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HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
FOR THE PERIOD
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 1982

The House met at 10:00 A.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order, please!

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of
Development.

MR. WINDSOR: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased
to announce the establishment of a new Capital Assistance
programme designed to stimulate and encourage further
development of the ocean industry sector in this
Province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. WINDSOR: As outlined in the recent
budget address for fiscal 1982 - 1983, government has
provided a fund of \$1.5 million to be available for
incentives to businesses which manufacture equipment
or provide technical services related to ocean and
marine industries.

This government is determined
to encourage the expansion of Newfoundland companies
in this area and to attract new ocean-related industries
to the Province. This assistance is evidence of
government's commitment to development of a diversi-
fied ocean industries sector to complement and enhance
the traditional relationships of our economy with the
sea.

This programme, planned as
a short-term incentive measure is designed to be
complementary to existing federal and provincial
programmes and will be available during the fiscal
year 1982 - 1983 only.

The Capital Assistance
programme is planned to provide conditional grants

MR. WINDSOR: to new or expanding ocean manufacturing industries and ocean service industries. These grants would amount to 50 per cent of the approved capital costs of the proposed project less the amount available under the existing Regional Development Incentives Act (RDIA) agreement, to a maximum grant of \$500,000.

Existing RDIA Industrial Incentive grants to manufacturing industries normally average an amount equal to 35 per cent of approved capital costs. As such, the supplementary grant provided to eligible manufacturing firms by this programme would amount to approximately 15 per cent of the approved capital costs.

In the case of eligible service industries, where RDIA assistance is not available in Newfoundland, the total grant of 50 per cent would be provincially funded.

These incentive funds, which would be secured via mortgage on the assets, would be forgiven over a four year period at a rate of 25 per cent per annum and would be disbursed when commercial operation of the proposed facility commences. Any unforgiven balance of the grant would become due and payable in the event the facility ceased operation, or subject to review on any change in beneficial ownership or control of the applicant company.

In addition to the Capital Assistance programme, the budget address made reference to the government's intention to grant exemptions from retail

MR. WINDSOR: sales tax for capital investment in machinery and equipment in the manufacturing and processing sectors. The objective of this initiative is to facilitate enhancement of local manufacturing opportunities which, in turn, would impact such things as import substitution, our industrial competitiveness, and employment. This programme is aimed primarily at small local businesses and will be an additional incentive for their growth and diversification. Nevertheless, its benefits will also be available to companies wishing to establish new ventures in the Province depending, of course, on the merits of the particular cases and the impact on employment and already established local companies. Both programmes will be delivered by the Departments of Development and Finance on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with appropriate guidelines, eligibility criteria, and conditions of approval to be detailed later.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. WINDSOR: Mr. Speaker, this government has stated quite clearly on many occasions its intention to ensure that maximum benefits from offshore development accrue to Newfoundlanders and Labradorians. The capital assistance programmes makes available, in this Province, incentives similar to those offered to the ocean industry sector by other neighboring provinces and will help to ensure the continued development of Newfoundland and Labrador as a center of excellence in ocean related technology and to foster the development of this important sector of our economy. The RST exemption programme is more broadly based in its objectives but is nevertheless complimentary to the Capital Assistance programme. It is just another example of the determination of this government to encourage, generally, development of our industrial base and, Mr. Speaker, I might

MR. WINDSOR: say too, to replace programmes that have been provided by the federal government in other Provinces.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. W. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): The hon. the member for Bellvue.

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker, obviously it is Friday again. Not much enthusiasm in the minister's words, Mr. Speaker, or the desk thumping that follows, ordinarily on Friday mornings when we have these Ministerial Statements.

Mr. Speaker, we are talking about \$1.5 million here which, of course, would mean a lot of health care services, places like the Markland Hospital and so on.

MR. G. WARREN: Hear, hear!

MR. CALLAN: But when you are talking about incentive grants, a pittance really, \$1.5 million. I mean, how many companies are we talking about here? Are we talking about bailing out companies that are in financial difficulties already or are we talking about the starting up of new companies related to the offshore and that sort of thing.

There are a number of questions there and we will be very happy to hear the further details that the minister says will become available later on. But as I said earlier, it is just a matter of the finger in the dyke.

MR. S. NEARY: Right on!

MR. CALLAN: And I believe what it is doing actually is supplementing the Department of Rural Development -

MR. NEARY: Right on!

MR. CALLAN: - and the kinds of grants that they have been giving out over the years.

MR. CALLAN: Many of them have been very questionable.

MR. NEARY: Another giveaway and that does not work.

MR. CALLAN: Many of them have been very questionable indeed. And for years, Mr. Speaker, we have been asking for a list of the grants and to whom they went. The minister of that department will not give us the names and the amounts and indicate whether they are going to buddies of the government or people who are really doing a fine job of trying to build up a company and an industry with the good of this Province in mind.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Are there any other Ministerial Statements?

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Leader of Opposition.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Premier who does not seem to be spending very much time in the House these days, and when he does come he is here for a half an hour at a time, a half an hour a day.

MR. WARREN: The most expensive Premier in Canada.

MR. NEARY: The most expensive Premier in Canada.

I would like to ask the hon. Government House Leader (Mr. Marshall) if the Premier's absence is an indication that he has now started his campaign for the Leadership of the Tory Party of Canada.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): The hon. President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I gather the question is motivated by the fear of the hon. gentleman of what is going to become of him in the next election, when they are reduced to two or three seats.

MR. WINDSOR: He is hoping he will go away.

MR. MARSHALL: The fact of the matter, Mr. Speaker, is that that question does not warrant a response.

As to the Premier's absence, the Premier is absent on business connected with the Province, on the Mainland. So the hon. gentleman's comment is really, you know, the type of question that the hon. gentleman is used to making. Perhaps we could comment on the fact, in return, that the hon. Premier and all members of the caucus were here during the Budget Speech and just barely over 50 per cent of the Opposition graced these Chambers to hear the Budget Speech.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. WINDSOR: They were in New York.

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary, the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: There are an awful lot of Newfoundlanders who have their fingers crossed hoping that the hon. gentleman will throw his hat into the ring. That may be one way to get rid of him. Mr. Speaker, would the hon. gentleman indicate -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order, please!

MR. NEARY: Maybe, Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentlemen may be getting nervous because I got my eye on that seat over there.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: I like this job, Mr. Speaker, and the pay is good.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: There is only one more move now - one more move I have to make.

MR. SPEAKER: I would ask the hon. Leader of the Opposition to get on with his question.

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MR. NEARY:

And I got a good crowd working
for me too, Mr. Speaker. I got the best caucus

MR. NEARY: that a man could ask for. But
I would like to ask -

MR. PATTERSON: You have got them all in the front row so you can
keep your eye on them.

MR. NEARY: That is right, all in the front
benches, not in the back benches.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to
ask the hon. gentleman if -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order, please!

MR. NEARY: - the official position of
his party is to encourage the Premier to throw his hat into
the ring, or will he be supporting Mr. Davis of Ontario?
Mr. Speaker, the reason I am asking the question, is this
the real reason for all these vicious attacks on Ottawa
that our little 'Brian' has now suddenly become really
ambitious and is going to go after the top job of the
Tory Party of Canada?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. NEARY: Well, Mr. Speaker, the hon.
gentleman obviously is not going to respond so I will ask
the hon. gentleman a question that is a little closer to
home. Now, Mr. Speaker, when the Government of Canada
and the Parliament of Canada passed this legislation for
a power corridor across Quebec it can only, of course,
succeed with the good will of the Province of Newfoundland
and the Province of Quebec. It will not succeed, Mr.
Speaker, if the combative attitude and policy of this
Province continues. Now, Mr. Levesque yesterday was
quoted widely across Canada as referring to the hon.
Government House Leader (Mr. Marshall) as a blackguard
and an ignoramus. Now, Mr. Speaker, we are not allowed
to use these terms. I do not think we can use these
terms in this hon. House.

MR. WARREN: Ignoramous, there is one there in St. John's West.

MR. NEARY: And, Mr. Speaker, although we might agree that they described the hon. gentleman to a 't', we do not think it is a good, healthy sign, we do not think that it creates the kind of atmosphere that we need to get that power corridor across Quebec. And what I am asking the hon. gentleman now is to inform the House if this all-out war between Newfoundland and Quebec is going to continue and if it does continue, then will it postpone the possibility of us ever getting a power corridor across the Province of Quebec to export our surplus power to the markets on the mainland of Canada and in the United States?

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): The hon. President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. gentleman for coming to my defence.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MARSHALL: As to Mr. Levesque's comments, we have no intention of responding to them. If he wants to get down to the area of his perceived personalities, I never met the gentleman in my life and obviously the only bit of satisfaction that one takes from it is the fact that he obviously had to base that on the matter of a hearing and my appearance before the

MR. MARSHALL: Parliamentary committee in the House of Commons in Ottawa and since this obviously struck home and caused this type of reaction, I consider it to be an outstanding success.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MARSHALL: The position of this government, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that it does not wish to be involved in disputes with other provinces, as the hon. gentleman in his usual exaggerated fashion paints them. What this government is doing is attempting to get rights for the people of Newfoundland, the rights to which they are entitled, and they will not be pushed off us by anybody either outside the Province or, for that matter, inside the Province.

With respect to all of the matters our relationship with Quebec on the transmission of power, hydro power and what have you, our position is plain. For seven years we have attempted to negotiate and to negotiate in good faith with Quebec. There were no negotiations from them. The last meeting with the Province of Quebec occurred in Halifax in September of last year at the request of the Minister for Quebec, where we talked about the matter of hydro power and hydro transmission. Subsequent to that I wrote him a three or four page letter that I believe has been tabled, if not I can give it to the members of the House, or the public, giving a resumé of the meeting indicating that once again Quebec had not been prepared to put anything substantial on the table and until it did we could not talk sensibly with them on the matters that were of mutual concern to us. This was followed some six or eight weeks later by a very short letter from the Minister of Energy of Quebec, just merely saying, and I am paraphrasing it but substantially these were the words, "I acknowledge receipt of

MR. MARSHALL: your letter of"- that letter to which I referred -"Your letter raises many interesting points, perhaps we can talk about them sometime."

Now that is the kind of attitude that we have had. The attempt of Quebec, you see, is to delay. They do not want to negotiate, they want to delay because each day they delay they make thousands of dollars, each month that they delay they make millions of dollars from that horrendous mistake to which the hon. gentlemen there opposite were a party in giving away our Upper Churchill resource.

So each day that goes by they stand to gain a fortune. They intend to give the impression, give lip service to the fact that they want to negotiate but, in fact, their actions show they do not negotiate. And because of this, this is why this government took the initiative and enacted the reversion case, The reversion case is now before the Supreme Court of Canada. We trust that will be heard too in an early fashion, in an expeditious fashion as well as other cases have been by that court. And when that is done, Mr. Speaker, then Newfoundland will be in its rightful position to reclaim its resources. Now, when we are in a rightful

MR. MARSHALL: position to reclaim our resources
I guarantee the hon. gentlemen there opposite, Mr. Speaker,
and the members of this House that this government will not
be giving them away again.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): A supplementary. The Leader of
the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, it will be
forever to the shame of the Opposition of the day that
they did not raise these matters at the appropriate
time. The Minister of Justice (Mr. Ottenheimer) who
was in the Opposition at the time and the Minister of
of Social Services (Mr. Hickey) who was in the Opposition at the time
did not raise a finger of objection. It will be forever
to their shame that they were so negligent -

MR. OTTENHEIMER: And you were a member of the government which gave
no information.

MR. NEARY: - Mr. Speaker, that they were so
negligent in that they did not object. They voted in
favour of this, by the way. Now, Mr. Speaker, let me ask
the hon. gentleman again -

AN HON. MEMBER: It might sound good in the House.

MR. NEARY: They did not raise their voice
in objection to that bill. All the information was put on
the table and they voted in favour of it. It will be
forever to their shame that they did not oppose it.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

I would request the hon. Leader
of the Opposition, time is running out in the Question
Period, and I would request him to get on with his question.

MR. BARRETT: Time is running for the opposition.

MR. HODDER: You are touching a sore point now.

MR. NEARY: Now, Mr. Speaker, in order for

MR. NEARY: the power corridor across Quebec to succeed, I think, the hon. gentleman will agree that there must be good will on both sides, on behalf of the province of Quebec and the Province of Newfoundland. Now in the event that this all-out war - and these are pretty tough words, Mr. Speaker, a blackguard and an ignoramus, pretty tough words. Now if that war continues, can the hon. gentleman foresee, even though the legislation is on the statutes of Canada, can the hon. gentleman see in the foreseeable future a power corridor going across the Province of Quebec?

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): The hon. President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL: May I first comment that that surely must be the first indication of any group of people in any parliamentary practice who complains because the Opposition did not tell them how stupid they were.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MARSHALL: As a matter of fact, and as a matter of record to all intents and purposes there was no legislature here because nothing was revealed to the Opposition,

MR. MARSHALL: absolutely nothing at the time. There was no Question Period such as we are going through now, there was no Public Accounts Committee, there was no revelation at all, there was secret borrowing in Cabinet so, you know, make no wonder that the Opposition of the day did not have the information. But the hon. gentleman there opposite had the information. He had it himself, and now he complains again because he was not told how stupid he is, but then, the people of Newfoundland have told him that again and again some four or five times since then.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MARSHALL: Now, he said, 'Must not there be good will? And what is the purpose of trading insults?' Aside from trading certain insults with members of the Opposition, which one has to do, because one has to respond to insulting questions, there has been no trading of insults as far as this Province is concerned. What this Province has done is it has continued to assert the rights of the people of Newfoundland to that power, and despite Mr. Levesque or anybody else from the mainland or anybody in the federal caucus on the Liberal side of the House, we intend to do exactly just that in the future in a calm and dispassionate way by speeches, by statements here in the House and statements before parliamentary committees.

