pleased indeed if they could find a way out of the wilderness, just as we would

One of the things that might just create the opening that we need will be the loosening up of these crown lands which have been held as a third mill reserve since, I think it was 1960. The fact that the Government of Newfoundland has on occasion taken from or borrowed from Bowaters and Price stands of timber which were used for saw mill production or for other sources, for other reasons and at the same time blocked up the entire East Coast as a third mill reserve was not the sort of move that encouraged Bowaters and Price to feel that the Government was acting in good faith. While it is true that there are stands of timber that Bowaters and Price hold which probably will never be used by them or for them nevertheless one cannot help but be sympathetic to their stand when they dig in their heels and say, "We have gone so far but no further." I am pleased to announce that we see some lessening in this stance and the rigidity of the stance and I feel that we will be making great progress along these lines.

I agree with the honourable Leader of the Opposition when he says that this is possibly the single most important thing that we have to deal with in the department. Possibly the second greatest urgency down there and possibly could very well be the greatest is the offshore limits, the ownership of our resources in the offshore areas of Newfoundland. The previous administration has given out in interim permits which in effect were orders-in-council to legitimate operators as well as to speculators, who may very well prove to be legitimate if they get the opportunity, the entire offshore limits as claimed by Newfoundland. These interim permits which were

in effect simply orders-in-council with no restriction worth while were in effect complete give aways. Pretty close to seventy per-cent of them have been given to two people whose names are not completely unfamiliar to Newfoundlanders right now. I think the Shaheen interests have been passed out something in excess of forty per-cent of our offshore limits. Mr. Doyle got a sizeable share and there are other companies who have yet to prove themselves as legitimate operators who have also been given substantial offshore limits.

What is most unfortunate is the fact that good, sound, solid investors such as Amico, Texeco, Esso have to suffer the stigma and do business with these people in order to protect their investment and their interests. We have had occasion during the past weeks to issue warnings to these manipulators who will try to move these concessions off to the legitimate operators. We have warned them that we will not respect nor recognize these transactions and at the same time we have emphasized the fact that such transactions that were entered into in good faith by these operators, the Amico people I mention again, the Esso people, these people who have entered in good faith into negotiations with the speculators and manipulators, this government, of course, as all of Newfoundland will agree, we must treat them in good faith and encourage them to work for the interest of the province out in our offshore reserves.

It is a weird and wonderful thing, Mr. Chairman, to get a look at the offshore reserve map as it is outlined down in the Department of Mines. As the honourable Leader of the Opposition says, it makes a very pretty picture with all the different colours and the little letters blocked in from place to place. It does have one rationalization about it, it is done on the grid square system and when the regulations which our committee is now working on, when these regulations are posted the administration of these areas will be relatively simple. I must

assure the honourable Leader of the Opposition and all members of this honourable House, Sir, that we are working with great urgency with the Eastern Provinces, under the Resource Minister's Committee, with the intent of impressing upon Ottawa the fact that these offshore resources are indeed owned by Newfoundland just as our onshore resources are owned by Newfoundland.

While we recognize the fact that Ottawa does indeed have jurisdiction on the waters and could very well have the expertise and knowledge and ability to administer them for a fee, nevertheless we must stress at all times that these offshore resources are Newfoundland's and believe me, Sir, it is our intention to negotiate with Ottawa on these terms. The onshore mineral concessions which were also raised by the honourable Leader of the Opposition are a somewhat different matter. They do not have pretty little coloured squares but they have great big high coloured squiggles which are passed out

without rationalization or reason. Some of the concessions that were passed out were absolutely huge. The amount of money that is required under the terms of these concessions to be invested in development of an exploration is pathetically small. There are huge concessionaires who are in effect brokers, middlemen, who have been given the natural resources of Newfoundland for no fixed fee, with no benefit to the Province, to make a profit for themselves as they in turn farmed them out to other legitimate, good, reasonable developers and explorers.

It is the intention of this administration to rationalize this system of concessions, by setting the Province up into the same type of grid square system that is now in effect in the offshore areas. This will have the advantage of being more easily administered and also we will be able to hopefully get a grid square rental from the explorers and developers.

It is not the intention of this administration to frighten away legitimate operators. Quite the contrary! This is probably the first opportunity that good, decent, legitimate operators have had to deal with a government that is sincerely interested in the development of the resource industries of the Province, who will sit down and talk to them in a rational way and will not pass out concessions by impulse or by fiat.

We have had occasion during the past few weeks to have discussions with several mining companies who have expressed great delight in knowing that at last the Province of Newfoundland is attempting to rationalize the concession system and establish this modified concession system of grid square rental and control. We raise the same point, Mr. Chairman, while we were in Ottawa recently and found that the Department of Mines and Energy were just as enthusiastic as we are and as the legitimate mining companies are.

It was a strange and wonderful thing to know that the concessions in Newfoundland for years had been passed out from the eighth floor with

little or no reference to the talent and ability of that department of mines. Very often they were informed after the fact, were asked to draw the squiggles on the map to outline the areas that were passed out to these power brokers by the then occupants of the eighth floor.

I must at this time, Sir, pay my respect and my compliments to the people in both the Forestry Division and the Mining Division for being able to function as well as they have under the very difficult circumstances.

MR.A.MURPHY: I think that is worth repeating to put on the records.

MR.DOODY: Thank you, very much, Sir. We have also now to move back to the forestry thing for a moment to refer to our hope of setting up as many of these small sawmill operations as we possibly can. It is our hope to eventually expand the resource development bank to a position where it can help those people in Newfoundland who are anxious to help themselves. There are a great many people in that area. Whatever the size of the sawmill itself how big a mill is a small operator, is a matter that is now under study. The feasibility of a small mill of course is something that has to be studied very carefully. It is the intention of this administration to help those people to establish themselves in the sawmill industry and we have made some strides in that direction already.

We have had the good fortune to secure, for the Department of Forestry, a Director of Forestry. The previous minister laboured for some years without a Director of Forestry. I have no idea how he managed it. I must compliment him on his patience and endurance. But we have accomplished three things I believe in that area since we have secured the services of Mr. R. Sheppard. It is an amazing thing indeed how the morale of that division has improved and how many blocks of timberland we did not know were in existence, or the department did not seem to know were in existence, Mr. Sheppard has managed to locate and find for these small sawmill operators. Once again, of course, when we talk about the sawmill operators we have to come back to the third mill reserve. That is the key to the

whole picture. Once that block of land is freed up and we are in a position to use it for negotiation and for dealing with both saw-like operators and with the paper companies, I feel that we will be a lot further along the road to the rationalization that we spoke of earlier.

