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VERBATIM REPORT

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1974

SPEAKER: THE HONOURABLE JAMES M. RUSSELL

The House met at 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please!

The honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing:

HON. H.R.V. EARLE (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing): Mr. Speaker,

on February 1, the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion announced that the level of DREE funding in the province over the ten year period covered by the General Development Agreement will not be less than \$100 million per year. This amount is considerably higher than the annual level of DREE spending over the last few years. It has been made clear by DREE, however, throughout our negotiations that while DREE is prepared to make this level of funding available, the amount which they are prepared to spend on water, sewerage and highway work will be limited.

The conditions for cost-sharing which have been described in the General Development Agreement do not permit the funding of such general works designed to improve and equalize standards of public service across the province. (I think I should repeat that, Mr. Speaker.) The conditions for cost-sharing which have been described in the General Development Agreement do not permit the funding of such general works designed to improve and equalize standards of public service across the province.

While the provincial government has pressed for this provision as the needs of our people are well known in this regard, DREE has made it quite clear that it is not prepared to fund all such requirements. Instead DREE has agreed that it will assist the province in providing these services where they relate to specific development opportunities and to the alleviation of major bottlenecks to development and/or the creation of long-term employment.

The provincial government recognizes that levels of municipal services vary greatly throughout the province. Our government is acutely aware of communities which lack proper water and sewerage facilities. However, the General Development Agreement is not designed primarily as an

instrument for reducing disparities in municipal service levels. It is therefore irresponsible that the honourable member for White Bay South and the opposition should invite municipalities to present a list of their water and sewerage and road requirements to the province for inclusion in this programme of federal funding.

The opposition has done a great disservice to our people by prematurely speculating about agreements currently under negotiation with Ottawa.

MR. W.N. ROWE: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NEARY: Sit down.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please!

MR. W.N. ROWE: Point of order, Mr. Speaker. The honourable member is so wrapped up in his nonsense he does not know what point of order means. Is it permissible, Sir, for a minister of rise in this House and in a ministerial statement criticize the activities of the opposition in a highly partisan - question my motives as a member of this House in a highly partisan fashion?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: (Inaudible)

MR. F.B. ROWE: The Speaker can make up his own mind.

MR. MARSHALL: Whether the honourable minister...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: (Inaudible)

MR. SPEAKER: Order please!

MR. MARSHALL: The honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs is merely making a statement on an official and an important matter.

Alluding to the member for White Bay South perhaps detracts from the importance of the statement he was making but it is an official statement on the relationship of the government, of his department, to the DREE agreement, the general agreement. As such it is perfectly in order.

MR. E. ROBERTS (LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION): Mr. Speaker, speaking to the point of order. If I may, I confess I do not have the citation. Although, if Your Honour would wish to take a little recess, we could find it. It is out of order in any statement for any gentleman, including the gentleman from Fortune Bay, to question the motives. Furthermore, ministerial statements are merely indications of the government's intentions. I submit that the minister's statement goes far beyond that, Sir. The minister is trying to touch off a debate. He is trying to do it unfairly, one-sidedly and in a cowardly fashion. Therefore, Sir, I submit that that part of his statement is out of order. His statement as a statement of the minister's policy is in order but the second half of it is a cowardly and a base attempt not worthy of the minister.

MR. W. ROWE: Yes, it is worthy of him, more than worthy of him.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I shall take the whole matter of the honourable minister's statement under advisement and rule on it later.

MR. EARLE: Mr. Speaker, am I permitted to finish the statement?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. W. ROWE: Well, I have asked, Sir, for a ruling on statements already made in the House as to whether they are out of order or in order. Now, Sir, obviously the minister is going to continue in the same trend, the same general direction. If Your Honour is going to reserve judgement on the point of order raised, then I respectfully submit, Sir, that the minister be told not to continue his ministerial statement until Your Honour has made his ruling.

HON. J.C. CROSBIE (MINISTER OF FINANCE): Mr. Speaker, on that point of

order, the ministerial statement -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please!

MR. CROSBIE: If you do not mind, I can address myself to the point of order as well as the honourable gentleman. How can Your Honour stop the ministerial statement until he has heard what has been said. If there is anything in the ministerial statement that violates the rules of the House, then action can be taken. There is nothing in the ministerial statement that compares with the Leader of the Opposition's statement that the honourable minister is cowardly nor is there any reason why the minister should not correct a false impression given by the member for White Bay South to every municipality in the province. For Your Honour to rule out the ministerial statement before is completed would be unheard of.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, to that point of order, Sir. There are precedents in this session of the House, that when Your Honour has reserved judgement on a point of order that the matter is put in abeyance. The precedent would be my few remarks about the deputy speaker where Your Honour suggested and I quite readily went along with it, it is quite in point. Secondly, I repeat my statements that the gentleman from Fortune Bay is using the device of a ministerial statement to attack the member for White Bay South's motives and he is doing so in a base and a cowardly fashion. If he has any gentlemanly instincts left in him, he will make those statements in debate and not under guise of a ministerial statement.

I submit, Sir, that the minister is abusing the practice of a ministerial statement and that he should be asked to discontinue until Your Honour has rendered the ruling which Your Honour has reserved.

MR. L. BARRY (MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY): Mr. Speaker, to the point of order. I submit that that the allocations of the Leader of the Opposition's

references to the base and cowardly manner - that this is unparliamentary language whether raised in a point of order or raised in the course of debate. I would ask, Mr. Speaker, that the honourable the Leader of the Opposition be asked to withdraw -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Deal with one point of order.

MR. BARRY: No, do not deal with one point of order and permit a callous disregard of all rules of order in the course of raising the previous point of order. The Leader of the Opposition should be asked to withdraw the unparliamentary language that he raised in his point of order.

Speaking to the point of order raised by the honourable members opposite, regardless of what Your Honour's conclusions are as to the statements already made - Your Honour can reserve ruling on those - that has nothing to do with the rest of the statement which the honourable minister wishes to make and he should be permitted to continue.

The honourable Leader of the Opposition has been asked to withdraw "base and cowardly remarks."

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, to the point of order. To the point of order, Sir. The honourable gentleman from Placentia West has had the face to stand in this House, Sir, and accuse us of unparliamentary remarks and there, Sir, Your Honour will in due course rule. If they are unparliamentary, I shall withdraw them, of course. The gentleman from Placentia West has the gall, the arrogance and the unparalleled baseness and cowardice to stand and repeat the remarks and hurl them at me as an accusation. Shame on him, Sir!

MR. SPEAKER: It appears as if the statement being give by the honourable minister has led to quite a bit of controversy and a bit of heated debate. I submit, perhaps it has led to a matter of a difference of opinion between honourable members. I shall permit the minister to finish his statement. If things in that statement continue to raise opposition or if opposition be raised by honourable members, I shall rule on the complete statement as given by the honourable minister after hearing the whole of it.

MR. EARLE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This statement is given to clarify the situation which arose not of our making. I think that the public is entitled to a clarification.

It was therefore irresponsible of the Hon. Member for White Bay South and the opposition to invite municipalities to present a list of their water and sewer and road requirements to the province for inclusion in this programme of federal funding. The opposition have done a great disservice to our people by prematurely speculating about agreements currently under negotiation with Ottawa to provide community services and by deliberating ignoring the text of the general development agreement nor did they consult with our government prior to taking this highly irresponsible, politically motivated effort.

I have copies for the press.

MR. W. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, on this debate, if I may be permitted a few words.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. W. ROWE: Oh, no! If the House says I cannot say anything on it, Sir, I will gladly say it outside the House. It has been the tradition to allow spokesmen, Sir, to speak on a ministerial statement. Now, if Your Honour does not want to do that in this particular case, it is up to Your Honour.

MR. CROSSIE: Mr. Speaker, the honourable gentleman has no status

at all in this matter and I refer to Page 84 of Beauchesne, Section (91):
"When a minister makes a statement on government policy or ministerial administration, either under routine proceedings, between two Orders of the Day or shortly before the adjournment of the House, it is now firmly established that the Leader of the Opposition or the chiefs of recognized groups are entitled to ask explanations and make a few remarks but no debate is then allowed under any Standing Order."

The Hon. gentleman from White Bay South is not a leader in this House of any recognized group nor is he the Leader of the Opposition. He, therefore, has no right at all to make a few remarks on the statement nor to ask for any explanations. It is only the Leader of the Opposition who can.

MR. W. ROWE: On that point of order, Sir. Of course Beauchesne is resorted to when our own Standing Orders or precedents are not clear. Now in the past two or three years or more in this House, spokesmen in the opposition on different government departments or government duties, have been permitted to rise and say a few words to the House. If Your Honour wishes to rule against that tradition being carried on, I am in Your Honour's hands.

AN HON. MEMBER: There is no such tradition.

MR. SPEAKER: While the Standing Orders quoted by the Hon. Minister of Finance are certainly correct and if we were to be sticking strictly and directly to that, I suppose nobody would be permitted to make any comments with regard to any ministerial statement, except the Leader of the Opposition or leader of a party. However, it has been the custom in this House to permit a person other than the leader of a party or the Leader of the Opposition, acting basically I suppose in the position as spokesmen for the leader, to say a few words to ministerial statements. I do not see really why we should perhaps discontinue that at the present time. I shall permit the Hon. Member for White Bay South to say a few words in reply to this statement.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: (Inaudible).

MR. SPEAKER: Order please!

MR. CROSBIE: I wish to speak to this point of order because,

Mr. Speaker -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. CROSBIE: Well I will raise another point of order. Until 1971, Mr. Speaker, there was no such custom of this House and I would, therefore, like to submit that there is no such custom in this House now. A custom of the House cannot be established in one or two years. Surely a custom of the House must be something that goes back at least fifty or one hundred years in parliamentary tradition. There is no custom of this House that I am aware of that permits anyone but the Leader of the Opposition or the leader of a recognized group to comment on a ministerial statement. I, therefore, submit there is no such -

MR. ROBERTS: To the point of order, Sir. I think the Hon. Minister of Finance is being spacious and specious. Your Honour has made a ruling on the precise point. If the gentleman from St. John's West, the Minister of Finance, wish to appeal it, Sir, there is a procedure which he of course is at liberty to follow as is any honourable gentleman. If not, Sir, I submit that Your Honour has made a clear ruling and that the practice in this Chamber, whether it be one week or one month or one hundred weeks or one hundred years, is that a spokesmen for this side may speak. Your Honour has made that ruling. Now if the gentleman from St. John's West wish to appeal it, Sir, let him not do so under the guise of a specious point of order. Let him do so in the proper procedure laid down in our rules.

MR. SPEAKER: I said that I would permit the Hon. Member for White Bay South to say a few words. If

in future matters such as this, they are only allowed as a bit of leeway given by the Chair I suppose, but if in future tend to involve honourable members in unnecessary debate then I guess I will have to stick strictly to the rule and permit nobody to reply to a ministerial statement.

MR. WM. ROWE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have one or two brief remarks to make concerning the so-called ministerial statement. First of all let me make the comment that, as the Leader of the Opposition has already said, it was an attempt to have a one-sided statement made without recourse to debate of any kind in the House as to whether what the minister says is factually correct or not. Fortunately Your Honour was wise enough to rule out the attempt by the Minister of Finance not to have anything said by this side of the House.

On what the minister said, Sir, let me say this, as I said in a public statement outside the House, I was not the one and the opposition was not the one who announced that special areas in this province were done away with. "There were no special areas in this province." If that statement has any meaning, Mr. Speaker, that there are no more special areas, it can only mean that every community and town in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador now stands on an equal footing with every other town and community in getting DREE funds for infrastructure. If it does not -

MR. CROSBIE: This is not permitted by the rules. The honourable gentleman is entitled to ask explanations and make a few remarks, not to start debating what the minister has said in his statement which is what he is now attempting to do. He is now attempting to create a debate. Does he want to ask an explanation?

MR. WM. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, I am merely making a few remarks, which are no more intemperate than the minister's remarks in a ministerial statement.

MR. CROSBIE: You know it is false.

MR. E. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, to a point of order, the honourable gentleman from St. John's West has just been heard to say that my colleague is

attempting to put across falsehoods, Surely Sir that is unparliamentary and he should be asked to withdraw it.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please! This whole matters seems to be getting into a more heated debate, I will still permit the honourable member for White Bay South to continue but caution him to be perhaps a little more careful in his choice of words with regard to this ministerial statement.

MR. E. ROBERTS: What about the point of order, Sir, the member for St. John's West?

MR. SPEAKER: That was no point of order.

MR. WM. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, my remarks I would submit, Sir, which I will continue with, are no more intemperate than were the remarks on the so-called ministerial statement.

To summarize what I have already said: This government in a public announcement gave the impression to all Newfoundland, gave the impression to me as a member of this House, that because special areas were done away with, everybody in this province now stood on an equal footing as far as Dree money was concerned for infrastructure in the various towns and communities around the province.

Now, Mr. Speaker, nor is it my fault nor the opposition's fault this government has not signed any specific development agreements. By announcing to the people of Newfoundland that there was \$100 million a year of DREE money they gave the people of this province the firm impression, right or wrong, the firm impression that this vast amount of money was available to look after their needs, no special areas, \$100 million a year. What I have done, Sir, and I have done quite openly, is to send letters to every community -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WM. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, may I make my few remarks? To send a letter to every town and community in this province, calling upon them -

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The honourable gentleman is not making a few remarks on the minister's statement, he is attempting to defend his own position of sending out letters containing false statements for the municipalities of the province. He can debate that. He is quite entitled to debate that in the Address in Reply or at some other appropriate time. He is not making a few remarks on the minister's statement and he is not asking for explanations. He is explaining how he came to this devious plot to send out these letter, and it is not relevant now.

