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***VERBATIM REPORT***  
***(Hansard)***

Speaker: Honourable Patrick McNicholas

Monday

17 June 1985

The House met at 3:00 P.M.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):  
Order, please!

Statements by Ministers

MR. SPEAKER:  
The hon. Minister of Fisheries.

MR. RIDEOUT:  
Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to advise the House of my meeting with the hon. John Fraser, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, and fellow members of the Atlantic Council of Fisheries Ministers, which was held June 13-14 past in Quebec city.

As most hon. members are aware, the Atlantic Council of Ministers is the forum in which the federal and atlantic fisheries ministers address major fishery issues which have a provincial, national, and international perspective.

I can advise this hon. House that I was most pleased with the proceedings of this most recent meeting of the council. This meeting provided me with the first opportunity to meet formally with my federal and provincial colleagues and to address a number of the more pressing issues such as the recent West German overfishing activity, the St. Pierre and Miquelon boundary issue, quality enhancement, the Federal Fisheries Observer Programme, and the Atlantic salmon fishery.

In respect to the recent serious overfishing activity by the West Germans, immediately adjacent to Canada's 200 mile zone, I strongly reiterated the Province's grave concerns over this matter. The

federal minister was particularly sensitive to the joint resolution of this House which called for an appropriate course of action to deal with foreign overfishing activities. I took this opportunity to again restate our official policy position, that Canada should extend its fisheries jurisdiction to the continental margins since, in our view, this is the only effective option to address foreign overfishing beyond 200 miles. I can advise that my provincial counterparts also expressed their grave concerns over the West German overfishing incident. The Atlantic Council of Fisheries ministers will meet to deal with this specific issue within the next month or so and this reflects the common concern which prevails over the matter. Indeed, I understand it represents the first time that the council has agreed to meet prior to a NAFO meeting to address a matter of this nature.

The hon. House will be aware that negotiations between Canada and France relative to the St. Pierre and Miquelon boundary have been ongoing for several years. The final outcome of these deliberations could have a very significant impact on the Newfoundland fishery, particularly the inshore fishery along the Province's south coast. For this reason the Province has played an active role in these deliberations and is monitoring developments on an ongoing basis. The federal minister provided the council with an update on these negotiations at the June 13 - 14 meeting and advised that the next round of negotiations is tentatively scheduled for September, 1985. I wish to advise that the Province will be represented again at those negotiating sessions.

Members of the House will also note that fish quality enhancement measures received considerable discussion at this most recent council of Atlantic Fisheries Ministers meeting. The federal government remains committed to implementation of dockside grading and final product grade standards on January 1, 1986. There is little doubt whatsoever that these measures could have a very positive impact on Canada's performance in the international market place, notwithstanding the fact that we have already made major progress in the quality improvement area over the past several years. This Province fully supports the industry-wide fish quality enhancement proposal and is confident that an appropriate schedule of fish prices, reflective of quality, will be negotiated within the context of the Fishing Industry Collective Bargaining Act.

Another matter of considerable importance which was discussed at the most recent -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. RIDEOUT:

Mr. Speaker, the members asked me to give them an update when I got back and I am trying to do that. Another matter of considerable importance which was discussed at the most recent of Atlantic Fisheries Ministers meeting -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):

Order, please!

MR. RIDEOUT:

- related to Atlantic salmon. Some concern has been expressed

over the status of our Atlantic salmon stocks. And members will note that a number of changes have recently been made in this area, especially as they relate to the mandatory buy back of part-time salmon licenses. This Province is prepared to support every reasonable measure to rebuild our salmon stocks, but we have already taken the position that the commercial fishery interest should not be given secondary consideration to other user groups such as recreational fishery. The federal minister will be establishing a working group to address all matters related to the salmon resource and my department, together with the Department of Culture, Recreation and Youth, will be participating in the activities of this working group.

In conclusion I wish to advise the House that I welcome the opportunity to meet with the federal minister and my provincial counterparts to discuss issues of common interest.

In the weeks ahead I will continue to place particular emphasis on the West German overfishing issue to ensure that our concerns are accommodated to the maximum extent possible. In this context I look forward to the next meeting of the Council of Atlantic Fisheries Ministers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. TULK:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):

The hon. member for Fogo.

MR. TULK:

Mr. Speaker, let me say to the provincial Minister of Fisheries

(Mr. Rideout) that I hoped he enjoyed his first visit with his federal counterpart and the rest of his provincial counterparts in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I thank him for bringing back to the House a report, such as it was, and I would hope that the paper is not indicative of what I see as the Tory blue fog that is settling over Canada.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Do you have that written down?

MR. TULK:

Well, of course, I always make copious notes. When you look and see the major issues that the minister has outlined in his report - the West German overfishing, the St. Pierre and Miquelon boundary issue, quality enhancement, the Federal Fisheries Observer Programme, and the Atlantic salmon fishery - they are all major issues. I am giving the minister the benefit of the doubt, and I have no doubt that he did raise those issues at that conference.

But if you go through the whole report, Mr. Speaker, you will find out that what we really see here is very little action. There is very little action being suggested here. It seems that the minister would do much better if he could give us what we are interested in this Province, for example, with the West German overfishing, is this the details of the reaction of the Federal Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Fraser) in regards to the overfishing, and regards to the Observer Programme and so on?

It does us very little good for the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Rideout) to come back to this

Province and tell us that the federal minister was 'particularly sensitive' to West German overfishing. Well, he can be as sensitive as he likes, but the truth of the matter is that when we just had a case in New Brunswick, where the New Brunswick fishermen were allowed to go into Prince Edward Island, and the Federal Minister of Fisheries declared that he was about to shut down the whole North Atlantic Fishery. Yet, the Federal Minister of Fisheries, all he can be is sensitive to a problem that is going off here offshore, the West German overfishing and the Observer problem, if there is a problem with the observers.

It is scandalous, it is ridiculous that all we get from the Federal Minister of Fisheries is that he is sensitive to the whole issue when we see that scavenging going on offshore, and so on. But in the case of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, he is going to close down the fishery!

Why do not have details from the federal minister today that he is about to put a moratorium on EEC fishing offshore? Why do we not have that?

Let me ask him another question - St. Pierre and Miquelon boundaries. Where are the details of that? Is this another example the same as we have with the tariffs where we were advised afterwards what happens?

On quality, will they differentiate in quality for price? Will you get a better price for a better quality of fish? What was the reaction of the Federal Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Fraser) in regards to the hook and release programme that we

have? Will the federal minister keep changing regulations and telling the inshore fishermen and the commercial fishermen about them afterwards?

There is absolutely nothing in this, no detail. It just seems to me another Tory love-in going on in Ottawa between different provincial ministers and federal ministers. All generalities, Mr. Speaker, there is very little in this that has substance. Little substance to deal with problem involved in the incomes of inshore fishermen in particular. While I am sure, as I said, I believe that the member for Baie Verte - White Bay (Mr. Rideout), the Minister of Fisheries would do his job as Minister of Fisheries in any way possible that he could, I suspect that his Tory buddies in Ottawa are still ignoring him. What we have tabled here, of course, is a report of that trip that he made, but also it is just nothing only another report of the Tory love-in that we have seen here for the past ten months.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):  
Order, please!

I would like to welcome to the galleries Dr. Douglas Stewart, Minister of Emeritus of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Toronto.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:  
I would also like to welcome Mrs. Nora Aylward, who is on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Cancer Society and President of the Cancer Society in Stephenville.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

### Oral Questions

MR. DECKER:  
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):  
The hon. the member for the Strait of Belle Isle.

MR. DECKER:  
Mr. Speaker, my question is for the hon. Minister of Transportation (Mr. Dawe). I ask is the minister familiar with certain reports that CN plans to lay off at once, imminently, seventy people who are members of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way, these are the people who are responsible for maintaining the railway track across this Province, Mr. Speaker?

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

MR. DAWE:  
No, Mr. Speaker, I am not.

MR. DECKER:  
A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:  
A supplementary, the hon. the member for the Strait of Belle Isle.

MR. DECKER:  
I thank the minister for a straight answer at least.

Will the minister be making direct and immediate enquiries to the CN local head office to confirm or deny whether these reports are true? Will the minister return with an answer to this House on

the morrow?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Transportation.

MR. DAWE:

Mr. Speaker, if there is any information available I will certainly provide it to the House as soon as I can access it. As a matter of fact, I meet on a regular basis with most of the union personnel in various branches of the unions with TerraTransport and from time to time discuss a number of matters with them, I have a meeting scheduled in the next couple days with another branch of the union so as soon as there is any information available I will certainly make it available to the House, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DECKER:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):

A final supplementary, the hon. the member for the Strait of Belle Isle.

MR. DECKER:

The minister does not seem to be aware of the urgency of this question. We are talking about seventy people - and three days is not good enough, Mr. Speaker.

Will he tell this House that tomorrow he will have an answer to this question?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Transportation.

MR. DAWE:

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to see the member for the Strait of Belle Isle (Mr. Decker) had an enjoyable

weekend and has come back in the same high spirits as he left us on Friday.

There is a number of very important issues, Mr. Speaker, which are facing us with regard to all sorts of transportation issues in this Province and I am dealing with them, as is the mandate of my portfolio, and have ongoing meetings with unions as well as management in the various transportation areas in the Province and I will continue to do so. Mr. Speaker, if the information on the alleged layoff that the member referred to is in fact available within the next hour, I will make it available to the House. If it is available tomorrow, I will make it available tomorrow. If it is not available before next week, then, Mr. Speaker, I am afraid we will have to wait until then.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. KELLAND:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):

The hon. the member for Naskaupi.

MR. KELLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As we learned some time ago the Carol Players from the Labrador West area of our Province made quite a showing in the international amateur drama festival in Ireland. Also, two weeks ago, this was brought up in the House, in a request that congratulations be forwarded to the group that made such a fine showing and exemplified the talent which lies within our Province. I would like to suggest and enquire of the Departments of Culture,

Recreation and Youth and the Department responsible for Tourism if they will not now belatedly award the Carol Players, who had quite a large expense to make that trip on behalf of the whole Province and who did such a good job in representing us, if they will now make a very minimum award, belatedly? And, in recognition of the shabby omission by the government not to do something for these people prior to leaving to represent us, to make a minimum award of \$1,000 per department for a total of \$2,000 to help offset the extreme expense and to try to give recognition for the fact that this drama group did represent us all so well. And I direct the question, as there are two ministers involved, to the Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth (Mr. Matthews).

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):  
The hon. Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth.

MR. MATTHEWS:  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to point out for the information of all hon. members that we did have correspondence with the Carol Players prior to their leaving for the competition. Of course, we do have a programme in the Department of Culture, Recreation and Youth where we do partially fund trips such as this, but it is only done in conjunction and co-ordination and co-operation with External Affairs or one of their Canadian embassies. And, of course, my understanding of the Carol Players trip was that it was merely their own voluntary exercise that took them abroad and consequently we did not have a programme whereby we could fund them. But I must say to the hon. member, I respect his question and his enquiry but

the thing is I did investigate the matter on their behalf to my department and to the staff in Cultural Affairs, but we do not have any programme whereby we can fund the Carol Players on the trip that they went on. We do not have it. So if it was done in co-operation or co-ordination with External Affairs or a Canadian Embassy located in some other country we could partially fund them.

MR. KELLAND:  
A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:  
The hon. member for Naskaupi, a supplementary.

MR. KELLAND:  
While I appreciate what the minister said and I can understand his problems in the department of not having programmes, I wonder why there is not a programme of that sort? It seems to me just a short while ago in this House we discussed the fact, and the Premier quite proudly informed us all, that several thousands of dollars were spent on a set of uniforms for the hockey team that represented our Province. It strikes me if the slush fund can cough up that kind of money, there is no reason why the programmes within the department to look after our arts and culture would not be flexible enough to do that. As the subject was broached and the suggestion was made that the group be congratulated, has in fact a congratulatory message been sent out by the government and if so would the minister mind reading it to us?

MR. SPEAKER:  
The hon. Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Mr. Speaker, I guess the hon. member was absent from the House when this matter was brought to the attention of all hon. members, I think it was by the hon. member for Menihek (Mr. Fenwick), about the great achievements of the Carol Players and, of course, this House went on record as recognizing and congratulating them at the time. Whether or not there was a message sent from the Department of Culture, Recreation and Youth I really cannot answer the hon. gentleman because I do not know. With regard to his trying to compare the uniforms that were partially funded by the government for the Corner Brook Royals, of course the Royals, as we all know, won their way to the amateur hockey championship representing this Province, and, of course, the Carol Players were quite different. This was a voluntary exercise where they chose to fund-raise and to go and take part in a competition overseas. But the Corner Brook Royals, of course, beat the best in Eastern Canada and went on to the finals of the Allan Cup and it is quite different.

MR. KELLAND:

A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A final supplementary, the hon. member for Naskaupi.

MR. KELLAND:

I appreciate the difference, Mr. Speaker. The Corner Brook Royals did beat the best within this part of the country but keep in mind the Carol Players beat the best in the world and that is something more more significant. And if you did not know or the government did not have a programme prior to their going, the fact that they

were going on their own and had to raise the \$12,000 or whatever it was, now that they have won, and the government can be as proud now as we were before they ever went, would you consider looking at a possibility of making an award of a minimum of \$1,000 per department keeping in mind that when they went to the Department of Tourism they could not even get a few pins to take over and distribute around with their friends from other countries? It is just unbelievable, Mr. Minister, that that would happen, that you cannot do something to rectify it right now. Would the minister consider doing that now?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):

The hon. Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Mr. Speaker, I can only reiterate what I have said to the hon. member earlier, and that is that I did a thorough investigation of the programmes in the Cultural Affairs Division of the department to see if there was some money in some way whereby we could assist the Carol Players and we informed them accordingly that we could not fund them, and we still do not have any programme. There is no way that you can take \$1,000 here and put it there. The money is designated. And if we did that for some other purpose that the hon. member did not agree with, he would be the first one to come into the House of Assembly and nail us to the wall for it. We just do not have the flexibility to do that. We just do not have a programme whereby we fund such programmes and such trips as the Carol Players undertook.



As regards to his not being able to get pins for the trip from the Tourism Department, I can only say that I am sure the Minister responsible for Tourism, the Minister of Development and Tourism (Mr. Barrett) can answer for that. But maybe the request was not done through the proper channels, because I am sure that if it had been that they would have gotten the pins they so requested. But I must say, Mr. Speaker, that because we cannot fund the Carol Players does not mean in any way that we put any less emphasis on cultural affairs or cultural undertakings. We hold them in the same light as we hold recreation and amateur sport in this Province. It is just that we do not have a programme whereby we can fund the Carol Players.