He refers to war time and again, and I would again point out that we are not engaged in a matter of war with anyone, we are engaged, Mr. Speaker, in asserting the rights of Newfoundlanders,

MR. MARSHALL: their rights in Confederation, and assuring that these rights are secured, not only for people now living in the Province, but for generations yet to come, and particularly, the younger people.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MARSHALL: 'Now, do we foresee any difficulty?' he says, with respect to this transmission line. I have to point out again that obviously, as the hon. gentleman knows, there is a very strong lobby that has been mounted by the Quebec interests, to preclude the passage of that act and to allow that act to die on the Order Paper - or that particular section to die on the Order Paper or not be proclaimed - that act, I say, that Bill No. C108. If this occurs, it will be a tragedy and, indeed, a crime towards the people of Newfoundland and I do not anticipate it will. It certainly will not be accepted. But given that it is passed and if it is passed, then the next question comes about the transmission corridor. I repeat once again that this government quite logically will expect the federal government to enforce its own legislation, and if illegitimate roadblocks are put up against the establishment of that line, we will expect the federal government to enforce its own legislation. On the other hand, it has to be borne in mind as well, that after the bill is enacted,

MR. MARSHALL: there must needs be an application to the National Energy Board which this government is in the process of preparing and will have all ready to go. And then after that, lo and behold, the matters of the design of the line, the course of the line and the environmental concerns, in addition to being considered by the National Energy Board, is going to have to be considered by the federal Cabinet. So there are hurdles to go over, there are, you know, ways to tread yet, it is not just open and shut when that bill goes through. But, as I say, we will expect the co-operation of the federal government in that matter. In the meantime, we are at war with nobody, Mr. Speaker. The insults are not coming from this side of Canada, from Newfoundland and Labrador, the insults are coming elsewhere. All we are doing, Mr. Speaker, is valiantly attempting to enforce and get justice and equity and the rights of the people of Newfoundland.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

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

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): A final supplementary, the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I want to assure this hon. House that the fear that the hon. gentleman just raised in his preamble to the answer there about the corridor legislation dying on the Order Paper--despite the efforts of the national Tory caucus to vote against this and the two MPs from Newfoundland to abstain from voting in favour of this bill, Mr. Chretien told our caucus recently during his visit to Newfoundland, that that legislation will remain and it will become the law of Canada. But my concern, Mr. Speaker, is when it becomes the law of Canada, then is the hon. gentleman advocating and I would gather from his answer when he said that the Government of Canada will be asked to enforce their own law, is he suggesting that if Quebec for some reason or other cannot

MR. NEARY: negotiate with this Province because of the battle of the words, because of the personalities of the people involved in negotiations, because of lack of good faith on either side, is he advocating that the Government of Canada be asked to force Quebec through some means or other, it is not quite clear what he means by it, is he suggesting that the army, for instance, be sent in to force Quebec to give Newfoundland a corridor across the Province of Quebec, or would it be better, once it becomes law, to sit down and negotiate in good faith with the Province of Quebec and try to get the good will of the people of Quebec before we put a transmission line across that Province?

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): The hon. President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, there are a number of questions. I will say that, I suppose, this side of the House and indeed all Newfoundlanders will stack the two, the hon. James McGrath and the hon. John Crosbie up against the disgraceful exhibitions of the hon. William Rompkey -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. MARSHALL: - and his quisling tribe in the federal government as far as standing for Newfoundland any day, any day of the week. I am glad to hear that he has received his message from the Minister of Justice (Mr. Chretien) when the Minister of Justice was down conferring with the Liberal caucus and did not confer with this government.

MR. MARSHALL: Perhaps the hon. member can respond as well as to whether the Minister of Justice also indicates that the federal government acknowledges that these Newfoundlanders now are no less Canadians, in 1982 than they were in 1966, and that they should have had that right in 1966, and whether or not the federal government is going to compensate Newfoundland for not protecting its rights and the consequential losses of hundreds of millions of dollars, indeed billions of dollars, on the Upper Churchill.

With respect to the enforcement of their law - look, to hear the hon. gentleman, the hon. gentleman happens to be on the other side of the House, but presumably he is a Newfoundlander and presumably, Mr. Speaker, when he speaks in this House he is speaking in the interest of Newfoundland, and to get up and to insinuate for petty political gain the fact that good faith on either side is an indication that there has not been good faith on this side in our negotiating, it is disgraceful and scandalous of the hon. member to hurl the insult no matter how petty political the hon. gentleman would be. There are times that the hon. gentlemen should know on offshore and in negotiations, that even if they are Liberals they should stand for the Province of Newfoundland and its people.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear! Right on!

MR. MARSHALL: Now the facetious question of Will the army be sent in? You know that is the type of question, the extremes that the hon. gentleman goes to. I am not going to respond specifically to that but just to say that any self-respecting government, be it a provincial government or be it a federal government or be it a municipal government, which enacts a law, obviously expects that law to be complied with and obeyed. And we would expect then the federal government, as being a self-respecting government and the Central Government of Canada, to enforce its own laws. If it makes a

MR. MARSHALL: law that says that there is to be a power corridor through the Province of Quebec at last, we would expect that they see that there are not spurious matters brought up with respect to environmental concerns and designs by the Province of Quebec before the National Energy Board, and most especially we will expect that the legitimate aspirations of the people of Newfoundland in this area will not be subsequently denied by the Federal Cabinet as a result of the superior numbers of the Province of Quebec's representation in the Federal Liberal Caucus.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): The hon. member for Fogo.

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Premier but in his absence I guess I will ask it to the President of the Council (Mr. Marshall) -

MR. NEARY: He is out on the campaign trail.

MR. TULK: - and it concerns that gentleman in Ottawa whom he is so proud of, Mr. McGrath, who yesterday, I understand, speaking in Halifax, suggested that Canada, namely the federal government, not the provinces, should have supremacy in the

MR. TULK: fishery, I guess control and jurisdiction. My question for the President of the Council (Mr. Marshall) is this; Is this the policy of the Tory Party of Canada? And how does the minister react to that statement?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: A good sensible question.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): The hon. President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, it has always been - and, you know, in the Tory Party as contrasted with the Liberal Party, we are not mice and we have variances of opinions. The difference in the opinion of this government and the hon. Mr. McGrath when he was Minister of Fisheries is a matter of record at the time, The government of this Province feels very strongly that control over the fisheries and many aspects of the fisheries should repose in the Province of Newfoundland, because this is the only Province in Canada where its major industry, or its major resource lies within the control of the federal government. And we are seeing the effects of the control of the federal government, for instance, in the carting off fish stocks daily to foreigners, in the failure to respond to the legitimate concerns which they have.

But let me say this, Mr. Speaker, and let me draw this to the attention of the hon. member because perhaps he might be refreshed, if it is possible to refresh the hon. member at all, let him bare in mind, as I say, there was a legitimate difference between Mr. McGrath and the

MR. MARSHALL: government on this, which is a matter of record when he was in government and that is refreshing in itself. Would that, Mr. Speaker, there could be legitimate differences and the same things could adhere between the members there opposite and Mr. William Rompkey and the five quislings that reside in the federal caucus up there.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. MARSHALL: Maybe then we would move just slightly a bit further towards the attainment of our legitimate rights.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker, I see we are now getting some vinegar on our fish and chips.

The second part of that statement, Mr. Speaker, that was made by Mr. McGrath was that he believes that the combative stance between both levels of government, the provincial and federal government, he says it is leading to a deterioration in the fishing industry, if I understand him correctly.

MR. NEARY: That is right.

MR. TULK: Before making that statement - I would like to ask the President of the Council (Mr. Marshall) if Mr. McGrath did indeed consult with the provincial minister or government before making that statement, and does the government agree with it?

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): The hon. President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL: I keep repeating, I know the hon. gentleman could not understand it, Mr. Speaker, because he is a product of those days where the government - when you used to

MR. MARSHALL: see the First Minister here and the ministers would almost get down on their knees before they would approach him in the House of Assembly.

MR. TULK: That was when you were over here.

MR. MARSHALL: So he cannot understand what I told him. He cannot get it through his cranium -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. MARSHALL: - the fact that -

MR. TULK: Nasty! Nasty!

MR. BARRETT: You will have to explain where that is.

MR. MARSHALL: The fact that it is not necessary for Mr. McGrath to consult with this government before he makes statements. By and large 99.9 per cent of the time we are consummately proud of the statements that are made by the two federal Tory representatives in Canada.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MARSHALL: They are true Newfoundlanders and they stand up. So Mr. McGrath

MR. W. MARSHALL: did not consult with us when he made the statement and I know that when Mr. McGrath speaks about combative stance and that, he having the experience of what he has to endure daily in the House of Commons realizes himself where the combat, the war and the aggression and the hostile acts come from, as was indicated and evidenced so vividly in the referral by the federal government directly to the Supreme Court of Canada, of an issue that most vitally affects the people of this Province and is one of the most important in its history, the disposition of which is an utter disgrace to Canada.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. TULK: Gone from fish to oil again,
Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): The hon the member for Fogo.

MR. TULK: I would like to ask the President of the Council (Mr. W. Marshall) if he indeed will be reconfirming the position of the Province to his Tory colleague and to the Tory Leader in Ottawa, whoever that might happen to be, whether it is the Premier of this Province or Joe Clark.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, we do not need really to reconfirm anything. I would ask the hon gentleman there opposite is he prepared to go to his colleagues, the five quislings in the federal caucus, and say to the gentlemen that they should take the action that Senator Cook took and resign from the caucus, resign from the Liberal party for their -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MARSHALL: - for their hatchet job on the

MR. W. MARSHALL: people of Newfoundland on the offshore, and their disgraceful continued representation of the people of this Province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. H. TULLK: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): The hon. the member for Bellevue.

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Social Services (Mr. T. Hickey). I see the Minister of Health (Mr. W. House) squirming, but I have a speech later on in the morning in which I will be dealing with him.

I want to ask the Minister of Social Services, on a scale of one to ten how high is the priority regarding foster parents? How high in his Department, on a scale of one to ten?

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

MR. T. HICKEY: Mr. Speaker, that is a rather strange question.

MR. BARRETT: It is a strange person asking it.

MR. HICKEY: Given the fact, Mr. Speaker, that I have been wearing a button for about a month now announcing to all I talk to and who see me, as well as my staff, that there is a week coming up, a special week, designed by my department with the support of my colleagues, to highlight and emphasize and recognize and thank foster parents for the tremendous work they do in this Province. The hon. gentleman wants to know what is my priority. I do not think I can have one higher than that.

MR. YOUNG: That is right, Sir.

MR. W. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary, the hon the member for Bellevue.

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Tape No. 932

MJ - 3

MR. W. CALLAN:

Mr. Speaker, the minister knows as I know, and my colleague from St. Mary's - The Capes (Mr. L. Hearn) who attended a foster parents function in Blaketown in the historic district of Bellevue last night knows, that the minister has been quoted as saying that

MR. CALLAN: foster parents are on the lowest rung of priorities in his department. Would the minister confirm or deny that he already said that?

MR. YOUNG: It is - what? - the lowest rung?

MR. NEARY: The lowest rung.

MR. CALLAN: r-u-n-g.

MR. HICKEY: Does the hon. gentleman want to give me the source of who made that statement?

MR. CALLAN: Oh, yes, no problem.

MR. HICKEY: If you can give me the source then maybe I can attach what sense or sanity there is in that statement.

MR. CALLAN: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): The hon. member for Bellevue.

MR. CALLAN: The guest speaker of that function we attended last night was the national secretary, the national secretary of foster parents across Canada and in his remarks, Mr. Thomas Heffernan outlined to all and sundry present, number one, that the Minister of Social Services (Mr. Hickey) in this Province was supposed to hold a press conference highlighting this special week which was set aside. The press conference was never held. He and other people associated with foster parents could not understand why the press conference was never held but he was quoted as saying from an informed source, that the minister had said that assistance and so on and priority for foster parents was on the lowest rung of his ladder. So there is my source.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Social Services.

MR. HICKEY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman has a habit lately of digging holes for himself. He has just dug another one now.

MR. CALLAN: Which hon. gentleman, Thomas Heffernan?

MR. HICKEY: Would the hon. gentleman touch base

MR. HICKEY: with that gentleman, Mr. Heffernan, and tell him that if this minister like any other minister were to call a press conference and make an announcement in such glowing terms as I am capable of -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HICKEY: - that the hon. gentlemen Opposite would be the first to say we are by-passing the people's House in making an announcement while the House was open. Mr. Speaker, I came into this Chamber on Monday and I read a Ministerial Statement.

MR. CALLAN: I was here.

MR. HICKEY: I have never been in the habit of getting down on my knees to the press or the media. They very often contact me. I did not have a call or a question from the media at that particular time. I am not in the habit, Mr. Speaker, of complaining. It is not for me to attach a priority that the media might want to attach to whether or not Foster Parent Week is one in which there should be great statements or great coverage by the media. I do not try to manage the news, and anyone who has usually has ended up inside.

Now, Mr. Speaker, let me categorically make this statement for record purposes. I do not know what the hon. gentleman - I am sorry, I do not know what the gentleman that the hon. gentleman is referring to, who made the statement last night, is talking about. If he had been at the Airport Inn last night where this minister was -

MR. WARREN: You cannot be in two places at one time.

MR. HICKEY: I am talking about the gentleman who made the statement.

MR. WARREN: Yes, well, he could not be in two places at one time.

MR. HICKEY: And if he had heard this minister make my speech in relation to Foster Parent Week and foster parents and foster children and all the rest, there would be no doubt in his mind where the priority is in my department for foster parents and the Foster Parent programme. Neither would there be any doubt as to the commitment of both myself, the government and this department, who have in the last number of years, Mr. Speaker, increased the rates to foster parents. Last night, I announced to the foster parents in the St. John's area that we are embarking upon a programme of training to help foster parents understand and deal with and wrestle with the very difficult problem associated with the misguided malbehaviour of children that we are forced to place with them and ask them to care for, and by the way, Mr. Speaker, in which they do a tremendous job.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HICKEY: But the Foster Home programme was never geared to be a treatment facility, it was to provide love, affection and care in a normal way. We are going to expand that now, recognizing what other governments have failed to recognize, that there is yet another component that we might be able to assist with by way of

MR. HICKEY: workshops and training programmes.

Mr. Speaker, it goes without saying that anyone who has a heart throbbing in his body could only attach the highest priority to the people who care for children -

MR. YOUNG: Hear, hear!

MR. HICKEY: - who are not paid because it is impossible to pay for love, affection and care -

MR. YOUNG: That is right.

MR. HICKEY: - and yet, who do a tremendous job to keep children in their homes, love them and care for them. And yet, when we go and take them and place them for adoption, they have to let go of them. They do a tremendous job. We are grateful, we are ever grateful and we will continue to be so.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order, please!

The time for Oral Questions has expired.

Before we proceed with other business, I would like to indeed welcome all the groups to the galleries today, but I would especially like to welcome twenty-two Grade VI boys from St. Pius X Boys School and fifty Grade VIII students from Upper Island Cove. I welcome you all to the galleries today.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Finance.

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, as always, this side of the House gets the answers to questions that are asked by hon. members, as quickly as possible, and gives very full replies.

DR. COLLINS: I would like to table answers to question 70 and question 74 placed on the Order Paper, May 14th.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): The hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. OTTENHEIMER: I would like to table the answer to question number 62 on the Order Paper, May 14th.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. MARSHALL: Order 2, Committee of Supply.

On motion, that the House resolve itself into Committee of Supply, Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): Order, please! Head 1.

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister of Finance.

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, just to get matters going in continuation of where we left off yesterday, the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) made a few remarks and I would like just to comment on them.

One of his remarks dealt with the change in the programme for dental services to children, and he indicated, he sort of paraphrased what he suggested the Dental Association had said in regard to that and in his typical fashion, of course, he overstated what the Dental Association said about it, at least the report that I saw on television that the spokesman for the Dental Association said. Again I am paraphrasing, but I recall that the Dental Association indicated they had some concern on the matter and that they wanted to discuss the matter and, indeed, they have made representations to discuss this with the hon. Minister of Health (Mr. Housc) and later with myself in association with the Minister of Health. They did not in any way say or make such remarks as the hon. Leader of the Opposition made, such as this is going to ruin the teeth of the children of this Province, this is a tremendously backward step and so on and so forth.

