

PRELIMINARY  
UNEDITED  
TRANSCRIPT

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

FOR THE PERIOD:

3:00 p.m - 6:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 1979

The House met at 3: P.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER. (Mr. Ottenheimer): Order, please!

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The hon. Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, before you get into ministerial statements, I have just learned a couple of minutes ago that the present Bishop of Grand Falls, A.L. Penney, has been appointed Archbishop elect of St. John's as a result of the retirement of Archbishop Skinner. I think I would be remiss in my duties, Mr. Speaker, if I did not express on behalf of not only, I am sure, members on this side of the House but members on the opposite side of the House our congratulations to Bishop Penney on his elevation to this new office by his church. I think most hon. members are aware of Bishop Penney's, now Archbishop elect Penney's contribution to his church and to the Province. I think he was born in St. John's, is fifty-five years old and had spent some time at the Basilica before becoming Bishop of Grand Falls and now Archbishop elect of St. John's, and that at the same time to wish to Archbishop Skinner on his retirement a very rewarding retirement time.

So, Mr. Speaker, if it is in order, and I am sure it is, that we would like to go on record, and I am sure the Leader of the Opposition will join me, in wishing Bishop Penney, now Archbishop elect of St. John's congratulations on his new office and we are sure he will do just as good a job there as he did in his previous positions in the ecclesiastical field of the Roman Catholic Church.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

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MR. W. ROWE:

Mr. Speaker, I would very much like to associate myself with the remarks of the hon. the Premier. I am not sure if the Premier moved a motion; if he did, Sir, I would like to second it on behalf of this side of the House, a motion of congratulations for Bishop Penney, now Archbishop elect, on his elevation to replace Archbishop Skinner, and also, of course,

Mr. W. N. Rowe: our warmest regards to Archbishop Skinner after long years of dedicated service to church and community in Newfoundland. Archbishop Skinner, of course, Sir, is a very, very well respected, tremendously well known theologian, as well as the head of the church, the Catholic Church in this Province, and everybody wishes him all the best in his retirement.

Bishop Penney is well known to every Newfoundlander I am sure, Mr. Speaker, and every one wishes him all the best as well in his new job which carries with it some very onerous burdens and duties. One thing, I am not sure if the Premier mentioned it or not, but Bishop Penney was for a number of years parish priest in Marystown, and I am a little bit sorry that the hon. member for Burin-Placentia West (Mr. Canning) is not here at the moment, because I am sure he has the fondest memories of those days as well.

I am delighted, Sir, to associate ourselves with the remarks of the hon. the Premier and to second the motion to send words of congratulations and best wishes.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (MR. OTTENHEIMER): It is moved and seconded that suitable letters of congratulations and best wishes be sent to His Excellency Bishop Penney and His Grace Archbishop Skinner. Those in favour "Aye", contrary "Nay", carried.

#### PRESENTING PETITIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Baie Verte-White Bay.

MR. RIDEOUT: Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition on behalf of 291 residents of Burlington, Middle Arm, and Smith's Harbour in my district. The prayer of the petition, Sir, is this; it says that since 1973 four petitions have been sent from the three communities in this area to our district representative for presentation to the House of Assembly requesting that the road from Burlington to the Baie Verte Highway connecting our communities and

Mr. Rideout: the local roads be upgraded. Our roads now are in much worse state of deterioration and with a goodly portion of the Burlington-Baie Verte Highway road being used considerably by huge wood trucks is bound to worsen.

"The residents of Burlington, Smith's Harbour and Middle Arm are fully aware of the present economic situation in our land. However, our first appeal was made in much better time and we are now disturbed at such near indifferences to our situation. Once again we are making an appeal and we are asking for due consideration that action be taken this Spring. We are requesting three things; one, that the Burlington Road to the Baie Verte Highway be straightened and given a good covering of gravel and the guardrails be put near the Burlington Baie Verte Highway intersection. Two, upgrading of the road connecting the three communities and put in guardrails at Perry's Cove and Mill's Cove. And three, pave the local roads in the three communities involved."

MR. T. RIDEOUT:

Mr. Speaker, in speaking in support of the petition, let me point out as does the prayer of the petition that this is not a new request, This request has been made every year to the representative for the area who, by the way, has only been me since 1975, but it has been made every year since 1973, the same request, and I would ask, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. C. Brett) in particular remember and recall the reasonableness of this particular request. Those residents are not demanding, they are not even requesting pavement, All they are requesting, and requesting very reasonably, that the main road connecting the Baie Verte access road to their three communities be straightened out a bit, a bit of gravel put on the top of it, be widened out where necessary and a few guardrails put in where necessary.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would submit to the minister and to the government that there has not been a more reasonable request come before this House as this particular petition. I remember last year presenting the petition and I remember doing it the year before. Their request is so reasonable, They are not asking or demanding pavement, they are just asking that the road be made a little bit better to drive over. They have made that request every year for the past five years but there has not, other than the cutting of a bit of brush in a few places, been any major improvement.

Mr. Speaker, let me add also that the road in question, the Burlington Road, is used very much, very heavily by wood trucks, heavy wood trucks hauling great quantities of wood from the Burlington-Middle Arm area out for processing in the Corner Brook mill. Also, of course, there millions of pounds, I believe it is something like 3 or 3.5 million pounds of fish landed in Smitn's Harbour last year which, one way or another, had to be trucked over that particular road.

MR. T. RIDEOUT.

So, Sir, the economic conditions are there, the request is so reasonable; all they are asking is that the situation be improved. They have not even gone as far yet as to ask for pavement, although I would suggest that the economics of the situation demand, since it is one of the major arterial roads serving three communities on the Baie Verte Peninsula, I would suggest that the situation, the economic situation demand it. The people themselves have not even gone that far. Their request is so reasonable; that the road be straightened, that there would be some gravel put on it so that you would not beat the bottom out of your car driving over it, and that it be widened and a few guardrails put on where necessary.

So, Mr. Speaker, the prayer of the petition is one of the most reasonable prayers of any petition presented to this House and I would hope that the minister would see fit this year to find a few hundred thousand dollars

MR. T. RIDEOUT: his budget, in his department's budget, to do something about it. I would also hope that the Premier, then the last immediate representative for that particular area, would also lend his support and use the support of his office in influencing his minister to ensure that this year something is done about that request that has come in five years in a row.

In closing, let me say to the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Brett), I hope that he will be a little bit more reasonable than his predecessor of last year who, when we asked them to put a bit of liquid calcium on the road, did the bit that the woods trucks moved over only and did not do out in the communities.

Mr. Speaker, I table the petition and asked that it be referred to the department to which it relates.

MR. SPEAKER (MR. OTTENHEIMER): The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. W.N. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the petition presented by the member for Baie Verte - White Bay (Mr. Rideout). Sir, I have seldom heard a more reasonable request in the hon. House from communities wanting their roads upgraded. These three communities - Burlington, Smith's Harbour, Middle Arm - which used to form part of the historic district of Green Bay represented by the Premier until the last redistribution, these three communities, Sir, have, as my hon. colleague has said, made this request time and time again. In the case of the Burlington road, Sir, they are not even asking for pavement, which surprises me. Perhaps they hope that by bending over backwards and being more reasonable than the circumstances call for that they may have their request looked at favourably by the administration. But, Sir, the request made by these communities - the Burlington road to be upgraded, a new coating of gravel and the guard rails and the connecting roads and the pavement through the three communities - is completely reasonable, Mr. Speaker, I certainly hope that the government's sees its way clear, and the new Minister of Transportation and Communications sees his way clear to get this work



MR. W.N. ROWE: done, not an elaborate amount of work, not an extravagant amount of work, but to get this reasonable work done in the upcoming construction season.

MR. SPEAKER (MR. OTTENHEIMER): The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. S. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I support the prayer of the petition presented by my colleague the member for Baie Verte - White (Mr. Rideout) on behalf of his constituents, Sir, in the community of Burlington on the Baie Verte Peninsula. The prayer of the petition is a very reasonable one as been stated by previous speakers.

One may wonder, Mr. Speaker I know, Your Honour, we are not permitted to enter into the realm of debate when we are speaking on petitions, but one cannot help but wonder out loud, Sir, where will the money come from? Where will the money come from to upgrade this road, this reasonable request?

AN HON. MEMBER: We will have to sell the copying machines.

MR. S. NEARY: No, Mr. Speaker, it is not a question of selling the copying machines. It is a matter, Sir, I would think - if I was allowed to say so, Mr. Speaker, if I was allowed to make a suggestion to the government that I am

MR. NEARY: not allowed to make, I would suggest that they follow the recommendation in the Auditor General's Report and that is collect the \$10 million outstanding in SSA tax in this Province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. MARSHALL: A point of order.

MR. SPEAKER (MR. Ottenheimer) A point of order.

MR. MARSHALL: Anticipated by the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) I know or he would not have gotten into this realm. But this is obviously in the realm of debate, we are now involved in petitions and the rule, Standing Order 97, clearly sets forth what may be talked about in supporting a petition.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no doubt that the hon. member did stray from the straight and narrow path. I think that perhaps there was a sign which he followed mistakenly, the sign of course was the reference to the photo-copy machine and both areas of comment really are not related to the prayer of petition.

The hon. member.

MR. NEARY: I thank Your Honour for bringing me to task, Sir, on suggesting to the government that they collect the \$10 million referred to in the Auditor General's Report to help upgrade that road. I am sorry I said that, Sir, and if I suggested to the government that they ground the helicopters I would regret having said that too, Sir, because I know that would not be in order. And if I suggested that they cut out all the political appointments and keep the Norma and Gladys in the Province that would not be in order either, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

Before the point of order on which I interrupted the hon. member.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

Before referring to the point on which I interrupted the hon. member I do have to point

MR. SPEAKER: out to people in the gallery that the rules do not permit any form of participation whether it be showing approval, disapproval, humour, tragedy or whatever. The general public is always welcome to the gallery and all hon. members are pleased to see them here but the rules do not permit their participation in any way.

The point on which interrupted the hon. member was that by stating up the things that he could say if they were in order but saying that he will not say them because they would be out of order although an ingenious device does not bring him within the realm of being in order.

MR. NEARY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and, Sir, just to clue up I of course support the prayer of the petition. I am not allowed to tell the minister where he can get the money. I wish I could, Mr. Speaker. I wish I could enter into a debate on where the minister is going to get the money. I have given the hon. gentleman a couple of clues. I would suggest to the hon. gentleman that he take the Auditor General's Report home tonight, read it

MR. NEARY: himself and then sharpen his pencil and he might be able to find the dollars necessary to upgrade that road, which as I indicated is a very reasonable request. Cut out the extravagance and waste, Sir, that is where the hon. gentleman can get the dollars.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: (Mr. Ottenheimer) The hon. the member for Port au Port.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a petition - well, I have two petitions here, Mr. Speaker. If I could follow the same procedure as yesterday and perhaps have five or six minutes?

MR. SPEAKER: Does the hon. member have leave?

Agreed.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, these petitions come from a community known as Piccadilly Slant, Piccadilly. It is actually one large community, but geographically it is divided in two, one part being known as Piccadilly Slant and the other part being known as Piccadilly Head. The prayer of the petition is that "The drinking water in our community has been shown to be in large measure contaminated, and whereas many people in the area have no water at all, we, the undersigned residents of the community of Piccadilly Head request the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to take steps to provide adequate drinking water in our community."

Mr. Speaker, the prayer of the other petition is similar, and each of those petitions were signed by twenty-three residents of each part of that community. Now as I said, Mr. Speaker, this community runs some five or six miles, and in the community there are areas where there is good drinking water: however, there are two areas of the community from which these

MR. HODDER:                                petitions arise where - well, to start, last year I delivered a petition from the area of Piccadilly Head, and again, these people have petitioned. I believe as well, they have applied to the Department of Municipal Affairs for an unincorporated water programme or a programme for water for unincorporated communities. In the other part of Piccadilly, Mr. Speaker, I had the Department of Health recently go out to test a number of wells in that particular area. Now I might point out to hon. members - and I will table this afterwards - that these water samples are taken as a coliform or a bacteria count per 100 millilitres of water, and greater than four is harmful and the water should be boiled for drinking. I have the results of eight of those wells which were recently taken and as I pointed out, the count should not be more than four per 100 millilitres of water. And I will just read out the numbers without reading the names: one well was sixteen, another, twenty-six, another thirty-six, again, another twenty-six, sixteen, forty, thirty-six and one hundred and eighty. That

MR. HODDER:

means, Mr. Speaker, that whereas four is dangerous to health, one particular well in that area which people thought because the water tasted good that the whole family was drinking had 180 coliform counts per 100 millimeters of water. Now Mr. Speaker, this is a very, very grave situation. I believe that this is an emergency situation. Now that is in that one area.

Last year before I presented a petition here in the House of Assembly for the other particular area. The Department of Health did a survey. I did not get the reports myself but they were sent to the Piccadilly Head area, the Department of Municipal Affairs sent a team out afterwards and they did a survey and the results were substantially the same and the people were told to boil their drinking water at all costs, or to make sure that there was some sort of chlorination in their wells.