MR. KELLAND:

A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):

The hon. member had been recognized for a final supplementary.

The hon. member for Windsor-Buchans.

MR. FLIGHT:

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister for Municipal Affairs (Mr. Doyle). The amalgamation of Grand Falls - Windsor has been a very important issue in those two towns over the years. Would the minister indicate how close amalgamation is to becoming a reality and thereby creating a third city in Newfoundland?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MR. DOYLE:

I thank the hon. gentleman for his

question, Mr. Speaker. Not more than approximately six months ago I had a meeting with the Windsor town council and at that point in time this particular issue did come up and we discussed it at some length. The Windsor town council has a committee in place to deal with this particular issue. The matter was looked into a number of years ago by the Patterson Commission, a commission that was appointed by the Department of Municipal Affairs to look into that particular issue. So the committee is in place in Windsor and if they so choose to approach the Grand Falls town council on that particular issue and to have a further meeting with my department on it, I would be only too pleased to accommodate any requests in that regard.

MR. FLIGHT:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):

The hon. member for Windsor - Buchans.

MR. FLIGHT:

Well, I presume, since there is a committee in place in Windsor, there is a committee in place in Grand Falls. However, if that is not so I am sure the minister will follow up and find out why not. The government is going to have to play a major role in this amalgamation, Mr. Minister, so is the government insisting that amalgamation take place as quickly as possible? What incentives are government offering to bring about the amalgamation as quickly as possible?

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):

The hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MR. DOYLE:

Mr. Speaker, it would not be the responsibility of government or the Department of Municipal Affairs to arbitrarily say to the Windsor or Grand Falls town council that they must amalgamate. They do have, as I indicated to the hon. gentleman, a committee in place to look at that particular issue. Now, whatever the recommendations are coming out of those meetings between Grand Falls and Windsor, we would be very, very pleased indeed to pursue it with both these councils. I have had discussions, as a matter of fact, over the last number of months with my colleague as well the member for Grand Falls (Mr. Simms), and he has expressed some concern as well. And I indicated, as a matter of fact, when I was in Windsor at a town council meeting, that the committee should, once again, try to, insofar as they can, hold their first meeting with the Grand Falls town council to discuss the issue and we will look at it from there. And if a commissioner is necessary, if it is necessary to have a commissioner appointed, to look at the whole thing after these recommendations come forward, that is the route we would take.

MR. FLIGHT:

A supplementary Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):

A final supplementary, the hon. member for Windsor-Buchans.

MR. FLIGHT:

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the minister's answer and I am sure the minister realizes, as other ministers before him, that the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Doyle) and the Government of Newfoundland will have to play a major role if amalgamation between

Grand Falls and Windsor is ever going to become a reality. So in my final supplementary I would ask the minister if he would tell the House, based on his relationship with those two councils, and based on his awareness on the amalgamation issue and what it means to all Central Newfoundland and particularly those two towns, would the minister indicate to the House when we can expect, based on what he knows now, that amalgamation will indeed be a reality with all the benefits that will accrue to both those towns as a result of amalgamation? Will the minister please tell the House when we can expect the amalgamation to become a reality with all the benefits that will accrue to both towns as a result of amalgamation?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MR. DOYLE:

It would be impossible for me, at this point in time, to indicate a time frame as to when this might occur. That will depend totally and completely upon the Windsor town council and how quickly they pursue the matter with the Grand Falls town council and what the attitude of the Grand Falls town council would be toward amalgamation with Windsor. So there are a lot of things to be done before any of this could take place, Mr. Speaker, and it is all, in any event, hypothetical. But should overtures be made to the Department of Municipal Affairs to assist in any way possible, we will be only too pleased.

MR. FENWICK:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):

The hon. member for Menihek.

MR. FENWICK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Social Services (Mr. Brett). In the budget we have just finished looking over \$17 million for the Employment Opportunities Programme. I have had representation from one of the people who are contemplating going on the Employment Opportunities Programme in my district and they have pointed out a very major problem with going on it. I will just outline the problem and then ask the question.

As I understand it, the programme pays approximately \$5 per hour on the Island and slightly more in Labrador, but of that \$5 an hour, individuals who are single parents and live in Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation subsidized housing will have to pay at least one-quarter of that \$5 for rent, or \$1.25 an hour, and if they have children who have to be looked after, will have to pay a minimum of \$2.75 for a housekeeper, for a total of \$4.00 per hour.

My question to the Minister of Social Services is, since that only leaves \$1 an hour net income for these recipients, how in God's name are they expected to live on the programme?

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):

The hon. the Minister of Social Services.

MR. BRETT:

Mr. Speaker, it is a good question. That is an anomaly that does exist. It is the exception rather than the rule, of course. There are a few cases across the Province whereby people would be

better off if they stayed on welfare rather than go to work on a Community Development project but, as I said, it is the exception rather than the rule. When a person is in receipt of social assistance, then the rent is paid by the department; and once the person comes off the social assistance rolls and goes to work, then that person has to pay 25 per cent of his salary towards rent. So the case does exist, there are a few such cases across the Province. It is something that we are aware of and are dealing with. There is no easy solution to it. It is unfortunate, of course, that in cases like this it is better for people to stay on welfare. But we are dealing with it as best we can and, hopefully, we will find a solution to the problem.

MR. FENWICK:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):

A supplementary, the hon. the member for Menihek.

MR. FENWICK:

Unfortunately, the individual who brought this problem to my attention last week and for whom I have written a letter to the Minister of Social Services (Mr. Brett) so that he knows about the problem, has indicated to me today that she will not be able to take advantage of the programme because she does not see how \$35 a week is adequate income to pay for food, clothing, and so on. We have not yet been able to find how it is adequate. I would like to ask the minister, since he does indicate that there are things that he is looking forward to doing for them, could he give us some indication of what he is planning to do for these unfortunate individuals, of

whom I think, by the way, there are a significant number in those circumstances?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Social Services.

MR. BRETT:

Mr. Speaker, there is no firm decision made at this point in time because, as I indicated, there is only a very small number of people affected. We are looking at some changes. For example, right now, a person is allowed to deduct \$130, I believe, a month for day care; we are looking at increasing that to \$200. We are also taking a look at permitting income derived from Community Development projects to be considered allowable income. These are two things we are looking at. This may relieve the problem somewhat, but I do not think it will solve it in its entirety. There is no firm decision yet on what we are going to do.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. BRETT:

Mr. Speaker, it is very difficult to try to speak above the noise here. I do not know if you want me to shout or what. I am trying to answer questions.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):

Order, please!

MR. BRETT:

I want to repeat, Mr. Speaker, that the number of cases is small, which makes it more difficult, because you do not want to change a whole programme when only a small number of people are affected. That does not lessen the problem. We recognize the

problem and I repeat that we are trying in some way to solve it.

MR. FENWICK:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):

A final supplementary, the hon. the member for Menihek.

MR. FENWICK:

Since part of the problem is caused by the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation insisting on 25 per cent of the gross income for rent as soon as people go off social assistance, I would like to direct a final supplementary to the Minister responsible for Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation (Mr. Dinn) and ask him is there anything that he can do from his direction to ensure that this kind of trap that these people are in does not continue to exist?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Mines and Energy.

MR. DINN:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to be able to say there is something I can do fairly quickly. The problem is, of course, that we do have a federal/provincial housing agreement, CMHC and Newfoundland and Labrador Housing, and that agreement is in place for 1985, one that was signed three or four years ago. We will be meeting in Calgary, Alberta, I believe it is, in the week of the first of July and at that point in time we are attempting to work out another federal/provincial agreement for 1986 and we hope to address that item at the meeting in Calgary in July.

MR. K. AYLWARD:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):

The hon. the member for Stephenville.

MR. K. AYLWARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I direct my question to the Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth. It concerns the Youth Advisory Council and their recommendations in a report made two years ago, in 1983, to the provincial government on youth unemployment which has since risen about 10 percentage points and is massive and out of control right now. It arose in the Estimates Committees when we were debating back and forth. I am wondering, first off, if the minister has made any further representation to the Minister of Career Development (Mr. Power) on those recommendations made by the Youth Advisory Council and, if he has made those representations, can he report to this House what he has said to them?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Mr. Speaker, I have had discussions with the hon. Minister of Career Development pertaining to the very serious problem that we have of youth unemployment in the Province. I advised the hon. member in the Estimates Committee that I will do that and I have consequently done it. I have also asked my other colleagues of the Cabinet to have a very serious look at and to follow up on the Youth Advisory Council report presented to government and to review it accordingly. So, yes, I have had discussions with him on it and he is having a very serious look at the report and, of course,

there may be some initiatives that we may be able to take to try and address this very serious problem.

MR. K. AYLWARD:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):

A supplementary, the hon. the member for Stephenville.

MR. K. AYLWARD:

If you have done that I would like to see something on it. Also, what link does the Youth Advisory Council have to Career Development? What importance do you see as their role in the recommendations that they have made? Are they an important link to Career Development with the massive problem we have now in youth unemployment?

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):

The hon. Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Mr. Speaker, I think they are a very important and effective link to all departments of government, to be very honest with you. The thing is that they have made a report to Cabinet and the respective departments of government have had a look at the report and are right now assessing it and trying to come up with some I guess basic responses whereby we may be able to jointly, as all departments of government, help the very serious youth unemployment problem that we have. And, of course, I would just like to remind the hon. member, and all hon. members of the House, that this year for the first time that we are involved as a provincial government in funding youth employment throughout the Province and we are putting \$2 million into the SEED Programme

which will see some 6,000 young people employed in the Province.

MR. K. AYLWARD:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A final supplementary, the hon. member for Stephenville.

MR. K. AYLWARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First off I would like to ask the minister has he read the report concerning the recommendations to the government by the Youth Advisory Council for 1983? Also, has he read the response made by the provincial government to that report? As far as I am concerned and a lot of people are concerned out there, the provincial government's response pays lip service to the recommendations made by the Youth Advisory Council and says the federal government can take care of it and it is out of our hands and we cannot do anything about it. Have you read that response that the government made back to the Youth Advisory Council and have you read the report itself?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth.

MR. MATTHEWS:

The answer to that, Mr. Speaker, is yes, I have seen both. But, I mean, I would be less than honest if I did not say that the problem of youth unemployment, and the problem of employment in general in this Province is a very serious problem, it is a very serious and a very difficult job to tackle, a very tough job to tackle. You cannot make jobs overnight but we are attempting to do so and, as I said to the hon. member before, for the first time this year we

are putting \$2 million into a youth employment programme. And also, of course, as a result of the report that has been made to government, we are involving youth at every opportunity we get to participate in the decision-making process of government, at community levels and all the way up through, from community to regional to provincial levels. All departments of government have had a directive from the Premier telling us, encouraging us to include youth in all the various advisory boards that we can. So we are very, very concerned about youth, Mr. Speaker, very, very concerned. We not only want to pay lip services to youth, we want to address the problem of unemployment and we are trying to do that as best we can. And we are listening to youth, I guess probably much to the disappointment of hon. members opposite. Much to their disappointment we are listening to youth for the first time in this Province, Mr. Speaker, and I think that members opposite get a little bit annoyed when we do that.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please! Order, please!

MR. K. AYLWARD:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

A supplementary, the hon. the member for Stephenville.

MR. K. AYLWARD:

Well, just concerning that SEED Programme, that is not even going to affect the 40 per cent because that is affecting students who just came out looking for employment for the Summer. And that is fine and welcomed, but

there is nothing at all being done or any initiatives taken by the provincial government concerning the 40-odd per cent and rising of youth unemployment. And all I am asking you is what representation you have made? If you are going to table that tell me what you have done since we have those talks and see what impact it has on Career Development and what it has on that provincial government over there which should be doing something about the problem, which they are not doing now? That is all I am asking you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Mr. Speaker, what I say to that is it is obvious that the hon. member for Stephenville (Mr. K. Aylward) does not listen very well because when he was in the Estimates Committee a week or so ago he asked the very same questions, we gave him the answers, but at the same time, of course, we gave him a little direction which he did not take because this department is not directly responsible for youth employment or youth unemployment in this Province.

The hon. Minister of Career Development and Advanced Studies (Mr. Power) is the minister he should be talking to. What I told him then and I tell him again -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please! Order, please!

MR. K. AYLWARD:

You spent over \$2 million and now you are saying you are not responsible.

MR. MATTHEWS:

I did not spend the \$2 million. I would love to have the opportunity to spend the \$2 million. But the situation is that development of employment opportunities in this Province fall directly under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Career Development and Advanced Studies (Mr. Power) and, of course, tied in with a number of other departments. The thing is that we use the Youth Advisory Council and any other youth agencies that there are to pass their views on, we channel them to the appropriate departments and ask for the co-operation of the various departments of government. But we are not directly responsible for youth employment or youth unemployment in this Province. We are a vehicle that try to assist youth through the other departments.

MR. LUSH:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. member for Bonavista North.

MR. LUSH:

I have a question for the hon. Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Rideout). I wonder if the minister is aware of the unfortunate financial plight in which approximately 300 fishermen from the district of Bonavista North and areas along the Northeast Coast find themselves. These fishermen, through computer errors in calculating pay and catches, and the minister is familiar with how that is done for UIC benefits, because of these computer errors these fishermen have been assessed UIC overpayments by the UIC Commission and Revenue Canada amounting to thousands of dollars to each

individual fishermen.

So if the minister is aware of this, I wonder if he can indicate to the House what is the status of this situation which is causing untold frustration and anxiety to these 300 fishermen and their families throughout the Northeast Coast and particularly in the district of Bonavista North?

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):

The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

MR. RIDEOUT:

Mr. Speaker, let me say to the hon. gentleman that I am aware of some of the problem that he refers to. I do not know if the number amounts to 300 people or not, but I do that there have been various mistakes in computer programming with the Unemployment Insurance Programme. I know my colleague for LaPoile (Mr. Mitchell) was mentioning this matter to me only just a few days ago, because he has run into a similar problem down in his constituency, so a number of us as MHAs, and myself as minister, have made representation to the Unemployment Insurance Commission. In fact, we have gone so far as to file appeals on behalf of fishermen hoping that we could get a couple of test cases through the appeal procedure so that we might be able through the proper channels to have the problem corrected. So I have been involved in it as minister and I have been involved with it as the member for my own constituency.