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition spoke of Mr. Reid and the Reid lots and of the fact that he was in to see him and presented him with a bill for \$46,000,000. I can only interpret the fact that he brought a bill into me for \$30,000,000 as a fact that he is aware of Mr. Crosbie's discipline Budget, as the rest of us, and expects a great deal less from the present administration.

The document that was presented to me is a weird and wonderful document. It is under study now by various people in the administration. The more I study it the more amazed I am. I would like to mention just a few of the items in there, as Mr. Reid arrives or his consultants at the figure. I might say in all fairness to the Reid people that this \$30,000,000 to them was a starting point in negotiation. It may very well be that we will negotiate down to the dollar that the honourable Leader of the Opposition suggested. That is something that has to be decided.

The document itself, as I say, is a wonderful piece of work, in keeping with the claims they made, the value of the wildlife on the Reid lots, the value of the water reserves, the timber above the ground and the minerals below the ground. The wildlife claims themselves are worthy of some small note. They talk about thirty rabbits per square mile at a dollar each. One moose per square mile at three hundred and some dollars. I must say it is one of these small fringe benefits of this department. Whenever I am very depressed I take it out and read it, put it down again and get back to the sixteen or eighteen hour day that Mr. Callahan is so aware of.

On the Clean Air, Water & Soil Authority that the honourable member for Bell Island mentioned, I wish I were in a position to enlighten him



as to its entire functions and its capacities and capabilities. It has a strange function in the department in as much as it reports only to the minister. The manager of the Clean Air Water & Soil Authority reports only to the minister, not to any of the deputies. They are quartered in a building in the Elizabeth Towers, some distance from us. I think that that is one of the areas of government that the productivity committee will be looking at very closely. I hope to incorporate it more fully into the functions of government. There is no doubt in our minds or in any of our minds that the protection of the environment and the management of our water resources is of vital importance to the Province. Whether they should be managed under the present system of the Clean Air Water & Soil Authority leaves a great deal to be desired

The present system is not really a system at all. It is a section of government that is almost divorced from government. It is something that we have to look at, as I say, very closely.

The hon. member mentioned the danger of getting involved in dummy companies. and the fact that they are going to descend on us in great numbers. I will have to accept his word for that, I will look at it very carefully, with his experience in the previous administration there is bound to be superior knowledge of such licenses, such companies as Societe Transshipping, Bankers Trust and other such organizations. This is one thing that we did inherit from the previous administration that will be helpful in a negative sort of way. If nothing else we have learned to be aware of all these weird and wonderful people that come in with the tall tales and fancy stories.

He is concerned about the Gander River cabin, which will cost the government this year \$10,600. As

I understand that from the Department of Tourist Development this cabin serves a very useful function and a public relations sort of an area. I do not imagine that there would be very many of the cabinet ministers of this administration spending much time down there. Maybe this is the practice in the past but I feel that they will find a great deal more useful things to do with their time.

The wildlife park which the honourable member mentioned I think is one of the more delightful inheritances of this department. It is a project for the Salmonier Line. I might mention by coincidence that it just happens to be within the boundary of the District of Harbour Main. These coincidences happen from time to time. It is and will be a tourist attraction as well as a source of joy to our own people. It is built to a large extent along the model of the Wildlife Park at Rustico, Prince Edward Island, those of you who are familiar with that. It will approach the natural state as much as possible. I can assure the honourable member that there will be cages there. They will be as discreet as possible to keep the animals in. We can always reserve one. We are more concerned with you right now, Sir, because you are such a concern for me.

It is though I think and will be a tremendous attraction. I am looking forward to it. I think it will add a lot to the tourist potential of the province. The help for farmers and the help for farms is a matter of great concern to this administration as the honourable member knows. We have been talking about it during the two campaigns and we are working actively now to find or try to find ways and means of doing it. We are trying to convince the Farm Credit Corporation of the Federal Government that they should open an office here to talk to our farmers. We have not made a great deal of progress with that hope. In the meantime we are expanding and looking forward to expanding our own provincial loan board and eventually incorporating it hopefully into the resource development

Mr. Doody.

bank which we look forward to creating. The Farm Products Corporation which has received a great deal of attention lately is an on-going cost to government and probably will be for some time. Its value can only be assessed in the entire agricultural picture. If Farm Products is discontinued or goes out of business for some reason or other, then, of course, the broiler industry, the hog industry and other related areas of agriculture will become, for all practical purposes, nonexistent. I do not honestly feel that this is the wish either of the government or of the opposition. We will do all we possibly can to keep Farm Products active while we examine it very closely, with an intention to minimize its losses and if at all possible to put it on a paying footstep.

The mushroom complex on Bell Island is also worthy of note. As I said, I visited with the good people on Bell Island during the last election and they were good enough to invite me down to see them and they were very careful to explain: "These mushrooms were not the mushrooms of the Government of Newfoundland but that they were Mr. Neary's mushrooms."

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. DOODY: That is right. The honourable member was good enough to allow me to look at them. It is unfortunate perhaps that this mushroom project was not handled by the Department or Division of Agriculture. It has yet to be demonstrated that it is -

MR. MURPHY: Labour intensive?

MR. DOODY: I beg your pardon.

MR. MURPHY: Labour intensive industry?

MR. DOODY: It could very well be, if it were properly handled. It has not been disproved or proven to anybody's satisfaction that the thing is or is not a viable operation. The trouble with it is that it became a sort

of an advertising campaign, Either through accident or design, Sir, it became a matter of grave importance to the press and to the public and eventually "mushrooms" became a laughing stock for the area. I do not know if it was by accident or by design. It is nevertheless an unfortunate occurrence and I hope that the Department of Agriculture does get an opportunity to look at the whole project.

MR. NEARY: Well I was dealing with Community and Social Development.

MR. DOODY: I was under the impression that it was done directly by the -

MR. NEARY: Mr. Walter's in the Department of Community and Social Development has a copy there of everything that I have.

MR. DOODY: Oh, good, that will simplify matters. The hot houses or green-houses are an on-going project of the Department of Agriculture. It is true that Bell Island has received some of these hot houses and as the honourable member mentioned, they are handy and hopefully of some assistance to the economy of that part of the province. It may be that they are not as expensive as some of the expenditures that were made from other departments on the island prior to the election but I think that they will be a project that will have a longer-lasting effect.

