



PROVINCE OF NEWFOUNDLAND

**THIRTY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF
NEWFOUNDLAND**

Volume 2

2nd Session

Number 27

VERBATIM REPORT

Thursday, March 15, 1973

SPEAKER: THE HONOURABLE JAMES M. RUSSELL

The House met at 3:00 P.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

HON. T. M. DOYLE (Minister of Tourism): Mr. Speaker, I have a brief statement that I would like to make at this time. Due to the severe winter conditions being experienced along the Southern Labrador Coast this winter, which has resulted in limited supplies of meat reaching certain communities in the area and because of representations made to me by the M.H.A. for Labrador South, I have decided to extend the open season for caribou, in the eastern zone of Labrador only, up to and including March 24. I must emphasize, however, that my wildlife officials have some reservations that the caribou herd, which the people in the area have located, may form part of the Mealy Mountain herd. If this in fact is the case, we may be forced to cut back on next year's quota in the Mealy Mountain Area.

MR. H. W. C. GILLETT: Mr. Speaker, I have what is called a supplementary list to support the petition, presented last year to this honourable House, concerning the road leading from Indian Cove to Herring Neck.

Now this supplementary list is comprised of signatures of clergymen, teachers, principals, companies, such as the Locke and Bursey Bus Service, Steers Limited, because these companies concerned have their own trucks and busses going over this road daily. I am quite positive that the hon. Minister of Transportation and Communications is well aware of the condition of this road even at this very moment. I hope that the petition of last year is on the top of the pile that he has so that it will not be very difficult to find to attach this to it.

I have pleasure in supporting this supplementary list, Mr. Speaker, and would ask that it be laid on the table and referred to the department to which it relates.

HON. T. A. HICKMAN (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the statement I am about to make is being released jointly by the honourable Otto Laing, Minister of Justice, and myself at this time. On February 21, 1973, the

Minister of Justice and the Attorney General of Canada and myself executed two federal/provincial agreements; the first respecting legal aid in matters relating to the criminal law and the second providing for compensation to victims of crimes. This is the sixth legal aid agreement and the third compensation agreement to be concluded between the federal and provincial governments.

Under the legal aid agreement, the federal government will pay to Newfoundland annually up to fifty cents per capita to assist the province in providing legal aid to eligible persons in need of a lawyer's services where they are charged with an offence, or subject to certain proceedings under federal laws.

Based on the population figures of June 1, 1972, this will constitute a maximum payment to Newfoundland of about \$266,000 during the first year of the agreement.

The federal/provincial agreement ensures that legal aid will be made available to any eligible person charged with a serious offence, punishable by way of indictment against an Act of Parliament or subject to proceedings under the Extradition Act or the Fugitive Offenders Act. In the case of lesser offences against the Federal Act or regulations, punishable by summary conviction, and proceedings under the Juvenile Delinquents Act, the agreement requires that legal aid be made available to any eligible person where the agency administering the Provincial Legal Aid Programme believes that the accused person may suffer serious hardship if convicted.

The agreement also provides for legal aid to be made available where appeals are taken to higher courts in the above cases and the provincial agency is required to take reasonable measures to enable an accused to obtain a lawyer without delay as soon as he has been arrested or detained. The financial eligibility of a person to qualify as a recipient of legal aid is to be determined

by the provincial agency applying a flexible needs test which takes into account the ability of the applicant to retain his own lawyer without going into substantial debt or being forced to sell modest necessary assets. The agency may thus authorize the payment on behalf of the applicant of all the costs of the legal services provided or it may pay a portion of the costs requiring the applicant to pay the balance where he is able. The agency may not refuse a person legal aid only because he is not ordinarily resident in the province. In cases of the most serious offences where that possible penalty for the accused is life imprisonment or capital punishment the legal aid applicant must be permitted to choose his own lawyer if he so desires. In all other cases the agreement enables the province to determine the method or methods by which legal aid is to be provided for persons charged under federal laws. "This is a very important provision in the agreement," said Mr. Laing, "for it recognizes the right of the province to choose the system of delivering legal services it deems most appropriate while at the same time recognizing that in the most serious criminal cases the accused should have the opportunity to retain the counsel of his choice."

