



PROVINCE OF NEWFOUNDLAND

THIRTY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF
NEWFOUNDLAND

Volume 3

3rd. Session

Number 28

VERBATIM REPORT

THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1974

SPEAKER: THE HONOURABLE JAMES M. RUSSELL

The House met at 3:00 P.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please!

I would like to welcome all our guests to the galleries today. I notice that we have some of our Members of Parliament present; Mr. Lundrigan, Mr. Walter Carter. We also have in the Speaker's Gallery a Mr. Bolton who is the British Trade Commissioner for the Atlantic Provinces. We have the Mayor of Happy Valley, Goose Bay, Mayor Kelland and Deputy Mayor, Lloyd Dalton.

I would like to welcome these people especially and each and every one of you to the galleries today.

HON. FRANK D. MOORES (Premier): Mr. Speaker, every person in Newfoundland, indeed most people in North America, are familiar with the history of the great Upper Churchill development. It is a truly great project in terms of engineering, a truly great project in terms of financing and in terms of Canadian resource development. But the benefits to this province, apart from the short-term construction employment, have been and will be unfortunately minimal. Sadly perhaps, in terms of the long-term effect on our province, was the ill-advised decision of passing the development control of all the waters of Labrador to the developers of Churchill Falls. I shall elaborate on the significance of this, Mr. Speaker, a little later in the statement.

When my government set forth to develop the Lower Churchill hydro potential, we were determined that this great tool for industrial development must be harnessed for the greatest possible benefit for this province and for its people.

My statement today outlines the most important resource development decision ever made by a Newfoundland Government. I have

deliberately limited all comment on this matter until it was practical for me to make a detailed statement in this honourable House, as it is fitting that the Members of the House of Assembly and the people of Newfoundland be the first to receive a complete and an accurate presentation on my government's decision to acquire BRINCO Limited.

The Government's decision to acquire BRINCO was not made on the spur of the moment, Sir. It was a well planned, thoroughly researched move which will prove to be of incalculable benefit for future generations of Newfoundlanders. Permit me, therefore, to place our decision in its proper context.

This Administration intends to establish a comprehensively planned approach to the development of the Province and each of its major economic and social sectors; and to ensure that all resources of the Province are developed at a pace, and to the highest possible level of efficiency, consistent with the long run interests of our people. For unless we have control of our resources and their development we cannot control our destiny as a people.

The resources of Newfoundland are the property of the people. It follows that control over these resources must rest with the people's Government. While it is the responsibility and determined commitment of the Government to promote the fulfillment of our development potential through private enterprise the guidelines governing this development must clearly be established by Government and Government must establish the returns which are to accrue to our people.

Energy policy has received considerable public attention during recent months. It has received priority attention in the Government's long-term resource development planning

for the past two years. In May of 1973 the Report of the Study Group on Energy was presented to the Government. It was a concise but comprehensive analysis of the energy situation in Newfoundland and Labrador, both in terms of existing and future energy sources and in terms of alternatives for the structure of the power industry in the future. The report confirmed the Government's belief in the importance of reasonable priced reliable electric energy to our Province's future economic development. It also recommended that the Province undertake a confidential assessment of the financial, economic and social implications of the power industry in the Province.

No nation or region can attain a high level of economic development without an intensive and intelligent use of energy. Studies of the energy consumptions and economic indicators of the world's nations substantiate this correlation. Of course, many other factors affect economic development, but high use of energy is an essential ingredient. A nation or region with its own resources of primary energy has a distinct advantage, especially in light of current world energy conditions. Canada ranks second among the world's nations in both energy consumption per capita and gross national product per capita. Canada has achieved these ranks because it is one of the few industrial countries which is self-sufficient in terms of energy supply. Retaining "security of energy supply" and fostering further economic development are major national goals of our country. Energy is as essential to regional economic development as it is to the nation. In order to move ahead on economic fronts, Newfoundland must have an increasing supply of energy. Considering the importance of hydro power to Newfoundland's energy supply, the undevelopment hydro potential in the Province, particularly in Labrador, can provide the basis for economic development.

Any thought of energy development in Labrador must focus around BRINCO Limited. The British Newfoundland Corporation Limited (BRINCO)

was formed in 1953 and was owned by seven United Kingdom banking and industrial firms. It is currently 45.5 per cent owned by the large multi-national Rio-Tinto Zinc Corporation Limited of England, 3.8 per cent by Bethlehem Steel of the United States and 4.1 per cent by Marubeni of Japan. This foreign owned corporation (BRINCO) and its subsidiaries were originally granted exclusive mineral rights to more than 50,000 square miles in both Newfoundland and Labrador as well as rights to develop water systems in both areas. BRINCO's water rights on the Island were surrendered at the time of the Baie D'Espoir development, but it continues to hold its rights in Labrador. In 1961, a BRINCO subsidiary, Churchill Falls (Labrador) Corporation was granted a ninety-nine year lease renewable for a further ninety-nine years, authorizing development of the Upper Churchill River watershed. However, BRINCO retains first call to develop any water power in Labrador not previously granted to others. This option is exercisable until 1983, but actual development is subject to the Province and BRINCO arriving at an agreement on a long term lease basis.

At the recent First Ministers Conference in Ottawa and in a subsequent public address here in St. John's, I outlined the disadvantages to Newfoundland of the financial agreement negotiated between Churchill Falls (Labrador) Corporation (CFLCO) and Hydro-Quebec for the energy which is being generated from the Upper Churchill Falls site. It has been estimated that the economic cost to the people of Newfoundland, taking into account recent excesses in energy costs and also the fact that the agreement has no provision for escalation, is in excess of tens of millions of dollars annually. The development of the Lower Churchill resource must proceed but, Mr. Speaker, under much more favourable terms to the province.

In September, 1972, BRINCO formally approached the Government with a firm proposal for development.

During the past one and one-half years Government has held numerous discussions with BRINCO and with CFLCO concerning this proposal for development of the hydro potential at Gull Island.

The original BRINCO proposal outlined the technical aspects of the project and the work which had already been undertaken concerning feasibility studies, engineering design and the length of time necessary for construction. Basically, the concept was to tie the Gull Island development into that of the Upper Churchill and to sell the output to Hydro-Quebec on a long term contract. The Corporation stated that they were prepared to commence in the spring of 1973 if the Government would grant concessions similar to those given for the Upper Churchill project some years previously. The main financial concessions granted for the Upper Churchill were as follows: (1) A retail sales tax exemption; A gasoline tax exemption; A rebate of over fifty per cent of all corporate taxes paid and low royalty rates.

The Government was determined that for any subsequent developments on the Churchill River the main beneficiaries must be the residents of this province. It, therefore, informed BRINCO of the minimum terms and conditions under which permission would be granted to proceed with the Gull Island project. For example, there were to be no exemptions from the retail sales tax or the gasoline tax. In addition, there was to be no rebate of any corporation income tax and there would have to be a transmission line constructed from Gull Island to the Happy Valley-Goose Bay area. With regard to the royalties, the Province stated that these could best be taken care of by the Province receiving one-third of the equity in the project.

Following the presentation of the provincial Budget on March 30, 1973, the Government was informed that the conditions were too onerous and that the Corporation would not likely proceed with the project unless the conditions were considerably modified. Since that time discussions have continued between BRINCO and the Government which have not resulted in any agreement.

It was in May of 1973 that Government received from the Planning Task Force the recommendation that it seriously consider regaining control over our Labrador energy sources. A major factor in considering this recommendation was that electrical energy requirements on the Island have been growing at the rate of twelve per cent per annum over recent years and forecasts indicate that the distribution utilities and existing industrial customers on the Island will need substantial additional amounts of energy. Furthermore, the excellent prospects of new industries locating in Newfoundland will add to those requirements. It is evident from the projected load growth that even without new industrial development additional generating capacity will be required for peaking purposes in 1975 and to meet the base load requirements of existing customers by 1979. Hence it was urgent to make a decision regarding the next generating source as soon as possible.

In August, 1973 the Newfoundland and Labrador Power Commission authorized Teshmont Consulting Limited and H. Zinder and Associates Incorporated to conduct a joint study of the technical and economic feasibility of developing the hydro-electric power resources of the Gull Island site on the Lower Churchill River in Labrador and of delivering the power to centres on the Island of Newfoundland as well as locations in Labrador. I called a press conference and made a public announcement that such a study was being commissioned.

It was still the hope of the Government that agreement could be negotiated with BRINCO for delivery of electrical energy to the Island. However, Government also recognizes that occasions can arise when the interests of a people and the interests of a private corporation can diverge. Such a situation exists with respect to BRINCO's rights to development of hydro resources in Labrador. If, for instance, by selling energy West (to Quebec) BRINCO could earn more than by selling to customers in Labrador and on the Island, BRINCO would wish to sell outside of the Province. Similarly, the future development of other hydro resource sites in Labrador may not provide a sufficient return on investment to be immediately attractive to private enterprise.

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However, these opportunities may represent a legitimate venture for the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador in the National and Provincial interests.

Mindful of Government's responsibility in this matter and concerned that negotiations might not succeed, we requested our fiscal agents, Burns Brothers and Denton Limited of Toronto, to undertake an intensive review and consideration of the financial feasibility of provincial ownership. Both the Teshmont-Zinder technical study and the Burns Brothers financial study proceeded simultaneously.

The findings of the Teshmont-Zinder Study were presented to Government in February, 1974. This study confirmed conclusively the technical and economic feasibility of developing the Gull Island site and of transmitting the energy to the Island of Newfoundland. Moreover, it is clear that this development is the most economic means of providing the electrical energy necessary to meet the future needs of the Province as it is less expensive per kilowatt-hour than any other electrical energy source which will be available to us.

A third study, by Shawmont Newfoundland Limited, was also presented in February, 1974. This study analyzed the alternative methods of meeting Newfoundland's future energy needs and arrived at the conclusion that the hydro electricity at the Gull Island site would provide the lowest cost of energy when compared with the alternatives of fossil fuel thermal generation, coal fired thermal generation or by the installation of nuclear generating units.

From an economic viewpoint, the development of the Gull Island Project will utilize a renewable resource at a reasonable cost. The costs of electric power generated from this resource will also remain relatively stable. Only a very minor component for operation and maintenance is subject to escalation. In addition, the availability and essentially stable cost of a large block of power will be a stimulus to new industry.

The stability of the Government in Canada and its provinces is also a major advantage in attracting industrial development when contrasted with other parts of the world where competitive hydro energy might be available. The Island is fortunately located in respect to having ice-free,

deep-water ports at reasonable distances from the major markets of the world bordering on the Atlantic Ocean.

The Teshmont-Zinder Study points out that the only proven energy resource within the boundaries of the Province is the hydro-electric potential of its rivers. The Gull Island Project will deliver eleven billion kilowatt-hours of energy annually to the Island and Labrador which is equivalent to approximately eighteen million barrels of fuel oil. Forecasts indicate that the full output of the Gull Island plant could be absorbed on the Island sometime in the period between 1985 and 1988. The development of the Project would provide benefits for all existing customers of the Power Commission and will make hydro power available to the residents of Goose Bay and Happy Valley as well as facilitating industrial development in Eastern Labrador.

The thermal plant and the high voltage transmission network operated by the Newfoundland and Labrador Power Commission will form the nucleus for the distribution of Gull energy. The experience and capability of the Commission will assure the efficient integration of the Gull Island Project and will provide competent management of the combined system.

If approval is granted to commence the Project immediately, it can be in commercial operation in January 1979. Provided that the proposed overall schedule is maintained, it is estimated that the total cost of construction will range from approximately \$1.0 billion to \$1.1 billion. The manpower requirements during construction will amount to 100,000 man months of work. An examination has been made of the technical feasibility of delivering power to the Island of Newfoundland by means of a high voltage transmission system. The design and construction of the generating plant and the components of the transmission system, namely the HVDC converter stations, the transmission lines and the cable crossing of the Strait of Belle Isle are within the capabilities of today's technology. The generation and overall transmission system will provide a high level of reliability.

A special consideration in the design of the transmission scheme has been the cable crossing of the Strait of Belle Isle. Two alternative installations have been examined, namely, the direct laying of submarine cables and the construction of a cable tunnel.

Designs have been evolved for both, either of which would be technically feasible and acceptable. The submarine cable offers savings in capital costs and is therefore recommended by the study.

It is considered that the Gull Island project will have the least environmental impact of any of the alternative methods of generation. Although there may be flooding in the downstream section of the reservoir, the general extent of the flooding would be in fact quite minimal, compared with other major hydro developments, since the Churchill Falls plant provides the water storage. Furthermore, the presence of the transmission lines on the island would have significantly less ecological impact than alternative thermal or nuclear plants.

If Gull Island power is to be brought to the island by January 1, 1979, an immediate programme of field investigations and engineering work must be undertaken during the spring and summer of 1974. I must point out again and make clear that it has been definitely established that technology presently exists to develop the hydro potential of the Lower Churchill at Gull Island, and for the high voltage DC transmission of reliable power to the Island of Newfoundland. Furthermore, the Teshmont Zinder Report confirms that there is no question that projected costs can be fully recovered from anticipated revenue that is based on competitive rates that will attract new industry.

As a Government we are determined to see that this energy source is developed and that it is delivered to both the Island and Labrador regions of the Province to encourage industrial development and to provide a secure and reliable supply of energy at a stable price to all customers - domestic, commercial and industrial.

The Teshmont Zinder Report makes clear that a large saving in the capital cost of the project is possible if the whole project is built to the optimum technical schedule. Doing this, however, will result in energy being available which is surplus to the immediate needs of the Province. If this energy can be sold on a short term basis, the

overall economics of the project will be greatly enhanced and the price of energy to consumers in Newfoundland will be less than it will have to be otherwise.

My recent discussions with the Premier of Quebec have been directed to the disposal of such surplus energy. We recognize that with Quebec's plans to develop the hydro potential at Bay James, it will probably not have a long term need for our surplus energy. However, this energy can also be used to provide for the needs of other provinces which have less hydro potential than ourselves or Quebec. The construction of an intertie between the Gull Island plant and the Upper Churchill plant is recommended in the study to assure the most economic use of the available power of both projects, to optimize water management, to facilitate the marketing of surplus energy and to provide a strong link to the existing Quebec Hydro network and a future Canadian grid system.

It is important for the Government to be in a position to deal directly, Mr. Speaker, with other provinces. I made this point clearly to the Prime Minister and other Provincial Premiers during both public and private discussions at the recent First Ministers Energy Conference in Ottawa. I have sought also and continue to seek the support of the Federal Government for the construction of a national power grid.

I need hardly note in passing that the building of the Trans-Labrador Highway is now more likely due to our decision to proceed with the development of the Lower Churchill power installation.

Acquisition of control of our hydro resources in Labrador is most appropriately achieved by purchasing all of the shares in BRINCO. The final decision of Cabinet was made in early March. It was a decision to expand to Labrador the already existing policy of Government to publicly control the future generation of hydro resources on the Island. The decision is by no means a precedent in Canada, Mr. Speaker. The most recent examples of such policy action come from Nova Scotia and, prior to that, Quebec. All provinces, with the

exception of Alberta, control their power industry. Alberta's power industry is based on oil and gas - not hydro, and that Province has recently taken steps to control the oil and gas industry there.

I wish to make quite clear, unequivocally and without reservation, that this action should in no way be interpreted as being indicative of any nationalization policy on the part of my Government. Indeed, we are of the firm opinion that Government ownership of BRINCO is a necessary and fundamental step towards ensuring that this Province will continue to be able to attract private enterprise in the future through electricity availability.

On Monday, March 11th, 1974, I visited the Chairman of RIO TINTO-ZINC Corporation, Sir Val Duncan, in London, England, to discuss the offer which the Government wished to make to all shareholders for the purchase of outstanding shares of BRINCO Ltd. In the opinion of the Government it would not have been in the public interest to permit trading

to take place on the stock exchange in shares of BRINCO once news of our takeover bid became public. In the normal businesslike fashion Government therefore requested that the Canadian Securities Commission issue cease trading orders in the shares of BRINCO and that the Toronto and Montreal Stock Exchanges suspend trading immediately. For this reason, no public trading of shares has occurred since Friday, March 8.

I made a formal offer to Sir Val Duncan at our meeting in London, held on March 11, 1974, to purchase all the shares of BRINCO Limited beneficially owned or controlled by the RIO TINTO-Zinc Corporation Limited at a cash price of \$6.75 per share. At the same time, I informed Sir Val Duncan that it was the intention of the Province to proceed immediately with a public tender offer to all the shareholders of BRINCO (other than those who are citizens of or residents in the United States of America or its territories or possessions) to acquire all their shares of BRINCO at a cash price of \$6.75 per share.

The facts of this particular situation, where one company - RIO TINTO-Zinc - and its associates own approximately 46 per cent of the outstanding shares of BRINCO, obviously dictate that an agreement be reached with the controlling shareholders before a public offer is proceeded with, especially in the situation where it is the Province's wish to acquire all the outstanding shares of BRINCO.

While I was meeting with RIO TINTO in London, the Honourable John C. Crosbie, Minister of Finance, was meeting in Montreal with the senior management officials of BRINCO Ltd., in order to explain the offer. In addition, the Government wished to express its desire that the technical and managerial expertise represented by the personnel of BRINCO Ltd. stay on to meet the challenge presented by the Lower Churchill development.

While my Colleagues and I recognize the outstanding service rendered by BRINCO to the Province during the last twenty years, Government has determined, as a matter of principle, that the hydro electric generation facilities and related water rights in Labrador should be owned and

controlled by the people of the Province. In implementing this policy, the Government agrees that all the shareholders of BRINCO are entitled to the fairest possible consideration by the Province and this we endeavoured to do in arriving at the suggested cash price of \$6.75 per share for the shares of BRINCO.

Following my meetings in London on Monday and at the request of Sir Val Duncan, I travelled to Montreal to discuss the specifics of the offer with him and the directors and senior executives of BRINCO. I and my advisers have been available at all times for the past ten days to meet and discuss the Province's offer, and several variations thereof, with Sir Val Duncan and the directors of BRINCO. In addition, in order to make ourselves fully available to discuss this matter and to accommodate the Board and senior executives of BRINCO, it was necessary for me to request that this Legislative Assembly adjourn its deliberations for a period of five sitting days.

During our discussions in Montreal the alternative of acquiring only 57 per cent interest of BRINCO in the shares of Churchill Falls Limited as well as the water rights presently held by BRINCO was explored. While it is the primary interest of the Province to obtain ownership and control of the hydro electric facilities and water rights, this alternative did not appear to be acceptable. One of the primary reasons for this was that the 22,000 public shareholders of BRINCO, the majority of whom in terms of number are Canadian, would not have been afforded an opportunity to sell their shares of BRINCO to the Province at a time when the whole character of BRINCO was being drastically changed. In addition, in the Government's opinion the proposal was unacceptable for other reasons, including the unrealistically high price which was suggested by Sir Val Duncan, and including the difficulty of dividing the management team. We believe that it is in the best interests of all concerned that BRINCO be maintained as a viable economic entity, that its organization and staff be preserved and that the bondholders of

CFLCO be assured that they are being fully protected.

On Friday evening, March 15, RIO TINTO-Zinc Corporation, BRINCO Limited and the Province appeared to be progressing along the line of a tentative agreement.

This agreement would have involved the purchase of all of the shares of BRINCO by the Province. The Province would reorganize all mineral assets of BRINCO,

including the uranium enrichment project and the ISKUT Pulp power into a new company under the name BRINEX Limited. The Province would distribute \$5.25 cash plus one share in BRINEX to all current shareholders of BRINCO. The Province would retain the CFLCO operations, all of the Labrador water rights and other non-mineral assets. The question of management and taxation matters were mutually worked out the following day.

Meetings were held on Saturday to finalize the details of Friday's tentative agreement. Serious problems and differences immediately surfaced and a further Saturday meeting between myself, the Honourable John C. Crosbie and Sir Val Duncan and Mr. William Mulholland failed to resolve these difficulties.

After giving serious consideration over the weekend to all the factors involved and after consultation with a number of my colleagues in the cabinet and with my fiscal advisers, the Province advised BRINCO that it did not consider it practical to continue the discussion of an arrangement along the lines of the tentative proposal discussed.

However, my colleagues and I felt that in view of the fact that the discussions of Friday evening arrived at a value for the shares of BRINCO which was acceptable to BRINCO and to the Province, that it would be unfair for the Province not to increase the offer for the shares of BRINCO from \$6.75 per share to \$7.07 per share. On Monday, March 18, 1974, we informed BRINCO and RIO-TINTO-Zinc of our offer of \$7.07 per share and set a deadline of Midnight, Wednesday, March 20, 1974, for their response. I might add that we also informed BRINCO that when the Province acquired ownership of the shares of BRINCO it would recommend that the new directors of BRINCO agree to grant a right of first refusal to RIO TINTO, or its nominee, to purchase the mineral assets that the Board of Directors of BRINCO desired to sell.

At 9:10 P.M. last evening I received a telex message from BRINCO advising that their Board of Directors were unable to

to recommend our offer to their shareholders. The Board indicated, however, that they were prepared to recommend to their shareholders an offer by us to buy BRINCO shares in Churchill Falls (Labrador) Corporation Limited and all their other water rights in Labrador.

The Government was disappointed in the proposal, particularly in light of the price suggested by the BRINCO Board of Directors. After ten days of sincere and honest negotiations, it was clear that the offering price for the shares of CFLCO and the water rights, as first enunciated by Sir Val Duncan, remained unrealistically high.

Accordingly, at 9:55 P.M. last evening, I sent the following telex to Mr. R. D. Mulholland, Chairman of BRINCO, Mr. W.D. Mulholland, President of BRINCO, and Sir Val Duncan, Chairman of the Executive Committee and Chairman of Rio-Tinto-Zinc Corporation Limited:

"Thank you for your telex received at 9:10 P.M. March 20, 1974. Your offer is unacceptable to the Province. I propose to announce to the House of Assembly and the people of Newfoundland tomorrow the full details of our negotiations. At that time legislation will be introduced to vest the shares of BRINCO in the Province at the price of \$7.07 (Seven Dollars and Seven Cents) per share."

We are proud that the reaction of the financial and industrial community has been excellent regarding the method, style and approach which we have used in attempting to reach a negotiated settlement. It is with much reluctance that Government take the step to vest the shares of BRINCO Limited through legislation.

It is the desire and hope of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador that the present personnel of the BRINCO Organization will continue in their present responsibilities. The management team has proven to Canada and the world its ability to create and operate an innovative and progressive organization. It is Government's intention to maintain the company as an autonomous operation with a board of directors and independent operating personnel. In fact, the only major changes would be in the owners of the shares themselves.

The purchase price of \$7.07 per share for the shares of RIO-TINTO-Zinc Corporation, other major shareholders and the public will cost the Province of Newfoundland approximately \$180,000,000. The financing of this purchase was completed before we approached the major shareholder.

It is significant and attests to the confidence which has been attached to this activity that one Canadian financial institution, the Bank of Nova Scotia, has agreed to provide all of the necessary financing. As Premier of a Canadian Province I am proud of the speed and efficiency with which the top management of the Bank of Nova Scotia assessed our proposal and made its decision.

The purchase of BRINCO Limited will not double nor triple the debt of this Province as has been erroneously reported and quoted. The Province will finance the actual purchase price of \$180,000,000 through the Newfoundland Industrial Development Corporation, a Crown Corporation, and the cash flow from the extra dividends and the other savings to the Province will be sufficient to completely liquidate the purchase price. In addition, it is the Government's stated intention to sell or otherwise divest some of the other assets which BRINCO holds, thereby reducing significantly the total purchase price for all of the shares.

Mr. Speaker, I must reiterate that we have made a fair and reasonable offer to all shareholders of BRINCO at a premium of \$1.82 or thirty-five per cent above the closing price of \$5.25 on March 8, the last trading day for the stock. The acquisition of BRINCO is a major step in the future development of our Province and its people and one which every Newfoundlander should be proud of. Newfoundland offers many of the ingredients necessary for the "quality of life". Mr. Speaker, an abundant, long-term source of electric power is essential if we are to ensure a viable future for our people.

Mr. Speaker, I will in a moment, at the appropriate time, be giving notice of the legislation pertaining to this statement.

PETITIONS:

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a petition on behalf of sixty-two persons at McCallum in my district. Perhaps it is best, Mr. Speaker, I read the essence of what is here.

"We, the undersigned parents of the school pupils here at McCallum,

are glad to know that some action is being taken by the integrated school board and plans for a new school have been drawn up and sent to the school here at McCallum. The board have said that the need for a new school here at McCallum is great. We feel that the need is not only great but urgent.

"We have here at McCallum an old grade school with the present enrollment of seventy students. By September, 1974, there will be eighty-five to attend school. We have four teachers and a special education teacher working in a cubbyhole classroom, five feet wide by twenty-two feet long. The other three classrooms are overcrowded, with no cloakroom or washroom, and pupils have to go to nearby homes for a drink of water or to use the washroom.

Since government is responsible for providing adequate school facilities, we feel that if a new school is not built or at least begun we will not be obligated to send our children to the present school in September of 1974.

We trust that the government and especially the Minister of Education will be sympathetic to our cause and make this school a reality at the earliest possible date."

Mr. Speaker, as I have said, this is signed by sixty-two parents at McCallum. I take much pleasure in presenting the petition.