Now, Mr. Speaker, all through this area there are - it is a very flat area, it is very close to sea level. It is an area which just recently had a garbage collection instituted and it is an area which by the government's own admission in which wells cannot be drilled and people can only have surface water. There are quite a few families building new homes there. The water level has become contaminated and these people either do not have any water at all or their water is contaminated with some of them having highly contaminated water.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this I think should almost be declared a disaster area. The people here cannot go to a nearby brook. They have to travel in some cases four and five miles to get water. I will also tell you that the convent at Piccadilly Slant, the sisters there have to bring the water in their cars, drinking water, they have

MR. HODDER: water from an artesian well which is also contaminated there but they must bring drinking water from some distance to the convent.

Mr. Speaker, I do not think that this is a situation that should exist in this Province at this particular time. I feel that every Newfoundlander should have the right to good drinking water or at least some drinking water. And, Mr. Speaker, I would urge the Department of Municipal Affairs, both of these areas have submitted applications to the department or they are in the process of submitting applications, I would urge the minister to further look into this affair. I will table those counts for him with the names and the copies of those counts. I would urge him to please look into this. His officials on the West Coast are already aware of this situation, to look into this matter and for goodness sakes this Summer find them some sources of drinking water because there has been reported cases of children being sick there and

Mr. Hodder: by his department's admission the situation is a very, very grave one. I will refer the petition to the department to which it relates.

MR. SPEAKER (MR. OTTENEHIMER): The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak briefly in support of the petition, Sir. I could not help but noticing the strong feelings that the hon. member had, the hon. gentleman, my colleague had in presenting this petition, Sir, in behalf of his constituents who are looking for something that most people in Newfoundland take for granted and that is just plain ordinary drinking water, cool, clear water. It reminds me of the song, Sir, All day I face the barren waste without a taste of water, cool, clear water.

Mr. Speaker, I might draw to the attention of hon. members of the House that the two names in the petition, the two communities Piccadily Slant and Piccadily Head, very colourful Newfoundland names indeed. But, Sir, I support the petition because in this day and age, Mr. Speaker, it is not good enough, it is not good enough for people to have to go through the trouble and the inconvenience of circulating a petition for drinking water. It is unbelievable. I mean, you know, if you read that in the paper in darkest Africa somewhere, in Idi Amin's country, you know, you would say that, well, you know, you would probably understand it. But here in Canada, in Newfoundland people without any drinking water the drinking water they have is polluted, and you could find that I suppose in numerous communities in Newfoundland. I know I am very concerned personally about the drinking water in Channel-Port aux Basques. I am very concerned about it. And I had the water analyzed recently and there is a fibre in the water similar to an asbestos fibre as a result of asbestos pipes that were used years ago when that waterline was installed. Now there is nothing to be alarmed about at the moment, Sir. I am told by the Memorial University Chemistry Department that analyzed the water that it is not harmful to



Mr. Neary: the digestive system. I may consult , I may look for some free medical advice from the hon. member for Exploits (Dr. Twomey) on that. But it is worth taking a look at. I believe I saw somewhere a year or two ago in a report that the government was undertaking to have tests—an analysis made of all of the drinking water in Newfoundland, the

MR. NEARY: Department of Health. I believe that should be done, Mr. Speaker. I have been in communities in this Province - I do not know if the water is fit to drink in some of the places I have been, there is a brownish colour on a lot of the water. My hon. friend probably thinks it is what comes out off the bottle that makes the water brown but that is not correct.

MR. RIDEOUT: We tested the water system the other day.

MR. NEARY: That is right.

MR. DOODY: Tell us about Bell Island and the shape you left that in.

MR. NEARY: Well I left it in pretty good shape. As a matter of fact the minister would do well to follow the example that was set on Bell Island where they have to depend exclusively on artesian wells, drilled wells for their water supply. The trouble with the policy the government has been following is that they go out and drill these holes. There is enough wells drilled in Newfoundland now to sink her. Down in the Great Northern Peninsula before the 1971 election there was more holes drilled down there, Sir, - it is a wonder she is afloat down there at all. But the trouble is they were left there. They were not even capped.

MR. RIDEOUT: They dry out when the sun gets at them.

MR. NEARY: That is right. No pumps, no pump houses, no hydrants so that the people could come down or hook into the line if they wanted to or bring the water home in barrels. None of this was done. The holes were just put in the ground and nothing was ever done with them. There is one down in Grand Bay West, down in my own district of Channel-Port aux Basques and, Sir, I guarantee you this if the hon. gentleman do not do something about it Dulcie Kettle is not going to stick with the administration very much longer. She is getting kind of fed up.

MR. NEARY:

I support the prayer of the petition, Sir, and I hope that the minister will not think that this is a great joke and just ignore it. These people, Sir, are asking for something that pretty well everybody in Newfoundland today take for granted and that is drinking water.

MR. SPEAKER: (Mr. Ottenheimer)

Hon. member for Burgeo -

Bay d'Espoir.

MR. SIMMONS:

Mr. Speaker, I too want

to rise in support of the petitions presented by my colleague from Port au Port. The prayer of the petitions are very simple, very pointed. They want some drinking water. It is not too much to ask in this day and age, Mr. Speaker. I know the feeling of the hon: member. I have stood in this House and presented similar petitions on behalf of the people of McCallum for drinking water. We are now at stage one. They have now found the drinking water except it is some distance from the community and the question is to get it into the community. But I am hopeful that can be done this year. To the immediate subject at hand, the need for drinking water in the two communities in the Port au Port Peninsula, Mr. Speaker, I would submit it is

MR. R. SIMMONS: very difficult for this party here or the administration to convince the people of this Province that we are all on the threshold of great wealth and development and full employment and about to become a have Province of Canada and about to enter our Canaan, our promised land, when they cannot find enough water to drink, when they cannot get any assistance from government to get fit drinking water.

It is demeaning, Mr. Speaker, that people should have to even sign those petitions to make their concerns known to government on such a basic point. Demeaning, very demeaning and I would hope that in the very near future the minister responsible could tell this House that his priority is in this particular area, one of his priorities is in this particular area, to determine once and for all where the people of this Province are located who have still that very basic need, the need for some decent drinking water, the assurance, the certainty that they can drink a glass of water without running the risk of becoming physically ill. There are a lot of people in this Province, literally thousands of people, including those in those two communities including those in the community of McCallum in my district. There are still literally thousands of people in this Province, Mr. Speaker, who cannot have that basic assurance, they do not have that certainty that when they take a glass of water or when their small youngster takes a drink of water they do not have the assurance that that water is fit to drink or that as a result of drinking that water they will not become physically ill. It is demeaning, it must change.

MR. SPEAKER: (Mr. Ottenheimer) Hon. member for St. George's.

MRS. H. MCISAAC: Mr. Speaker, I would like to support this petition. In speaking to it, I, too, have these problems in my district. It certainly is about time in this day and age when people can at least expect a little decent drinking water.

MRS. H. MCISAAC: Now, I feel that in most cases the people who are responsible are not closely enough associated to the problem to really appreciate it. I do not see too many problems in the St. John's area as far as drinking water is concerned and I have spent a few years in here and I have never seen people going with five gallon plastic buckets with water. I have never seen that happen.

MR. RIDEOUT: That is right - or Clarendville. or Harbour Grace.

MRS. H. MCISAAC: And in my area. maybe they do in one area of St. John's I believe there is a rock problem or whatever but I am sure that that too can be solved. In my area in particular this is why I can appreciate the problem that the people in the District of Port au Port have.

MRS. MCISAAC: I can think of so many communities right in my own area just without doing too much thinking, I have Searston, Black Duck, Seal Rock, St. David's, Jeffrey's, Highlands, Tompkins, McKay's, St. Fintan's, Robinsons, St. Andrew's, Codroy, Woodville I can go on - O'Regan's, Upper Ferry all sort of communities who do not have suitable drinking water and anywhere that you want to go on the West Coast in those particular areas - fine in St. George's, in part of St. George's we have town water, Stephenville Crossing, one section has it and Gallants. The rest of the communities in my area as well as in the Port au Port area are hauling water, getting water by the best means possible, by any means that may be possible. And you see trucks going with buckets in the back, five gallon buckets loaded with water. Now in this day in age this is a little bit too much to expect people to do, haul water for all household needs, for drinking purposes, cooking purposes, for the bathroom, for washing. There is no way in the world that people should be put through this sort of inconvenience in this day in age along with the health hazards that are involved in a lot of communities. Most communities have to boil the water, they boil the water some of them do others take a chance on it. And it is not going to be too long before there is going to be a serious epidemic and it will be too late then to lock the barn door after the horse has gone. I certainly think that this is the basic necessity of life and I do not think that people are asking for too much when they ask for a drop of decent drinking water. And if there is anything on our list of priorities I think that right at the top of the priority list should be decent, suitable drinking water for the people of this Province.

I wholeheartedly support this petition and hope that the government will take a serious look at one of the top priorities in the Province today. Thank you.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER (MR. OTTENHEIMER): The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. S. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, in last session of the House, Sir, a matter came up in this House, a matter of grave concern to Newfoundlanders and to Newfoundland about the action that Quebec Province was taking in barring workers from that Province, barring residents of other Provinces from going to work on construction projects in the Province of Quebec. Now I understand from the news last week that Ontario and Quebec have entered in to an agreement, a mutual agreement whereby workers can move from one Province to the other from Ontario to Quebec and vice versa. Now what is the situation concerning this Province? Can Newfoundlanders now move across the border now to Quebec to go to work on construction projects in Quebec or do they have to get a work permit? Just what is the situation? Could the Premier give us an update on that matter that was raised last session?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, the whole question of workers in Labrador City, Wabush and in Quebec the whole question of contracting out, the whole question of environmental concerns as it relates to problems in Labrador City/Wabush is now being looked at by government, has been over the last week or so. There was some work done on it two or three months ago and hopefully the whole matter of the Labrador West situation as it relates to work permits, as it relates to contracting out, as it relates to environmental concerns will be contained in a fairly major policy position that the government will be putting forward in the next couple of weeks as we address ourselves to some of the major issues in the Province. That is one of the other ones that we will be addressing.

MR. S. NEARY: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. S. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, this policy that Quebec is following barring workers from working on construction in Quebec to my way of thinking strikes at the very basis of Confederation, Sir. And I think it is a foolhardy policy and I believe it should be dealt with immediately. So I am wondering if the Premier would send for the legislation that is being passed in Ontario and Quebec, send for the agreement to see if there is any way that Newfoundland can enter into negotiations with the Province of Quebec so that workers can move freely back and forth across the border, And not wait for a report of a commission of inquiry eight or ten months down the road from now. This should be dealt with immediately before Ontario signs the agreement in my opinion.

MR. SPEAKER (MR. OTTENHEIMER):The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Well, Mr. Speaker, it is going to be dealt with immediately in the next few weeks it is not going to be



Premier Peckford: eight or ten months away,  
as the hon. member points out.

The other question is, it seems to me that when you are talking about the Ontario-Quebec Border, and then you talk about the Newfoundland and Quebec Border, there are differences in it. The exchange across the Border between Ontario and Quebec is a bit different insofar as you are not getting into the language problem so much as you would be on the Newfoundland-Quebec Border. I think it is easier for Ontario workers to participate and get jobs near the Border of Quebec than it will be for Newfoundlanders or Labradorians to get jobs in Quebec. I do not think the language problem is so great on the Ontario-Quebec Border as it is on the Newfoundland-Quebec Border which tends to mitigate against Newfoundlanders going into Quebec as it relates to our own Border.

But the hon. member can be assured that the government is fully aware of the situation as it relates to that and other difficulties now being experienced in Labrador West and we will be addressing ourselves to it in a major way in the next couple of weeks.

MR. NEARY: A final supplementary, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER (MR. OTTENHEIMER): A final supplementary.

MR. NEARY: The only way Ontario could get results, Mr. Speaker, was to threaten to bar Quebec workers from going into Ontario. Will the Premier indicate if his government is prepared to take similar action in order to get agreement with the Province of Quebec, that we will send their workers back across the Border unless they agree to allow Newfoundland workers to work on construction projects in the Province of Quebec.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, we will examine all alternatives and come up with a strategy and tactic that we think will work most advantageously for our workers.

MR. SPEAKER (MR. OTTENHEIMER): The hon. member for Fogo followed by the hon. members for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir and St. George's.

CAPT. E. WINSOR: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. Minister of Fisheries (Mr. W. Carter). As the minister is well aware the lobster fishery is fast approaching, the fishermen along the Northeast Coast are very much concerned about two problems, and this may be a double-barrel question. One, will there be a minimum price for lobsters? Number two, it is rumoured that there will be two foreign vessels stationed somewhere in Newfoundland. The fishermen would like to know where.

MRS. MCISAAC: What will they be doing?