So we are working on the matter.

AN HON. MEMBER:

What about the caplin fishery?:

MR. RIDEOUT:

It is pretty difficult to tell,

Mr. Speaker. Because while you can tell something about the hon. gentleman, who is easy to predict, caplin have tails so I have trouble predicting what they are going to do. But we are very much aware of it. We are doing what we can through the appeal procedure to try to get some of those regulations changed.

MR. LUSH:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):

A supplementary, the hon. member for Bonavista North.

MR. LUSH:

Mr. Speaker, that situation certainly came to light or, let us say, it was emphasized during the election, at which time several Cabinet ministers then wired the appropriate minister in Ottawa asking that something be done about this problem immediately. Now, Mr. Speaker, that is sometime ago since the election. I am wondering if the minister has suggested to the appropriate federal minister the authority that the minister has under the UIC regulations where, if a situation can be deemed to be causing financial hardship, that this assessment can be done away with, particularly, Mr. Speaker, since this mistake was not made by the fishermen, it was made by the computers. And in view of the fact that the fishermen are innocent, can the minister not move in all haste to remove this anxiety this is causing fishermen, because they are having pay deducted from their cheques now if they are receiving UIC, in view of the fact that legislation can cover this whereby these overpayments can be done away with.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):



The hon. Minister of Fisheries.

MR. RIDEOUT:

Mr. Speaker, again I concur wholeheartedly with the hon. gentleman. It seems to me to be a very sad state of affairs when individuals become liable for mistakes that are made by others or by other agencies or by computers and people end up individually liable for them. I can say to the hon. gentleman, who probably did not understand what I was saying, we have moved on a couple of fronts. We have made representation to the federal minister, to Miss MacDonald, is the minister concerned, along the lines that he suggested. And I believe that has also been representation made by my predecessor before I became the minister responsible. Also, a couple of us have taken the other route, of course, which is open to us, and that is to try the appeal procedure as well.

I know in my own case over the last number of years I have had some degree of success with the appeal procedures laid down within the UIC regulations, and I have won some cases and I have lost some. So there are two lines of attack here. One, along the lines that he suggested, is we have made representation to the appropriate federal minister, and some of us, as members, have also gone the other route, of course, which is used in the system that is already in place, to try to put forth a special argument before the appeals committee, and up to the umpire if necessary, to try to point out the validity and the legitimacy of the cases that he is talking about.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):  
Order, please!

The time for Oral Questions has elapsed.

Before calling the next item, I would like to welcome a delegation from the Town of St. Lawrence, their Mayor, George Doyle, councillors Pike and Loader and town clerk, Greg Quirk.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

Orders of the Day

MR. MARSHALL:

The first motion is Government Services Committee.

MR. SPEAKER:

The concurrence motion, Government Services. The debate was adjourned by the hon. member for the Strait of Belle Isle.

The hon. member for the Strait of Belle Isle. He has twenty-one minutes remaining.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. DECKER:

Mr. Speaker, I am not supposed to question the ruling but I did not think I had twenty-one minutes left, but I can certainly take it.

In the concurrence debate, Mr. Speaker, on the Government Services Committee, and in my few brief remarks I was telling this hon. House how we reviewed the Department of Public Works. It was no surprise to members of this House, Mr. Speaker, that what we found was a viper's nest of political patronage.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

Could I interrupt the hon. member for a moment. I made a mistake with twenty-one minutes. He actually has eleven minutes left.

The hon. member for the Strait of Belle Isle.

MR. DECKER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was just a nest of vipers, if I only have eleven minutes.. Right in the very department which was responsible for the Public Service Commission, we found that the only way a young person could get a job in Newfoundland was to join the Tory Party.

Then we also met with the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Dawe) and there we found the first cousin of political patronage, the custom of building roads in Tory districts.

Then, Mr. Speaker, just before we adjourned debate, I was informing this hon. House that we met with the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) and officials of the Department of Finance.

The very first question that was put to the Minister of Finance was this: What are your qualifications to be Minister of Finance of this Province? Now, Mr. Speaker, this was not a frivolous question. It was not put because the hon. minister happens to be a medical doctor by profession, even though the Minister of Justice is very often a lawyer and the Minister of Education is very often a former teacher, or a teacher. But that was not the reason this question was asked of the Minister of Finance. It was asked because he is just incapable of balancing the budget, he is just incapable of informing the people of Newfoundland just how much he is

going to be out by.

In years past we were told that the budget was going to be out by \$25 million or \$30 million, and before the year was over we got an interim report telling us, no, that was wrong, we are going to be out by \$60 million, or what have you. I am not sure of the figures, Mr. Speaker, but I am sure this hon. House can get the gist of what I am saying. Now the hon. minister comes in again and says that we are going to overspend the current budget by \$72 million. In view of the fact that in other years we were told that we were going to overspend by a certain amount and it doubled what was predicted, the same question comes up, are we going to overspend again? Thus the question, what are your qualifications, Mr. Minister, to be Minister of Finance? It has nothing to do with the fact that he is a medical doctor, but it has to do with the fact that he just cannot get his figures straight. His answer as to what his qualifications are is that the Premier chose him, and in the spirit of being chosen by this supreme being, the minister trusts faith to balance his budget.

Mr. Speaker, when we asked the hon. minister did he think that this Province could ever anticipate paying off the bills that it owes, could this Province ever look forward to the day when we could balance our current account, his answer was, 'something always seems to happen.'

He referred to the past, how some of the major hydro developments just came along and bailed us out of a hard time. I would assume that he was referring to the fact

that Bowater started up on the West Coast in a bad time in our history. I would assume that he was referring to The Anglo - Newfoundland Development Company, when they put life in Grand Falls. But, Mr. Speaker, these events did not just happen. Nothing just happens. Somebody has to make things happen. This is the weakness, this is why we are asking about the qualifications of the hon. the Minister of Finance.

Some men, Mr. Speaker, ask why, other men ask why not. What we need today in this Province is a minister who has the courage to ask why not - the courage to get out and make things happen. This is what we have to have in our Province today.

The building of the Trans-Canada Highway, Mr. Speaker, did not just happen, it was made happen. The hum just did not find its way back on the Humber. Men of conviction and courage put the hum back on the Humber. The Anglo-Newfoundland Development Company did not just happen along at a time when our economy was in a slump, men of courage and men of vision made it happen. What we need today is a government, a Finance Minister, a Premier, men who have the faith, the conviction and the courage to make things happen. We do not have those men sitting on the other side of this House today, and that is what our problem is all about. We do not have men of conviction, but we have a Finance Minister who mimics the Premier when he trusts to blind faith that something is going to stumble along one of these days, something is just going to happen. He said, something is going to happen. The offshore, Mr. Speaker, is just not

going to happen, it has to be made happen.

We have to have men of courage and conviction get out and make things happen, otherwise this Province will continue her downward slide on the roller coaster. She is going to continue on down hill, Mr. Speaker, until before we know it we are going to be in a state of bankruptcy, if someone does not have the courage and conviction and the knowledge and the ability to make something happen. Mr. Speaker, it was quite evident in our review of the Department of Finance that there is nobody even attempting to make things happen. This, Mr. Speaker, is one of the problems that we are encountered with in this Province today.

The Government Services Committee looked at other departments as well. We looked at the Department of Municipal Affairs and we found, Mr. Speaker, in that department an outstanding Deputy Minister, a man who is doing an excellent job. We found that there is some evidence of patronage in that department as well with the temporary employees. But in fairness to the minister, I would say in view of the fact that there are applications from my district, I would say that this is probably one of the better departments that we did interview.

We also examined the Department of Labour and the Department of Consumer Affairs and Communications. But the same old story was creeping in, a tired administration, an worm-out administration, bereft of imagination, bankrupt of ideas, incapable of dealing with a Province which is in the mess that this Province is in, unable to cope with the reality of 1985,

harping back to the year 1885 to find answers to today's questions. And what we found evidence of, Mr. Speaker, and I am sad to have to report this to this hon. House, what we found, Mr. Speaker, was a government which is good at getting elected, they have all the skills to sweep them in power. These are the skills, Mr. Speaker, which I said give politicians a bad name. These are the skills which make the people of this Province refer to politicians as being something subhuman, which make Newfoundlanders out there be cynical, not believing. And the unfortunate thing about it, Mr. Speaker, is that those of us on this side of the House, upright and genuine though we may be, are tarred with the same mop.

It is unfortunate that the government in power has the ability to get elected, and to get re-elected, but they do not have one iota about the ability to govern. And that is the problem, Mr. Speaker, that they have the skills to get elected, but they do not have the skills to govern. And that, Mr. Speaker, is the summary of my reply in this debate, and that, Mr. Speaker, summarizes the problem of this Province today.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):

The hon. member for Torngat Mountains.

MR. WARREN:

Mr. Speaker, I think it would be only appropriate for me to follow the hon. gentleman for the Strait of Belle Isle. (Mr. Decker). Listening to the hon. gentleman on Friday and listening to him again today, I did not know but I was on

the road to Demascus or on the hill of Gallilee.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman started off in the same vein as his leader, and I do not blame him for that. The hon. gentleman, in speaking about the estimates that went through the committee, started off by making a vicious attack on the Minister of Public Works and Services (Mr. Young), that is where he started, condemning the Public Service Commission of this Province. I was going back over Hansard on Friday and I did underline a couple of things that the hon. gentleman said.

He said, "The very department, Mr. Speaker, which encompasses the Public Service Commission has stifled the Commission, has smothered the Commission, has destroyed it." Now, Mr. Speaker, for a new politician, a new gentleman to come into this House and make those accusations against the Department of Public Works and against the Public Service Commission, I think, the hon. gentleman should know something about the vital role that the Public Service Commission is playing in this Province. Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Young) in the Committee and the Chairman of the Public Service Commission have indicated to the hon. gentleman in his questioning that they do not take orders from politicians who are selected for a particular position, and that, I think, is a fair assumption.

He also said, "this is what the committee found out about the department which is in charge of the Public Service Commission." He said "it is not a reflection on the Commission." But by him

saying that alone, Mr. Speaker, he is putting a dark cloud over the Public Service Commission and the gentleman should not be allowed to have those words recorded and lead people to believe that there is a dark cloud hanging over the Public Service Commission. He also said that "our skills to get elected gives us a bad name" and he said "but it is evident in the Committee that the members on the other side of the House do not have the skills to govern." Mr. Speaker, I believe I would say to the hon. gentleman, if the members on this side of the House did not have the skills to govern, I am sure that the hon. gentlemen are not saying that the average Newfoundlander and Labradorian is not bright to kick the crowd out on this side. So, the hon. gentleman should remember that what he is saying is that the people of Newfoundland and Labrador have not got the skills or are not intelligent enough to kick the people out in power if they are not governing right. This is what the hon. gentleman is saying. He is not condemning us as politicians, he is condemning the Newfoundlanders and Labradorians who go to the polls at the different elections and decide what candidate they want. So the hon. gentleman's words, although loud and everything else, but I think the common sense that goes along with them is very low.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have to also say a few words about the Leader of the Opposition's (Mr. Barry) comments when he spoke in the debate. You know he spent twenty-three minutes lambasting the media. The media, as far as he was concerned, should be into the committees. Mr. Speaker, for the hon. gentleman from St. Barbe (Mr. Furey) and the all the other

new hon. gentlemen, and the hon. member looking in through the door there, who was not here during previous sessions, I should probably remind them the same kind of letter that the hon. the Leader of the Opposition got sent out now to the media is the same kind of letter that the hon. former leader, Len Sterling, sent out, and the hon. Steve Neary, sent out. The same kind of letter is handed down and is going out to the media. So all they are doing is begging the media to say, 'Look, we have something to say. Please come out and listen to us.' Now, Mr. Speaker, I think if the hon. the Leader of the Opposition is so naive to believe that the media in this Province is going to chase him around and is going to go where he wants them to go then I believe, Mr. Speaker, that the media, as far as I am concerned, is much brighter than that. They will not listen to the Leader of the Opposition.

They knew when the committees were working. The letters that the hon. the Leader of the Opposition received says that we have not got the manpower to get there so therefore we will go when we feel like it. So, Mr. Speaker, for the Leader of the Opposition to get up here and spend twenty-three minutes talking about the media not covering him and then, not only that, two days before he wrote that letter, he was on CBC television when the hon. Minister of the Environment (Mr. Butt) was on and he was saying to the media 'it is right for the media to do this.' So, actually he was condemning himself and trying to use two spectrums and working in different directions.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in his concluding remarks the hon the

member for the Strait of Belle (Mr. Decker) was saying that there is no intestinal fortitude on this side. There is nobody here got the determination and the will to get things done.

Let me say to the hon. gentleman on that side, who was it had the determination and the will and would not give up to get the Atlantic Accord signed, was that the members on that side or the members on this side? Who was it was determined to get the Atlantic Accord signed? Who was it was determined to get the Kruger bill signed? Who was it reactivated the St. Lawrence mine? You talk about conviction and determination and intestinal fortitude, this is where it is coming from, on this side.

Mr. Speaker, maybe I should add to what the hon. Minister of Forest Resources and Lands (Mr. Simms) is saying, one of the reasons that I came over probably was because I knew that there is only one way to get things done in this Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, by joining the government on this side.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. LUSH:

What an indictment against democracy (inaudible).

MR. WARREN:

Mr. Speaker, I would say to the hon. the member for Bonavista North (Mr. Lush) the same thing, Sir, what an indictment against democracy when you would leave politics one month and back again the next month. So, Mr. Speaker, you are talking about democracy, it works on both sides and anybody, Mr. Speaker, got a right

to get elected for any political party and got a right to stay with any party that they feel like staying, Mr. Speaker.

AN HON. MEMBER:

He could not get along with the teacher.

MR. WARREN:

So, Mr. Speaker, I am sure the hon. gentleman was a good teacher in the classroom and I am sure he will make his contribution to the House of Assembly. Now, Mr. Speaker, I am sure the hon. member cannot go shouting too much about moving from party to party. If he would look to his right there you can see sitting to the hon. gentleman's right is a person that was not always on that side.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in Transportation I notice the hon. gentleman did make a dig at the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Dawe) about only paving roads, only building roads in Tory districts. Mr. Speaker, I cannot get one cent from the hon. minister for my district for roads. I cannot get it. Mr. Speaker, as far as I am concerned the hon. member for the Strait of Belle Isle (Mr. Decker) has not been truthful to this House, he has definitely misled the House by saying that it is only for Tory districts. Now I cannot get any money from the Department of Transportation for roads in my district. I am Tory, sure I am a Tory and I am proud of it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. WARREN:

Mr. Speaker, I had to laugh driving home in the car there Friday afternoon, I was listening -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. WARREN:

When the hon. gentleman is a little bit quiet I will continue.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):

Order, please!