The prayer of it does draw attention, does dramatize once again the desperate need for government, in this current year, to substantially increase the amount of capital funding available to the Denominational Educational Committees and through them to the school boards of this province.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this petition be placed on the table of the House and referred to the department to which it relates.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Burgeo Lapoile:

HON. E.M.ROBERTS (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, before the honourable Gentleman for Burgeo - he has another petition I take it -

MR. EVANS: Pardon!

MR. ROBERTS: The honourable gentleman is not speaking on the petition just presented?

AN HON. MEMBER: No.

MR. ROBERTS: If I may say just a word in support of the petition presented by the Gentleman from Hermitage, Sir. I had the pleasure of being in McCallum during certain public events last fall. They say that politics make strange bedfellows and indeed they did on this occasion because it was a busy night in McCallum and there is no public accommodation. We might as well have it all come out, Sir, the honourable gentleman from White Bay South and I shared a very large bed with each of us balancing on one corner or one edge.

The school, Sir, is in deplorable condition and I know the Integrated Education Committee wish to build a new one there. It is a matter of funds and I hope that in bringing this petition to the House their cause is strengthened. From my personal knowledge, Sir, I think there is a need and I support the prayer of the petition.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Burgeo Lapoile:

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a petition bearing

the signatures of 780 residents of Ramea in my District of Burgeo Lapoile. The prayer of this petition states that they request that a third doctor, instead of being sent to Burgeo, be sent to Ramea instead and that the nursing station facilities be upgraded there and also to have a dentist sent to the island at least twice a year.

It gives me great pleasure to support this petition. Ramea is only nine miles from Burgeo but there you have nine miles of pretty rough water. As Ramea has a large fish plant and could at any time suffer a big industrial accident, which could easily happen in a plant of that size, you can imagine what loss of life could be involved.

I was on open-line this morning and I had several calls from the people of Ramea and that was their main complaint-- the lack of nursing services. The human work that is being done by the male nurse there, nurse Stewart, he is working from about nine in the morning until probably one or two o'clock the next morning and he is not able to look after all the people then.

Another thing that I would like to point out is that Ramea is about the only place in Canada today that has a labour shortage. I think that these people are due everything that can possibly be provided for them. I wish this petition to be placed on the order table and referred to the department to which it relates.

MOTIONS:

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable the Premier:

MR. MOORES: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a bill, "An Act To Provide For The acquisition By The Province Of The Shares Of BRINCO Limited."

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Finance:

HON. J.C.CROSBIE (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave of the House to introduce a bill, "An Act To Provide Monies For The Acquisition By The Newfoundland

Industrial Corporation For All Of The Shares Of BRINCO Limited."

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable the Minister of Justice:

HON. T.A.HICKMAN (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce the following bills: A bill, "An Act Further To Amend The Child Welfare Act, 1972." A bill, "An Act Further To Amend The Bills Of Sales Act." A bill, "An Act Further To Amend The Welfare Of Children Act."

ORDERS OF THE DAY:

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable the Member for Hermitage:

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Transportation and Communications: In view of the almost impassable condition of the gravel sections of the Bay D'Espoir Highway and the fact, for example, Mr. Speaker, today the postal officials had

to arrange the delivery of mail to Bay D'Espoir, Hermitage and Fortune Bay by air because of the road condition, would the minister indicate to the House what steps his department is taking to rectify this deplorable situation?

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. the Minister of Transportation and Communications.

HON. T. P. HICKEY (MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS): Mr. Speaker, the problem with the Bay D'Espoir Highway is one which my department have been attempting to solve by way of rebuilding and upgrading that road. It is a unique situation in as much as whenever there is soft spots occurring in the road, if we attempt to remediate it right away, while the temperature is high, we tend to make it worse and create more problems than solving them.

I am afraid the situation is that until the temperature drops there is not very much we can do. Certainly this has been the situation on a number of occasions. I regret that we cannot offer any other solution at this particular time.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the Minister of Transportation and Communications. Is the minister aware that on Tuesday night the temperature did drop but there was no equipment available to take advantage of the drop in temperature and, if he is, will he indicate to the House what he intends to do to make available additional equipment so the highway maintenance crews there can effect whatever maintenance is possible, giving them the very bad condition of the roadbed.

MR. HICKEY: Mr. Speaker, I was not aware; I was out of the province on Tuesday night. I have directed my people to give top priority, as is the case in any region to any road that is closed or that is next to impassable. I have the greatest confidence in my staff and I am sure that this will be attended to and that the repairs will be effected as quickly as possible.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Bonavista North.

MR. P. S. THOMS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries: I wonder could the minister inform this House when his department is going to compensate our fishermen on the Northeast Coast for storm damage last year?

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

HON. H. A. COLLINS (MINISTER OF FISHERIES): Mr. Speaker, I presume the honourable member is referring to storm damage to lobster pots. There have been a considerable number of claims made. In fact we have received claims indicating that there were more pots lost than there are pots in the water. It meant that there had to be a considerable amount of investigation. About half of the amount of the total loss has been documented and cheques should be in the mail either today or tomorrow. The remainder should be in the mail by the end of the week.

MR. P. S. THOMS: Mr. Speaker, do I understand from the minister that there were actually claims put in for pots lost more than there were actually put in the water? Is the minister saying that some of our Newfoundland fishermen are lying in their claims or are they filing false claims?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please! Order please!

MR. THOMS: This is what the minister is feeling, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please! Order please!

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, if the honourable member wants to put that interpretation on my answer, that is fine. But all of the lobster pots in Newfoundland are registered by the federal government. If we receive a claim for 200 pots and the fishermen have been registered for 150 pots naturally we must go back and check into that to make sure that the claim is right and very often we find that there have been some pots which the fishermen have registered with the federal government they had not advised us of but all of this takes time and this is one of the reasons for the delay.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Fogo.

CAPT. E. W. WINSOR: Mr. Speaker, might I direct a supplementary question to the Hon. the Minister of Fisheries? Is the honourable minister saying it is only fishermen who suffered loss through losing lobster pots or is he including salmon nets, lump nets and other equipment, or is it just the lobster pots he is referring to?

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, I ask the honourable the Member for Bonavista North if he were referring to the loss of lobster pots. In the case of the loss of lobster pots we send cheques to the

fishermen who suffered the loss. In case of other types of gear, after the fisherman has documented his case and taken an affidavit that he lost the gill net or two gill nets or ten or twelve or fifteen cod traps or whatever it might be, after all of that has been cleared and he has purchased replacements in limits or complete units, in complete kits from the various suppliers across the province, after all of that has been documented then we pay the supplier the

amount of the provincial subsidy. We do not send the cheques directly to the fishermen for any loss other than lobster pot loss.

AN HON. MEMBER: What percentage?

MR. COLLINS: The percentage works out, Mr. Speaker, to roughly around fifty per cent.

MR. M. WOODWARD: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Transportation and Communications regarding his visit to Ottawa during the last couple of days with respect to his joint Quebec-Newfoundland proposal on the Trans-Labrador Highway. I wonder if the honourable minister can tell the House if he has had any success with the federal people? What plans they have? And if the proposal has been accepted to get the highway started this summer?

HON. T. V. HICKEY (Minister of Transportation and Communications): Mr. Speaker, there has been no proposal made to the federal government as yet. About the only thing I can say at this time is that there will be a meeting before the end of the month, before the end of the present month. I cannot give the date at this time because the information we seem to be getting seems to be changing almost by the hour and I would not dare risk nor take the chance of indicating the exact date until I am completely sure. I felt I was sure two days ago but at this particular time I am not. That is about all I can say except to repeat that by the end of this month a proposal will be made, by my counterpart in Quebec and myself, to the federal government.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:

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

On motion of the Hon. Minister of Mines and Energy, a bill, "An Act Further To Amend The Petroleum And Natural Gas Act," read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

On motion of the Hon. Minister of Finance, a bill, "An Act To Repeal The Debentures Of The Province Act," read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

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

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

On motion of the honourable Minister of Justice, a Bill, "An Act Further To Amend The Judicature Act," read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

On motion of the honourable Minister of Justice, a Bill, "An Act Respecting Fraudulent Conveyances," read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

On motion of the honourable Minister of Forestry and Agriculture, a Bill, "An Act Respecting The Appointment And Powers Of The Newfoundland Geographical Names Board," read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

On motion of the honourable Minister of Health, a Bill, "An Act To Amend The Communicable Diseases Act," read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

On motion of the honourable Minister of Provincial Affairs and Environment, a Bill, "An Act Further To Amend The Conditional Sales Act," read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

On motion of the honourable Minister of Mines and Energy, a Bill, "An Act To Amend The Undeveloped Mineral Areas Act," read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

Motion second reading of a Bill, "An Act Further To Amend The Department Of Education Act."

HON. G. OTTENHEIMER, MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Mr. Speaker, this is a straightforward, routine and uncontroversial matter. Actually what this Bill presents was government requested by the denominational educational committees concerned and what it provides is that those executive secretaries who previous to their appointment to that post were superintendents (Under the former nomenclature, they were superintendents, members of that Council of Education) that those executive secretaries who previous to their appointment were civil servants and superintendents, in that terminology, will be able to benefit fully from the Public Service Pensions Act. That is what it provides. They did not come under any Teachers' Pension Act

nor any other and that is what the bill provides and I move second reading.

MR. P. B. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, I cannot see any objections to this particular bill. Mr. Speaker, it seems to be just a house-cleaning job and obviously it comes as a result of a request of the denominational educational committees and I, for one, support the bill, Mr. Speaker.

On motion a bill, "An Act Further to Amend the Department of Education Act", read a second time, ordered referred to a committee of the whole House presently, by leave:

MR OTTENHEIMER: Now, Mr. Speaker, there is a bill even more straightforward - there is one, I may say, in between, Order No.18. The reason we are not doing that is that there was a bill given first reading today and it is certainly preferable that they be considered together, those particular two, because they are related.

Second Reading of a bill, "An Act to Amend the College of Fisheries Act:"

This one is purely mathematical. At present the act provides for three ex officio members on the Board of Governors of the College of Fisheries and this will amend it whereby there will be two and that will be the Deputy Minister of Education and the Deputy Minister of Fisheries. That is not only essentially, that is in toto what it does. I move second reading.

MR. ROWE: Again, Mr. Speaker, we find no objections to this particular bill.

On motion a bill, An Act Further to Amend the College of Fisheries Act", read a second time, ordered referred to a committee of the whole House presently, by leave:

On motion that the House resolve itself into a committee of the whole to consider said bills, Mr. Speaker left the Chair:

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

A bill, "An Act Respecting The Pension Of The Chairman Of The Board Of Commissioners Of Public Utilities."

Motion, that the committee report having passed the bill without amendment, carried:

A bill, "An Act Further To Amend The Change Of Name Act."

Motion, that the committee report having passed the bill without amendment, carried:

A bill, "An Act To Amend The Automobile Insurance Act."

Motion, that the committee report having passed the bill without amendment, carried:

A bill, "An Act Further To Amend The Co-operative Societies Act."

Motion, that the committee report having passed the bill without amendment, carried:

A bill, "An Act Further To Amend The Maintenance Act."

Motion, that the committee report having passed the bill without amendment, carried:

A bill, "An Act Further To Amend The Adoption Of Children Act."

Motion, that the committee report having passed the bill without amendment, carried:

A bill, "An Act To Amend The Pesticides Control Act."

Motion, that the committee report having passed the bill without amendment, carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would the clerk count the Committee, please?

On motion that the committee rise and report there are but ten members in the committee, Mr. Speaker returned to the Chair.

MR. STAGG: Mr. Speaker, in the quorum call the clerk indicated that there were ten members in the Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: Would the clerk count the House again please?

There are seventeen members present. There is now a quorum.

On motion that the House go into Committee of the Whole on said bills. Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

A bill, "An Act To Amend The Insurance Adjusters Act."

Motion that the committee report having passed the bill without amendments, carried.

A bill, "An Act To Amend The Department Of Provincial Affairs And Environment Act, 1973."

Motion that the committee report having passed the bill without amendments, carried.

A bill, "An Act To Amend The Maintenance Orders (Enforcement) Act."

Motion that the committee report having passed the bill without amendments, carried.

A bill, "An Act To Empower The St. John's Municipal Council To Raise A Loan For Municipal Purposes By The Issue Of Bonds."

Motion that the committee report having passed the bill without amendments, carried.

A bill, "An Act Further To Amend The City Of St. John's Act."

On motion Clause 1 and 2 carried.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Chairman, I move the following amendment to insert as clause 3 the following clause. The said Act is further amended by inserting immediately after section 73, the following as section 73(a). I have given a copy to the honourable the House Leader. Do you wish me to read the entire -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. HICKMAN: All right, I will read it.

Seventy-three (a), - the council may hold, sponsor, encourage or support such local or national games, sporting events, exhibitions, fairs and recreational and artistic activities as it considers to be

in the interests of the inhabitants of the city and other persons resorting to the city, and make expend out of the general revenue of the city such money as it deems fit for any or all of such purposes.

2 - the council may enter into agreements with (a) the Government of Canada or any province of Canada; (b) a town council, rural district council, Board of Trustees of a local improvement district established and operated under the local government act, 1972; and (c) any person, firm or corporation governing all or any of the matters referred to in subsection 1, including without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing the making of provision for financial and other assistance by or to the council for such matters. Clause 3, the powers conferred by subsection 2 on the council to enter the agreements therein referred to shall be deemed to include a power on the government of the province

and on any of the municipalities referred to in subparagraph (b) of that subsection to enter such agreements and: and (b) to renumber clause 3 (b) and 4 as clauses 4 and 5, and I so move.

The purport of this amendment is to enable the Municipal Council of St. John's to enter into agreements with any province, the Government of Canada and any town council, with respect to Canada Games.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The honourable member for White Bay South.

MR. WM. ROWE: I think, Mr. Chairman, it is fitting that one or two members in the House say a word or two on the amendment because as minor as it may appear on the surface and as unspecific as it may appear on the surface of course it is as the Minister of Justice has said, the amendment is moved now to accommodate the City of St. John's in its plans for the Summer Games. I would not like to see the amendment passed, it is a good amendment, of course, but I would not like to see the amendment passed without commending Mayor Wyatt and other officials, provincial and municipal, for the work that they did in stealing the games from the other leading contender. I understand the City of St. John, in New Brunswick, if we can judge from the comments made by Bob Lockhart, who I believe is the Bob Lockhart who used to live in St. John's. (The mayor was at university with a number of us, now the Mayor of St. John.) If we can judge by his comments, he was exceedingly disappointed.

I know that a tremendous amount of work was done by the City of St. John, New Brunswick, a couple of years of work, apparently roomful of submissions and statements as to how good the City of St. John was to have these games, these Summer Games; and the fact that this City was able to get the games, get the announcement from the minister, goes a long way to show that some excellent work was done on our part here as well.

I would not like to sit down either, Mr. Chairman, without giving credit where credit is also due. I think Mr. Marc Lalonde,

the Minister of Health, who made the announcement and participated in the final decision should be commended for the excellent decision and the Liberal Government in Ottawa generally and particularly our own Minister in Ottawa, Mr. Don Jamieson. We have not heard any mention made in this province about any political decisions made or decisions made out of political motivation. We have heard Mayor Lockhart say that this was purely and simply a political decision. Well if it were, Sir, I think we should be happy. I am not saying it was, other than the fact that politicians made the decision. We should be very happy and pleased that Don Jamieson has the clout in Ottawa, the power in Ottawa, and is so well regarded among his colleagues that they were willing to incur the wrath of St. John particularly and probably New Brunswick generally in order to grant the games to this city here, St. John's, Newfoundland.

I think Mr. Jamieson should get the applause of this House and the applause of all members in it for the excellent work he did in making sure that this tremendous achievement, this tremendous idea will be realized in St. John's in 1977.

Mr. Chairman, I have no hesitation at all in accepting the amendment. In fact, Sir, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to support it wholeheartedly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The honourable member for St. John's South.

MR. R. WELLS: In this regard there is absolutely no need really to talk about the principle of the actual detail of the amendment, Mr. Chairman, but as a member of this House and particularly as the member for the St. John's South, I have great pleasure in supporting the amendment. This is something that Newfoundland, and I say Newfoundland advisedly, not just St. John's, the sort of thing Newfoundland has never had before, something which in our twenty-five years as a Province of Canada, something which I and all of us are glad to see come Newfoundland's way. I think that a great deal of credit is due to the Mayor and Council of St. John's who pursued this, to the honourable Donald Jamieson in Ottawa who pursued it also

behind the scenes and openly in Ottawa and also of course to the Government of Newfoundland which has promised and promised to make available, \$3 million committed to make available to make these games possible which will be of benefit to all of Newfoundland, not just St. John's. I think it is something of which we can be justly proud, Mr. Chairman, and I have no hesitation in supporting the principle of this amendment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Minister of Tourism.

HON. T. DOYLE, MINISTER OF TOURISM: Mr. Chairman, my honourable colleague and friend from St. John's South was a bit more nimble on his feet than I was that time, but he said pretty well what I had intended to say and that is that obviously we are all delighted that the decision was made by Mr. Lalonde to award the games to St. John's for 1977 and I have no hesitation in standing here or anywhere else, and as the honourable member for White Bay South has said, placing credit where credit is due.

I think credit is due in a good many places but I have reason to believe that a fair amount of it is due on the shoulders of our representative in the Federal Cabinet, and I have no hesitation whatsoever in giving it at this time. Thank you!

MR. WM. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, as a member for St. John's I would like to heartily endorse the amendment. I shall not be as partisan, it is not my nature, as the honourable member for St. John's South was because the honourable the Minister, what is his name in Ottawa, the Minister of the Department of Regional and Economic Expansion, spurred on as I know he is from time to time by the great spurrings on and whippings and barbs and what have you and suggestions of the member for St. John's East and the member for St. John's West and the other two working members in the House of Commons, the member for Gander-Twillingate and the member for Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe, they did have a certain amount to do with the bringing of the games here. But I think primarily the credit has to go to Mayor Dorothy Wyatt of

St. John's for her drive and initiative in bringing the games here. At the time when she took office it was the situation that perhaps not as much backup work had been done with respect to the bringing of the games here as might otherwise been expected to be done, and this was perhaps due to the fact that there was an election in November, I do not know the reason why. But certainly she had a very short time within which to organize and get together the people concerned for the purpose of making a submission. She did this in a very efficient and effective manner and certainly the results show it.

I do not think it should be forgotten either, Mr. Chairman, and I know the honourable member for White Bay South would not want this to be forgotten, the fact that \$3 million of the provincial money is going into this and the games would not have been possible without the \$3 million injection for the purpose of creating the facilities. We were very grateful and we were delighted, this government was, to do something at long last for the City of St. John's and the environs, and the Mayor of St. John's requested this. The honourable Minister of Tourism and Recreation and Youth, the member for Ferryland, broad-minded

honourable member outside of St. John's heartily endorse this and brought this to cabinet and fought for it and we were only too happy to inject a large amount of money into this effort as we are determined in the future to see that St. John's for the first time gets its due recognition as well from the public treasury as well as from other areas.

I might point out that these games are not really solely and completely for the benefit of the people of St. John's but for Newfoundland generally. This is a great thing for Newfoundland. The facilities that are going to be created by the provincial government here are going to be permanent facilities. A lot of them will be attached I understand to the university and will be used by the youth and the citizens all over Newfoundland, everywhere.

I am certainly delighted as I say to support this amendment. I give major credit to Mayor Dorothy Wyatt. I give credit certainly to the Hon. the Minister of the Department of Regional and Economic Expansion. I give credit to the other honourable members of the House of Commons who also pushed this as well and I also feel that the whole thing would not have been possible without all three branches of government working together and this time we had a sympathetic government to the needs of the youth of the province and consequently the dream became a reality.

But most definitely, congratulations to Mayor Wyatt. I am delighted to support the amendment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Hon. the Member for Labrador West.

HON. J. G. ROUSSEAU (MINISTER OF MANPOWER AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS): Mr. Chairman, if I may, a few words - I was certainly pleased to hear about the awarding of the games to St. John's and I think that everybody who was involved in the decision should be congratulated for their tenacity and persistence in the good work done in preparing the bid. I think certainly the Newfoundland representative in the cabinet certainly has to have his share of congratulations for the work done. Mayor Wyatt, who in a very short time was able to gather the forces of a committee

under the capable auspices of Frank Butler and the committee, went on to prepare a report apparently that had something in it which finally arrived at the conclusion where we in Newfoundland should receive the 1977 Summer Games.

I would like to speak, if I may, first as an ex-athlete in the province, certainly I am sure that all athletes in the province are very pleased with this. I would certainly like to mention, I hear "St. John's, St. John's, St. John's," I would like to speak to the people outside of St. John's because I hold the opinion that Newfoundland does not begin and end at the Avalon Peninsula. I am sure that the people of the whole province are quite pleased with this announcement. I am particularly pleased with it for one statement that was made by the Hon. the Premier and by the Hon. the Minister of Recreation and Rehabilitation, that no sports facilities or sports enthusiasts outside of the City of St. John's will suffer because of the \$3 million input into the Summer Games. While I think the Summer Games are important and while I welcome our success in bidding on them, I think that if they had had to proceed with a resultant loss in recreational facilities and money for recreation in the province, I do not think that the situation would have been as good as it is.

So I am pleased that the Premier and my colleague, the Minister of Recreation, have suggested to the people of the province that they will not lose because of the bid that was successful on our part to acquire the Summer Games in 1977. I am sure that everybody now is of the unanimous opinion, be we on one side of the House or the other, that this is why it is said that we all have to pull together now, and I am sure that the success of the games will be ensured with complete co-operation of all levels of government, sports enthusiasts and indeed everybody in the province.

MR. SPEAKER (STAGG): The honourable the Member for St. Barbe North.

MR. F. B. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the amendment put by the Minister of Justice. I rise as a result of some comments of the honourable the Member for St. John's East.

Sir, I fully realize that the facilities that we are going to get as a result of the announcement, the awarding of the Summer Games in St.

John's, Newfoundland, will to a certain degree benefit all of Newfoundland and Labrador. There is no doubt about that at all but, Sir, I have to say that obviously, logically it will benefit the area of St. John's and the Avalon Peninsula to a greater extent than it will the rest of the province for a very obvious, physical and geographical reasons.

I simply would like to state, Sir, that I hope that when the estimates are handed down that in the Department of Recreation and Rehabilitation we will see an equivalent amount of money provided to the rest of the province, a relative amount of money for the rest of the province, and we can get into the nitty-gritty details if we look at population, four-fifths of the population live outside the City of St. John's, so one could logically say therefore we should have something like \$4 million provided for the next three years for facilities outside of St. John's.

I do not know whether this will be done or not, Sir, but I would like to express and point out the fact that I feel that something of the equivalent of the amount that is going to be provided by the provincial government for these recreational facilities for the Summer Games should be provided for the more rural areas of our province and I think particularly of my own district where there is next to nothing in the way of facilities for sports facilities and recreational facilities. I am sure that there are many other rural districts that fall into the same boat.

Sir, I do support the amendment. I congratulate the provincial people, the municipal people, the federal people and the private citizens who put a lot of effort into getting the Summer Games to St. John's, Newfoundland. I would like to express the wish that the more rural areas of our province will certainly be given consideration when it comes to the provision of recreational facilities in our province.

MR. HICKMAN: Apparently in bringing in the amendment I did not realize that we were going to get into debate, and there are a couple of points that I would like to make. One is that I am very pleased and I am sure every honourable member of this House is pleased with the tremendous support that has been forthcoming from organized bodies throughout the

province toward the request of the City of St. John's to have the Canada Games in the Ancient Capital.

I do not wish to be parochial but I was indeed proud the day following the announcement by Mayor Wyatt that St. John's was indeed going to make a formal application to the Hon. Marc Lalonde to have Canada Games, Summer Games, in St. John's; that the joint town and community councils of the Burin Peninsula unanimously passed a resolution supporting this application. There has been an indication from other municipal bodies, indeed this may be subject to correction but I believe the Federation of Mayors and Municipalities gave an indication, but I will not swear to that, of their support. It is obvious to anyone when we look at the great benefits that accrued to the Province of Nova Scotia as a result of the first Summer Games being held in Halifax, the entire province, that it is inevitable that the bringing to this province of improved recreational facilities will resound to the benefit of everyone in the Province of Newfoundland from Labrador City to Cape St. Mary's.

I not only commend

Mayor Wyatt and her council for the input that they have put into the presentation to the Government of Canada but I also extend to her my hope that she and her council in finding a competent manager for this project will be successful. It is a tremendous job. Indeed, I am bold enough to suggest that the presentation to the Government of Canada, comparatively speaking, is small when one thinks of the work that now faces the people of Newfoundland in preparing for the Canada Games.

The Province of Nova Scotia was very fortunate indeed in acquiring the services of Mr. Findlay MacDonald as the Chairman for Nova Scotia at the summer games. It is equally essential, in my opinion, that the Province of Newfoundland, through the St. John's City Council, acquire the services of a person competent to bring together during the ensuing months the kind of organization that is necessary to make this a successful operation.