CAPT. E. WINSOR: Buying lobsters. You know, will they be centrally located or where will their position be in order that the fishermen may be able to take advantage of perhaps a higher price than they may be able to get from the buyer onshore?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Fisheries.

MR. W. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, the matter of prices for lobsters is something that I presume will be negotiated by the Fishermen's Union. Certainly last year they negotiated a price, a much higher price than that paid the previous year.

With respect to the matter of a vessel coming in to buy lobsters I am not aware of that. I will certainly look into it, and maybe provide an answer tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir, I had indicated I would recognize him.

MR. SIMMONS: A question for the hon. Minister of Finance. I want to raise a question related to the financial provisions of Term 29 of the Terms of Union between Newfoundland and Canada in 1949. Specifically I want to ask the minister whether to his knowledge his department or perhaps through the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs or the government generally have made any approach to Ottawa on this subject with a view to having the provisions of the Term renegotiated so that the \$8 million payable annually to help us

Mr. Simmons: upgrade our services can be translated into today's dollars which I understand would approximate something of the order of \$40 million in today's terms. Could he indicate whether the government or his department has taken any initiatives on this matter?

MR. SPEAKER (MR. OTTENHEIMER): The hon. Minister of Finance.

DR. J. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, I think the information I have available at the moment is that there was an approach last year which I believe did not meet with much measure of success. I could get further details on that if the hon. member should wish.

MR. SIMMONS: Yes. A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. SIMMONS: I should thank the minister for undertaking to get some details. But could he at this moment since he has indicated some knowledge of the approach that was made, could he indicate to the House what kind of an approach it was whether it was by letter or whether there was a presentation by some delegation from the Newfoundland Government?

MR. FLIGHT: No coaching 'Alex'.

MR. SIMMONS: I am just waiting until fearless is finished with him. Mr. Speaker, I was asking the Minister of Finance, not the putative minister, the Minister of Finance, Mr. Speaker, and there is only one thank goodness - and thank goodness it is him too - the Minister of Finance whether he would indicate to us some of the circumstances, whether the approach that he refers to was made by a delegation from the

MR. SIMMONS: Newfoundland Government and about what time this approach was made and to whom, whether to the Prime Minister or who at the federal level.

MR. SPEAKER: (Mr. Ottenheimer) The hon. the Minister of Finance.

DR. J. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, I do not know if my colleague, the hon. the Minister of Mines and Energy (Mr. Doody) would like to make a statement or supply some answer at this time. All I can say personally is that if this is not forthcoming from my colleague or if his answer that is forthcoming is not complete enough for the hon. member opposite, I will undertake later to supply as many details as I can.

MR. DOODY: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Mines and Energy.

MR. DOODY: If I may, Sir, having been invited to participate, unaccustomed as I am to public speaking -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. DOODY: - nevertheless there was an approach, a very definite approach made to Ottawa last year, as the hon. minister has indicated. It was made in writing and it was also made by the Premier accompanied by myself. We met with Mr. Trudeau - I think - yes, he is Prime Minister now for a little while - and a Mr. Chretien, who was Finance Minister and Mr. Jamieson, the Newfoundland representative in the Cabinet. We met in the Prime Minister's office and we discussed in detail the difference between the \$8 million and the intent of it, what it meant in today's dollars and how we felt it should be transformed into a meaningful sum of money to try to bridge that gap and services between the other parts of Atlantic Canada

MR. DOODY: and Newfoundland, which was its intention. It was listened to rather sympathetically by the politicians; subsequently the mandarins in Ottawa and the senior officials of Finance and Treasury Board met to work out the details, and I am afraid the details are still somewhere on the drawing board in Ottawa because it fell on very, very deaf ears. Mr. Shoyama, the chief financial mandarin in Ottawa, felt that we peasants on the East Coast were sufficiently looked after in terms of transfer payments and we really should not expect too much more. This was an unsolicited political advertisement on behalf of the P.C. Party.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: (Mr. Ottenheimer) A supplementary.

MR. SIMMONS: A supplementary to the Minister of -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. DOODY: Do I hear the clashing of knives?

MR. SIMMONS: The minister would know what the sound is like from having heard them - just behind him.

MR. DOODY: I am going to stay nasty for a long while.

MR. SIMMONS: He is tender, Mr. Speaker.

Three weeks after he is still pretty tender.

A question for the Minister of Mines and Energy (Mr. Doody). I got a little encouraged when the Minister of Finance (Dr. J. Collins) talked about his making a statement. I hoped it was on the other subject I approached him on earlier today when I asked him if his posters and leadership campaign had any party affiliation because he may have occasion to use them, and he let us know he is quite available. So he has been eyeing that seat there, Mr. Speaker, I noticed, all afternoon.

MR. SIMMONS:

The supplementary,

Mr. Speaker - I was not encouraged but I was kind of reassured by what he had to say about the mandarins in Ottawa because I think that is what we found no matter what the party stripe is in power in Ottawa, that very often the big fight is with the senior Public Service in Ottawa and their attitudes towards this part of the country. And my supplementary for the Minister of Mines and Energy (Mr. Doody) is whether or not there is some provision for follow-up at the political level, or does he indicate from his reference to the mandarins that perhaps he fears this is getting bogged down now into just an exchange of correspondence? Is there some provision for a further follow-up at the political level in the federal government?

MR. SPEAKER: (Mr. Ottenheimer) The hon. minister.

MR. DOODY:

I am really not in a position to answer that, Sir. I simply participated in this at the invitation of the Minister of Finance to do some background on it. What the current status of the discussions are is obviously in the area of the Department of Finance and the officials of Finance and Treasury Board. I really have no idea what the current status is. I would assume that the people in Ottawa are perhaps somewhat more

MR. DOODY: sympathetic today than they were the day before the election was called. I really do not know what the situation is. The people in Finance will have to bring you up to date on that.

MR. SPEAKER (Mr. Ottenheimer): I have indicated I recognize the hon. member for St. George's next.

MRS. MCISAAC: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Municipal Affairs. I just stated a while ago that I felt water was number one priority. I have another one high on my list of priorities which is recreation. I would like to ask the minister what the situation is now with respect to the stadium for St. George's? I believe that in the last correspondence they received was asking for more detailed information for further consideration. Can the minister tell me now where that stands?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

MR. N. WINDSOR: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have not received any information recently from the St. George's Stadium Committee. The position on financing of the stadium is that the last request that we received from them unfortunately was turned down by government. Hopefully we can have another look at it the coming year.

MRS. MCISAAC: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MRS. MCISAAC: Mr. Speaker, I am at a loss to know which route to take and I am sure that the council and Stadium Committee would also be. I wonder since the minister has been involved in stadiums, I believe he was the engineer on the Mount Pearl arena, or was involved with them at the time, maybe he could direct us a little as far as the application is concerned and tell us just exactly what is required. Would the



MRS. MCISAAC: minister suggest that we take the same route that Mount Pearl took and if so could I have the details on it to pass on to the Stadium Committee?

MR. SPEAKER (Mr. Ottenheimer): The hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MR. N. WINDSOR: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would certainly give the hon. member any assistance that I can personally give her. Generally the approach of course as hon. members know is to provide an application to the department with some plans and specifications and cost estimates and so forth that we can consider. And having received that information we will give it due consideration and hopefully some funding can be made available sometime.

MRS. MCISAAC: A supplementary.

MR. N. WINDSOR: A supplementary.

MRS. MCISAAC: Mr. Speaker, it seems as though this thing is, you know, we are just getting the run around on this. We have submitted applications and further information and more detailed plans and what not for the past few years now and for the past few years it has been turned down. So we would like some direct guidance, something concrete. We would like to know just exactly what avenue to take to prevent this project from being turned down again. It has been turned down now for a number of years. I think maybe the minister may be in a position to help.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MR. WINDSOR: Again, Mr. Speaker, I will certainly give any assistance to the hon. member or to the committee from St. George's that I can. Essentially we have never received any detailed plans or specifications. We have



MR. WINDSOR: received some cost estimates, whether they were based on sound engineering estimates or not, I do not think they were. But this is the sort of thing we would like to see and I think the last time I spoke with the hon. member I suggested to her that the committee retain a qualified consultant to come up with some bona fide cost estimates based on sound engineering, design or at least preliminary design.

MRS. MSIAAC: I am not satisfied with the minister's answer and I would like to debate it on the Late Show.

MR. SPEAKER (Mr. Ottenheimer): The hon. member for Stephenville, followed by the hon. member for Bellevue.

MR. MCNEIL: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Could the minister indicate if Newfoundland and Labrador Housing land development in Stephenville, know as area thirteen development will go on the market this coming Summer? As the minister is aware this development has been ready for the past two years. What is the reason for the delay? Why has it not gone on the market?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MR. WINDSOR: Mr. Speaker, I will have to take notice of the question. I am aware of area thirteen, I have been there personally as the hon. member knows, and looked at it and I am concerned about area thirteen and a number of other similar areas in this Province that have been developed and for which sales are not taking place as quickly as I would like to see them. And hopefully over the next couple of weeks when we have a chance to sit down with the officials in that department we will be in a position to announce some sort of a policy, hopefully it will move these sort of developments a little faster than they have been.

MR. SPEAKER (Mr. Ottenheimer): The hon. member for Bellevue.

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Premier, the present Premier. The former Premier promised here in this House of Assembly on at least three occasions that I noticed, that I was here to table the contract for the chairman of the action group. That was never done and of course obviously the former Premier has

MR. CALLAN:

chance now. I am asking the present Premier if he intends to table or make public the contract with the Chairman of the Action Group?

MR. SPEAKER: (Mr. Ottenheimer)

The hon. Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:

Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. CALLAN:

A supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER:

A supplementary.

MR. CALLAN:

When will the Premier

do it, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:

As soon as I can. Mr.

Speaker, within the next couple of days.

MR. CALLAN:

A supplementary, Mr.

Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A supplementary.

MR. CALLAN:

Mr. Speaker, is it the

intention of the present Premier to keep the Action Group going for another year or does the present Premier think that it was a political gimmick in the first place when there were not any other ideas available for creating employment? And does the present Premier think that it has served its purpose? One million dollars of the taxpayers money has been spent on it.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. CALLAN:

Could we do away with

it this year?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:

All aspects of

government spending are being now critically reviewed by the new president of Treasury Board and the new Minister of Finance and Treasury Board in general so that when we are finished with our budgetary process we will be able to announce various areas where government thinks it can save money and various areas where

MR. PECKFORD: government thinks it should spend more money, so that process is under way now. The Action Group and all the departments of government and the agencies are under close scrutiny to insure that if there is any inefficiencies in the system that we eliminate them and spend the money where it can be most wisely used. And in that light the Action Group will be considered with the other agencies.

MR. CALLAN: A final supplementary,  
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: (Mr. Ottenheimer) A final supplementary.

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I can help the Premier decide to do without it. Does not the Premier agree that the Action Group, the collect phone number and so on, does the Premier not agree that this is what members of the House of Assembly are elected to do? This is what I have been doing at least and all other members. If somebody out there has a question regarding how to start a farm or what have you or get into the fishery this is what their elected representative does, so to me at least the Action Group seems rather redundant. Does the Premier not agree and therefore will that not help him decide to do away with that foolish idea?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: I thank the hon. member for Bellevue (Mr. Callan) for his assistance and ongoing help in making clear to citizens of this Province where they should go for financial help in establishing businesses. And any additional suggestions and information that he might have to assist government is greatly appreciated.

MR. CALLAN: I am dissatisfied with the answer. I wish to debate it on the late show.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! A final supplementary. Hon. member for Trinity-Bay de Verte.

MR. F. ROWE: To the same question,  
Mr. Speaker. Could the Premier indicate whether or not there has



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MR. DOODY:

and two phase power and three phase power - obviously there must be or they would not have called them at three different names. But as to how one goes about achieving three phase power, there was triumvirate in Rome some years ago and they seemed to work out fairly well.

MR. DOODY: I have been trying to arrange the same sort of a system here and that has not quite jelled as yet. In the meantime, as far as the electrical distribution is concerned, I will take it up with the Hydro people and try to provide the hon. member with an answer. It is the energy question, I think, that the hon. member is most concerned with rather than with the power bit, would that be correct?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. LUSH: This is a very important matter, Mr. Speaker. This is very, very important. There are industries in this Province trying to get this power and there seems to be some degree of confusion as to whom they should approach, as to who pays for it. The question is, they do not know whom to approach, whether it is the Department of Mines and Energy, they do not know whether it is Newfoundland Hydro, nor they do not know whether it is Newfoundland Light and Power that makes this decision to distribute three-phase power to these industries.

MR. DOODY: I can certainly help in that area, Sir. Back in my formative days when I was in the business world, we had difficulty in finding out who to approach to get three-phase power installed in the premises. We approached the distributing company, and in this particular case it was Newfoundland Light, in other areas of the Province it would be the power distribution people. But these are the distributors and these are the people to whom one would apply if one was looking for three-phase power.