The Egg Marketing Board that has been mentioned is something that is worthy of consideration. As soon as it was mentioned I began a shiver of anticipation because the whole project is something else that has been clouded in in political rhetoric, that has yet to be demonstrated exactly what type of structure is best for the Province of Newfoundland in its agricultural ambitions or desires. The Newfoundland Marketing Board should not be confused with the Egg Marketing Board as has happened in the past and will continue to happen while they carry this name. Anyway the position of this government, of this administration, with regard to marketing generally and the egg marketing situation in particular has not been finalized. We are looking at it very closely. It is the desire and the hope of the Division of Agriculture to conduct a comprehensive inquiry

into the whole marketing arrangement. I think that these generally, Sir, are the answers to some of the inquiries and questions of the honourable members across the House. If there are some specific inquiries or questions other than these that they want answered I will certainly do my very utmost to accommodate them.

MR THOMS: Mr. Chairman, just to say a few words on the estimates, I failed to see anything radically wrong along the lines of the estimates. However, there are a few points that I would like to make. Just to start off, I would like for the honourable minister to give us the name of the executive assistant who I note is getting a salary of \$10,000. I do not believe we know his name yet. Maybe the honourable minister could give us his name when he answers any questions that I may ask him.

MR. DOODY: That has already been tabled, Mr. Chairman, but his name is Mr. A. C. Rockwell.

MR. CHAIRMAN:(BARRY): The general discussion arising on the first resolution coming from the estimates must be general and not specifically referable to a particular item of estimate. Discussion or debate on a specific item must wait until this item is called and is before the committee.

MR. THOMS: Mr. Chairman, I note that the honourable minister was talking about the interim permits of the Continental Shelf, that is in relation to the oil on our Continental Shelf. Some of the members of the present government have more or less taken the past administration over the coals for issuing these permits, these interim permits. I know also that we in Newfoundland lay claim to approximately sixty per cent of the Continental Shelf. These permits were given out a few years ago. I would like to point out to this House that these were the first permits issued. They were issued even before the federal government issued any permits. Just the fact that we issued these permits I believe gives us a special claim to them. I believe we can go to Ottawa and hope that this present administration can go to Ottawa with this in mind. This may give them a little more fire,

a little more fuel when they meet the Federal Government and try to get whatever they possibly can from any resources that we have on the Continental Shelf.

I was quite happy when I heard the minister say that he is giving special attention to sawmill industries in our Province. We have quite a number of men in our Province who have in the past years operated sawmills, small mills, anywhere from six men up. It is very hard - I believe the present administration is going to find it very hard to classify what is considered a small mill or a big operation. I doubt very much if you can do it. I would not want to see it being done, unless, of course, some outside interest comes in and starts some huge operation, therefore taking the business away from our local people.

I sincerely hope that we will set up some system so that we can help these small operators financially and especially as far as timber is concerned.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. THOMS: An Average of 120 to 125 men involved, both in the mill and in the forest portion. Mr. Chairman, I have walked through many of what I consider the virgin stands of especially fir logs in our province and we have sufficient fir stands in this province to supply at least ninety-five percent of the timber that our province today needs.

I once worked in Labrador West and it burns me and hurts me when I realize the amount of timber that was destroyed in that district. I am sure the hon. member for that district realizes the beautiful stands of black spruce that were cut, burned, bulldozed over and covered over. I am not quite sure if he is aware of it, but this is a fact.

AN HON. MEMBER: Why was that done?

MR. THOMS: For anything, mining, townsites, railways, roads. The forest was not taken and used whatsoever, it was just destroyed. I am quite sure the same thing still exists. Unfortunately I agree with you, yes, but it is too bad we did not get some kind of a sawmill

operation in there because there was a huge market for timber in the Labrador West Area.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to touch for a minute if I may on the Newfoundland Farm Products Corporation. Here we have I believe one of the most serious problems to deal with in the Department of Agriculture that we have had for a long time. I was hoping to give some facts the other day when I was asking a question. Of course, I was interrupted by the hon. member for St. John's East. We have some producers, hog producers and broiler producers who, Mr. Chairman, have everything they own mortgaged. Most of them have even their own homes mortgaged. Every acre of land they have, they have it mortgaged through various organizations and especially through the Farm Credit Corporation.

The Federal Farm Credit Corporation has helped these people tremendously and they have given them what most of the farmers in Newfoundland consider huge loans. If anything happens to this operation, if this operation continues to be closed down for any, even a short period of time, it throws a monkey wrench into the whole operation. It threatens the economy of many of these producers and some of them, as I stated the other day, at least one man is nearing or is approaching bankruptcy.

I do not think this is the fault of any member of the previous government with the exception, of course, of the Minister of Finance. I do lay the blame on him. I believe something should have been done to at least get this operation going because this is a very ticklish situation. You have a broiler producer who has 24,000 chicks and he is given a date by the Newfoundland Farm Products to have his broilers at the slaughter house. Now each producer is given a date and of course they aim at these dates and I believe most of them keep these dates and if these chicks are not taken from this producer then he has to keep them in his house and they become overweight and he has to pay out money for extra feed and extra labour. This also interferes with his future programme because he has to clean out his present houses, he has to disinfect it in preparation for new chicks to come and if the date arrives when he receives these new chicks and he still has the old hens on hand well then he must destroy them some way or other.

There is one producer of broilers who at this present moment is considering digging a big pit with a bulldozer and covering up 24,000 broilers. Now this at a cost of \$1.20 per broiler is \$28,800 and if you had the \$250.00 that it is costing him every day to feed these broilers you see that this producer will lose something over \$30,000. Now this I believe is a deplorable situation. I believe something should be done about it immediately and I sincerely hope and trust that the present Minister of Mines, Agriculture and Resources can feed to the honourable Minister of Finance something even if it is some kind of a drink to get him to be a little more lenient, to get him to sit down and converse with these people so that this operation can once again become productive.

This I think, Mr. Chairman, is one of the most important things that we should consider at this present time. I may add, Mr. Chairman,



that there are fifty other producers of broilers and hogs in approximately the same situation only they have more time. We have another producer with 22,000 birds supposed to come into the plant on Monday morning coming, and then of course a few days after another one and so on and these people keep this plant operating. Of course, if the situation arises, Sir, that we cannot get this operation going then next week or the week after people in the St. John's and the Avalon Peninsula area will be going without a chicken dinner, Kentucky fried chicken and pork chops and the other produce from this plant.

Mr. Chairman, in agriculture I believe the past administration had done quite a lot in the form of agriculture. Of course there was never a need, any real need in Newfoundland before this last four or five years to really add any farm programme in Newfoundland because really and sincerely we did not have any real farmers and I do not want to insult any of the smaller operations at all because I believe they played a very important part. But it is only recently that we have been producing enough eggs to feed our own population and I understand that last year we exported some. It was only last year that we produced enough turnips for the province although we have always had storage problems and this is the reason we had to import some over the winter months. Potatoes, I doubt very much if we will ever produce enough and many other farm products. But I must say that today there is a real need, it is more urgent today for our government to have a real farm programme, to have a real farm assistance programme to help the farmers of our province who have been working really on a small scale for so many years and who are now ready and willing and most of them quite able to carry on high operations which will not only employ themselves but will employ many others. This, of course, is proven in the broiler operation.