I also appeal to the and direct the attention of the people of Newfoundland to the fact that during the year of the summer games we will have literally thousands of tourists coming to this province for summer games, but who will inevitably move throughout the province to look at our other tourist attractions. Whilst I know the hospitality will be there, it is vitally important that accommodation also be provided. This has been a tremendous example of the kind of co-operation that has existed between the Government of Newfoundland and the Government of Canada during the past two years. The co-operation has never been better.

My liaison with my confrere, the honourable the Member for Burin - Burgeo, as exemplified by the paving of the road from Lawn to St. Lawrence, has never been better. I think that it exemplifies and constitutes proof positive of the attitude of the Government of Canada to any Canadian Province. "If you do your homework, you will find that we are very ready, willing and able to

accept your proposals." There is no doubt that the homework was done in this case, aided and abetted by a very substantial financial contribution. I know I voice the sentiments of all in this honourable House when I say to Mayor Wyatt and her council and to all Newfoundlanders that we are about to embark upon a very challenging job that I am sure we will respond to with a great deal of success.

MR. SPEAKER (Stagg): The honourable the Leader of the Opposition:

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, on this particular point I gather we are all agreed and there cannot be many points that have not been made and so I will not attempt to make them again.

I do not want to let the opportunity go by without associating - my colleague has spoken but without associating myself and for that part the rest of the opposition with the Canada Games and to congratulate the Mayor, Mrs. Wyatt, and her council in getting it. I think it is a good example of federal - provincial co-operation. I think it is an even better example of federal - municipal co-operation. I think it is an even better example of federal co-operation, because while I do not want for one moment to take away one iota of the extremely substantial credit which must accrue to Mrs. Wyatt, to her colleagues on the St. John's Council, to Mr. Butler, seconded so readily and so helpfully by the Minister of Tourism and the Minister of Recreation and Rehabilitation, I do not want to take away one iota of the credit due to them, Sir, and a great deal of credit is due to them, I venture to say without fear of contradiction that these games would not have come to Newfoundland at this time if it had not been for the decision of the honourable Mr. Lalonde, in which I have no doubt his colleague and friend the honourable Don Jamieson was, shall I say, instrumental.

I gather from reading the press that the recommendation made by the committee of officials apparently was not in favour of St. John's, Newfoundland. The Minister of Tourism I see is nodding. I gather that is common ground. The officials recommended St. John, New Brunswick and that was their duty, their right and their

obligation because that is what they felt, obviously. Mr. Lalonde in his wisdom chose not to accept that recommendation which again is his right and his duty if he feels, as obviously he did. I have no hesitation in saying and I would like it to stand on the record that Mr. Jamieson, the honourable Mr. Jamieson, the Member for Burin - Burgeo and the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, was instrumental. I will venture to say further that if it were not for Don Jamieson the recommendation of the committee of officials would have been accepted and that the games would have been awarded to St. John, New Brunswick.

In other words, Sir, it could not have been done without Don Jamieson. Equally, it is fair to say that if the application had not been initiated by Mrs. Wyatt who picked it up and carried it forward with vigor and determination and if it had not been so well documented by a brief and supported by a brief put together by Mr. Butler and the people associated with him on the committee, equally it could not have been done. All of that, Sir, was not enough. It was Don Jamieson who got the summer games to Newfoundland and that should stand on the record and it should stand very much to his credit.

To his credit, Sir, because I believe it will be a very good thing for Newfoundland. It will give our athletes the opportunity to compete nationally, to national standards, here in their home province. It will be a boost not only for the hundreds of young men and young women who will compete either in the games themselves or in the various run-offs leading to the games, but to the thousands of young men and young women who will take part in the sports which will be featured in the games.

I am delighted that the government assure us they are not going to in any way make the rest of the province do with less in the way of recreational facilities because they are going to make available the \$3 million to St. John's for the games. That is splendid. I understand from the press that the Minister of Tourism is saying we are going to have the largest recreation budget ever

this year, and I welcome that. It is normally true that each year budgets do increase and I hope it increases substantially and significantly. I can tell him, I think he knows it full well but I can tell him that the sports fraternity expect a very, very, very substantial increase this year. If there is one area in which the present government have fallen down, more notably even than all of the other areas, it is this question of financing sports facilities around the province.

There has been nothing but one disappointment after another. Your Honour, I have no doubt is

familiar and probably bears the political scars of some of the disappointments. Be that as it may, the important thing is that we have the games. Everybody concerned will pitch in and make it a great success. It might be interesting if we had a run among the members of the House of Assembly. I would think that that would be a most intriguing contest. It could lead to some intriguing prizes.

AN HON. MEMBER: Streakers!

MR. ROBERTS: Streakers.

MR. W. N. ROWE: (Inaudible).

MR. ROBERTS: I am waiting, Mr. Chairman, for the day when somebody stands in this House and looks at His Honour and says, "Mr. Streaker." I think that, Sir, is the answer.

The games will be a good thing for Newfoundland. The credit should go to Don Jamieson and most importantly of all the fact that the games are coming to Newfoundland and the government are making a contribution will not in any way lessen the financial aid available to people outside St. John's. That is all important. As valuable as the games are, I suggest that it is equally valuable to build recreational facilities in the communities throughout Newfoundland. That is what I want to see done in particular and that is what I hope the minister will do when he brings in his estimates.

MR. W. N. ROWE: Hear! Hear!

On motion clause (3) as amended, carried.

On motion clause (4) through to clause (5) carried.

Motion that the committee report having passed the bill with amendment, carried.

A bill, "An Act Further To Amend The Department Of Education Act."

Motion that the committee report having passed the bill without amendment, carried.

A bill, "An Act Further To Amend The College of Fisheries Act."

Motion that the committee report having passed the bill without amendment, carried.

On motion that the committee rise and report having passed Bills Nos. 8, 6, 3, 7, 9, 10, 18, 16, 19, 17, 22, 12 and 14 without amendment and Bill No. 23 with an amendment, Mr. Speaker returned to the Chair.

MR. STAGG: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of the Whole have considered the matters to them referred and have directed me to report having passed Bills Nos. 8, 6, 3, 7, 9, 10, 18, 16, 19, 17, 22, 12 and 14 without amendment.

On motion report received and adopted.

On motion bills ordered read a third time on tomorrow.

MR. STAGG: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of the Whole have considered the matters to them referred and have directed me to report having passed Bill No. 23 with an amendment and ask leave to sit again.

On motion report received and adopted.

On motion amendments read a first and second time.

On motion Bill No. 23 ordered read a third time on tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: Order (1): Address in Reply. I think the Hon. Member for Burgeo-LaPoile adjourned the debate last night.

MR.A. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I had not intended to enter the current debate, but since the mountain has brought forth another mouse, which in this instance happens to be a twin, I feel impelled to do so.

Mr. Speaker, when one considers what has been accomplished by this Government in the past two years, in so many areas, which everyone who is worth his salt can see without being prompted and even some of the top Liberals in the Province are acclaiming, it is pitiful to see such an inept opposition trying to downgrade our accomplishments but ending up by destroying themselves in the process. They think the public is eating up this malarkey but instead the public is realizing more and more as time goes on just how ridiculous the opposition is acting in this regard.

Sir, the Member from White Bay North says we should stop blaming the former administration. He says that he was proud to serve under Joe Smallwood. Let me remind him that Eichman was proud to serve under Hilter in eliminating the Jews. They still hanged him though. I am not suggesting they hang the member literally; he is hanging himself politically.

Sir, we have heard so much about the forces of political knavery, etc., we are supposedly practising on the people of this province. I can tell the members opposite plenty that was done by the former administration while it was in office. I will deal with Bay d'Espoir as one example. Back in the early fifties Bowaters had a good woods operation

in Bay d'Espoir. They are taking about 20,000 cords of wood per year. Then Smallwood made the announcement, made the announcement of a third paper mill to be built there. Bowaters pulled out. They did not intend to build roads and provide services for another company to move in. Of course, we were told by the great man himself, shortly afterwards, that the fourth and fifth mills would have to be built before the third was started. At any rate, Bay d'Espoir was left with no industry and the people had to resort to mainly living on welfare. This situation continued until the power development took place and provided employment for a couple of years.

During this boom time the people of that area were the victims of the most cruel hoax ever practiced on the human race. Every day they were deluded with announcements of national harbours, aluminum plants, paper mills and you name it. Planes were flying in the ex-Premier and members of his Government daily. I met a chap there one day who told me he was instructed to draw up plans for a city with twice the population of St. John's. I asked him if he had been instructed to plan another one close by with the same population as St. John's. He said, "No. Why?" I told him they would need it to house the personnel from the Unemployment Insurance Office and the Welfare Department who would have to look after the population of that size in the area. Everyone knows now how sad the deception left these people whose hopes had been built up so high.

Mr. Speaker, when I think of the type of people who settled this Province and what was demanded of them to eke out an existence here, in fighting the elements, poverty and even the right to settle here, and then to see the descendants of these people, who are in the main just as hard working as their ancestors, being represented by a bunch of people who are making them appear to the world to be seeking nothing only welfare and Unemployment Insurance Benefits. This is an insult to their intelligence. Frankly, Sir, I am amazed that the people of White Bay North have not marched into St. John's demanding their member's resignation.

Sir, we have heard inquiries here in this honourable House during this session, as to the cost of renovating the Premier's residence, who pays the rent, etc? How low can you go? There should be a rent-free

residence for the Premier of this Province at all times. What about all the costs of renovating the house for the previous occupant and what about the fortune that was spent on Russwood Ranch? Let us remember that we will always have a Premier here unless the member from White Bay North takes over, then we will soon be back under a new commission of Government.

Sir, the member from White Bay North is continually boasting about his education. We have heard that so many times here in this House. Let me state here and now, Sir, that many of our Newfoundland people received their education in the fishing boats, the ocean-going ships and many other areas where I have great doubts that he would have even survived, that is the physical aspects. If he had, I know many of us who have been in situations time and time again where he would have probably died of fright. He refers to his "Brothers at the Bar". I am doubtful if he is going to supplant Perry Mason, for a while at least, and I do not think his friends at the Bar would be drinking screech either.

Sir, it is possible the Liberals may form another Government in this Province by the year 5000 and I do not think that many of the present members would be interested by that time. I have even heard, Sir, that the electorate of White Bay North have asked the member to move farther north in the next election, presumably to the Greenland Ice Cap.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard so much the last few days by the member from Hermitage in regard to the Rural Development policy. According to him only P.C.'s can qualify for loans. Has he realized that if his colleagues and himself keep this up, stressing this point, everyone will be P.C. in the next election? As to the people in my district not receiving grants, there have been very few applications. My people were so disheartened under the Liberal administration, when for so many years they got nothing, that they still cannot believe that you can get something out of government.

They was not even a long-liner, a decent long-liner, on my coast.

They are getting them now though and I am sure that if the member from Hermitage is interested, he can get all the necessary facts about rural development from the minister. I can assure him now that the prime requisite is not in being a cry baby. In fact, I would even wager that if he insisted, the minister might even take him around the Province in a type of kangaroo sack. I am sure it would not inconvenience the minister too much and would prove to be the beginning of an education for the member. I am delighted, Sir, that he singled me out for attention recently on open line. It shows I have not lost the common touch. As a matter of fact, I do not believe I have ever attracted that type of attention before. It makes me wonder, if I were in Ireland in the old country, I might even bring out the leprechauns.

Sir, I would submit that we have enough real problems in this Province, we do not have to rack our brains to look for imaginary ones. The cost of living, the increased cost of services, which will surely delay installation of many of them, for a while at least, the drug problem which is a menace to the youth of our Province, along with the every day problems affecting our districts and our constituents should be enough to occupy our time. Why waste our time criticizing just for the sake of criticism or obstruction, whatever we wish to call it?

Sir, it amuses me when some program is mentioned which included federal funding in this Province, the first thing we hear from that side is, "Oh, that is the great Liberal Government in Ottawa." Do they realize where Ottawa gets the money that comes back here? My taxes go to Ottawa. Probably they

think theirs go to Cuba or some other place like that.

I wonder do they realize that there are only three provinces in Canada which pay more into the Federal Treasury than they take out? Ontario, with generations of P.C. Government, there is Alberta with generations of Social Credit and now a great P.C. Government and British Columbia with generations of Social Credit Government and now has gone N.D.P. Then they say it comes from a great Liberal Government. What a joke!

Mr. Speaker, I took over a district that in regard to services was about in the same condition that John Cabot found it, in spite of the fact that it paid more revenue to this province and to the federal government than any other part of the province, even paying for Russwood, and, oh yes, Clearwater too. Now they are getting the services themselves, and they have confidence in this government that they will go on to greater and greater things.

Mr. Speaker, I would submit that the opposition is tackling its role of providing opposition as ineptly as a Chinese baby trying to eat jelly with chopsticks. Their miserable attempts of understanding government policy are only surpassed by the nastiness of the Member from White Bay North and some of his colleagues. Some of their tactics are beneath the dignity of a skunk.

Sir, instead of bringing a motion of non-confidence against the government, in my estimation, if they had any interest in our province they would thank God for the privilege of living under a government that has done and will do more in the future than they had ever dreamed of.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. EVANS: Sir, it is a constant source of amusement to me to hear the prattling and gurgling from over there. Of course, we do not hear too much cooing from junior of White Bay North. Some of the ill-mannered bunch over here are always interrupting him and bringing on that familiar pout and the habitual glance to the Chair which being interpreted or translated means, "Daddy, they will not let me

be nasty to them!" I hope he has no illusions of becoming a politician when he grows up. Then, between gulps (he says he eats poor little girls like the rest of the kids eat Easter bunnies) the Member from Labrador North entertains us with subjects ranging from the Northern Lights down to such a simple matter as the price of Woodward oils. And the Member from Bonavista North rushing in from his highway patrol to pick up another booster shot of blueberry wine (pardon me, juice), makes a few more entertaining comments ere departing. It is too bad there were no volunteers, leaving him the whole Trans Canada to Port-aux-Basques. I guess most people heard of our new Minimum Wage Act.

Sir, I have no doubt that, in spite of the poor arguments presented, we shall survive the non-confidence motion and some day may even get on with the regular business of this honourable House. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Bonavista North:

MR. PAUL S. THOMS: Mr. Speaker, I assure you I will not be as entertaining as the previous speaker. In mentioning that I congratulate him because he is the only member of the government side who while speaking can hold a quorum on the government side. Everyone else seems to lose the attention of not only the government benches but also the opposition benches.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the amendment so ably placed before this honourable House by my colleague the Member for the District of Fogo. In his amendment, Mr. Speaker, he speaks of the absence of action on the part of the government to introduce adequate programmes to lessen the severe impact on our people of the rapidly rising cost of living. He also mentions, Mr. Speaker, the failure of this administration to introduce adequate programmes to reduce the extremely high number of unemployed in our province and also the failure of the administration to introduce adequate programmes to bring public services up to an acceptable level throughout all parts of our province.

Mr. Speaker, these are three specific statements of fact,

three specific charges against the present administration of this province, three true statements of fact, Mr. Speaker, because the present administration is guilty on all three counts. They have not lessened the severe impact on our people of the rapidly rising cost of living. They have not introduced programmes to reduce the extremely high number of people who are unemployed in our province today. They have not introduced adequate programmes to bring public services up to acceptable levels in all parts of our province.

Mr. Speaker, if they were only to introduce programmes to bring public services up to acceptable levels in some parts of our province, I am sure the Member for Fogo would not introduce this section of this motion. The present administration, Mr. Speaker, have been very lackadaisical these last two years, very lackadaisical in their duties in carrying out the administration and governing of this province. They seem to be on some kind

of a holiday. They failed to bring in programmes or they failed to meet the needs of our people day by day. The cost of living in Newfoundland at the present time is going far beyond the reach of approximately eighty per cent of our people, far beyond their reach, Mr. Speaker.

We have unemployment in the province at the present time, the greatest number since Confederation, the greatest number, something almost close to 37,000 people unemployed in the month of February in Newfoundland. Still we hear the Premier speaking about the 38,000 jobs that his government created. If he created 38,000 jobs the people of Newfoundland are still searching for them. They are certainly not within reaching distance of the unemployed people of Newfoundland today.

We have people in all walks of life across our Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, of all trades, bar none, all trades, who are looking for employment. Mr. Speaker, the jobs are just not there and the reason the jobs are not there is because of the lack of programmes by this present administration. We, in this honourable House, Mr. Speaker, have been here for something like seven weeks sitting and only today, after seven weeks sitting, did we get some bills through committee stage. These bills, Mr. Speaker, did not even warrant comment from members of the opposition because they are unimportant, insignificant bills, nothing concrete, no proposals, nothing to take care of the 37,000 people unemployed, nothing, not a thing, Mr. Speaker.

Still this administration, the Premier will go on radio and other ministers and they will state about all the wonderful things the Tory Government have done for the people of Newfoundland, all the wonderful things and the people of Newfoundland are still today searching for the wonderful things that they have done. No one can come up with one positive thing that this administration have done in two years, not a thing that could be considered for the benefit of Newfoundland.

Oh yes, we tore the steel mill out of Donovans. We shipped that off to Toronto somewhere.

AN HON. MEMBER: Blueberry wine.

MR. THOMS: You took away the mothers' allowance.

MR. F. ROWE: Who reduced the students' aid?

MR. THOMS: Who reduced the students' aid? Who tried to camouflage a welfare programme with federal family allowance, who tried to do it? Who set up the rules and regulations to take thousands out of welfare and let them starve to death? Who did that? The Tory Government and continuing to do so. We have more people in Newfoundland today hungry and without sufficient clothes and without sufficient housing than ever before we had in our history, ever before.

Every day welfare officers are told to, "Cut back on your welfare payments," the only way they can do it is to take people off of welfare. There are no jobs for them. They do not qualify for unemployment, so what happens? I have them in my district and you have them in yours who today cannot find a bite to eat. It only happened back in Tory time in 1932 to 1934 and it has happened again today.

But, Mr. Speaker, do not worry, the people of Newfoundland will take care of this in due course. It will be another forty or eighty years before a Tory Government will ever see the government benches of this House of Assembly again, once the people get fair play.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, it is a disgraceful thing when you consider the problems of our people today, 37,000 people unemployed, no jobs, no income. Then you find the government turning over approximately \$700 million a year, more money than ever this province turned over annually before. We find that the present government this last two years have borrowed astronomical amounts, larger amounts than ever the province borrowed before. The fiscal year 1972-1973 was

our greatest borrowing year - \$188 million and I believe this present fiscal year 1973-1974 we are up somewhere in the vicinity of \$125 million.

Now, Mr. Speaker, with astronomical amounts of funds at hand such as this I am sure any government could come up with some kind of programme to help out the unemployed people of our province. In my speech here just three weeks ago I placed a proposal before government and I called upon the Premier at that time to introduce a work programme in Newfoundland, a winter works programme, something similiar to the Federal LIP Programme. Mr. Speaker, to that proposal I got a dead silence, not a word Mr. Speaker, not a word, nothing done, 36,000 people at that time unemployed in Newfoundland and no one on the government benches willing to do a thing, nobody. They have a very careless, carefree attitude. They seem careless about the welfare of our people. All they seem to care for, as long as they are getting a bite to eat, a bit of clothes to wear and a shelter over our heads, let John Joe do for himself.

This, Mr. Speaker, is a disgraceful situation. A government who could not care less about the welfare of the people of Newfoundland,

a government that seems to be bent on doing nothing during its term of office because nothing in two years they have done, absolutely nothing.

Mr. Speaker, the unemployed people of our Province will not forget the careless attitude of this present Government and I am sure not only the unemployed but also the employed because if the present trend continues and there is every indication that it may, then we can look forward to in the winter of 1974-75 to approximately 40,000 people unemployed during the winter months and with no programme from Government to offset this drastic unemployment situation.

Mr. Speaker, in Newfoundland there are many projects that can be brought forward, many projects, that is by a sensible and a same government, a government that is willing to do something for the people, a government that cares for the people, that cares for the welfare of the people. Any government, Mr. Speaker, in this category, can bring forth programmes that will drastically reduce the numbers of unemployed in Newfoundland. Mr. Speaker, I again call upon the Premier to introduce a programme, something similar to the LIP projects of the Federal Government, to put people to work.

Mr. Speaker, if you look throughout the towns of the Province of Newfoundland, you can find ample excuse to place many thousands of our people to work in the winter months. There are many things that have to be done in almost every town, every municipality and our municipalities are crying for help from government to have various jobs done within their boundary.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this government should immediately launch into an overnight project, overnight programme to bring many of these unemployed persons away from the unemployment office to be gainfully employed.

Mr. Speaker, the Province of Newfoundland, the people of Newfoundland all down through the years have been considered a backward race as far as public services are concerned. We in Newfoundland, even today, do not have a standard of public services which we should have in the

year 1974. Neither do we have a standard that can be compared with other provinces of Canada or states of the United States and Mr. Speaker, this is regretful. The previous administration was on a proper and righteous path when it undertook to improve the standards of our people, when they undertook to improve the standards of public services.

Mr. Speaker, for example, in municipal affairs: In 1973, there were four new water and sewerage projects started throughout the whole Island of Newfoundland by this Government, just four, Mr. Speaker, just four. Mr. Speaker, this to me is astounding, how any minister can only justify starting four water and sewerage projects in this Province when literally, Mr. Speaker, we must need possibly six or seven hundred. How, in the name of heaven! are we ever going to keep up with the rest of Canada or any other people unless we introduce a massive programme of supplying our towns with proper water and sewer facilities? Almost every council in this Province, Mr. Speaker, is after help from Government to have water and sewer projects in his town implemented. Mr. Speaker, delegation after delegation have made a number of trips to St. John's, to the minister's office, to the deputy minister's office, and all with the same results - they have not any funds.

Then, Mr. Speaker, we look at the budget and we see almost \$700 million being spent by the Provincial Government and we wonder why, what is happening. Is that department falling apart? It is certainly falling down on the job. It is certainly not doing the job it was set up to do. It is certainly not helping out the municipalities of our province in overcoming the situation and

things that we have today in the province.

Mr. Speaker, I have submitted to this House time and time again petitions and petitions and more petitions from different municipalities in my own district. Mr. Speaker, there has been no concrete evidence that the government intends to act on any of these. Most of these projects, Mr. Speaker, are urgently needed, urgently needed. I have one town at the present time, at this very moment, which does not have one drop of water to drink, not a drop of water for human consumption. Still, Mr. Speaker, when you come to the minister the only answer that you seem to get is that no funds are available. This, Mr. Speaker, is a very good sign of a very incompetent administration when it fails to supply funds for the basic necessary needs for the towns of our province.

Mr. Speaker, from observing the number of petitions presented to this honourable House from all over the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, apparently the same condition applies. I have known many other delegations from various districts who travelled to the minister's office here in Confederation Building and seem to get the same reply. The reply is, "There are no funds available."

Well, Mr. Speaker, the present government always seems to have funds available for other things that are not necessary, other than the basic essentials of life today. A proper water and sewer system in every town of Newfoundland is essential today, most essential. Mr. Speaker, it is of the utmost importance that this administration introduced some massive programmes to supply our towns with these basic essentials. Water and sewer, Mr. Speaker, today is a must. It is no longer a luxury. It is a must. Mr. Speaker, many of our people are becoming very disturbed, very disturbed indeed that this government are not paying proper attention to the needs of its people, especially to the needs of its people concerning water and sewer services.

No government, Mr. Speaker, in history have paid so little attention to the demands of our people than this present administration. This, Mr. Speaker, is why I wholeheartedly support the amendment to the Address in Reply. The time is overdue, long past and this government should wake up

to reality, wake up because it has a job to do - it is not suppose to go to sleep down in the office there in Confederation Building, it is not suppose to slumber during its term of office, it is suppose to show some life, to be alive, to listen to the people and to do all in its power to supply the needs of the people. That, Mr. Speaker, is not doing today, it is definitely not.

Mr. Speaker, not only are the government not supplying our various towns with adequate water and sewer systems but I believe, Mr. Speaker, the present government have almost condemned the programme of the previous administration which went on a massive road programme in Newfoundland. Under the previous administration, Mr. Speaker, in my district we got a certain amount of road reconstruction every year. We did not get pavement every year, we normally got it every second year. The reconstruction was carried out every year at least some and we could look forward to the end, to the day when all of the roads would be reconstructed and paved, the end was in sight, Mr. Speaker, the end was in sight, until the dark Tory clouds rose on the horizon.

Then, Mr. Speaker, all construction stopped for two years, two long years, not one cent of reconstruction in my district, not one cent, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the only pavement we received was the \$600,000 grant from the federal government under its DREE programme last year. With that exception, there will be no road work. Maybe, Mr. Speaker, the Department of Highways, or Highways and Communications, should be transferred to Ottawa because it is quite obvious that this administration are not willing to undertake the duties of carry out the proper reconstruction and paving of our highways. This administration is very lackadaisical, very lazy in its duties as far as highway construction is concerned in Newfoundland. It fails, Mr. Speaker, badly, it fails to have - it seems to have no highway programme whatsoever. Mr. Speaker, our people

have sat idly by for two years. They were willing to give this administration a chance, willing to give it a chance to set up its plans and its priorities, Let it reconstruct its government, let it study all of the various reports but, Mr. Speaker, the time is now past for all the planning and setting up of priorities. If they have not got all of their planning done now, they will never have it done. If they have not got their priorities set, they will never have any and it is quite obvious they do not have any.