Whom you should pay for it or how you should pay for it are two different

MR. DOODY: questions, I guess.  
How you should pay for it is a matter of extreme difficulty today because the price of power, the price of energy are both very expensive.

I really cannot tell the hon. member any more than that because he obviously is not interested in listening anyway, he is carrying on a caucus meeting in the back bench. But I would be only too happy to let the hon. member know the details. If the area in question is one that is serviced by Newfoundland Light, then the applicant should apply to Newfoundland Light for three-phase power. That is fairly elementary. If it is in an area that is serviced by Bowaters or serviced by a power distribution district, or by Hydro, then they should make the application there.

MR. RIDEOUT: You might have to go twenty miles to a line.

MR. DOODY: Well, that could very well be. It is a very expensive procedure.

AN HON. MEMBER: That is what he is saying. That is what you pay for.

MR. DOODY: Well, the distance from the source is obviously going to have an influence on the cost of getting it.

MR. LUSH: Who pays?

MR. DOODY: Well, the customer presumably pays for it, that is how the system works in every other part of the world.

MR. RIDEOUT: That is not what happened over in Triton.

MR. DOODY: Is the hon. the member questioning the Premier?



PREMIER PECKFORD: Yes, that is how it seems to be.

MR. RIDEOUT: A number of hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent to build a line in there.

MR. DOODY: Oh, I see what the hon. member is getting at now. There has been a fish plant established at Triton and in order -

MR. RIDEOUT: Right! Well, that is what he is getting at.

MR. DOODY: Well, what did you ask the question for? Mr. Speaker, will you try to get the Greek chorus to try to control itself? The Opposition benches are tragic enough as it is these days without listening to the Greek chorus coming together at the end of it. The grand dirge! Look at the empty seats and try to be happy.

MR. LUSH: Answer the question. This is an important question.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER(Ottenheimer): Order, please!

MR. DOODY: I think quite honesty, Sir, the hon. member should apply his question to Hydro and ask them if it is in that particular area, and I assume that it is, and ask them where and how to get the three-phase power placed. That is the agency of government that is responsible for that sort of thing. As for who pays and how it pays, that is something that will have to be worked out between the retailer, and in this case it might be Hydro, and the industry.

Presumably, the hon. member from Baie Verte - White Bay says it is a fish plant. I can only assume that that is correct.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. DOODY: Whatever. Tell us all about it. Anyway, all the heirs apparent are leaping up, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the member for Eagle River followed by the hon. the member for LaPoile.

MR. STRACHAN: Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Mines and Energy concerning the uranium mine and the BRINEX situation in Labrador. Could the minister tell us, in the view that the mine may go ahead now, or if it does not go ahead now because of the world situation it will be a number of years down the road, could the minister indicate whether there are any impediments or difficulties in the way of getting that project going or of starting that uranium mine in the near future?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Mines and Energy.

MR. DOODY: There are undoubtedly a number of impediments involved in getting any new venture going. This one has been ongoing for quite a long while. The honest answer to the question is that I really do not have all the detail on it. I know that Mr. O'Rourke, the vice-president of the company who is in charge of that particular development is due in

MR. DOODY: St. John's on or around April 10th. He will be bringing us completely up to date on the situation at that time. He has had meetings in the hon. member's district and in other parts of the coast. The environmental aspects of it will be examined by government at that time and the social impact and the economic question. Some time after April 10th we will be in a position to give the House and the hon. member a more reasonable and comprehensive answer. Right now, quite honestly, I do not have all the details and it would be just as misleading to pretend that I knew all about three-phase power. So it will have to wait for a couple of days.

MR. STRACHAN: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: (Mr. Ottenheimer) A supplementary.

MR. STRACHAN: Mr. Speaker, could the minister explain to us - I understand that question there dealing with the economics part of it and the company part of it - could the minister explain the position of the government vis-à-vis the statements from Labrador concerning land claims itself, concerning the objections by native groups to the development and the possibility of stopping it. I think we are faced with a situation possibly that there may even be attempts at injunctions or attempts at various other routes which have occurred elsewhere in Canada and North America. Could the minister explain the position clearly on that?

MR. SPEAKER: (Mr. Ottenheimer) The hon. minister.

MR. DOODY: Well, I really can not. From the Mines and Energy point of view we are obviously concerned with the development of the uranium deposit in the Kitts-Michelin area and in the surrounding area.

MR. DOODY: The deposit appears to be a great deal larger than was originally expected. As to the land claims question, that is really not a question of responsibility for the Department of Mines and Energy, it is a matter of legalities, a matter of question of ownership. The federal government is involved, the provincial government, perhaps, is involved. The Department of Justice is certainly trying to look at it all very carefully. We look to them for their advice in this particular question, but the development of the mining property, we look at it as a development opportunity and we look to the Department of Justice for advice on the land claims question.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Motion, the hon. the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. W. Carter) to introduce a bill, "An Act To Amend The Fishing And Coasting Vessels Rebuilding And Repairs (Bounties) Act," carried. (Bill No.17 ).

On motion, Bill No. 17 read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

On motion, that the House resolve itself into Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 18. Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. CHAIRMAN: (Mr. Cross) Order, please!

Bill No. 18.

On motion, Clauses 1 through 6, carried.

MR. NEARY: Before we carry the bill, would the hon. gentleman indicate if the administration is considering changing the names of the districts, Mr. Chairman? - put a more appropriate name on the districts?

MR. W. MARSHALL: It had been considered, Mr. Chairman, but we have decided really to retain the names at present and we will see as the time - it will be a simple amendment later on if we do change it.

MR. NEARY: It is under consideration.

MR. W. MARSHALL: It is under consideration, but I would not want it to be construed as a guarantee that we are going to -

MR. NEARY: Well, I know. We cannot get any commitments out of the government anyway.

MR. STRACHAN: Mr. Chairman, may I, by leave?

MR. W. MARSHALL: Certainly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (Mr. Cross) The hon. the member for Eagle River.

MR. STRACHAN: I say this in all sincerity that.

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

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

MR. SPEAKER(Ottenheimer): The hon. Chairman of Committees.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of the Whole have considered the matters to them referred and have directed me to report having passed Bill No. 18 without amendment and ask leave to sit again.

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

Motion, that Bill No. 18 be read a third time now, by leave, carried.

Mr. Strachan: the name Eagle River, to the people there on the Southern part of the Coast, really does not mean very much at all. In fact, Eagle River was never populated as such, it was only populated as we know by the Canadian Armed Forces who had a camp there and we fought for a number of years to try to get that prevented. to stop that. But the local people in the whole area - in fact, when it was called Eagle River many people started looking around for Eagle River because they just never really heard of it apart from that context. So I am sincere in my effort. Now that the Straits area is included in it and Mary's Harbour, Fox Harbour, Port Hope Simpson and Charlottetown, Eagle River does not mean a row of beans to them. And I am suggesting that the change should be kept in mind, if it is not at this stage. Certainly it would be worthwhile for the people themselves because there have been objections to that district being called that kind of name. It would be as difficult as calling Waterford-Kenmount after the name of a building here, you know, in the City here or something like that, that kind of connotation.

So I would like to really, forcefully put that point to the government. I do not mean it in any political context whatsoever, but it is more meaningful, and more representative over the whole Coast of Labrador.

MR. CROSS: The hon. House Leader.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, I thank the hon. members for their observation, particularly the present member for Eagle River (Mr. Strachan). This is something we will certainly take into consideration. The name Eagle River had been used for the other district. And what we want to do is, if there is to be a change, we would want it changed - if this is not as meaningful as it should be we want to be assured that it is a more meaningful one. In some of the districts on the Island there are names of areas that do not strictly relate to them. But certainly I think the important thing

Mr. Marshall: is that we do have the fourth district there in Labrador. And we value the observation that has been made, and we will certainly take it into consideration. Certainly, you know, at such time anyway, which is only about two or three years time, I am not saying it is going to take two or three years time, but when the Electoral Boundaries Commission meets this will be a matter of concern to them, but the government will be considering in the meantime. Thank you very much.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for Eagle River.

MR. STRACHAN: In reference to the Northern district where I live the district name is Torngat Mountains. And I would like to make a point here on the name of that district, that that name is, I think, very appropriate. There may be sometime some representation or something from the Southern part of that Torngat Mountain district from people who have never been to Torngat or never go there that they may feel that the name is not appropriate, It may not be representative, for instance, of the people in Postville or Rigolet who never get to Torngat Mountains. But I would like to put in the word now that I think it is the name for that district in a geographic and historic sense as well, I am a great collector of Labrador history, and in an historic sense they are the highest mountains East of the Rockies in Canada. They are a tremendous range of peaks. It is representative of the area, both in a cultural sense for a lot of people if they wish to look back in their history. And I think the name is very significant.

I think the same argument as we are using with the Eagle River district being changed to something else could possibly be, in the further, be made for the North. But I think from my point of view, I think the name is very, very appropriate and should be kept as such.



On motion, a bill, "An Act To Provide For Additional Representation For Labrador In The House Of Assembly," read a third time, ordered passed and its title be as on the Order Paper. (Bill No. 18).

MR. MARSHALL: Motion, second reading of a bill, "An Act To Provide For The Registration Of Qualified Social Workers," (Bill No. 6).

MR. SPEAKER (MR. OTTENHEIMER):The hon. Minister of Social Services.

MR. T. HICKEY: Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pleasure that I introduce this bill. As the title indicates the main purpose of the legislation is to provide for the registration of qualified social workers in the Province. Under the bill there will be a board set up made up of seven members, three of which will be from the Association of Social Workers in the Province, one person from the School of Social Work at Memorial University, two employees of the government of the Province and one person from the community at large. There will be registration provided for, keeping of a register. Basically, that is it, Mr. Speaker. The bill provides for the making of regulations by the board. I might point out that this legislation does not mean that people who are not qualified social workers, in terms of the meaning of the act, will not be allowed to practice or to work in the Province. It simply means that over a period of time it will provide a real incentive to those who are now in the employ of the government to upgrade themselves so that they can become qualified, registered social workers. And the impact of the legislation is to give recognition to that profession which certainly has been sought for a long time. I think I should point out at the same time that over a period of years, or how ever many years it will take, it will mean that the services provided to our people will be greatly improved when a social worker is called for, when a problem arises within a family which require the services of a

MR. T. HICKEY: social worker to make some very serious decisions affecting that family, then the family can rest in the knowledge that only - well, the best qualified people will be there to do the job.

I think it is important to point out too that although, as I have said, it will not mean that people who are not certified or qualified to be registered social workers cannot work in that profession, within a number of years it will become increasingly more difficult for people who are not qualified and who are not registered to gain employment in that profession, so that over a period of time, slowly but surely, the level of service provided by social workers in the Province will improve. That is the main purpose of the bill whilst at the same time protecting the security of those who are already in the employ in ensuring that they can continue to work until such time as they upgrade themselves to qualify under the Act.

I have much pleasure in moving second reading.

MR. SPEAKER (MR. CROSS): The hon. member for Carbonear.

MR. R. MOORES: Mr. Speaker, I would like to start by saying that we are not opposed to this bill. We feel that it does indeed have some merits at least in principle in that as the hon. minister said, "There is a need society today to

MR. R. MOORES: to protect professions whatever they are, whether they are medical doctors, engineers, social workers, surveyors or what have you, it could be fish plant workers, we have not determined yet why the Newfoundland Legislature does not permit fish plant workers to start their own professional organization. And therein, Mr. Speaker, lies the criticism that I am about to make about this bill.

The minister got up and said that, if I recall correctly I did not hear all of his submission but I heard enough of it to know that it is a very weak presentation of what is, in fact, a good principled, good intentioned bill. This bill will do nothing to upgrade social workers, absolutely nothing to upgrade them either professionally or academically. What it will do and how it will upgrade them is that this association or society will establish a selection board empowered to create an elite situation just as the doctors have created their mucky-muck situation, just as the lawyers have done with theirs and just as the Newfoundland engineers and so on have done with theirs.

I would like to give you an example, Mr. Speaker, of what I am talking about. I had a friend of mine, just a few months ago, a surveyor in Newfoundland who wanted to take an examination so that he could become a surveyor. So he went to this society, this association with its selection board and applied accordingly to be examined. When I say some months ago I mean eighteen months, twenty-four months or what have you. He still to my knowledge, does not have his surveyor's stamp as they call it, He has written the test three times, each time the test has been different. When I say different I do not mean similar, I mean completely, absurdly different and in one case the examination was based upon a television program which he was not informed to see, nor did he see and nor did the selection committee take it into consideration that he did not see it. Now, as examinations go, that is beyond

MR. R. MOORES: ridiculous, that is absurd, it is irresponsible and it does not at all promote or encourage the basic main principles of why these associations and societies have been set up.

Once a society, whether it is the social workers or the surveyors, once they hinder the proper advance of a student, worker, what have you, into that society then it should be done away with, not only criticized but abolished and done away with as an obstruction to the normal progress of a person, in most cases a very interested and concerned student, who wishes to become or wishes to take up a certain profession in this Province.