MR. WARREN:

I am awfully surprised at the hon. member for Windsor - Buchans (Mr. FLight) never started to give me a rough time today, you know why? Because the last time he tried it I had give him the history of Labrador, so today he has been very quiet. I must compliment the member for that, he has been very, very quiet today.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as I was saying, when the member for the Strait of Belle Isle (Mr. Decker) on Friday was talking about the concerns and the estimates, he was giving some critical comments about the various departments here, and driving home in my car, who should I listen to on one of the news broadcasts was the hon. member for the Strait of Belle Isle talking about the water and sewer system for Roddickton.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Is that a fact?

MR. WARREN:

That is a fact, on Friday, yes. The hon. gentleman's voice was on the news media.

MR. DAWE:

The same person who does not like the Budget?

MR. WARREN:

That is right. He was the same person who was up in this House on Friday criticizing this government, as he said today, on

no action, inaction.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Was he bawling when he was on the radio?

MR. WARREN:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, he was just as vocal on one of the media stations as he was today. What he comes out and says, he got a water and sewer system for the town of Roddickton. That is what he was talking about.

AN HON. MEMBER:

He did?

MR. WARREN:

Yes, this is what he was talking about.

MR. SIMMS:

You better check that out.

MR. WARREN:

Well, Mr. Speaker, I find it so unusual. You know, if the gentleman got up and criticized where criticism is needed and give credit where credit is needed then it would be understandable.

Mr. Speaker, in the Committees the hon. gentleman, and this is a true fact, at least, he told the truth today, the first question he asked the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) what were his qualifications? I am sure now the hon. member for the Strait of Belle Isle or the hon. member for St. Barbe (Mr. Furey) or the hon. member for Eagle River (Mr. Hiscock), I am sure we do not care what your qualifications are, I am sure the Minister of Finance does not care what your qualifications are, nor does the hon. gentleman for Windsor - Buchans (Mr. Flight) care what my qualifications are, and I do not care what his are, but I can tell you that much that

I believe the Minister of Finance, under the extreme conditions that the Province has been going through, the country has been going through, the international countries have been going through, I think, for the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) to be in that same position now going on seven years, I would say that it shows he has a lot of intestinal fortitude to withstand the pressures as the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins).

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. WARREN:

So I think he has to be given credit and the Premier has to be given credit.

MR. SIMMS:

Even more credit then perhaps the member for Windsor - Buchans (Mr. Flight).

MR. WARREN:

That is right. I think the Premier has to be given credit to keep the present Minister of Finance in that position so long.

MR. DECKER:

You are a patient fellow, I will say that much for you.

MR. WARREN:

Well, I will tell you this much, the hon. member for the Strait of Belle Isle, I must say, you were very patient in the question that you asked him. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I think he must be because the next day there was a question asked in the House of Assembly to the Minister of Finance, the only intelligent question, or one of the very few intelligent questions that was asked to the Minister of Finance was when I asked him the question

about the imported beer, because the next day in the House of all of the questions that were asked to the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) someone on that side got up and asked the minister the same question in the House of Assembly. So it shows, Mr. Speaker, regardless of which side of the House of Assembly that you are on, if you want to find out what is good for Newfoundland and Labrador, you have to ask the minister the question.

Mr. Speaker, while I was talking, I did not hear the hon. member, but if he wants to repeat it I can probably answer him.

MR. FLIGHT:

What is the member doing to try and alleviate the problems being created by the strike at the breweries?

MR. WARREN:

What is the member doing? The member is trying to do, Sir, as much as any member in this House is trying to do. They are in a legal strike and, unfortunately, it is hurting not only you and I probably, as a consumer of the beverage, but it is hurting many, many other people who have large mortgages on taverns and lounges throughout this Province. I have had many calls from friends of mine and people that I do not even know who are concerned about this long legal strike that is on at the brewery. And, Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. Minister of Labour (Mr. Blanchard) is ready, willing and able to help anytime they want to sit down and help. And he has said this in the House. He called upon all parties to get together and one of the parties did not get together and, subsequently, the strike is delayed again.



Now, Mr. Speaker, any other questions that the hon. member would like to ask, I am sure I can answer any question that the hon. gentleman would like to ask.

MR. SPEAKER (Baird):  
Order, please!

I would like to remind the member for Torngat Mountains that the Question Period is over about a half an hour ago. If he wishes to continue his speech, do so.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. WARREN:  
Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for the Strait of Belle Isle (Mr. Decker) has also spoken about people getting contractual, temporary or part-time employment with the government. I think in the Committees the hon. member for Eagle River (Mr. Hiscock) asked the hon. Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development (Mr. Aylward) about a particular person who was employed by his department after the election.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure the hon. minister and myself, all concerned, were quite concerned about the charges that the hon. member for Eagle River made in which the dates were unfounded. I took the opportunity of getting a full report done on this particular individual who is working with our department. I might say that everything has been done according to the Statutes. Everything has been done according to law and this guy was already hired on after everything was followed to a tee. So for anyone to say that there is political patronage for part-time, full-time or anyone else I think that all

those part-time position have been carried out as the law dictates.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in some of the other estimates was consumer affairs. You know, Mr. Speaker, there were over 1,000 cases reported to consumer affairs last year. And, Mr. Speaker, over 500 of those were responded to. Now, the Minister of Consumer Affairs (Mr. Russell) had one of the smallest budgets in this Province, Consumer Affairs and Communications. But if one looked at the - it is not a major money spending department because it practically recovers what money it spends - transaction -

AN HON. MEMBER:  
A quorum call, Mr. Speaker.

#### Quorum

MR. SPEAKER (Baird):  
There are fourteen members present.

The hon. member for Torngat Mountains.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. WARREN:  
Now, Mr. Speaker, I only have fifteen or twenty minutes left so I think I am going to just make a couple of comments on transportation.

I think on the weekend the hon. member for Stephenville (Mr. K. Aylward) was making a couple of comments about how pleased he was to see EPA having a new schedule going into Stephenville and there are going to be an extra three individuals hired on. The hon. member should also know that the Labrador Airways has increased

their staff in Stephenville up to, I think, it is thirty-two individuals working in Stephenville from Labrador Airways. And Labrador Airways is a locally owned company run by Newfoundlanders and here, Mr. Speaker.

MR. FLIGHT:

When they get big enough they will do what EPA has done.

MR. WARREN:

They are expanding and within a very, very short time in my district of Torngat Mountains, in the hon. member for Eagle River's (Mr. Hiscock) district, we will probably see a five-day-a-week service from a company from Labrador Airways, a company that is concerned -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. WARREN:

- about the smaller communities along the Coast of Newfoundland and Labrador. They are planning to buy two or three new aircrafts to service the people. In the paper this weekend it was announced that they were planning to open up a maintenance area here in St. John's where they service their Dash - 8. So, Mr. Speaker, you can see that Labrador Airways, the locally-owned company that members should be proud to support, should come out and support companies like this, have the initiative to get things going, to get things done.

And, Mr. Speaker, from all this we hope we will also see better medical facilities, better medical transportation along the Labrador

Coast. I say this to the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Dawe) and the Minister of Health (Dr. Twomey) working hand in hand, foot to foot, toe to toe, working together to make sure that the medical problems and the transportation problems along the Labrador Coast will be not necessarily completely solved, but at least they will be greatly, greatly improved. And this is what the people have been asking for and this is what, I am sure, this government will be initiating in a very, very short time.

Mr. Speaker, also in the various Committee meetings, I suppose I should say, with all due respect to the hon. member for the Strait of Belle Isle (Mr. Decker), he was not as critical as some of his colleagues were, and I think, Mr. Speaker, it was a concern of mine, as well as members on that side, the lack of media attendance at those meetings, but I believe there is little use when we as individuals, we as politicians, in particular the Opposition, day after day after day after day, are getting up and crying because there is no media following the committees. I believe if we are going to discuss housing procedures, if we are going to discussing how we are spending millions and millions of dollars, then the media should make sure they have staff available to cover the estimates.

Mr. Speaker, I have to go back on political patronage again because I believe that is what the hon. member for the Strait of Belle Isle continued to bring up. And I have to say, in all fairness to the Public Service Commission, Mr. Withers would not tolerate politicians being involved, trying to undercut the Commission's

authority. The Commission has been doing a great job, and I am sure the Commission will continue to make sure the best possible selections are made.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that if we looked at our estimates, the member for Carbonear (Mr. Peach) who brought forward those estimates, -

MR. FLIGHT:

Sit down 'Garfield'. Is anybody listening?

MR. WARREN:

- Mr. Speaker, I do not care if the hon. member for Windsor - Buchans (Mr. Flight) is listening or not. I do not believe too many people listened to him in 1982 when he went to the polling booth, because Mr. Speaker, he got the shock of his life and I am sure if the hon. gentleman does not watch his bobber for the next three or four years he will be out on the street again and expecting Mr. Rompkey to give him a political appointment after the next election.

Mr. Speaker, you know it is amazing when they get up on that side all they talk about, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Barry), the member for the Strait of Belle Isle (Mr. Decker), they continue to talk about political patronage. I believe all we have to do is look back over the dying months of Trudeau and Turner in the political field and you will see that there were many, many, many appointments made and I am sure that they were of a political nature.

And I would just like to say one thing in closing and I say this to all hon. members of this House, because some day soon some of us

may be defeated at the polls, we may be defeated at the polls and we have paid our price in the House of Assembly. We look back at our former colleagues, they have paid their price in the House of Assembly, they have worked on behalf of their constituents and I think everybody who has been defeated over the last number of years have paid their price, and the least thing any government can do, or any defeated politician who has spent his time in the House of Assembly, is to make sure that every arrangement possible is made to assist them in finding employment because I think anybody who went through the ropes of working for their constituents for a number of years, the least they deserve after they leave here is for assistance from the government in power, whether they are Tory, Liberal or NDP, I do not care what political affiliation they are, the least thing that should be done is to make sure that they can assist them where possible in finding employment.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. HISCOCK:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):

The hon. member for Eagle River.

MR. HISCOCK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the Estimates on Social Services, I particularly would like to address the Department of Education and also Career Development.

We have come a long way the Conservatives would make us believe in the past thirteen years, but one of the things the member for St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter) who was the Minister of

Education under the Moores' Administration, shortly after the Liberals were defeated, would completely agree with me is that during the Liberal years education was probably the cornerstone. There are probably four cornerstones for the Liberal Party in the Province and one was Education; creating schools in our Province, vocational schools, Fisheries College, Trade School, as well as the university; another cornerstone of course was Health; hospitals around our Province, clinics and nursing stations; another one was Fisheries; and of course the other one was mining and agriculture.

We have seen the resource sector of this Province in the budget, less money being spent in the resource sector than in other service departments. We see less money spent in the Department of Education and in Health. When I asked the Minister of Career Development and Advanced studies (Mr. Power) about student loans, his answer was that when he first went to University he was paid \$100, his tuition was paid for, and his books were paid for by the Smallwood administration. Now he is Minister of Career Development and Advanced Studies and we have the highest rate of youth unemployment, we have the lowest percentage attending post-secondary education institutions, and when asked about aid being provided through student loans, the minister parrots, like the others over there, and says it is the most liberal student aid programme in the country, and we are the poorest Province, which is balderdash.

Mr. Speaker, students now have to borrow the maximum loan before they qualify for any grant,

whereas before they did not have to get a loan, it depended on their parents earnings and their own earnings.

With regard to trade schools, if you are lucky enough to get a Manpower seat you can go to trade school. If not, and you have to go on your own or as a provincial student, you get \$100. Board along in St. John's is \$65 per weeks, and most times that does not include weekends.

With regard to Career Development, we have seen, as far as I am concerned, complete and utter chaos in our vocational system of education. The minister had the nerve and the gall to admit that the vocational school system in this Province is in utter chaos, that the courses are redundant in some of the trade schools, they are outdated, that the and the job market is full. And this administration has stood idly by for the past thirteen years, Mr. Speaker, while people were getting Manpower seats, applying for courses, getting the \$100, when government had statistics which showed that job opportunities were nil. They allowed people to go in for clerk-typing, mechanics, and carpentry courses knowing full-well that these courses were outdated, as the Minister of Career Development and Advanced Studies (Mr. Power) said, allowed them to go into these courses and then, when they were finished, stand in line not for a job, Mr. Speaker, but for unemployment. I think that is cruel, I think it is sadistic, and I think it is callous. Not only that, Mr. Speaker, but it shows the contempt that this government has toward the working class in this Province.

They allowed courses to continue

which are outdated, to use the minister's own words, where we have too many mechanics, too many electricians, too many clerk-typists - and the member for Carbonear (Mr. Peach agrees), and everybody else agrees - and these courses are still going to be offered in September and students are still going to be taking them. Now, if the students were provided with statistics showing that the job market was filled as far as these course were concerned and they still decided in favour of them, then that is their problem.

But students are being led down the garden path and the main reason is that if they are going to school they are not on the unemployment lists; if they are drawing unemployment and going to school at the same time, they are not in the job market competing for the few jobs in this Province. So I think what is happening with our trade schools is scandalous. We have found out over the past several years that our trade schools have become glorified high schools. They are now allowing students in Grades IX, X, and XI to do preliminary courses in those trades schools, and if it were not for those students in Conception Bay South the trade school in Seal Cove, Mr. Speaker, would be closed down. If it was not for such students over on Bell Island that one would be closed down, and if it was not for such students in Bonavista, that one would be closed down, and the same in St. Anthony and you can go all around the Province, Mr. Speaker. The trades schools now need over \$100 million to upgrade themselves on equipment. It was bad enough that we allowed students to take these courses knowing that they could come out

in the job market and there would be no jobs, but to allow them to take courses and operate on heavy duty equipment that was at least twenty years, to allow carpenters to take courses and not have the wood, the paint and the various other materials required, allow them to take mechanic courses and other courses in trades school and either not have the equipment or equipment that was extremely outdated, that again, Mr. Speaker, shows the contempt that this government has for education and the priority it assigns it.