Mr. Speaker, in the past we have seen small pockets of our population who have been very hostile when they did not acquire the services that they needed. Mr. Speaker, the present attitude of this administration is really only nourishing such a hostile attitude among the rest of our population. Our people are not going to wait. The time is now. The time has come. We want action now. We want highways now, not ten years from now. Twenty-five or thirty per cent of us will be dead then. We want it now. We need action now.

This was the administration who were going to have all the action when it obtained power. They were going to build roads here, there and everywhere. I can remember the helicopter dropping down in Hare Bay in the 1971 election. They were going to pave roads left, right and center. Mr. Speaker, today we have not seen one cent of their pavement or one cent of their reconstruction. Nothing, a complete blank for two years, Mr. Speaker.

That is why this motion of nonconfidence is before the House. They is why it is a good motion and a just motion and that is why, Mr. Speaker, every member of this assembly should support it. I am positively sure, Mr. Speaker, that if this amendment went before the people of this province that you would have ninety per cent of our people who would support it today because they fail to see any positive steps that this administration have taken in two years.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the government at this present time is preparing

its budget. It was supposed to have been brought down last Friday but I believe a little thing like BRINCO got in the way. Mr. Speaker, we are expecting that budget very soon and I trust that as far as highways are concerned and water and sewer are concerned that it will be a very liberal budget because our people will not be satisfied unless it is a very liberal budget, supposing it is brought in by a Tory Administration.

Mr. Speaker, unless there is in that budget an adequate highways programme for this province, then, Mr. Speaker, we are going to be into it for a rough session during the summer months of this year because our people will not stand idly by and watch government spend money wastefully when they have to go over dirt roads continuously.

In the winter, in my speech over a year ago I asked the Minister of Highways if he would at least pave the roads through the settlements in my district, just pave the roads through the settlement so that a poor lady when she hangs out her clothes, she will not have to take it in a half hour after and wash it again, so that you can get some decent air in our communities to breathe where right now you have to breathe in dust all summer long.

To that request, Mr. Speaker, I got a dead silence, not even a smile came on the minister's face. He was like someone in a trance. He never even noticed me. No response whatsoever, Mr. Speaker, none. This, Mr. Speaker, is one of the reasons why this amendment is before the House, because the Minister of Highways, Mr. Speaker, is failing in his duty in that portfolio by not introducing a proper roads programme in Newfoundland, by not listening to the needs of our people and supplying our people with the proper roads through their communities.

Mr. Speaker, while this motion may be introduced by a member from a particular district, it indeed represents the feelings of the vast majority of the people of Newfoundland. If the people of Newfoundland, Mr. Speaker, could only have their way today, I can assure you that this amendment would be definitely carried in this

honourable House.

Mr. Speaker, some two years ago the people of Newfoundland were being rapidly drawn into a position where almost every wage earner in Newfoundland found himself in a position where he was capable of bringing enough dollars into his home so he could adequately supply his family with the basic needs and necessities of today's family life. Our people were earning

enough money and for the first time in many years, they were beginning to enjoy this life of ours. Then men were earning good dollars. The dollar was worth something then, Mr. Speaker. The dollar at that time just two years ago could buy much more than it can today. Mr. Speaker, since this Tory Administration have taken office the cost of living has gone out of the reach of approximately seventy-five per cent of our people. Seventy-five per cent of our people today, Mr. Speaker, are finding the pinch of the cost of living. The dollar today no longer buys as much as it did.

Mr. Speaker, as a matter of fact on many items, the cost of these items has doubled and tripled in two years. Mr. Speaker, if the present trend continues, instead of a wallet in a couple of year's time, Mr. Speaker, every person here will need a wheelbarrow to take enough money down to the grocery store to get a day's groceries.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what have this government done to offset the cost of living? They have done nothing. They have done not a thing. No person in Newfoundland today can point to one solid thing that this government have done to aid our Newfoundland people in the cost of living. Prices all along the line, Mr. Speaker, have gone sky high, out of all proportions. Just let me quote for you, Mr. Speaker, some of the prices in our grocery stores in Central Newfoundland as they were in January of this year.

The world famed Newfoundland steak, bologna, two years ago was forty-seven cents a pound. In January, it was ninety-eight cents a pound and today it is one dollar and ten cents. It is ridiculous, Mr. Speaker. It is over a hundred per cent increase. Even the famous salt meat, which is only sold in Newfoundland or predominantly sold in Newfoundland and in Canada, two years ago was sixty-two cents but today it is one dollar and twenty cents. Canned corned beef is the same thing, the same price. Sardines, Mr. Speaker, just imagine little sardines, we have millions of them around the Island of Newfoundland, which were fifteen cents two years ago, Mr. Speaker, are sixty cents today. That is a three hundred per cent increase. It is ridiculous!

Mr. Speaker, the basic essentials for every family are milk, flour and sugar. Sugar, Mr. Speaker, two years ago was something like twenty cents a pound but today it has gone out of all proportions, it is something like fifty cents a pound. Today in St. John's for a five pound bag of sugar you pay two dollars and thirty cents I believe it is at the present time. Mr. Speaker, you can go right down the line, item after item. The price has risen out of all proportions. Even the basic essentials today, Mr. Speaker, have gone out of the range of the ordinary wage earner of our province. Still, Mr. Speaker, our government seem quite happy to heave to and to do nothing, you would almost think.

The only way that I can describe the present government is to compare them with the schooner of my grandfather when he used to tie her up for the fall. This government, Mr. Speaker, is tied up for the rest of time. They are going to have an idle winter, an idle term of office.

Mr. Speaker, while they are playing around doing nothing our people are on the receiving end of a bad thing. Our people are suffering. Mr. Speaker, the time will come and when it comes this present government will surely know its arrival.

Mr. Speaker, the cost of milk at the present time in Central Newfoundland is fifty-two cents a quart. Fifty-two cents for a quart of milk. Mr. Speaker, what is the present government doing about it? Mr. Speaker, two years ago, for example, we had forty dairy farmers. Forty dairy farmers, Mr. Speaker, who were supporting Central Dairies, supplying them with milk. Today we have only twenty-eight. The reason for this is that eleven farmers have given up farming altogether. Why have they given it up? Because the cost of operating a farm today, Mr. Speaker, is gone out of all proportions. They are failing to make it pay, they are failing to make a dollar, they are failing to make a decent wage for their families.

Mr. Speaker, what is the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture doing about it? Nothing. Not a thing. The dairy producers have been trying to get the attention of the Minister now for over a year, trying to persuade him to introduce a proper programme for the province so that our dairy producers can operate economically and within reason. No, Mr. Speaker, this government have ignored them, ignored them completely. They failed to come to grips with the problem.

Mr. Speaker, at the present time in Newfoundland we are importing forty per cent of the fresh milk consumed. Forty per cent. Of course we are importing one hundred per cent of condensed milk, but we are importing forty per cent of the fresh milk consumed by our people. Mr. Speaker, if this trend continues

our dairy farmers can only hold out another two years. If the present trend continues we will end up in Newfoundland with not one dairy farmer. Mr. Speaker, that is quite an accomplishment for this government, quite an accomplishment indeed.

Mr. Speaker, in Newfoundland we need a good feed programme especially for our dairy farmers but not only for our dairy farmers, for our hog producers, for our chicken industry and for the broiler industry. No, Mr. Speaker, the present government seems to be very lackadaisical in their duties. They could not care less whether every farmer in the province leaves and closes up shop or not. We need a grains feed programme in

Newfoundland, Mr. Speaker, and we can do it. In Newfoundland you cannot grow all the grains that are necessary for our agricultural production but you can grow some of them. If this Government, Mr. Speaker, would introduce such a programme to grow at least some of the grains, this would drastically reduce the cost of feed to our dairy producers, to our hog producers and to our broiler producers and any other branch of agriculture. Only in this way, Mr. Speaker, can we come to grips with the problem of supplying our farmers with adequate feed for their cattle. In turn they supply our people with adequate milk for consumption and at the same time, Mr. Speaker, this can, if not decrease the price, it would certainly place our farmers in a position where it would not increase the price of their produce. This I believe, Mr. Speaker, is very very important to our people today.

At the present time our farmers are receiving \$12.50 a hundred-weight for milk and the big problem with our dairy producer today, Mr. Speaker, is the problem of expansion. They cannot and I repeat, they cannot get the Provincial Government interested enough to give them any substantial heed as far as expansion in the dairy farming is concerned.

We need, Mr. Speaker, in Newfoundland more people in dairy production. We need a crash programme to persuade more of our young people to enter the agricultural field. We need a programme whereby our present farmers can expand and in order to keep up with demand, they must expand rapidly. Unless, Mr. Speaker, our present Government is willing to take on themselves this job, the dairy industry in Newfoundland looks very grim indeed. As a matter of fact, another two or three years we will not have a dairy industry. This, Mr. Speaker, is one of the reasons why the honourable member for Fogø brought in this amendment. This is why we have no confidence in this Government, because every day, Mr. Speaker, in the opposition office we are getting various groups coming to us by letter, by phone and by person and expressing their concern because various ministers of this Government are not taking an adequate interest in the various aspects of agriculture and industry in this Province.

Unless this Government, Mr. Speaker, wake up to the realization that it is responsible for

most of these people that it is responsible for the production of food to our people then, Mr. Speaker, I would say we had a very incompetent administration, a very incompetent administration, one, Mr. Speaker, that should not hold office today, most definitely.

Mr. Speaker, you can go down the line not only in the dairy industry, the hog industry - the previous Liberal Administration started a huge project on the West Coast, Mr. Speaker -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. THOMS: A big one at Donovans also, They destroyed that one, millions of dollars went down the drain for nothing. If that is what you call planning and priorities, Mr. Speaker, destroy what you have, tear down your bridge before you cross it, that is the policy of the present ministers, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the project on the West Coast was halted just because it was a Liberal project. That is all. No other reason. The ministers cannot come up with any other reason other than it was started by the previous Liberal Administration and they looked at it and they hemmed at it and they hawed at it for months and months and months. Finally after a long while I believe they are working at it again. Maybe, Mr. Speaker, maybe one of these days they will have the official opening. Maybe this will give the farmers of the West Coast a chance to earn a decent living again. Mr. Speaker, a good project that was started by the Liberal Administration was hung up for over one year and no reason whatsoever given, no reason, Mr. Speaker, but then when they took a second look at it and they brought in all of their advisory committees and sub-committees it was proven beyond a doubt that it was a good project so they decided to continue on with it.

This is why, Mr. Speaker, we bring in this amendment. This is why I am sure that all members of this House will support this amendment because it is a good one. Mr. Speaker, unless this government get down to the grind that it has to contend with, the everyday problems, the problems of water and sewer in some little community in Fortune Bay, Bonavista Bay, Conception Bay, to that little community that is the most important problem on earth. The road down the northside of Bonavista

Bay is the most important project to these people there, not some grandiose scheme which this government seems to thrive on continuously. The basic needs of our people, Mr. Speaker, were the same fifty or twenty years ago as they are today. Mr. Speaker, unless we have an administration that can sit down with our people, listen to them, listen to their problems, examine their projects, their proposals, sympathize with them, support them and supply them with the necessary funds then, Mr. Speaker, we are going to have a very unhappy population in a very short period of time. Our people today are very, very disgruntled, very unhappy with the goings-on in government today. A perfect example is this Assembly itself, seven weeks and not one thing done, seven weeks wasted, Mr. Speaker.

The government are so lackadaisical and lazy

in their duties that I fail to see why we should have this honourable House open for over a week, why we should have it open. They closed it for a week. Why? God only knows. There is no reason for it. There is no sensible reason for it. Surely, if we only have one or two ministers in Montreal for a week, this House can continue without them.

Or is it a sign that the Leader of the government, the House Leader is incompetent and he cannot carry on the business of this House without the Premier and the Finance Minister?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Shame, shame.

MR. THOMS: Yes, shame. I say shame, disgracefully shameful, disgracefully shameful.

Mr. Speaker, is this a sign that there are only one or two people on the government side of this House who are at all competent, at all capable? If it is, Mr. Speaker, then I would suggest that this administration has outlived its usefulness and it is time for the people to replace them as undoubtedly they will do at the first opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I support this amendment because basically I believe the basic problems of our people today are not being taken care of by this administration. Water and sewer, highways, cost of living are all important to our people today, all important. This administration, Mr. Speaker, does not seem to care whether our people have an income or not. But, Mr. Speaker, the time will come when this administration will find out exactly what are the most important things that our people are thinking of.

Mr. Speaker, myself, as the member for the district of Bonavista North, and other members of the opposition have been endlessly pressing government for action. The only thing that we can find, Mr. Speaker, the only actions we get are that someone is waiting for some report. When the story is told, Mr. Speaker, of the numbers of reports that are on file here in Confederation Building, the number that have been presented to this present government over these last two years, I am sure the number will be an outstanding amount.

There was nothing like it in the previous administration at all, Mr. Speaker. With the Smallwood Era we had action, not plans and priorities. We had action. We did not, Mr. Speaker, have a do-nothing government,

an incompetent, dozey government. We had people who were willing to work, willing to listen to the people, willing to receive people. Any day at all, Mr. Speaker, you could see forty or fifty people on the eighth floor of Confederation Building because the previous administration believed in people, listened to people and worked for people.

Mr. Speaker, it was quite evident who really cared about the people when we had the Minister of Finance discontinue the Mothers' Allowance, discontinue student-aid, when we had an ad hoc welfare programme brought before the people by the Minister of Social Services. The day will come again when the Government of this Province will be given back to the hands of hands of the people and the ministers of that government will listen to the people. The only thing we seem to hear from the present government, Mr. Speaker, if something is not done they continually blame Ottawa. Almost every minister in the present government have blasted the federal government left, right and center whenever they could. No mercy spared there! For awhile we got the present government blaming the previous administration. That sounded very good for awhile but after a time you wear it out and they certainly wore out this one.

Now they are on a new tactic; blame Ottawa! If something goes wrong blame Ottawa. If we do not have money blame Ottawa. Ottawa will not give us money for this, Ottawa will not give us money for that. It is a continual blame on Ottawa. Mr. Speaker, the real blame, the real cause of our problems is with the present administration because they are incompetent, incompetent, indeed.

Mr. Speaker, it is very difficult, very difficult indeed to find any good words to express when you are referring to the present administration. Mr. Speaker, unless this government wake up and wake up fast, unless it comes to grips with the social problems of our people today, unless they are willing to listen to our people and to act upon their advice, give them the support,

the financial support that our people need, then, Mr. Speaker, the day will come when we will have three sitting on the opposition again. The day will not be too long when we will get a good Liberal Government in this province, a government that will work for the people and with the people.

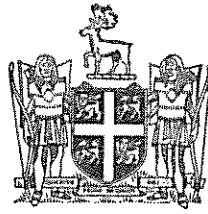
Mr. Speaker, it is really too bad that I cannot find anything good to say about this government. I support this amendment and in view of the fact that God limited the intelligence of this Tory Government it is very unfortunate that He also did not limit their stupidity.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

HON. L.D. BARRY (Minister of Mines and Energy): Mr. Speaker I adjourn the debate.

MR. SPEAKER: It has been noted that the honourable the Minister of Mines and Energy moved the adjournment of the debate.

MR. SPEAKER: I call it six o'clock to return at eight o'clock to the Chair.



PROVINCE OF NEWFOUNDLAND

THIRTY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF
NEWFOUNDLAND

Volume 3

3rd. Session

Number 29

VERBATIM REPORT

THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1974

SPEAKER: THE HONOURABLE JAMES M. RUSSELL

March 21, 1974

Tape no. 732

Page 1 - MW

The House resumed at 8:00 P.M.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please!

MR. CROSBIE: Motion 5, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion 5 is the motion moved by the Hon. Minister of Finance. I think the Member for White Bay South adjourned the debate last night.

MR. W. N. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, it is surprising, Sir, but I suppose true to form that this particular debate would be called at this particular time. We saw the Premier make what the government consider to be an important announcement today. Tonight the Minister of Finance rises in his place (he does not even leave it to the House Leader tonight, Sir,) to carry on with his piece of spiteful, vindictive, his vindictive use of the power of this House to get the Hon. Member for Bell Island.

Mr. Speaker, a couple of weeks ago, whenever this House last sat, I had an opportunity to speak for about twenty minutes. I believe on this motion. Does any official at the table have any idea how long I spoke the last time? It sounded like five minutes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member has about fifteen minutes.

MR. W. N. ROWE: Fifteen minutes. I have some time at my disposal tonight to go into this matter.

The last time I was speaking on this I made mention of the fact that the whole question of points of privilege and motions moved, relating to points of privilege, is a very strange one in this House. A number have been raised on occasions. I refer then to the time that the Hon. Member for St. John's East slandered my colleague on a particular matter. When a point of privilege was raised, it was determined not to be a point of privilege. On another occasion the Member for St. John's Centre rose in the House

and accused the Member for Bell Island of encouraging, actively encouraging the commission of crimes on the eight floor of this building. I rose on a point of privilege then. It was ruled not a point of privilege. Subsequently, the Member for Bell Island rose in his place and made certain allegations which are the basis of this debate now. The allegations were based on documentary evidence. Your Honour considered it not to be a prima facie breach of privilege and, of course, we appealed that decision, that ruling on Your Honour's part because we believe that it was a prima facie breach of privilege as stated by the Member for Bell Island.

The Minister of Finance, on the same fact situation, comes in and raises a point of privilege, makes a motion, and is accepted by Your Honour, and now this debate is on.

I am not reflecting, Sir, on any rulings of the Chair, of the Speaker of this House. I just want to make the remark for the record that it is passing strange that certain things are considered to be a breach of the privileges of this House when raised by that side and certain things raised by this side on similar fact situations are not considered to be a breach of the privileges and are dismissed forthwith. I think that that point does need to be made.

Now, Sir,

last day on this debate I mentioned that and my colleague, the member for Bell Island, brought evidence into this House in good faith.

One can quibble. As the Leader of the Opposition said, one can quibble as to whether the member for Bell Island's style of debate or style of delivery is one which any other member of the House might use. I, for example, have a different style I think and other members of the House have a different style but that should not and does not detract from the basically sound case that the member for Bell Island made in this matter. He brought the evidence in in good faith and he tabled documentation relating thereto.

One of the things he mentioned, in his own inimitable style, was that there was a potential conflict of interest situation, that there was a conflict of interest. Neither the member for Bell Island nor myself nor anyone else has said that the Minister of Finance took advantage of a conflict of interest situation, that is for other people to decide. I am not going to make that allegation. What I am saying is that by the minister's own statements, he is a partner in the firm of Aylward, Crosbie and Collins, he is a member of the board of directors of two I believe subsidiary companies of Labatts and at the same time, as the Minister of Finance, he recommended to the government that certain debts owed by companies be cancelled in order to allow, be wiped off the books in order to allow Labatts to take over the assets of Bison Brewery without the title thereto being affected, without the debt being sort of an albatross around Labatts' neck.

Well, Sir, I say now and I say to the Minister of Finance that because he wore the several hats that he did wear that that was a conflict of interest situation as defined by the minister himself. I am not saying he took advantage of the conflict of interest. I am not saying he lined his own pockets, as a matter of fact I feel reasonably certain, 99.9 per cent perhaps 100 per cent certain that he has not, that he never will, that he has not, he did not in that case, he never will. But, Sir, the statement made by the member for Bell Island

was that there was a conflict of interest situation and nobody can deny that, that the possibility existed, if other persons were involved, that there was a conflict that existed that would have allowed a person to benefit from wearing so many hats. I am sure the Minister of Finance has not benefited and had no intention of benefiting yet he allowed himself to be placed in a position where this allegation of conflict of interest could be thrown at him.

Now if the member for Bell Island, Sir, is to be penalized by this sentence which is being passed on him for raising that matter, then I would submit, Sir, we might as well close down this House tonight, that no member of this House can feel free in the future to raise matters in good faith, based on evidence readily available to everyone, that no member of this House can feel free to do that without knowing that the person attacked or the person against whom allegations are made, if he is on the government side of the House, is going to use the government majority to penalize vindictively or otherwise the member who made that statement.

On the other question, Sir, the question of the agreement, the member for Bell Island has stated that the Minister of Finance deliberately misled the House. Now, Sir, I stand here and I say that on the evidence available to me, to the member for Bell Island at the time and available now, that he was well within his rights to make the statement that the Minister of Finance deliberately misled this House and I make that same statement now. In doing so, Sir, I am going to refer once more, at the risk of boring the Minister of Finance and the members of the House, to refer to the evidence which the member for Bell Island has presented to the House.

There was a letter from the Minister of Finance himself, dated March 8, 1972, several months after he gained power on January 18, in which he stated in a letter to Bison Petroleum and Minerals Limited; "Dear Sirs, On 14 December 1970 a Minute of Executive Council..."

that is a cabinet order, a cabinet directorate, it is an order made by the cabinet and is signed by the Lieutenant Governor, then becomes an Order-in-Council. In this case it was a minute of executive council. So, it was not an order as such but merely a minute of the decision made. "A minute of executive council indicates that your company," that is Bison Petroleum and Minerals or Bison Brewing Company Limited," consequent upon the sale of Atlantic Brewery Limited would undertake to pay to the Newfoundland Liquor Commission the sum of approximately \$407,000.00 by the issue to the Government of interest-free revenue bonds redeemable in equal annual instalments over a period of ten years" -undertook, Sir, or undertake to pay to the Newfoundland Liquor Commission the sum of \$407,000.00.

Further on in the letter the Minister of Finance says, "We would point out that the agreement entered into with the Government, as indicated by the minute of council of the fourteenth of December, has not been carried out by your company" and that the revenue bonds referred to have not, as yet, been received. "May we ask what your intentions are in this matter and when it is anticipated it will be finalized?"

The Minister of Finance himself, Mr. Speaker, the very man who now brings this scandalous motion before the House himself; based on the Order-in-Council, based on the evidence available to him at the time, refers, not implicitly or tacetly or by necessary inference but refers directly and explicitly to the agreement entered into with the Government as indicated by the minute of council on the fourteenth of December.

On March 13, several days later, the vice-president of Bison Brewing Company Limited writes the Minister of Finance himself in which he says Sir, "We hereby confirm that Bison Brewing Company has undertaken to pay the Newfoundland Liquor Commission the amount of \$407,000.00 by the issue to the Government of interest-free revenue bonds redeemable in equal annual installments over a period of ten years. We confirm that Bison Brewery has undertaken to pay the Newfoundland Liquor Commission

a certain amount of money."

Sir, it is clear from those two letters that there was some kind of an agreement, some kind of an undertaking between the Government and Bison Brewing Company to pay the Government a certain amount of money. The fact that that money happens to be repayable out of interest-free revenue bonds is irrelevant for the purpose of trying to establish whether in fact there has been an agreement or not. The fact that I might have an agreement with a company which subsequently goes bankrupt does not mean I have no agreement, Mr. Speaker. The agreement might not be worth the paper that it is written on. The agreement might not even be enforceable when it is put to the test in certain situations. For example, if I have an agreement with somebody to do certain things and it is not in writing, in certain cases it is covered, as lawyers know, by the Statute of Frauds and you cannot go to court and have it enforced. That does not mean there is no agreement in existence.

In certain cases agreements will not be enforced by the courts. In certain cases agreements are not worth the paper they are written on, for the simple reason that a person may not have the money or may be bankrupt or may have skipped the country or may have done a hundred other things, but that does not mean that there was no agreement in operation. That, I submit, Sir, is all that my colleague, the member for Bell Island, said - there was an agreement. When the Minister of Finance came into this House and said there was no agreement he misled this House. I make that statement. I would make it irrespective of whether I thought the minister was going to have me flung out of the House for fourteen days or not. He misled the House when he made that statement. He deliberately misled the House, I would submit, Sir, when he made that statement. There was an agreement.

HON. J. CROSBIE: The whole subject of this debate is about a matter which the honourable member for White Bay South is now repeating. He is saying I deliberately misled this House. His expression is unparliamentary, it is contrary to the rules of the House and therefore I ask Your Honour to direct him to withdraw it.

March 21, 1974.

Tape 734 (Night)

RH - 3

MR. BILL ROWE: May I speak to that, Mr. Speaker?

The Minister of Finance has brought in a motion to throw out the member for Bell Island because he says that when he said that the Minister of

Finance deliberately misled the House, that he was wrong. Obviously, if he were right in saying it then the minister would not have brought in this motion, from the minister's point of view. What I am saying in defence of my colleague is that he was right when he said the minister deliberately misled the House. Surely if I cannot educe evidence to show that in defence of the Member for Bell Island, we might as well forget about this debate, Mr. Speaker, and just let the Minister of Finance merely say; "As far as I am concerned the Member for Bell Island is thrown out." I am saying that the Member for Bell Island was right in saying that the minister deliberately misled the House and I am trying to produce evidence to show that I am right and that the Member for Bell Island was right. I think the point of order is specious, Mr. Speaker.

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to answer those specious statements. It is quite a different matter, there is quite a difference between the Member for White Bay South saying that at the time the Member for Bell Island was justified in making such and such a statement because of so and so and the Member for Bell Island saying, as he did just a moment ago, that he himself said that I deliberately misled the House. There is a world of difference between that. He can proceed and try to make a case that the Member for Bell Island was justified at that time in thinking that I deliberately misled the House and advance the case for that, but to say that he himself says that I deliberately misled the House, he is using unparliamentary language and it should be withdrawn.