Now, I speak in some degree from experience because I have been a student of social work,

I wish I could deny that like Peter denied Christ, but unfortunately you cannot. I have been a student of social work,

fact, I have quite a few courses in social work from Memorial University and because I am a liberal, that is to say, a small "l" liberal in my views, in fact in some incidences I may be considered socialist or radical in some of my views, because I have those views it is my opinion that it would be far more difficult for me to enter a social work society as the minister is presenting here today, than it would, if I were prepared to toe the establishment line, if I were prepared to bend over backwards to appeal to their philosophies and their outlooks on society and their whims and how they bend to the government. I point out to you last year and I fear to make a comment on this, the Marlene Webber case

MR. R. MOORES: is a prime example, a very prime example of how things become exaggerated in this faculty and how some of the people in the faculty at Memorial University pursue their goals, pursue their philosophies and the way they think about social work and social workers.

I am not at all opposed to the bill. I cannot be. Because the society will protect the general public to a certain degree. Just, for instance, as the legal society protects - the Bar is it? - the association protects the general public against any person like myself, I am not a qualified lawyer. I could very easily become one. I think one of the easiest things to become today is a lawyer, particularly of the status and the qualifications of some lawyers on Duckworth Street. But that is not the point. The point is I cannot become a lawyer until I enter the society or the Bar Association and I am appropriately examined. And even though I may have very esteemed qualifications from law school, even though I may be an "A" student at law school, I still may not enter the society or the association or become a lawyer if I do not pass the Bar exams.

Now, if we accept the fact that nothing goes wrong, if we accept the fact that nothing is evil in society and that everything works fine then we can, I think, make the honest assumption that each and every lawyer is properly examined. And we can make the assumption that each and every social worker will be properly examined, or each and every doctor. However, Mr. Speaker, looking realistically and accepting society and people and professions as they are, that is not the case. That certainly is not the case. I give one example of a situation that I had with a constituent of

MR. R. MOORES: mine. He spent almost four years getting into medical school. After completing the prerequisite courses in biology and whatever a doctor has to learn in his undergraduate studies, he spent three years, almost four, passing the selection board requirements while at the same time I myself could attest to far less qualified students, both from Canada and from outside of Canada, getting into medical school without any objections whatever.

I have the same fears about the social work. Well, I suppose you could almost say it could become a racket. It could become an elite situation for the boys down at the university in the Social Work faculty to actually dictate, to control and to manipulate just who becomes a social worker in this Province, and there is no protection in this bill for that. The fact that the minister appoints the board and its chairman is irrelevant - absolutely irrelevant because that in itself is merely a formality. The minister will appoint essentially whom he is asked or whom he is told to appoint. So the make-up of the board and the fact that the minister appoints it is irrelevant. The Social Work faculty at Memorial University and to a lesser degree, a very much lesser degree, the Newfoundland Association of Social Workers will appoint the composition of the board.

I do not think, Mr. Speaker, as the minister said, that the social workers presently in the field in this Province are in a quandary situation as to whether or not they are fully recognized. I have talked to social workers. In fact, only a half an hour ago



MR. MOORES: down in the cafeteria I talked to a social worker about this bill and he said, "It is the first I ever heard of it." And his exact comments to me were, "If the government wanted to recognize us or recognize us properly, they should give us more salaries and more income so that we could do the job a little better than we are doing it now." Instead of pushing paper for four out of eight hours a day they could get out and help people the way that people are supposed to be helped in this Province. Recognition is not a question. I do not believe that there are ten social workers in this Province today who are in the field who should not be there, or who are there and who are not qualified to be there. Just because a person has a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of social work degree from Memorial University does not necessarily make them a qualified social worker. I know in my district, in the regional office in Harbour Grace that services my district, that there are a number of social workers there who do not have degrees but who have fifteen or twenty years experience in the field. If I could get the equivalent experience in politics, with a same counter-balancing situation, I would rather have twenty years experience in politics than two degrees from Memorial and five years in politics. I think there is a lot to be said that experience breeds its own wisdom and it is wisdom that we need a lot more of today than some floating academics that we have, both in this House and outside of it as well. My basic criticisms then, to recapitulate, Mr. Speaker, is that the bill although a good bill will probably achieve its basic goal, that of protecting the general public against unqualified social workers, will set up a closed-shop, elitest situation that essentially will be out of the hands of this Legislature, and by that I mean the government and the appropriate minister, and will go directly into the hands of the mucky-mucks at Memorial University who now see this bill as the vehicle through which they can manipulate the type of philosophical composition of the social workers of this Province.

MR. MOORES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: (Mr. Cross)

The hon. Opposition House  
Leader.

MR. NEARY:

To reinforce a couple of the arguments that were used by my hon. colleague the member for Carbonear (Mr. Moores) Sir, in speaking for this side of the House on Bill No. 6, "An Act To Provide For The Registration OF Qualified Social Workers." The hon. member pointed out the dangers in this kind of legislation. And it is a dangerous piece of legislation, Sir, believe me, and it will only be as good as the regulations that are passed by the department and by the government. If we give the Newfoundland social workers the same power and the same authority and the same kind of closed-shop as the lawyers have, the legal profession has, the Newfoundland and Labrador Bar Society, Sir, I think we would be making a grave error indeed. Mr. Speaker, one would wonder sometimes to listen to the Lawyers' Union talk that they were beholding to nobody, that they were a law unto themselves when in actual fact, Mr. Speaker, they are given their authority by this legislature.

I heard recently one of the members of the Lawyers' Union say, Well, disciplinary action might be taken against a very high ranking member of this House, Disciplinary action might be taken against a high ranking member of this House, who was doing his duty for the people of this Province I could hardly believe my ears, Sir, that that crowd do not realize that they could be disbanded tomorrow



MR. S. NEARY: by this Legislature, that their little closed-shop and the little cliques you have down in the Lawyers' Union could be wiped out with the stroke of a pen in this Legislature.

Mr. Speaker, I hope this bill will not give the social workers, the little cliques and the gangs, the same power as has been put in the hands of the Lawyers' Union who can set their own fees, who answer to nobody, who will not permit members of their union to advertise. You are not allowed to advertise legal fees in this Province. You can do it out in British Columbia because the Legislature brought in a law saying it is legal in the Province of British Columbia for lawyers to advertise their legal fees. You cannot do it in this Province or you would be kicked out of the union. Too much power, Sir, too much power in the hands of that little clique, that little gang of -I was going to call them mostly loan sharks. In the main loan sharks, a good many of them. Very few of them practising law as law should be practised, very few labour lawyers among them, very few criminal lawyers amongst them.-real estate agents, second mortgage lenders and real estate speculators.

Mr. Speaker, I hope this bill will not put the same power in the hands of a little clique, as my hon. friend said, over at Memorial University of academics who will lay down the law. Mr. Speaker, we have seen too much of this kind of legislation in this Province. Any little group can get together, go to the government and sell them on the idea of setting up or bringing in an act to set up their own little empire the same as the lawyers have and the same as the dentists have. The dentists -

AN HON. MEMBER: What is wrong with the dentists?

MR. S. NEARY: What is wrong with the dentists?  
I will tell the hon. gentleman what is wrong with the Dentists' Union. I had a case recently out in Port aux Basque, Mr. Speaker, where a

MR. S. NEARY: dental surgeon immigrated to this Province from India, had practised as a dental surgeon, had worked in some of the top institutions and hospitals in India as a dental surgeon and he could not get a licence to practise in Newfoundland. Could not get a licence. Immigrated here, married to a Newfoundland girl and could not get a licence to practise and I went to bat for him. I could not believe, Mr. Speaker, I could not believe the stonewalling, the red tape and the procedure that had to be used in order to get an audience with the President of the Dentists' Union, first of all to get an audience with him. That man went and sat outside the office, out in the office of the President of the Dentists' Union.

AN HON. MEMBER: Did he get a place yet?

MR. S. NEARY: No, I am coming to that. And the president would come out and look at him and say, "What are you doing here today? I am busy. I have got customers, I have got patients, out! I cannot see you, out!" Day after day the gentleman did that. When he did get to see the president, he said, "I am sorry but there is nothing we can do for you, nothing we can do. You are not even allowed to write the exam in this Province." There are enough dentists here now he was told, enough dentists. Yet, in the rural parts of the Province, Mr. Speaker, when I checked it out with the Department of Health they were crying out and begging for dentists. And here we had a qualified man, probably as qualified as any dental surgeon you will find in this Province, who was not allowed to practise his profession because they would not let him write his exam. They did not want any competition. I have his documents down in my office and the hon. gentleman

MR. NEARY: can come down tomorrow if he wants to and have a look at the documents. The Ministry of Health have the documents, I sent all his qualifications, all his certificates, his work experience and his university degrees to the Department of Health.

MR. CALLAN: The chairman of the P.C. caucus is a dentist, is he not?

MR. NEARY: I know. Do not worry, I know the score. I also spoke to the member for Mount Scio (Dr. R. Winsor), who said, "Oh, yes, no problem. We will give him a hearing. We will take a look at it." He told me where to send him, to the President of the Newfoundland Dental Society, which I did. The fellow now is down in the United States. He could not get to first base in this Province even though down in Baie Verte my hon. colleague and the people on the Baie Verte Peninsula were begging and crying out for a dentist. In Southern Labrador, Northern Labrador - this gentleman was prepared to go to any part of this Province. He was prepared to write his exam, but he could not do it because the university from which he graduated in India was not recognized by the Dental Society. They would not even give him a provisional licence.

Now, Sir, he made an application to go down to California where he is now completing his studies which will be finished soon - completing his studies, writing his exam and then probably practicing dentistry in the United States but will not be permitted to do it in Newfoundland or in Canada - maybe in other parts of Canada, but certainly not in Newfoundland because they do not want any competition.

MR. J. CARTER: What do you think of denturists?

MR. NEARY: Well, the same thing, Mr. Speaker - you have this dentists' union, who have refused so far to co-operate, who have been fighting against legalizing

MR. NEARY: denturists in this Province even though the government said seven years ago, six years ago, five years ago, four years ago, three years ago, two years ago and last year - said, 'We are bringing legislation into this House to legalize denturists. But as soon as the member for Mount Scio (Dr. R. Winsor) steps in, spokesman for the dentists in this House, down the tube goes the legislation.

MR. J. CARTER: He is not the only one.

MR. CALLAN: But he is one, is he not?

MR. NEARY: Down the tube goes the legislation, and the people of this Province have to pay through the nose for their dentures, for their uppers and their lowers. They have to pay, Sir, they have to pay dearly for not legalizing the denturists in this Province, and that is a result of putting too much power in the hands of one group, one clique, one gang.

MR. HICKEY: That does not apply to them.

MR. NEARY: It does apply, Sir.

MR. HICKEY: Nonsense!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman says, 'Nonsense!' Sir, this kind of legislation will put no bread on the table of the people of this Province. This kind of legislation, Sir, will do nothing to solve the unemployment problem in this Province. It will do nothing to reduce the cost of living in this Province. This bill and the kind of legislation that is on the Order Paper at the present time will do nothing to solve the electricity rates in this Province. Mr. Speaker, have hon. gentlemen taken the time to read the Order Paper to see the kind of legislation that is on there from an administration that says, 'Oh, boy! Look out now! There are going to be all kinds of reforms and changes - we have a new Premier, a new leader, a new

MR. NEARY: flag, new policies.

Well, what do we have on the Order Paper, Sir? Well, there is one of the bills we have, "An Act To Provide For The Registration Of Qualified Social Workers" to provide another closed shop in the Province similar to the Lawyers' Union, the so-called Newfoundland and Labrador Bar Society. Mr. Speaker, is there anything we can do about this, I wonder? Do we have the courage or are there too many lawyers in this House for us to have the courage to stand up and say, 'Look,

MR. NEARY: you are not going to overcharge. You are not going to charge people who are buying houses in this Province. You are not going to charge them the highest legal fees for real estate transactions in the whole of Canada, in the whole of Canada - the highest in the whole of Canada right here in Newfoundland where you have the second lowest per capita personal income, the highest cost of living and the highest taxes and record unemployment. That is what they are doing, Sir, and there does not seem to be one thing that we can do about it in this House. They are dictating to this House. They are above this House. They are a law unto themselves and if we dare do our duty in this House and you happen to be a member of that union, they have the gall to go on the radio and the television and say, "For doing your duty, my friend, we are going to take away your right to earn a living. We are going to cancel your membership in our union. We are going to do that. We are going to cancel your membership in the union, then you will not be able to earn a living and that will teach you a lesson. That will - "

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. NEARY: Beg your pardon?

Mr. Speaker, do that hon. crowd down there on Duckworth Street realize, Sir, that the House of Assembly can disband them and wipe them out any time they want to?

MR. F. ROWE: Terrifying.