So the trades school now need \$100 million just to upgrade equipment. That is not talking about upgrading the facilities, that is not talking about the residence that the new Fisheries and Marine Technology Institute needs here, not talking about other residence that the College of Trades needs, it is not talking about the residences needed at trade schools throughout the Province. That is \$100 million only to buy equipment. We heard after the signing of the Atlantic Accord that of the \$300 million - \$275 million by the federal government, \$25 million by the provincial government - a lot would go into job training. Yet it is not going to job training, Mr. Speaker. I specifically asked the Minister of Career Development (Mr. Power) about this money. Students who are getting Canada Manpower seats are able to draw unemployment insurance while they are going to school. I asked about those students, some of whom are married, and some of them just coming out of high school, who get \$100 a month, so I asked can those students expect any extra money over and above what they are getting now with regard to the \$150 million fund that is going to

be provided for job training, and the answer is no, the government does not have any intention of raising it, Mr. Speaker. What the government has done with education, Mr. Speaker, is exactly what the government has done with the Trans-Canada in the past thirteen years. They have allowed the Trans-Canada to deteriorate to such an extent that it is unbelievable, and then they appeal to Ottawa for massive amounts of money to upgrade it. They have done the same thing with education. They have allowed, Mr. Speaker, the education system to fall down around their heads and we find out now, Mr. Speaker, if you go into the trades schools, in particular, in this Province, you will find out that all it is basically is a shell of a building with outdated equipment and outdated courses. After thirteen years in power, Mr. Speaker, I think this is shameful. I think it again points out how they are like the ostrich, they have their heads in the sand, and also, only they operate, Mr. Speaker, under crisis. They only operated when the fishery became a crisis, they only operated when a crisis was created by Bowater pulling out, and it is the same thing with the fishing and the mining industries. Now, of course, they have a crisis in the education system but now they have the money from Ottawa and they are basically saying we are going to get into the new stream, get into new courses. But I think this government has to answer to a lot of the students who went through, Mr. Speaker, thinking that they could get jobs as carpenters, mechanics, clerk typists and that. For the Minister of Career Development (Mr. Power) to allow this to go on as a member of the Cabinet for the past number of

years, and also allow the Minister of Education (Mr. Hearn) to have children going into the trades schools and do these courses, knowing fair well that there are no jobs when they come out, I think, Mr. Speaker, is a crime against our younger people. It is bad enough that there is over 40 per cent unemployment, it is bad enough that we have the lowest rate of students going to post-secondary education, but when they are led down the garden path that is another thing.

MR. TULK:

The high school drop-out rate in this Province has increased in the past five years.

MR. HISCOCK:

As a the member for Fogo (Mr. Tulk) has pointed out the drop-out rate is another think that is critical and I will deal with that in another part of this speech.

During the Career estimates, I ended up asking the Minister of Career Development would he table this fabulous list of the 5,000 jobs that are supposed to be created under the SEED programme to which the provincial government allocated \$2 million. I think that it is important for the media of this Province to know this as well as the general public, that the \$2 million that is to be spent on youth unemployment, which is 40 per cent in this Province, will be spent on students coming out of university, trades school and high school to provide jobs just for the Summer. This \$2 million does not target itself towards the chronically unemployment among our youth who are out of school permanently and are looking for permanent jobs permanently. I asked the minister to table the list of these projects and the

minister said he would, and I must say I have to give credit to the Minister of Education (Mr. Hearn) and his officials that when I asked for statistics to be provided to me from his department, just press the button of the computer and I and the other members of the Committee had them the other day. But now the Minister of Career Development and Advanced Studies (Mr. Power), when I asked him for the list of SEED projects, no problem, and that was of course Thursday, Mr. Speaker, and we are still waiting. And I would say one of the reasons why we are still waiting is that those projects themselves are still not all funded and the list is not all compiled.

But the other part that I want to deal with is the philosophy of the two different departments. Under the Department of Education, I am not really sure if you could call the Minister of Education a Minister of Education or a junior minister or what now with this division. When the parents of this Province are concerned about declining enrollment and closings of schools, and they ask questions, Mr. Speaker, about this, it is a school board problem. When the school boards decide to close schools because of declining enrollment and busing costs, and because the student grants that they are getting from the government are not enough to run the schools so they have to close them, when parents go to the school boards for that reason the school board says, "It is not our problem, it is the Denominational Education Committee." When they ask what new schools are going to be built, "It is not my responsibility, it is the responsibility of the DEC." And, of course, when it comes to

policy, then it is the responsibility of the DEC and the NTA.

So the Minister of Education, basically all he does is he probably signs the cheques, and I am not even sure if he signs the cheques from the Department of Education, but basically ends up passing it off to somebody else. Now we have the new department and I cannot understand how this department is operating. It is a department of post-graduate studies in most cases: It is the university, Grenfell College in Corner Brook, all the vocational schools, the Trades College, as well as the new Fisheries Institute. And the Minister of Career Development is going around and saying, "Clerk-typing is out of date, carpentry is out of date, mechanics is out of date; my department and myself are going to implement the new programmes that are going to lead our people into permanent jobs for the next generation and hopefully lay the base for the post-technological society." The minister ended up saying, "We are no longer in the industrial society, we are in a technological society now." So he is laying out the programmes. And when I asked him what are the programmes going to be, "Oh, we will announce them later." The media was very quick in picking that up when he made his speech. The media ended up asking the President of the Fisheries Colleges, "Well, that is policy, we really do not know about it. We have to wait for the minister." When they asked the President of Trade School, it was the same thing. The university at least had the courage and the independence of an educational institution and said to the minister, the new rookie minister

of Career Development, "You can play your politics, you can run for the leadership of the PC Party when the Premier steps down, you can use that as a stepping stone, but you are not going to be getting credit by telling us, professional educators at the university, what courses we need in this Province and what courses we do not need in this Province. We do not need to be given a lecture that there should be more courses offered so the women of our Province can go and take these courses." As the university pointed out, there are now more female medical students than ever before. And if there are courses not being taken by the females in university, as the President pointed out, for the most cases those freedoms are up to the students and the females themselves, and maybe it is the responsibility of the Minister of Education to instill in our younger people, our younger female students, that there are other options besides hairdressing, clerk typing, nursing, teaching, etc.

But the part I am trying to get at, Mr. Speaker, is that when policy is made in the Department of Education, the minister has nothing to do with it, nothing to do with it whatsoever. It is the full responsibility of the DEC, of the NTA, of the school boards and the various other officials. But when it comes to responsibility for what courses are going to be offered at the University, what courses are going to be offered at the Trades School or the Fisheries College, that is now the responsibility of the new Minister of Career Development (Mr. Power). And I find, Mr. Speaker, that smacks of political interference. It also is giving the minister the

opportunity to build a political base among the younger people at these institutions for a future leadership run, Mr. Speaker. I am quite pleased to know that the University itself is saying, "We are quite capable of running the University. And not only running the University, but we had in the Smallwood years a first-class international university. The bases were laid: We had the Marine Institute in Logy Bay, we also had the Medical School, the Business School, and the Social Work department. We ended up even establishing a campus in Harlow University as a co-op venture under the Smallwood years."

Now, of course, Mr. Speaker, the main speech of the President of the University is saying we are losing our top professors and we are not attracting top international professors to our learning institution. Why? Because of the discrepancy between wages that are offered here at Memorial University compared to other universities in Canada. So if the Minister of Career Development wants to do anything for policy in education, then I advise him to provide more money for our staff and also for the teaching profession in the vocational schools, in the fishing institution, in the Trades College, in the University and in Sir Wilfred Grenfell College. And also, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Education (Mr. Hearn) should take note himself that if this is not forthcoming with the teachers in our Province, the NTA, then we are also going to open ourselves to not having top caliber students coming from the University and going into education because they will end up going into other professions because of the pay differential. Mr. Speaker, it is



one of the greatest challenges facing our education. It is not the declining enrollment, it is not the busing of our students, but, Mr. Speaker, the main challenge is whether we are going to get top-notch international and national Canadian standards maintained at our high schools, maintained at our primary schools, maintained at our elementary schools, University and vocational schools. That is the challenge that is open to this government. And, Mr. Speaker, it is not taking \$130 million and getting into buying equipment.

The other danger, and I will say this directly to the members of the House of Assembly on both sides who have vocational schools in their district, is be aware of what the Minister of Career Development (Mr. Power) is going to be doing to your community and the courses that are going to be offered in those trade schools or vocational schools as they are commonly called. The thing is, Mr. Speaker, what is going to happen is that the minister and his department are going to dictate what courses are going to be offered in Bonavista, what courses are going to be offered in Lewisporte, what courses are going to be offered in St. Anthony, in Argentia, in Bell Island and in St. John's. They are getting into more specialities, Mr. Speaker. As a result, if Conception Bay South, Seal Cove, wants to get into welding, the Minister of Career Development will say, 'I am sorry, you cannot get into welding, we got that speciality down in Placentia.' When you get into aviation as they have in Gander, he will be saying to the people of Goose Bay, 'No, you cannot get into that because that speciality is in Gander'. And it

has some valid, good points, Mr. Speaker. We cannot continue to buy pieces of equipment that cost a couple of million dollars or half a million dollars and put them in each area. But I also believe very, very strongly that we have to be very, very careful when you get a political influence deciding what courses are going to be offered. And I think that the vocational schools of this Province, if they are not already in some kind of union, their presidents themselves should consolidate and form a group basically co-operating with each other, should form a lobby to make sure that their courses are being offered for the best, maximum use of our students in the Province, and also to maintaining pressure on government. Because what I can see happening is that if you have a vocational school in a PC district and a vocational school in a Liberal district, then I can see the mentality of this government operating from the point of view of putting the stronger courses into the vocational schools in those PC districts and not in the other areas. I foresee political interference. They have done it before, Mr. Speaker, in other things. They have done it when awarding road contracts, they have done it awarding municipal water and sewerage projects, so why do they not do it, Mr. Speaker, by making sure that certain jobs and certain other facilities are put in the vocational schools within the PC areas of this Province? The first part, as I said, is on the vocational schools. But now, looking at our elementary schools and the other parts of high schools and primary, in primary school, kindergarden to Grade 111 there are 2050 teachers; in elementary school, Grade 1V to VI,

there are 1650 teachers; in junior high school, from Grade VII to IX there are 1830 teachers; and in senior high, from Level 1 to Level III there are 1520 teachers, for a total of 7050 teachers, Mr. Speaker. And when the member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren) got up and accused teachers of playing politics, and the member for Placentia (Mr. Patterson) called them hooligans, then, as I said, when you paint 7050 teachers with the same brush, it does not give much example to the students to respect authority.

Some other statistics, Mr. Speaker: The number of teachers in this Province under twenty-five, female 395 and males 185; twenty-five to thirty, we have male 573 and female 799. Teachers in the age bracket from thirty to thirty-four include 1179 males and 1164 females; teachers from thirty-five to forty, 992 males and 776 females; from forty to forty-four 604, males and 480 females; from forty-five to forty-nine, 239 males and 274 females; and those teachers from the ages of fifty to fifty-four, 126 male and 200 female teachers; the number of teachers from fifty-five to sixty are thirty-three male and 111 female; and those teachers of sixty and over are one male and nine females. The average age, Mr. Speaker, for the male teachers is thirty-five and the average age for the female is thirty-five.

If you look at the grades, Mr. Speaker, the total grades from K to IX is 2301. Some 359 of these grades, Mr. Speaker, or classes are multigrade, or 15.6 of all the classrooms in this Province are multigrade; 229 of these grades, or 63.8 per cent, are two grades per classroom; 87 grades, Mr.

Speaker, 24.2 per cent have three grades per classroom: and there are 43 grades, 12 per cent have four or more grades in this Province. And if you look at the number of one or two room schools in the Province, Mr. Speaker, we have approximately 111. I find it irresponsible of the Minister of Education (Mr. Hearn), who says to his colleague, the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Rideout), yes, the school board in your district that is closing down should be opened but it is the responsibility of the school boards. The school board says, okay, we will keep it open if the Minister of Education gives us the money, and the Minister of Education says, well, I am sorry, I cannot give you the money, it is not my responsibility, we give the money to the DEC and it is up to the DEC to say how it should go. So here is the Minister of Education, as far as I am concerned, being political, trying to save the hide of the Minister of Fisheries in his district, under-cutting the confidence of the school board and the duly elected officials. And you wonder why, Mr. Speaker, people do not run for councils and people do not run for school boards when you have an irresponsible minister who politically defends his colleague, the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Rideout), and not take the side of the school board and say, look, the reality is we cannot maintain it because we have not got enough money. And instead of the Minister of Education (Mr. Hearn) being independent, fighting for more money, he is silent on those positions. When the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Doyle) gets up and talks about schools in his district, again the Minister of Education supports him and not the board. Holy Cross and St. Bon's

and the other Catholic schools that are having problems, not necessarily because of declining enrollment, but teachers cutback. A lot of people do not realize this that the Avalon Integrated School Board are going to lose fifteen teachers this year, and the school boards are losing teachers because of the declining enrollment. The school boards are faced with a difficult situation. The challenges, Mr. Speaker, that education is going to face in this Province are going to be challenges that the public, the teachers, the churches, the government, and the Opposition and the general public as a whole have to rise to the occasion and put the total quality of education above everything else. There are going to have to be decisions made that are not going to be popular by the NTA, by the churches, by the school boards, by the government because of declining enrollment. The government has the opportunity of putting in more money and allowing the teachers to stay by cutting back on the student/teacher ratio, Mr. Speaker, and allowing the quality of education to be continued.

We are seeing now a backward step, because of declining enrollment, hence laying off teachers, closing down schools and busing students, to live with the restraint period. We are finding, Mr. Speaker, we have to double up grades, put three or four grades in one classroom, and we are going backwards, Mr. Speaker, with regards to education in this Province.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):  
Order, please!

The hon. member's time has elapsed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

By leave!

MR. HISCOCK:

In concluding, Mr. Speaker, I would like to challenge the government -

MR. TULK:

Go on, boy, you have leave! By leave!

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):

Does the hon. member have leave?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Yes.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):

By leave.

MR. HISCOCK:

In concluding, Mr. Speaker, I hope the problems that are arising and presenting themselves to us as a people and as a Province that we will not always play politics with them, that we will not back the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Rideout) because he needs a few votes in this area, or the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Doyle), but will lay the cards on the table and say to the people this is the reality and these are the confinements we have to live with.