MR. SPEAKER: I feel that the honourable Minister of Finance does have a point. The honourable Member for White Bay South I do not think was, at least I did not interpret it as referring to what the honourable the Member for Bell Island said. I think the honourable Member for White Bay South did say that the honourable Minister of Finance had deliberately misled the House which is unparliamentary and I ask him if he would withdraw those comments.

MR. W.N. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, it is a quibble on words anyway. It just

goes to show how petty it all is. I withdraw irrevocably, unreservedly my statement that the Minister of Finance deliberately, that I say the Minister of Finance deliberately misled the House.

What I say is that I agree or that the Member for Bell Island was right when he said the Minister of Finance deliberately misled the House because there is evidence to show that the Member for Bell Island was right in making that allegation. Does that satisfy the minister?

MR. CROSBIE: Produce the evidence.

MR. W.N. ROWE: I am producing it.

MR. CROSBIE: The honourable member has not produced anything yet.

MR. W.N. ROWE: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please!

MR. W.N. ROWE: The Member for Bell Island was right, Sir, when he said that the Minister of Finance deliberately misled this House. We have seen from two letters alone and the Order-in-Council which has already been referred to that there was an agreement in existence. Whether that agreement was worth the paper it was written on or whether it turned out subsequently to be unenforceable or whether the Minister of Finance thought that he would merely pave the way for Labatts to take over this asset and therefore get rid of any taint there might be on the title and therefore just get rid of it as something that did not exist, these are all irrelevant questions, Mr. Speaker.

The fact of the matter is that there was reference to an agreement, there was in fact an agreement. If you went to court, Mr. Speaker, I would submit, as a party, one of the parties to these letters, and assuming that the agreement was enforceable as an agreement or that the companies were not bankrupt and all this sort of thing, I would say that on these letters alone any court in the land, Sir, would uphold the agreement between the Minister of Finance or the Government of the Province and Labatts to Bison Brewery. There is an agreement and it is referred to, it is confirmed by the vice-president of Bison Brewing Limited, it is confirmed by the government, it is confirmed by

Order-in-Council. It was confirmed by the Deputy Minister of Finance, Mr. Speaker, when he by letter of June 4, 1973, wrote a letter to Mr. John C. Doyle, re Bison Brewing Company Limited, and says as follows: "In a letter of June 19, 1972, you advised the Minister of Finance" (That is the present Minister of Finance) "that your local counsel in St. John's, Mr. Donald Dawe, was preparing the necessary documents for the issuance to the government of the \$407,000 in principal amount of non-interest bearing revenue bonds."

The Deputy Minister of Finance, Mr. Speaker, was under the impression or delusion, call it what you will, under the firm impression that there was an agreement between the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and Bison Brewing Company Limited... clearly under that impression.

On July 5, 1973, the Minister of Finance in another letter to Mr. John C. Doyle, re Bison Brewing Company Limited says as follows: "We have now had a long correspondence originating

in March, 1972, with respect to the commitment of Bison Brewing Company Limited to issue to the Government of Newfoundland free of charge non-interest bearing revenue bonds in the amount of \$407,000 to be redeemed in equal annual installments over a period of ten years.

Then, Mr. Speaker, the same paragraph by the same minister, the Minister of Finance, signed John C. Crosbie, says as follows: "The agreement between Bison Brewing Company Limited and the government was ratified by the executive council, by a minute passed on December 14, 1970."

Now, Mr. Speaker, how can words be any plainer?

In support of the proposition, the allegation made by the Member for Bell Island, that there was an agreement in effect and in operation between the Government of Newfoundland and the Bison Brewing Company Limited, Mr. Speaker, can you be any clearer or plainer, your evidence, in support of your allegation. It is referred to by the Minister of Finance himself, the very gentleman who now complains. It is referred to by the Vice-President of the Bison Brewing Company. It is referred to in an Order-in-Council. It is referred to by Mr. Dirk Peper, the Deputy Minister of Finance. Everybody who had anything to do with this matter, Mr. Speaker, in the government, was clearly under the firm impression that there was an agreement.

The Member for Bell Island comes in and makes the same allegation in this House that there was an agreement and that the Minister of Finance deliberately misled the House when he said there was no agreement and now, Sir, he is being threatened with fourteen days expulsion from this honourable House for making that statement, in a spiteful and spleenful exercise of brute power by the Minister of Finance and his cohorts in this matter.

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: The use of the words "spiteful and spleenful" in describing the motives to another member

of the House is unparliamentary. That is what the whole point of this debate is about. If the honourable gentleman is going to be permitted to use this kind of language, then there is no purpose in the debate at all. I ask that these words be withdrawn.

MR. W. N. ROWE: No, Mr. Speaker, I will not withdraw those words. I do not think there is anything in the authorities. If the clerk would care to refer to a precedent of this House or otherwise that the words "spiteful and spleenful" in reference to another member bringing a motion into the House to expel my colleague, are unparliamentary, I will gladly withdraw them. But merely because the Minister of Finance stands up and says that they hurt his feelings, I am not going to withdraw them. I do not think they are unparliamentary, unless there is clear authority to the contrary. If Your Honour can find it and if Your Honour will direct me, I will obviously withdraw it.

MR. SPEAKER: The citation in Beauchesne, which is on pages 130 and 131, gives a list of words and some phrases which are basically considered to be unparliamentary, which is merely a reference to go by and the member does not have to use -

MR. W. N. ROWE: What citation?

MR. SPEAKER: It is 155, page 130. It is merely a list and there are other words which are not included in that list which might be considered as being unparliamentary. I cannot recall any section in Beauchesne which specifically says that the words used by the honourable member are unparliamentary. I am in grave doubt whether they are or not. They indeed might be. I certainly would caution the Hon. Member for White Bay South to be more careful in the choosing of his remarks as he continues the debate.

MR. W. N. ROWE: Well, Mr. Speaker, they are either parliamentary or unparliamentary. I am going to make whatever statements I think I have

the right to make as a member of this House. I refer Your Honour to the Hansard of February 19, 1974, where the Speaker ruled that the word "slanderous," as attributed to another member - we rose on a point of order on this side and somebody over there rose. I can find the Hansard citation, if you wish, in which somebody called someone over here - his motives were slanderous or what he said was slanderous,

and Your Honour ruled it in order. That is on February 19, 1974. It is found in Hansard if Your Honour would care to look it up. I answered -

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, a point of privilege, whatever you want to call it. I refer to Beauchesne, page 130, first sentence.

"The imputation of bad motives or motives different from those acknowledged, misrepresenting the language of another or accusing him, in his turn, of misrepresentation, charging him with falsehood or deceit; or contemptuous or insulting language of any kind; all these are unparliamentary and call for prompt interference. "

Now, the statement by the honourable member for White Bay South that this motion is inspired by spite is an allegation and an imputation of bad motive, therefore it is unparliamentary. If this House is to conduct itself under parliamentary rules, it should be withdrawn. That is what I submit to Your Honour.

MR. SPEAKER: The section, as just quoted by the honourable Minister of Finance, on the top of page 130 I think, is well chosen and I must rule that the words used by the honourable member for White Bay South were unparliamentary and ask him if he would ~~withdraw~~ them.

MR. W. ROWE: The Speaker is overruling himself again.

Mr. Speaker, I have no desire to appeal Your Honour's ruling or anything and I will withdraw them unreservedly, unequivocally because I have no intention of Bully Boy over there - before I go on with my remarks, I withdraw the words, "spiteful, spleenful, vindictive, vengeful," unreservedly. I withdraw them. I do so, Sir, because I have no intention of being named by Your Honour and therefore being disallowed to carry on this debate. I have certain things I want to say. I think it is a very important matter.

Those words have been used time and time again in debate. The Leader of the Opposition used them the other night a dozen times. No mention was ever made to them either by Your Honour who is not, by the way, a judge of the Supreme Court, who has to have matters referred to him. Your Honour is more in the position of a referee who when he sees

infractions of the rules, of his own volition can call members to order. The honourable Leader of the Opposition was not called to order when he used them time and time again.

Now, the Minister of Finance sees fit to try to stifle debate again. Well, let him do that. I withdraw them unreservedly because I want to make these few remarks.

MR. CROSBIE: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The honourable gentleman says I am attempting to stifle debate. That is an imputation of an unworthy motive. It is quite obvious that all I am doing is asking Your Honour to enforce the rules of the House that unparliamentary expressions cannot be used. That can in no way be called stifling debate. The debate in this House is supposed to be conducted in accordance with the rules. Your Honour has made a ruling. There is absolutely no stifling of the debate and that statement should be withdrawn.

MR. W. ROWE: No, Mr. Speaker, I will not withdraw it. "Stifling of debate," it has been used a hundred times here.

MR. CROSBIE: On the point of order, is Your Honour -

MR. W. ROWE: May I speak to the point of order, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. CROSBIE: The honourable gentleman just said he is not going to withdraw it without giving Your Honour a chance to rule on it.

MR. W. ROWE: May I speak to the point of order? Mr. Speaker, may I speak to the point of order?

MR. SPEAKER: If the honourable member for White Bay South is speaking to the point of order, then I will hear his point of order.

MR. W. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, I would submit, Sir, that the words, "an attempt to stifle debate", are not such as to attribute bad motives to the honourable gentleman any more than any other. If you are going to attack somebody or going to debate a particular substantive issue and you attack the honourable gentleman for raising a certain point, I suppose you could stretch every single attack made on the honourable

gentleman on a particular issue and say that his motives are being attacked.

I would submit, Sir, that if you are going to draw this kind of a fine line, then debate is going to be cut to a very great minimum in this honourable House. I would also submit, Sir, again if Your Honour rules, I have no doubt that I will withdraw what Your Honour rules should be withdrawn, but, Sir, I would ask Your Honour in the future to make sure that all these precedents are, when Your Honour can, are enforced equally on both sides of the House. I would ask that.

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Speaker, before we go on to the answer to my point of order, I just want to make quite clear what my point of order is that Your Honour has just made a ruling that the use of certain language was unparliamentary. The honourable gentleman opposite then withdrew that language, then went on to say that the member who raised the point of order, who was sustained by Your Honour, was stifling debate.

Now, that statement is not parliamentary. If the ruling by Your Honour on a point of order, that upholds a member who moves it, is stifling debate, then that is certainly a new concept in parliamentary history.

One perhaps could continue arguing back and forth over points of order. I feel that the comment made by the honourable member for White Bay South "stifling debate" is not unparliamentary and I shall continue to allow him to proceed.

MR. BILL ROWE: Now, Mr. Speaker, if I may be allowed to continue without the Minister of Finance "stifling debate", trying to stifle debate.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: The debate obviously cannot be stifled, can it?

MR. ROWE: Not because the honourable Minister of Finance does not want debate stifled, Mr. Speaker. By a long shot; he will try every trick in the book to stifle debate.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: On a point of order.

MR. CROSBIE: We just had a ruling on a point of order about the imputation of bad motives. The honourable gentlemen opposite just said I was motivated by an attempt to stifle the debate. That is the imputation of an improper motive to another member of the House and I refer Your Honour to page 130 of Beauchesne as I referred to just several minutes ago where it is unparliamentary for an imputation of bad motives. The imputation that one member of the House is motivated by an attempt to stifle the debate of another is obviously the imputation of a bad motive.

MR. ROBERTS: To the point of order, Mr. Speaker. Obviously the Beauchesne ruling is clear but I heard quite clearly what my friend and colleague from White Bay South said and I suggest he did not impute that the honourable gentleman was trying to stifle debate. He merely said he was attempting to stifle debate. That is not an imputation, it is a statement of fact and Your Honour just ruled it perfectly in order.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: It has nothing to do with motives.

MR. ROBERTS: I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that this constant barrage of points of order, specious or otherwise, is an attempt to stifle debate. Your Honour has ruled it is a parliamentary thing to say. We are not

imputing the honourable gentleman's motives, we are merely stating what his actions are. I think the point is not well taken, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Perhaps the context in which the honourable member for White Bay South used those words a few minutes ago was not unparliamentary but in his remarks as he continued there shortly afterwards, they might have been. I would not want to rule him out of order on each and every occasion, I would like to caution him about his choice of adjectives, so to speak. In his speech in the future, maybe he could be a little more cautious.

MR. B. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, either they are unparliamentary or they are not. What I am saying is that, as the honourable Leader of the Opposition said, the Minister of Finance, and I say it again, is stifling debate or attempting to stifle debate. He may have the best motives in the world, Sir, good motives in doing that. He may think that what I am saying is nonsense or purveying a wrong impression, therefore he has the best motives in the world. What I am saying, Sir, is that he is attempting to stifle debate, and there is no way that that is out of order. I am glad Your Honour has upheld your earlier ruling, that it is not out of order for an honourable member to say that one other honourable member is stifling debate, especially when the honourable member is in fact attempting to stifle debate.

Now, Sir, to carry on on this matter: On the 18th of January, 1974, a minute of council was passed, a minute of the cabinet, a minute of the Committee of Council in which it was stated that the Government will not be taking action against Bison and/or Bison Petroleum Minerals Limited for the payment of the amount of \$407,000.00 owed to the former Newfoundland Liquor Commission by Atlantic Brewing Company Limited in respect of which Bison Petroleum and Minerals Limited undertook pursuant to Order-in-Council 977 of 1970, to repay the said amount by the issue to the Government of interest-free revenue bonds redeemable in equal annual amounts over a period of ten years.

In the very Order-in-Council, Sir, that was passed on the advice and recommendation of the Minister of Finance, whereby Labatts are assured

that the Government will be taking no action to collect the \$407,000.00, it says as I have already read, "Whereby Bison Petroleum and Minerals Limited undertook pursuant to the Order-in-Council to repay the said amount."

Sir, there are two points in that particular Order-in-Council.

(1): The words themselves are clear and plain, that the Government and the Minister of Finance thought at that time that there was an agreement between Atlantic Brewing and Bison Brewing, subsequently, and the Government to repay that amount. The words themselves are clear and plain, Sir, that there was an agreement and even if the words themselves were not clear and plain the very fact that the Minister of Finance feels obliged, in order to pave the way for Labatts, obliged to go to cabinet and get the Government to

say that they are off the hook or Labatts will not be responsible for or Bison Brewing will not be responsible for the \$407,000 means Sir, that there was clearly in his mind and in the minds of the government a feeling however strong or weak but a feeling that there was some snag on the title, some cloud over the title which will be passing to Labatts, If they did not feel that way, Mr. Speaker, they would not have had to make any reference in the Order-in-Council which was passed for Labatts benefit.

Then for the honourable Minister of Finance to come into this House and to move a motion to the effect that the member for Bell Island is to be thrown out of this House because he had the temerity, the gall to come into this House and to say that the Minister of Finance misled the House when he said there was no agreement, Mr. Speaker, is a scandalous thing and I agree with the member for Bell Island. I agree with the position taken by the member for Bell Island when he said that the Minister of Finance misled this House when he said there was no agreement. There was clearly an agreement between the government.

I agree with the member for Bell Island when he came into this House, based on evidence not hearsay or anything else, Mr. Speaker, but solid evidence, the minister's own conflict of interest statement in which he says financial interests in other companies included a director and secretary of Gaden's West Limited, which are subsidiaries of Labatts, and when he said that he was a partner in the law firm, however inactive the honourable minister might be in that partnership, that he was a partner in the law firm of Aylward, Crosbie and Collins. Mr. Speaker, those, the directorship and the partnership, the director of companies which are subsidiaries of Labatts, a partner of the law firm which is acting for Labatts, and the Minister of Finance coming to Cabinet and recommending the passage of Orders-in-Council which would mean that Labatts, if they bought Bison Brewing Company Limited assets over in Stephenville, would not have to pay the \$407,000, if that is not a classic conflict of interest, Mr. Speaker, then nothing on

the face of this earth is a conflict of interest situation. I have no doubt the minister did not take advantage of the conflict of interest situation, but it is a classic conflict of interest situation and I am very surprised that the Minister of Finance allowed himself, Mr. Speaker, to be put in the position where allegations of that nature could be truthfully made about him. That it is a classic conflict of interest there is no doubt about it in my mind at all. Sir, yet he brings in a motion, motivated by who knows what, to have the member for Bell Island thrown out of this House for three working weeks.

After the member for Bell Island brought in this evidence, as he was duty bound to do so, Sir, the Minister of Finance has seen fit to go on television and say there was no agreement. He gave us a spelling lesson on television, Mr. Speaker, "There was no agreement with a capital 'A'," says the minister. When he stood up in this House of Assembly and said there was no agreement, he did not say no agreement capital 'A' or small 'a' or raised 'a' or lower case or anything else. He said there was no agreement.

I think he qualified his remarks by saying that there was no agreement that was enforceable but he gave the clear impression to everybody in this House and outside that there was no agreement between the government and Bison Brewing Company Limited. After the fact he says, "No agreement, capital 'A', that is what I meant," Mr. Speaker, he says, "That is what I meant that there was no agreement with a capital 'A'." By a capital 'A' he presumably means that the agreement was not worth the paper it was written on or there was no agreement actually written down between the parties. That is all irrelevant, Sir, the evidence shows clearly that there was in fact an agreement.

Until Sir, I would submit, until the legal opinion given by Mr. Nesbitt in the Department of Finance, the Minister of Finance himself, as can be seen from the letters that he wrote back and forth to Mr. John C. Doyle, the Minister of Finance himself thought there was an agreement. The letters clearly show that.

Now, Sir, in order to facilitate Labatt's take over of that asset and relying on the advice of one lawyer, presumably, judging from the material which the Minister of Finance tabled in this House

Mr. Nesbitt down there, fine man, fine lawyer perhaps for all I know. but, relying on the advice of one lawyer, the Minister of Finance goes to cabinet and convinces the government that the government should write off nearly \$500,000; \$407,000. Now, Sir, I do not know what Your Honour would do under those circumstances. If Your Honour were owed \$407,000, I think Your Honour would probably seek legal advice from several sources as to whether this agreement should be just written off, wiped out and the \$407,000 forgotten about.

Certainly, Mr. Speaker, if Your Honour were in a position where the allegation of conflict of interest could be hurled at Your Honour, Your Honour would take some very strong measures to make sure that the legal advice that was given to write off that agreement was both broad - that is several sources - and make sure that the legal advice given came from the best possible sources, the best lawyers available.

Yet, the Minister of Finance presumably on the evidence or the papers that he presented to this House and the Minister of Justice, based on the advice of one lawyer presumably, writes off \$407,000 at a time when his law firm acted for the company who could benefit from this writing off and at a time when he was still on the board of directors of subsidiary companies of Labatt's Limited.

Now, Mr. Speaker, if the honourable Minister of Finance were not asking for everything he got in this honourable House, I do not know what he was doing. He left himself wide open, not only to the accusations made by the member for Bell Island but other ones as well by people outside this House. It was incredibly foolish and even stupid, if that is not ascribing bad motivation to the minister, for him to allow himself to be put into that position. Worse again for him to come into this House and say that there was no agreement between the government and Bison Brewing Limited when the facts support the allegation that there was in fact an agreement.

The Minister of Finance, Sir, has been a great champion of the

conflict of interest legislation which was passed through this House last session. He alleged at the time of its passage, when we pointed out that there were loopholes, that there were very light penalties, that it did not prevent people from taking advantage of conflict of interest situations. He pointed out in this House that the reason for this legislation he said was so that people could see if a conflict of interest did in fact exist. That is why.

He said, "Then the people, if they see that a conflict of interest exists, then people can make comment on it, members of this House can make comment on it. Hopefully by having it all exposed in public view, a minister would make sure that he does not allow himself to get into a conflict of interest situation." Yet, when a member of this House, following the advice of the Minister of Finance himself, concerning conflict of interest comes into the House and points out that a conflict of interest situation does exist, that very same minister, the subject of the attack and the allegations, the same minister who brought in the conflict of interest situation and argued for it because it would allow people to make comments and to see if conflict does exist, he comes in here with a motion to have the same member thrown out of the House.

Now, Mr. Speaker, if that is not a scandalous misuse of the majority power in this House, Mr. Speaker, I do not know what is.

MR. SPEAKER (MR. STAGG): The honourable member is using the expression "Scandalous misuse of power of the House". My interpretation of it is that it is an unparliamentary phrase. I ask the honourable member to withdraw.

MR. W. ROWE: Does Your Honour care to point to the citation on it? You see, Your Honour, on the point -

MR. SPEAKER (MR. STAGG): No, the honourable member, I do not wish to point to a citation. Phrases are either parliamentary or unparliamentary in my interpretation of them. In the precedents in Beauchesne this is an unparliamentary phrase the member has uttered.

MR. W. ROWE: No, Mr. Speaker, I will not appeal it only because I want to carry on with my few remarks. I will withdraw - what is it Your Honour wants me to withdraw? Misuse? Scandalous has already been shown to be

a parliamentary usage of words. Is it "scandalous misuse" or is it "misuse"? What are the words Your Honour wishes me to withdraw?

"Scandalous" by the precedents in the House that I am going by -

MR. SPEAKER (Mr. Stagg): "Scandalous misuse of the majority."

MR. W. N. ROWE: Oh! I see. May I say misuse of the majority?

There is the Hon. Witch-Hunt Willie over there, Mr. Speaker.

I withdraw that, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Mr. Stagg): I do not wish to get into a debate with the honourable member. The honourable member's point is well taken. The expression to which I drew his attention is "scandalous misuse of the majority," these four words. I would ask the honourable member to withdraw them.

MR. W. N. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, okay then. But since I do not know exactly what - I withdraw "scandalous misuse of the majority power of this House." I will say that it is a misuse of the majority power of this House. Is that parliamentary, Sir? I assume that if I am not called to order, I can use that.

When the same minister brought in conflict of interest legislation in glowing terms, he explained it as opening up to public view, Sir, what ministers are doing. Then when a member of the House points out publicly in this House that the minister himself is in a conflict of interest situation, without alleging that he made use of it or that he benefited from it, and is now threatened with fourteen days expulsion, Mr. Speaker, is a misuse of the majority power in this House.

Mr. Speaker, I would submit, as did the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, that if any member of this House had come across that particular evidence, far from being a breach of the privileges of this House to present it, Mr. Speaker, it would be his duty as a member of the House to present it. Now I have no hesitation in saying that if I were presenting that evidence, I would not do it in the same way as the Member for Bell Island. I would have chosen another way. His style is not mine. My style is not his. By

all means, Sir, I can assure this House that I would certainly have presented that evidence of the fact that an agreement does exist, when the minister said that it did not, of the fact that a minister was in a conflict of interest situation. I would have presented it to this House. Every member, Sir, I would submit is duty bound to do that.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. W. N. ROWE: No, Mr. Speaker, parliamentary way or not, I mean the Minister of Finance says that the member libeled him by making these allegations, slandered him or libeled him.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: (Inaudible).

MR. W. N. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, if I may carry on?

The Minister of Finance in his motion, which we are now debating, says that the said libel consisted of the following false and unsubstantiated charges: "That the Minister of Finance deliberately misled the House," (I say the Member for Bell Island was right in saying that the Minister of Finance deliberately misled the House. There was an agreement) "that the Minister of Finance was guilty of barefaced deceit," or whatever that means, "that the Minister of Finance committed a very grave conflict of interest." Mr. Speaker, that is not a libel, I say. I say that the evidence bears out what the Member for Bell Island said. There was a conflict of interest situation. There is no libel. I would have said it, Mr. Speaker, if I had had the opportunity to do so, if the evidence had come into my possession. I submit, Sir, that any member on this side of the House, perhaps some on that side of the House, that if they had this evidence presented to them and had looked it over would have felt duty bound to present it to this House. Not to do so, Sir, would have been a dereliction of duty, would have been failing in their duty to the people of Newfoundland and to this House.

Mr. Speaker, I make that statement conscientiously and the fact that the Minister of Finance does not like it, the fact that the Minister of Finance does not like the Member for Bell Island personally, perhaps does not like his style, does not like being accused

of things however rightfully he is accused of them, that is all irrelevant, Mr. Speaker. It is totally irrelevant and does not mean that the Minister of Finance or any one else should bring in this motion, which is a misuse of the majority of this House. To show, Sir, that the motivations are political, (Now that is not necessarily bad. Political motivations are sometimes good, I hurry to add) the fact that it is purely political and directed against the Member for Bell Island, Mr. Speaker, is shown quite clearly by the fact that the Minister of Finance, when he

came into the House said that the Leader of the Opposition, the Member, myself, the Member for White Bay South, aided and abetted the Member for Bell Island and are therefore, presumably equally guilty with him. Yet, when he brought his motion in he did not refer to the Leader of the Opposition, he did not refer to myself, the power and force of his motion, politically motivated, was directed entirely against the Member for Bell Island.

Now I ask Your Honour to consider that for a few minutes and I ask every member of this House to consider it because I agree with the Minister of Finance that the Member for Bell Island was aided and abetted by myself and the Leader of the Opposition. I stand up here now, Sir, and I say that the Member for Bell Island was right in presenting that evidence to the House. I go further and I say that if the Minister of Finance have the courage of his convictions he shall see to it that whoever else joins in that statement are included in this motion to be expelled for fourteen days. If he should not do that, Mr. Speaker, one can only assume that his motivations are political. Good or bad, we are not going to cast any aspersions on his motivation, I merely say they are political and they are directed towards the Member for Bell Island alone, for whatever reason. I agree with him and I invite the minister to join in our names, the Leader of the Opposition and myself, in the motion because I share them completely, Mr. Speaker, I share the sentiments expressed by the member for Bell Island completely.