MR. NEARY: Well, it is terrifying. But they have misused and abused their authority and their power that was given to them by this Legislature and they deserve to be disciplined. Obviously, Mr. Speaker, they have not been able to do any housecleaning themselves or discipline themselves.

AN HON. MEMBER: Who is this you are talking about?

MR. NEARY: I am talking about the lawyers' union downtown. It is time we cleaned up their act for them in this House.

MR. DOODY: Yes, well, part of it will be cleaned up shortly.

MR. NEARY: That is right.

MR. J. CARTER: Would the hon. gentleman like to be a lawyer?

MR. HODDER: He would rather be a fireman.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, yes I would. I would not mind being a lawyer.

MR. HODDER: More money in it.

MR. DOODY: It certainly beats working.

MR. NEARY: I beg your pardon?

MR. DOODY: It certainly beats working.

MR. NEARY: No, but if I was a lawyer, I think I would specialize. I would be a labour lawyer or I would be a criminal lawyer.

I do not think, Sir, what we have in this Province in the main now - there are some, not all, but in the main I would think what you have in this Province, Sir, are not criminal lawyers. We need some good criminal lawyers in Newfoundland and we will need more if this crowd stay in office very much longer. And we need some good labour lawyers and we are not getting them, Sir. Unfortunately, we are not getting them. They would prefer to take the other route to spend all their time processing mortgages and getting involved in loaning money for second mortgages and real estate speculation and that sort of thing. It is too bad, Sir, but I believe, Mr. Speaker, we should, if we are sincere and if hon. gentlemen who are sitting on the government benches who are members of the lawyers' union who get up in this House once in a while espousing the cause of the

MR. NEARY: ordinary person and trying to pretend that they are for the toiling masses - rubbing their hands, rolling their eyes and gazing heavenward - so sanctimonious and lilywhite, if they were genuinely sincere. Sir, in trying to help the ordinary people of this Province, they would bring in a few reforms right into their own organization. I know, Mr. Speaker, from my conversations with some of the young lawyers in this Province - some of the young ones, they are ready to kick over the traces and rebel.

MR. DOODY: What are you on now?

MR. NEARY: I am talking about the principle of this bill - the dangers in it - the weaknesses in it. It will only be as good as the regulations that are made and if we give this crowd the same authority as the lawyers have, well, I say, "God help the people of this Province".

Mr. Speaker, the member for Carbonear (Mr. R. Moores), Sir, raised the matter of mature people who have been at the business for fiteeen and twenty years. What becomes of these people now? My hon. friend made a very good point. When I was minister of that department, Sir, and I cannot say that I can say it about all social workers, but I guarantee you, Sir,



MR. NEARY: that I would rather have a mature person out in the field any time. I would rather have a man who is raising a family and struggling with his mortgage payments and his car payments - a man who is just an ordinary person trying to make ends meet, I would rather have him out in the field working and giving advice than to have a little eighteen year old or twenty year old who graduated from the university and because they have a -

MR. POWER: What is wrong with eighteen year olds?

MR. NEARY: Ah, there is nothing wrong with them. I said they are not all like that, Mr. Speaker, but I tell you what is wrong and my hon. friend asked the question, "What is wrong?" - is that they go out and these will probably be the only ones who will be allowed to join this association - this closed shop. What happens, Sir, is this. What happens, Mr. Speaker, is this - that all they have when they go out into the field is the theory. All they have is the academic things that have been taught them over at the university. They have no experience and here they are called upon to give advice to men and women who are old enough to be their fathers, And I laid down a policy when I was in that department that we would hire, whenever possible, mature welfare officers and social workers and put them out into the field - people who had been through the mill - who had the experience - who had been exposed to the pitfalls of life and who had succeeded and who could teach other people how to succeed. That is not a condemnation of the professional social worker -

MR. R. MOORES: Congratulations to the hon. member for Fortune - Hermitage.

MR. NEARY: - but it is something, Sir, to - the hon. member for Fortune - Hermitage (Mr. J. Winsor) just got his nomination by acclamation and I want to be the first to congratulate him, Sir.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY:

So, Mr. Speaker, I hope now I have said enough, Sir, to indicate to the hon. minister the weaknesses and the dangers in this kind of legislation that, as I said a few moments ago, will not put any bread on the table of the ordinary people of this Province. If it will do anything, it will take it off because no doubt the next thing we will have a high schedule of fees. The next thing they will be hiring themselves out. The next thing they will be consultants to the minister's department and consultants to this institution and that institution and all the experts and you will be nobody but nobody unless you have a certificate, unless you got a degree from the university. Well, Sir, I do not have any degree from any university and like a lot of my colleagues on both sides of the House, none of us have a degree, but I will put my reputation as a politician in this Province up against anybody in this House - anybody. You do not have to have a degree, Sir. All you have to do is have a bit of common sense. Experience is the best teacher - the university of practical experience. And what happens to the practical social workers? What happens to them once this bill is passed? Do you have to have a degree to join this association?

MR. HICKEY:

I told you when I introduced the bill.

MR. NEARY:

Well, I want the minister to tell us again. I want to make sure that we got him on the public record. So, Mr. Speaker, unless anybody else wants to speak from this side, the hon. gentleman will now stand to close the debate and I would like to hear the hon. gentleman's comments on some of the points that were raised by my colleague, the member for Carbonear (Mr. R. Moores), and by myself about the weaknesses and the dangers in this kind of legislation. I am sure the hon. gentleman has some

MR. NEARY:                             doubts about this kind of  
legislation himself. It is restrictive legislation. We  
have too much regimentation in this Province.

MR. R. MOORES:                     They can prescribe the qualifi-  
cations.

MR. NEARY:                             They can prescribe the qualifi-  
cations, Mr. Speaker - they - this group can prescribe the  
qualifications of people who will be put in the category of  
qualified social workers, just the same as the Newfoundland  
Medical Association that I have not

MR. NEARY:

touched at all and I have a great deal of respect for the Medical Association. I do not agree with everything they do. Another crowd with dictatorial power who play their politics much better than we do in this hon. House, They are the experts at it, the members of the Newfoundland Medical Association. Mr. Speaker, the day may come, it may not be too far away when we should take a good hard look at some of these organizations that we have established by an act in this House.

MR. F. ROWE: — Closed shops.

MR. NEARY: By some of the closed shops, as my hon. friend says, that we have established by an act of this House. And then allow them to go off without being policed, without any supervision and do what they like. Mr. Speaker, I gave two examples today. I gave one of the dentist out in Port aux Basques who could not write for his license, a qualified dental surgeon who could not write for his license, could not get a provisional license to practice in this Province. And I went on my hands and knees to the Minister of Health and to the Department of Health and I was told by the Minister of Health, "There is nothing we can do. That matter comes under the Newfoundland Dental Association." Just imagine, nothing we can do. We gave them the authority and there is nothing we can do. You can hardly believe your ears, Sir. The same thing is going to happen to this group if we do not keep an eye on them. They will get out of control, get out of hand and the next thing you will have another little clique.

This is a peculiar situation. I mean my hon. friend said, "We are going to support the bill". Probably nobody will vote against it. We would prefer not to see the legislation brought into the House. We would prefer not to.

AN HON. MEMBER: Vote against it.

MR. NEARY: No, Mr. Speaker, we are not going to vote against it. Mr. Speaker, we have pointed out the pitfalls and the shortcomings and the dangers and the weaknesses in this piece of legislation and we hope, Sir, that the minister -

MR. DOODY: Do exactly as you did when the poor little girls were on strike down at the hospital, stand outside the door and vote.

MR. NEARY: What was that remark again?

MR. DOODY: When there was a strike on down at the General Hospital, try to remember who voted for and against sending them back to work.

MR. MORGAN: The hon. gentleman was out by the door and would not come in to vote.

MR. F. ROWE: Is he questioning the motives of an hon. member?

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I think I will just let that one slide. You know obviously, Sir, no matter what you sav from this side of the House it is just turned into a big joke, a big laugh. You know it falls on deaf ears, Sir. It is really some joke now the way that the lawyers treat people of this Province and that is a big joke and the way that the Newfoundland Dental Association treat the people of this Province. That is a great joke, is it not? A big laugh. Fleece them, take them to the cleaners, sock it to them and we as legislators, as elected representatives of the people who gave them the authority do nothing about it. Now that is some joke, is it not? The joke is on us and maybe the last laugh will be on us.

MR. SPEAKER(Ottenheimer): If the hon. minister speaks now he closes the debate.

The hon. Minister of Social Services.

MR. HICKEY: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure at this point whether I am introducing a bill to set up the Newfoundland and Labrador Law Society or the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association. I thought I was on a bill to provide for the registration of social workers but I am not quite sure at this point.

My hon. friend from Carbonear (Mr. R. Moores) started off by saying he was not pleased with my introduction. I have to say to him that I am sorry about that but my intent was to simply give the very basics of this legislation assuming that hon. gentlemen opposite who would want to have some comment, and I wanted to provide as much time as possible, would have read the bill. Now he says that he - he has the bill obviously - and he says that he has talked to a social worker. Well, Mr. Speaker, based on his comments

MR. HICKEY:

the only conclusion I can draw is either that social worker, which is understandable, if that person does not know very much about it, he may not have seen the bill, but my hon. friend from Carbonear (Mr. R. Moores) apparently has not read it either or if he has it has not sunk in.

MR. T. HICKEY: Your honour, this is not a closed shop, we are not setting up a closed shop. If this piece of legislation was what the hon. gentleman refers to, or what the member for LaPoile (Mr. S. Neary) refers to, I certainly would not be standing here introducing it because what they are suggesting is, in fact, that it is a closed shop, it is another little clique, another little group and once you get a few people with some degrees in it never shall anyone enter unless they have a great academic standing, two or three or four or five degrees and I say that is total, absolute nonsense. What a misrepresentation, Mr. Speaker, of the piece of legislation. If hon. gentlemen had even read it, at a glance they would have gathered, very quickly, that that is not the case.

Let me refer to the real nuts and bolts of the legislation to which hon. gentlemen refers and for which they term a closed shop. There is a board to be established by the minister, recommendations regarding the making of regulations by that board to a minister, vetted by a minister, he can chop out what he wants, add what he wants and then take them to his cabinet colleagues and have them approved. No regulations are approved until they go through that process. Would one say that we are passing over the profession of social work to a small clique with a situation like that. I suggest not. What is the composition of the board, Mr. Speaker? How do we get the Board? The minister, appoints the board, and the board is made up of the following people and, Your Honour, this is probably the most salient point of all in relation to the criticism coming from the other side.

Three members of the Newfoundland Association of Social Workers - and I suggest to hon. gentlemen, if they know anything about the field of social work in this Province that about ninety per cent of social workers in this Province work for the Province, work for the Newfoundland Government, so we have three of those. The great fear expressed

MR. T. HICKEY: by both hon. gentlemen about the university, whatever they have against the university, I do not know. I am not going to stand here and say that everyone at the university are perfect but if there is a bad apple, Mr. Speaker, in a barrel that does not spoil the whole barrel. All of a sudden now my two hon. friends on the other side want to take on the university again for maybe the thousandth time. The favourite whipping boy, the university, "That little clique over there," they say. How many members of the board, Mr. Speaker, will come from the campus? Out of the seven members, I said the board was made up of seven, six, five, I will not go on like an hon. friend, who is not in the House, used to, no, Mr. Speaker, one person from the School of Social Work at Memorial University of Newfoundland, one. How that one person from the campus of Memorial University would create a closed shop is beyond my wildest dreams.

Who are the other members of the board? Two employees of the Government of the Province will they stand for a closed shop, Mr. Speaker? I suggest not. One person from the community at large. Are we suggesting that that person would vote for or support the prospects of a closed shop? Hardly.

So you see, Your Honour, you have three from the Association of Social Workers, two employees of the government and one from the community. That is six out of seven. Assuming a couple of the social workers were interested in going one particular way there is still a majority to out vote them, so Your Honour, there is no foundation at all to the comments made by the hon. gentleman opposite, none whatsoever. In fact, what it points up, Your Honour, is that they, indeed, did not even bother studying this piece of legislation of which they are so afraid and that makes one wonder.



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Tape 780

SD - 3

MR. T. HICKEY:

The minister appoints the membership of the board. The minister appoints the chairman, the vice-chairman, the registrar. The minister approves the regulations. Your Honour, I have to take exception to one remark made by my hon. friend from Carbonear (Mr. R. Moores)

MR. HICKEY: friend from Carbonear (Mr. R. Moores) - he says, "The minister will do as he is told by the civil servants". I do not know whom he is referring to but he is certainly not referring to me. I do not do what I am told by anybody.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! I must now inform hon. members of any matters to be debated as of 5:30. I have notice of one such matter - notice submitted by the hon. member for Bellevue (Mr. Callan) arising from a question asked the hon. the Premier, the subject matter - the chairman of the Action Group.

Hon. minister.