DR. COLLINS: These are typical overstatements by the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary). And we are only too glad to discuss this matter with the Dental Association. I would emphasize, Mr. Chairman, that this move was made only after repeated consultation with the advisors, the dental advisors, the dental experts, in the Department of Health who very clearly and unequivocally stated that this would have no detrimental effects on the dental health of the children of this Province and, indeed, that the money that was now being paid out for this particular service could be better utilized to improve the health, including the dental health, of the children if used in a different manner. So that is the perspective that should be put on that whole matter.

In a similar vein, Mr. Chairman, the leader of the Opposition made such remarks in regard to the phase out of the cottage hospitals at Markland and at Old Perlican, that this was the

DR. COLLINS:

beginning of a wipe-out, this was the beginning of a decimation, this was the beginning of a total disbandment of the small hospitals in this Province or specifically the cottage hospitals.

Mr. Chairman, the member for Terra Nova (Mr. Lush) the other day said, I believe he visited the Legislature in Nova Scotia, and he said he was impressed by the comments on both sides of the House in regard to matters that were of meaning to the people in that Province. I hope that he would be able to bring that same message to his colleagues in this House, because such remarks as the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) made about what we suggested we were going to do in regard to two of the cottage hospitals were not - these remarks were not designed to help fruitful debate on this subject for the benefit of the people of this Province. What we were doing in regard to Markland and Old Perlican, we were approaching this as a change in service, indeed as an upgrading in service. It was determined in association with the Department of Health, that in Markland and in Old Perlican the exhibition of services there was not attuned to the best needs of the people there. Their needs were not for small hospitals which were built and designed to satisfy services fifty years ago. Things have changed in the fifty years. There are other needs now. There are other facilities that were not in place fifty years ago and our move was to change the service, and indeed upgrade the service, particularly the outpatient service which is a service that such communities as those two communities need. There was no intention whatever to diminish needed inpatient services. As a matter of fact, the outpatient upgrading was to include such inpatient services as would be needed, those inpatient services of an emergency nature, but that the more regular

DR. COLLINS: type of inpatient services, especially those who would need more sophisticated care than they could be given in small, wooden, relatively spartanly furnished and equipped hospitals, those more sophisticated services could be given in regional centres which are now appearing in many parts of this Province and, of course, for which we have a programme. We have a five year programme to bring more of them in.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) also made a few other remarks, I do not need to go into it in any great deal, that is about roads to cottages. He suggested there that there should be no spending on roads to Summer cottages. In other words, we should have a very narrow type of service exhibition in this Province. We should only spend in certain areas, but never spend anything in other areas, which, of course, is a very one dimensional view of what government services are supposed to be. Also, he neglected to say that these costs will be fully recovered, the costs for these road accesses to cottage areas will be fully recovered when the lots that the roads were going to were sold.

He also made some remarks about spending on jails and so on as though this was

DR. COLLINS: something that the Province should not concern itself about. We all know, and indeed I believe members of the Opposition have stated in this House themselves on a number of occasions, that our correctional centres are not up to par, that they have deficiencies and defects which must be corrected, that we would have been open to criticism if we did not take moves in that direction and, of course, that is what we have done. And it is very necessary to do those sorts of things.

Mr. Chairman, there will be other remarks made, but I hope they will be more enlightened and I will not have to comment on them so extensively.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman in his comments, in his rebuttal, was defensive and weak and just proved to the House how incompetent that minister is in his job of managing the finances of this Province.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Old Perlican kicked up such a fuss about the closing of their hospital that the hon. gentleman was partially overruled by the Premier and if he were an honourable man, he would go out and resign and admit that he made a mistake by including in his Budget Speech an announcement that these two hospitals would be closed.

The hon. gentleman can get up and argue all he likes about roads to Summer cabins of wealthy people being a top priority and

MR. NEARY: will not cost the taxpayers anything, when in actual fact, Mr. Chairman, the track record is that it does cost the taxpayers. They may attempt and try to get reimbursed for the initial cost of driving a road in to a pond so that the moneybags, especially in St. John's, can have access to the prime Summer cottage areas in this Province, but there is no way, Mr. Chairman, that the money can be recovered. And the next thing, they will want the road paved and then they will want water and sewerage put in. Now, that is the government's priority - put up the cost of hospital beds to the sick and to the dying and build roads to Summer cottages and build jails. They have spent almost as much money

MR. NEARY:

on building jails in this Province in the last four years as they have on capital expenditure for hospital construction. They have cut back on hospital beds, they have increased the cost of hospital beds to the sick, they have reduced the children's dental care programme. Despite the remarks made by the hon. gentleman yesterday, the Minister of Health (Mr. House) and his officials who attended the Committee meeting did not know the answers and they had to go out and get on the telephone and call up and find what effect the cut in the children's dental care programme was going to have on children's teeth. They did not know the answer. They did not even know if prior consultation had taken place.

So, Mr. Chairman, this all started yesterday, this tenor of debate, when the minister said that there is no reduction in services in this Province. Mr. Chairman, the people in Old Perlican who wrote this little dialogue that I have in my hand here entitled 'The End Of An Era' must have taught there was some curtailment in services. Here is what they said, "Passed away suddenly at Old Perlican on May 27, the Cottage Hospital after a fatal blow inflicted at the Confederation Building. Leaving to mourn the communities of Winterton, Turk's Gut, Hant's Harbour, New Chelsea, New Melbourne, Brownsdale, Sibley's Cove, Lead Cove, Old Perlican, Daniels Cove, Grates Cove, Red Head Cove, Bay de Verde, Low Point, Caplin Cove, Lower Island Cove, Jobs Cove, Burnt Point, Gull Island and Northern Bay. Will be sadly missed by patients, relatives, and a faithful staff. Funeral September 1, 1982, unless desperate resuscitation attempts are successful. Your help is needed and fast. And keep in mind that if you represent an area - and keep in mind, Mr. Speaker, if you represent an area that now has a cottage hospital, you may well be fighting the same battle

MR. NEARY:

within a year or two." Now, Mr. Chairman, I heard the shiny-nosed, bright-eyed member for Carbonear (Mr. Peach) assuring the people down in Old Perlican that at this point in time, he says -just listen to the cute little words. 'At this point in time they have nothing to worry about'. At this point in time! Well, at what point in time do they have something to worry about? Can the hon. gentleman stand in this House and assure these people in Old Perlican and all these communities that I just named, some of them in the hon. gentleman's district, can he stand in this House and make a categorical statement that the cottage hospitals will not be closed?

MR. PEACH: The Premier sent them a telegram.

MR. NEARY: The Premier sent them a telegram. Mr. Speaker, I wonder how often during the day does the hon. gentleman kiss the Premier's picture?

MR. PEACH: Twice.

MR. NEARY: Twice a day.

MR. PEACH: Guaranteed.

MR. NEARY: There are other hon. members over there who kiss it more often than that and sometimes they have to turn it around to kiss it. I would say the hon gentleman is putting blind faith in the Premier. I am asking the hon. gentleman if he would stop playing with his silly, childish words, these cute little words, "They have nothing to worry about at this point in time." That is not a withdrawal of the closing of the hospital. The government may be looking at turning it into a home for geriatric care, a home for senior citizens. They may be looking at it. I would gather reading between the lines when they were talking about the fire marshall going out and inspecting the home, that that is probably what

MR. NEARY: they had in mind. They are stalling for time. The hon. member for Carbonear (Mr. Peach) and the hon. member for Trinity-Bay de Verde (Mr. Reid) are stalling for time, hoping that the thing will die down, hoping that the people out there will not kick up a fuss, that it will just go away. But it is not going to go away, Mr. Chairman, neither in Markland or in Old Perlican. One of the worst, most cruel things that this government did in the Budget was to increase the cost of hospital beds and announce the closing of two hospitals and a reduction in the children's dental care programme while at the same time they announced a new jail, a new jail. Mr. Chairman, their priorities are building roads to ponds so that the moneybags can have access to land to build Summer cottages and building jails, those are their priorities. So, Mr. Chairman, I hope we will hear no more of that nonsense from the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins).

I also raised yesterday about how the minister and his officials are manipulating the figures, are crooking the books by transferring items from current accounts to capital accounts, items that are ordinarily current account expenditures.

MR. BARRETT: You are totally wrong.

MR. NEARY: I am totally wrong. Well, I am going to probe it a little deeper now and find out who is right or who is wrong. I am going to ask the minister to give me before we get off this subhead, to give me the details of the following items. Perhaps the hon. gentleman can write them down.

MR. BARRETT: Table it.

MR. NEARY: No, I will not table it, I am asking for details of in the 1982 Estimates, Item 103, page 4, Consolidated Fund Services, how that can fit under the category of capital expenditure. Also 403 (d) Newfoundland Industrial Development Corporation Loans and Advances, can the hon. gentleman give us the details of that so we can ascertain -

MR. BARRETT: Which one is that?

MR. NEARY: Item 403, page -

MR. BARRETT: There is no 403.

MR. NEARY: No, but these are items that are transferred from current account to capital.

MR. BARRETT: Are you doing Consolidated Fund Services.

MR. NEARY: Yes, I am because that is what we are dealing with, the public debt and borrowing - Mr. Speaker, the hon. spokesman for Crosbies in this House does not understand the situation so I would advise him to keep quiet and not show the House that he is also a blackguard and an ignoramous.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

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AN HON. MEMBER:

That is unparliamentary.

MR. NEARY:

If it is unparliamentary I withdraw it,

Mr. Chairman. I am only repeating what Mr. Levesque -

MR. BARRETT:

You would not like to repeat that
outside would you?

MR. NEARY:

Yes, I will repeat it anywhere
for the hon. gentleman. But I would suggest the hon. gentleman
return to his seat. If he is going to continue to interrupt,
Mr. Chairman, and make a fool of himself, he should return to his
seat. But if that is unparliamentary, Mr. Chairman, I withdraw
it. It is not unparliamentary in the Province of Quebec.
And the hon. gentleman need not give me a black look. There
is nobody on this side of the House scared of the hon.
gentleman. And I would suggest the hon. gentleman return to
his seat if he wants to continue to interrupt, and let us
go on with the business of trying to get to the root
of the management of the finances of this Province. 403
Newfoundland Industrial Development Corporation Loans and
Advances - \$ 3,500,000; 506 (d) Publications, alterations,
Property Furnishings and Leased Accommodations, an item
that was always under current now transferred to capital,
\$786,000. 507 (d) Public Works Advanced Planning -

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MR. S. NEARY: could we have some details on that? - \$60,000? Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation, Grants and Subsidies, \$8.5 million, would the hon. gentleman give us a few details on that? NORDCO, page 103, item 604 in the current estimates. NORDCO, Grants and Subsidies, \$200,000, could we have a few details on that? And then under 804, Fisheries, Professional Services, \$75,000, can we have a few details on that so we can see whether it should be current or capital?

MR. TULK: That is the minister's barber bill.

MR. NEARY: The reason I am asking the hon. gentleman for information on these sudheads is because the hon. gentleman made a statement yesterday that this was always the policy, that this was always the custom and tradition and he shrugged it off. I am saying it is a pretty serious matter. It is cooking the books, it is stretching the definition of current and capital, Mr. Chairman, when you see these matters being transferred. The reason they are being transferred is because the hon. gentleman knows he can borrow money under capital but he could not balance his budget under current. And that is the real reason for it. So Professional Services in Fisheries. And then 606 (n) Development, Marine Industry Incentive Program, \$1,500,000, a few details on that would be very worthwhile. And this one here 1004 (d) Rural and Agricultural, Loans Advances etc., \$350,000. Can we have a few details on that?

MR. CHAIRMAN (Fowlward): Order, please!

The hon. members' time has elapsed.

MR. NEARY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. the Minister of Finance.

DR. J. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member again reiterated the points I have already responded to in regard to the dental programme, in regard to the hospital programme, in regard to the roads and recreational areas which will be fully recovered

DR. J. COLLINS: when these recreational areas are sold. You know, I do not know what the point is he is trying to make. He raises a question and then it is answered and then he will raise the identical question again. Does he want me to give the identical answer again? You know, I mean this is essentially going over ground that has been decided upon by the hon. member opposite as a useful attack to make. Then when the attack does not get anywhere, he does not have anything else to get into so he makes the attack all over again. So we could go on like this forever but it really would not contribute very much to the work of the Committee. There are many things in the estimates there that should be gone into, not reiteration of blunted attacks time and time again.

Now, again on the matters he has just brought up, about certain items on

DR. COLLINS: capital account, and he read out a number of subheads. He read out, for instance, 403, which is in Finance, it is not in Consolidated Fund Services. He read out 506 which is in some other department, 604 and so on and so forth. All these heads will be coming up in discussion when those particular departments are on there. So again this is not useful work for the business before the Committee at the present time. The one thing he referred to that is before the Committee at the present time was 103 and there is an item in there 103-02 which relates to issues under a guarantee, \$870,000.

Now, Mr. Speaker, that refers to monies that are issued under - certain guarantees we have in regard to hotel holdings. In other words, the Holiday Inns and so on, that were built back in the - I think it was 1965 or 1966, anyway in the Come Home Year - during a time when the hon. member, I believe, was a member of government. And these buildings were put up and they have never been profitable. Government has had to subsidize these buildings ever since. When you look at them in the aggregate, one or two of them have been profitable for short periods of time. And we were on the backs of certain guarantees in regard to that. Now these imbursements that we have to make, these guarantees that we have to pick up are on capital account and they have been on capital account and this is why they are on capital account at the present time. They are not related to current ongoing, shall we say, programmes for this government. We wish we did not have to pick them up at all. But we were stuck with them because of things that were done back in 1965, I believe it was, or perhaps it was 1966. Anyway, under the previous, previous administration, the Smallwood administration. And as far as I can see, that is the only item that the hon. member

DR. COLLINS: had brought up that I need to respond to in this particular Committee.

SOME HON MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: Obviously the hon. gentleman has not gotten the message yet. What I am talking about here, Mr. Chairman, is a matter of dubious practice in the accounting, in the management of the financial affairs of this Province, dubious practice on the part of the minister and his senior officials in putting things under capital account that should be under current account.

DR. COLLINS: You had better get a new research assistant. He does not know what he is doing.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: Well, Mr. Chairman, I am going to ask the number one research assistant for the Province now, the minister, to give us some information, and then we will decide for ourselves. I just gave the hon. gentleman a list of items that indicate a dubious practice.

DR. COLLINS: Each will come up -

MR. NEARY: No, they will not come up because we are talking about the public debt and we are talking about the

MR. NEARY: financial position of the Province. We are talking about how the minister manipulated the figures to balance his current account budget. And this is the time to discuss it.

DR. COLLINS: I have discussed it, but if you want detailed information on Head 506, wait until the Department of Finance, in which 506 is, comes before the Committee next Wednesday.

MR. NEARY: No, Mr. Chairman. The hon. gentleman still does not understand what I am driving at.

MR. DINN: He never even attended the Committee meetings last year.

MR. DOYLE: No.

MR. NEARY: I am asking the hon. gentleman now before we pass Consolidated Revenue to give us a few details so that we can see if these items, or part of these items, the amounts, should be current or capital, and you will not determine that by just waiting for the estimates of that department to come up.