Just look at this: To see that this thing is politically motivated, this motion by the Minister of Finance is politically motivated and nothing else, Mr. Speaker, we see that the motion, first of all, the motion passes sentence. The first thing the motion does is pass sentence on the Member for Bell Island. The second thing it does is bring forward the reasons why the sentence is being passed on him. "That the Member for Bell Island be suspended from this honourable House for fourteen sitting days." Then he goes on to point out, Sir, why in his estimation and in his consideration the

member should be thrown out.

Mr. Speaker, the analogous situation, the merits of the allegations made by the Member for Bell Island have not been looked into. Nobody has looked into them. The Minister of Finance comes into this House, and we are bound to take his word, and says they are not true. The Member for Bell Island comes into this House and says they were true. Nobody has looked into the merits or substantive question involved. Instead, we have the Minister of Finance coming in and passing sentence by way of a resolution. The analogous situation would be where, if Your Honour were hauled up before Magistrate's Court and the magistrate said; "I sentence you to two years. Now, what is going on? I sentence you to two years - now let us hear the case." Exactly the same situation, Mr. Speaker.

If anything, the matter should be dealt with, the substantive charges should be investigated. If anything there should be a select committee or the Committee on Privileges and Elections in this House should be set up in order to see whether there is substance or not to the allegations by the Member for Bell Island. Then, if a committee brought in a report that showed that there was substance to it, that could be dealt with in the House. If a committee brought that, said there was no substance to it, although I fail to see how they would be able to do that in the face of this clear evidence, then that could be dealt with in the House.

Instead, we have the Minister of Finance coming in, in a crude use of the majority power in the House, not looking into the substantive questions, a general denial by the Minister of Finance, not looking at the merits of the questions raised by the Member for Bell Island which has ample evidence to support it but merely comes out with a motion which throws him out of the House and which makes a mockery, Mr. Speaker, I would submit of the whole parliamentary process.

Mr. Speaker, the honourable Minister of Finance is a strange person to be bringing this motion before this House

to start off with. The Minister of Finance, what brought all this on of course, or the first thing that brought this on was when the Minister of Finance went outside this House and said that Joe Smallwood, the former Premier, had lied in the House, made that statement, lied in the House, a former Premier, Sir, who half the time, three quarters of the time is not even in this province to defend himself. We heard the Minister of Finance rise to his feet and in a whining fashion talk about how nobody would defend him in his absence and all this sort of thing, yet he, Sir, does not hesitate to call a former Premier of the province a liar, that he lied in the House. He is a strange kind of a person, Mr. Speaker, to be bringing in this motion because he rises in the House and says, "How do my wife and children feel when somebody slanders me or says that I misled the House, Sir, in a conflict of interest situation?" How do other persons' wives and children feel, Mr. Speaker, when the Minister of Finance rises in the House or goes outside the House and slanders, if that be parliamentary, Sir, I do not know, a former Premier of the province, by calling him a liar.

He obviously did not think about the consequences and the reputation of that gentleman or the feelings of his family at that time. I remember, Sir, when the linerboard debate was on in this House, the honourable Minister of Finance did not mind standing in his place and make comments about myself and the Leader of the Opposition which I considered, Sir, whether they were or not, I considered to be a bit on the slanderous side. The Minister of Finance saw the documentation and talked to the officials in there and he got up in this House and said if we were not guilty of criminal neglect in that matter we were guilty of willful neglect. How do I feel when the Minister of Finance makes that kind of a slanderous accusation against me? How does the Leader of the Opposition feel? Yet we did not leap to our feet whining -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WM. ROWE: I will find it, Mr. Speaker. I will find it. How do other members of the House feel. or former members of the House feel when the honourable minister stands up in his usual bullying fashion and arrogant fashion and can throw all kinds of accusations around about former members of the House, called the former Premier a liar because he said there was an agreement when the documentation supports the fact that there was an agreement. Yet when my honourable colleague, the member for Bell Island, stands in this House and does not call the Minister of Finance a liar, says that he deliberately misled the House, that he was in a conflict of interest situation, he is suddenly hurt, Sir, his virtue is wronged all of a sudden. I mean that is a strang way to carry on, Mr. Speaker, a very strange way to carry on in this honourable House. He does not mind dishing it out to other people, no compunction whatsoever if the mood so suited him at the time, standing up and lashing out at us, the members of the former administration of the House, in ways which are probably if not unparliamentary, certainly ungentlemanly. Yet when anyone else does the same thing to him, he used the old big stick technique then, bring in a motion and toss out the member for Bell Island for fourteen days.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the people of Newfoundland, I do not think, you know, think too much of that kind of a thing at all. They might not think too much of what is going on in this House generally but I think that certain things do percolate out through to the people. One of this is this type of arrogance and this type of general hypocrisy I think would be the way to characterize it, when one member of the House lashes it out, yet when the same thing is done to him, on far stronger grounds than he uses, he uses the majority of the House to penalize a member of this honourable House.

Mr. Speaker, let me say a word about the penalty which will be imposed by the majority of this House; fourteen days. If there is any indication, Sir, that this motion is politically motivated in the best sense of the word, not bad motives, Mr. Speaker, I

assure the Minister of Finance I do not use the word politically in the bad sense - politically motivated, Sir, then this atrociously high penalty is clear proof positive of what the honourable Minister of Finance is trying to do.

It is the same honourable gentleman, Sir, who has, for whatever motives - good or bad, I do not know - has tried on every occasion possible to stifle debate in this House. It is the same gentleman who went on television or radio or somewhere, the public airways, and said that he was going to bring in a bill or the government were going to bring in a bill or were thinking about bringing in a bill to change the rules of the House because he thought there was a lot of guff talked in this honourable House. So, there might be, Sir, for all I know, but it just gives you an idea as to the intentions of the honourable Minister of Finance when he brings in a motion himself.

He did not even have the grace to allow one of his own colleagues to bring in a motion concerning the member for Bell Island. He himself storms into the House, he himself has to be both victim, judge, jury, hangman. Nobody else can do the job. The House Leader could not bring in the motion and the honourable Minister of Finance sit back and bask in that glory. No, Sir, he had to bring it in. He is the one who is going to wield the big stick in this matter. He is the one whose feelings are hurt and who thinks that the member for Bell Island wronged him. So he thinks. I do not think he did.

His feelings may be hurt. He may feel like doing, I do not know what to the member for Bell Island. But, whatever the situation is, Mr. Speaker, nothing is clearer than the honourable member for Bell Island had a right to do what he did, had a duty to do what he did and should have done what he did.

Sir, he did it in the best way available to him. He rose on a point of privilege. The Speaker allowed him to carry on. He made his case with great harassment from the other side but he did make his case. Not hearsay evidence, he laid it on the Table of the House, all the documentation. He was prepared to make a motion to deal with it but no

Sir.

There were points of order raised. The Speaker did not rule the honourable member for Bell Island out of order and yet, Sir, we see this charade going on here now.

Let me repeat what I said before, Mr. Speaker. If the Minister of Finance have the courage of his convictions, then anybody else who rises in this House and aids or abets the member for Bell Island or who supports the position made by the member for Bell Island, as I do, the allegations made of misleading the House, the allegations made of being in a conflict of interest situation - I support the member for Bell Island in that, if the Minister of Finance has the courage of his convictions, he will include me in this atrocious motion to penalize a member of this House. He will include the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The motion before the House concerns certain statements made in this House that were unparliamentary to start with and the motion contains the statements that the Minister of Finance deliberately misled the House, was guilty of barefaced deceit, deliberately deceived the honourable House and misled the people of Newfoundland and so on, abused the privilege of this honourable House, abused the privilege of his own office for his own personal interests so that immediate steps should be taken to consider his impeachment.

All of those expressions were completely unparliamentary and should not have been permitted to have been used in the House. Even supposing a hundred per cent proof existed from the member that uttered them, the expressions would be unparliamentary.

Now, Mr. Speaker, if the -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Speaker, if you do not mind me continuing.

The point of order is this; Is the member for White Bay South now repeating these allegations or not? Because if he is repeating them, he is being unparliamentary. He is using unparliamentary expressions. Or is he not repeating them? Because if he is repeating them, it is quite

clearly a breach of the rules of this House.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, of all the weak, specious and defensive points of order ever trotted out by the gentleman from St. John's West, that is it. The honourable gentleman from White Bay South has made some statements. The honourable gentleman from St. John's West raised a point of order that is no point of order at all. I submit, Sir, he was out of order and all he is doing is trying to enter into the debate and to enter into the debate in an underhanded and devious and roundabout way.

I submit, Sir, there is no point of order in anything made out by the gentleman from St. John's West.

MR. MARSHALL: On page 130 in Beauchesne it quite clearly says that one member is not allowed to say of another the misrepresentation of language of another and the accusation of misrepresentation.

Now, there is a motion before the House right now which is being debated, to censure the honourable member for Bell Island for making these particular statements. If the honourable the member for White Bay South is getting up and saying that the honourable the Minister of Finance is guilty of barefaced deceit, in associating himself with those statements he is in effect accusing the honourable Minister of Finance of misrepresentations and falsehood and therefore is making in effect a statement which is unparliamentary.

MR. ROBERTS: If I may say a further word, Mr. Speaker, nothing said by the gentleman from St. John's East has added one whit to the merit of the case made by the honourable gentleman from St. John's West which in my submission was no case. All that has happened, Sir, is that the gentleman from St. John's East has said in effect - Mr. Speaker, my colleagues words I suggest are clear and straightforward and carry with them only the import of the words themselves.

The words were, as I heard them, "The gentleman from St. John's West, if he have the courage of his convictions, would proceed against a number of people and not against just one. I submit, there is no point of order, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER (MR. STAGG): The member for White Bay South may have been straying from the rule of relevancy even though that point itself could have been debated. I do not detect in his remarks the point of order brought up by the Minister of Finance. Certainly the Minister of Finance may read different meanings into the honourable member's expressions than I did.

However, I think the honourable member, while he may have been getting rather close to being called to order on the rule of relevancy, was certainly not repeating any unparliamentary allegations. He may have come close to that in his earlier debate but I think he was able to couch his statements sufficiently. The general term is that he is not making outright accusations.

MR. W. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, let me make myself as clear as I can for the honourable Minister of Finance's benefit. The motion says that the member for Bell Island be suspended from the House for fourteen sitting days because of statements made by him in the House on Monday, etc, especially pages 1799, 1800 and 1807, which statements comprised a libel on a member of this House, the member for St. John's West, affecting the character and

reputation of the member for St. John's West and his conduct as a member of the House. The said libel consisting of the false, following false and unsubstantiated charges, said the Minister of Finance deliberately misled the House, that the Minister of Finance was guilty of barefaced deceit, that the Minister of Finance deliberately deceived the House and misled the people of Newfoundland, that the Minister of Finance committed a very grave conflict of interest in that he acted as both the chief officer of the Government in negotiating the cancellation of debt to the Province while at the same time he was associated in at least two ways with the purchasing corporation which had the most to gain by said cancellation of debt and that the Minister of Finance abused the privilege of this honourable House and abused the privilege of his office for his own personal interest so that immediate steps should be taken to consider his impeachment.

Now, Sir, the motion does not refer to any unparliamentary words. It does not say that they are unparliamentary words. It says that there is a libel committed by these words. Now what I am doing is saying that as a member of this House I support the member for Bell Island in his statements, couched in whatever words they might have been couched. If the Minister of Finance said or misled this House deliberately or otherwise, I support him in that. I am not repeating it here now, Sir, I am not saying that the Minister of Finance, this, that and the other thing, I am saying that I associated myself, I associate myself here and now with the remarks made by the member for Bell Island. If they were a libel, if they were a libel, the substance were a libel on the Minister of Finance, then I associate myself with them. If by accusing the Minister of Finance of being in a grave conflict of interest situation, whatever the words are there, but the substance is clear and plain, the substance, not the words, (I am not worried about words, I am worried about the substance of what the member for Bell Island said) I aided and abetted the member for Bell Island. I associate myself with the intent of the member for Bell Island and I suppose by inference, Mr.

Speaker, I could be accused in retrospect or something, although I am not uttering the words now because I do not want to be thrown out of the House on a specious argument, that I am now uttering unparliamentary statements without regarding the merit of it whether they are libelous or not.

I am not going to repeat the words. I am going to associate myself wholeheartedly and fully with the member for Bell Island's statements. I support the member for Bell Island in making those statements against the Minister of Finance and I say that there is no way the member for Bell Island should be thrown out of this House for one hour or fourteen minutes much less fourteen days. I am saying that, Mr. Speaker, and I am saying in addition that if the Minister of Finance have the courage of his convictions, instead of standing up on specious points of order and trying to get me to repeat words myself, so therefore I can be thrown out because I said unparliamentary words, you know, that kind of an nonsensical situation - I am not going to do that but if the Minister of Finance had the courage of his convictions after hearing what I have had to say and knowing that I associate myself with the member for Bell Island in his allegations, the broad general allegation, in knowing that I am going to vote against this motion because I think that it is political motivation, I think it is a misuse of the majority of this House, I think the member for Bell Island does not deserve it. He does not deserve one minute of suspension from this House. He was doing his duty as he saw it. The evidence, I do not know if the member for Bell Island deserves a medal or not, he probably does, Mr. Speaker, the purple-hearted, the American one for wounds sustained in battle, he should certainly have a purple heart if he were in the American Forces.

I associate myself, Sir, and I support it and I say the Minister does not have the courage of his convictions, if he does not include in his motion everybody in this House who associate themselves with those remarks and who support the remarks and vote against this heinous and atrocious motion which the Minister of Finance has brought in.

MR. SPEAKER(Mr. Stagg): The honourable member has about three minutes.

MR. ROWE: Okay! Well I will clue up in that case, Mr. Speaker.

I say that this matter should be referred in its entirety to the Committee on Privileges and the merits be gone into and then bring a motion into this House. Do not come into this House in the white heat of revenge and throw down a motion yourself without even having some cooler head do it and get a member thrown out of this House for fourteen days, Mr. Speaker. That is wrong, it is a wrong way to approach this whole matter. Refer it to a select committee of this House or the standing committee, I believe, on privileges and elections.

Mr. Speaker, the fact that this fourteen day period is unprecedented in the annals of this House is evidence enough of what the Minister of Finance is trying to do. We have had other things happen in this House, a physical attack on a member of this House and he was, the man who perpetrated the onslaught was thrown out for four or five working days.

The honourable member for Bell Island now having done his duty, having had the courage of his convictions, having stood up and said it, having tabled it in this House, is now subjected to the outrageous, unprecedented penalty and sentence of fourteen days. The Minister of Finance should not be proud of himself, Mr. Speaker. He should be ashamed of himself. I will vote against this motion. I associate myself with the member for Bell Island. I support him entirely and if the Minister of Finance had any courage or guts he would make sure that everybody who supports the member for Bell Island is included in this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ROBERT WELLS:(St. John's South): Mr. Speaker, it is hard sometimes in this House after listening to debate on matters such as this and it is very sad for the whole House that a matter like this has to be debated in this fashion but it has and it is right that it is before this House because if we are going to function as a House worthy of the name, if we are going to represent truly and properly the people who sent us here to represent them, we have to draw a distinction between serious criticism, sensible criticism and the sort of remark that was made about the Minister of Finance. Now, so that there will no doubt about what we are talking, I will read what was said and I am quoting from the verbatim report of

March 4, Mr. Speaker, "Mr. Speaker, what we have before us is ample evidence that the Minister of Finance not only deliberately misled this House but committed, Sir, a very grave conflict of interest in that the minister acted as both chief officer of the Government in negotiating a cancellation of debt to the Province while at the same time, Mr. Speaker, he was associated in at least two ways with the purchasing corporation which had most to gain by such cancellation of debt." And he goes on to speak of the firm of Alyward, Crosbie and Collins which acted for Labatts who bought from Bison Brewing and then in a further paragraph; "Mr. Speaker, I charge the Minister of Finance, Sir, with deliberately deceiving this honourable House, misleading the people of Newfoundland, Sir, and in view of the seriousness of this matter, I recommend,

Mr. Speaker, that appropriate action be taken by this honourable House, that drastic action be taken against the Minister of Finance for abusing a privilege of this honourable House, Sir, for abusing the privilege of his office for his own personal interests and that immediate steps be taken to consider his impeachment. 7

Now, Mr. Speaker, if you look at these words and if you read these words as a sensible man familiar with the English language, I can only conclude that anyone reading or hearing these words would conclude that the Minister of Finance did something disreputable, wrong, not criminal necessarily but certainly something against his duties, rights and privileges as a member of this House and a Minister of the Crown.

Now the point must be made that even though a member may do something wrong, let us forget this altogether for a moment, this particular matter, even if a member does something wrong, there are certain rules and regulations which govern the conduct of members in this House and there are certain things which are built up in a body of precedents that one does not say in a House or Assembly or in a Parliament, and these rules must be observed and I come back to my original suggestion or contention that we have to draw a distinction in this House between legitimate criticism, between differences of opinion and between the sort of remark that puts not only the man against whom it is made down to the dirt but the man who makes it and all of us who sit in this House, we go down, down in the eyes of the people who put us here, down in our own self respect.

Now I said it is sad and unfortunate that we have to have this debate but we have to have it because the people of Newfoundland are looking at this House and the people in it, and they are saying, "My God, what did we put there? Who did we put there? Is this the way our business is to be conducted?" It is an important issue. It is a larger issue but it arises out of -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please!

MR. WELLS: The issue arises out of this sort of thing, Mr. Speaker, the sort of thing we are going to examine and which we are examining now in connection with these remarks. Now even though something can be so and even though what a member is saying might be true in this House and I am not suggesting for a moment it was in this case, on the contrary, but even though an allegation be true, there are words and phrases and modes of expression that cannot be used in any civilized parliament under this system.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please!

MR. WELLS: Mr. Speaker, I always give the honourable member for Bell Island or anybody else. the opportunity to speak, to be heard and develop an argument, I ask the same thing.

However, Mr. Speaker, although there are certain words and certain modes of expression which must not be used, I think we must not in considering this matter simply rely on that sort of thing, not rely on a technicality that says you shall not call a man that or you shall not say that because it is unparliamentary, even though he might have done it. We cannot rely on that. So I think in this case, which is serious, I think we must look to the sequence of events which happened and we must examine the role of the Minister of Finance, we must examine what he did in this Atlantic Bison - Labatts transaction and I think we must satisfy ourselves quite apart from the parliamentary used or the unparliamentary language used, whether he did anything that would justify the charges laid against him.

Now, Mr. Speaker, to consider this matter we have to go back to the Atlantic Brewing Company Limited which established a brewery out in Stephenville. It was an ill-starred adventure, Mr. Speaker, an adventure which ultimately became insolvent and eventually bankrupt. Whatever the reasons for that, they are not for us here, they are of no concern but the result of that venture was that it became insolvent and as a result of its general insolvency, the Government of Newfoundland,

through the Board of Liquor Control as it was called at the time, lent something in excess of \$400,000. It became insolvent, subsequently bankrupt and it did not have the money to pay the \$400,000, so eventually, Mr. Speaker, as I understand it and I have examined the file which was tabled by the Finance Minister, eventually Bison Petroleum Limited or whatever their name was, commonly known as Bison Brewing, decided that it would like to buy the assets of the old Atlantic Brewing Company Limited from, I understand, not from the company itself but from the mortgagees who had taken the assets and were offering them for sale to whomsoever would like to bid on them.

So here we come to the first fundamental point, Mr. Speaker, when Bison Brewing bought what it bought, it did not buy the company, it did not buy Atlantic's debts and obligations, it simply bought the physical plant in Stephenville. Now as I see it, there was no obligation on Bison's part at any stage to take over the debts or liabilities of Atlantic Brewing, Why should it? If Atlantic Brewing was unsuccessful in the brewing business and owed \$400,000 to the government or to you or to me or to anybody else, why should Bison take it over? Obviously Bison felt that way and Bison did not take it over. What the former Premier, Premier Smallwood, announced as I understand it was that there was an agreement that it would assume the debts, not the debts rather but this particular debt, under certain circumstances.

Now what that was at the time nobody knew. His statement I think would have left anybody who listened to it believing that Bison was going to take over the debt of \$400,000 but he did not explain how this was going to be done and what form it was going to take. So, Mr. Speaker, nothing was done further than that, nothing was paid. There was a Minute of Council of which I have seen a copy, which said in effect that Bison was going to assume this \$400,000 if revenue was produced, because it would give revenue bonds; but that is all.

Now I think we have to make a distinction here and have to realize, Mr. Speaker, that the minute-of-council is not necessarily an agreement in fact I do not regard it as an agreement. I regard a minute-of-council simply as a statement of what the government of the day understands something to be or an internal order of the government of the day ordering something done which the government has power under legislation to do. But a dozen minutes-of-council can be passed by the previous government, this government, the Government in Ottawa or Westminister, but that does not mean that there is an agreement between you or me or any company with the government concerned, it simply means that that is an expression of that government's opinion as to what will be. So that the fact of a minute-of-council does not mean to me, Mr. Speker, that there was an agreement with Bison, but it is evidence that there was discussion between the government of the day and Bison, that Bison might under certain circumstances or would, under certain circumstances, take over that debt.

Now the words mentioned all through the piece, both to the previous government and to the present government, were "revenue bonds." Now what interpretation one puts on revenue bonds in the absence of clear words as to what they mean

clear definitions, I do not know. I think it is obvious and no one would suggest to the contrary that revenue bonds in this instance meant that if Bison made money, if there was money realized, profits of some sort or at least revenue from the sale of beer by Bison, that Bison would provide bonds and would pay money under them and liquidate the debt.

Bison apparently gave that undertaking to the former government. What happened, Mr. Speaker, when this government took over was that the Minister of Finance, under whose jurisdiction this came, got out the file and started to pursue the business of the revenue bonds because there was no evidence of an agreement, there was no agreement with a capital "A", there was no agreement of any kind, there was simply a minute-in-council but Bison's signature, Bison's seal was not on anything. So, all right!

A correspondence ensued between the Minister of Finance and Mr. D.W.K. Dawe who was the solicitor for Bison Brewing Company Limited. It is interesting when one reads that correspondence which has been tabled, Mr. Speaker, that neither the Minister of Finance nor his deputy nor the Justice Department nor Mr. D.W.K. Dawe, representing Bison, nor Mr. Martin the III, a vice-president of Bison, really knew what had been agreed, if anything had been agreed. If you read that correspondence, Mr. Speaker, it becomes clear that whatever else there was there was no agreement, no consensus between the government and Bison as to what was agreed. In fact, both parties tried to come up with something on the basis of revenue, revenue bonds, and it got to the point where Mr. Dawe, based on what he thought might be intended, eventually drafted and sent to the government a draft form of bond to be looked at by the Justice Department to see if that would be the sort of thing that could be agreed upon. Always, always and right throughout the piece it was a revenue bond. In other words, unless revenue or profit or something was derived by Bison from the sale of beer nothing would be paid to the Government of Newfoundland. It was never suggested that

unless there was this revenue that anything would be paid to the Government of Newfoundland.

The bond was never executed and signed. The deal did not go through insofar as the revenue bonds are concerned. Why? The answer is obvious and clear, Mr. Speaker, Bison Brewery was following Atlantic Brewery down the drain. Bison Brewery was not producing revenue, it was not making a profit, it became obvious to everyone that it was not going to make a profit. As time passed it became obvious to everyone concerned that not only was it not going to make a profit, it was going to go out of business and it went out of business. The same thing happened to it as happened to Atlantic. Now, Mr. Speaker, what would be the good of the revenue bonds, what would be the good of a hundred revenue bonds? Even if they had been executed and presented by Bison, they would be useless.

Now Labatts come on to the scene. There is a defunct brewery in Stephenville but there is a plant that is worth something and they want to buy it, so they make an offer to Bison Brewery, which is no longer conducting business. Now why in the name of Heaven, Mr. Speaker, anybody could suggest that Labatts should pay the \$400,000, not that Bison owed because Bison did not owe it, but that Atlantic Brewery, three or four or five years ago incurred, that debt, why Labatts should undertake that or even why anybody should think that they would undertake it passes my understanding entirely. It was not Bison's debt so I cannot see any reason why Bison should undertake it, and it did not. As it came down to the final analysis it did not undertake it. There was no clear evidence of agreement that would stand up in any court or at least I have not been shown it, so there is no reason in my view why Bison should have assumed it.

Forgetting that, why on earth should the next purchaser, Labatts, even consider assuming this debt? They would have to have, to use the colloquial expression, Mr. Speaker, rocks in their head to even think about it. If I buy your house, Mr. Speaker, that does

not mean that I am going to take over your grocery bill

and certainly it does not mean that I am going to take over the grocery bill of the person who owned the house before you did and to me a suggestion that there was any obligation on Labatts part to take over this debt or any obligation on the government's part, to ensure that they did is just ridiculous. I cannot see it and in fact there would be no legal basis for it.