MR. HICKEY: Mr. Speaker, there is every provision that could possibly be put into a piece of legislation to guard against the very thing that the two members from the other side have referred to. Recommendations obviously will be made to the minister, whoever that minister is, by the civil servants, by the social workers, but it does not go without saying - it should go without saying that that minister, whoever he is, is not bound by that. He may accept them. He may not. He may change them. He may not, depending on what they are like.

Mr. Speaker, the member for Lapoile (Mr. Neary) referred to the lawyers and the doctors and the closed shop and he made reference to the people with fifteen and twenty years, and so did the member for Carbonear (Mr. R. Moores), as if to give the impression, Your Honour, that as of the time this legislation is proclaimed only those people who have degrees are social workers, indeed are able to practice in this Province.

MR. HICKEY: That is an absolute misrepresentation of the facts once more. If they read the legislation, Your Honour, they would find out that the board will set examinations. Those examinations are open for anyone to take. I pointed out in introducing the bill that all of the people in the employ of the government, the very people that those two gentlemen are talking about, will not be barred from employment as social workers - will not be barred from practising as social workers - will continue to practice social work - can and will take the examination and those people, I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, anyone who has ten, fifteen years in social work in this Province will have no trouble at all in passing that examination based on their wealth of knowledge and experience. Those who do not pass that examination or who feel they are not qualified to take it, this will be an encouragement to them to upgrade themselves through the various courses and opportunities that are available by this department, that have been available by this department. Most of our people working in the social work field today who are not holders of degrees have upgraded themselves in terms of various courses at Memorial University - bursary courses - diploma courses spread over two years - taken leave of absence and gone to other universities.

Mr. Speaker, in a nutshell everything that has been said from the other side about this legislation today is much ado about nothing. It is a complete and total misrepresentation of the facts. I am surprised indeed to find two people, one who says that he

MR. HICKEY: has worked as a social worker - seems to relate to social workers. He is against it. He says he is going to vote for it but you would never say that he was going to support it by what he said; and then you find, last but not least, the member for Lapoile (Mr. Neary) who is a former minister of Social Services who should know more about social workers in this Province than anyone else except those who served in that department such as myself, my colleague from Trinity North (Mr. Brett) and a few others on this side, who worked daily shoulder to shoulder with those people. The thing I want to point out to my friend from Lapoile -

MR. C. POWER: 'There's none so blind as those who will not see.'

MR. HICKEY: Yes. The thing I want to point out, Mr. Speaker, which is very

MR. HICKEY:

important which I have not covered but which is important to refer to is that one of the positive signs of this legislation aside from bringing those people together, aside from upgrading and improving the quality of the workers who today are not up to scratch, aside from guaranteeing the families of this Province who require services from a social worker that they will now be able to rest in the knowledge after a few years that when they call on the services of a social worker they will have someone who is absolutely and totally qualified to do the job. Aside from that, Your Honour, another very positive part of this piece of social reform legislation is this, that banded together as an association in this Province stretching from one end to the other there will no longer be the opportunity for a Minister of Social Services or indeed any other politician to manipulate, to threaten or in any way interfere with the day to day workings of a social worker in carrying out his or her duties. Mr. Speaker, that is very important. That is not a closed shop I say, indeed not. That guarantees some freedom to those people to carry out their duties and to do their job as indeed it should be done. When you have that you do not run into the situations that we ran into in 1972 with the disgraceful performance of some workers on Bell Island which indeed for various reasons did things that they themselves did not believe in but because they felt they had no protection. They are given protection, Mr. Speaker, in this legislation. In a very subtle way they are given protection because there is protection in numbers. There is protection in associations. There is protection when a group of people such as the social workers and welfare officers or whatever we want to refer to them as can band together in an association in this Province and stand as one if any such effort is put forward again to colour their thinking, to change their minds, to manipulate them, to control them to such a degree that indeed they go out and actually break the law. We have seen the end of that, Your Honour, because with a viable, strong association of social workers that will never be able to happen again I say.

MR. HICKEY:

And I say that aside from all the other parts of this bill, all the other good things about it: there is a hidden benefit which is not seen on the surface but certainly is a most important facet of it.

As one, Mr. Speaker, who had the honour to be Minister of Social Services in 1972 when this same issue was raised, when a request was made by the social workers and denied - that request was denied then, Mr. Speaker, because we felt the group was too small. A sufficient number of our people who were working in the field had not brought themselves up to a level whereby they could indeed become part of this organization but that has since changed with the bursary opportunities, with the diploma courses that have been made available at Memorial University and with all the other correspondence courses of various types that have been made available. Our workers have taken advantage and today the greater majority of our people in the field are qualified, I would even go so far as to say to the degree where they would indeed pass the examination which will be required by this legislation. A real positive step forward, a good piece of legislation and one, Mr. Speaker, which will be welcomed by all in the Social Welfare field in this Province. And I say that I am indeed proud and happy as are my colleagues for bringing in this kind of reform. I move second reading.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

On motion, a bill, "An Act To Provide For The Registration Of Qualified Social Workers," read a second time, ordered referred to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow. (Bill No. 6)

Motion, second reading of a bill, "An Act To Amend The Crown Guarantee And Loan Act, 1973."

MR. SPEAKER(Mr. Cross): The hon. minister.

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, as the title indicates this is an amendment to the 1973 act

MR. J. COLLINS: and it is a short amendment, but it does embody an important point. Section two of the Act as it presently reads, states, "As the explanatory notes point out, whenever in any Act" - the language here is perhaps a little obscure and archaic so I will summarize; I do not believe I will be leading hon. members astray in doing so - the Act says, at the present time whenever in any Act any minister of the Crown other than the Minister of Finance is authorized on behalf of the Crown in right of Newfoundland or on behalf of the government or in a similar capacity - wherever such a minister is authorized to guarantee repayment of a bond or debenture or to make a loan or to act in similar manner, that authority is to be exercised by the Minister of Finance. And reference to any other minister in the Act is deemed to actually be in reference to the Minister of Finance. In other words, these guarantees are carried out in the name of the Province under the authority given to the Minister of Finance. Now, in the amendment that section is not changed, but the amendment extends that line of thought to guarantees for repayment of bonds and loans that are made on behalf or through the agency of boards, commissions and other such bodies. In other words, loans designed for such agencies, commissions and bodies, the guarantee for these has to be authorized, given under the authority vested in the Minister of Finance rather than being guaranteed by those bodies and those commissions themselves. The guarantee, therefore, rests clearly in the hands of a member of this House, that is, in the person of the Minister of Finance. And I think that hon. members will agree that this is a measure of desirable control.

I do not think there is anything further, Mr. Speaker, that needs to be said about this amendment, and I so move.

MR. SPEAKER: (Mr. Cross) The hon. the Opposition House Leader.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, it is not a very big bill, it is only a couple of pages, Sir, but I am not quite sure if I understand the hon. gentleman. I have read the bill and I listened to the hon. gentleman's explanation, and I am not quite sure, Sir - I do not know about other members - if we understand what it is the hon. gentleman is trying to do. We know that the hon. the Minister of Finance (Dr. J. Collins) is trying to get control of something or other; he is trying to get something exclusively under the control of the Minister of Finance, but I am not quite sure what it is. Loan and guarantee, does that mean loans that are made, for instance, by the Rural Development Authority?

AN HON. MEMBER: To all of them.

MR. NEARY: Well, the Minister of Rural Development now has the authority to make these loans exclusively, he does not - well, yes, the hon. gentleman, the Minister of Rural Development has the authority -

DR. COLLINS: The reason is to guarantee the repayment of loans.

MR. NEARY: Repayment of loans by the Newfoundland Government -

DR. COLLINS: Yes.

MR. NEARY: - or repayment of loans of people who borrow from the Newfoundland Government? Which is it?

MR. HICKMAN: As I understand it, may I?

MR. NEARY: Well, if I do not give up my right, Sir, as, you know, Second Reading -

MR. HICKMAN: Oh, no.

MR. NEARY: - the hon. gentleman can answer a question if he likes.



MR. HICKMAN: I realize that if my colleague rises he would have to close the debate. My recollection when this bill was being drafted was that - take, for instance, the Fisheries Loan Board. Right now they can guarantee a loan, and it was felt that ordinary prudence would indicate or dictate that any guarantee by the Crown or by a Crown agency should be made by the Minister of Finance, otherwise it would be difficult for him to control all the contingent liabilities of the Crown.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. gentleman, Sir, for at least

MR. NEARY:

giving us an example of the kind of authority that the Minister of Finance is trying to get under his wing that now rests exclusively with the Fishery Loan Board for instance. Well what about the Newfoundland Development Loan Corporation; they are set up under the authority of this House. They make loans and give grants to all kinds of con artists, all kinds of people in this Province who come along with wierd schemes and ideas. They give out loans and grants and they answer to nobody. We cannot even get a list in this House. Do they answer to the Minister of Finance? Granted, Mr. Speaker, the money that they shovel out down there, that they throw out, 75 per cent of it comes from the taxpayers of Canada, 25 per cent of it comes from the taxpayers of Newfoundland, seventy-five, twenty-five. The authority comes from this legislature. But who do they answer to? The Minister of Industrial Development or the Minister of Finance? I think they should answer to the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Finance should answer to this House. Right now nobody answers to this House for the loans and grants that are made by the Newfoundland and Labrador Development Corporation. We have no idea as elected representatives of the people what kind of a track record the Newfoundland and Labrador Development Corporation has, no more than the man on the moon. They have been shovelling out millions and millions of taxpayers dollars over there on the Torbay Road for the last several years since 1972 or 1973, secret loans and we have not been able to get a list in this House. The Minister of Industrial Development will not give it to us. Perhaps if the Minister of Finance had the Newfoundland and Rural Development Authority under his wing we might be able to get a list of these loans and then we could go down over the list, look at the successes, look at the failures and be able to make a judgement of the track record of the Newfoundland Development Loan Corporation. Right now we cannot do it. We do not know if it is a good thing or a bad thing.

I am surprised the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. Marshall), the Government House Leader, would tolerate this,

MR. NEARY:

the hon. gentleman who was out to cleanse and purify politics in this Province and the author of the Newfoundland Tendering Act. I am surprised the hon. gentleman would put up with it. Right up to this moment we have been unable to get a list of the secret loans that are made by this corporation let alone get a list from the Rural Development Authority. We have not been able to get that list either.

So, Mr. Speaker, if that is what the Minister of Finance, Sir, is trying to accomplish then he has my blessings and he has the full support of members of this side of the House. But I am not so sure if that is what the hon. gentleman is going to be able to do or not. Now what about the Newfoundland Industrial Development Corporation that I thought went out of existence the last time we made a loan to EPA. Apparently that is still on the go. There is a little bit of political patronage still to be gained from that corporation.

MR. FLIGHT: So is the loan still on the go.

MR. NEARY: The Newfoundland Industrial Development Corporation is the Corporation that Pelcon got \$2.5 million from. Mr. John Weston - any hon. gentleman who read the transcript of the preliminary hearing into the fire at Elizabeth Towers will see that one of the gentlemen who gave evidence at that hearing was a Mr. John Weston who the night before had a flower pot flung at him by the gentleman who is one of the principals involved in the preliminary hearings, Mr. John Weston of Pelcon. \$2.5 million came out of the Newfoundland Industrial Development Corporation and no accounting given to this House.

Your Honour, if the Minister of Finance is trying to get that kind of authority under his wing so that we can get the information into this House on the likes of Pelcon, and the likes of Canadian Cushion Craft

MR. NEARY: and Green Bay Mining. I am talking about the Newfoundland and Labrador Development Corporation loans. If we can put the authority in the hands of the Minister of Finance and then get the answers to our questions in this House and get the information concerning these secret loans and guarantees that are made by the Newfoundland Government, then I would say, Sir, that would be a good thing. I am not quite sure if that is what - am I thinking along the same lines as the hon. gentleman? Is that the principle of this?

AN HON. MEMBER: It sounds alright.

MR. NEARY: That is the principle of this bill. Oh well then, Sir, I am on the right track.