I would like to also touch on a farming project that is a little

closer to my district, Mr. Chairman, and that is the blueberry industry. In the blueberry industry one section of my district produces quite an amount of blueberries every year. There is no other industry, no other industry in Newfoundland or in the world that can scatter the dollars and cents to every member of the family, to every member of the community like the blueberry industry. The father can make a good days wages picking blueberries, the mother and every child that can walk over the blueberry barrens. While I note there is an increase in estimates for this year I would certainly like to see even a larger increase and I am sure as this industry develops the present minister will make sure that there are substantial increases.

Mr. Chairman, while we will go through the estimates item by item there is really not too much that I can say at the present time although I believe there is just one little thing that I have overlooked and this is very important as far as the Farm Products Corporation is concerned. Would I be correct, Mr. Chairman, if I said that the reappointment of the Board of Directors should have taken place on approximately April 1 of this year and if so, is there any consideration given to reappointing them?

MR. DOODY: Yes, we have considered. Of course there are two considerations and one is addressed to reappointing the present Board of Directors who are all civil servants and very capable people but who have pretty onerous duties of their own. The Deputy Minister of Finance for instance is a member of the board as I understand it and Mr. Rupert Prince is very active with the Department of Fisheries. Is it in the best interest of the farming industry that these people be on the Board of Directors of Farm Products or is it possibly in the best interest of the farming community if the government were to depart from the old order and launch out in a new direction and possibly appoint the representative of the broiler industry and the

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representative of the hog industry on the Board of Directors? These are policy things that we are discussing and deliberating and that is the only reason why the appointments have not been made.

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MR

MR. W. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, just one or two brief matters I would like to deal with. I do not think we are wasting the time of the House in this general debate because as a result of clarifying the various issues that can come up in some detail under the ministerial salary and the minister's office, I think then we can go through the estimates very quickly and our body of experience that we have built up over the last few years has indicated this. I do not think we are wasting the time of the House by members of the House now airing our general and even specific views in this general debate. The Minister of Justice is always impatient when it comes to the Opposition discussing something. He was the same way when he was over there with us and he is the same way now. When he was in Opposition though he liked to take his fair share of the time of the House.

MR. HICKMAN: Inaudible.

MR. W. ROWE: Well, just be happy that your name enters the record of the House once more. Mr. Chairman, I would like to compliment sincerely the Minister of Mines Agriculture and Resources on the exposition he has given the House this afternoon on the number of matters which come under his jurisdiction. I would like to make one point about the offshore permits which he mentioned. These as he has indicated are interim permits given by Order-in-Council. Of course it goes without saying that an Order-in-Council can be rescinded by Order-in-Council. I am sure that there is not one man on this side of the House now who in a legitimate case would decry any of these Orders-in-Council being rescinded. For example, and I do not think that we would fall in this Province under the bane or get the name for being a Banana Republic in that particular case.

If a legitimate operator is out in the Atlantic Ocean looking for oil, no one would think, Mr. Chairman, of taking away the rights such as he has under these Orders-in-Council. I do not think he has much of a right under the Order-in-Council. We do not know what exactly they give to him. They give something to him. They give to the operator an indication of good faith, good will or something on the part of the Provincial

Government and the title which the Provincial Government may in fact have may go to the operator or not. I do not know. I do not think anybody even the lawyers in the House or the lawyers down town can give a clear opinion as to exactly what an operator who gets one of the interim permits has legally- what kind of a title he has. But the legitimate operator obviously has nothing to fear from any government in this Province or the Government of Canada for that matter if he is actively looking for oil or natural gas or any other minerals, any other resources on the Continental Shelf.

The operator who is not legitimate and by that I do not mean that because a man is a small operator he is not legitimate, or if a man is a speculator he is not legitimate, what I mean is that if a man or operator is not legitimate in that he is not pursuing actively his primary role of searching for mineralization or searching for oil or natural gas, then he is not a legitimate operator. Nobody in the business world, nobody in the financial world would have one word to say about an interim permit being cancelled if reasonable notice is given in that particular case.

Also I am sure that the minister has come across the problem of giving something more than one of these interim permits. Because if you give more than that, you are involved in regulations and the promulgation of regulations, when we in this Province, as the hon. the Premier has already said, do not have the forces, do not have the power to properly administer what is fifty-eight per cent of all the offshore resources that this Province has. It is at least fifty-eight per cent, a tremendous area. Mr. Chairman, we do not have the resources to properly police it nor to properly administer it. But I do not think there will be any problem at all, if an operator is not a legitimate operator. If his rights, such as they are, were taken from him.

I would make this suggestion as well: While we are awaiting the time when we get the administration straightened out and when regulations can be promulgated and a man knows more or less what rights he does have, what kind of a title he does have, I do not think there would be anything

wrong with putting in the order-in-council which gives the interim permit something to the effect that the holder of the permit is not permitted to alienate to third persons such title as he has in the offshore limits. I think this would go a long way, even for present holders of these permits, go along way in stopping speculation. If some of this stuff is taken back from some of the present holders of these permits and the present government gives other permits to other people this type of a term included in the order-in-council will stop your-fly-by night operator from coming in here, trying to get hold of vast resources, or at least the potentiality of vast resources, and flogging it to some other legitimate operator and making a fast capital gain when he has made no investment in the Province. So I do not think the hon. minister or the present Government will have any problem with the matters which I have just mentioned.

I have already complimented the minister on his exposition. I must say though in all frankness I was a little disappointed in what he had to say on the important question of the forestry tenure in the Province. I am not disappointed in that. I do not think he is working actively at it, but disappointed in that he did not have a little more to say on it, perhaps because he does not have at this point, and I understand that as well, anything else to say on the forestry tenure system that we do have. One of the first speeches I made in this House I think it was my maiden speech in this House, some six years ago, was one in which I decried in an outraged fashion the dog-in-the-manger attitude which Bowaters had, in this particular case, in respect of the forestry limits on the Baie Verte Peninsula, some very good limits indeed for we have a number of active operators like Gid Sacrey, for example, a name everybody has heard, A.T. White, other people Mr. Robinson down in Seal Cove. People who want to get into the forestry industry and not set up small operations as we have talked about - ten or twelve men working in the mill in the forest, but fairly large operations 150 men, 300, 400 and 500 men working in the woods and in the sawmill on the Baie Verte Peninsula. And the dog-in-the-manger attitude which Bowaters