I will give the hon. gentleman four or five examples and then we will settle it and let it go at that. I just gave him a few there.

DR. COLLINS: Put them between Head 101 and Head 105.

MR. NEARY: Pardon?

DR. COLLINS: Heading 101 and Heading 105, that is what we are dealing with in Committee now.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, we are dealing with the public debt of the Province.

DR. COLLINS: Right.

MR. NEARY: We are dealing with borrowing.

DR. COLLINS: Right.

MR. NEARY: Right?

DR. COLLINS: Yes, ask me about what we are dealing with in Committee now.

MR. NEARY: We are dealing with the financial position of the Province.

DR. COLLINS: Right.

MR. NEARY: Right.

DR. COLLINS: Ask me questions -

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, what I am concerned about is the fact that the government is cooking the books so that it can borrow money -

DR. COLLINS: Where is it cooking the books?

MR. NEARY: - for items under Capital Works that should be under current.

DR. COLLINS: Where is it cooking the books?

MR. NEARY: I just gave the hon. gentleman examples.

MR. DINN: They are all wrong - again, still.

MR. NEARY: The hon. gentleman says I am all wrong. Perhaps the hon. gentleman would undertake to get the information.

I am asking the Minister of Finance to give me some information on these items. Tell me what the spending is for and let the House decide whether or not it is capital or current. I argue that all these items that I just gave were previously under current account, and in the last two or three years the minister has been chipping away and getting them over to capital so he can borrow the money to pay for these and to show his current account to be in pretty good shape. That is cooking the books. That is manipulating the

MR. NEARY: figures in any layman's language.

MR. NEARY: I have a whole list here. Look, I will tell you what, I will give the minister the list with the page number and the item number and I am prepared to wait for the information if the hon. gentleman will undertake to get me the information, detailed information on each one of these subheads that I have listed here. Would the hon. gentleman undertake to do that?

DR. COLLINS: Surely.

MR. NEARY: Alright, and then we can get on to the next item. Do I have a promise now from the hon. gentleman that the list will -

DR. COLLINS: Absolutely. No problem whatever. This is not the work of the Committee at the moment but -

MR. NEARY: No, but within a matter of a few days I would like to have the details on these items.

DR. COLLINS: Yes, surely.

MR. NEARY: Now, Mr. Chairman, the other matter of the sinking fund, of course, is a more serious matter. I do not want to repeat that again.

MR. CARTER: (Inaudible).
MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, it is a fine

day today, I do not understand why the hon. gentleman is in the House. On fine days you would usually find him out in the savoury patch on his hands and knees.

MR. BARRETT: At least he is not in Ottawa on his hands and knees.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, I thought I dealt with the hon. gentleman there a few minutes ago.

MR. BARRETT: It would take a bigger man than you.

MR. NEARY: When the hon. gentleman got in fighting trim, I thought I had adequately dealt with him.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, you can tell in this House when you have gotten to a member, when he starts to try to stare you down, gives you the black looks, challenges you outside the House.

MR. BARRETT: (Inaudible) outside the House.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, that is the defence then of a scoundrel. You know then, Mr. Chairman, that you have got him. You know you have got them on the ropes. When they react like that - when they react to fisticuffs, Mr. Chairman, then you know you have got them.

MR. YOUNG: Oh my (inaudible) you got them.

MR. NEARY: Well, I have seen the situation deteriorate so badly in this House on two or three occasions since I have been here where members have gotten a belt in the side of the gob or a belt in the face by a member crossing the floor of the House. I hope that does not happen this

MR. NEARY: session. But if hon. gentleman keeps interjecting and interrupting and he gets as good as he can send, then he should be prepared to take it, and not to resort to challenges or fisticuffs, because there is nobody on this side of the House -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, let me say this.

AN HON. MEMBER: You are wasting the time of the House, boy.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, there are eight of us over here and we can outmanoeuvre, outfox, and outdebate forty-four any day in the week. Now, I do not know if we can outclass them physically.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: I do not know if eight can tackle forty-four in the ring.

MR. CALLAN: A lot of them are overweight.

MR. NEARY: We might have to send for that great Newfoundlander Gerry Cooney. We might have to send for him to give us a hand. But nobody over here is -

AN HON. MEMBER: Another good Tory.

MR. NEARY: - nobody is scared or afraid of any member on that side.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CALLAN: A lot of them are overweight. The bigger they come the harder they fall.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, I think that we have adequately dealt with this matter. I do not see any point in repeating the things that I said yesterday about the debt of the Province. I do not see any point in repeating that. I think that we have adequately dealt with the matter and I hope it will be suitably reported to the people of this Province that the financial affairs are being mismanaged under this minister.

MR. NEARY: The minister is weak and incompetent and making an awful lot of people nervous about his handling of the financial affairs of this Province, The job is obviously too big for him.

MR. TULK: What is our credit rating now anyway?

MR. NEARY: Our credit rating is, I would say, on the brink of changing, From the information the minister gave us yesterday. I would think our credit rating is being reviewed at the present time.

MR. TULK: Pricing them out of the Province.

MR. NEARY: Pardon.

MR. TULK: Pricing them out of the Province.

MR. NEARY: Well, every other big corporation in the Province has gone bankrupt, I mean is there any reason why with the way that the finances of the Province are being handled today, that they would not end up in bankruptcy too?

Mr. Chairman, so what I would hope is that the minister does not -

MR. CARTER: (Inaudible)

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, they are awfully testy on that side of the House this morning. If the minister does not get up and start another argument, and if the minister does not provoke us into further debate, well, then, we might just let

this heading go through and get on to Executive Council. But I do hope the message will go out, Mr. Chairman, that we are in a desperate financial condition in this Province. We have a debt of \$3.3 billion or over \$6,000 for every man, woman and child in Newfoundland and added to that will be \$600 this year to take care of this year's borrowings, another \$600 will be added to that, making the per capita debt for every man, woman and child in Newfoundland and Labrador to be close to \$7,000 for every man, woman and child

MR. NEARY: in Newfoundland. The highest in the nation, higher than any state in the United States and the minister has the gall to get up and tell us that our debt is manageable when every other province, and the Government of Canada and every state in the United States are brought to their knees.

And so, Mr. Chairman, maybe one or two of my colleagues may have a minor interjection to make into the debate.

MR. DINN: You have made one point now in two hours.

MR. NEARY: Well, I did not, Mr. Chairman, I did not go out yesterday and make a fool of myself in the eyes of the working people of this Province, going out telling the workers of Newfoundland that they must restrain themselves. I would like to hear the hon. gentleman elaborate on that.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. NEARY: I would like to hear the hon. gentleman elaborate on that.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): Order, please!

MR. DINN: Why not ask a question today?

MR. NEARY: No, I will not ask a question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: Because the hon. gentleman has made a silly fool of himself now publicly and he has to live with it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! Order, please!
The hon. the Leader of the Opposition's time has elapsed.

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. the Minister of Finance.

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition has given me a list and I certainly will get details on it. I will not give them all now because, as I have said, they have nothing to do with the Head we are on to now, they are in departments ranging all the way from the Department of Finance to Public Works and Services, through to the Department of Development and all that sort of thing, and all these estimates will come up in their own time slots in the various committees.

Now, just to reiterate - because I think the hon. the Leader of the Opposition may have a genuine misunderstanding on this - I will reiterate what I said about Heading 103, which is under consideration in Committee at the present time.

DR. COLLINS: When Holiday Inns were being built back in 1965 or 1966, government went on the back of a guarantee for bank loans that were raised at that time by the corporation - Hotel Buildings, I think the corporation is called - went on the back of a guarantee for those.

Now, those loans are becoming due as time goes on and they should, of course, in any sensible business arrangement, be serviced on the basis of earnings, profits out of those operations. Now, the whole thing was so crazy when it was done back in 1965 - 1966 that these operations never made any profits, so the government has had to pick up the loans because it was on the back of the guarantee. Now, when we make loans, we make them out of capital accounts. When we enter into a guarantee, if we have to honour the guarantee at some point in time, that is the same as giving a loan, so we make it out of capital accounts. That is what the arrangement is. And this is what is happening now. When we make loans for structures, be it fish plants or hotels or trawlers or whatever, these are out of capital account because they are capital works and that is what is happening. Now, the same way - the hon. member, as I say, I will respond to those or get a response for him. But, for instance, in Head 403, which I believe is in Finance, if I remember correctly, that is with regard to NIDC, and NIDC again makes loans for industrial development and we make a capital contribution so that they can make these loans. That is capital account, it has always been capital account and hopefully and expectantly, it always will be capital account. The same way

DR. J. COLLINS: in another department, I forget which department it is now Head 506, government has to lease office space and buildings occasionally or fairly extensively in actual fact, and, of course, that amount of leasing will decrease when we increase our own building on this property here, when we get into Confederation Building No. 2. But until such time we have to lease properties. Now when we lease those properties often they are not suitably set up for our purpose so we have to put funds into them to make the tenants improvement. We have to make them suitable. Again, that is capital expenditure. And that is what that 506 is. The alterations to lease the properties and so on and so forth down the line. Again, NORDCO comes into the same extent of things. So, you know, I will get the explanation for the hon. member, and I think he will get a better grasp of the difference between current and capital account as a result of that.

Now the other thing the hon. member said is that we are in a desperate state financially in this Province. Now, of course, that is not so. We are in a difficult financial state, but we are managing that difficult financial state to a considerable degree a great deal better than other Provinces with a much wider industrial base, with a much larger work force, with more extensive sources of revenue and so on. But even some of the strongest provinces in Canada at the present time are in a difficult situation. Ontario, Quebec, for the first time in some time, for instance, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, they are in deficit positions now. All provinces are having increasing difficulties. We are not the least of those provinces having difficulties, but we have not had to slip back from what we have always done for quite a long period of time, that is balance our current account and only borrow on capital account.

DR. J. COLLINS: Now that is what we are continuing to do. Other provinces have not been able to keep up to that. The financial times have been such that they have not been able to retain their traditional position such as we have. So to say that we are in a particular difficult financial position is incorrect. But I will say this, that the whole country is in a difficult position now and this is related to the mismanagement of the economy that has been going on for at least the last five or six years. And we can see that, we can see what has happened to the Canadian dollar. It slipped below eighty cents in relation to the American dollar for the first time yesterday. I think it may have happened once in the Depression, but I am not even certain of that.

MR. BARRETT: No, no. It was over eighty cents.

DR. J. COLLINS: I think it was even above eighty cents at that time.

For the first time it slipped below eighty cents. We find that there are more bankruptcies now in Canada as a result of the reliance of the federal government, almost totally, on monetary policy

DR. COLLINS: to combat inflation. We are now finding in Canada a higher rate of bankruptcies, I think it is about a 40 per cent higher rate of bankruptcies now than at the worst time in the Great Depression in the early '30s. We have an unemployment rate in Canada now which is matching those times. The economy in Canada now is the most mismanaged economy in the world and provinces such as ourselves, who are having a difficult time at the best of times, are having to cope with these almost inexplicitly mismanaged national economic measures. And hopefully now, when the Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister of the country are over in Europe, they will come back with a few ideas as to how to bring in fiscal measures which will finally begin to turn it around, when in Canada we will finally get inflation under control, as they are doing in the United States, whereas we are now still on the upgrade in many respects in regard to accommodating inflationary changes in the aspects of the world economy.

For instance, in the United States they have their increasing energy costs under control years ago but, of course, we all know that in Canada we are still trying to get these inflationary costs under control purely because of political decisions made at the time of the last general election. There were proposals brought in at that time which would have brought our energy costs under the same control that was done in the United States at that time, but the administration that was proposing that unfortunately was thrown out of office and an administration was put in which did not pursue proper energy policies and so we find that our energy costs are still going up.

We were unique in the world in not having accommodated increasing energy costs. We were unique in the world and that was purely because of political considerations at the time of the last election

DR. COLLINS: by the Liberal Party.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. BARRETT: And lied to the people.

DR. COLLINS: They indicated they would not go along with certain energy costs which had to be put into the economy. Not only did they not do that, they increased those costs and we are in the position we are in now.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. BARRETT: And lied to the people.

DR. COLLINS: So despite these tremendous pressures put on us, Mr. Chairman, I am glad to say that we have been able to manage with some difficulty, asking some sacrifice from our people, but nevertheless doing it in the most sensitive way we could to try to put any load we had to put on more on those with the ability to pay, to put it in areas where there was discretion not on necessities but where there was discretion, put the load there. Having done that, we have managed to keep our provincial current account in balance and we have managed, whilst giving a large amount of stimulation to the provincial economy, we have nevertheless managed to keep our capital account expenditures within a range that we can handle to the satisfaction of

DR. COLLINS: those who lend us money and those who advise us about our financial affairs.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: I am not going to enter into continuous debate with the hon. gentleman over who is responsible for mismanaging the economy of this Province or the Finances of this Province. The hon. gentleman just made a statement that Canada is the most mismanaged country in the world. Well, if that is so, we lead Canada here in Newfoundland in unemployment, the high cost of living, lowest per capita income. We must lead Canada also in mismanagement.

MR. YOUNG: The happiest people in the world.

MR. NEARY: We are a very unhappy Province today, Mr. Chairmar. An unhappy Province due to the mismanagement of this administration. The situation -

MR. YOUNG: The liberals are unhappy too.

MR. NEARY: - Mr. Speaker, I am not so naive as to say that high interest rates and the inflation throughout the world is not taking its toll in Newfoundland. I am not that Naive. But I will say this, that the situation in Newfoundland is much worse than it should be because of the mismanagement of this administration.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, I am not going to debate that now, that could be a long and continuing debate with the hon. gentleman, but I just want to go on record as saying that - for instance, let me give the House an example to see if I am exaggerating. Mr. Chairman, is it necessary for the fishery in Newfoundland to be in the mess and the state and the chaos it is in at the present time? Is that necessary, Mr. Chairman? I would say it is not necessary.

MR. NEARY: The problem in the Newfoundland fishery is marketing and quality, and both of these items come under provincial jurisdiction. The quality of the fish, the marketing of the fish is a Provincial Government responsibility. And the real problem in the fishery is marketing. And this government have not lifted a finger to do anything about that problem. They are merely sitting back and let the fish companies go to their traditional markets in the United States of shipping cod block to the United States. The world is hungry for protein. The world is starving, Mr. Chairman, for fish. The world is starving period. There is a desperate need for protein food and fish is the best source of protein that you can get. But you cannot ship cod blocks to India, to the underdeveloped countries, you have to change your product, improve your quality, diversify the industry, do further processing in Newfoundland. Forget the traditional way of doing things and the fishermen will have more income, and the plant workers

MR. NEARY:

will have more income and the fish processors, the plant owners will have more income. There is the problem in the fishery, marketing and quality. It does not come under federal jurisdiction. When the fish is in the water it is under federal jurisdiction, when it is put on dry land, on shore, it becomes the responsibility of this Province. And what have they done about it, Mr. Chairman? What have they done about it?