MR. E. ROBERTS: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I submit that my colleague should be allowed to continue making his few remarks without harassment.

AN HON. MEMBER: Listen to them. They would howl him down. Furthermore, if the Minister of Finance, Mr. Speaker, really thinks that the statements are false, my colleagues made the statements openly and outside the House, let the Minister of Finance seek his recourse or let him be man enough not to make base and cowardly attacks as he too has just done in this House.

MR. L. BARRY, Minister of Mines and Energy: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, is the honourable Leader of the Opposition

going to be permitted to carry on with these cowardly allegations? Now I ask that he withdraw that unparliamentary language, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: First of all I would like to remind the Hon. Leader of the Opposition to look up Beauchesne, page 131, Standing Order 155, Sub-section(2) in which Borneau gives the following example of unparliamentary phrases; one of which is that he has acted from base motives.

I think that the point of order as raised by the hon. Minister of Mines and Energy is perhaps well taken. I would caution the Hon. Leader of the Opposition about using such phrases in the future.

MR ROBERTS: Thank you, Your Honour. I shall not use them again but I wonder if Your Honour would direct the Minister of Municipal Affairs - he made a statement questioning my colleague once. He made it deliberately. It was written out. He read it. Would Your Honour direct that? Furthermore the Minister of Finance has just accused my colleague of making a false statement, Sir, and that is barred under the citation,155,to which Your Honour just referred.

Furthermore, the Minister of Finance earlier made the statement again; that my colleague stated falsely; so I would ask Your Honour - I gladly accept and I withdraw the incantations made in the heat of debate, provoked by the unmerciful and merciless behaviour of the other side, but the Minister of Municipal Affairs comes in, reading a statement which was headed "Draft" -scratched out - "Press Release " or "Ministerial Statement" and I quote him:

"Highly irresponsible, politically motivated action..."

Mr. Speaker, I submit that that is completely out of order; Citation 155, (2) (3); 131 and 132 support ample authority. I would invite Your Honour, just as I have accepted your ruling, to make the same ruling in respect to the gentleman from Fortune Bay.

MR CROSBIE: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: To say that an honourable member made a false statement is not unparliamentary. To say that an honourable member has knowingly made a false statement or has lied is unparliamentary. All I have said about the honourable gentleman's statements is that they are false. Now I have certain opinions about

the rest of it which I will not express now. At the moment, in this House, I have said that his statements were false. That is not unparliamentary; his statements were false. Whether he made them knowingly or not is another matter I have not addressed myself to yet.

MR SPEAKER: The Minister of Finance I think is quite correct. I do not think he inferred that the honourable member uttered a deliberate falsehood but he inferred perhaps that his statements were false, which is not really unparliamentary.

With regard to the ministerial statement made by the Hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, I have already said that I would make a ruling on that later, and I shall so do.

I shall permit the honourable Member for White Bay South to continue:

MR. ROWE, W.N. I would like to thank the Speaker for allowing me to resume my few remarks. Sir, I will wind up my remarks at the present time with one or two more sentences but I will be going into to this whole matter at some length both outside of the House and in the general debates which will be before this House. But allow to me to say just this, the statements which I made publicly in my letters to the various communities and towns should not cause this government any fear, Sir, unless the statements made by them in their public announcement concerning DREE were false and a big bluff perpetrated on the people of Newfoundland.

If, Sir, the statements made by the government on that announcement were false and were a bluff on the people of Newfoundland then I submit, Sir, my action in calling upon the various community councils and town councils in this province, my action in calling upon them to contact the government and get some money under DREE will cause this government to be in fear and trembling in the months to come.

Let me conclude, Sir, by merely saying, and this is not the end of this by a long shot because it is a very important matter, a very important matter, Sir, let me conclude by merely saying this - this government have

made their bed, Sir, now let them lie on it and let the people of Newfoundland find out who is being deceitful and who is being a bluff and who is making false statements in this matter.

MR. ROBERTS: Hear! Hear! Well said!

MR. BARRY: Mr. Speaker, if I may make a few base and cowardly remarks, one-sided -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. BARRY: All I have to do is look at the honourable gentleman for a while.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. BARRY: Mr. Speaker, each year the government, as a part of its programme providing electrical service to the rural areas of our province, provides an operating subsidy to the Rural Electric Authority to enable it to provide service to individuals at rates which are substantially below the actual cost of providing such services.

In the current fiscal year the subsidy required for this purpose is estimated to be \$5,451,000 and for the coming year the subsidy is expected to be approximately \$6,500,000. Rates on Rural Electrical Systems fed from diesel generation have up to now been higher than the rates for customers fed from hydro generation.

In order to enable these customers, that is the customers fed by diesel, to enjoy the most electrical conveniences at the same cost as other citizens of the Province, the Government has decided to change the rates for domestic service for consumption of electrical energy up to 500 kilowatt-hours per month to coincide with rates charged to customers fed from the hydro grid. In other words, up to 500 kilowatt-hours a month, the customer fed by a diesel generating plant will pay the same rates as customers fed from the hydro grid.

This measure has been introduced as a step towards providing a uniform standard of service in all areas of the Province. Rising prices for fuel oil prevent us from extending this policy to all levels of usage and classes of service at this time. We have, however, decided to maintain existing unit rates for the higher use levels and commercial load classes, in spite of rapidly rising fuel costs. Some 9,200 domestic customers are fed from diesel generating stations. I have copies for the Opposition and the press, Mr. Speaker.

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Speaker, another great P.C. advance. I will not say a word, Mr. Speaker, in this statement about the poltroons opposite or anyone of them.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. CROSBIE: Poltroons. Mischievous and deliberately attempting to fool and foil the people of the country. Mr. Speaker, the Newfoundland and Labrador Power Commission has had an issue of \$20,000,000 of bonds, the Power Commission, guaranteed by the Province. Today in the Canadian market the bonds will mature in 1999, callable in 1995, twenty-five year bonds, recallable in 1995. The coupons of eight point seven-eighths per cent, at a price of ninety-nine and three-quarters, which will yield eight point

nine zero to the investor. The issue carries a one per cent sinking fund.

HON. DR. A. T. ROWE (Minister of Health): Mr. Speaker, it is with much regret that I have to announce the retirement due to uncertain health of Doctor Donald Cant, as deputy minister of my department. After spending some years in the Government Medical Service in Newfoundland outposts, Dr. Cant was a private practitioner of Corner Brook until 1968 when he became assistant Deputy Minister of the Health Department. In July, 1971, under the retirement of Doctor Leonard Miller, Doctor Cant succeeded as Deputy Minister. I regret very much that Doctor Cant's work with the Department has been terminated. Meanwhile, Mr. T.C. Sellars, Associate Deputy Minister, is acting as Deputy Minister.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, with respect to the minister's statement, let me say that I am not surprised but I fully share his feelings of disappointment as I feel sure would any honourable members who had the pleasure of working with Dr. Cant. Dr. Cant came into the department, I believe, while the present Justice Minister was Minister of Health. I had the great pleasure of working with him for a couple of years. He was the assistant Deputy Minister. Then, in due course, he succeeded Dr. Miller as the Deputy.

All of us who have kept in touch in any way know that his health has been quite, you know, he has been off the last three or four months and now the inevitable has happened. His health is so uncertain that he has to retire. I am sorry. I think Newfoundlanders lost a good public servant. I think the people of Newfoundland are losing the services of a good doctor as well as a good public servant. I do hope that Dr. Cant's health does come back to him. He is a relatively young man, I venture. I do not know his age but I doubt if he - he is not sixty, almost sixty? So he is a man who still got many years of good and active life left in him and I do hope his health comes back

February 18, 1974.

Tape 280

RH - 3

and if he does not come back into the public service that he will return to the practice of medicine in due course.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, I am not quite sure if what I am about to suggest is in order or not. I realize that it is a bit of a departure from some precedent but we have had in the province over the weekend - we have suffered the loss of one of the more interesting and more noteworthy journalists, the late Mr. Rupert Jackson, M.B.E. The Premier referred to him in a tribute which I heard at lunch hour on the radio station, as to his being a noteworthy figure, and all of us share in that. If it is in order, I would propose a motion of condolence, that the sympathy of the House be sent to Mrs. Jackson, Mr. Jackson's widow. Or perhaps, if more appropriate, the Premier could propose it and I could be taken as having seconded it, whichever is the appropriate way.

We do in this House, Sir, note the passing of prominent Newfoundlanders and I think Mr. Jackson was well known to us all and certainly a man whose passing should be noted and noted with regret.

MR. SPEAKER: Do we have agreement that such a statement will be made? Agreed. The honourable the Premier:

HON. F.D. MOORES (Premier): Mr. Speaker, in that regard I was sorry for being late getting here today. I did not know if it had been mentioned until I came and found that it was not. I thought it was too late to bring it up and I intended doing it tomorrow. I thank the Leader of the Opposition for doing it now.

The fact is that Rupert Jackson was an unusual Newfoundlander. He was a man who was totally honest unto himself and I think with the contribution he has made to our province, the contribution he has made as an individual and through the media which he wrote for. It gives me great pleasure to move the motion seconded by the Leader of the Opposition or the other way around, whichever is fit, but certainly to make sure that this House shows its appreciation to the family of the late Mr. Jackson.

MR. SPEAKER: I will take note of that and a convenient letter shall be forwarded to the family.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, further to that and I confess it has slipped my mind and everybody else's, but there is a long standing tradition in the House that when a former member dies a letter of sympathy and condolence goes forth from Your Honour as our spokesman and our representative. While we were in recess, it was early in December, Mr. Llewellyn Strange, a former Chief of Police, died. Mr. Strange served, I believe, two terms as the member for Port de Grave. In 1956 and 1959 he would have been elected as the member for Port de Grave. Perhaps Your Honour could - I do not know whether we need motions or not but if Your Honour could take notice of it and write a suitable letter to Mrs. Strange and to the family to let them know that this House has noted Mr. Strange's passing and noted it with regret.

MR. SPEAKER: I will agree to that. That is done.

The honourable member for Bell Island:

M.R. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the honourable the Premier, Sir. I would like to ask the Premier if it is correct that the Premier's special real estate adviser, John Colbourne, has resigned his position to take up a job as the Newfoundland representative of Trizec?

MR. SPEAKER: I shall permit the Premier to answer if he should wish but -

MR. MOORES: Mr. Speaker, the truth is that Mr. Colbourne has resigned from my office. He did so quite some time ago. He gave me notice about a month ago. I do not think any time any person working for any member of the government resigns it is a matter of importance for this House, Sir, but as it is obviously a matter of importance to the member for Bell Island, the answer is yes. Who he has gone to work with, I will be very honest, I do not know. As far as being my real estate agent is concerned, Sir, I only have one and that is Memorial.

MR. ROBERTS: Memorial is a real estate agent?

MR. MOORES: Would you believe, a landlord who owns the real estate?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the minister responsible for Recreation and Youth: In view of the province's contribution to the Newfoundland Amateur Hockey Association, will the minister inform the House what steps if any he has taken to correct the drastic measures taken against a prominent Newfoundland sport figure, Dick Power, who has been expelled for life from the N.A.H.A. without even as much as a hearing?

MR. MARSHALL: That question is out of order.

MR. NEARY: I beg your pardon?

MR. MARSHALL: That question is out of order.

MR. NEARY: That question is in order.

MR. SPEAKER: I feel that that question may be out of order because I do think it falls within the jurisdiction or responsibility of the minister's department.

MR. NEARY: It does, because, Mr. Speaker, if I may point out, the minister is responsible for recreation and they make a substantial contribution to the N.A.H.A. every year. If I may, Sir, perhaps I could direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Industrial Relations under whose department comes the Director of Human Rights. Would the minister of Manpower inform the House

if the director of Human Rights has taken any steps to see that drastic measures taken against Mr. Power will be corrected.

MR. SPEAKER: It will be placed on the Order Paper.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, could I direct a question to the Minister of Transportation and Communications? Will the minister inform the House if the government have adopted measures recommended by the Government of Canada that the use of seat belts in the various provinces be compulsory?

MR. T.P. HICKEY (MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS): I will take it under advisement.

MR. NEARY: The minister has taken it under advisement.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:

MR. SPEAKER: I think the honourable member for Port de Grave adjourned the debate last day if he wishes to continue now.

MR. WILSON: Mr. Speaker, and members of this honourable House of Assembly, it is one great pleasure to stand in this honourable House, to speak in this debate in Reply to the Speech from the Throne. I wish to congratulate the member for Bonavista South and the member for Harbour Grace who ably proposed and seconded. It becomes ones duty, elected to a district, to try his best to bring forth the things that are happening in the district and much more our province. I am proudly honoured in this honourable House to do that for the district of Port de Grave in my small way because I feel that I am not worthy to represent it.

Also in this honourable House, Sir, today without any further ado, we have in his place our Premier, the Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador who has a birthday. I am sure, Sir, that members of this honourable House will join with me in wishing the honourable Premier many happy returns. Being forty-one years of age, just a young man, to take the responsibilities of running this noble province of which I am proud to be one who is in the government to represent - proud

of his people, proud of his youth and much more, proud of the place in which I stand.