If the Minister of Finance, knowing these things, had of his own volition acted without a legal opinion, without consulting the department of Justice, without involving his own deputy minister, then perhaps criticism could be laid against him. Not a factual sort of criticism, not a criticism that he did the wrong thing but rather that he should have taken advice. In all steps the Minister of Finance was in consultation with his deputy and he and his deputy wrote the Department of Justice on many occasions. Mr. D.W.K. Dawe was in touch with the Department of Justice and eventually an opinion came back from the Department of Justice which confirmed, in a sense, what anyone with half a grain, as the expression goes, would know anyway. There was no point in a bond, that there was no money to come and that could possibly come from this defunct company which was Bison and that there was certainly no obligation on Labatts part to even dream of paying the \$400,000. Why should it?

Labatts wanted to buy a brewery, wanted to buy a physical plant. By what right would anybody even suggest to them that they go and pay \$400,000; a debt of two owners ago, if you like. It is ridiculous. So the legal opinion from the Department of Justice simply confirmed what the Minister of Finance obviously knew, what his deputy obviously knew and what everybody connected with it obviously knew at that stage and that was that any talk of an agreement with Bison to pay was nonsense. At that stage Bison itself was insolvent and going out of the brewing business in Newfoundland

for good and there would be no revenue. The Minister of Finance did the only thing he could do, based on a sensible legal opinion from the Department of Justice.

Now there has been talk about lawyers, just one lawyer, a member of the Department of Justice. If a legal opinion, if it were a contentious thing, if there were a possibility that money could be obtained from this company, if it were not bankrupt, if it were a going concern, then you might go back and say: "Well now look, is there any way? But here was a company from whom it is obvious that you are not going to get anything anyway and a legal opinion comes confirming what anybody, as I said, with a grain of sense would have to know in the first place. Why on earth

strong stuff. If you read that or if you hear that, the conclusion is inescapable that the Minister of Finance did something that would enhance his interests, which would put money in his pocket. That is what it means to me. It is not going to enhance his prestige or whatever else. It is his personal interests and interests used in the sense that we are talking about means interests, your ownership of something, your assets and that he abused his position; he did something disreputable and wrong. Yet, what did he do? By any stretch of the imagination, and I invite anybody to read the file that has been tabled, what did he do that was wrong?

Now, Mr. Speaker, something was made of the fact that a man who is associated in the practice of law, the Hon. Member for Placentia East, here acted for Labatts in the transaction. Why should he not act for Labatts in the purchase of a piece of property from Bison Brewing? Why should he not? There was no obligation on Labatts to assume any debt whatsoever of the old Atlantic Brewing. I do not suppose it was ever considered. Why should it be? Why should he not act on the purchase of these assets? What could it possibly have to do with that the Minister of Finance had one share, a qualifying share, which enabled him to be a director of Gaden's, which is a subsidiary perhaps of Labatts or is connected with it? Labatts are a large organization. They had their own mind to make up. They wanted the asset belonging not to the government but to Bison. Bison did not even know anything at that stage as far as the \$400,000 was concerned. Bison had no agreement that I can find or see evidence of. The only suggestion was that if it made a revenue, but it did not. Revenue bonds became a joke at that point.

Mr. Speaker, why on earth should this company go back to Atlantic Brewing Company's debt and assume it? How can it possibly be suggested by any one, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister of Finance

acted in any way improperly? Yet, when we come back to these words, we see that these words - they are not a criticism, Mr. Speaker, of actions; they are not an allegation that the Minister of Finance was unwise; they are not an allegation that he did not know how to do his job or that he would have done better to approach the thing in a different way. These allegations mean to me, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister of Finance is somehow acting improperly and crookedly and is advancing his own interests by reason of his position as a member of the government. That, Mr. Speaker, is not true. That is the substantive point. I dealt earlier with the technical point.

Mr. Speaker, whether it be true or not, you cannot use this sort of language under our system in this House or any like House. That is the technical point.

When you come in this case back to the substantive point as well, you come to the conclusion that whatever the rules of the House, there is no justification and there was no justification for saying that the Minister of Finance has acted improperly.

Mr. Speaker, you come to the point again that I made at the very outset. We must draw a distinction between legitimate criticism, which it is the constitutional duty of the opposition and perhaps on occasion the right and duty of all of us to call the shots as we see them here in this House. There are limits. If we do not impose limits on ourselves, what does this House become, Mr. Speaker? It becomes a sort of free-for-all, where the man who shouts loudest and the man who shouts the loudest names or the vilest names comes out on top. There is no way one can - we debate this here. Sometimes I think the only word to describe this House, Mr. Speaker, is unreal. We debate this, some of us debate it as well as we know how, others will debate it perhaps facetiously and on and on it will go. People in the galleries do not know the truth of this situation. They listen to one and they listen to the other and I suppose they go home thinking - well, I wonder what.

would the Minister of Finance or his deputy or anybody else in the government go scratching around, go outside the Justice Department for another legal opinion, go back to the Deputy Minister of Justice and assign this to somebody else for a second opinion? The opinion that they got from Mr. Nesbitt was expected. As I see it, it was the only conceivable opinion that could be given. They asked for it and they got it and there was obviously no point of hoping even that any money would be forthcoming from Bison, and to ask Labatts to assume the debt of the old Atlantic Brewing makes no sense at all. Why should they?

Mr. Speaker, how else could the Minister of Finance have acted? If you or I or anybody had been in his position - you cannot get blood out of a stone. There was no money in Bison to pay this and Labatts had no obligation in the world. I am sure if anybody had suggested to Labatts that they assume this old debt of Atlantic Brewing, they would have had to say; you have rocks in your head. The Minister of Finance took the thing to his colleagues. He did not himself rush off an order or say that is it, forget it! He took the matter to his colleagues in cabinet, presumably explained it and it was decided that if that is that and if the facts were obvious, you could forget law at that point. The facts alone and the financial state of Bison was such that what else could be done? So it was done. The firm of Labatts which had nothing to do with the government at that point, as far as I know at any point, the firm of Labatts bought from the defunct Bison a physical piece of plant out there in Stephenville.

Mr. Speaker, it is in the light of what happened that we must now consider these remarks - not only "deliberately misled this House but committed, Sir, a very grave conflict of interest while he was associated in at least two ways with the purchasing corporation, deliberately deceiving this House, misleading the people of Newfoundland, abusing a privilege, abusing the privilege of his office for his own personal interests." Now, Mr. Speaker, that is

to go to court and do something about it. But, if it is said inside the House, he cannot do that. So, what other recourse has he got, Mr. Speaker, but to come to the House itself, this body elected by the people and in charge of its own decorum, in charge of its own rules, in charge of its own status, and say, "Will you protect me against this?"

So, we come to the nitty gritty of this which is the role or not the role but what the honourable member for Bell Island has done. I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the evidence which is before us - and we are the court, sure, we are the judge and jury. Who else could be except the members elected by the people in this House? When you examine it you find or at least I find to my satisfaction - I have read every paper in the file and I have heard what was said and I have read what has been said in the verbatim report. I can only conclude that not only was the member for Bell Island technically in breach insofar as the rules of this House were concerned but substantively in breach in what he alleged or charged against the minister.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what do we do? The Minister of Finance, he would not have been human if he had not been upset by that. It is bad enough to be charged and accused of doing something where there is a matter of opinion but in this case he is charged in the strongest kind of language with being in effect crooked or close to it. That is what it really means. Who would not be upset? Who would not ask the House to deal with such a matter as he has? He has proposed a penalty of fourteen days. That is unfortunate. Unfortunate in this sense, that the member for Bell Island, the honourable member for Bell Island, in my view has committed a grave misdemeanor or whatever the proper word is against this House.

Of course, we have to consider also that all members in this House are elected by their respective districts and they represent more than their respective districts. They represent and we represent collectively and individually all the people. Though the member for

Bell Island has done this and he has done a serious thing against this House, it is not he who suffers by being put out for fourteen days, presumably, it is the people who elected him, the people who put him here to represent them.

What hurts most in his bringing a thing like this to a head - I have to lay this at the door of the member for Bell Island - what hurts most is that the people who elected him to represent them, if he is put out of this House, he is not going to be there to do that duty for whatever period he is put out for. I would say to the member for Bell Island, there is no question he is an effective critic of the government. There is no question that he does his job - some would say over-zealously. I do not mind that. Nobody minds or nobody should mind hard criticism.

We are in the adversary system. Sometimes I think it would work better if it were a system that enquired into things, but we cannot change it. I suppose we could change it but it has developed over a long period and it has developed along adversary lines where one stands up and slashes away at the other side, but there are rules, there are modes of expression, there is a way it ought to be done, going at the substance of the thing rather than at the personality. That is where I think we fall down. That is where we in this House so often abuse the system and make it a sick thing, Mr. Speaker.

So, I would say to the member for Bell Island, both on technical grounds as to the rules of this House and on the substantive grounds as to what he said and alleged, that he is wrong. I would say to him in honesty that he is wrong and that he must know that he is wrong. The opportunity was there to question the Minister of Finance, to say what he liked about what was done, to say that he felt it should have been done otherwise, to question the Minister of Finance on every aspect of this but not to say that he is in grave conflict of interest. Even that would not worry me to much.

"For abusing the privilege of this honourable House, deliberately

deceiving the honourable House, misleading the people of Newfoundland, for abusing the privilege of his office for his own personal interests", these are the words that really make this crime, if it be a crime.

So, I would ask the honourable member from Bell Island - I think that we have spent enough time, enough of the peoples' time in this House debating this matter and I am sure that the debate will not finish quickly, it will go on. Perhaps it should. It is important enough. So, I would ask the honourable member for Bell Island at this stage whatever his opinion is as to how this Bison, Labatt thing should have been handled - maybe he would have handled it differently, fine - but I would ask the honourable member for Bell Island without changing his opinion as to how it should have been handled, I would ask him to withdraw these words, particularly the words that I find - the difference of opinion part is not important.

"For abusing the privilege of his office for his own personal interests", these are the words that I find hardest to take. They are an allegation that the Minister of Finance, as I see it, they are an allegation that he is enriching himself, advancing his personal interests at the expense of the public of Newfoundland. If that charge is true, he should go out of this honourable House.

MR. NEARY: Would the honourable member permit a question?

MR. WELLS: Yes.

MR. NEARY: Let us say, for instance, I withdrew that particular charge, would the member then go for an investigation or a judicial enquiry into this whole matter?

MR. WELLS: No, Mr. Speaker. Surely, this does not need a judicial enquiry. Surely, we can debate it. We have the evidence before us. The thing is clear. Surely we can resolve this matter with honour and it does seem to me, however I look at it, both substantively and technically, that the honourable member from Bell Island should not have used these words.

There will be no one in this House more sorry than I if the honourable member has to be suspended. That I say truthfully. I do

not play games. I have known because the people of Bell Island elected him and he was their choice and they elected him to sit here and represent them - but it does seem to me, Mr. Speaker, that to use words about another honourable member, words of this sort, I sincerely believe that in using them the honourable member is being false to his role, false to the people who elected him, because I do not think that they elected him to say that sort of thing about another member of this House.

The penalty proposed may be extreme, perhaps not for the sake of the member but of the people who put him here. Perhaps the penalty should be less. I do not know. I would listen to anyone's suggestions on that. I think to preserve the honour and the dignity and the status and everything about this House which we as members ought to strive towards, I would ask the honourable member for Bell Island to withdraw these words even though he may have done it differently, even though he may disagree, even though he may have instituted twenty actions in the supreme court against Bison or Labatts or Atlantic or anybody else.

So, Mr. Speaker, I hope that this can be resolved. I am sad that this debate had to take place. I would ask and appeal in sincerity to the member for Bell Island to reconsider his position on this matter and on his allegations.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WELLS: I do not think there is any need.

I do not think there is any need. I do not think there is honestly any need.

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

MR. F. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, the particular motion before the House at the present time, moved by the honourable the Minister of Finance, is that the member for Bell Island be suspended from this honourable House of Assembly for fourteen sitting days because of statements made by him in the House of Assembly.

Now, Sir, the very nature of this motion itself has to leave a bad taste in anybody's mouth. It reminds me, Sir, of something along the lines, and I am not a lawyer, Sir, though I hear and read what goes on in the courts, but it reminds me of a situation in the courts where you would have a lawyer or a judge starting off a case by saying, "We sentence this man to be hanged. Now let us find out whether this gentleman is guilty of the crime or guilty of murder." This is exactly the way that this particular motion starts off, Mr. Speaker.

Sir, the motion carries on to say that because of statements made by him in the House of Assembly on Monday, March 4, 1974, as recorded in the Hansard, pages 1786 to 1821 and especially pages 1799, 1800 and 1807 which statements comprised a libel on a member of this House, the member for St. John's West, the Minister of Finance, affecting the character and reputation of the member for St. John's West, his conduct as a member of the House of Assembly, the said libel consisting of the following false and unsubstantiated statements; (1) that the Minister of Finance deliberately misled the House, that the Minister of Finance was guilty of a barefaced deceit, that the Minister of Finance deliberately deceived the honourable House and misled the people of Newfoundland and; (2) that the Minister of Finance committed a grave conflict of interest in that he acted as both the chief officer of the government in negotiating the cancellation of the debt to the province while at the same time he was associated in at least two ways with the purchasing corporation

which had the most to gain by said cancellation of debt and;
(3) that the Minister of Finance abused the privilege of this honourable House and abused the privilege of his office for his own personal interest so that immediate steps should be taken to consider his impeachment."

Now, Sir, I associate myself entirely and completely with the statements made by my honourable colleague, the member for Bell Island, when he brought this before the House on a point of breach of privilege at that particular time. Sir, I believe that the honourable the member for Bell Island was well intentioned when he brought these matters before the House or brought up this breach of privilege of the House.

Sir, I believe that the member for Bell Island was duty bound to do what he did when he came before this House and presented documentation to support the breach of privilege that he was bringing before the House. Sir, I think what has happened in this debate so far is that a great red herring has been drawn across the points made by the honourable the member for Bell Island. The honourable members on the government side of the House have continued to emphasize the style of the member for Bell Island and the language used by the member for Bell Island.

Now, Sir, as mentioned by other speakers on this side of the House, each one of us has a different style. I would have done exactly the same thing as the member for Bell Island had I the documentation and the information that he had at hand. But, Sir, the whole issue is being clouded by the fact that honourable members on the other side are zeroing in on the style of the member for Bell Island, the style. Sir, there are a lot of people in this province who like the style of the member for Bell Island. There are some people who do not like the style of the member for Bell Island and there are some people who could not give a darn.

But, Sir, the point still remains that honourable members on the other side of the House have not disproved nor looked at and criticized nor destroyed the evidence that was presented by the member for Bell Island and I submit, Sir, that honourable members on the other side are attempting to cloud the whole issue, are attempting to cover up the documentation presented by my colleague by continually referring to his style.

Now, Sir, I might mention another rather important point and that is this, that during the presentation, my colleague's presentation on that particular day, on a Monday, and he was interrupted, Sir, quite often by honourable members on the other side, unfortunately the honourable member for Placentia East was not present during a part of my colleague's presentation and innocently, I submit, misheard or misunderstood or misinterpreted some remarks made by my colleague,

and he stood rightfully in his place, and there was a great fuss about that particular thing. My colleague presented his breach of privilege to this House with a great deal of interruption from the honourable the House Leader on the Government side and from the honourable the member for Placentia East. Sir, not on one occasion, not on one occasion did the Speaker at any time rise and say that the language or the style of my honourable colleague from Bell Island was unparliamentary, not at one point, Sir. Sir, I submit that if the honourable the Minister of Finance is serious in this motion that Your Honour probably should be included in this particular motion and get the fourteen days, sitting days, because Sir, I repeat that not at one point did Your Honour rule my colleague out of order as being unparliamentary, not at one point.

Now, Sir, I, like my colleagues who have spoken before me, I am going to go through the documentation as presented by my colleague from Bell Island. Yes, Sir, again, for the simple reason; (1) it is the issue and honourable members on the other side are attempting to cloud that particular issue and the people of Newfoundland do not want to hear the bile and the scum these types of expression. Now, Mr. Speaker, the word bile has been used, the word dirty scum has been used and some other unparliamentary language.

MR. SPEAKER (Mr. Stagg): The word vile or bile and scum are certainly expressions that this particular Speaker is not going to accept as parliamentary and if the honourable member have words that impart anything of that derogatory nature, they will be interfered with immediately.

MR. B. ROWE: Let us be clear on it, Sir. I know Your Honour is giving a ruling in good faith on what he perceives to be the fact situation. The honourable member for St. Barbe North, as I understood it and as Your Honour understood it this way, well, well and good, what he was talking about was some epitaphs used by members on the other side in respect to the member for Bell Island, and Hansard bears it out. I did not understand him as using the words, he is talking about that kind of

language being hurled around the House. That is all, as I understood it, Your Honour.

MR. SPEAKER (Mr. Stagg): Indeed, I did misunderstand the honourable member, and if he were making the point that these words were unparliamentary, I certainly bear with him.

MR. FRED ROWE: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am simply pointing out that the language of this House is what has become the issue in this particular case and not the documentation which should be at stake. I refer, Sir, to Hansard, page 2170, "Mr. Moores; 'No, no, Mr. Speaker, it a matter of paying attention to the gentleman, it is the matter of listening to the absolute bile that comes from the guts of a totally useless and absolutely incompetent individual.'"

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: That is parliamentary, Sir.

MR. F. ROWE: Now, Sir, is that parliamentary?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Who used that?

MR. ROWE: The honourable the Premier, Mr. Speaker, used that kind of language and this is what has become the issue as a result of the documentation that has been presented by my colleague from Bell Island and I submit, Sir, that however boring it may be for honourable members on the other side of the House -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Was the Premier ruled out of order?

MR. ROWE: The Premier was not ruled out of order, Mr. Speaker.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: No breach of privilege?

MR. ROWE: No breach of privilege. No unparliamentary language.

Now, Mr. Speaker, however boring it may be for honourable members on the other side of the House, I am going to go through the documentation once again in the hope that it will be reported to the people of Newfoundland, they will get the facts as presented. Well, if there is not a soul up there, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that the honourable Minister of Justice see to it that the press is up there.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: The Minister of Justice is gone.

MR. ROWE: Thank you. Sir, I will go through once again the documentation because I feel that this is what the people have to hear in order to understand the motion before the floor of the House.

Now, Sir, on February 8, my colleague from Bell Island put a question to the honourable the Minister of Finance. Sir, the question as recorded on page 104 of the verbatim report is this: "Would the minister give the House some details of the agreement that was negotiated with Bavarian Brewery, I think it is Labatts, to take over Bison Brewery at Stephenville? I would like for the minister especially to tell us what has happened to the outstanding taxes that are due to the Province by Bison Brewery?"

Now, Sir, the honourable the Minister of Finance did take some time to answer the question. He admitted that the question came as a surprise and a bit of a shock to him and that it was somewhat of an embarrassing question. We can well understand why now, Sir, it was somewhat of an embarrassing question but the minister's answer to the question was this: "Unfortunately after we assumed office and investigated the whole matter, it turned out that there was no

agreement, no agreement between the government and Bison Brewing Company Limited that had any binding effect whatsoever that Bison Brewing would repay this amount of \$410,000 approximately. It turns out to be \$407,000. Although we tried to pursue the matter and had the revenue bonds forwarded to us, that was never resolved and our legal advice when Labatts said that they were interested in acquiring the Bison assets and the question arose in connection with the \$410,000 is that we had no claim against Bison Brewing Company Limited at all in connection with the \$410,000."

Now, Sir, as the speakers before me have mentioned, this legal advice I understand was the advice of one lawyer in the Justice Department. If the government were sincere in trying to get this \$407,000 back, I would submit, Sir, that the advice of more than one lawyer should have been sought under these particular circumstances.

AN HON. MEMBER: Should have gone to court on it.

MR. F. B. ROWE: Or should have gone to court on it.

Now, Sir, this was the answer given by the Hon. Minister of Finance to the question put by my colleague from Bell Island. Now, Sir, what did the Member for Bell Island do? The Member for Bell Island got some documentations that indicated beyond any shadow of a doubt or certainly raised questions as to whether there was an agreement or not. Again honourable members on the other side attempted to drag a big, large, red herring across this by suggesting that my friend is an agent of one John Doyle. "Where did he get his information?" - this sort of a thing.

Now, Sir, I would submit that it is completely irrelevant where the Member for Bell Island got his documentation. It is completely irrelevant, unless the documentations were forgeries. In that case there might be some questions raised. If they are legitimate documents, what does it matter where the documentation comes from? Honourable members of the press get information from certain reliable sources and sometimes the only way they can get

this information is to assure the person or persons where they are getting the information from that their names will not be divulged. There is nothing strange about that.

Now, Sir, what was the first piece of documentation? There was an Order-in-Council, dated December 14, 1970. It said this, Sir: "Ordered that consequent upon the sale of Atlantic Brewery Limited, Stephenville, to Bison Petroleum and Minerals Limited and with respect to the amount of \$407,000 owed by the former company to the Government of Newfoundland, the undertaking of Bison Petroleum and Minerals Limited to repay the said amount by the issue to the government of interest free revenue bonds redeemable in equal annual payments over a period of ten years be and is hereby approved." An Order-in-Council Sir.

Now did my friend from Bell Island not have the right or more still was he not duty bound to bring this before the floor of the House? It questions whether or not there was an agreement - in contradiction to the answer that the honourable member got from the Minister of Finance on February 8, 1974, Friday. Sir, what was the other piece of documentation? There was a letter, Sir, written by one John C. Crosbie to Bison Petroleum and Minerals Limited. "Dear Sirs: On December 14, 1970, a Minute of Executive Council indicated that your company consequent upon the sale of Atlantic Brewery Limited would undertake to pay to the Newfoundland Liquor Commission the sum of approximately \$407,000 by the issue to the government of interest-free revenue bonds redeemable in equal annual installments over a period of ten years. Signed by the Hon. Minister of Finance."

I ask you again, Sir, was not my friend from Bell Island duty bound with this evidence now to come into this House and present it to the House?

MR. BARRY: The Hon. Minister of Mines and Energy will have his chance to make a contribution to this debate. I sincerely hope

that he does not do as some of his other honourable colleagues have done and that is attempt to drag red herrings over the documentation as has been sincerely and honestly and properly and in a parliamentary fashion presented in this House without one objection from the Chair on that particular day, from the Speaker's Chair.

Now, Sir, on March 13, 1972, the Hon. Minister of Finance got a reply from L. D. Martin, III, Vice-President of Bison Brewing Company Limited. "We hereby confirm that Bison Brewing Company has undertaken to pay the Newfoundland Liquor Commission the amount of \$407,000 by issue to the government of interest-free revenue bonds redeemable in equal installments over a period of ten years."

AN HON. MEMBER: There is no quorum, Mr. Speaker.

AN HON. MEMBER: We have a quorum.

MR. F.B. ROWE: Now, Mr. Speaker, this is the third piece of evidence that my colleague from Bell Island presented that gave some kind of an indication that there was an agreement. Whether it was a small "a" or a large "A" a verbal agreement or a written agreement or any kind of an agreement, it certainly gives a strong suggestion that there was an agreement. My colleague simply presented this to the honourable House of Assembly.

Now, Sir, on June 4, 1973, Mr. D. Peper, Comptroller and Deputy Minister of Finance, wrote Mr. John C. Doyle concerning the outstanding debt and it reads as follows: In a letter of June 19, 1972, you advised the Minister of Finance that your local counsel in St. John's, Mr. Donald Dawe, was preparing the necessary documents for the issuance to the government of \$407,000 in principal amount of non-interest bearing revenue bonds. We have heard nothing further on this matter although the minister has requested your comments on two occasions. We have been advised by Mr. Dawe's office that the documents were sent for your approval some months ago."

Now, Sir, why would all this correspondence be going between the Deputy Minister of Finance and the Comptroller, the Minister of Finance and Mr. Doyle and back from L.B. Martin, if the government themselves did not feel that there was in fact an agreement? However, the Minister of Finance, on February 8, said that there was no agreement. On July 5, an ultimatum signed by the Minister of Finance was forwarded to one John C. Doyle giving him one month or by August 9, 1973, to settle this matter or action would be taken against the company.

AN HON. MEMBER: Where did you get the copy of the letter?

MR. NEARY: Where did I get what?

AN HON. MEMBER: Where did you get the copy of the letter?

MR. NEARY: The copy of the letter? Anybody could have given it to me including brother Andrew, but he did not.

AN HON. MEMBER: In Robin Hood Bay.

MR. NEARY: I got it down in Robin Hood Bay. That is right.

MR. BARRY: Trafficking in the legal documents?

MR. NEARY: No it is not in the legal documents (remainder inaudible)

MR. SPEAKER (Stagg): Order please!

MR. F.B. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Mines and Energy has joined his colleagues in dragging red herrings across the issue at hand.

MR. BARRY: (Inaudible)

MR. F.B. ROWE: The minister apologizes, Mr. Speaker, let that be recorded. This letter, Mr. Speaker, says it is difficult to see how government can permit this brewery to continue operating if the brewery will not meet its commitments to the government as outlined above. "I therefore now advise you that unless this matter is settled to our satisfaction within one month or by August 9, the government will proceed to take action against the company. This is our final notice to you, so that if nothing further is heard from you we will be proceeding after the above mentioned date."