The mainstay of our economy, the backbone of the Newfoundland economy, they have completely ignored it and all they can think about is oil and gas. They have oil on the brain. While they are arguing and fighting with Ottawa and Nova Scotia and the other provinces of Canada, and the Supreme Court, while they are doing that they are ignoring every other industry in this Province. They are ignoring the fishery, they are ignoring the mining industry, they are ignoring the forestry, they are ignoring the sawmilling industry, they are ignoring the agricultural industry. All they can think about is oil. They are putting all their eggs in one basket, Mr. Chairman, and that is where they are making a mistake. And as a consequence the fishery today is in the worst state it has ever been in in Newfoundland's history. Because it has been neglected and ignored by this administration. They have no plans for the future development of the fishery. The Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) allowed his department, the spending in his department to be cut to the bone this year. There is less spending in the Department of Fisheries this year than there was last year.

MR. YOUNG:

Burn your boats. Burn your boats.

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Chairman, I would hope that while the hon. gentleman is giving us a lecture in this House

MR. NEARY: on how to manage an economy,
I would hope that the hon. gentleman would get up and announce today in this House that the government of which he is a senior spokesman, would bring in a piece of legislation into this House immediately to either amend the terms of reference of the Canadian Saltfish Corporation, or bring in a piece of legislation to set up a provincial Crown corporation to market the produce of the sea. That is the only sane and sensible way, Mr. Chairman, to solve this marketing problem, and not leave it up to the industry who are cutting each other's throats in the marketplace. We have to do one of two things

MR. NEARY: one of two things, either amend the terms of reference of the Canadian Saltfish Corporation to allow them to market fresh fish, fresh

MR. NEARY: frozen fish, or bring in a piece of legislation to set up a separate Crown corporation to market the produce of the sea. The longer we delay it, Mr. Chairman, the longer the fishing industry is going to be into turmoil and chaos and in the mess it is in at the present time because of the inaction of this administration.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I did not mean to get sidetracked off on that kind of a debate, but the hon. gentleman provoked me when he talked about the mismanaging - about Canada being mismanaged and tries to slough everything off because of the world conditions, the high interest rates and inflation. They have abdicated their responsibility, Mr. Chairman, they do not intend to govern. Even though they have been given a mandate, forty-four seats, they are not governing. They have abdicated their responsibility.

Mr. Chairman, under the British Parliamentary system of government you elect a majority. If you get a majority on one side of the House they govern. You get an Opposition on the other side of the House with a lesser number of members and then you expect that government, the party that has a majority in the House, you would expect them to bring in programmes and policies and plans for the development of the Province. Mr. Chairman, can you tell me the last time that this hon. crowd brought in a policy of their own and laid it on the table of this House so that we could get our teeth into it and discuss it and debate it and criticize it? Can you, Your Honour? That is just, as the hon. gentleman said in his statement, short-term, putting your finger in the dyke. That is the kind of a policy that is.

AN HON. MEMBER: You should know all about short-term policies.

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Chairman, you know the more I debate in this House the more the hon. gentleman gets flushed up over there. The hon. gentleman should go down in the Legislative Library, or go over at Memorial University to the new library over there and do some research and try to become a good member and not sit there sniping at members day in and day out and showing his arrogance and his nastiness. The hon. gentleman should try to become a good member of this House, and good member for his district. He is not serving the best interests of his people and

MR. NEARY:

the people of Newfoundland by sitting here and sniping at people. That is no way to serve the best interests of the people of this Province.

Mr. Chairman, we are deadly serious about these matters. So the government has to-

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, listen to the arrogance coming through, the arrogance.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): Order, please!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, the government has to govern. They have to put policies and programmes before the House and then it is the duty of the Opposition to criticize or approve of these programme. But the trouble is in this House, Mr. Chairman, there are no policies or plans or programmes for the realistic development of this Province. Mr. Chairman, there are none, and in the absence of these policies and programmes all we are doing is sitting here wasting time day in and day out debating resolutions, criticizing the Government of Canada, condemning Nova Scotia, condemning poor old Rene Levesque or condemning this one or condemning that one. That is what we spend our time at in this House, Mr. Chairman. So if the hon. gentleman wants to continue that kind of debate on consolidated revenue I will be glad to accommodate him. I am hoping that we can get on to the next item, Mr. Chairman, but before we do, I wonder if the hon. gentleman would be good enough to tell me, every time the exchange on the American dollar goes up by one percentage point, would the hon. gentleman tell me what one percentage point means in terms of the additional amount that we have to pay, say on \$100 million? Every time the American dollar goes up one percentage point, what does it mean in terms of dollars and cents to Newfoundland per \$100 million?

June 4, 1982

Tape No. 952

ah-2

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): Order, please!

The hon. Minister of Finance.

DR. COLLINS:

Mr. Chairman, I really think

the hon. Leader of the Opposition does need a new research assistant or needs an additional research assistant or whatever, because I do not quite get some of the remarks he makes. I presume they are based on some figures that were given him. For instance, he says that this year the expenditures by the Department of Fisheries are less than last year. Now, I have in front of me on page -

MR. BARRETT:

There is no Opposition. Carried.

Carried. That is it.

DR. COLLINS:

Have I got anyone over there to speak to?

MR. BARRETT:

No. There is no one there at all.

DR. COLLINS:

Anyway just to complete it.

MR. BARRETT:

Carry them all.

DR. COLLINS:

The revised estimates last year -

MR. YOUNG:

They are coming back.

DR. COLLINS:

I am talking on fisheries. Have a seat.

MR. BARRETT:

Even your own colleagues left

you.

DR. COLLINS: The summary of current and capital account by departments shows that last year revised estimates was \$16,335,000 for Fisheries, \$16.3 million, shall we say. Now, in this year our net expenditures for Fisheries, covering the same, current and capital, are \$17.6 million.

Now, as far as I know - and I may be wrong, perhaps there is a new math in or something, but I always thought that \$17.6 million was larger than \$16.3 million.

AN HON. MEMBER: It is, yes.

DR. COLLINS: Now, if I am wrong in that I will come back to the House later and I will apologize and I will make the necessary correction. But up to this point in time, I would like to hold to the view that the revised estimates for 1981 - 1982 at \$16.3 million is a lesser amount than the budgeted amount for 1982 - 1983 at \$17.6 million. I am going to hold firmly to that contention until I have it checked out, and if I am wrong, if \$17.6 million is actually smaller than \$16.3 million, I will come back and make the necessary correction.

Now, other than that, the hon. member asked me, I think, if there is a one cent increase, if there is an increase anyway, in the value of the American dollar, what does it mean for -

MR. NEARY: What does it mean for \$100 million?

DR. COLLINS: Yes, what does it mean for this Province? Well, shall we say, we borrow usually at say 15 per cent roughly in the market so that would mean that on \$100 million we would

DR. COLLINS: have to pay interest of \$15 million. Now, if there is a 1 per cent change in the exchange rate, obviously, we would have to pay, you know, an increased amount. It would mean that you would have to convert that \$15 million American dollars into the equivalent in Canadian dollars and it would be more. I do not have the exact figure in front of me now. I can get that, but there is no doubt it would be more.

MR. BARRETT: \$150,000 would be 1 per cent on the interest.

DR. COLLINS: Yes, about \$150,000 would be the increased amount.

Mr. Chairman, I think we have reasonably well covered the questions that were asked in this Head and I now move that the Consolidated Fund Services Head be carried.

On motion, Head I, carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): Head II, Legislative.
On motion, 202-01,
carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall 202-02 carry?

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): The hon. the Minister of Finance.

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, again just a very brief comment on this. Of course, this Head covers the House of

DR. COLLINS:

Assembly, the operation of this House, and the services that this House needs to carry on the Parliament of this Province. That includes certain things such as the Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner, and it also includes an amount that we contribute to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

In addition to the operation of the House of Assembly itself, it also covers the Department of the Auditor General who reports to this House. And I have notes on all these various heads and subheads of expenditure that I will be glad to give information from as requested.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward):

the Opposition.

The hon. Leader of

MR. NEARY:

want to make here, Mr. Chairman, is one that we have made before, that we think that there are too many members in this House of Assembly.

The only comment I

MR. BARRETT:

for you, that is what is wrong.

Too many Conservatives

MR. NEARY:

members, fifty-two members for a population of 565,000 people is too many members. In Nova Scotia fifty-two seats -

MR. BARRETT:

rid of LaPoile next.

e are going to get

AN HON. MEMBER: If you base it on population
(inaudible).

MR. CALLAN: You have a city council.
How many phone calls do you get a year, about a half?

MR. NEARY: I wonder if I can be
permitted to carry on, Mr. Chairman?

MR. CHAIRMAN (AYLWARD): Order, please!

MR. NEARY: In Nova Scotia they have
fifty-two seats, 858,000 people - 858,000 souls in Nova
Scotia and only fifty-two seats. And in New Brunswick they
have fifty-eight seats. They have a few more than here, based on
710,000. And British Columbia, Mr. Chairman, they only have
more seats than we do for a population of 2,714,000 people.
So, Mr. Chairman, I can only repeat that we have said here
in the past several years, since the last time that the
boundaries were changed, gerrymandered, and ten seats put in
the city of St. John's and two or three more seats around

June 4, 1982

Tape No. 955

NM - 1

MR. NEARY: the perimeter of St. John's. We claim that the balance is out of whack. There are too many seats concentrated in the city of St. John's. Why one street in the city of St. John's has more power than a whole community in the rural part of this Province.

MR. DINN: How do you figure that?

MR. NEARY: The whole thing is completely out of proportion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. BARRETT: We represent people, we do not represent beach rocks.

MR. DINN: 1,000 people on the Coast of Labrador vote, there are 12,000 in my district vote and they have the same representation. Do not be so foolish.

MR. CALLAN: How many voters are there in St. John's West? How many?

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, with all due respect to the city of St. John's, and this is not resurrecting the old argument between the baymen and the people of St. John's, I am not resurrecting that, I am merely stating a fact, that one street in St. John's has more power and more authority than a whole community in rural Newfoundland.

MR. BARRETT: Because they have better members, that is why.

MR. NEARY: Most of the St. John's members - the majority of the Cabinet, the majority of members in the Cabinet are St. John's men, so, therefore, Mr. Chairman, you would expect the decisions that are

MR. NEARY: made by that side of the House to be urban oriented, no problem at all when the project comes up in St. John's to get it put through. We saw an example of that recently when a topless waitress invaded the historic district of St. John's East.

MR. CARTER: What can we do about witless people in the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: The Minister of Energy (Mr. Marshall), who represents that district in the Legislature, moved fairly quickly, moved pretty quickly, Mr. Chairman, to get the regulations changed to bar this sort of activity. But he was not so quick on the

MR. NEARY: draw when a large number of his constituents wanted the Toronto Dominion building downtown barred, stopped. He did not act so quickly then.

MR. BARRETT: Most of them were not his constituents.

MR. NEARY: Most of them were not his constituents, that is exactly the point.

MR. BARRETT: The other people were.

MR. NEARY: The other people were not his constituents. The forty-three names on that petition were not all constituents of the hon. gentleman.

And so, Mr. Chairman, this is a matter that has concerned me for some considerable time, the imbalance in the Cabinet, the imbalance in the make-up of the House of Assembly. I think the real power in this Province is in rural Newfoundland. I think primary producers are in the rural parts of this Province, fisherman, fish plant workers, loggers, paper makers, farmers live in the rural parts of this Province. They are the primary producers, yet we have this imbalance, where all the decision making is in the hands of members from urban centers and I think that is wrong, Mr. Chairman. I think the number of members of this House is excessive. It should be reduced by about ten members.

Mr. Chairman, one of the things that I will do if I ever get the opportunity to occupy that seat that I have my eye on.

MR. MARSHALL: Illusions of grandure.

MR. N. WINSOR: You will never get ahead as far as you are planning on, I will guarantee you.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to

June 4, 1982

Tape No. 956

MJ - 2

MR. NEARY: ask the hon. the Minister of Development (Mr. N. Windsor) if when the Premier is not in the Province or not in his seat, do they have to go in the common room and kiss his picture while he is away? Or do they have a picture in his seat over there that they could kiss?

June 4, 1982

Tape No. 957

SD - 1

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): Order, please!

MR. NEARY: All you have to do is leave him alone.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, I do not mind. Let them have their say, Mr. Chairman, I do not mind them a bit.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: Listen, they are all going snaky over there, Mr. Chairman. They are all going snaky, listen. The mad hatter administration. Pretty soon now, Mr. Chairman, they will be coming with the nets. Let her go.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, I really do not mind because it just goes to show how arrogant hon. gentlemen are.

MR. WINDSOR: He has nothing to say, anyway.

MR. NEARY: I certainly do have something to say, something very important to say.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: I started out by saying that as soon as I get the opportunity to occupy the seat that I have my eye on -

MR. BARRETT: You are in the shadow of the out of the out-House leader, boy.

MR. NEARY: - the number of members of this House will be reduced, guaranteed, Mr. Chairman, and the rural areas would be given stronger representation.

AN HON. MEMBER: Good, good.

MR. NEARY: That is guaranteed. The hon. gentleman can take -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, is this not great, is this not just wonderful. Now can I carry on now?

MR. BARRETT: You have been carrying on all morning.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): Order, please!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, that is one thing that we will do. We will save the taxpayers of this Province a substantial sum of money because the real problem in this House is not the controversy over pay, although that is a problem, the real problem is that we have too many members. And when you have too many members you have too many telephones, you have too many special assistants, parliamentary secretaries. The Cabinet is too large and we have too many members representing urban centres. So, Mr. Chairman, two points that have to be made while we are on this heading, two points. The number of members in the House has to be reduced, more in line with the geography of the Province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: I will tell you, I do not mind. I have lots of time, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): Order, please!

I wish to remind the hon. members to my left that it is very difficult to hear the speaker when there are continuous interruptions.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: I may never or I may, nobody knows, timing is very important in politics, Mr. Chairman. Timing is the most important thing in politics, hon. gentlemen should remember that. Mr. Chairman, just look at the way fate worked out in the end. After all the arguing and fighting and battling I had to get in

MR. NEARY: this seat over here, after the April 6, election I had it dumped in my lap. And I have the best caucus that a man could ask for. And who knows, Mr. Chairman, it may happen. The luck of the draw, Mr. Chairman, may mean that some day I will be sitting over in that seat, it all depends on timing. But if I am, Mr. Chairman, let me say this to you, Your Honour's seat may be all right. It may be, I am not sure.

MR. YOUNG: You are not doing (inaudible) and the survey.

MR. NEARY: No, we are not doing the survey. But I can guarantee you this, that if I ever do get the opportunity to occupy that Chair that I will not spend my time having my picture taken and hanging it up in the lobbies of all the outhouses in the Province.

I will not do that, but I will certainly make this commitment, that I will reduce the number of members of this House to save the taxpayers of this Province some money. And I would give the rural areas, Mr. Chairman, more representation than they have at the present time.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): The hon. Minister of Finance.

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to make a brief reply to a few of these remarks made by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary).

MR. BARRETT: None of them were relevant.

DR. COLLINS: First he suggested that Cabinet was composed by and large of St. John's members. Now, I would take the view that that would not necessarily be a bad thing. But I am just saying that it is not a correct thing.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

DR. COLLINS: For instance, if one goes around the table, the way I visualize it, we have the hon. Minister of Health (Mr. House) he is not from St. John's, I do not think.