While speaking to this debate, we have heard in this honourable House of the things that have been done, things that have not been done. The Throne Speech was empty and barren, as bare as the Funks. Well, Mr. Speaker, it takes one, I suppose, to criticize. Lots of things have been done right also pertaining probably to these. They may criticize some of those that are done wrong. There are none perfect, as we know. We are all trying to do out best. Some are educated to the hilt and more are uneducated.

I have sat in this honourable House, Mr. Speaker, for two years wondering if I could gain some light and knowledge from those that I look to to show some respect. After two years I find myself into a position that not one that I see on the other side of the House that has been in this House of Assembly for years, has shown me that, Sir. That goes to show to me that somewhere along the line someone must have been barred in, barred away. They got a chance to peep out through a hole and finally they tore away and tore away and got room enough to get out, to get out of their shell and have been permitted in this honourable House to get out of their shell and speak their mind. Before that, Sir, it goes to show me that they were into a shell and the finger was pointed at them. If you were to go down, you were to go down. If you were to go up, you were to go up. This is what has gotten us into where we are to.

Mr. Speaker, it is not my will and not my pleasure to criticize any honourable member. It is my will and my pleasure to stand in this honourable House and try to represent my district, not only my district, Mr. Speaker, but my province. To stand here, which I have already said, with the Leader of this province of forty-one years of age, with the guts and the gumption to take on his shoulders the responsibility of this province which has so long been degraded, for twenty-three years

that I and other members in this House were shoved by the wayside. You were black-listed because you never went along with the things that happened. I have proven and I have borne the burden and the heat of the day and still after coming to the place we see even some of it yet. I am prepared to take, I am prepared to stand in this House, out on the street, out on the hillside or on the ocean for what I think is firm and right, that the youth of this country deserve. That has been ably, Sir, shown when the honourable Premier went away to Ottawa to see about the energy crisis. As far as I am concerned, no man comes in and takes what I have on my property and gets away without me finding out what is going to become of it. I think this province belongs to Newfoundland not barring those that want to come into it to do some good.

It belongs to us and why should we not find out what is going to be done with the resources of it? I tell honourable members, Mr. Speaker, that we are finding out what is becoming of the resources. I come from a little settlement and a district but I assure you that the people in Port de Grave district know what is becoming of our resources. Go out and stand on the corner on the Trans Canada Highway or anywhere in Port de Grave district, just take stock and take notice of what is happening. If you were caught years ago going in on the Trans Canada Highway with a bucksaw on your back or an axe in you hand, you were brought up with about fifteen, with a stamp on their shoulder. I do not know if it was from Hitler or Communists or what it was for but they had it there. Go there today and all you can see are people going around with power saws trying to make a living and a decent one and a good one.

While I am speaking on this, Mr. Speaker, I have nothing but praise and admiration for our Minister of Forestry who has so ably done the job, who has brought our forests under control. We have heard a great lot about our fisheries. Sure, we need them. We need our forestry. We need everything that is into it. They have accepted the values of it and put the values to work for the coming

generations.

I am not prepared to sit idly by if I am sixty years of age or seventy and say it is finished. Someone rowed the long boat that has brought me where I am to. If I figure that I am all right, then am I going to sit back and let the other fellow row the long boat? It is my duty to show respect, to show honesty, to show integrity to those that are going to have to pick up for the future generation. We do not know how long, we do not know how short it will be but the duty has been placed on the shoulders of those in position to do so. I want to be listed, Mr. Speaker, with one of these. It is one of these today that places me in the position that I am standing on this side of the House with the government as it stands firm to do just that.

Our fisheries, Mr. Speaker, have been talked about. We cannot get clear of them

I can remember when they were told to burn their boats. I can remember your Uncle Joe saying burn your boats.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WILSON: Like the mushrooms on Bell Island you would never burn them, could not get them to burn.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. WILSON: If the honourable member for Bell Island had done so much for his district, as he has done to criticize this government or disrupt his party on the other side of the House, they would be better off today, they would not be out on the road saying that they are finished, that they are buried.

MR. NEARY: The honourable member better watch his blood pressure.

MR. WILSON: I do not have to watch my blood pressure. My blood pressure is all right. The honourable member for Bell Island is after attacking everything in this House from religion down. I am not sorry to stand here and tell him.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker,

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

MR. NEARY: On a point of order, I think the honourable member has gone too far, Sir, he should withdraw that statement. I did not attack anybody in this House on religious grounds.

MR. WILSON: On religion, yes.

MR. MARSHALL: On that point of order, Mr. Speaker, every since the honourable member has started to speak the honourable the member for Bell Island has been interrupting him, requiring and inviting comments and he is the author of these things that occur, as he is the author so many times. I think, Your Honour, the honourable member for Bell Island ought to follow the rule that has been accepted although he disregards it without timidity that a member is to be allowed to be heard in silence.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! There is no point of order as raised by the honourable the member for Bell Island. I will remind all honourable members that when one member is speaking he does have the right to be

heard in silence.

MR. WILSON: Mr. Speaker, and members of this honourable House I have been challenged. I spoke about it. I am prepared. What did the honourable member for Bell Island do with the honourable member here for St. John's Centre about prayer beads 160 years of age.

AN HON. MEMBER: Shame on him.

MR. WILSON: I never heard such language in my life. This is why I am not prepared to take it. I am not prepared to take it from the honourable member for Bell Island if he wants to get up and challenge me, what he said here in this House. The honourable member could not challenge me. Mr. Speaker, on things like, because he has gone too far and indulging too much in it. I do not anticipate indulging into it. But I ask, Sir, the honourable members, when he is all the time criticizing - he has attacked every member on the floors of this House of Assembly. If the honourable member had to be so much interested into his district, he would have been looking for something else, Mr. Speaker, more at par, more better and more enabling to look for for his district than looking for a mushroom farm.

MR NEARY: Maybe a lumber farm for over there.

MR WILSON: A lumber farm - very good, I will tell you about the lumber too in a short while.

MR SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. WILSON: The honourable member is after bringing something else into in and the lumber that he is getting into he was walking right back into the rural development because the Minister of Rural Development is after getting into so many sawmills going in Newfoundland. I say "God grant him." We have the privilege to know at this very present time before I left home that last year in December an invoice showing, two by four from the Mainland \$220 a thousand delivered on Clarke's Beach Siding. What a good justice the Minister of Rural Development is doing to create sawmills in Newfoundland to the day - he picked up the phone on the Mainland and called me to try and sell me a carload of two by four for \$150 - why, Mr. Speaker, and honourable members if they had found out that someone in Newfoundland or

half the Province of Newfoundland are after coming awake. They found no more dumping ground. Therefore lumber has dropped from \$70 or \$80 a thousand. If the Rural Development have done nothing else they have put us in a position to get lumber lower and therefore we have heard so much about it in this honourable House about housing - it is a good savings of probably \$1,000 or \$1,200 or \$1,500 on the building of a house on lumber. That is number one.

Number two is: Never in the history of Newfoundland did we have such a building boom as we had last summer and had so many strikes. No lumber could get to the country. What happened? The local sawmills through the help of the Rural Development took over. Ask any merchant, any lumber dealer who are in St. John's or outside of St. John's what keeps them afloat? Only just the local sawmills kept them going, that kept the men on their payroll where they would have to be laid off if there had been no rural development - and went on unemployment insurance or tried to receive welfare.

There were men called for, carpenters could not be gotten to do a job. Everyone was fully employed. I say that the rural development did a clever job and I hope it will not end there. I will tell you what we had in rural development before, in our previous government, we had a sawmill at Hawke's Bay, lo and behold! you know who had to sell me the lumber, that I had to buy my lumber from the agent, the Goodfellow Lumber Sales on the Mainland. That is who it had to be brought from. That is a pretty good programme our previous administration brought in - if you had a sawmill your lumber had to be grade marked and stamped. Why? Because there was so much interest and influx into the building trades from the Mainland, because if the local lumber sawmills used and stuck up in the houses, the houses would have to be thrown down. Do not tell me that I do not know as a contractor, it did have to be done. Now I never had to tear them down but I had fellows who had just received the lumber from me. But you had to buy lumber from the Mainland. When you brought a carload of lumber you had to sign to take twenty per cent of number two. That was grade marked to go into your house and it was

not fit to use as firewood.

These are some of the things the Rural Developed have done. There are lumber dealers in this country that sold the same amount of lumber this year past, imported 700,000 thousand feet the year before that only imported 150,000 feet and sold the same amount of lumber. Now where did it come from if it were not gotten through rural development?

Now as far as the honourable gentlemen on the other side that come in; why would they get knocking this? We have heard all of this in the House of Assembly. Are they interested in the welfare of the Province? Are they just over there just to criticize? I believe they are against Newfoundland, they are against the Province of Newfoundland. That is what I figure. They must be.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Shame! They are not Newfoundlanders.

MR WILSON: Another thing: The honourable Member for Hermitage is not in his seat but I would like to congratulate the honourable member on being elected to the District of Hermitage. But I am going to tell you, Sir, if it did Hermitage a disloyalty by going on "Open Line", when he never yet made a speech in this House, and degrading himself - I figured myself that he had something to offer the Liberal Party or to this government because he is an educated man. And the "Open Line" it was this way he attacked them. I hope the honourable member is going to sit there and speak by-and-bye, from Hermitage, and have some input into this government; because this government, I hope, I hope, Sir, if this government do not come to a pace that the Liberal Party wants to get at, the P.C. Party wants to get back not the Liberal Party, I believe we are faced with something different than that. Surely, if we are not, we should take a second look and go back to our homes and consider that if we are going to do a justice to our province, not sit down but get out and let somebody get in who is going to do justice to our province.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Hugh Shea.

MR WILSON: I am not inclined to think any darn thing at all about Bill Saunders because we have had enough of that, for twenty-three years

already.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. WILSON: We have had enough of that. This is what is being continually brought up. It seems as though the Opposition are after running out of steam and there are nothing else to use only these dirty tactics.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. WILSON: We have heard enough about bribing and we have heard enough about the honourable member as far as that is concerned, I do not know how true it is but probably the time will come when we may find out, Mr. Speaker. We may find out it is not the honourable member of Port de Grave that the accusations

were thrown at, it was the Hon. Member for Bell Island. He must have been implicated somewhere. If he were, let that lie until that time comes. I was not prepared to say anything at all about it, as far as that is concerned. I was never elected by my district to come in here to wonder off and bray at the honourable member. They have his record in public print. The record has been plain to see for years.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. WILSON: White Lily!

Mr. Speaker, one may get carried off -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. SPEAKER: Order please!

MR. WILSON: Apparently, Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Bell Island apparently since I have been here, that is just about all he has been looking for. First when I came into this House, he attacked the Hon. Member for Port-de-Grave (I am not worried whether he called me honourable or not) about a bus service. I invited him over to take over the bus service but he would not come over. I would like to tell the honourable member now that somebody else has it taken over. It is on the honourable member's shoulders to get a decent road for that bus driver to use his bus. I am very much afraid if the Hon. Member for Bell Island had been there to run a bus service, he would have made a job of it the same as his mushroom farm on Bell Island. He would not have gotten anywhere with it. The people would be too strong for him.

Mr. Speaker, not only that but at the opening of this honourable House, I came in here, sat down and I listened with great interest in what was going ahead. By and by the Leader of the Opposition got up and attacked the Hon. Member for Port-de-Grave because he had a letter from the Mayor of Brigus in the person of Reverend Wells. Now the letter was sent to the honourable member. Whatever gentleman wish, as far as I am concerned, to send a letter to any honourable member

on the other side, it does not make any difference to me. I can assure you, Sir, and I can assure the honourable members of this honourable House and the members of the opposition that they are not getting the support of the Member for Port-de-Grave. I am quite willing to handle their letters that they have to send in. If they want to bury me, try to bury me right, decent, honest and respectable. I was accused for jeering, the Hon. Member for Port-de-Grave. You need not snigger.

Mr. Speaker, I never came in this honourable House, elected from the Port-de-Grave District, to snigger. I came here for a purpose, that I am trying to do to the best of my ability and I have proven so to do it. I have worked with my colleagues. I have gotten good support. There have been holes found out in the Port-de-Grave District that were never known before. Lo and behold! Sir, one along life's way gets in the position partly to be honoured. I wish to tell you, Mr. Speaker, and this honourable House that I have been just that. I have been honoured by a member in the opposition with which I do not have a great lot of condolence with and that is the Hon. Member for Bell Island. He chose to be a flunky for the Member for the Port-de-Grave District. In his own right intelligence, well he has the right to do so. He went to work and announced that a breakwater would be built in Port-de-Grave; to get electricity. Well I wish to inform the Hon. Member for Bell Island -

MR. NEARY: They have to come to me.

MR. WILSON: I wish to inform the Hon. Member for Bell Island that the Hon Member for Port-de-Grave did not come here for publicity. I did not have to come here to get that. There is lots of that outside the House of Assembly. If the Hon. Member for Bell Island had to know a lot more, probably he would have gotten more publicity. He might have announced the dredging for Port-de-Grave. He might have announced a lot of other things over there as far as that is concerned.

It goes to show, Mr. Speaker, and it just proves that they are out to try to knock down and drag down this government.