But I will say to the general public as a whole, if they expect this government to look after the education system like they looked after the Trans-Canada Highway, like they looked after the Fisheries - then I would say, Mr. Speaker, they are in for a long waiting period. It is not good enough for parents themselves in this Province to blame it on the school boards, it is not good enough to blame it on the NTA. Full responsibility, and the Minister of Career Development and

Advanced Studies (Mr. Power) is pointing this out now quite clearly, rests not with the university, not with the president of the trades schools or the Fisheries College, it is he who decides the policy, it is he who decides where the money is going to be spent in vocational schools, which ones are going to be upgraded, which ones are going to be downgraded. But when those same questions are asked of the Minister of Education (Mr. Hearn) the answer is, Mr. Speaker, it is the DEC, it is the NTA, it is the school boards. I say to the general public and to the parents of this Province, do not have the wool pulled over your eyes. Allow the responsibility to lay squarely at the feet of this government, and have the Minister of Education, the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) and the Premier held accountable and responsible of upgrading our education system. And hopefully some day when the Premier says, 'Some day the sun will shine and have-not will be no more,' maybe we can also say that some day, because we have the highest rate of your unemployment, and because we have the lowest rate of post-secondary education - all this after we have had the vision of Smallwood - Mr. Speaker, some day we will see university students, trade school students and students as a whole given allowances to go to these post-secondary education institutions in order to build up a viable society and lay a firm economic foundation.

So in concluding, Mr. Speaker, I believe that the education system in this Province is in utter chaos, it is lacking direction. And if we allow the post-secondary institutions to give up their responsibility to the Minister of

Career Development and Advanced Studies (Mr. Power), then I will say that a lot of communities in the next two or three years are going to have some first-class trade schools in this Province and we are going to see some glorified trade schools for high school students left. Communities must get involved in electing officials to the school boards and make education a priority, not, Mr. Speaker, just when a school is closing down, not just when there is trouble with the roof on a school, not when you have to bus the students. But the general public have to adopt a more responsible attitude towards education in this Province because if not, Mr. Speaker, our society will not reach its full potential. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):

The hon. the Minister of Forest Resources and Lands.

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak for a few moments in this Concurrence Debate.

MR. TULK:

Do you know what departments we are discussing?

MR. SIMMS:

Yes, I do. We are discussing Government Services Committee on the Department of Municipal Affairs, the Department of Public Works and Services, the Department of Labour, the Department of Finance, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Consumer Affairs and Communications. However, Mr. Speaker, I would have to assume that there is some sort of

agreement and understanding, because the member for Eagle River (Mr. Hiscock), who just sat down, spent a considerable amount of time discussing Education. We on this side did not object. I did consider rising on a point of order, but then I realized that one of the departments we are discussing is Finance. I mean, you can discuss anything, so that is precisely what I want to try to do now, if I may.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):

Order, please!

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker, I want to make just a few general opening comments. First of all, I have observed throughout the course of this debate, that the Opposition have been lacking in their criticisms of the provincial budget and I guess that is for obvious reasons. There are not many things to criticize about our provincial budget, and I suspect that that is why the members opposite have not been criticizing our provincial budget. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, they have spent most of their time, as has been pointed out on many, many occasions, criticizing the recent federal budget that has been brought down, and rightly so in many ways.

MR. TULK:

Would the hon. minister permit?

MR. SIMMS:

Yes.

The hon. the member for Fogo wants to tell me something.

MR. TULK:

Your argument very good, but if you are going to become the leadership candidate, you will have to get a little bit more conviction in your voice.

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker, there is only one party in this Legislature that has a leadership problem, believe me, and it is not the party sitting to your left, Mr. Speaker, it is the party that presently sits as the official Opposition, and I suspect will sit as the official Opposition for many, many years to come.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):

Order, please!

I want to open my comments, Mr. Speaker, by making some observations about the member for Menihek (Mr. Fenwick), who, unfortunately, is not here.

The member for Menihek has criticized our budget.

MR. HISCOCK:

Has he?

MR. SIMMS:

Yes, he has, perhaps moreso than the members opposite, the official Opposition party. As members in the House will recall, on numerous occasions the member for Menihek has held up the country of Sweden as being a perfect example of how this government should operate and should run.

MR. BAIRD:

And Manitoba.

MR. SIMMS:

Yes, Manitoba is the other jurisdiction that he likes to

refer to.

Mr. Speaker, recently in Sweden, there have been some things take place that, a country that is run by a Social Democratic Government -

AN HON. MEMBER:

They have a good forestry programme.

MR. SIMMS:

Yes, they do have a good forestry programme. But financially and economically, they have felt the pinch the same as many other jurisdictions have felt. The country of Sweden, Mr. Speaker, has suffered a public service strike most recently.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):

Order, please!

MR. SIMMS:

They have recently doubled their sales tax on automobiles, they have imposed tighter restrictions on the use of credit cards, and they have instructed the central bank of that country to boost the interest rate by 2 percentage points. In addition to that, they have curbed bank lending, Mr. Speaker, in order to stem the outflow of currency.

So, Mr. Speaker, the member for Menihek (Mr. Fenwick), who often holds up the country of Sweden as a perfect example, has not been saying too much about it recently, for various reasons.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the member for Menihek, I understand, did his thesis on comparative governments and considers himself to be a bit of an expert on Swedish governments.

DR. COLLINS:

The member for where?

MR. SIMMS:

The member for Menihek (Mr. Fenwick).

DR. COLLINS:

Did he?

MR. SIMMS:

Oh, yes, he says he did anyway. I suspect he will have some response to make like, 'Oh, that is because the Social Democratic Government in Sweden took over the government after six years of Conservative rule,' or something silly like that. I am sure that is what he will come back with. But I thought I would throw it out for his edification, Mr. Speaker.

Oh, I need that paper, I tell my colleague, the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Butt), because I intend to quote from the paper shortly in my few moments that I have.

The other thing that is rather interesting, although it relates to resources, Mr. Speaker, and I am sure members opposite will not mind my just mentioning this little fact, which I found to be rather interesting.

MR. TULK:

Is it Finance?

MR. SIMMS:

Yes, it is under Finance! - an article in the newspaper related to a \$40 million oil exploration programme that is planned for Hudson Bay. They say that the programme that is planned could heat up a long-standing dispute over the ownership of whatever riches might lie beneath those seas. Because the Province of Manitoba, led by the N.D.P., as

you know, has claimed jurisdiction over a large portion of Hudson Bay. But the story goes on a little further down the line, which I think is a bit of a credit to Newfoundlanders, especially those who have got themselves involved in the offshore.

A spokesman for CanTerra, which is the company involved, said, "Preliminary work has already begun," etc. He said "CanTerra will spend about \$3.5 million in Churchill, but most of the skilled labour will be brought in from Calgary and St. John's, Newfoundland."

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMS:  
Now, Mr. Speaker, I think that that is a great credit to those Newfoundlanders -

MR. TULK:  
Do you know what they are doing?

MR. SIMMS:  
I am prepared to listen to the hon. member.

MR. TULK:  
Well, I will tell you what they are doing.

MR. SIMMS:  
Okay.

MR. TULK:  
They are hiring Nova Scotians out here. You should check with the Minister of Labour (Mr. Blanchard). He sits there next to you.

MR. SIMMS:  
I will check that immediately, as soon as he returns.

MR. TULK:

You should. It is absolutely correct.

MR. SIMMS:  
We will get the actual quote from Hansard and then I will give it to the Minister of Labour and ask him to give us a few comments on that.

MR. TULK:  
That is absolutely correct. Check and see if the Nova Scotians are not being filtered in here.

MR. SIMMS:  
Perhaps later on in the debate, we will be able to address that particular point. Yet I still think that this is a credit to the Newfoundlanders who themselves have managed to make themselves -

AN HON. MEMBER:  
They have not found any work yet.

MR. SIMMS:  
No, but they have managed to make themselves credible and I think that is a credit to them.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Oh, oh!

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

MR. SIMMS:  
And because they are skilled in their profession they are now going to be sought after by other jurisdictions and other provinces.

AN HON. MEMBER:  
They should be in their own land.

MR. SPEAKER:  
Order, please!

MR. SIMMS:  
Mr. Speaker, I say to members opposite they may not like this fact that the Newfoundland skilled workers have done so well for

themselves but they will have to like it. They have done a lot for themselves, Mr. Speaker, and I believe they deserve a lot of credit for doing what they have done.

Mr. Speaker, unlike members opposite, I am proud of those Newfoundlanders who developed their skills in the way that they have. Members opposite are obviously supportive of the work that the Newfoundlanders here have done in order to improve their skills, so much so that they are now being called on in other jurisdictions to do the jobs because those jurisdictions do not have the skilled labour. I think there is a credit due to those people who have done that. And members opposite should not belittle that fact.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there are a couple of points that were raised, not necessarily in this debate but during Question Period and other occasions. Today, for example, the member for Windsor - Buchans (Mr. Flight), my friend and seat mate from Windsor - Buchans raised the issue of amalgamation. And we are discussing municipal affairs so I guess I can make a brief comment on amalgamation.

MR. TULK:

He is your seat mate?

MR. SIMMS:

That is my seat mate, yes.

MR. TULK:

Are you coming over?

MR. SIMMS:

No, I do not mean in that sense. I just mean in a geographical sense he is my seat mate. That is as close as I want him. But, Mr. Speaker, he raised today the

question of amalgamation between the towns of Windsor and Grand Falls. I might say to him - he probably knows it - but he left out that at one time or another the town of Bishop Falls was also considered to be a part of that amalgamation effort, if indeed it did -

MR. CALLAN:

It does not matter anyway. Grand Falls does not want to amalgamate because it sees no financial gain.

MR. SIMMS:

Well the hon. member for Bellevue (Mr. Callan) may know more than I know and what he says may very well be accurate, in the opinion of some people, but I do not necessarily agree that that is accurate or true. But there may very well be people in some quarters that would agree with him. I could not argue that.

But I do say this about the question of amalgamation that the member for Windsor - Buchans (Mr. Flight) raised here today, it is a long standing one because, of course, back in the early 1970's, as the minister indicated today, the Patterson Report did a study on the question of amalgamation. Mr. Speaker, I have been the member there now for six years and have run in three elections and have talked to just about every constituent I represent I suppose -

MR. CALLAN:

One more and you will catch me.

MR. SIMMS:

Yes. I would be proud to equal the record of the member for Bellevue (Mr. Callan) who is a distinguished member of the Opposition and always has been and always will be. But anyway, Mr. Speaker, that question is not a



question that has been raised with me by constituents as I have travelled around door to door in at least three elections. It is not an issue that has been raised by my constituents. Now I am not like the member for Windsor - Buchans (Mr. Flight).

The member for Windsor - Buchans likes to drum up issues. He likes to stir up issues. Now I have evidence of that right here, Mr. Speaker. In the Grand Falls Advertiser just recently - members will recall the other day how the member for Windsor - Buchans, who is accused of being an alarmist by my colleague, the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Butt) with respect to a question concerning the Millertown dam.

The paper, if you do not mind me quoting from the newspaper, I am sure the member for Windsor - Buchans will be delighted. The paper says, "Flight Raises Matter of Millertown Dam Integrity in the House". Now it is a major, major headline, fantastic headline, and it goes on to sort of describe what happened in the Legislature that particular day, although it is hearsay for the Grand Falls Advertiser because they were not here to cover that particular story. Further down there is a story that says, "Butt Satisfied Dam Structurally Sound". And, Mr. Speaker, further to that is another story, "Dam Was Not in Jeopardy", and this is a quote from the director of the Emergency Measures Organization, Mr. John Greer.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Who?

MR. SIMMS:

Oh, yes. He agreed with the Minister of Environment (Mr. Butt)

that it was not in jeopardy, there was no trouble facing that particular dam. But the member for Windsor - Buchans in his usual nature and in his usual course managed to drum up an issue and get coverage.

Mr. Speaker, further to that the member for Windsor-Buchans wants me to refer to the editorial in the Grand Falls Advertiser which I must say is a very complimentary editorial to the member for Windsor - Buchans. Indeed, he deserves the odd complimentary editorial in any event, as long as they are not too frequent, which I am sure they will not be.

MR. TULK:

It is frequent than ones for the minister.

MR. SIMMS:

Oh, that is not quite accurate. If the hon. member for Fogo (Mr. Tulk) wants to see some clippings I would be happy to provide them. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, in that same paper on the next page is a big picture of me getting a certificate of merit from the Cancer Society which I am very proud of.

And further in that paper, Mr. Speaker, is a big advertisement for me supporting the Lumber Producers Association.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMS:

But if the hon. member wants to get in the coverage in the local paper - even the member for Windsor - Buchans would admit that I get a reasonable amount of coverage from the Grand Falls Advertiser, even the member for Windsor - Buchans would admit it.

Anyway, Mr. Speaker -

MR. MARSHALL:

Those pictures, who circulated those pictures?

MR. SIMMS:

I do not know who circulated the photographs. I really could not tell you. Probably somebody in my office.

"Anyway Windsor - Buchans MHA, Graham Flight, said this week that he does not apologize for asking direct questions in the House of Assembly with respect to concerns of the people of his district. We say, why should he. That is what he was elected to do, represent the people who put him in office". Now I think that is complementary. The member for Windsor - Buchans (Mr. Flight) wanted me to read this that is the only reason.

The Government House Leader (Mr. Marshall) is looking at me with chagrin, but I am only doing it as a favour to my geographical seat mate. The member for Windsor - Buchans was elected to represent the people, he was elected to ask questions that the people have asked him to ask. Now I am assuming that he was asked to ask this question by a number of people, however, there is a suspicion that the member for Windsor - Buchans frequently tries to drum an issue and that brings me back to my original point with respect to amalgamation that we were talking about earlier.

Unlike the member for Windsor - Buchans I do not intend to drum amalgamation as being an issue. Well, the member for Menihek (Mr. Fenwick) is gone again or I would refer back to Sweden - there he is - I already discussed this with

the member for Menihek and he is going to attack my comments some other time.