MR. BARRETT: No.

DR. COLLINS: He represents a riding and he lived for many, many years and he calls his base the other side of the Province.

MR. BARRETT: Ms. Verge.

DR. COLLINS: Next to the hon. Minister of Health we have the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan). I did not think he was a townie.

MR. BARRETT: Are you from St. John's, Jim?

DR. COLLINS: He is from that great and historic district out in Bonavista Bay.

DR. COLLINS: Going along a little further we come to the hon.

DR. COLLINS: Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mrs. Newhook). She is certainly not from St. John's. She represents vigorously, frequently and as she should, the great and historic district of Gander. We go a little bit further around to the hon. the Minister of Public Works and Services (Mr. Young), certainly not from St. John's. He is from a very old and long settled part of the Province in Conception Bay, the district of Harbour Grace, where he gets increasing majorities every time he presents himself to the voters. We go along a little bit further and we come to the hon. the Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth, the member for Grand Falls (Mr. Simms). He is certainly not from St. John's. He is an adornment to the Cabinet, I will say that, but he does not have to be a St. John's adornment. We then have the hon. the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Dawe), again not from St. John's. I think, except for the members from Labrador, he is the member farthest away from St. John's on the Island. Then a little bit further round - and I will not belabour this too much - we come to the hon. the Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development (Mr. Goudie).

MR. DAWE: A real townie.

DR. COLLINS: Yes, he is a real townie. He is from the part of St. John's that is called Happy Valley - Goose Bay.

So the Cabinet has a very wide representation in rural parts of the Province.

Mr. Morgan: The Minister of Forestry (Mr. Power) is not from St. John's.

MR. BARRETT: Forestry, Communications.

DR. COLLINS: The Minister of Forestry (Mr. Power) - I did not even mention half of them. There is almost no one there from St. John's, as far as I can understand.

MR. BARRETT: I think we should have more from St. John's.

DR. COLLINS: The hon. member then mentioned that some of the districts are different in size, and that is quite true. This is why we have a review approximately every five years to change the representation.

MR. BARRETT: What about the Premier?

DR. COLLINS: Yes, I did not even mention the other -

MR. BARRETT: The most esteemed member of the Cabinet.

DR. COLLINS: The primus inter pares. Is that what it is called? "First among equals". The Premier of the Province is not from St. John's.

But getting to the size of the districts or the numbers of electors or voters that members represent, there is a disparity at the present time and I suggest there always will be because we are not a static people. This is a developing, a changing Province and we find that there are some people who will go to other areas. Some areas will increase in size, some areas will decrease in size. We will always have a need to readjust the electoral boundaries and I believe there is a review coming up in the next year or so.

MR. BARRETT: More seats for St. John's.

DR. COLLINS: Now, with regard to the difference in the number of members on each side of the House, of course, this is very, very apparent at the present time. The hon. the Leader of the Opposition, I think, suggested that it is not a good thing to have such a disparity, and one could argue that. But I think that that problem, if it is a problem,

DR. COLLINS:

is overridden by the fact that the people of Newfoundland wanted, in the last election, to send a very strong message to the rest of the country, and they wanted to send out the message that we are firmly behind the Peckford Administration in its approach to achieve equity within the Canadian Confederation for this Province, that they wanted to send that message so that no one could misunderstand it and the people in Canada, in other provinces are looking to Newfoundland with new eyes of respect. They do not look to Newfoundland now as a suppliant province. They do not look to the Premier of Newfoundland as somewhat of a quaint, rather amusing little character who is good for a laugh every once in a while.

MR. BARRITT: With the knees out of his pants and crawling to Ottawa.

DR. COLLINS: They are looking to the Premier of this Province now as a statesman within the Canadian Confederation, as a weighty member, as a Premier who had a very large say in bringing the new constitution that we have in Canada into being. They look upon him as a person that they would like to have in their own provinces when big issues come up. And members know now that the Premier was recently invited up to Ontario for that very reason. He has been in other provinces such as BC, he has been in Calgary, in Alberta, and so on and so forth. Because he has been invited there as a high profile, weighty, very informative type of Premier, very different from, perhaps, premiers we had when we first went into Confederation. And not only that, but the Province of Newfoundland itself and the representation that this Province sends to the national capital, and to meetings with other provinces now, these representatives are looked upon in a very, very serious light. They are looked upon as people who come forward from

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DR. COLLINS: a province that is rising in Confederation, that is going to take a greater and greater place in Confederation, that is going to, shall we say, be, in some respects, the saviour of the Canadian economy if the blocks that are unnecessarily put its ways can be eradicated. And that is what this administration and the Premier on this side of the House are doing. And that is what the people of this Province wanted to do. They wanted to make sure that everyone understood that the Newfoundland people are behind this approach and they said it in unmistakable terms, and that

DR. COLLINS:

is the reason for the disparity of the numbers of members on this side of the House, one side to the other.

Mr. Chairman, I do not know if there are any other questions that will come out under the Legislative Head, but if not I move the adoption of this Head.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): Shall 201-01 carry?

MR. LUSH: Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. the member for Terra Nova.

MR. LUSH: I was being detracted there by the member for Conception Bay South (Mr. Butt). I do not know whether it was intentional or not.

MR. TULK: Trying to shut her down.

MR. LUSH: Mr. Chairman, there are a couple of remarks that I wanted to make here. I wanted to commend the Leader of the Opposition for the great job that he is doing here today. A statement that he made, of course, that I agree with is reducing the number of members in this Province. Fifty-odd members, Mr. Chairman, too many members for a Province of this size. The Leader of the Opposition certainly documented his case by comparisons with other provinces and populations, and certainly fifty-two seats are too many seats for a Province of this size. I understand the geography, Mr. Chairman, and that makes it a bit difficult but still I think that we can have far less members in the House, far less districts and be able to do a far better job. So, Mr. Chairman, I think the Leader of the Opposition certainly made a good case when he started making the comparisons with other provinces of Canada, and particularly in the Atlantic provinces, provinces that have the same geographic problems as we do. For example, Nova Scotia with a population of 828,000 with fifty-two members. Let us take Quebec with

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MR. LUSH: six million people, over six million people with one hundred and twenty-two and we almost have about 55 per cent of the number of

MR. T. LUSH: seats - no a little higher than that - 60 per cent of the seats of Quebec, with a population of 6 million people. So I think these statistics bear out, Mr. Chairman, that maybe we have gone a little bit top-heavy on the number of seats that we have in this Province, giving certainly an inordinate balance to St. John's, particularly. How many seats directly in St. John's, ten?

MR. S. NEARY: Ten and another two or three right around the perimeter of St. John's.

MR. LUSH: Ten seats directly in St. John's, which, of course, then, also gives them an imbalance in the government.

MR. NEARY: That is right.

MR. LUSH: Gives them an imbalance in the government because I suppose the Premier feels obligated to take a number of people from St. John's in his Cabinet since a great degree of support comes from here and that means that rural Newfoundland is left out of the picture. Now, Mr. Chairman, I did not get what the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. S. Neary) was saying because I was doing something else. I do not necessarily subscribe to the fact either that we have to have Cabinet Ministers by geographic representation, I think there is a little more to it than that. But, still, when we have - there must be a balance - when we have a concentration of members from St. John's, people who do not understand rural Newfoundland, then that is a different matter. That is a different matter because the ministers that I have heard speaking from time to time do not impress me with their grasp of the problems of rural Newfoundland. They certainly do not impress me with their knowledge, they do not seem to have a handle on what the real needs of rural Newfoundlanders are and that is what would

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MR. T. LUSH: concern me. So, Mr. Chairman, I am all for supporting the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. S. Neary) in reducing the number of seats and in giving rural Newfoundland representation in any government. I am all for that. So if he becomes Premier he will have my support on that one.

Mr. Chairman, it is a

MR. LUSH: place, of course, for a person to speak of the circumstances and working conditions of his own job too, the House of Assembly. I am surprised that backbenchers are not up now and making their points known to the government, their concerns about their working conditions. I have heard them complain about them but this is the place to do it, to complain to the government and make public, if you will, the kinds of working conditions that we have. The members of the Opposition in particular are crowded into a little room, Mr. Chairman, to carry on the job of an Opposition, to meet delegations and representatives from the public. In a little small cubbyhole, that is where we are relegated now, Mr. Chairman. But I do understand that the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Young) is going to take some action and try to improve that situation for us. I also understand that he is trying to improve our phone service. But, Mr. Chairman, I think if the government are concerned about members doing their jobs, I think that they have to provide them with the support staff and facilities. And, Mr. Chairman, it is very, very important that a member be provided with the proper support staff and with the proper facilities to represent not only his own constituency, because invariably a member is called upon to represent a constituency much larger than the district for which he or she was elected. And, Mr. Chairman, I do hope that the government consider that and certainly recognize how important the job is and to try and accommodate members so that they will not be restricted, that they will not be stymied, they will not be stifled in carrying out the job for which they were elected in representing the constituency, really, of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. And when one looks at the kind of support staff and the kind of facilities that a member has, I think one can readily come, one can readily see, one can readily ascertain that the

MR. LUSH: conditions, Mr. Chairman, are not conducive to giving the kind of representation that the people of this Province so rightly expect and so rightly demand. So I would hope that the administration, the government, Her Majesty's government will certainly take that and consider it in view of the work that we all have to do and, I would hope, come up with some firm decisions, with some positive decisions in trying to make the job of an MHA, of a backbenchers or an Opposition member, because they too, I think, would agree with me

MR. LUSH: that the working conditions are not the best, that they do not have - and when I am talking about the working conditions I am referring to space, I am talking about support staff, and support staff and facilities, facilities coming under space of course. So these are the two concerns that I have. These are the two areas which prevent me from doing the kind of job that the people of Terra Nova would expect and indeed, as I said, that much larger constituency, the people of Newfoundland and Labrador.

So, Mr. Chairman, I certainly hope that the administration, that the government of this Province, will look into the needs of the politicians on either of the House to ensure that they can do their job adequately, that they give us the support staff.

I suppose if we were to relate this to private industry, if we were to relate the work load and the number of people for whom we work that -

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): Order, please!

MR. LUSH: - private industry, the officials, the managers, and the bosses in private industry would find it incredible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! The hon. member's time has elapsed.

MR. LUSH: Mr. Chairman, the time goes so quickly when you get into a topic that you enjoy and you know a lot about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before I introduce the next member I wish to welcome to our galleries ten Special Ed. students from Placentia with their teacher, Mr. Pittman, who are represented here by Mr. Patterson, the member for Placentia.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward):

The hon. member for Bellevue.

MR. CALLAN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I represent a rural district in this Province, one of the largest, by the way, one of the largest rural districts in the Province, thirty-five towns and villages, thirty-five communities, every one with varying degrees of wants and needs, most of them, of course, fishing villages. Some of them are inland. Whitbourne, for example, the first inland town to be settled in all of Newfoundland and Labrador, the town of Whitbourne, and Markland, of course. I think all hon. members are quite familiar with the way that the town of Markland had its beginnings and the hospital that we have there in which our Premier was born, the Markland Cottage Hospital, back in 1942 I think it was.

Mr. Chairman, as other members have already mentioned, the number of seats in St. John's I believe is out of whack, out of proportion with what the needs are as far as representation is concerned. Everybody knows that in the city of St. John's you have a paid - all of the members of the council in St. John's, the city council

MR. CALLAN: are paid. They are not like the Mayor of Carbonear or the Mayor of Norman's Cove or Whitbourne and all the other mayors that we have, Sunnyside, Come By Chance, Arnold's Cove, and so on. But they are in this city, they are paid. It can be a full-time job for them. And I would say, Mr. Chairman, that the members who represent the districts in the city of St. John's, the work load, the things that they have, the phone calls, and the letters, and the inquiries, and so on that they get, are probably not one-hundredth, perhaps not one-hundredth of the kind of inquiries and problems and so on that are brought to the attention of members like myself who represents thirty-five communities in a rural district.

Mr. Chairman, the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) said if he became Premier one of the first things that he would do would be to do away with some of the unnecessary seats in the city of St. John's because, as he said that I would, you know, the proportion of seats, fifty-two districts in a Province with the population that we have about 550,000 I suppose, a lot less than that - if the census were taken I think we would discover that 50,000 or 60,000 are no longer living in this Province, they are living in Fort MacMurray and all over the world.

Mr. Chairman, just imagine the money that could be saved if the taxpayers did not have to pay the salaries, especially the double salaries of these members. And everyone of them, of course, in St. John's are double salaries, there is no question about that. Nobody went down to defeat.

Mr. Chairman, during the election campaign I was driving from one part of my district to the other and I was listening to the Open Line

MR. CALLAN:

programme and Walter, the Old Man of the Sea called in and he referred to a rural district , Bonavista North actually, and he said, 'running a Liberal down there - You could run anything down there and you would get elected. But how wrong the gentleman was.

MR. BARRETT: Who did you say?

MR. CALLAN: Walter the old man of the sea, How wrong he was. If he had said you can run anything in St. John's on a Tory ticket then, of course, he would have hit it dead on. But he was totally wrong in his comments. Imagine the salaries, Mr. Chairman. In the 1982-83 Budget salary estimates , Mr. Chairman, the salary for the Opposition Research Assistant went down from \$18,207 to \$17,600. The salary of the Research Assistant in the Leader of the Opposition's office went down. Mr. Chairman, imagine if we had three or four members representing St. John's, which is plenty when you consider that the city council is there looking after their interest and their concerns anyway, if you eliminated eight MHAs in St. John's imagine the savings to the taxpayers.

AN HON. MEMBER: We would still have the government.

MR. CALLAN: Oh, you would still have the government. I am not concerned about the government, what I am concerned about, Mr. Chairman, is the government governing and not playing politics as they are doing, for example, with the hospital in Markland. There would be enough money saved there, Mr. Chairman, in these eight MHA's salaries to keep the hospital at Markland open rather than talking about shutting it down.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that we will keep the Markland cottage hospital open. The

MR. CALLAN: pressure is mounting every day and I give notice now, Mr. Chairman, that in the very near future, unless the Premier and the Minister of Health (Mr. House) and the government in general, unless they want to change their minds as they did, for example, with the Old Perlican hospital, unless that change is announced in the next week or so, I give notice now, Mr. Chairman, that I will be introducing into this legislature a motion of censure against the Premier with the supporting affidavits and all the other documentation that I will need.

MR. BARRETT: Is that relevant to this?

MR. CALLAN: Yes, it is relevant. We are talking about the taxpayers' dollars wasted and paying out unnecessary salaries to unnecessary MHAs in St. John's city, and we are talking about where that money could be better spent in maintaining medical facilities. And I am sure that the Chairman who now occupies the Chair, a medical man himself

MR. W. CALLAN: appreciates that, the comments that I am making. So, Mr. Chairman, a total waste of the taxpayers' dollars, total and absolute, And the member for St. John's West (Mr. H. Barrett) was talking about rep. by pop., representation by population. I want to remind the member for St. John's West that there are more voters in the district of Bellevue than there are in St. John's West. And to say that representation by population is the only criteria that should be used when you are drawing up your guidelines for the determination of how many seats and how many members there should be, of course, as far as I am concerned it should be one of many factors. I suppose the Premier knows, he has had ample opportunity to find out, how big and how sprawling the district of Bellevue is, as an example. The Premier spent two Springs out there trying to get someone elected on his party's ticket. So the Premier is quite aware of the sprawling geographical area that comprises the district of Bellevue. And, of course, the Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth (Mr. L. Simms) is also quite familiar. He was down to the extent of it, down in Swift Current last Spring and met with a number of people down there and told them that he was going to have four people in the Piper's Hole Park rather than just the one.