MR. NEARY: You do not mean to tell me that.

MR. WILSON: It goes to show, Mr. Speaker -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. SPEAKER: Order!

MR. W. ROWE: (Inaudible).

MR. WILSON: Would the Hon. Member for White Bay, in the person of Mr. William Rowe - the honourable member puts out this big write up about DREE, trying to stir up some more of it. Apparently, Sir, they are not satisfied with their lot. I am going to tell the honourable members of this House that they are on the way down, never to rise again.

MR. YOUNG: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: Is it right, while a member is speaking, for another member of the opposition to come out and chat in front of the honourable member. I think it is ridiculous. It shows the low grade intelligence of the man.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: (Inaudible).

MR. SPEAKER: Order please!

MR. WILSON: Mr. Speaker, it is true that I am here to represent the Port-de-Grave District and like all other districts, there are problems. I suppose, Mr. Speaker, we are going to have them while we continue to occupy this piece of property, this earth, on which we are living. There is no one in the position to say that everything is perfect and, therefore, that is what makes us human beings, I suppose. It is the district I represent, the problems there as well as others. We have problems of water and sewerage; we have problems of walks and breakwaters; roads and pollution, etc.

Mr. Speaker, I think at this very present age in the day, that the biggest pollution that I am receiving in my district and other districts in the Province of Newfoundland today, is the pollution that is thrown out by a few of the honourable members, not all,

But a few of the honourable members on the other side of the House. If they have programmes to put forward, they have not shown them in the past. Let them try and show them

at this present time. I am sure any honourable member would be interested to know they had some good programmes to put forward. I am not asking a great lot for the District of Port de Grave, only just to be recognized, which we have in the past. I am only going to ask for about three miles of pavement this coming summer and I have three communities that this pavement is supposed to be into.

MR. WM. ROWE: Inaudible.

MR. WILSON: He has his \$108,000 yet.

MR. NEARY: I got a breakwater for the honourable member so what else do you want?

MR. WILSON: So what? There are three communities, the one that the honourable member from Bell Island was tangled up into and greatly interested in and that was Juniper Stump.

MR. NEARY: Inaudible.

MR. WILSON: Another one we will say upon the Goulds Road and another one at Georgetown, I am looking for three miles of pavement, Mr. Speaker, and honourable members of this House of Assembly and not for all the one place either, not to have three miles of pavement put down in one place and the other party have none. There are three communities, a mile in each community.

MR. NEARY: Inaudible.

MR. WILSON: No, mushrooms. Mr. Speaker, I think the people in Port de Grave District have put up over twenty-three years, received very little, so I can say if they get so much in the next two years as they have received in the two gone previous, they will receive as much as they got in the twenty-three.

Mr. Speaker, members, I am leaving to the people of Port de Grave to decide when the time rolls around whether it is the honourable member for Bell Island they want to represent them and the trash he throws out in this honourable House or whether it is going to be someone who is going to look for something for the people of Port de Grave District.

AN HON. MEMBER: Jim Hussey.

MR. WILSON: While I am on that, Mr. Speaker, if one may have little official status arising from position, the close qualities of character and spirit, this is a thing in those that recognize that they themselves are under authority in pledging their loyalty to the government and abide by the rules of this House. Such as those have no need to protect their dignity, their dignity against themselves. Thank you!

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

MR. F. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity as well to congratulate the honourable the Premier on his forty-first birthday. It is one of the few achievements that I can attribute to the honourable the Premier for which I can congratulate him over the past two years, Sir.

Secondly, Sir, I would like to congratulate the member for the District of Hermitage upon his election to this honourable House and I am sure, Sir, that he will make a most worthy representative for the citizens of that district and he will add a great deal to this happy bank of opposition members on this particular side of the House.

Sir, just a few words on that particular election, Sir, it was a reasonably clean campaign although there were a few events that occurred that tempt me to ask this honourable House, Sir, for a commission of enquiry. If honourable members on the other side of the House insist on trying to discredit the present Liberal Opposition on this side by making innuendoes and personality attacks on Liberal members on this side of the House and on the past Liberal Administration.

Sir, the past Liberal Administration made a contribution to Newfoundland that was phenomenal and unprecedented in Canadian political history. Sir, that administration brought the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador four centuries ahead in less than one quarter of a century. I was not a part of that administration I am sorry to say but I was proud to work for it and to be associated with it. So, Sir, I ask honourable members on the government side of the House to get on with the job of

administering this province and terminate once and for all their vicious campaign of trying to dig up dirt from the past and attacking the present Liberal Opposition.

Sir, these attacks over the past two years can only be interpreted as a political defence mechanism in order to camouflage the inaction of this present administration and their complete ineptitude. Mr. Speaker, I find nothing more disgusting nor more hypocritical than a group of supposedly mature honourable members accusing the opposition of being critical and being negative, of using innuendo and personality attacks or being disrespectful in this honourable House when they themselves resort to the same tactics. The only difference being, Sir, that honourable members on the government side of the House are ten times as guilty as those who they accuse and quite often, Sir, they accuse falsely.

So, Mr. Speaker, I hope that this ends because I have not heard, Mr. Speaker, one single member on the government side who has spoken thus far who has not criticized and made personality attacks on honourable members sitting on this side of the House, not one single person, Sir.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Stop beating your gums.

MR. P. ROWE: So, Mr. Speaker, I hope that this ends once and for all or Sir, I will bring into this honourable House the resolution calling for a commission of enquiry to investigate the mysterious circumstances surrounding the fact that a number of pieces of Liberal literature were bought from a twelve year old boy in the Hermitage election campaign and ended up with certain high ranking Progressive Conservative officials. There is a lot more to that, Mr. Speaker, than has been brought to the surface so far. Mr. Speaker then we will see what side of the House represents Mr. Clean, Mr. Honesty and the defenders of Justice.

Sir, the Hermitage by-election reminded me of a small platoon

armed with sling shots taking on an infantry armed with bazookas and bombers. Roads were being paved over snow. There were announcements of parks, fish plants, of everything under the sun. There were cabinet ministers fluttering around in helicopters. There were two orchestras or bands for every one that the Liberal campaign had and Sir, we quietly brought our message to the people in boats, longliners and cars.

MR. WM. ROWE: Inaudible.

MR. F. ROWE: Correct.

MR. NEARY: And the Minister of Justice -

MR. F. ROWE: Sir, the result of that election now is history. At the time when I was involved with the campaign and when we had won that particular election I wondered if we were just lucky, if it was not a fluke that we won against such odds but I am now firmly convinced, Sir, that this is the beginning of the end of the Progressive Conservative Administration.

Hermitage in 1973, Sir, was to the Tories what Gander in 1967 was to the Liberals. Now, Sir, why do I say that? That is not an irresponsible conclusion that I have drawn. I say that because of the deep analytical observations of the Premier himself following that election. The honourable the Premier said on radio and television that; "It was no surprise that the Liberals won because Hermitage is basically a Liberal District." Well, Sir, no truer words could have been spoken.

Now, Sir, let us follow this to its logical conclusion. The Premier in making that analytical conclusion had in effect predicted the defeat of his own administration in the next general election because as his statement regarding Hermitage was true, based on statistics over twenty-two years prior to 1972, so was it a fact that the majority of the districts in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador,

based on the facts and statistics of twenty-three years prior to 1972, the majority of these districts were Liberal, the honourable the Premier has in fact predicted his own defeat in the next election.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. F.B. ROWE: Sir, I would recommend strongly that before the honourable member for Burgeo starts predicting the annihilation of the Liberal Party in the upcoming election that he check with his own leader for an analytical assessment of the situation which no doubt, Sir, he will comprehend with no difficulty. Once that intellectual exercise has been achieved, Mr. Speaker, I have enough faith in the honourable member for Burgeo, that he will in his next speech arrive at the undeniable conclusion that it is he and his own colleagues who will face the distinct possibility of annihilation.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am going to confine most of my remarks in the Address and Reply to my own District of St. Barbe North, the district that I have the honour...

MR. MORGAN: Stay off Saunders for awhile, huh!

MR. F.B. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, I do not believe I have said one single word about Mr. Saunders in this House, so what is the honourable member FOR Bonavista South -

MR. MORGAN: (Inaudible)

MR. F.B. ROWE: The only thing that the honourable member for Bonavista South has indicated so far in this House, Sir, is that he is suffering from some sort of a medical problem that I cannot find a name for, but it is described by verbal dysentery and constipation of thought.

Mr. Speaker, it was my understanding that the present administration was all for helping rural Newfoundland. I sat in utter disbelief and amazement when honourable members on the opposite side of the House stood and pontificated on the great things going on in their districts, in their rural districts in this province. I was amazed that certain honourable members would take one hundred per cent

of the credit for progress in their districts many examples of which were the continuation of Liberal commitments, of previous Liberal commitments or previous Liberal policies and of previous Liberal concepts.

AN HON. MEMBER: Promises.

MR. F.B. ROWE: Promises? Assistance to inshore fishermen, incentive programmes for large multi-purpose boats not a Liberal commitment? Development of resource-based industries; Bay D'Espoir promise? Wabush and Labrador City a promise only? Offshore mineral exploration the same policies as the previous Liberal Government except that this administration decided to use confrontation tactics with Ottawa instead of trying to negotiate over the table. Forest access roads; Fisheries Loan Board for the construction of longliners not a Liberal policy? Not a Liberal policy, Sir? The honourable member for Grand Falls, Sir, in his speech took full credit for the first oil refinery and the second oil refinery that has not even been started yet and for the linerboard mill. That is the type of thing, Sir, that honourable members on the other side of the House are getting away with, taking credit for previous Liberal commitments, policies and concepts and in some cases promises.

One example, for instance, in my own district the Liberals had committed a fish plant to that district. There has been no fish plant put there nor even an attempt to put it there over the past two years.

MR. PECKFORD: (Inaudible)

MR. F.B. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member for Green Bay takes delight in reciting off names of communities throughout the province.

MR. PECKFORD: In Green Island Cove there is the frame of a vegetable storage shed that the Liberals were supposed -

MR. F.B. ROWE: Even there, Sir, the honourable member is completely wrong. There is no frame of a vegetable storage shed in Green

Island Cove

MR. PECKFORD: That is the point.

MR. F.B. ROWE: It is in Plum Point. Another point, Sir, that annoyed -

MR. W.N. ROWE: Go back to snatching poultry.

MR. F.B. ROWE: Sir, another point that annoyed me was honourable members on the other side of the House leaving the impression that all achievements and accomplishments in their districts over the past two years were the result of provincial input or total provincial input. The fact is, Sir, that much progress was achieved as a result of Liberal Federal Government input into this province, in some cases one hundred per cent, in some cases seventy-five per cent.

In my neighbouring district, the District of St. Barbe South, we have the Gros Morne National Park. We have three schools down in the District of Burin and in Grand Bank, and I believe - the honourable member for St. Barbe South - there is one in Hawke's Bay is there? A DREE school?

MR. W.N. ROWE: Two DREE schools.

MR. F.B. ROWE: Two DREE schools. Is the other one in Port Saunders?

Two DREE schools, Sir, land assembly projects in Port Saunders, water supply systems at Port au Choix, \$304,000 federal grant and \$160,000 provincial loan. The road from Deer Lake to Wiltondale and the road from Cow Head to Portland Creek (that is a provincial one) the road from Hawke's Bay through Port Saunders to Port au Choix is the one I meant to refer to. Sir, these are examples of accomplishments in the district next to mine for which this administration should at least acknowledge some credit to the -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. F.B. ROWE: No Sir! On a number of occasions, Sir, we have asked honourable members what the federal government input was in certain projects that they were taking credit for and they said; "What difference does it make?" What difference does it make? At the same time they turn around and they criticize the federal government -

MR. BARRY: I would like to give the federal government credit for that now. Now, is the honourable member happy?

MR. F.B. ROWE: I agree with the goodness of the record and I am very pleased that the honourable minister has seen fit to give the federal government - for at least something has been achieved in this province over the past two years.

AN HON. MEMBER: Who cares so long as it is done?

AN HON. MEMBER: As long as the people get it, who cares who takes credit?

MR. F.B. ROWE: I could not care less, Mr. Speaker, but what I do care about is the fact that honourable members on the other side of the House stand up and try to take credit for these achievements and at every opportunity they turn around and attack the federal government.

Now, Mr. Speaker, when honourable members opposite are asked to indicate what the federal government have put into these projects we get the same arrogant shouts, with the unique exception of the honourable minister today - "What difference does it make?"

Sir, I would like to get back to my district and the so-called emphasis on the development of rural Newfoundland which has been articulated, at least in words, during their various Throne Speeches and election campaigns and of course, again in the most recent Throne Speech. In quoting from that Throne Speech as it pertains to rural Newfoundland, I quote, Sir, the Gracious Speech from the Throne says that my government commits itself to continue not only its policy of resource development but also its policy of general development in every part (and I want to emphasize that) in every part and sector of Newfoundland and Labrador. (Underline that, Sir.)

When my ministers assumed office many smaller communities of Newfoundland and Labrador had despaired of their very existence. My government have from time to time affirmed its faith in the richness of rural life of our province and has demonstrated its confidence in the viability of smaller settlements by disbanding the

former Department of Community and Social Development. Big deal! I will get to that later on in my speech when I relate to my district. In disbanding that particular department they also disbanded the various water service projects that were under the jurisdiction of that particular department.