has consistently applied to their holdings in that area. Because of that I took a personal interest in trying to remedy, trying to rectify the tenure system in the Province. During the last couple of years Mr. Callahan, who I believe is in the gallery here today, and I undertook to negotiate with the Government of Canada, the Department DREE and the Department of Forestry to try to come up with this forestry corporation, Commercial Forestry Corporation, the name is unimportant, but a corporation. The concept behind which was that a corporation be set up on which sat the representatives of the Government of Newfoundland, representatives of the paper companies in the Province and probably some other interested parties, Labour, for example, and they would have complete control over the limits of forests in this Province so that the paper companies which are now in existence and paper companies which may be in existence could be assured of a good reasonable supply of wood for their mills in the future, so that proper conservation methods could be carried out, to make sure that there was no surplus of wood just lying around the Province concerning which the companies would be tempted to have this dog-in-the-manger attitude. They would have enough wood, an adequate supply of wood, but that the surplus could be put to other uses and things like the Mooney Block or areas like the Baie Verte Peninsula would no longer be just rotting away there and wind shook and what not as a result of non-utilization. That whatever use could be made of it, small, large or medium size operators could get in there and operate sawmills or set up factories or do whatever could be done in the field.

Now we had proceeded I think to the point where Ottawa under DREE and Forestry were coming around to the point where they were going for this corporation idea, Although Mr. Callahan had some problems with the Department of Forestry, DREE had agreed to it, and as a token of their good faith in the matter DREE had given I think \$1,000,000 - I am not sure of the money, but a large amount of money for forestry access roads to go into Crown Land on the Province of Newfoundland, the Island of Newfoundland and Labrador. The drawback, of course, was that neither DREE nor any

other departments in the Government of Canada would lash out public money to build access roads on privately held limits because this would be a benefit to private owners of the land and we were hoping to get around this problem by setting up this commercial forestry corporation. Then, because the control would be in a public body,



although the title could reside with or vest in the private owners, the control of the forests which will be almost ownership for all practical purposes, the control of the forests would be in this public body and then DREE and the Federal Government would have no objection whatsoever to ~~lashing~~ lashing in money to build access roads which would make some of the presently non-feasible stands of wood become feasible from the point of view of the paper industry.

Now that is the point where we had reached. Nothing had been finalized. I know it was a heart-breaking disappointment to my former colleague, Mr. Callahan. He had lots of arguments and lots of problems with, and mostly I think some of the officials in Ottawa, That was the point where we left it. It was a disappointment to the previous administration. Perhaps the hon. minister could elaborate a little more fully, although briefly, on what the present status is. He said that a committee of officials have been set up to look at the situation. Well we have had committees of officials look into the situation before. I have every respect in the world for officials but I think that very little is going to be achieved in this field of general government policy unless the Minister of Forestry Resources here and the Minister of Forestry in Canada, finally get together and make the policy decision and say to their officials, "Now you go and do this." Perhaps we could have a sort of status report on the points you have reached in your negotiations with Ottawa.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, before the hon. minister gets to his feet, there are one or two points the hon. member for White Bay South mentioned and I cannot let go myself without making some comments on.

This is with respect to the oil permits off the coast of this province. The statement that is made to the effect that perhaps we should now look at the oil permits and perhaps we should take them back, etc., and rearrange them. Now one of the great tragedies of the previous

administration, for which Newfoundland could well suffer for many years to come, has been the policy with respect to the granting of oil leases and oil permits. It is an absolute and complete disgrace.

In the area around Newfoundland, we have vast, huge areas given out, as I am sure the Minister of Mines, Agriculture and Resources can verify, in oil permits. Huge areas, areas that are unable to be exploited with any kind of efficiency over a reasonable period of time. There are oil permits that have been given out by Order-in-Council without even the bare basic conditions as to an adequate amount of expenditure that should be made by people exploiting our natural resources. We have to look to the fact that they are our natural resources because that is the position which we take and one that we will maintain.

But in any event, there were no adequate conditions put on these permits. The areas were too large. It is a very surprising result when one considers at the same time we had already had the report on economic prospects, long gathering dust, in the offices of the government which talked about the business of giving too many concessions to too few people over a large area. We get this exhibition of the granting of permits to individuals and to companies, to corporate entities, over too large and too huge areas. Some of these companies have been prospecting in the area, prospecting is the word with respect to drilling. Others of them have not been. But the area we had is not as if they did not have, not only with the economic commission report, is not as if they did not have previous examples. We are informed this type of undertaking took place in the North Sea as well and the areas involved there were very, very much smaller in dimension than the areas given away here, wholesale. I should like to hear the gentlemen on the other side as to whether this experience was looked into. As to why appropriate steps were not taken to protect the people of Newfoundland, as to why permits were given to concerns that

were not even required to explore, in the permits themselves in the Orders-in-Council, and why in addition to firms such as AMICO and other firms who are conducting exploration out in little pockets and little cushions on the end of their concession and you can see it on any map, our little concessions given to the Jubilee interests and the Shaheen interests.

Now this is a point which I do not feel can be let go. It is a point which this government is certainly wrestling with and will bring about an orderly system with respect to this as with respect to the other areas of activity. But it is certainly a position that the people of Newfoundland ought to know and it is certainly one for which the persons now on the other side of the House, who formed the previous administration, ought to answer and ought to answer in explicit terms.

MR. WOODWARD: Mr. Chairman, just to be brief, I would like to say to the hon. smiling Minister of Mines, Agriculture and Resources, that maybe it is unfair that I should ask this question at this time because of the Javelin Bill just going through the House in a couple or three weeks, but what happens now to the timber concession that was given to Javelin in Labrador and what happens to the timber concessions that were given to Society Shipping and Etchen Burger (or some name of that nature) I think the people of Labrador would like to know where do the timber rights, or who has the timber rights now that Javelin did have. Maybe the Minister can enlighten us on this sometime while going through the Estimates.

Another thing I would like to say is that thinking in terms of mineral exploration and primarily land exploration, and not the oil exploration or prospecting in Labrador, we have highly regarded the BRINEX operation, which is the exploration or the exploration arm of BRINCO. We consider them to be very good citizens. They have been good

citizens of the communities where they have worked and I think that the people of Labrador hold the BRINCO or BRINEX organization in high esteem. But maybe the minister can enlighten us as he goes through his Estimates. What is happening as far as the mineral rights that were given which were large blocks of rights and as there is a certain amount of exploration expenditure on those rights, they revert back to the Crown or are they released under some other rights to some other people? We would also like to know possibly, we understand there are a number of concession rights given in Labrador as far as mineral is concerned and one of them I suppose would be the Jubilee, What has happened to the concession that was given the Julienne Lake, iron,ore deposits?