MR. L. SIMMS: I never said anything like that.

MR. CALLAN: I should have got up last Spring when the minister said that, because I could also have gotten the sworn affidavits from the people that the minister met with.

MR. YOUNG: Making your accusations again.

MR. CALLAN: These are based on facts. These are based on facts. No question about it.

The present postmaster, Mr. Chairman,

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MR. W. CALLAN: in Norman's Cove is a resident of
Conception Bay. I am not sure what part of Conception

MR. CALLAN: Bay he is from, but anyway, last weekend he was down in Piper's Hole Park in Swift Current and my wife, who happens to work at the post office off and on filling in -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. CALLAN: No, that was a Tory lie that was perpetrated and spread and people were paid. The P.C. candidate in the last election, 'Bas for Bellevue' - who spent \$30,000 spreading Tory lies, found out in a quick hurry that nobody in rural Newfoundland, and especially rural Newfoundland, enjoys dirt.

AN HON. MEMBER: He had you jumping.

MR. CALLAN: He had me jumping. I did not spend one copper until polling day.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Dr. McNicholas): The hon. member's time is expired.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. the member for Port au Port.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, I would like to raise a matter which I feel has not been dealt with properly in this House.

We spent some time a couple of weeks ago talking about the Ombudsman's report, Special Report No. 3, concerning the hiring of two gentlemen on the West Coast.

MR. HODDER: Mr.Chairman, this matter seems to have disappeared from the public mind. We do have a Public Service Commission in this Province and we do have an act that covers that Public Service Commission. And Mr. Thistle had been picked number one of twelve applicants by the Public Service Commission. It is my understanding that the names of three people were submitted to the minister, and it is very clear under the act that the person responsible for selecting one of the three would be the deputy minister, not the minister.

Mr.Chairman, in this report - and I do not think it has been read thoroughly by members on both sides, I have read every word of it and have talked to some individuals concerned. Mr. Chairman, one question was not adequately answered in this House, because it seems to have passed over the heads of hon. members, that neither one of these gentlemen were known personally to the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan). And I wish he were in his seat because it seems to be very hard to talk about the Minister of Fisheries these days. I suppose he has been in the House about three or four days since the House opened. He has been trotting around the globe.

MR. HOUSE: No, he has been ill. He has been at home sick.

MR. NEARY: Well, we could say the same thing about the member for the Strait of Belle Isle (Mr. Roberts). He is on district business and home sick. I mean, you fellows started this attendance bit. You started this

MR. NEARY: attendance bit. You started the attendance bit, now you are going to have to live with it.

MR. HODDER: That is right, Mr. Chairman.
And you know with forty-four over on the other side -

MR. NEARY: How many are over there now? One, two, three - eight.

MR. HODDER: Call a quorum, Mr. Chairman.

QUORUM CALL

MR. HODDER: There is not a quorum.

MR. CHAIRMAN (McNicholas): Could the Clerk count the House, please.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!
There is a quorum present now.
The hon. member for Port au Port.

MR. HODDER: I think it is shocking, Mr. Chairman, when you have a government of forty-four members and they can only keep eight in the House of Assembly.

MR. MORGAN: (Inaudible).

MR. HODDER: Oh yes, Mr. Chairman,
Mr. Chairman, now that I have got the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) in the House perhaps the Minister of Fisheries will stand and tell me , will stand when I sit in about two minutes time, and tell me

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HODDER: - and tell me why he picked number two over number one. Why he picked Mr. Green over Mr. Thistle? And would he also tell me when he stands,

MR. HODDER:

when did he first meet Mr. Greene? Had he ever met Mr. Greene before? Who suggested Mr. Greene to him? And what was wrong Mr. Thistle's record for the minister to pick number two? Because that question has not been answered and I think that it should be answered.

Now, Mr. Chairman, you know the Ombudsman for the first time that I know, of has brought a very serious matter before this House of Assembly, then the minister has a press conference and in attempting to explain his position tabled a letter which was already in the Ombudsman's report, a letter by the Provincial Department of Justice, Mr. Chairman, which is noted for its biased opinions. I would like to see, Mr. Chairman, an independent, impartial body look at this particular report. Because, Mr. Chairman, everything in this report, in the Ombudsman's Report, smacks of political patronage.

MR. NEARY: And interference.

MR. HODDER: Not only was it shown that the minister on one occasion did it, but he does it on all occasions.

MR. POWER: Let us give the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) a hand.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HODDER: Mr. Chairman, I am going to ask now, I am going to ask -

MR. NEARY: You made that statement with tongue in cheek, it is a wonder you did not choke on that 'Charlie'.

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MR. HODDER: I am going to ask the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) to stand up now -

MR. NEARY: Man fashion.

MR. HODDER: - man fashion, and tell us all about why he hired number two rather than number one, particularly, Mr. Chairman, since the number one choice of the Public Service Commission - would the minister tell me why, when he was the number one choice of the Public Service Commission the minister then chose number two? And on whose recommendation did he choose number two since he did not know either one of the individuals concerned, particularly when number one, the person picked by the Public Service Commission, when number one was a man of impeccable record, a man who had worked with the Department of Fisheries, who had the highest - the minister's officials when he spoke with them told him that this particular gentleman was a person of the highest quality, meticulous in everything he did. These are the words, Mr. Chairman. "Mr. Thistle conducted himself in a -

MR. MORGAN: Your buddy never got the job, so you are mad are you?

MR. BARRETT: Is that the reason?

MR. CALLAN: Your buddy got it though buddy.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. HODDER: For the record, Mr. Chairman -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CALLAN: Tell us about Jim Peddle. Tell us about Jim Peddle too when you get up.

MR. HODDER: - Mr. Chairman, for the record, I had never met -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): Order, please!

MR. HODDER: Mr. Chairman, the first time I ever spoke -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. HODDER: If the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) would shut his gob, the first time I met Mr. -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. CALLAN: Tell us about Jim Peddle's job too.

MR. HODDER: - the first time I met Mr. Thistle- as a matter of fact, I have never met Mr. Thistle, I talked to him on the telephone since this Ombudsman Report came out, but I have met Mr. Green.

MR. MORGAN: You are on the phone every day of the week apparently to see if you can get a job for him.

MR. HODDER: That is not so. That is slander, dirt and it is not true. A liar.

MR. NEARY: Make him take it back.

MR. CALLAN: Tell us about Jim Peddle's job when you are up.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Chairman, there is something else here. The Ombudsman, after reviewing all the evidence, and as you go through, Mr. Chairman, not only the summary of what the Ombudsman had to say but when you take the time to read the documentation letter by letter, and I would say that the Parliamentary Commissioner, the Ombudsman of this Province did a masterful job in laying out the evidence and the facts, Mr. Chairman, but when you go through that particular document you realize that there is something else that has not been done, that man should be paid his six months' salary that he lost.

MR. NEARY: Right on, Right on.

MR. HODDER: He should be paid his six months' as was recommended. Now, can the minister get on his feet and tell us how he did it?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. HODDER: Tell us how you did it, go ahead.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): Order, please!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Alyward): The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, I was hoping that the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) would respond to my hon. colleague and if he does want to respond I will gladly take my seat.

MR. MORGAN: I do not have to respond to that trash from him. Say it outside the House.

MR. NEARY: Well, Mr. Chairman, under-

MR. HODDER: Do you want me to say it outside the House? Then you shall have it.

MR. NEARY: Under Legislative, Mr. Chairman, we are dealing with the Parliamentary Commissioner, that is one of the items, who is the Ombudsman. So we are perfectly within our right to discuss the special report of the Ombudsman that was made strongly condemning the Minister of Fisheries for violating the procedures and the policies of the Public Service Commission.

MR. MORGAN: Defending your colleague's buddy.

MR. CALLAN: Tell us about Jim Peddle when you are up.

MR. MORGAN: He is not getting compensation either, your buddy.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, in any other part of North America three strikes and you are out except in Newfoundland. In Newfoundland you can have three strikes against you and you are not out. Now what was the first strike? The first strike against the hon. gentleman was raised in the Auditor General's Report, and the Auditor General happens to be a servant of this House. The Auditor General is not a political appointment, at least I would hope he is not. The Auditor General is appointed by this House under a law of this House, an act of this House. The Auditor General condemned the Minister of Fisheries for interfering and violating the Public Tendering Act in this Province.

MR. S. NEARY: In other words, Mr. Chairman, through favouritism and political patronage, the hon. gentleman was strongly condemned. And then the Public Accounts Committee, comprising of four members on that side of the House, three members on this side of the House, picked up that item in the Auditor General's Report and then brought in a unanimous decision - four members on that side, three on this side - that the minister had indeed done what the Auditor General said that he had done, and that is, Mr. Chairman, that the minister violated the public tendering act in this Province. A more serious act - I suppose that is the most serious - a minister could commit. Now, that is one strike against him.

Now the next strike was the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman saw fit to make a special report to this Legislature condemning the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. J. Morgan) for doing something improper as far as the hiring practices of the Public Service Commission are concerned. A strong condemnation by another gentleman. We only have three servants this House. The Auditor General, the Ombudsman and the Comptroller of the Treasury are the three servants we have of this House. They do not answer to anybody but this House, to protect the interest of the people of this Province. That is why they have their own act, Mr. Chairman, and that is why they answer to this House and not to the government.

The Ombudsman brought in a special report strongly condemning the Minister of Fisheries for not accepting number one recommendation for a job in the Department of Fisheries, violation of the procedure of the Public Service Commission.

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Tape No. 972

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MR. S. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, they can hang their hats all they want. Every time the Premier gets up to defend the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. J. Morgan) he says the minister did not do anything illegal. The minister did not do anything illegal, that is what he says. Well that is a cowardly way out, in my opinion. We wanted to know why the Premier keeps defending the Minister of Fisheries. There must be some reason. There must be some reason that we do not know about, why the Premier keeps defending the Minister of Fisheries. Now that was two strikes. There was the Ombudsman, who strongly condemned the Minister of Fisheries for his hiring practices, the Auditor General condemned the hon. gentleman when he was Minister of Transportation, for interfering with the

MR. NEARY: Public Tendering Act, and the third strike was his direct political interference with the judicial system in this Province when he wired a judge of the court to try and get a case postponed. Three strikes anywhere else and he would be out, Mr. Chairman, except in Newfoundland.

MR. HODDER: A joke! A joke!

MR. NEARY: It has to be a joke of some kind. Now, Mr. Chairman, let us look at the implications of this hiring in the public service. Ever since that matter was raised by my hon. colleague, the member for Fogo (Mr. Tulk), I have had numerous phone calls from employees in the public service who are getting screwed and shafted by ministers.

MR. YOUNG: What?

MR. NEARY: The hon. gentleman who just said what is the biggest culprit of all. The hon. gentleman who just keeps saying, what, what, what, is the biggest culprit of all. He is violating all the rules of the road and hiring everybody from his own district.

MR. CALLAN: Is he the Minister of Public Works?

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, it is wrong when you violate the procedures of the public service. Mr. Chairman, every Newfoundlander has a right to have a crack at these jobs.

MR. DINN: What would you do with a guy who did something wrong or violated the procedures of the public service?

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, every Newfoundlander has a right to have a crack at these jobs and not just the hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Young) who is shoving his constituents in everywhere he can over the heads of people who are more qualified and entitled to these jobs. Mr. Chairman, I am not saying the hon.

MR. NEARY: gentleman's constituents are not entitled to jobs, they are, but, Mr. Chairman, every Newfoundlander should be treated fairly and squarely.

MR. YOUNG: (inaudible) your friend's son a job the other day, what are you worried about?

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, that is the net result of the destruction of the spirit of the Public Service hiring that was brought on by the hon. Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan). It is happening in every department of government and the morale within the Public Service is deteriorating rapidly.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh. oh!

MR. HICKEY: How about the people from St. Mary's who are in the hospitals? How many people from Bell Island are in Exon House today through the hon. gentleman?

MR. DINN: What would the hon. gentleman do about procedures -

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, they are going snaky over there again. I am going to have to get the young lady, the page, to protect me pretty soon. They are going snaky over there again, this mad-hatter administration is going snaky again.

Mr. Chairman, I am not talking about jobs that are outside of the Public Service Commission. I am not talking about that kind of job, I am talking about positions within the Public Service responsibility to hire. Mr. Chairman, they have destroyed completely the morale of the Public Service and it seems now, Mr. Chairman, to be the

MR. NEARY: part of the conventional wisdom of this administration not to recognize number one on the list. As hon. members know, number one on the list is the one that is recommended by the Public Service.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, hon. members, in case they do not know, in case the hon. gentleman from Burin - Placentia West (Mr. Tobin) over there wild-eyed and full of enthusiasm, and flushed up when we condemn the administration and attack his idol, has to run out every time we make the little attack and kiss the picture of the Premier. We would like to know how many times a day he has to do that, Mr. Chairman.

But the fact of the matter is that this has now become a part of the conventional wisdom of this administration, that ministers are ignoring the number one name on the list, the number one recommended by the Public Service Commission, and they are shoving in their own buddies.

MR. HODDER: And the Premier has even sent a memo.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, the most sad part of this is that the Premier sent out a memo allowing them to do it. The Premier sent out a memo and said, 'Look, boys, if you are going to ignore number one on the list, then come and see me before you do it. Come and genuflect and kiss my picture before you do it. Mr. Chairman, that is the saddest part of all.

MR. YOUNG: You are getting the message.

MR. NEARY: Oh, yes, Mr. Chairman, the

MR. NEARY: people of this Province are getting the message. Every Newfoundlander is entitled to fair and equitable treatment.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: I do not blame the hon. the Minister of Forestry (Mr. Power) for sitting there with a sad, sad expression on his face, with his head down, because the hon. gentleman knows what I am saying is true. So that is the implication, Mr. Chairman, of what the hon. gentleman did. And, Mr. Chairman, we would like to know why the hon. gentleman will not get up and explain himself. The hon. gentleman has slunk out of the House, run out to the common room, instead of sitting here and facing the music and getting up and giving us answers, Mr. Chairman, giving us the answers to questions, legitimate questions that we have asked. The hon. gentleman runs away and

MR. NEARY: hides in the Common Room. This is a very serious matter, Mr. Chairman, a very serious matter indeed. It is a violation of the spirit of the Public Service Commission hiring practices. And, Mr. Chairman, I would say that people have a right, people who are calling have a right to be concerned. They have been shafted.

MR. NEARY: I would say the Government of LaSage -

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): Order, please!
The hon. member's time has expired.

The hon. member for Bellevue.

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Chairman, I wanted to ask the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Young) how much money is in the budget this year for the new Confederation Building Complex?

MR. HODDER: He does not know.