This department appeared to be dedicated to the relocation of many of our people from the place of their birth to the larger urban areas and was seemingly oblivious of whether or not the persons concerned wished to relocate. In its stead the Department of Rural Development has been established with the responsibility of fostering and developing our rural areas. The results of this programme clearly demonstrated success and the benefits are obvious in every nook and cranny of our province. (I want to emphasize "Every nook and cranny" and

policy of general development in every part and sector of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Now, Sir, I want to ask this administration if it considers St. Barbe North as one of these nooks and crannies, or does it not? Because what little progress there was in St. Barbe North stopped when this administration took over. Mr. Speaker, over the last two years, I have witnessed a change of attitude on the part of the people in St. Barbe North. It fluctuates between a feeling of helplessness and hopeless despair to a justifiable anger and an indication of what can only be classified as a separatist feeling on our very own Island Section of our Province because, Sir, the people of St. Barbe North do not feel that they are sharing equally with other parts of the Province what little progress is going on in other parts of the Province.

Sir, I can honestly say that progress in the areas of economic, industrial, social, educational or any aspect of social services stopped completely in March, 1972 in St. Barbe North.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROWE: Yes. That is certainly true, Sir. There is no doubt about that. I have made representation to minister after minister after minister after minister and deputy minister after deputy minister after deputy minister and officials of various departments of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Fisheries, Highways and the situation -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Prove it.

MR. ROWE: Prove it. Of course I can prove it. Do not be so ridiculous.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROWE: It is not a matter of respect, Sir. It is not a matter of whether a minister respects the member. It is a matter of whether the minister respects the people he represents. If there is any disrespect it is shown for people in that district.

Sir, things in the district are as they were two years ago and in some cases the natural deterioration of the social services, such as water supply systems and electrical services and the condition of the highways. The only thing, Sir, that has staved off a massive uprising, civil disobedience or marches on Confederation Building are two things, Sir; the fact that St. Barbe North is such a distance from the Confederation Building and the district is composed of thirty isolated communities still influenced by a long tradition of rivalry between these communities and there is not much of a tendency for the communities to get together to fight for the needs of the whole district.

Sir, I predict that during the coming year if things do not improve this Province will be hearing some loud noises from St. Barbe North and I can only hope and pray that any action will be within the confines of the law because, Sir, the people of St. Barbe North are presently being driven to desperation. I will come to the seriousness of that in a minute when I refer to a remark made by the honourable Minister of Finance a number of years ago.

If you think that is serious, if the honourable member thinks that is serious, Sir, I can inform this House that there is talk in St. Barbe North of blockading the great Northern Peninsula Highway in the district. There is talk about massive refusal to pay electrical bills. There is talk of massive refusal to pay telephone bills. There is talk of refusal to purchase motor vehicle license plates. There is talk of refusing to prosecute the fisheries although, Sir, many of the fishermen still owe the government money on loans that they have gotten for the purpose of building longliners.

Now, Sir, I agree with the honourable minister across the way that these are serious rumblings and I can assure the honourable minister and I can assure the House that I have done nothing to encourage nor inflame such action but -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROWE: I do not think the raising of them does any such thing. I think that it is better that it is nipped in the bud. This administration has the opportunity to nip this situation in the bud.

Sir, I do not condone civil disobedience but I have no hesitation in supporting these people because I have experienced and I have lived and I have seen their plight. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Speaker, advocated civil disobedience at one time for partisan political purposes. Well, I stand here today, Sir, and say that if ever there was a case to justify civil disobedience it is the way St. Barbe North has been treated over the last two years.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: You are recommending it, are you?

MR. ROWE: I am not recommending, I am talking about the justifiability of the feelings of the people in the district and I also remind the honourable minister that his own colleague, the honourable Minister of Finance, two or three years ago went on television and radio and advocated civil disobedience for partisan political reasons.

Now, Mr. Speaker, politics has its anxiety-producing moments. Politicians, Sir, have to make public appearances and media appearances. They have to debate in the House and in some cases there is financial sacrifice. Sometimes just general exposure to the electorate is anxiety-producing. Sir, for me personally, I get extremely depressed and I get sick and it tears at the gut to see so many people in an isolated rural district with so many needs as we have in St. Barbe North and witness absolutely no action on the part of this government to help in spite of repeated representation that I have made over the past two years to a great number of ministers.

Now, Sir, these have been generalizations and I would like to point out a few examples of the problems that do exist in the district. The great Northern Peninsula Highway, Sir: St. Barbe North consists of thirty communities, many of which are situated on the great Northern Peninsula Highway for a distance of approximately ninety to one hundred

miles. Sir, the great Northern Peninsula Highway is not confined to St. Barbe South. The highway in St. Barbe North is the lifeline within the district and to the outside world. Sir, honourable members on the other side speak of the paving in the district. Would you believe, Sir, that there is not one single inch of pavement in any part of the district of St. Barbe North. The highway which was at one time, Sir, a first class gravel highway has deteriorated in absolute and in relative terms; in absolute terms in the sense that the road is now old and subjected to a higher density of traffic flow and in relative terms in the sense that there has been vast improvements on major trunk roads and highways in other parts of the Province.

Sir, the people depend on the highway to get to the hospital in St. Anthony, a distance of one hundred and thirty or one hundred and forty miles away. They depend on the highway to get their food, their oil, other material goods, to get products of the sea to processing plants, to bus hundreds of children to schools located in Plum Point, Flowers Cove or St. Anthony Area involving great distances, to get to social events, Sir, which in this day and age is not much to ask, and to get to employment sites on the west coast - Sir, whatever the reason for the use of the highway it involves an endurance test and an obstacle course. Ten miles seem like fifty miles and it is significant when a seriously ill patient is trying to get to St. Anthony or young children have to go thirty or forty or fifty miles to school in sub-zero temperatures aboard school buses.

Sir the life expectancy of a vehicle is one-quarter to that of vehicles in many parts of the Province. Transportation costs of passengers and goods are excessively high as a result of the condition of the highway. The highway, while relatively good years ago, is a disgrace and an insult in this day and age. Sir, a first class-highway would condense an otherwise scattered and long district. It would make medical service more safely accessible. It would cut down on school bus transportation costs. It would cut down on transportation costs of food, oil

and other materials. It would cut down on the cost of living, particularly with respect to vehicle repair and unnecessary high frequency of new vehicle purchase and it would attract more tourists.

In short, Sir, it would make life bearable for the people in the district of St. Barbe North. With this in mind, Sir, a petition signed by over nine thousand people on the great Northern Peninsula was presented to the House of Assembly last year. Sir, what did the petition request? It requested that there be immediate upgrading and paving of the great Northern Peninsula

Highway in segments equally distributed throughout the Districts of St. Barbe South, St. Barbe North and White Bay North in order that all of the people in these districts would benefit equally with respect to employment opportunities and the services of an improved highway.

Sir, that is a fair and simple request coming from three different districts on the Great Northern Peninsula. Sir, when this petition was presented not a word of encouragement from the Minister of Highways at the time, not a word, Sir. Worse still, not a sign of action. Still we have a continuation of road work in St. Barbe South as a result of a DREE agreement signed by the previous administration, not a sign of upgrading or paving in St. Barbe North and to add insult to injury, a provincial contract was let last year for the road from Norris Point to Rocky Harbour and God Bless the people of that area for getting that but this administration should have seen fit, since no federal expenditures were going into St. Barbe North, to put some federal capital expenditures for the purposes of upgrading and paving the Great Northern Peninsula Highway in that particular district.

Sir, this government have known since it took office that the Great Northern Peninsula Highway is the last great highway to be paved in the island part of our province. Sir, has this administration submitted specific proposals to DREE for the paving of the Great Northern Peninsula Highway or has it not? We have been asking questions of this administration for years concerning specific proposals on Highways Agreements. Sir, I do not appreciate for one minute the attitude of this government when it comes to the answers given respecting highways or the upgrading and paving of highways in this province. We have asked if specific proposals and plans have been made to Ottawa? We have been answered with contemptible silence. I have sent a telegram to the Minister of Transportation and Communications asking for fair and equitable consideration during the preparation of his budget for capital construction regarding road work. Sir, not even the courtesy of acknowledgement of receipt of the telegram from the honourable minister, let alone a favourable response. Sir when I presented a petition to have a dangerous hill

removed from in front of the Plum Point High School, the minister's only response, the Hon. Minister of Transportation and Communications, was that he wanted to know the name of his official who said that the school was built in the wrong place to begin with. Well, Sir, hell will freeze over before I will supply the minister with such relevant information. Why does the minister want to know the name of the official? That does not solve the problem.

Sir, about the only reason I can offer for the government's lack of action on improving road conditions in St. Barbe North are; either they have no plans or no specifications to present to Ottawa to use DREE money for such purposes or, Sir, if they have they are practicing brazen and arrogant discrimination against the people of St. Barbe North and for that matter the people of White Bay North.

Sir, fish handling facilities: St. Barbe North is primarily a fishing district. The fishery consists of inshore small boat fisheries and the longliner fishery. Under the previous administration, Sir, and in co-operation with the federal government, a number of community stages and wharves were constructed in the district. Under the previous administration, Sir, the Fisheries Loan Board was set up and a great many longliners were built; I am glad to say continue to be built under this programme with this present administration.

Sir, the number of longliners now number somewhere between forty and fifty longliners in the district. The previous administration before they left office had committed themselves to build a fish plant for the district. A feasibility study for that now sits somewhere in the files of the Department of Fisheries.

Sir, what has this government's emphasis on rural development done for the fisheries of St. Barbe North? The answer, Sir, is a big goose egg, nothing. Outside of a few repairs and improvements to some community stages, the major problems relating to the fisheries at St. Barbe North have not even been touched upon. With respect to a fish plant of some form of fish handling facility, I have had numerous delegations in to meet

with the former Minister of Fisheries and I have made repeated representation to the present Minister of Fisheries and his officials and to the Premier when he occupied that particular portfolio on two occasions.

Sir, still no action has been taken, the people of St. Barbe North had to send practically all of their fish products outside of the district for processing. Meanwhile unemployment on the shore is staggering and many people have to leave for other parts of the province for employment, leaving their families at home.

Last year, Sir, during the consideration of the Fisheries Estimates I reminded the Premier, who was Acting Minister of Fisheries at that time, of his commitment to a certain individual in St. Barbe North during the election campaign, to put a fish plant in St. Barbe North. To quote the Premier, Sir, in that conversation the Premier said "It will not be a mini-fish plant either."

Sir, during the consideration of the estimates last year I asked the Premier - I brought this to his attention and I asked him what he was planning to do about it? Sir, the Premier answered by saying that a fish plant will be built in the District of St. Barbe North this year. He said that, Sir, the Hon. the Premier, last year. A year has past and still no fish plant. Sir, I stand here as I did two years ago and I asked the Hon. the Premier to tell us the way it is. When and where will the fish handling facilities be put in the District of St. Barbe North, a district that is almost completely dependent upon the fisheries?

Haulups; Sir, in spite of the fact that there are forty longliners in the district, hundreds of small boats, there is not one single slipway, or haulup in any of the communities of St. Barbe North. Sir, I wish I could describe the hardships the fishermen have to endure to try and get their longliners hauled up in the fall of the year. They have to wait for tractors to become available from the Department of Highways, from far distances. They have to try and get a private tractor to come in and haul up these huge longliners over great ragged jutting rocks and these longliners often sustain damage in the process. While some of these longliners are waiting to be hauled up the autumn windstorm hit

and some of them are damaged while they are still in the water and in a number of cases if you visited the district now, Mr. Speaker, you will see longliners frozen solid in the ice where they undoubtedly will sustain damage.

Sir, it would save the government money to put haulups or slipways in the District of St. Barbe North since those forty or fifty longliners are being financed by government loans through the Fisheries Loans Board.

Sir, marine service stations: The longliners used in the fisheries at St. Barbe North are very complex pieces of equipment. Many thousands of dollars are lost by the fishermen each year because of damage to electronic equipment, because of damages to scallop rigs, to engines, propellers and the hulls.

Sir, a marine service station would save hundreds of thousands of dollars and would save hundreds of hours lost to the shrimp and scallop fishery in this district. Sir, I note that the Premier has already made a commitment for one marine service station, I believe over the weekend, I stand to be corrected, I believe in Bonavista. Well, Sir, I am quite convinced that if the Hon. the Minister of Fisheries and the Premier looked at the statistics regarding the fishery, the number of boats, the number of fishermen, the number of longliners and gear in the District of St. Barbe North, they will come to the conclusion that a marine service station

is an absolute must in the District of St. Barbe North along with these hallups and slipways and I certainly hope that the minister will see fit - it is going into the third year now of me, myself, having made representation to see one single thing being done with regard to the fisheries in St. Barbe North.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. F. ROWE: What is that?

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. F. ROWE: That is right. That is right. If the honourable members on the other side of the House would like for honourable members on this side of the House to do their jobs for them, I can assure them that the nine of us can do more than an adequate job compared to what is being done by the present administration.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. F. ROWE: Why is the honourable minister so concerned? I was in my district three weeks ago.

MR. PECKFORD: Before that.

MR. F. ROWE: Before that? Why do I have to answer these questions?