Now, Sir, what kind of language is this if there is no agreement? The honourable the Minister of Finance must have felt that there was some semblance of an agreement in order for these pieces of correspondence to have been passed back and forth. On August 20, 1973, there was another communication. This time, again from the Comptroller and Deputy Minister of Finance, and this was forwarded to Bison's lawyer enclosing a copy of Order-in-Council numbered 977-70. It reads, Sir: "I have been asked by my minister to reply to your letter to him, dated August 3, 1973, with respect to the above named company. As per your request I am enclosing herewith a copy of Order-in-Council 977-70, which was passed on December 14, 1970. A reply to the minister's letter of July 5, 1973, to Mr John C. Doyle pertaining to certain matters to be settled between Bison Brewing Company Limited and the government, would be appreciated before August 27, 1973."

AN HON. MEMBER: Why August 27?

MR. F.B. ROWE: Now, Sir, in that Order-in-Council the honourable minister, from the Department of Justice, ordered that with reference to the proposed purchase by Labatts Breweries of Canada, Limited, or associated company Labatts, from Bison Brewery Limited or any associated company buys back the assets of Bison located at Stephenville, in view of advice received by the honourable the Minister of Finance from the Department of Justice, the honourable the minister be and he is hereby authorized to inform Labatts that dependent upon the completion of (this is a tough copy to read, Mr. Speaker) the sale of the assets of Bison to Labatts, to be affected by the 31st. of March 1974..."

And do you know what it says, Mr. Speaker? "The government will not be taking action against Bison and/or Bison Petroleum and Minerals Limited for the payment of the amount of \$407,000 owed to the former Newfoundland Liquor Commission by Atlantic Brewery Company Limited in respect of which Bison Petroleum and Minerals Limited undertook, pursuant to Order-in-Council 977-70, to repay the said amount by the issue to the government of interest free revenue bonds redeemable in equal annual payments over a ten year period."

Sir, a complete turnabout,

a complete turnabout on August 20, 1973 when the letter was forwarded to the lawyers for Bison.

(b) (c) The government does not propose to implement Order in Council 1242-71 regarding the exemption of Bison from the payment of retail sales tax in respect of the purchase by it of the assessed assets of Atlantic Brewery Company Limited and that a claim will be thus made against them.

Now, Sir, the point to be noted here is that there was a complete turnabout on the part of the honourable the Minister of Finance, a complete turnabout, Sir. My honourable colleague from Bell Island presented this documentation and also tabled, Mr. Speaker, information to the effect that the honourable the Minister of Finance has financial interests in other companies and they include director and secretary of Gaden's Limited, Gaden's West Limited, Realities Limited. Sir, as my colleague pointed out, Gaden's Limited is a subsidiary of Labatts.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: They only make soft drinks there.

MR. F. ROWE: They only make soft drinks but do they not have something to do with delivery, Mr. Speaker? They distribute the beer.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: They distribute the beer and in places they sell the beer.

MR. F. ROWE: Now, Mr. Speaker, my honourable colleague also presented the fact that the negotiations or the legal work were carried out by the honourable member for Placentia East and that he is a partner in the law firm of Aylward, Crosbie and Collins. Sir, it is so my colleague did present this documentation to this House of Assembly and suggested that there was very definite conflict of interest situation with respect to this documentation.

Now, Sir, I submit that if the honourable the Minister of Finance is innocent of any charges that he feels have been made against him, then he should put it to the test, put it to the test. Now, Sir, what kind of a test is this here in this honourable House? There are two parties, Sir, thirty-two members sitting on one side of the House and nine members sitting on the other side of the House.

Why, the honourable the member for Labrador South said himself that this is a partisan argument. Sir, I submit that it is, has developed into and is a partisan argument. Sir, it is a partisan debate and there will be a partisan vote in this honourable House. Now, Sir, I cannot use the expression kangaroo court because it has been ruled out of order once or twice already but, Sir, let me merely say that the case is not being put to the test. The only way that it can be put to the test is through some sort of a judicial enquiry or a committee on privileges.

MR. BARRY: A quorum please, Mr. Speaker.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Mr. Speaker, is anybody going to count the House? Is the clerk going to count the House?

MR. SPEAKER (MR. STAGG): If the honourable member vacates the Chamber, he is not to speak as he waltzes in through the door.

We have a quorum.

MR. F. ROWE: You have to use repetition or brute force, Mr. Speaker, on some honourable members on the other side just to get them to understand.

MR. SPEAKER (MR. STAGG): Order, please!

Partisan jibes or any other type of repartee across the floor can soon make this debate degenerate into something that I am sure all honourable members have witnessed on too many occasions. I ask of all honourable members, especially honourable members to my left, that the honourable member for St. Barbe North does have the right to be heard in silence. I ask that that rule be observed.

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

I was saying, Mr. Speaker, that as a consequence of the documentation provided by my colleague and friend from Bell Island, if the Minister of Finance is really sincere, I would submit that he would not pass sentence and then have this honourable House judge the guilt or innocence of the honourable the member for Bell Island. Because, Sir, there is no doubt in my mind that the government

will vote along party lines in this particular motion as presented by the honourable the Minister of Finance.

Now, Sir, I would like to refer ever so briefly to some comments made by the honourable the Premier. Sir, the honourable the Premier simply said when he stood in his place in this House in speaking to this motion such things as the honourable member for Bell Island has warped the facts. Sir, the facts were presented to the honourable House and they were tabled in this honourable House and they were not warped. They could not have been warped, they were presented and tabled in this honourable House and by the way, Mr. Speaker, I might add that the honourable the Premier did not give one example, not one example of facts having been warped by the honourable member for Bell Island, neither, Sir, did he give any proof of the statement that this House has been never more democratic than it is at the present time.

Sir, he said that the honourable the member for Bell Island was making irresponsible personal attacks and the honourable the Premier call for a free vote on his particular side of the House. Sir, no rebuttable of the documentation presented by the honourable the member for Bell Island, no rebuttable whatsoever.

Sir, I stand by with no reservation whatsoever in supporting the charges made by my friend and colleague from Bell Island. This is not the place for the trial. I support every single word that the member for Bell Island uttered and I stand to be thrown out and included in the list to be thrown out of this House for fourteen working days. Sir, the honourable member for Bell Island was duty bound to bring before this House the facts and the documentation that he did bring before the House. At no time, I repeat, was the honourable member ruled out of order on the grounds of using unparliamentary language or libelous language or slanderous language, at no time, Sir, when he made his presentation, at no time, and I feel, Sir, that the member did have a prima facie case in this instance. However, the Chair,

the honourable the Speaker, ruled that he did not have a prima facie case. We appealed it and obviously we did not agree with the Speaker on this particular point, but we respect his ruling. We have no other choice.

But, Sir, I submit that the honourable the member for Bell Island was duty bound to bring these matters before the House. He would have been negligent in his duties if he did not bring it before the House and if ever a person should be thrown out of a House for fourteen sitting days, it should be a person who had this information at hand and did not present it before the House of Assembly. That is where a member should be asked to resign or be thrown out of the House for fourteen days. Anybody who has possession of this evidence is duty bound, particularly if he is an elected member of this House, to bring it before the House and have this whole thing brought up by a nonpartisan group of people, a judicial enquiry or some body similar to that.

Sir, this is certainly not the place for the honourable Minister of Finance to ground out the documentation presented by my colleague, bring in a motion that has the sentence, the fourteen day sentence in the very first sentence of the motion. Then he goes on from there.

Sir, I would like to go on record as supporting the case of the member for Bell Island. I would like to go on record as saying I will vote against this motion. If ever there was a motion that should have been voted against, this is the motion, Sir. As one of my colleagues mentioned before, the Minister of Finance is the victim, the judge, the jury, the accuser, the executioner, all in one motion.

Sir, I would submit and I would recommend that the honourable the Minister of Finance, if I could get his attention from the words of wisdom coming from the honourable member for Burgeo, I would suggest Mr. Speaker, that the honourable Minister of Finance amend his motion, amend his motion and have this whole case submitted to a judicial

enquiry or some nonpartisan body because, Sir, this is a snow job. This motion is a complete snow job. The vote is going to be taken along partisan lines. It is a partisan argument. It is nothing else. Members on the other side of the House, Mr. Speaker, have been suggesting for months, indeed years, that they will get the member for Bell Island.

MR. NEARY: In the House, outside the House, in court, outside of court -

MR. F. ROWE: Get him, in court, outside of court or in the House, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I identify myself with the remarks made by the member for Bell Island. My colleague for White Bay South has identified and associated himself with the remarks

made by the Member for Bell Island so has my colleague from White Bay North. Therefore, Sir, if logic prevail we should all get the same sentence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Labrador North:

MR. M. WOODWARD: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a few brief comments on the motion that was moved by the Member for St. John's West, the honourable Minister of Finance, and seconded, so ably seconded I should say, by the honourable the Premier, to kick our colleague the Member for Bell Island out of the House for fourteen days, Sir.

When I sit in the House and look across, as I have been doing for the last couple of years, and try to analyze in my simple way the expressions and the emotions of the members on the other side of the House, I am not at all surprised that the honourable Minister of Finance would stoop to the level of bringing such a motion into this honourable House. It is indeed a very distasteful piece of work. I have seen on a number of occasions since I have been sitting here, where a number of members on the other side of the House warranted the same treatment that the honourable minister is giving to the honourable Member for Bell Island but it has a different motive.

Indeed, when you look at the numbers and you think in terms of the method and I am sure that the lawyers who were sitting here tonight, if they were sitting in court and looking at a jury and seeing the expressions on the faces of the people and they were looking from this side at that side, Mr. Speaker, I am very much afraid that the case presented by any legal counsel would be a very weak case. They would know before they started that this particular case is not going to be judged by a jury or it is not going to be judged by the honourable the Speaker in the Chair, because we do not have that right.

The supreme judge of this particular motion and no doubt it will be moved and passed in the House, is the honourable the

Minister of Finance. He is the supreme judge of this particular thing. If he had known, Mr. Speaker, that he would not have been the supreme judge he would not have presented this particular motion in the House.

I feel this is one of the things that our people and the people throughout this province feel is wrong with this particular case. Why we should sit as laymen to judge a particular member in this bull pen, if you want to refer to it as that, because the conduct of the House has been nothing better than a bull pen and the honourable the Minister of Finance maybe contributed very much towards this type of behaviour.

Getting back to the facts of the case and the allegations that were produced by the honourable the Member for Bell Island and the circumstances surrounding the case, one of the things that surprise me, possibly more than anything else in this case, is that there was no effort made on the part of the Minister of Finance or there was no attempt made on the part of the Minister of Finance himself to try to recover that debt of \$407,000 from the Labatts people.

Looking back over the last couple of years at the methods that the honourable minister has used to recover funds, loans and grants and other funding of that nature that the government have put out, he made a statement going back two years ago on loans that were out to various business people throughout this province and he said in this House that we will collect that money. If it is owed to this province we will collect that particular money. I look at the method and we never referred to

and maybe I will not say there was such a conversation, Mr. Speaker, but I surmise a conversation going on with his colleague and his partner or his alleged partner or in the law firm of Alyward, Crosbie and Collins, surrounding that particular case. I wonder if it was the case where Mr. Alyward would say to Mr. Crosbie, "What do we do now that I am negotiating on behalf of Labatts to buy out the assets of Bison Brewing? What do we do with that \$407,000.00 that Bison owes or supposedly owes the Liquor Commission?" I wonder if that conversation was ever brought up?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Never.

MR. WOODWARD: Never mentioned.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Never mentioned. Never, never.

MR. WOODWARD: You never consulted with the honourable Minister of Finance during your negotiations and acting on behalf of that company called Labatts, never consulted with the government negotiator?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Never, never, never.

MR. WOODWARD: Never mentioned.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: No.

MR. WOODWARD: The words were never mentioned.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: That seems a very rare -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: I hope his fee was not very high.

MR. WOODWARD: Maybe he did not get a fee.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: He was acting on behalf of a client.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: Yes, indeed, it is foolish.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Why do you not pass the order in council?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. WOODWARD: Why did you write to try to recover the funds?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. WOODWARD: Mr. Speaker, these are, you know, if I were acting on behalf of the Government, I would definitely have written and try to make

an attempt and you were not dealing with a petty-ante company when you were dealing with Labatts. Another \$407,000.00, a \$407,000.00 to the Labatts organization in Canada, is that to be considered to be a lot of money? You know, we see today when we look at the amount of money that is being charged to the liquor lounges and the other beer joints and entertainment establishments throughout the country, I am sure that Labatts could equally afford to pay that debt rather than the amount of monies that have been levied now against the establishments in this Province.

Mr. Speaker, these are the questions that I ask myself and I am sure these were the questions that the lawyer acting on behalf of Labatts had negotiated with, whoever the negotiator was, with the Provincial Government which in this case was the Minister of Finance. That was never mentioned, Mr. Speaker. That conversation never came up. That seems like it is a funny peice of business when you know, when you look at the honourable Minister of Finance and he says to everyone in this Province, "We are going to collect our money, if you owe the Government money, we are going to get it. You had better be prepared to pay because we are going out to collect."

But why in this particular case, this isolated case, with an elected commission and the statutes of the Province where they could legally collect this amount of money, went into a risk, why could they not? Why could they not? They could have gone and said, "Look, you do not produce any beer until you pay us the money." Would it stop the sale of the Brewery in Stephenville? Would it have done it? Maybe it would have. Is there any indication that they would not have bought the brewery in the event that they had to pay this debt?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: It was included in the original price.

MR. WOODWARD: Sure, it was included in the original price. It is a giveaway, Mr. Speaker and the honourable Minister of Finance knows very well that it was a giveaway. It shows his weakness to collect funds on behalf of this Government, his very weakness. No, Mr. Speaker, it was not his weakness. He had a soft spot in his heart for an old client, so he decided that we should forget about the

forget about the \$407,000. Why should we disturb Labatts by asking them to pay us \$407,000?

Hoping I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that it would never come up in this honourable House, but the Hon. Member for Bell Island got a hold of the information and I think it was very right and proper that he should present it to the House and present it in the fashion by which he did. Consequently, as a result of that, we have before us, this particular motion to have the honourable member suspended from the House for fourteen days. When you go throughout this province, it is not something that the people in Newfoundland are at all supporting today. It is bad. It is bad for the Minister of Finance to come into the House with his statement and say, I am going to help the honourable minister and have it seconded. The motion comes in and it is seconded by the Premier. That is conspiracy, Mr. Speaker. It is conspiracy on the part of the government and the caucus to suspend a member from the House who was indeed doing a good job and representing the people of his constituency, Bell Island, very well and indeed has a lot of popularity in this province. He has a lot of popularity in this province. He has more than the Hon. Member for Trinity North or the Minister of Finance.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. WOODWARD: No, the honourable member would not want it. The honourable member has his own type of popularity which I am sure is very good.

Mr. Speaker, this was indeed a trick, a trick on behalf of the government to silence the Member for Bell Island. That is bad business.

Now, the Hon. Member for St. John's South has stated that he is saddened by the fact that if this motion is passed in the House, and the honourable member is suspended, he is saddened by the fact that the people who sent the honourable member to the House here, the people of Bell Island, will be left without representation in the House.

MR. NEARY: The honourable members should have been at the public meeting that was held over there this afternoon, 700 people turned out, to hear their views.

MR. WOODWARD: I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that if the honourable member is removed from the House for a period of fourteen sitting days, there is no doubt that he will be heard from through many, many forms. I am sure that the media will be hearing from him and his constituents will be hearing from him as well. This indeed is something that will not in a sense, bring to this House the behaviour, the respect that the Hon. Member for St. John's South

talked so highly of tonight when he was making his presentation. It is not going to do it, Mr. Speaker. The behavior of the people on the other side of the House must be disciplined by the honourable the Speaker. Until that time comes, then the behavior of the House will be the same as it has been for the last two years.

One of the greatest offenders, Mr. Speaker, has been and will continue to be the honourable Minister of Finance.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: No.

MR. WOODWARD: Oh, yes, yes, he has not learned - a very difficult, very difficult man, very difficult man. He is a very difficult man, Mr. Speaker, because I am sure deep down in the heart of the honourable minister that he feels that a large number of people in this House are not contributing very much to the House. He feels that he, although elected by the people for St. John's West, should have the major say in this particular House. Therefore if he is going to be interrupted, if he is going to be criticized in the House, which he should be, then I am going to try to do something; as he is doing now in this particular act to silence the honourable the member for Bell Island.

What would you consider that to be, Mr. Speaker? Would you consider that to be a bullied act? Is that unparliamentary?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: No.

MR. WOODWARD: When someone is bullied into being silenced, is that unparliamentary, Mr. Speaker? It is not unparliamentary?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: No, that is right.

MR. WOODWARD: It is the truth. When someone comes in and says -

MR. EVANS: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: That is all right. It is only the "Burp".

MR. WOODWARD: It was the "Burp" was it?

MR. ROBERTS: Only the "Burp".

MR. WOODWARD: The "Burgeon Burp".

Now, Mr. Speaker, I consider the allegations that were made -
I support the allegations that were made in this particular presentation

by the honourable the member for Bell Island. I think that the facts were collected. They were analysed. He insisted on what was going on. He made the allegations in the form that he thought was fitting and in his style, as my colleague the member for White Bay South presented. I support those allegations. Maybe the honourable the Minister of Finance will take his turn within the next two months or six weeks or whatever period of time this House is sitting to expel all of the opposition.

It can be done. You only have to move a motion. You only have to have the House Leader to call the motion when it is presented in the House. We can go on for the next six weeks calling motions of expulsion. A good deal, but so what? Maybe by doing that, we would accomplish more than we are already accomplishing.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: We will probably do it. Probably this would be a good act, continue on for the next six weeks on stupid pettiness like this particular motion that sits here today.

It was very simple to have a select committee of the House or someone or a judicial committee to look into the allegations. We would not have taken up the time of the House. We would have carried on. The minister would have been able to get his budget down before the end of the months. But, no, Sir, we had to have that vindictiveness. We indeed had to show the people of Newfoundland who is the boss in this House. Has to deal - the power, the boss. That is what we had to do.

So, the honourable Minister of Finance called the Premier aside and said, "Look, I am going to get Steve Neary. Here is the motion. I want you to second it. I will bring it into the House. We will have a caucus. We will throw him out. We are not going to throw him out for a day. Just a day and we will not even miss him. We are going to throw him out for fourteen days. Kick him out of the House for fourteen days."

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: Yes, indeed. It is very,

very funny. If you heard the stories I heard in Corner Brook over the weekend, the honourable Member for Burgeo, they were very funny stories too. I would not wish to tell those stories in the House and neither would I tell those stories in the House. Mr. Speaker, I think it is very unfitting to tell those stories in the House. I do not think this would be the right thing to do. I would not want to embarrass any member in this House.

When I look at this particular motion and consider, if I had presented this in good faith, which the honourable Member for Bell Island did, in good faith and see a motion of this nature brought into the House, when I looked and I knew there was no other recourse but to be expelled from the House, then I consider this to be a very demoralizing piece of business in this democratic society, very demoralizing indeed.

When I sit here and think that it can happen, I can come in tomorrow morning or tomorrow afternoon, whenever the House is sitting, make an allegation and the next thing the order is called and the motion is before the House. "You are going to be expelled!" Is there a limit to the number of days you can be expelled?

AN HON. MEMBER: There is no limit.

MR. WOODWARD: There is no limit you can just be thrown out forever.

AN HON. MEMBER: There was a whole bunch thrown out three years ago.

MR. NEARY: For how long.

AN HON. MEMBER: Three days.

MR. NEARY: One day.

MR. WOODWARD: Three days? There is no limit. So he could have easily put sixty sitting days on the thing and said: "Out you go for sixty sitting days."

MR. W.N. ROWE: Even his own crowd would not have gone along with that.

MR. WOODWARD: They would not have gone along with it?

MR. W.N. ROWE: (Inaudible)

MR. WOODWARD: Not even if he had used a stick on them they would not have gone along with it? No?

Mr. Speaker, I think this is a piece of business that should have never - I consider if you are going to discipline members of this House there should be a committee set up to do just that but not that the majority of the House vote on a motion or a resolution when you know very well what the result is going to be. This is the case. This was the case when this motion was brought into the House.

When I look at the allegations that have been made, that the Minister of Finance deliberately misled the House, that the Minister of Finance is guilty of barefaced deceit and that the Minister of Finance deliberately deceived the House and misled the people of Newfoundland, I want to get in here. On the conflict of interest thing that the Member for Placentia East was so worked up over, unfortunately I was not in the House on that Monday, I did not get back from my district, but, Mr. Speaker, if what I am hearing is right and from reading Hansard maybe if we had the authority to bring in such a motion and if the House was at all misbehaved on this particular motion it was the honourable Member for Placentia East who did misbehave in the House. He was not called to order by the Speaker but rambled on, as I understand it, for a considerable length of time making allegations of one kind or another against the Member for Bell Island.

Why was the - and I should not question the Speaker's ruling. Should I not?

MR. W.N. ROWE: You are not allowed to reflect on the Speaker.

MR. WOODWARD: Should never reflect on the Speaker in the House. It should never be done. It should never be done, Mr. Speaker, so I will not do that. But when you think in terms of conflict of interest and after hearing the Leader of the Opposition and hearing my colleague the Member for White Bay South explain

the circumstances surrounding the involvement of the Minister of Finance and the law firm of Aylward, Crosbie and Collins, one is led to believe, Mr. Speaker, one is led to believe that there is no doubt there is a conflict of interest but then everyone is entitled to their or his or her particular I guess - whatever the situation is in this case here.

I am trying to kill time until eleven o'clock, Mr. Speaker, do you want me to move the adjournment? Mr. Speaker, before I move the adjournment here, I would like to move a motion, an amendment to this particular motion and the amendment is seconded by my colleague, the member for Twillingate, and the amendment reads as follows, Mr. Speaker; "That all words after 'that' be deleted and the followed be substituted therefor , "the matter raised by the member for Bell Island in the House on Monday, March 4, 1974, with reference to the Minister of Finance and the statements made by the Minister of Finance thereon, be referred to a committee on privileges and elections."

MR. MARSHALL: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

The amendment as I heard it, as raised by the honourable member for Labrador North, proposed by him, is out of order because it is an amendment which really negates the main motion. It negates the main motion because the main motion specifically provides for the expulsion of the honourable the member for Bell Island. It provides for a specific remedy in there and to propose it go to a select committee would be an amendment negating the motion itself.

The motion, Mr. Speaker, motion (5) on the Order Paper, stipulates that the statements comprised a libel on the member for St. John's West, his conduct as a member of the House of Assembly, and stipulates that the member be suspended for these reasons. Now as I understand the gist of the motion is now that it be referred to a committee on privileges and elections which is another motion altogether, an amendment to the motion, and because it negates the main motion is out of order.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, I submit that the point of order is not well taken. The parliamentary rulings are that an amendment is not in order if it achieves a purpose that could be achieved by negating the main motion, but, Sir, that is obviously not correct here. The amendment moved by my friend, the gentleman from Labrador North, would serve a purpose that could not be achieved by negating the main motion. If one votes against the main motion, Mr. Speaker, if that were to carry, the matter of the charges raised by the gentleman from Bell Island and the charges made by the gentleman from St. John's West would never again be considered. I mean that would be the end of it in a parliamentary sense.

The point of the motion, Sir, the point of the amendment, is to refer then to a standing committee of this House. I think the precedences are quite clear. The motion is quite in order or the amendment to the motion is in order. Of course the amendment is quite in order and that it achieves a purpose that cannot be achieved by simply negating the main motion. A vote against the main motion would achieve something that is completely different from the purpose which would be achieved if the amendment is accepted.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it is nearly eleven, perhaps Your Honour may wish to - my colleague still has the floor, of course, if Your Honour would wish to consider this overnight, or Your Honour may wish to make a ruling now. There may be some other argument on the point but in any event I do suggest that the amendment is in order and that my colleague should then be permitted to speak to it and any other member who wish to speak should be allowed to.

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Speaker, before you rule on that amendment, I would like to speak to it.

MR. ROBERTS: The amendment or to the point of order?

MR. CROSBIE: Point of order as to whether this amendment is in order. I refer to Beauchesne page 169 where it says; "It is not an amendment to a motion to move that the question go to a Committee."

MR. CROSBIE: I submit it is not a proper amendment anyway.

It is not a proper amendment of course also for the reason which the honourable House Leader of the Government has mentioned.

I refer also to page 171 of Beauchesne, subsection (3) which says; "An amendment setting forth a proposition dealing with a matter which is foreign to the proposition involved in the main motion is not relevant and cannot be moved."

I would refer, Mr. Speaker, to what this motion is that is before the House now, motion (5). The subject of motion (5) is that unparliamentary statements were made about me, a member of this House, the libel was made on a member of the House, that is what the motion is about. Unsubstantiated charges were made about a member of the House, it is unparliamentary to make such charges, that is the subject of this whole motion and this motion asks the House to impose a penalty because of these faults and unsubstantiated charges. The moving of a motion that the whole matter be referred to a committee of the House is simply another repetition of these unparliamentary charges done in another matter and is totally contrary to the motion, totally contrary to anything in parliamentary annals. It is infamous.

MR. SPEAKER: It being now eleven o'clock I shall leave the Chair, I shall consider the amendment and rule on it at the earliest opportunity and the appropriate opportunity tomorrow.

I do leave the Chair until 3:00 P.M. tomorrow, Friday.