Anyway, Mr. Speaker, with respect to amalgamation, as I said it is not an issue that has been raised with me by my constituents, I do not intend to drum up the issue, however, I will say this, that I have had many more discussions with the Minister of Municipal Affairs, both this one and his predecessor about the issue of amalgamation, many, many more than the member for Windsor - Buchans and I can tell him that the issue is one that is being looked at internally, frequently questioned, but I do not intend to act on it unless the people from my district want to act on it. They have not indicated to me in any way, shape or form that they want me to pursue that particular issue. If they do, I would be happy to support them and represent them whatever way I can, in their best interests. I would say to the member for Windsor - Buchans as well, if it is recommended that it be done, then I will do everything in my power, which is not very much, but I will do everything in my power to bring that kind of an issue to fruition. I do agree with the member for Windsor - Buchans that there certainly could be some benefits associated with it, duplication of services and matters of that nature.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Do you agree with him on that?

MR. SIMMS:

Only on some issues. In that particular matter, I agree to a certain extent and I am sure there are some cons associated with amalgamation as well. The hon. member shakes his head, but I am sure there are. There are always

pros and cons for every issue. The member opposite maybe does not recognize there are two sides to a story but there are, including the amalgamation issue.

In any event, Mr. Speaker, that is just a few brief remarks I wanted to make on that particular issue of amalgamation.

I wanted to address also another drummed up issue that the Opposition and the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Barry), in particular, have tried to devise throughout this whole budget debate and that is the issue of the Estimates Committees not working, in their opinion. Now that is not an issue on this side as far as I am concerned and for very valid reasons I will try to outline them and argue them as best I can as I go on.

The Leader of the Opposition, specifically, as well as other members generally, have said that the system that is being used in this House for the Estimates Committees do not work, the member for Twillingate (Mr. W. Carter) alluded to it when he gave his comments. The major reason that the Leader of the Opposition says that these Estimate Committees do not work is because of the lack of press coverage. Now that is usually the general reason why the Estimates Committees are not working in the opinion of members opposite. Mr. Speaker, I suggest to you that the Estimates Committees intention is to examine the estimates, and, in that regard, I believe it is working much, much better than it ever did under the old system when the member for Twillingate was here because, as he will recall, when the estimates are debated in the House under that seventy-five hour

rule, what has happened in the past, more often than not, is members opposite will bog down on one or two departments and they will use up the entire time debating those one or two departments.

My point is that with the Estimates Committee system every department of government gets examined and gets examined fairly thoroughly, if members do their homework, and members on this side as well.

AN HON. MEMBER:

What are you saying?

MR. SIMMS:

I am saying if it was done in the House of Assembly, as is being advocated by members opposite, you would not even have an opportunity to debate the estimates of many departments, you would not have that opportunity at all.

The other point I would like to make, Mr. Speaker, about the committee system is that private members on both sides of the House get an opportunity for a change to participate in questioning the ministers for the various government departments and that is something that would probably be lost if all the estimates were being done in the House of Assembly. There is a seventy-five hour time limit in the debate, including the estimates.

We heard from the Chairmen of the Estimates Committees themselves that, at least these two, Government Services and Resource Committees, each spent around twenty-five hours, fifty hours alone in the estimates. That is the other advantage of the estimates. You can take as long as you want, there is no

curtailment other than the length of days, the number of days, I think it is fifteen days or something the estimates have to be completed in. However, during that fifteen day period hon. members can debate the estimates of their particular sector for as long as they want, ten hours a day, eight hours a day, six hours a day, whatever they wish to. That would not be possible, Mr. Speaker, if the estimates were debated in the House. I mean this sincerely. I believe the Estimates Committee system that is used in this House is a good system. Members have to make it work that is all. Now the one fall down -

AN HON. MEMBER:

It works for you guys.

MR. SIMMS:

That is not accurate and not fair. It works for the members opposite as well, if they want it to work. The one thing that the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Barry) has argument with, and I do not disagree with him, is that the press do not cover all the Committees. Perhaps the Government House Leader needs to take a close look at that and try to work out some kind of a system where we can make it -

MR. W. CARTER:

Could I ask a question?

MR. SIMMS:

Certainly. Sure. As long as I get the Chair back of course.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):

The hon. the member for Twillingate.

MR. W. CARTER:

He talks about the Committee system, Mr. Speaker, as opposed to

having the Estimates discussed and examined in the House, and he talks about the time restraints of fifteen days I think and so many hours, but surely if the business of the House could be managed properly, then more time would be available. There is nothing sacred about seventy-five hours or about fifteen days of debate on the Estimates. Surely, \$2 billion worth of money being spent, you know, there should not be too many time restraints on that kind of a debate, Mr. Speaker. And again getting back to fifteen days, there is nothing sacred about fifteen days or seventy hours. Why not give more time?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Minister of Forest Resources and Lands.

MR. SIMMS:

Well, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Twillingate now raises another issue which is a totally separate issue.

MR. TULK:

No, it is all part of the issue.

MR. SIMMS:

No, it is not because the issue that he raises now has to do with the amount of time that is available for debate of the budget and the estimates, which is seventy-five hours and has been ever since the Conservatives came into power that time limit was allocated. Now, if he wants to discuss that issue well let his House Leader (Mr. Tulk) discuss it with the Government House Leader (Mr. Marshall) and look for an extension of time.

MR. W. CARTER:

A full debate on the estimates is what we need.

MR. SIMMS:

But the issue has been whether or not the estimates committees are working and I am saying that they are, that is what I am arguing.

Mr. Speaker, in Ottawa they debate a federal budget in excess of \$100 billion I suppose, their deficit is \$35 billion so I suppose their budget must be \$100 billion and they do that in six days.

MR. W. CARTER:

You have 284 members.

MR. SIMMS:

Yes but, Mr. Speaker, it does not matter, they still only have six days. But the point is, and the question is -

MR. W. CARTER:

That is only the budget debate.

MR. SIMMS:

- the question is here whether or not the Estimates Committees are working. Now if you want to argue for more time or something I think that is a separate issue. The Estimates Committees are working.

MR. DECKER:

They are working, for the government.

MR. SIMMS:

The member for the Strait of Belle Isle (Mr. Decker) agrees with me. I think they are working. I think they give members more of an opportunity than ever before to debate the estimates. Now, if media are not attending the estimates hearings, that is another question.

MR. TULK:

A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A point of order, the hon. the

member for Fogo.

MR. TULK:

I believe that the member for Grand Falls (Mr. Simms), the Minister of Forest Resources and Lands is unusually trying to be - and it is unusual for him - unusually trying to be somewhat fair and sensible. He relates to the Newfoundland scene and the Ottawa scene and the media is the problem. Well, sure the media is the problem. We do not argue about that. But ask yourself another question, are the media resources in Newfoundland equal to the media resources in Ottawa? And the answer is obviously not and therefore you cannot get the information that is required from the Estimates Committees out to the public because I believe that the media resources are just not here. And that is the whole point.

But if you bring them back in here, fifteen more days, that is what the member for Twillingate (Mr. W. Carter) is saying, if you would use for forty-five hours in this House, the same as it used outside, you would get a much more adequate coverage because it is only from three to six, we would have to spend probably twenty more days in the House. So what? We get paid for it.

MR. SPEAKER:

To that point of order, there is no point of order.

The hon. Minister of Forest Resources and Lands.

MR. SIMMS:

I agree with Your Honour because it obviously is not a point of order. But I welcome the -

MR. FLIGHT:

Would the member for Grand Falls agree -

MR. SIMMS:

Just a second now, let me sort of respond to the member for Fogo (Mr. Tulk), and then the member for Windsor - Buchans can ask his question or whatever. I welcome his interjection and it is a debatable point, what he raises is debatable. I mean, it could very well be in his mind, and in the mind of a lot of other observers, all I am saying is that maybe there is a way to work out an accommodation with the media in order to give it coverage.

MR. HISCOCK:

I find the media want nothing to do with it.

MR. SIMMS:

Well, I know during my own estimates for argument's sake -

MR. HISCOCK:

Would the Government House Leader meet with the media?:

MR. SIMMS:

Do I believe the Government House Leader would meet with the media to discuss -

MR. HISCOCK:

The Premier.

MR. SIMMS:

The Government House Leader is one of the most accommodating gentleman I have ever met in my life and I suspect that, if he was approached -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please! Order, please!

MR. SIMMS:

If the Government House Leader was approached in a reasonable fashion, I am sure he would listen to any reasonable argument to try to work out some accommodation so as to eliminate this needless criticism of the Estimates Committee system. It is working well. The only argument they really have is that they are not getting coverage.

So if they want to work with the Government House Leader to try to work out an accommodation with the press gallery then I said if they approached the Government House Leader in a reasonable fashion, he is one of the most accommodating people I have ever met, I am sure he would be able to work something out, use his incredible power to work out matters of this nature which would be accommodating to all members of the House.

MR. TULK:

A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

A point of order, the hon. member for Fogo.

MR. TULK:

On a point of order, the member for Grand Falls (Mr. Simms) is obviously not aware, I mean I do not understand, he sits in his seat there and he echoes all day long but he is obviously not aware of the fact about a letter that was read here some weeks ago, referred to at least here, by the Leader of the Opposition in which he wrote the Premier asking that exactly that be done.

I can tell him, as he just said, do not hold breath that the Government House Leader is going to meet with the media in this

Province and try to work out something whereby the people of Newfoundland can get information.

MR. SIMMS:

Now, Mr. Speaker, that is not a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER:

That is no point of order.

MR. SIMMS:

That is twice the hon. member has been shot down now.

MR. TULK:

No, I am not shot down.

MR. SIMMS:

Now let me say this, I know all about the letter. The Government House Leader (Mr. Marshall) consults me frequently on matters of this nature.

AN HON. MEMBER:

He consults everybody.

MR. SIMMS:

And this is one matter he discussed with me frequently.

MR. TULK:

Do not lie to the House.

MR. SIMMS:

Because the Government House Leader -

MR. MARSHALL:

He is after my job.

MR. TULK:

It looks like it.

MR. SIMMS:

The Government House Leader, by the way, I must tell-

MR. TULK:

He is after the seat next to you.

MR. SIMMS:

I will tell hon. members this, I used to sit behind the Government House Leader and offer him daily advice, as you recall. The Government House Leader is responsible for seating plans and when I came back into the House I found that my seat was back way over here, away from the Government House Leader because I used to give him too much advice.

MR. FLIGHT:

Why does the minister-

MR. SIMMS:

Yes, the member for Windsor - Buchans (Mr. Flight) has a question.

MR. FLIGHT:

- continue to highlight this debate and not let his backbench MHAs get in and make a maiden speech, like the member for LaPoile (Mr. Mitchell)?

MR. SIMMS:

The member for LaPoile has spoken, the member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren) -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):

Order, please!

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker, anybody is free to speak.

MR. TULK:

He has yet to make his maiden speech.

MR. FLIGHT:

The member for hooligans. Why cannot these fellows speak in this debate?

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker, they can speak if

they wish. There is lots of time.

MR. FLIGHT:

The member for Carbonear (Mr. Peach) never made a speech in his life here.

MR. PEACH:

I spoke.

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker, I did not realize I was that devastating that he does not even want me to speak in the debate.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. SIMMS:

Now listen, why does not the hon. member let some of his backbench colleagues speak? I never see the member for Stephenville (Mr. K. Aylward) or the member for Port de Grave (Mr. Efford) very rarely, the member for Naskaupi (Mr. Kelland) rarely gets up, the member for Gander (Mr. Baker) might as well be muzzled, he never says anything in this House. The member for St. Barbe (Mr. Furey) has not opened his mouth.

AN HON. MEMBER:

No, that is not true.

MR. SIMMS:

The front benches over there hog all of the debating time and that is very unfair, Mr. Speaker.

In any event, Mr. Speaker, they have me off entirely of what I was trying to say. I was trying to map out an argument for retention of the Estimates Committees and I will repeat it just once more. Let me just repeat it once more. All the departments are examined, if it was in the House as advocated by the members opposite they would not be examined because

we can go back to the old system where members opposite would bog down on one or two departments and nobody would get a chance to ask a question, none of the other departments would get examined and, I think, that is totally unfair to the people of the Province.

Now if members opposite are not getting coverage, the member for Windsor - Buchans (Mr. Flight) got a couple of quotes, by the way, in our Estimates Committee. The media gave me reasonable coverage, our department.

MR. FLIGHT:

Oh, oh!

MR. SIMMS:

So, I mean, why? Obviously, it was because of the calibre of the people who attended the meeting. So if they have not been attending the other Committee meetings then I would suggest hon. members should examine. Perhaps you need to change the make-up of the Committees and just make sure that the greater lights like the member for Windsor - Buchans, the member for the Strait of Belle Isle (Mr. Decker), the member for Bellevue (Mr. Callan), the member for Eagle River (Mr. Hiscock), and a few of those sit on all of the Committees, that is all you need if you want to get coverage. Then the media I am sure they will be there in droves to hear that those people are going to be involved.

Anyway, Mr. Speaker, I do not think that the question of the Estimates Committees working or not working is an issue. It is an issue being drummed up by members opposite and the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Barry), in particular, for one reason only, so they can carry the debate for



the next three or four years. That is all. The debate will be for the next three or four years, bring the estimates back into the House so that the people of the Province can hear what is going on. And that, Mr. Speaker, I submit to you, Sir, and I submit it to members opposite, is nothing but a bunch of nonsense, the members opposite know it.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. LUSH:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):

The hon. the member for Bonavista North.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. LUSH:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member, who just took his place, in talking about the Committees made some sense in the beginning when he was trying to make a case for the present system by which we debate the Estimates Committee, made infinitely more sense than his colleague who spoke a couple of days ago, the member for Pleasantville (Mr. Dinn) when he based the failure of the Committees on the quality of questions that were being asked by the Opposition. So, Mr. Speaker, the hon. members opposite know that the Committees are not working. They agree with that. The only thing they differ on are the reasons why they are not working. They differ on that.

Now the hon. member talks about the process. We have never said there was anything wrong with the

process. There was nothing wrong with the process of Committees. But the hon. member answered what was wrong with it when he said the press did not attend. And as long as the press does not attend, these Committees will never serve their function, they will never serve their purpose. Not only are these estimates, Mr. Speaker, to be examined and scrutinized, but they are to be examined and scrutinized for the public of this Province. That is why they are scrutinized, that is why they are examined. And we put through millions and millions of dollars, department after department, and the people of this Province did not know one iota about what was going on. Not a thing. And that is why the government think it is a good idea.

MR. TULK:

That is why exactly.