Going back to the uranium in the Makkovik Area and hopefully some day with the development again of the Lower Churchill and the encouragement of Brinex or Brinco, to develop that particular segment of the power resource that lies on the Lower Churchill, we would like to see come into being, the development of an enrichment plant.

The concessions under which the uranium rights are given, is this a provincial responsibility or is the overriding responsibility given by the federal department or the Government of Canada?

That is one of the questions we would like to have answered and maybe the hon. minister can note that so that we can get it. Dealing with the uranium, I understand that there is some federal jurisdictions over it and the total responsibility is not given to the province as such.

We would like to see the day when possibly this would tie in with the development of the Lower Churchill and that project. We are very interested in it, Mr. Chairman, and maybe you will be kind enough to look it up and maybe you can give us some satisfactory answers on it.

Getting back to the drilling of or the prospecting for oil off the Labrador Coast, I understand that last year we did have a rig off the Cartwright Coast which did help out the residents of Southern Labrador. Maybe my hon. colleague from Labrador South will speak on this during the debate, but there have been rumours to some effect going around in the Lake Melville- Goose Bay Area in the last couple of weeks that there have been leases given for drilling or prospecting for oil in the Lake Melville Area. Maybe, Mr. Chairman, the minister could enlighten us on this. I say rumours and possibly this is the extent of it, but there is the large deposit of sand that has come down over the years, brought down by the Churchill River or the Hamilton River as we referred to it in the old days. I would not doubt that some day there will be exploration companies interested in this particular delta, because there could be mineral deposits along the

Churchill Delta. Maybe one of those day we will discover, when the great Falls dry up, there will probably be gold deposits underneath that have been brought down over the years, and Newfoundland will become very, very rich.

Hopefully, they will not neglect to spend some of it in Labrador, at least a small portion. We are concerned about this and we think in terms of - when you think of minerals possibly and think of the great developers who we are very happy with, especially the Brinco people. We at one time mentioned the fact (it was brought up at a conference in Goose Bay, going back to 1970) possibly ways and means of bringing mineral ore down when they control the flow of the Hamilton River, bringing minerals down from deposits up in Western Labrador to the basin at the mouth of Lake Melville. This may be something to take into consideration.

I understand and I have been told that when there is and if there is,

and hopefully there will be a dam on the Lower Churchill at the Gull Island, Muskrat sites. You can control the flow of the river. So this may be an easy means of bringing down large volumes of minerals from the west, to Goose Bay. I understand, if I may, Mr. Chairman, speak briefly on travel, I think we are dealing with travel now.

Over this year with the programme that went on between the Brinco people or CFL Company people Churchill Falls and the University in their studies on the ice or the ice probe at Lake Melville to some degree that they are satisfied that with several ships we can have an all year round shipping in and out of the Port of Goose Bay, to the European market which brings us much closer to the European market than what the shipping port of Seven Islands is in Quebec. As the Honourable Minister of Finance mentioned and my honourable colleague from the west have talked about the increased production in iron ore, or ore from the west or from the - not necessary Wabush and Labrador City but possibly other deposits that will be developed.

There is a heavy taxation or a heavy burden on the existing transportation system that brings the iron ore from the west down into Sept Isles to ship it overseas. Maybe the honourable Minister of Agriculture when he is thinking of his minerals can take a look possibly with his people and have a second shipping port for the minerals that are coming out of the west possibly around the Lake Melville area together with the people that are doing the feasibility studies on ice. Maybe we can get a combination going here whereby you can make it viable on a second route, rather than going down into Quebec can go to the coast of Labrador or some area on the shores of Lake Melville which again will bring industry, I hope, or employment to the people of this area.

There are a number of things I suppose as far as minerals are concerned in the Labrador that we do not know about. I last year made

a tour of the Brinex, Seal Lake which is considered as a large deposit of copper. I do not know if the minister is familiar with it or his officials. This is native copper, They have discovered a lot of native copper that is merely on the surface and it is about ninety per cent pure. They had it on display. I do not know if you have seen it or not but no doubt Sir, in your travels this summer when you get out to Labrador and explore the mineral deposits you will have the opportunity to see it. Vast deposits of copper and possibly those are one of the things that they can bring into Labrador or bring into Goose Bay, and ship from Goose Bay.

So, in this area we would like to think that the honourable Minister in his wisdom and in his expenditures of spending public funds will think in the direction of using Goose Bay possibly for some of the mass volumes of minerals that we feel will eventually come from that western sector or that sector they



call the Labrador trout. So I think those are questions that I would primarily like to have answered by the honourable Minister of Mines, Agriculture and Resources. Another thing that I suppose I must not neglect to do is to mention the fact that if the government is controlling, and I feel they will when the minister answers this question, will be controlling those timber concessions and will not only consign those concessions to Labrador Linerboard Limited although I feel that Labrador Linerboard Limited should be given a sufficient production to look after their needs at the mill in Stephenville, but there are a number of people in our area I suppose as well as through the other areas of the province that are having a difficult time in getting timber concessions for small saw mills and things of that nature. It is surprising that in the Goose Board Local Consumption in the Goose Bay-Happy Valley Area, despite the fact that we have a local government saw mill at North West River where the production is very low which I hope will be stepped up to supply the needs of those communities, we have to import and chiefly from the Mainland of Canada primarily from Montreal somewhere in the vicinity of over two million board feet of lumber a year for local consumption in the Goose Bay-Happy Valley area.

So there have been a number of the citizens of those communities who have expressed their desires to get into a small saw mill type operation. Hopefully when they come to look for a permit they are not forced to go off some eighty or ninety miles in some area where it is not possible or it is not economical, feasible because of the distances, to produce the lumber and Labrador Linerboard will be given the near wood, the easy wood to produce and whereas the individual citizens will be forced to go off on some other concession or some other stand that does not make it viable for them. There are a number of timber stands along the Labrador and myself, personally, I do not

know where the concessions exist. I understand that there is in the Postville Area and I do not know if you are familiar with the Postville Area which we call the Kipakok Bay, maybe you should make a note of it, and there is a timber stand there and I do not know who has this concession, I understand possibly it is Shaheen has the same type of concession that he has in the Sandwich Bay Area. So possibly we could get an operation going here. I talked to the Social Services and Rehabilitation people, the NLSD, the division of it that is looking after Indians and Eskimo population of my district and I felt that it would be something good if they could get a permit to develop this particular timber stand. So in this area this would not only provide not only labour to this area but there has been over the last few years a large volume of raw lumber shipped into that area for construction.