Mr. Speaker, I was up there about a month or two ago. Put it on the Order Paper. Mr. Speaker, I am going to ram every word that the poster snatcher from Green Bay spoke, later on in my speech, because I am going to make some observations on the effectiveness of M.H.A.'s in this province. I am going to make some concrete recommendations that I sincerely hope that this administration will see fit to carry out. If honourable members on the other side of the House were not so blind and partisan they would consider some of the material that I am presenting to them at the present time to be constructive recommendations for things that should be carried out in the District of St. Barbe North. The fact that very little has been done can only be interpreted as discriminatory action on the part of this administration.

Mr. Speaker, medical facilities -

MR. ROBERTS: Is there a quorum call?

MR. F. ROWE: Yes, Mr. Speaker, a quorum call - is there a quorum in the House, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER: Would the Clerk count the House please?

There is a quorum.

MR. F. ROWE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could you give me, Mr. Speaker, some indication of when my time to speak ends, please?

MR. SPEAKER: The member commenced to speak at 4:10 P.M. so he has fifteen minutes left.

MR. F. ROWE: Until 5:40 P.M. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. F. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, I have not uttered a partisan statement. I am just objectively bringing the problems of my district to the attention of honourable ministers across the way.

MR. NEARY: No personalities.

MR. F. ROWE: Even that, Sir, they are so jittery these days, they cannot even listen to problems of a rural, isolated district, the type of a district that they promised to do so much for, rural Newfoundland.

MR. NEARY: I thought that was the crowd who did everything for rural Newfoundland.

MR. F. ROWE: Sir, there is an outdated nursing station located in Flowers Cove in the District of St. Barbe North. If there were a good highway, Sir, and an adequate ambulance service, getting to the hospital in St. Anthony would not be too much of a problem but, Sir, the highway is an obstacle course and consequently the hospital is remote indeed to the people of St. Barbe North,

It is my understanding that the International Grenfell Association will supply a doctor if the government is willing to supply the building, a medical clinic. There is not a doctor nor a dentist in the whole of the District of St. Barbe North. Sir, the Minister of Health in response to earlier representations I made said that he was awaiting the result and influence of a medical clinic, I believe, that was established in Port Saunders before

making a decision respecting a medical clinic for St. Barbe North.

Sir, I think the time has now come for action. I recommend two things - the complete renovation of a nursing station in Flowers Cove in order to convert it into an adequate medical clinic and make use of the frame that was intended to be used as a vegetable storage unit in Plum Point and convert that into a medical clinic staffed with a doctor, a dentist and other medical technicians so that they can carry out the various diagnostic services in the district.

As well, Sir, such clinics could take care of emergency cases and enact some preventative medical procedures and carry out routine medical examinations of the students in the schools of the district. So, Sir, I sincerely hope that the Minister of Health will see fit this year to honour a request that has been made now for two years running to put some sort of a medical clinic in the District of St. Barbe North, because it is badly needed.

Sir, with respect to water services, it is sad indeed to see hundreds of people chopping holes in the ice in the middle of the winter and bringing pails of water to the back of pickup trucks and pouring them into barrels to be brought miles back to their home. But Sir, this is the situation that exists in most of the communities of St. Barbe North.

I find it hard to stomach when I hear honourable members on the other side of the House -

MR. MORGAN: Still existing now?

MR. F. ROWE: Still existing now.

MR. MORGAN: Twenty years of -

MR. F. ROWE: That is right. I will explain that, Mr. Speaker, I will explain that to the honourable member -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. F. ROWE: I will explain that to the honourable member if the noise

boxes from the other side would cease, I will explain to him what we can thank this administration for with respect to water services after twenty-five years.

Sir, the previous administration had brought in a Department of Community and Social Development. It was that department which was in the process of providing water supply systems to many of the unincorporated communities in St. Barbe North. That department, Sir, provided hundreds of thousands of dollars for such purposes.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. F. ROWE: Slush fund for a simple little thing like water and I might add, Mr. Speaker, if honourable members will allow me to speak without being interrupted, I might add that anything that went wrong with the implementation of that programme can be blamed directly on the Tory candidate in that election campaign, because he was the field representative for the Department of Community and Social Development.

AN HON. MEMBER: \$190,000 slush fund.

MR. F. ROWE: Sir, that department provided hundreds of thousands of dollars to supply water supply systems for the communities of St. Barbe North. The present administration wiped out that department and in doing so wiped out the programmes for the provision of water supply systems to these communities. So, Sir, what do we have left? We have numerous water systems partially completed, open ditches in the ground and many homes with toilets, wash basins and bath tubs that serve only as ornaments because there is no water going to these homes.

MR. EVANS: Liberal promises broken again.

MR. F. ROWE: Liberal action, Sir, that was slashed out when this administration took over. This government -

MR. MORGAN: Inaudible.

MR. F. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, do I have the right to be heard without being interrupted or not?

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure honourable members are aware that when a member

is speaking he does have the right to be heard in silence. I will ask honourable members to respect that right.

MR. F. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, I would like honourable members to go up to St. Barbe North and explain

to rationalize the reason for the termination of those water service projects. Sir, this government have the gall to criticize the concept of the Department of Community and Social Development and the resettlement programme of the previous Liberal Administration. If this administration are so proud of having wiped out resettlement, let them now provide, Sir, the common amenities such as a drop of water to these quaint little communities that they supposedly have so much respect for; these small rural communities, Sir, that they promised so much for in the last election. Sir, if this government do not intend to provide water to these communities, I invite the Hon. the Premier and the deposed Minister of Community and Social Development and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to come to St. Barbe North and draw their water from these ice holes and cart out their slop buckets or have their posterior extremities exposed to the northwesterly winds driving across the Straits of Belle Isle and feel what it is like to have ice crystals penetrate that most delicate part of their anatomy. Sir, it is not funny whatsoever. Sir, this situation is another outstanding monument to this government's achievement in the area of satisfying the needs of rural Newfoundland.

Sir, electrical services in the district leave a lot to be desired. The previous administration took great pride in providing electricity to every single community in St. Barbe North except to communities that had less than four houses or six houses. These communities I am talking about happen to have less than six homes.

The Labrador Power Commission, Sir, operates two generating stations, one at Cook's Harbour and one at Flower's Cove. Sir, the Cook's Harbour Generating Station is operating satisfactorily. However, Sir, the Flower's Cove station which serves the communities from Eddies Coast East to the north to Castor River in the south, presents some difficulty. There are frequent and long periods of outages in this area and there are

fluctuations in the voltages, causing the burning out of electrical appliances in the homes and in the business establishments in the communities affected. Sir, twenty-four hour outages in below zero temperatures are not a pleasant matter. Furnances go out, the oil lines freeze, people almost freeze to death, water pumps stop and the water lines consequently freeze up for the duration of the winter, water heating systems in schools and in homes sometimes are damaged. Sir, from what I understand from my constituents, and from officials of the power Commission, the outage problem has increased in recent years. Now, Sir, I am not blaming that on the Progressive Conservative Administration.

The problem, Sir, is caused by salting on the wires because of the high winds blowing across the Straits and because of windfalls caused by the exposure of lines in the St. Barbe Bay Area, which is sometimes made inaccessible because of blockages of the road by snow in that particular area. Sir, the problem has been made more critical in recent years because of the great increase in electrical appliances and the greater reliance on electricity in general in the district.

Now, Sir, all these problems have been brought to the attention of the Newfoundland and Labrador Power Commission in somewhat greater detail than I have explained. I have made two recommendations. Since the trouble spot on the electrical lines is in the St. Barbe Bay Area, I recommend that a mobile generating station be placed in the Plum Point Area for the duration of the winter. I ask the Hon. Minister of Mines and Energy to use his good office to see that this is done as quickly as possible. I provided the Newfoundland and Labrador Power Commission with the information that I have had. To my knowledge nothing has been done about it up to this point.

Sir, I also recommend that a permanent and an additional generating station be located in the Plum Point Area to serve the

communities between St. Barbe and Bard Harbour. Sir, this station should be started as soon as weather permits. Sir, this would eliminate the supply of electricity then on both sides of the trouble spot in distribution lines.

Telephone service, Sir, is something unbelievable. If the honourable member's problems in the District of St. Barbe South are one-quarter of that which exists in my district, I would gladly join hands with him anytime to try and rectify the problem. But, Sir, seventy-five per cent of the time you cannot get the operator in St. Anthony. When you do get the operator in St. Anthony, seventy-five per cent of the time there are no circuits available in the district. If you are in the district trying to make a phone call out - I have had to wait for the phone to ring over fifty times before raising the operator. On numerous occasions you cannot hear the other party on the line. On numerous occasions you are cut off. There are multi-purpose lines, ten lines, ten phones on the same line. Exchanges or parts of exchanges are frequently out of service. People cannot get private lines. In many communities there are only two or three or four phones. I bring these matters to the attention of the Hon. Minister of Transportation and Communications. I know that it involves Canadian National Telecommunications but through his provincial offices, I hope that he can press the Canadian National Telecommunications to improve the telephone situation as it exists in the district.

Now, Sir, building permits in the District of St. Barbe North: In order for an individual to build a home in St. Barbe North, they sometimes have to wait up to two years to get their applications to build processed by the Development Control Division of the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Sir, in order to process a building permit, the Development Control Division has to get reports from such organizations or such agencies in the departments of government as

Department of Health; The Clean Air, Soil and Water Authority; the Department of Highways; local governments that may exist in the district; the Crown Lands Division and others. Sir, the people have to get surveys done, plots planned and descriptions prepared, which is very expensive for the people on the tip of the Great Northern Peninsula. They have to submit blueprints of the homes that they could build with their eyes closed. They have been doing it all their lives. Sir, the staff of the Development Control Division is horribly inadequate. All this results in long delays in the processing of building permit applications. It results in extreme hardship and frustration on the part of people who can afford to build their homes and who have the skill to build their homes.

Sir, St. Barbe North does not represent a rapid growth area. There are thirty small communities spread along the Great Northern Peninsula Highway. Sir, there is evidence that the regulations of the Development Control Division are not been applied equally and fairly throughout the district. This is probably a function of inadequate staff more than an intentional act on the part of any persons.

Sir, I would like to recommend to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing that his department draft up a series of simple guidelines pointing out to the people the disadvantages of locating houses in certain areas and the advantages of locating them in others and get more field staff down there and drop completely the regulations of the Development Control Division as they pertain to the communities of St. Barbe North. Sir, they are nothing but a curse and an obstacle and a hardship to the people as they are presently administered. Sir, I submit that what the government achieves in the control of building in the district is negligible compared

to the expense that the department goes through in getting individuals from the Development Control Division to go into the area to size up the situation. Now, I think the honourable minister, Mr. Speaker, understands the problem. I have had a number of conversations with him. He has been very helpful to me on a number of occasions. Although overall

those problems still exist and I would ask the minister if he would strongly consider the possibility of wiping out these rules as they exist. These rules are really made for rapid growth areas and for large towns and larger communities in the province.

I could mention many other problems - the woods operations, snow clearing operations, lack of local government, guidance in running local or regional governments in the district, the isolation, high cost of living, the lack of government officials stationed in the district to assist and guide the people, branch roads to homes is a problem in the district, school bus operations, inadequate school facilities but, Sir, time does not permit me to go on with this because there is another point that I would like to make.

I would like to close on the district by saying that the people do show extreme frustration, despair, distress, disappointment, anxiety, desperation and disgust over the lack of action over the past two years. I say; "No action in that particular district." I will be the first to admit that I would have liked to have seen more action in the district prior to the time that this administration took over. The people are ready to erupt and to take matters into their own hands. In spite of what the honourable Minister of Mines and Energy tries to trap me into, or misrepresent the words that I am speaking, this is an extremely serious matter.

MR. BARRY: The honourable member is making it worse -

MR. F.B. ROWE: It would not be half as serious, Mr. Speaker, if the government took action to nip this problem in the bud instead of waiting for it to blossom out into something that we would all be sorry for.

Mr. Speaker, progress in the district has basically stopped since March 1972. In a sense, the clock has been wound back as well as in some other parts of the province. This is a sad and pathetic commentary on the performance of this government. This government was elected on the basis of what it was going to do for rural

Newfoundland. The issues and the problems in St. Barbe North are still the bread and butter issues. If what has been done in St. Barbe North is any indication of what has been done in other rural districts then this government has failed miserably and members on the opposite side of the House have possibly painted a rosier picture than that which in fact exists in their own districts. If things are in fact as rosy in the districts served by members opposite, then this government stands to be condemned for outright political discrimination of the most blatant kind.

I would like to turn my attention to the status of an M.H.A. and the ability of an M.H.A. to function in this province. It might do the Minister of Finance's ears good, Sir, to come in and listen to some positive recommendations that I have to make, based on some experiences that I have had since becoming an M.H.A. Instead of the minister asking me how many times I have visited my district, it might do him well to provide all M.H.A.'s. on both sides of the House with facilities and finances to enable them to do the job for which they were elected.

In recent or contemporary history, at least as far as I can remember, people in general view politicians with some suspicion, with some skepticism and in some cases with downright cynicism. You will hear expressions like; "We are all a bunch of crooks. You are getting into politics for what you can get out of it. You got it made now that you are elected. You are in there to fleece the people and fill your own pockets." There have been examples of a few rotten apples in the political barrel over the years: in Newfoundland, in other provinces and in other countries of the world. I submit that the percentage is no greater in politics, if indeed as great, as in other worthy professions such as the medical profession, the legal profession or the teaching profession or in the business community or in the various labour fields. I say there may be even less in politics because the public eye and the media, as is their right, are always keeping their eye on public

servants. There is not very much that an elected public servant can get away with in this province or any other province.