MR. LUSH:

That is why they think it is a good idea, for the purpose, for which these Committees serve, many of them - and every Committee that I attended - there was not one person of the press present, and for every Committee meeting that I attended, we would have achieved just as much if I invited hon. members down to my kitchen or we could have gone to the hon. member's kitchen and the same thing would have been achieved. Mr. Speaker, they have not been a success. It has nothing but a scam and a sham and the shambles. That is what it has been. That is what these committees have been.

MR. SIMMS:

Would the hon. member permit a question?

MR. LUSH:

Yes, sure.

MR. SIMMS:

Why would not the hon. member, if he was not satisfied with the progress he was having with the meetings, issue a press statement himself explaining his position on the various points that were raised in the estimates debate that morning and why you were asking those questions? Why would the hon. member not issue a release? Then, if the press were interested in what he has to say would call him up and say, Mr. Lush would you like to do an interview on this? We would like for you to elaborate on what you said in your statement. The member for Bonavista North (Mr. Lush) has frequently availed of the press opportunities.

MR. LUSH:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):

The hon. member for Bonavista North.

MR. LUSH:

Mr. Speaker, this shows the entire attitude of this government governing by press announcements. Now, Mr. Speaker, this is one member that does not look for press coverage for the sake of press coverage. I want the media there to give a total picture. Oh, sure, Mr. Speaker, I can be in the media every day but I will give a distorted view possibly, I will not do it in the proper perspective. I want an impartial press there so that they can give the total picture of what is happening in Committees, not a distorted or a partisan view, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker, a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):

The hon. Minister of Forest Resources and Lands.

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is making a great speech, as he usually does, but we have to come to the defence of people who are not in the House and able to defend themselves.

Now, the member for Bonavista North (Mr. Lush), without any question whatsoever, has just questioned the impartiality of the press in this Province. He says he wants impartial press and I say to him, Mr. Speaker, there are impartial press in this House sitting in that press gallery and they will give you whatever coverage you want if you would ask them.

MR. LUSH:

To that point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):

The hon. member for Bonavista North.

MR. LUSH:

What I had said, Mr. Speaker, was that this hon. member could be accused of giving a partisan view and I want a total, impartial perspective and the only people to do that were the press. So, Mr. Speaker, again, the hon. member for Grand Falls (Mr. Simms) just shows the kind of mind he has, a devious mind, twisting and getting things out of perspective.

MR. SPEAKER:

To that point of order, there may be a difference of opinion between two hon. members. There is no point of order.

The hon. member for Bonavista North.

MR. LUSH:

Mr. Speaker, it takes all my time trying to help the constituents in my district with individual problems, unemployment, and social services, let alone me trying to prepare press releases from these Committees. So, Mr. Speaker, we must have the press there to give a totally impartial view. The hon. the member put his finger on the problem, it is because of the lack of the press.

My understanding is that it is not going to improve because the press just do not have the resources to attend these Committee meetings and unless we change the scheduling to be able to fit in with the resources of the press, in terms of personnel and this kind of thing, we are not going to get the press to attend these Committee meetings. And as long as that is the situation, they will continue to operate, Mr. Speaker, in failure, they will continue to go against the principles of public scrutiny and of public examination.

Public examination is not because we are being recorded by Hansard. That is what some hon. members would say, we are being recorded by Hansard. That is not the kind of public scrutiny under which these committees should be debated. It must be in the open with the press in attendance and we should organize it so the press of this Province can attend these committee meetings. That is why they are a failure, not the process, it is nothing wrong with the process. I do not disagree with the process, but if the press can never attend in the future then, Mr. Speaker, we have to do away with that system. We have to do away with it because it would be just as effective if we took

these estimates and went away in some of our recreation rooms and discussed the estimates. It would have the same effect, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member outlined the departments which come under government services and the first one I want to look at was the one that he dealt with, the Department of Finance.

Mr. Speaker, this is the department that determines the philosophy of the government, that determines the direction in which this Province is going. Before I get into the burden of what I want to say, just a preamble to what I am saying, it is an oddity, it is a peculiarity, it is an anomaly, really, that in Government Services is where we find the only semblance of an employment programme. If this government has any employment strategy at all, it is found in Government Services which, as I say, is an oddity, a peculiarity and it is an anomaly, Mr. Speaker, because one would expect to find the employment strategy in the resource sector or either that into the Department of Development, these two. But this is why hon. members can never answer specifically what the unemployment rate is going to be for this year because they do not know what is going to happen in the resource center. They have no control of it, absolutely no control of what is happening in this Province. If they could determine by these few jobs here they would be able to tell us and the result would be, of course, absolutely nil.

Hon. members were very proud last week when there was a one percentage improvement in the unemployment rate. Now a part of that, a very small part, a very

small fraction of that no doubt can be contributed to the fact that many water and sewer jobs have started. Transportation had some jobs started. Public Works had their Summer programme in effect. But a very small part because the greatest reason for that 1 percentage increase if hon. members will pay attention because this is very important, the greatest factor for this 1 per cent increase was because of no work. Now, that might sound strange. It was because of no work that we gained a percentage increase in the level of unemployment, because of no work.

People had dropped out of the work force. They had become discouraged. They had become desperate and they dropped out of the work force, Mr. Speaker. So even though this represents the only kind of evidence of a job creation programme, it is very little, really not enough to have any significant effect on the levels of unemployment in this Province.

So, Mr. Speaker, just to get off that topic for a moment, I still would like for some hon. member, some influential hon. member to stand in his place, either the member for St. John's East (Mr. Marshall), the hon. the House Leader or the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins), and to tell the people of this Province by what percentage points they intend to reduce unemployment over the next few moments. That is what I would like to see.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMS:

Then the people of this Province would know that they are in

control. Then the people of this Province would know that this hon. crowd know the direction in which they are going. But, Mr. Speaker, until they are able to tell us this then we can form no other opinion than the conclusion that this hon. crowd, they do not know where they are going. They have no plans with respect to employment for this Province. Now, Mr. Speaker, that is born out by the forecast that the hon. Minister of Finance has been known to make in the last couple of years, that this government does not know where it is going.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in 1984 - 1985, the hon. Minister of Finance predicted that we were going to have a current deficit of \$32 million. Now, Mr. Speaker, these deficits are made, backed up with a lot of research, with a lot of economists, financial people and the economic people. And the minister predicted that we were going to have a current account deficit of \$32 million. I do not know whether hon. members know what it actually was. Eighty two million, Mr. Speaker, \$82 million. In other words, it was practically tripled.

Now the minister says in this document they are going to try and keep the current account deficit at last year's levels. Now, Mr. Speaker, is there any credibility to that? Can we believe that? Can the people of Newfoundland believe that, that the Minister of Finance is indeed going to keep the current deficit at \$82 million or can we, by looking at the mathematical error that he made in last year's, can we say that it is going to be practically three times and that the current account is going to be somewhere around \$200 million?

MR. TULK:

Let me ask you a question.

MR. LUSH:

Sure.

MR. TULK:

Do the people of Newfoundland believe in weather forecasting?

MR. LUSH:

Well, I would say just about as much as they believe the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins). It seems to me that that is the best measure to use, that the minister was out by almost three times the figure and if we make that same transposition and make that calculation based on last year's error, we are looking at a current account deficit of somewhere around \$200 million.

Now are there any facts, is there any evidence, to make the people of Newfoundland not to believe that, to make the people of Newfoundland doubt that, to say that the minister is right beyond a shadow of a doubt? Mr. Speaker, the minister cannot with any degree of accuracy tell us what that deficit is going to be, although he now got a programme called a programme to restrain the current account deficit. And, Mr. Speaker, he cannot tell us whether how close he is going to be anymore than his government can tell us by what percentage points they are going to reduce unemployment this year.

Mr. Speaker, is it not passing strange that a government that asked for a mandate to create jobs, that was the sole purpose of the election to create jobs for the people of this Province, and is it not strange that here we are with this session almost finished and the people of Newfoundland

have no more idea about the jobs that are going to be created than when they gave the government the mandate? Is that not strange, Mr. Speaker? Well, Mr. Speaker, we on this side of the House are not going to let the government forget that their mandate was to create jobs and they had better be prepared to come in with specifics, they better be prepared to state what they believe is an acceptable level of unemployment for this Province and what percentage points they intend to reduce unemployment over the next four years. They better do it, Mr. Speaker, if they want the people of Newfoundland to believe that they were genuine, if they want the people of Newfoundland to believe that they were sincere when they asked for that mandate to create jobs.

Mr. Speaker, the only thing that was laudable, the only thing that was praiseworthy in this budget is that there were no taxes. Thank God that there were not. Mr. Speaker, we found out that the hon. provincial Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) was afraid to inflict prosperity on Newfoundland and did we ever find out that Mr. Mulroney was afraid to inflict prosperity on this Province. Mr. Speaker, there is little wonder that the minister did not increase the taxes because the people of this Province would have had to leave if his government brought in the tax increases because the federal government taxed everything from candy to dog food. So, Mr. Speaker, it is little wonder that they did not bring about any increases in taxes.

Mr. Speaker, can we believe the document. I wonder if in October, November the minister is going to

come in with a statement that because of new readings, because of different developments in the economy, he was wrong in predicting the deficit on current account? Is he going to be coming in October, November and saying that he made a mistake and saying how difficult it is all across Canada to make these predictions? Well, Mr. Speaker, there is somebody qualified to make these predictions.

I often wonder with the gentleman's record why they kept them in Finance.

MR. DECKER:

He must have something on the Premier.

MR. LUSH:

I have often wondered. The hon. gentleman is a fine gentleman and I understand an excellent doctor, but as a Minister of Finance, Mr. Speaker, he has become a disaster, he has become a Mr. Scrooge and the gentleman has no sensitivity to the poorer people of this Province, he just socks it to them. Now, I believe this is why he is kept in there, Mr. Speaker. He has got a hide like a rhinoceros that is why he is kept there.

I do not think there is anyone else on the other side would take it. Certainly not the member from St. John's East (Mr. Marshall), he got an awful scare in the last election, he would not dare deliver a budget like this. So, Mr. Speaker, I have often wondered why the hon. gentleman is kept on in that portfolio when he has done nothing but inflict financial hardship on the people of this Province with every budget that he brought down.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there are three or four other departments here that are worthy of comment. There is the Department of Municipal Affairs, there is the Department of Transportation, the two departments devoted only to pork barrelling, that has been the history of them, Mr. Speaker. But thank God hon. gentlemen are going to be able to say this time around that it was not complete pork barrelling because there were certain districts that they thought they could win and they poured money in them. I would say it will be the last cent that they will ever see, Mr. Speaker, until the next election. Certainly, Mr. Speaker, if the Premier honours the commitments that he made in the election to only the member from Twillingate's (Mr. W. Carter) district there will not be another cent left to spend anywhere else in Municipal Affairs.

MR. FUREY:

And St. Barbe.

MR. LUSH:

I know there were some promises made. But, Mr. Speaker, Municipal Affairs and Transportation gained notoriety over the years for pork-barrelling. One wonders if that is the policy that is going to be carried on, if they are going to continue on with that pork-barrelling policy to try and ensure that they get enough members elected to cling onto power by their fingernails.

Well, Mr. Speaker, they should get the lesson. With all of the pork-barrelling they did, they came within an ace of being defeated.

MR. TOBIN:

Yes, thirty-six to fifteen.

MR. LUSH:

Hon. members can talk about the numbers, but, Mr. Speaker, just a couple of percentage points and some hon. members would have been over here.

MR. TULK:

That is right.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):

Order, please!

MR. LUSH:

Mr. Speaker, I commented on the pork-barrelling in the Department of Municipal Affairs. It is a shame, Mr. Speaker, that the government would see fit to spend the public dollars of this Province to penalize some of their own people. There are Tories in every district, but in a Liberal district they penalize them. Because they voted Tory in a Liberal district they penalize them and say, you are not going to get any more government monies until you have seen the light; we are trying to force you to become Liberal. Mr. Speaker, we have the facts and the figures and the statistics and the diagrams, we can prove what we are talking about. Never a provincial government since Confederation, Mr. Speaker, and I am not sure but before, practiced pork-barrelling to the extent that this government does. And now, Mr. Speaker, they have become arrogant enough that in addition to pork-barrelling they are into political patronage. Political patronage, that vicious, cancerous disease, has infested this land right from the upper echelons of government down to the lowly, smallest related government agency - municipalities, Rural Development

Associations. Political patronage, Mr. Speaker, has become the order of the day. The great white knight, the gentleman from Baie Comeau - was it? - was going to do away with that. He was going to do away with political patronage, Mr. Speaker. The hon. gentleman talked about inflicting prosperity. It seems to be in the form of political patronage. He certainly inflicted political patronage on us. Now, I have never seen prosperity stem from that narrow, political economic programme in all my life, from political patronage.

Mr. Speaker, I suppose over the past six or seven months the hon. gentleman has made more political patronage than the Federal Liberals did in twenty-three years of power.

Mr. Speaker, these are the departments of pork-barrelling and political patronage, only part, because political patronage has infested the whole of government operations in this Province. It is a shame in a democracy, it is a travesty, a disgrace, when money from the taxpayers of this Province is used to punish them, their own dollars, when the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) and the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Doyle) and the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Dawe) will punish the people of this Province by keeping from them their own hard-earned dollars. Mr. Speaker, pork-barrelling is not practiced anywhere in North America to the degree that it is practiced in this Province. But there is hope, there is light at the end of the tunnel, because the people of this Province have become fed up with it, they have become totally fed up with it, Mr. Speaker, they have become fed up

to the teeth with it, and if hon. gentlemen opposite practice it in the future to the same degree that they did in the past, it will ensure their exit. I am longing for the day when they can come here and spend the dollars, spend the public dollars, spend the taxpayers' dollars of this Province, fairly, justly and equitably, the way that it should be spent. Mr. Speaker, that is the kind of government that I want to be part of.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. LUSH:

That is the kind of government I want to be part of, Mr. Speaker, a government that spends the taxpayers' money fair, justly and equitably. And I have a dream, Mr. Speaker, that it will not be too long before we are going to be able to have that kind of government in this Province, because the people of Newfoundland are not going to allow themselves to be exploited by hon. gentlemen opposite any longer. The day is coming, Mr. Speaker, a new day, when the people of Newfoundland can look forward to being treated fairly.

Mr. Speaker, I think I have a couple of minutes left. I think I will adjourn the debate, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

DR. COLLINS:

A performance worthy of Wayne and Shuster.

MR. MARSHALL:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):

The hon. the President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL:

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

On motion, the House at its rising adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, June 18, 1985, at 3:00 P.M.