So, Mr. Chairman, I do not have anything else to say other than as the honourable smiling minister said: when light came to Newfoundland, in which I suppose he was referring back to March 24, I feel that yesterday a dark cloud developed over this province.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Chairman, in answer to one of the questions put by the honourable the member for Labrador North, so as there can be no misunderstanding on the part of anyone, the timber licences which were illegally and improperly issued and ineffectively issued to a company in Liechtenstein have been irrevocably cancelled. That is no

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Crown land without any restriction whatsoever. Mr. Chairman, the thing that this committee must be awfully concerned about and must be made fully aware of is the reason why the present administration has taken the position, the public position that it took two weeks ago with respect to the offshore mineral exploration interim permits. It does not suffice to say that permits were handed out indiscriminately to promoters to try and establish our rights. That is silly nonsense. That has nothing to do with establishing any legal rights we have at all.

The tragic fact is, Mr. Chairman, (I commend the hon. Minister of Mines, Agriculture and Resources for his wisdom in appointing a committee of such competent Newfoundlanders to conduct this very thorough study into our permit qualifications at this time) that particularly during the past few months between the period of October and January, there was farming off of interim permits given without any qualifications, without any restrictions, that may do irreparable damage to the economy of this province. Let people and let this committee note when this transpires.

MR. ROBERTS: When the honourable gentleman says, farming off, does he mean permits issued?

MR. HICKMAN: No, not issued, sold.

MR. ROBERTS: By people who had previously received them.

MR. HICKMAN: By voters who had received them. Surely it is not too much to expect of any responsible administration that offshore mineral rights, interim permits, no right at all should be given to promoters. This committee will be interested to know that forty-four per cent of the offshore mineral interim exploration permits had been given to Mr. John Shaheen and his associated company. Approximately sixteen per cent to Mr. Doyle. Now I heard the hon. member for Bell Island, a few minutes ago, talking about creating a climate that would entice good business and

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respected business into this province. The issuance of these permits drive respectable and respected businesses out of this country

Mr. Chairman. Let us not make any mistake about it. May I say that when they see whom we are dealing with -

AN HON. MEMBER: I beg your pardon.

MR. HICKMAN: When they see whom we are dealing with, when they see that we lash out our resources to promoters, Mr. Chairman -

MR. NEARY: What about the oil refinery?

MR. HICKMAN: The Government of Newfoundland, the people in Newfoundland are building an oil refinery.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. HICKMAN: The relevancy, Mr. Chairman, of that to the plundering of our resources, our offshore mineral resources, rather escapes the imagination. Mr. Chairman, what we want to make abundantly clear and the announcement was made abundantly clear and the reaction from the legitimates, the reaction from the major oil companies to our stand is a very encouraging one. But the question that remains unanswered is this: Whilst permits were being lashed out here without any restriction, in a province that certainly has a fairly strong jurisdictional case, I agree with the hon. Leader of the Opposition a stronger case than in any other province, The Province of Nova Scotia, with a somewhat

MR. HICKMAN: case had the foresight to write into their interim permits specifications that X number of dollars will be spent each year on exploration. What is far more important and what is far more significant to Newfoundlanders is that they insisted that they get the lion's share of the service industry. No protection for the Newfoundland worker written into any interim permit. None, but none! To give you an example, Mr. Chairman, as to how much that is worth, off the Port of Aberdeen they are doing exploration right now in Scotland on - they started the last three or four years, they still have not made the find, they probably will sometime, but the exploration is going on. A minimum of 10,000 new jobs has been created in the Port of Aberdeen, as your committee found the other day, Mr. Chairman, from this study.

Even though there may be some jurisdictional disputes with Norway and the other Scandinavian countries, the Government of the United Kingdom was sufficiently shrewd and created a first-class precedent to protect the workers of that country, as did the Province of Nova Scotia. The Government of Canada, whether because of their anxiety to establish some jurisdictional rights, I do not know, had not been as careful and had not been as conscious of this resource so far as protecting Canadians was concerned as had the Province of Nova Scotia.

This is why, Mr. Chairman, and I think it is also relevant to note that in the policy decision that has been announced, that whilst we have put innocent purchasers for value unnoticed, that we have also indicated very clearly that we intend that these natural resources will not be plundered. No way will they be plundered. If we have any chance at all as a result of any discoveries that may be made out there, I suggest to this Committee that the main chance is going to be in the service industry on our shores. So far, there have been some voluntary use of some of our shore facilities, because they had no where else to go.

A great deal of the work that should be done right now in the Province of Newfoundland is being carried out in the City of Halifax, or carried out in the homes of the parent companies that are doing the work here. You do not have to be very imaginative, you have to be somewhat concerned to provide some protection in these interim permits.

One small thing that I would like to commend the minister for was his loosening up of the regulations of the Farm Loan Board. That board which was supposed to do so much for the small farmer in Newfoundland, has not had the opportunity because of the tight reins that was imposed on it to do it. I just want to refer to one example - last summer I am sure I spent the equivalent of a week on behalf of a constituent of mine who is a disabled miner from St. Lawrence, with a small farm of about five acres which was very successful in the Lewin's Cove Area. He wanted an agricultural lease for something like fifty or one hundred acres but he did not have the money. He went to the Farm Loan Board and they said; 'Well the first thing you have to do is get your lease. You have to get it surveyed.' He could not find the money, it is a fairly big job and obviously entails a fair number of men to get the survey done. Well, he said: 'If I could borrow that' and with efforts on behalf of his friends arrangements were made to finance the survey. 'I need some equipment to clear the land.' They said; 'No, our regulations today do not permit you to get a loan to buy the equipment, because you first have to prove that you are capable of farming fifty acres.' He was turned down. Not turned down out of any malice or wish on the part of the Farm Loan Board to turn him down, but because they were not given the rights and the permission to help farmers in the only way they can be helped.

Well, the hon. the minister changed all that. I am very happy to report that farmers in that category are now getting their loans, reputable farmers, They are not asking for hand outs. They do not want government help.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. HICKMAN: He got his loan. He has his loan. He has lost six months and all it meant was loosening the regulation, not just that constituent, there are a fair number of others - by lifting the regulation I cannot accept the fact that it is only within the past few years that farming in Newfoundland has now become relevant. Farming in the Winterland area, farming in the Lethbridge area, farming in the Codroy Valley area, farming in the Waterford Valley has been very relevant and with good possibilities with some encouragement in this province. We listened to a lot of lectures in the past couple of years from the Leader of the former administration who himself was a farmer. I hate to tell the honourable member for St. John's North, he is in violent disagreement with it. He says the great salvation is in the root crops and in the potatoes. But be that as it may, the important thing is that the Farm Loan Board now is beginning to promote and look after the Newfoundland farmers.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, just a couple of brief comments while we are on it, as regards to these licences. I am listening with as much interest as any other member, because I am learning and that is good. But I do hope the minister when he speaks will reply to it and eventually he will, it probably will not be today but there is tomorrow or maybe there is this evening. The House Leader has not told us whether he is going to whip us.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: That is easy. I mean it is all the same to me, I am a bachelor, you know. I do not have any of these problems at all.