The majority of members in this honourable House are sincere, they are dedicated, they are concerned and they are honest individuals who simply want to do something for this province. They want to make a contribution. I suppose we enjoy it or we would not be doing it and they like myself are prepared to put up with some cynicism, some skepticism shown by certain people in our society.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to indicate to the people of this province that politicians do not have it made, that is, if they are full-time politicians. Many politicians become politicians at extreme financial and family sacrifice and many politicians perform under working conditions that make it impossible to do the job for which they are elected. I submit that the whole system is desperately wrong and it has been wrong for years throughout the Western Democratic World, including Newfoundland.

I will use a few examples and before I get catcalls from the other side, Sir, I would like for honourable members to hear me out. First, Sir, is the matter of salaries for M.E.A's. The salaries are such that for the most part only two categories of people even consider entering politics, namely; those who are financially wealthy or independent, and God bless them for making the contribution. There is nothing wrong with that. The other category, Sir, is that category of people for whom a salary looks extremely attractive. Consequently, and as a generalization, two extreme and opposite sectors of society are attracted to politics in this province and other provinces. The largest and vast sector of society, the middle or slightly above average income part of citizenry, the typical citizen, has a tendency to steer away from politics although they may have a real urge to make a contribution and represent the opinions and needs of what amounts to the majority of our society. There is a big gap. People for whom salaries look good are attracted to politics and the independently wealthy get in to make their contribution.

The big gap of society is missing and not attracted.

I submit that the salaries of M.H.A's. should be such that
people representing all sectors of society

would be attracted to the profession and that all politicians should consider their jobs as a full time occupation and that it would be illegal for a politician to practise law, medicine, business or any other form of employment while he is serving his term of office.

Sir, under these circumstances I would suggest that the legislature would be composed of a better cross section of society, that legislation itself would be better debated, resulting in superior legislation and that constituents themselves would be better served. Sir, under the present system, all sorts of abuses are possible. The Premier, the present Premier or the past Premier, can appoint certain of his back benchers as special assistance, personal assistance, parliamentary assistance, as chairmen or directors of certain commissions and some other members may independently go out and be placed on the payrolls of some vested interests or lobby groups. In which case, Mr. Speaker, the member in this House is owing to somebody. His freedom of opinion is inhibited. His expression of thought in this honourable House is possibly controlled by some other person or some outside or vested interest. He is controlled, Sir, by those from whom he receives his bread. This, Sir, is contrary to the very intent of democracy and it should not be tolerated any longer.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I realize that I am opening myself to all sorts of ridicule and criticism. I hope that I will not see members on either side of this House who are comfortably tucked away, they look at the member for St. Barbe North; he has only been here for two years and he is looking for a salary increase because that, Sir, is not the point of my argument at all and I sincerely mean that and I think such a reaction to what I am saying would be beneath contempt and it would mean that the individual would have missed the point completely.

Sir, I am calling it as I see it and I am speaking as a private member and I say in spite of possible criticism and misrepresentation

and I must emphasize, Sir, that they are my own personal remarks and they do not necessarily represent the policy or opinions of my colleagues on this side of the House. I have not even talked to any of them about it.

Also, Sir, on the topic of the status and functioning ability of an M.H.A., I would like to make a few more observations. Sir, what are the functions of an M.H.A. anyway? Very briefly, Sir, I see it, Mr. Speaker, I will give it to you from my own personal point of view. I feel that I have to represent the overall needs of my district in terms of the problems that I outlined earlier, thirty small communities, no local government. Since I represent these thirty small communities, I am in fact the ombudsman for every individual in the district of St. Barbe North. Rural communities such as St. Barbe North depend on their member for everything, fortunately or unfortunately, but they do depend on their member for practically everything. I should travel to my district more often than I am able to.

I wish the honourable the Minister of Finance were here to listen to the recommendations. I would like to go to my district more often than I do. Since I am in Opposition I have the responsibility of shadowing a number of government apartments and hopefully give some constructive criticism and some constructive suggestions during the consideration of the Throne Speech, the Budget Speech, the Estimates and any legislation pertaining to the Department of Education, Municipal Affairs and Recreation and Rehabilitation, in my case, and I assume the honourable back benchers on the Government side have some input into legislation and policies of their own government.

Sir, I have to research the areas that I have mentioned. Sir, there are many functions of members of the House of Assembly that I have not mentioned that they have to perform.

Sir, as a public servant in this Province, what I had to work with

in order to perform the duties for which I was elected is something unbelievable. There are nine members on this side of the House, Sir. We have to fight over four desks in the Opposition's office, two of which are located in the common room with absolutely no privacy and at times resemble the Black Hole of Calcutta. We have to share three stenographers. Letters that I have answered on tape a month ago are still waiting to be typed up and some this correspondence Sir, is of an urgent matter. There is, quite often, no place to talk on a personal basis with constituents by phone or in person. Sir, I cannot afford to hire a girl or rent an office. My salary happened to be slashed in half or my income was slashed in half when I got into politics.

The member for Labrador South, for White Bay North, for St. Barbe South, myself for St. Barbe North receive exactly the same travelling allowance as the honourable member for St. John's East. Sir, it does not make sense.

Now, Sir, I have been using my own experience as an example and I am not suggesting for one single minute that I am the only one that is suffering from this. There are other people in exactly the same boat. Sir, the situation is ludicrous and worse still, Sir, it discriminates against certain districts, certain citizens of our Province in terms of how well a member is capable of serving his district because his functioning ability is determined by the conditions under which he must work. It is discriminatory and archaic and most people in the Province would find it difficult to believe, Sir.

Good government, Sir, is the function of a good opposition.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. F. ROWE: I wish the honourable member, Sir, could take something seriously for just one single moment.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. F. ROWE: Go away, you meathead.

Good government, Sir, is a function of a good opposition. Good legislation, Sir, results after good debate following adequate research. Therefore, Sir, adequate office space, facilities and secretarial staff must be provided to all M.H.A.'s in this honourable House including the members of the Opposition.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Order, please!

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Ignore the yaffies - the crackie.

MR. ROWE: That is my answer to honourable members, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, how can M.H.A.s be respected by other professions if those other professions are aware of the conditions under which we have to work? The simplest operation, Mr. Speaker, the simplest business operation has an office, a phone and a secretary. M.H.A.s supposedly looked up to by the electorate of this Province, a number of M.H.A.s are stuffed into a room, nine, sharing three girls, secretaries. Mr. Speaker, I am sure this situation just does not exist on that honourable side of the House, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. ROWE: So, Mr. Speaker, I would like and I sincerely hope that the Hon. the Premier was in hearing distance of some of the earlier remarks I made pertaining to the functioning ability of M.H.A.s because I am really sincere in this whole matter and I am happy to see the Hon. the Premier back in his seat because I am going to make a couple of recommendations, not earth-shattering, simple and straight-forward. I think it would solve the problems.

Mr. Speaker, the first recommendation is this. Let us call a spade a spade. Let us announce our salaries, our salaries as salaries, Sir, and forget about tangling up salaries with travel

expenses or expense allowance or House of Assembly allowances. Mr. Speaker, it is just a suggestion. Call a spade a spade. I am not criticizing the government, Mr. Speaker, I am trying to make a few simple constructive recommendations.

Secondly, Sir, supply every single MHA with an office with proper secretarial staff.

Thirdly, Sir, allow MHAs an accountable travel grant in order that an MHA may visit his district for let us say fifty-two times a year.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROWE, F. B. I do not want to get into the specifics but I will just use that as an example, say fifty-two days or thirty days or twenty days but provide MHAs with an accountable travel grant so that the member for St. John's East can go to his district for thirty days. He is there anyway, but it will allow a member for Labrador South to go to his district for thirty or fifty days whatever it is and it is paid for.

It is not helping him it is helping his constituents - accountable travel grant.

Recommendation No. (4) - Allow MHAs living - well I did not finish really the recommendation No. (3). Allow an MHA an accountable travel grant in order that he may visit his district for a limited number of days per year, so that members representing distant districts can give the same attention to their districts as members living in or near their own districts.

Recommendation No. (4) - Allow MHAs living in their districts an accountable travel grant in order that they can come to sessions of the House of Assembly without suffering financial sacrifices compared to persons like myself already living in St. John's.

Recommendation No. (5), Sir, I do not know whether this is Utopian, Make politicians full-time politicians with no outside practices so that they can do their job for which they were elected.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that the government will take these recommendations seriously and act on them. To be quite frank Mr. Speaker, I had intended to bring a private member's resolution into this House dealing with this very thing. Two reasons why I did not, Sir,

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROWE, F. B. Politics is politics, I have never seen an opposition resolution go through yet. Secondly, Sir, I did not want to be open to criticism of looking for salaries. To be quite frank with you, Sir, my own personal case, I would be quite happy with the salary that I am receiving now, very happy provided I had office facilities, secretarial staff and I had an adequate travel grant to get up to my district once in a while. So, Sir, it is as simple as that.

Now, Sir, I am not reflecting my own personal feelings -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROWE, F. B. I forgot about pensions but I am not concerned about little old me, Sir, I am concerned about how well I can do my job for my constituents.

MR. ROBERTS: Sir, if we bring in the benefits we could make them effective after the next election.

MR. ROWE, F. B. That is an excellent point. Any such formula obviously would become effective after the next election. That is a fair enough suggestion.

MR. ROBERTS: Inaudible.

MR. SPEAKER (MR. STAGG): Order, please! The honourable member has ten minutes.

MR. ROWE, F. B. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROWE, F. B. Mr. Speaker, I think this government would be doing a very wise thing to ensure proper secretarial staff and office facilities particularly for opposition, in terms of what is likely to happen to them after the next election.

AN HON. MEMBER: Now hear this!

MR. ROWE, F. B. Mr. Speaker, I brought to the attention of the House in my speech the many problems that exist in my district. I wish I had more time to bring to the attention of this honourable House the problems that do exist. Sir, I have elaborated on what I consider to be a serious weakness in our political system here in Newfoundland as we have it. I

have made certain recommendations to resolve these weaknesses.

Sir, I have not referred to the Throne Speech. Sir, the first Throne Speech this administration delivered was an election manifesto filled with unkept promises. The second Throne Speech, Sir, was a repeat performance watered down somewhat. The third Throne Speech, Sir, was a complete capitulation and de-escalation of the previous

two Throne Speeches and Sir, the present gracious Speech from the Throne, Sir, is a complete abortion. How can one possibly criticize nothing except to say nothing concerning the Throne Speech. Sir, the government, in my opinion, has really cooked its own goose and a number of my colleagues, Sir, on this side of the House have demonstrated the ineptitude and utter and complete failure of the present administration and I cannot see why it is necessary, Sir, for me to flog a dead horse at this particular time.

AN HON. MEMBER: True. True.

MR. F. ROWE: However, Sir, there will be other opportunities during this session, consideration of the estimates, during the Throne Speech and I am sure one or two other opportunities when I would like to articulate the utter and complete failure of this government in practically all aspects of education, the complete lack of action in the field of municipal affairs, the fact that all progress since this administration took over were fulfillments of previous Liberal administrations or continuation of Liberal policies, concepts and ideas, the fact that this administration is trying to take credit for Federal Liberal programmes and expenditures and the fact that this administration, besides attacking this poor little opposition, Sir, is now embarking on a sinister plot to attack and criticize the Liberal Federal Government in Ottawa in order to camouflage its own lack of action and hopefully manufacture a synthetic and artificial issue for the next election. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (MR. STAGG): The honourable the Minister of Education.

MR. OTTENHEIMER, Minister of Education: Mr. Speaker, I move the adjournment of the debate.

MR. ROBERTS: Right to the point.

MR. OTTENHEIMER: You cannot say that the government never accepts opposition suggestions.

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

Motion second reading of a Bill, "An Act To Amend The Change of Name Act."

HON. T. A. HICKMAN, Minister of Justice: This is not a very earth shattering Bill. Under the legislation that was passed by this honourable House last year, "The Change of Name Act," now comes within my department. It gives the Lieutenant-Governor in Council the right to make fees realistic and at the same time, which is probably more to the point and certainly is required; it gives us the right to enter into reciprocal arrangements with other provinces, I move second reading.

On motion a bill, "An Act To Amend The Change of Name Act," read a second time, ordered referred to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow.

Motion second reading of a Bill, "An Act Respecting The Pension Of The Chairman Of The Board Of Commissioners Of Public Utilities."

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, in rising to move the second reading, honourable members who were in this House a few years ago will recall

that the then Pensions Act was amended to meet a commitment to the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities and subsequent to that, the new pensions' premium of the Public Services Pension Act was enacted in 1972 and this bill simply is to cure a technical defect that had been discovered to make certain that the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities in compiling his pensionable service that his years with the public service, prior to his accepting that position, are taken into account. The gentleman, as everyone knows, is Mr. Clarence W. Powell. I regard him as one of the outstanding provincial public servants. He served for many years in the public service, as a straight civil servant, first as a magistrate, then in the Department of Justice as an administrative officer and other posts culminating in his being appointed Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs and from there he went to the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, all I can say is that Mr. Clarence Powell is an outstanding public servant, as the minister has said. I do not know if the minister mentioned it but Mr. Powell, Sir, began as a magistrate thirty or forty years ago. He has been in the public service all his life. He has been in senior positions for at least the last ten or fifteen years and served the province well.