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Chairman, last year there was \$1 million. I wonder how much of that was spent? The point that I am making, Mr. Chairman, is that we have in this city at least eight MHAs who should not be on the payroll of the government, a waste of the taxpayers' dollars.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CALLAN: The money should be spent on maintaining facilities like the Markland Cottage Hospital, Mr. Chairman.

MR. BARRETT: Snow White and the seven dwarfs, when are they going to leave?

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Chairman, we were just talking about something else. We were talking about the hiring practices.

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the local preference policy -

MR. YOUNG: I got a friend of yours a job the other day.

MR. CALLAN: I would like to know about the local preference policy and how it applies to employment in provincial parks. Perhaps the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Young) can tell me why, why, why a gentleman from Trinity Bay , a student, was not hired for a provincial park right nextdoor and we have somebody from the hon. member's district working in that park , and why over in Jack's Pond Park we have another student from Conception Bay, when there are students right nextdoor in Norman's Cove and that area.

MR. CALLAN: So I am wondering, Mr. Chairman -

MR. BARRETT: The member told on himself again.

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Chairman, let me tell the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Young) that I made several representations on behalf of these students, made several representations on behalf of them, and I can tell you also, Mr. Chairman, that some of the civil servants are not very happy with the way that they cannot carry out their duties the way they would like to carry them out, and use the local preference policy when it comes to provincial parks, as an example, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I am going to ask the administration once more to change their minds. The pressure is mounting, and I want the administration to change their minds with regard to the future of the Markland Cottage Hospital. The pressure is mounting. Just now, Mr. Chairman, I gave notice that at a point not too far in the distant future I will be moving a motion of censure against the Premier over developments in this House earlier in this week. And, Mr. Chairman, it will not be the first time that budgets have been changed or statements in Budget Speeches have been changed. The federal Minister of Finance has listened to pressure. The federal Minister of Finance, the hon. Mr. MacEachen, he has listened to the will and the wishes of people throughout Canada and has changed his budget, and I hope that this government, Mr. Chairman, even though they have a 44 seat majority, I hope that they will not be too dictatorial. They made one change, they have changed their stand pertaining to the Old Perlican hospital, so I hope that they will

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MR. W. CALLAN: make another change.

MR. H. BARRETT: I do not know whether they do or not.
Good representation from (inaudible).

MR. CALLAN: What silly nonsense the member
for St. John's West (Mr. H. Barrett) gets on with, Mr. Chairman.
What silly nonsense. He is more to be pitied than blamed
though.

MR. BARRETT: I suppose.

MR. CALLAN: More to be pitied than blamed.
The silly nonsense that he gets on with. What a defence. The
hon. member for St. John's West has no idea what it means to
represent a rural district and he talks about me not representing
my district properly. Why does not the member for St. John's
West talk to the member for St. Mary's - The Capes (Mr. L. Hearn) and get
an idea of what it means to represent a rural district. Because
I would say the district of St. Mary's - The Capes is
comparable to the district of Bellevue in geography, population,
needs in various communities and that sort of thing. Perhaps
what he should do is talk to the member for St. Mary's -
The Capes if he does not want to talk to me.

MR. BARRETT: I do not mind talking
to a member on this side of the House.

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Chairman, last night, as I
earlier said, myself and the member for St. Mary's - The Capes
were in attendance at a public function in the district
of Bellevue, which overlapped three districts actually. I think
the member for Placentia (Mr. W. Patterson) was attending a
wedding and he could not be there, but we were there. And again
tomorrow night, Mr. Chairman, I have another public function. The
Voluntary Fire Brigade at Whitbourne have invited me to be their
guest speaker at their annual ball. Last Friday night I had to
turn down, Mr. Chairman, an invitation to be the guest speaker

MR. W. CALLAN: in Swift Current at the Grade XI graduation exercises there.

MR. H. BARRETT: I hope you do a better job out there than you do in here.

MR. CALLAN: And the member for St. John's West (Mr. H. Barrett) is silly.

But, Mr. Chairman, I wonder how many invitations the member for St. John's West gets to attend these sorts of functions?

MR. BARRETT: All kinds of them, boy.

MR. CALLAN: As the member for St. Mary's - The Capes (Mr. L. Hearn) will confirm, I could not attend the public speaking engagement in Swift Current for a couple of reasons. I had another function to attend in my own home town, where a Grade XI exercise was being held there.

MR. MORGAN: What a way to waste time.

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Chairman, what I am getting around to is I am trying to put in a good plug for the administration. Because the point that I was trying to make was this, that all of the things that this government has done are not bad. For example, that function last night, I think the government are to be commended for setting aside a special week for foster parents and recognizing them and paying a tribute to them. And I did that last night, as did the member for St. Mary's - The Capes. And last Friday night, as I said, I could not go to Swift Current and attend a Grade XI graduation, I had to attend the one in Norman's Cove, in my own home town because my own daughter was one of the Grade XI graduates.

MR. CALLAN: And I made note as I proposed a toast to the graduates last Friday night, I noted in my few words, Mr. Chairman, that here was something else that this government did which was long overdue. I noted that that function last Friday night in Swift Current and Norman's Cove, and all over the Province at various times, they are history-making events. Because never again, I suppose, in the history of this Province will there be Grade XI graduating classes or graduating exercises. Next year there will be no graduates any where in this Province. The year after that we will have our first batch of Grade XII graduates. So last Friday night my daughter-

MR. MARSHALL: Botch!

MR. CALLAN: - an oldest child was one of hundreds of Grade XI students across the Province who are making history.

So , Mr. Chairman, I commend the government and I congratulate the government on things that they are doing. It is hard to do it , Mr. Chairman. I think I would probably do a lot more of it if you did not have the sort of ignoramus - and if that is unparliamentary I will withdraw it and perhaps use a better adjective.

MR. NEARY: Rene Levesque used it in

MR. MORGAN: A better example than you are.

MR. CALLAN: The member for St. John's West (Mr. Barrett) -Mr. Chairman, do you notice the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) he is always talking and butting in when he has no right to do so. But when he was sitting in his own seat just now and he was asked a straight-forward question on the special Ombudsman's report and he was asked to get up and explain, he remained silent and then he stole out of the House of Assembly.

MR. CALLAN: But there he is over there now in somebody else's seat, where he is not supposed to be speaking from at all, and talking about foolish nonsense.

MR. MORGAN: All you are doing is wasting time, you and your colleagues.

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Chairman, I hope with the budget that we have, without eliminating eight MHAs in St. John's, I hope that the government with the budget that they have in place now will do the same thing for Markland and the cottage hospital there as they did for Old Perlican a few days ago. Because the pressure is mounting, Mr. Chairman.

MR. DOYLE: Is it?

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Chairman, the pressure is mounting and the pressure will become greater and the Premier knows -

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): Order, please!

MR. CALLAN: - and the Premier knows that it is his word that is at stake as well.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member's time has elapsed.

MR. CALLAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, before this item carries -

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

MR. NEARY: - I want to come back to a statement I made earlier that was challenged by the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) in connection with the make-up of the Cabinet. The hon. gentleman dismissed that as if I did not have my facts straight.

The fact of the matter is, I am going to repeat again what I said, that the heavy hand of influence in that Cabinet is too heavily weighted in favour of St. John's and the

MR. NEARY:

urban centres. Why do I say that, Mr. Chairman?

I say it because out of eighteen members of the Cabinet, which is one of the biggest Cabinets in Canada, only -

MR. YOUNG:

That is twice as many as

you have in the Opposition.

MR. NEARY:

No. We are higher than

Nova Scotia, we are higher than Manitoba. We are almost equal to New Brunswick, they have twenty, we have eighteen - much larger populations. So we have one of the largest Cabinets in Canada and there is an imbalance in that Cabinet.

Now, the hon. gentleman started rhyming off members that he said represented rural areas, members of the Cabinet. But out of eighteen members, I am sure of seven from the St. John's area who dominate that Cabinet. The hon. gentleman himself represents a St. John's district, the hon. the Minister of Energy (Mr. Marshall) represents a St. John's district, the hon. the Minister of Development (Mr. Windsor) represents a district on the perimeter of St. John's, the hon. the member for Pleasantville (Mr. Dinn) represents a St. John's district, the hon. the Minister of Environment (Mr. Andrews) is a townie representing a St. John's district, the hon. the Minister of Social Services (Mr. Hickey), a St. John's district, and the hon. the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) is a St. John's man. So, Mr. Chairman, at least seven, if not eight, out of eighteen members represent St. John's districts or districts close to St. John's, on the perimeter of St. John's.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: The mad hatters are going snaky again, Mr. Chairman. I am going to need protection again.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): Order, please!

MR. NEARY: The hon. mad hatters going snaky over there again.

MR. HOUSE: You are trying to kill time.

MR. NEARY: No, I am not trying to kill time, I am making a very valid point. The hon. gentleman does not have any say in the Cabinet. He is only just a flunky. He is only there to carry out the wishes of the St. John's crowd.

MR. YOUNG: Name the (inaudible).

MR. NEARY: I will be in the hon. gentleman's district tomorrow night. I will be down in Sop's Arm tomorrow night, and if the hon. gentleman would like to hear some words of wisdom, he should come down to the district Liberal Association, holding a big banquet in Sop's Arm tomorrow night, and I would be very happy to enlighten the hon. gentleman.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: They are all going snaky again.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! Order!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, I have not yet made up my mind,

MR. NEARY:

but it is looking awfully, awfully good all the time, it is getting more tantalizing all the time.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. NEARY: Even my colleagues this morning - you heard one of my colleagues this morning get up and say, 'I support that policy just announced by the Leader of the Opposition, to reduce the number of members in the House of Assembly and to eliminate that imbalance in the Cabinet'. So, Mr. Chairman -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. NEARY: They all go up the wall, they all go snaky over there.

DR. COLLINS: We can reduce some members for you.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, if Frank Moores left a legacy to the Tory Party it was this, that Frank Moores was the man who redistributed the seats. Frank Moores was the master of gerrymandering. Frank Moores ignored a report that was brought into this House by an independent commission on redistribution. That was ignored by Mr. Moores and he drew his own boundaries and he gave an extra four or six, I am not sure which - no six - an extra six seats to St. John's or the perimeter around St. John's. That is the legacy that Mr. Moores left to the Tory Party. And they should be everlasting - instead of, Mr. Chairman, slitting his throat as they did when he was forced to resign, instead of knifing him in the back as the Premier, his successor did, instead of doing that, Mr. Chairman, they should have gotten down on their knees to Mr. Moores for giving them six more Tory seat in and around St. John's, because that is the man who did it.

MR. TOBIN: What about all the great Liberal seats in rural Newfoundland?

MR. CALLAN: They will all be back the next time
and yours will be one of them. Do not get too cocky.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. NEARY: Here we go again.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: There they are, Mr. Chairman,
cannot keep them quite at all today but I will be down in

MR. NEARY:

Sops Arm tomorrow night and the hon. gentleman should come down to hear what I have to say, some very good stuff, interesting -

MR. HOUSE:

Very interesting, sure.

MR. NEARY:

- timely, current, no politics, straight facts to the hon. gentleman's constituents. I will not even be talking about how the hon. gentleman ignored his constituents in the recent road block down there. I will not even be talking about that.

MR. MORGAN:

Come down to Bonavista some time.

MR. NEARY:

Yes, Mr. Chairman -

SOME HON. MEMBER:

Oh, oh!

MR. DINN:

I thought you were only the leader.

MR. HOUSE:

You were down there to a meeting with me.

MR. NEARY:

Here we go again, I hear the trumpets blow again.

MR. HOUSE:

The Leader of the Opposition must be (inaudible)

MR. CALLAN:

The incompetent Minister of Health.

MR. NEARY:

When they quieten down, Mr. Chairman, I will carry on. When they quieten down.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward):

Order, please!

MR. NEARY:

So the point that I made earlier, Mr. Chairman, was this, that there is an imbalance in the Cabinet, and as a result of that -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. WINDSOR:

There is an imbalance between your ears.

MR. NEARY:

The ironical part of it, Mr. Chairman, is that there is no imbalance in the House. Single-handed I could handle that crowd over there.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: But the trouble is, Mr. Chairman, the trouble is this, that in the Cabinet it is the St. John's members who dominate the Cabinet, and the ministers from the rural areas are just the lackies. All they are are lackies, Mr. Chairman. Their only job is to -

AN HON. MEMBER: Is that true? Are you a lackey?

MR. MORGAN: He never even got elected the leader yet.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, the rest of them are lackies, genuflecting across the way there every day to the Premier, kissing his picture half a dozen times a day.

AN HON. MEMBER: The Premier is from St. John's. The Premier is from St. John's.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: I think that is pretty good news. I think that is pretty good stuff.

MR. BARRETT: Super stuff -

MR. NEARY: Pretty good stuff. Mr. Chairman, I know they hate to hear the truth.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: They hate to hear - the Minister of Health hates to hear that he is just a lackey for the St. John's members, he has no power or no authority or no respect in the medical profession or in the dental profession. All he is is a stooge -

MR. CALLAN: Or in the teaching profession.

MR. NEARY: - occupying a seat, just a stooge that is all he is. There is not one man over there from the rural areas prepared to stand up to that crowd that I am talking about.

MR. CALLAN: Corner boys.

June 4, 1982

Tape No. 981

NM - 3

MR. MARSHALL:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward):

The hon. President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL:

The hon. member's language is unparliamentary to be making the descriptions that the hon. gentleman is making. They should be withdrawn.

MR. NEARY:

What descriptions?

MR. MARSHALL:

You know referring to people as stooges and lackies and what have you.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

To that point of order, the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman to that point of order. The hon. gentleman should cite Beauchesne or whatever it is he is referring to.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: I did not use any unparliamentary language and I would recommend that the hon. gentleman tell me the page so that I can check it out.

MR. MARSHALL: I am not responding to requests by that hon. gentleman, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): The hon, the president of the council.

MR. MARSHALL: But in Beauchesne itself it is quite obvious that you cannot use insulting language to other members. And the purpose of it is -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

MR. MARSHALL: The purpose of it is to maintain the decorum of the House and that kind of language is unparliamentary. You are not allowed - it is there clearly in Beauchesne that you are not allowed to use insulting language. What could be more insulting than that?

MR. CHAIRMAN: To that point of order. I will reserve judgement on it. I did not hear the exact wording so I will check Hansard and rule tomorrow.

MR. NEARY: A very wise ruling, Mr. Chairman. Seeing it is getting near one o'clock I would like to move the adjournment of the debate.

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

MR. SPEAKER (RUSSELL): The hon. member for Kilbride.

MR. AYLWARD: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has considered the matters to them referred, have passed Head 1 and has directed me to report progress and ask leave to sit again.

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

MR. SPEAKER (RUSSELL): The hon. President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, before I move the adjournment of the House I would like to advise the House, as is the custom, that on Monday the Social Services Committee will meet at nine-thirty in the Colonial Building to continue its review of the estimates of the Department of Health. And also at nine-thirty the Government Services Committee will meet in the House of Assembly here for the estimates of the Department of Municipal Affairs.

I move the House at its rising Mr. Speaker, do adjourn until tomorrow, Monday at 3:00 p.m. and that this House do now adjourn.

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