MR. ROBERTS: Maybe it will be quicker tomorrow, I have to go to Buchan's tomorrow to speak to a graduation. So maybe if you will put one tomorrow it will go much more quickly. I mean if the House Leader is away, you know. However he is consulting, something is being cooked up back here, Mr. Chairman. But I do hope the minister will answer the question posed by colleague, our own House Leader. Why are not those permits simply cancelled, As a member of the administration, let us be clear, I take whatever responsibility there is. But let me also say that I do not know just what most of it is about. It is like many other things, there are many things in the present administration for which the honourable gentleman is responsible and will take responsibility but really knows little about. How else can it be? Why else do you have fourteen or fifteen or sixteen ministers and then another group of hopefuls in the wings and then the third tier beyond.

But you know let us cancel them and people who bought bona fide you know for notice of third parties or without notice of third parties deal with them, But if these promoters are acting so shamefully and doing things that are wrong, there is a feeling that they are wrong, then what is given by an Order-in-Council could be taken away by an Order-in-Council. To me it seems very straightforward.

There are one or two other points. I am delighted to learn that the Farm Loan Board is loosening up. I hope the minister can go on at a little more length about the forestry thing. One of the reasons why I was out of the House was a friend of mine, a constituent from Roddickington was calling, and all he needed was a mere \$8,000, \$10,000 or \$12,000 to get a J-4 or a J-5, I am not sure what kind of a tractor it is and he can put between twenty and thirty people to work immediately. Now that is fine. But I do not know if the project is feasible or not. I know



MR. ROBERTS: the man. I know he is a good operator. I know he is one of the men whose letters I have shipped down to the honourable minister, Mr. Chairman. But I do not know whether this particular project is feasible and viable and all of those things. But these people have got to have an answer, they are losing the season.

The minister's action in loosening the loans on the Farm Loan Board I am all for it. I had not realized that it had been done. Maybe I have not been reading my Gazette as carefully as I should.

MR. DOODY: May I just make one comment?

MR. ROBERTS: Yes, of course.

MR. DOODY: The Farm Loan Board thing, the Minister of Justice

Mr.

pointed out that it has been loosened up at last. I loosened it up about seven or eight days ago and the fund emptied itself in about ten days.

MR. ROBERTS: Had there been an announcement?

AN HON. MEMBER: No there had not. These are people who were backed up.

MR. ROBERTS: It is amazing how the word gets around when there is something on the go, is it not, Mr. Chairman? I hope the fund will be replenished both by the returns. One of the problems of these funds, Mr. Chairman, is that a loan is a loan. The thought behind the loan is that it is repaid, as the government found in the 1950's with the original tourist development loans. If Mr. Brown were here, my friend from St. John's Centre, he would - one thing about the loans it is easy to put them out. They got to come back or they are not loans. Grants are a different matter. There are people all over Newfoundland, Mr. Chairman, expecting ; (as a result of the commitments made by this administration, much like the lights in St. Mary's that Mr. Daley has written to the hon. member for St. Mary's about today in the "Telegram") immediately that machines be produced and marketing be set up and forests be made available. Expectations are raised. They have to be dealt with. Are we going to sit tonight by the way?

AN HON. MEMBER: No.

MR. ROBERTS: Well let me go up until six o'clock unless the minister - I have a number of other small points. Does the honourable minister want to deal with one or two of these points so we will carry on tomorrow? I have a couple of small questions. As you wish!

MR. DOODY: I will deal with them tomorrow.

MR. ROBERTS: Okay.

MR. DOODY: (Inaudible)

MR. ROBERTS: I have faith in the minister - I have real faith. He should

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be worried. I do not have faith in a lot of his colleagues. Maybe that is because I know them better than I know the minister. I wonder if the minister would tell the committee whether the government have any plans to retain the services, if that is the correct word, of Mr. Pat Murray, a former Deputy Minister of Agriculture. I am sure he has been beating on the honourable gentleman's door. I wonder whether the ministry have any plans to retain his services and if so in what connection and for what remuneration and so forth? The minister may not want to say anything about this (I could understand) but a year or so ago the present Premier (he was not then a member of this House) announced the creation of a pannel of a number of experts and Dr. Al Mercer was going to give us all the answers on health, as I recall it. Mr. Nelson Williams I believe was going to be the man on the forestry thing. I am wondering, in fact, if any report was ever submitted. I realize that it is an internal Progressive Conserative document but I would be interested to know what came of it. I know what Al Mercer did. Yes, I know what he did. I am going to be interested to watch. I am going to listen to a lot of things about the Health Department.

I wonder if the minister could tell us - I notice we are being asked under this head, Mr. Chairman, to approve a sum for an executive assistant, whether he has in fact retained one - is there not one in the salary estimates?

MR. DOODY: I have already mentioned that.

MR. ROBERTS: Oh! that has been dealt with, okay. Finally the Canada Bay Lumber Company in the sovereign constituency of White Bay North - I am not sure whether the question should go to the minister or perhaps to the Minister of Economic Development because not only is it a so-called economic development but the minister's special assistant, Mr. Peter Gardener is of course a principal in Canada Bay Company. They were all set to go

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ahead with a large integrated sawmill operation in the Roddickton area. Indeed the honourable minister without portfolio has doubtless memorized the Order-in-Council in which the previous administration undertook certain fairly heavy commitments, I think valid, but fairly heavy. Is this going ahead? Can the minister tell the committee anything about this?

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. ROBERTS: Well I hope so -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. DOODY: Or Mr. Gardener.

MR. ROBERTS: I am glad of that and as my friend said, "or Mr. Gardener." Roddickton is an area that has no industry of any sort and no possibility other than this woods business. Large parts of my district are "live or die" by the lumber industry. It has been ruddy rough the last few years. It is going ahead, is it?

MR. DOODY: (Inaudible)

MR. ROBERTS: Okay. My information is as of January 18. A lot has happened since January 18 as the minister will agree. I will leave these points with him. If the committee wish, we will call it six o'clock. You have to get the Speaker in and go through that bit so I will move that the committee rise and report progress and ask leave to sit again, if that is in order, Mr. Chairman. If not, somebody else can move it.

On motion, that the Committee rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again, Mr. Speaker returned to the Chair.

On motion report received and adopted.

On motion, the House at its rising adjourned until tomorrow Friday at 3:00 p.m.