I do not pretend to understand the bill in detail. It is a very long bill, a very technical bill. The point of it seems to be, as the minister has said, that the chairman stood to lose his pension or part of his pension benefits by accepting the appointment of Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities. There was certainly no thought on the part of the government that appointed him or indeed of anybody, including the chairman, that that would be so. The man is entitled to his pension and since we rely upon the minister's statement that all that the bill does is to preserve that which everybody deemed had been, we are delighted to support it and in so doing to say that I hope it will be many years before Mr. Powell claims his pension. I think the province has need of a public servant

of his capabilities. The longer he can stay in serving the public, the better Newfoundland will be because of it.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

On motion a bill, "An Act Respecting The Pension Of The Chairman Of The Board Of Commissioners Of Public Utilities," read a second time, ordered referred to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow.

Motion second reading of a bill, "An Act To Amend The Automobile Insurance Act."

MR. HICKMAN: The administration of the bill comes under my honourable friend, the Minister of Provincial Affairs. There is nothing to explain except that this is to correct an error in statutory condition four. It is a purely technical one that has nothing to do really with the administration of the act but one that was discovered, as we are bound to, following consolidation, an occasional typographical error in the bill. I move second reading.

MR. W. ROWE: The minister will not speak on his own bill. He will not defend his own bill.

MR. ROBERTS: The minister will not defend his own bill. I can only raise two or three fairly general points. One point is an interesting legal point that I had understood under the act setting up the commissioners to revise our Statutes, the commissioners had the power to correct typographical errors. I had assumed that included typographical errors in the Statutes as printed. That is a point for the minister to take counsel with his officials upon. All that I would like to ask, Mr. Speaker, and I think it is in order on the bill, "An Act To Amend The Automobile Insurance Act," is to ask the government when are we going to get in this province no-fault insurance or possibly to go even further than that publicly run insurance?

There is a cabinet committee I believe (I have no first-hand knowledge. My knowledge is hearsay based on public statements by

the ministry) which is led by that intrepid fighter for the automobile insurance world, private and public, the Minister of Justice and I believe it includes the Hon. Member for Placentia West.

MR. W. ROWE: School boy debater.

MR. ROBERTS: The school boy debater as my friend and colleague calls him. Mr. Speaker, truth is a defence to a charge of libel so the honourable gentleman has to take it. There are some other

honourable gentleman, I think they brought in the honourable gentleman, the senior member for Harbour Main because they had to. It would have been much too embarrassing to leave him out. That should be a good reason from there - but, Mr. Speaker, there is a need in this province for, I venture to say, compulsory insurance. We saw some changes in the act last year but we still have not reached the stage where we should. I think that the judgement recovery process has proven to be unsatisfactory, certainly in modern times, it may or may not have been satisfactory eight, ten or twelve years ago when first it was introduced. There is a need for no-fault insurance. My brother in the legal profession might object to that but I think the time has come when we should take most of the insurance claims out of the hands of the lawyers, out of the hands of the courts and settle them on a no-fault basis.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. ROBERTS: My understanding of the no-fault system and let me add, Mr. Speaker, that it is entirely separate from the question of whether or not we should have a publicly-run, a government-run insurance plan which has been done in Saskatchewan some, nearly thirty years ago now, done in Manitoba four or five years ago and is now being done in British Columbia. That is a separate question but I think the government should make a commitment that we will have in Newfoundland no-fault insurance. I cannot see any objection to it, Sir, that maybe is because I do not know everything there is to know about it and I am the first to admit that I do not. I think, Sir, that the principles of it are clear and it can be set forth with conciseness and brevity.

The principles of it are, quite shortly, when one comes to claim under an insurance, claim in respect of damages either to one's health or to one's automobile, vehicle or presumably to one's loss of earning capacity, that one no longer has to prove that the other party, the party from whom the damages are claimed is at fault.

Instead, one looks to a general fund and the general fund merely assesses the damages and reimburses. In other words, we put it on exactly the same basis as the Workmen's Compensation Board functions on and has functioned in this province for twenty-four or twenty-five years now, and has functioned in Canada generally for about sixty years.

Mr. Speaker, when first Workmen's Compensation came in the lawyers all said that it was the end of them, because no longer would the employer be able to use the defense of common employment an interesting, historical anachronism that made many lawyers wealthy and no longer would the employer be able to use the defense of the employees' negligence. Well, Sir, that came in. It came in in Ontario first, I believe, about 1912 or 1913. It has now been adopted universally. I do not think anybody would argue against Workmen's Compensation.

Mr. Speaker, no-fault insurance is exactly the same and I would urge the ministry to bring this in. I think the insurance industry are in favour of it. The only people who could possibly be against it are some of the lawyers who are so busily making money out of settling insurance cases. I do not think that is a very good reason. My brotherhood at the bar certainly do well enough out of society without having - I am sorry - Does the gentleman from Burgeo wish to enter into the debate?

MR. EVANS: (Inaudible)

MR. ROBERTS: I am relieved, Mr. Speaker. I had hoped that he would make some positive suggestions.

MR. W.N. ROWE: Oh my! No-fault insurance would certainly be good for the honourable member.

MR. ROBERTS: The honourable gentleman from Burgeo, Mr. Speaker, is a self-made man because nobody else would take the responsibility for that.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please!

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, the point I was trying to make before I was interrupted was that no-fault insurance surely cannot be opposed by anybody with the public interest at heart. I would think that even my brethren at the Bar, and that is not the Killick Lounge, my brethren at the Bar would be quite in favour of it. I have never practiced law -

MR. W.N. ROWE: Ask the Minister of Justice if he is in favour of it.

MR. ROBERTS: I shall ask him. I have never practiced law and so I have no direct knowledge but some of my best friends are lawyers and I understand that most insurance claims, most running-down cases come down to a simple matter of one insurance company against the other. Many of them are settled out of court, many of them, indeed, get to court only on the question of measuring the quantum, the amount of the damages. The liability questions are settled, sometimes on the courthouse steps. I think the ministry should give us a commitment that they will bring it in.

Ontario have a plan along these lines now. I believe one or two other provinces are quite far advanced and the minister has been studying it for about a year. I do not know how much study is needed, Sir, for a fairly simple principle and I do not even think that it would be too complicated to administer it. You would merely require that everybody paid in an amount into a fund. The amounts might vary, you might rate people on the number of accidents they have and the type of driving they do just as insurance companies now do but those

principles, Sir, are well established. One would collect that insurance premium or a proof of it would be required before one got one's licence to operate the car each year. Then that would be paid into a fund and if one were so unfortunate as to be involved in an accident one would do what is done in Workmen's Compensation and would go to the board which administering it, the agency administering it, establish one's claims for damages and they would then pay them out.

It may be said, Sir, and I sometimes hear this: What do we do about the drunken drivers? What do we do about the person who is negligent and all of those things? Mr. Speaker, that has nothing to do with the principle of no-fault insurance. If someone is driving drunkenly or driving negligently or carelessly or recklessly or any of that sort of conduct then he should answer to the criminal courts. The insurance companies and the insurance principle surely has nothing to do with it.

MR. W. N. ROWE: Certainly the victim is not going to —

MR. ROBERTS: My colleague has just made a very good point, the victim should not have to be concerned as to whether or not the person who ran him down was drunk and in charge of an automobile or some sort of a vehicle. Surely all that should happen is if one has damages one should be compensated.

Mr. Speaker, the automobile is all pervasive in our society today. I heard I believe the Senior Member for Harbour Main say there are something like 170,000 vehicles now licenced to drive in this province. There are not very many places in the province where there are not some vehicles. There are not very many of us who in the course of the day are not either in a car or are somewhere in the neighbourhood of a car, in the sense one could get rundown walking on the road or something. It is part of modern society.

So surely we should end this outdated concept that if one is injured by someone operating a car one has to prove fault and one has to establish one's moral right to claim damages. It is just a simple matter, Mr. Speaker, a very simple matter of social justice. It is a matter of establishing the principle that if a person is compensated the society

pays him.

We do that now with hospitals. When somebody comes into a hospital, my friend, the Minister of Health, is not required to send his officials to ask whether the person is there of his own volition or whether he is negligently ill, in the sense of eating too much or having smoked too much or having consumed too much liquor. If he is ill he gets treated and society bears the cost. That should be the same way with automobiles.

So I put the suggestion to the Hon. Minister of Justice who is sponsoring this massive piece of reform legislation.

MR. W. N. ROWE: He is straying from the principle somewhat...

MR. ROBERTS: No, the principle is the substitute the word "insured" I am sorry, to strike the word "insured" and substitute therefore the word "insurer". Everything that I have said, Mr. Speaker, everything that I have said is strikingly relevant. The striking from sub-condition (4) the word "insured" and substituting therefore the word "insurer". I think this is a massive principle, Sir, and now I know what the policy and planning and priorities and programming and social study and policy -

MR. W. N. ROWE: "Information Newfoundland".

MR. ROBERTS: "Information Newfoundland" and "Infrastructure Secretariate" have been doing the last two years. They have been drafting this legislation, Sir, and well worth the effort it is - multi-dimensional at the interface. The Premier had a new phrase this morning that nobody could - "Trigger Industry." It is either something out of Roy Rodger or else we are going to have the biggest winchester factory ever seen in Newfoundland. We are going to have a trigger industry, whatever that may be

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: What are the perimeters of the interface?

MR. ROBERTS: What are the perimeters of the interface?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Yes, what are they in a trigger industry?

MR. ROBERTS: Ottawa, Mr. Speaker, has jargon word terms. Richard Gwynn used to be quite eloquent on them. Every now and then you would get a new jargon term and if you could use that jargon term, it did not matter if you knew how to use it or not, for the next six months you were in in Ottawa. Well the current jargon term is Trigger Industry.

AN HON. MEMBER: The term was multi-dimensional.

MR. ROBERTS: No, no, the minister is out because that was last month.

MR. ROWE, W.N. No wonder the minister cannot get any DREE agreements signed.

MR. ROBERTS: No wonder DREE is in such a mess.

MR. ROWE, W.N. Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: The minister is still talking about at the interface. Now interface is out.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. ROBERTS: Trigger Industry is in.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please!

AN HON. MEMBER: I am sorry, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable members are not being relevant to the question.

MR. ROBERTS: Oh, Mr. Speaker, I thought it was quite relevant, I was speaking mainly on Clause (1) at this point. This act may be cited as "The Automobile Insurance Amendment Act, 1974."

In any event, Sir, I support the bill. Since we have nine minutes left before we rise I invite the minister and any another honourable gentleman who wish to get into, to support this principle and I would like an assurance from the government that we will have this brought in in this session and let us see it implemented now. They have studied it long enough, let them act.

MR. ROWE, W.N. invite the minister to get up.

MR. ROBERTS: Well the minister, what is his name?

AN HON. MEMBER: Be kind now.

MR. ROBERTS: Well I am being kind. The senior gentleman for Harbour Main may wish to enter the debate and give

MR. ROBERTS: I miss the benefit of his study of this matter but whether or not he enters I would like to hear from the ministry really and I think the Minister of Justice is the man to speak on that so I support the bill but I would hope that in so doing it would lead the government to a commitment that we would have in Newfoundland no-fault automobile insurance and the quicker the better.

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

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, may I reiterate the position that was put by this government last year very clearly, very definitively in this House and very sincerely, very factually, that we support as a government the concept of no-fault insurance.

During the past eight months this government has been represented at meetings, both by officials, including the Superintendent of Insurance, officials from my department and the cabinet committee to deal with the question of no-fault insurance. What we want to ensure is that the package that is presented to this legislature is sufficiently all-embracing that Newfoundland motorists and the Newfoundland public generally will be able to get certainly as adequate coverage as they have now for the same premium dollar and indications are that they will be able to get a great deal more.

Our plan will obviously be compulsory. It, in my opinion, will eliminate some of the costs which should reflect in the premium payable by Newfoundland motorists. It eliminates tort. It will eliminate a lot of the cost of having adjusters trying to determine fault and I think the insurance adjusting industry will more properly be spending its time on trying to quickly and efficiently assess the damages.

I have, just to set the records straight, Mr. Speaker, so that no one goes out of here with any misapprehension, there have been no official and certainly no unofficial indication come to me from the legal profession in Newfoundland that they oppose the concept of no-fault insurance.

AN HON. MEMBER: Are there any in favour of it?

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I am in receipt of a communication offering

to co-operate with me in the legislation which I would interpret to mean that they favour it. In Toronto they have an advocate society which comprises the barristers as opposed to solicitors practicing in Toronto. I am told that last Friday they indicated their approval of it.

I do not anticipate any real, genuine, opposition from the legal profession to this bill because there still would be provision for anyone who is seriously injured and who feels that no matter what the coverage is he is entitled to more. He can look to the courts for anything in excess of what the plan will provide. But make no mistake, Mr. Speaker, at least there is one concept this government can take full marks for and that is no-fault insurance.

On motion a Bill, "An Act To Amend The Automobile Insurance Act," read a second time, ordered referred to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I move that the House at its rising adjourn until tomorrow, Tuesday at 3:00 P.M., this House do now adjourn.

On motion the House at its rising adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, February 15, at 3:00 P.M.