Does it include the Newfoundland and Labrador Development Corporation, Mr. Speaker, or are they again allowing to themselves that they answer to nobody? If they do now once this bill goes through - if they do have to answer to the Minister of Finance, then perhaps the minister could tell us, Sir, how the Newfoundland Government - how DREE and how the Newfoundland and Labrador Development Corporation were conned out of approximately \$5 million by these two con artists that came down from Toronto allegedly with an invention called an underwater connector. I am told, Sir, and this is why I have been harping on this one, Mr. Speaker, that the company in their presentation to the Newfoundland Government of which the hon. gentleman is now a member indicated that they had a contract with the United States Navy to - what was the contract? I forget now the title of it, but anyway they had a big contract with the United States Navy, I presume eventually to supply these underwater connectors.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, they also told and the Minister of Justice should pay attention to this because I wrote - I would not waste my time writing the provincial minister - I wrote the minister responsible for DREE and the Minister of Justice in Ottawa because there are federal funds involved and I would not waste my time because of the cover-ups in this Province - the secret loans that are being made that we have not been able to get a list of in this House. I would not waste my time writing the hon. gentleman. The only way we can get any action is write Ottawa to find out if in the records of the Newfoundland Industrial Development Corporation, the Newfoundland and Labrador Development Corporation and in the files of DREE if there any evidence that this company told these three lending agencies of government that they had a contract with the United States Navy. If they did, it was a lie. It was false information and they obtained the loans under false pretences and it was a conspiracy to defraud the public treasury, and if they told the Newfoundland Government that they had a patent on this underwater connector, that was fraudulent because it was not true. I do not know if I will be successful in getting my investigation by the Government of Canada or not, Sir. I hope I am. Nothing is going to be done about it here. We have been screaming now for weeks.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure, Sir, it must set the devil in the member for St. John's East (Mr. Marshall), the Government House Leader, to learn that these two gentlemen, who conned \$5 million - between \$5 and \$6 million - out of the provincial and federal governments, went over last fall down at the yacht club, down in Long Pond,

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MR. NEARY: sailed out their yacht to Bermuda - hired a crew - sailed her down to Bermuda and got her out of here before somebody put a lien on it or seized it. I do not know if these gentlemen went on the back of a note for a personal guarantee or not but they were not long getting their yacht out of here - now down in Bermuda laughing at the

MR. S. NEARY: taxpayers laughing at the government and laughing at the people of this Province. Now, Sir, if that is the kind of thing that the Minister of Finance (Dr. J. Collins) is trying to curb, cut down on this misuse and abuse of public funds, this extravagance and waste then, Sir, we are all for it. We would have no hesitation at all in supporting this bill.

And the same thing, Sir, about an outfit called - as I said a few moments ago Canadian Cushion Craft. Canadian Cushion Craft is another story. You know, Mr. Speaker, if I wanted to, Sir, I could go to the registry office and I could provide this House with a mini scandal every day, a mini scandal every day that are covered up in the records of the Rural Development Authority, the Newfoundland and Labrador Development Corporation and the Newfoundland Industrial Development Corporation, every day if I wanted to. Canadian Cushion Craft is a beaut, a dandy! I went down and searched the registry office I discovered that the real owners of that company have never been registered. Three secretaries, three secretaries of a law firm down on Church Hill, I believe it is the law firm is located. Three secretaries signed the share list that was sent into the Registrar of Companies, it was never amended, never changed, never updated, that made it legal under the Companies Act each with a qualifying share and they were given \$150,000, \$150,000 of taxpayers money from the Newfoundland and Labrador Development Corporation. Never paid back, lost, down the drain, the government may as well have taken it and thrown it out in the harbour. Never paid back! The Registry of Companies did not know who the owners were when I asked them I wrote the Newfoundland and Labrador Development Corporation and I discovered Mr. Speaker, that the owners of that company was a lawyer downtown and the other owners I believe is now Chairman of the Public Utilities Board. Is that correct? The hon. Minister of Justice (Mr. Rickman) knows who I am talking about I am not allowed to mention names in this House somebody might have a nervous breakdown.

MR. HICKMAN: The Chairman of the Public Utilities Board is Mr. Powell.

MR. S. NEARY: Well, who is his assistant?

MR. HICKMAN: That is the same question?

MR. S. NEARY: No questions? Well, Mr. Speaker, I believe Mr. Powell is in the process of retiring and I believe, the Acting Chairman of the Public Utilities Board is a gentleman who is well known from my hon. friend, the Minister of Justice (Mr. Hickman).

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. MacDonald.

MR. S. NEARY: Mr. MacDonald. Try again! Try again!

MR. HICKMAN: Try, try if at first you do not succeed.

MR. S. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the gentleman I am referring to, Sir, if he is not the Chairman he is the Acting Chairman, certainly a member of the board appointed on the recommendation of my hon. friend. I move the adjournment of the debate, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, before we get on with the next order of business I wonder if I could move and I am sure the Opposition would agree that when this House adjourns after the Late Show that it will adjourn until 10:00 instead of 3:00 that is required by the Standing Orders. I know I will get co-operation with the Opposition with respect to this.

MR. SPEAKER (MR. OTTENHEIMER): It has moved that when this House adjourns it is adjourned until 10:00 a.m. tomorrow. Those in favour "Aye", contrary 'Nay', carried. The motion to adjourn is now deemed to be before the House. The first subject matter the Chairmanship of the Action Group.

Hon. member for Bellevue.

MR. W. CALLAN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I had a number of questions for the Premier I will repeat them now. I was asking the Premier when will the Premier, if and when will the Premier table the contract of the Chairman of the Action Group. The former Premier promised to do it on three separate occasions in this Legislature. On one occasion I noticed he said in two or three days



MR. W. CALLAN: and that was about a year ago or more, not a year ago but several months ago, so that is the first question. When, if the Premier intends to do so, when does he intend to table the contract? And secondly, does the Premier intend to keep the Action Group in existence or will the Premier disband the Action Group and in so doing, of course, will the Premier, in so disbanding the Action Group, will he admit by so doing that it is unnecessary and that, of course, it was only really set up in the first place to buy up, to improve the image of the PC Party at an all time low. And this, of course, was especially done by adding or heading up the Action Group with the name of a prominent Newfoundland broadcaster. So will the Premier table the contract showing what pension, privileges, annual salary, how long a contract is it - one, two, half a dozen, ten years - and will the Premier then disband it this year? And will the Premier not admit that the Province is a Province that is nearly \$3 billion in debt, will the Premier not admit that we cannot afford, the taxpayers of this Province cannot afford, to waste one million dollars or even half a million dollars in advertising, salaries and what have you on an unnecessary creation of government, and this is what it is, unnecessary. Why was it necessary? Why did the former Premier think it was necessary and his cabinet and caucus, why? When the same government added ten seats in the Legislature in '74 were they not really saying, "You know, the people of this Province need better and more representation," and they gave it to them. Was that not the real reason, one would suspect so but no, what the Premier was admitting was that the Province is still not adequately represented, the people still have nowhere to go to find out about loans and government programs and all that sort of thing. So since the Province is inadequately represented there is no one to tell them even though I told dozens of people

MR. W. CALLAN: in my district, so therefore then let us set up a special phone number, a special Action Group with a high salary for the Chairman. We do not know, I think the salary is around \$48,000 - is that correct I wonder? I do not know. I believe I heard that mentioned as thought somewhere.

The actual contract, pension privileges and the length of the contract we do not know, but let us assume that it is \$48,000, let us assume that. Mr. Speaker, I was listening to an open line program one day I was driving somewhere to St. John's possibly, I was listening to an open-line program and the subject of discussion was, and that was about three or four months ago, the subject was that there was a possibility that the Chairman of the Action Group, Mr. Bob Cole, was going to be put into Cabinet, he was going to be put into cabinet. Now then, just look at this scenario, imagine a man earning \$48,000 a year - that is three times the average Cabinet Minister - imagine him being in a Cabinet sitting around a Cabinet table and his fellow Cabinet Ministers, the fellows around the table, earning \$15,000 or \$16,000 and here was a fellow who had no need to run for office or anything earning three times their salary and if he got a Cabinet Minister's salary on top of that then he was getting \$65,000 or close to it.

MR. DOODY: You cannot get both of them.

MR. W. CALLAN: Well, you cannot bet both, okay then you cannot get both, can you imagine Bob Cole or anybody else dropping from \$48,000 a year to \$16,000. You know, that is not very likely. The man who was prepared to accept \$48,000 in the first place was not very likely to drop down \$32,000 or \$33,000 just to be placed in the Cabinet.

There are a lot of questions around this whole matter that needs clearing up and the Page is on the way now with his one minute warning, so let me clue up by asking again, will this Action Group be done away with

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MR. W. CALLAN:

as the bill notices were done away with, the ones that we had printed? - one minute remaining. Will the Action Group be done away with? The taxpayers of this Province cannot afford it. They cannot afford to spend half a million, a million or a half or even a quarter of a million dollars. Every day you pick up the newspaper and there it is: "Action Group, call collect." These things cost money and then you look at the television screen and you see someone down in Hopeall or someone down in Green Bay and they are showing them

MR. CALLAN:

out in their fishing boats and so on. They did not get there through the Action Group. Many of those people were set up in business whether it was fishery, farming or whatever long before the Action Group came along. And then the Premier from time to time tried to justify the existence by announcing how many loans were given out in a period of time when he knows and all the people in this Province know that they would have been given anyway, that this fellow would have gone into fishery or farming anyway because there was nothing else for him to do because the moth ball plan was still in operation, the moth ball plan.

MR. SPEAKER(Ottenheimer): Order, please!

The hon. Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. gentlemen for giving me additional opportunity to elaborate on some of the questions that he had asked earlier today. First of all in response to the question that the hon. member for Bellevue (Mr. Callan) asks again this evening as he asked earlier this afternoon, "Will I table the contract of the Chairman of the Action Group?" The answer to that question is yes. "When will I table the contract, I mean the full contract?". I will table it in the next couple of days as soon as I can get it together. I have not had an opportunity today because I have only been in my office long enough to walk through it. But as soon as I get time not to walk through it and sit down or to look around I shall get together - it is already underway, Mr. Speaker, to make sure we have the contract in place and in writing and table it in the House. So the hon. member can rest assured that this will be done.

Thirdly, "Will the Action Group be disbanded?".

That is a question that I cannot answer either yes or no on right now. As I indicated to the hon. member this afternoon that whole question of what will be disbanded if anything will be dealt with by Treasury Board and Cabinet in the normal budgetary process. So I do not know yet whether it will be disbanded or not. There are those

PREMIER PECKFORD:

who will argue that it has done no good. There are others who will argue that it has done some good and, you know, I guess there are just as many on one side of the issue as there are on the other.

Since the inception of the Action Group there have been well over 200 constituents from Bellevue district, the district that the hon. member represents, there have been over 200 constituents from Bellevue alone who have needed direction, help and encouragement to be in the position to take advantage of programmes. Some examples of the requests from Bellevue district, the hon. gentleman's district: Fishing gear subsidy, \$9,425; Small business loans, \$25,000; Fisheries Loan Board, \$109,224; Rural development, \$1,027; And Arda, \$1,027 for a grand total of \$145,703 which has gone to Bellevue district as a result of assistance from the Action Group.

MR. CALLAN: Directly from the Action Group?

PREMIER PECKFORD: For Bellevue district - I do not know where the member has been - there has been some positive effect to helping people getting assistance to the various programmes in government. There was a total of thirty-three permanent jobs involved in that. So there has been some work done by the Action Group. Whether it should now remain or whether it should go as I say will be an assessment made by the Treasury Board and by Cabinet in the normal budgetary process and then everybody will know when the budget is brought down what is remaining, what has gone, what is added or whatever.

So, I think I have answered the hon. gentleman's questions and concerns and hopefully he will have the patience to wait until the budget is brought down before the final decision as it relates to a whole bunch of agencies or departments or individuals are finally decided.

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Premier would permit a question. He has a minute left. Does the Premier agree though that you cannot say that these loans that I know about by the way and so on, that were given in the district of Bellevue, does

MR. CALLAN:

the Premier not agree that you cannot say that if the Action Group had not existed then those same people would not have taken advantage. I mean all you had was a phone number. I have a phone number as well. I have two.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Well I guess the same thing, Mr. Speaker, I guess all the improvements that have accrued to Bellevue district since the hon. member who is member, he is not responsible for any of them.

MR. CALLAN: Oh, no.

PREMIER PECKFORD: He is not responsible for any of the improvements or any of the loans that have been given out that he has assisted on. Nobody has really helped. I mean that is an argument that can go on endlessly. I can only suggest to the hon. gentleman that there must be some positive correlation between the number of phone calls coming in, the number of dollars going out and that the people in between who assisted had something to do with it. Albeit if there are thirty-three jobs there perhaps only ten of them are directly resulting from actions by the hon. gentleman or by the Action Group or whosoever. But

PREMIER PECKFORD: one cannot say definitively that every single dollar - cent - that went to Bellevue district that was channelled through the Action Group that the Action Group was responsible for it, but it does indicate to some degree and hopefully the hon. gentleman can take some credit for some of those things as well.

MR. CALLAN: I do not want to.

PREMIER PECKFORD: I never asked the hon. gentleman if he did, I am just saying that he might -

MR. CALLAN: I do not want to.

PREMIER PECKFORD: and he is quite at liberty to make what conclusions and deductions he likes from the kinds of assistance that goes to his district - who is supposed to be responsible - what agencies - what individuals. I do not know. All I am saying to the hon. gentleman is there are a number of a facts, there are a number of programs, there are a number of phone calls, there are a number of M.H.A.'s, there are a number of action groups and all the rest of them and between it all there has been some positive development occur in Bellevue district. Who is responsible, I do not know.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion is that this House now adjourn. Those in favour 'aye', contrary 'nay', carried. This House stands adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, 10:00 a.m.