The agreement provides that the Federal Attorney General may name a member of the provincial agency to keep him informed of current developments in the provincial legal aid programme. Mr. Laing expects to announce the name of his representative on the legal aid committee of the Law Society of Newfoundland within the next few weeks. The agreement on legal aid in criminal law matters is to be reviewed as to its financial provisions at the end of three years and either party may terminate the agreement by giving the other party one years notice in writing.

The agreement on compensation for victims of crimes provides

for the federal government to contribute annually to the Newfoundland Compensation Plan an amount up to five cents per capita. On the basis of the 1972 census figure the sum to be paid will be approximately \$27,000. The agreement provides for compensation awards to be made to both innocent victims of some forty criminal offences set out in a schedule appended and to persons injured whilst assisting in the lawful enforcement of federal laws where the victim or injured person is not able to recover damages for physical injuries from the wrongdoer in the normal course of events. The provincial compensation agency is authorized to award compensation to the victim, to persons responsible for the victims maintenance or in the case of the victims death to his dependents. In determining the amount of the award the Crimes Compensation Board may allow compensation for expenses reasonably incurred, loss of income, maintenance of dependents, pain and suffering and other pecuniary loss or damages. The board will also take into account and may deduct from the amount of the award any compensation of damages received by the injured person or victim from other sources. A person who otherwise qualifies for compensation will not be refused an award on the ground that he was not ordinarily resident in the province at the time of the injury or death.

At the time of signing the compensation agreement with Newfoundland Mr. Laing said, (and I quote) "I think it is essential that the state seek to provide a reasonable amount of compensation to persons injured as a result of criminal activities where the victim has no possibility of recovering the usual damages from the wrongdoer. While the state cannot afford a comprehensive compensation programme that would cover all offences or include loss of property as well as physical injuries I believe this agreement will go a good distance in covering some of the most serious consequences to victims arising from the commission of criminal offences."

May I say at the same time, Mr. Speaker, that the signing of these two agreements I hope constitutes an indication by the federal government of its willingness to assume some responsibility to assist the provinces in administering laws which come under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Parliament of Canada. There is an unconstable disparity in the administration of justice throughout Canada because of the financial inability of some of the provinces to provide adequate facilities and modern techniques in administering the laws of the land. I hope the signing of these two agreements can be interpreted as a recognition by the federal government of its grave responsibility to take immediate steps to financially assist the less favoured provinces in eliminating such intolerable disparities.

I should like at the same time, Mr. Speaker, to thank the hon. Mr. Laing for his splendid co-operation in bringing these two agreements to a successful conclusion and in initiating the federal involvement in the two programmes covered under the agreement. I table for hon. members a copy of the two agreements which have been signed.

MR. ROWE(W.N.): Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a comment or two in respect of the statement made by the minister. First of all, Sir, let me say that this is something which will be debated and looked at at some length when we come to discuss the hon. minister's estimates, the main estimates in the House and then I am sure we will also hear from the hon. member for Placentia East who has a very great interest in this type of reform and this kind of progress. Just let me say here at the moment, Sir, that this is a step forward in the administration of law. It is a step forward as a result of the initiative of the federal government, the federal government under Mr. Turner and now under Mr. Laing's, under their recommendations as Ministers of Justice in Canada have taken this step forward. I believe that this province, if I can get the minister's attention, this province is about number

seven or eight are we not in signing these agreements?

MR. HICKMAN: Number six.

MR. ROWE (W.N.): Number six. So it is the initiative of the federal government which is doing this, the same federal government which is subject to partisan criticism and even, I suppose, slanderous accusations in this House on occasion. I am interested in seeing the disparity which appears to exist between the hon. Minister of Justice and the hon. Minister of Finance with respect to the federal government. The Minister of Justice thanked the hon. Otto Laing for his splendid co-operation in bringing these two agreements to a successful conclusion. This was, as I say, the initiative of the federal government, a government I believe, Sir, that under the -

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Speaker, to a point of order. This is a matter to be debated and the hon. gentleman is now commencing to debate on this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member is entitled to a few remarks concerning the ministerial statement but I think he is straying a little from the rule of relevancy.

MR. ROWE (W.N.): I will sit down almost immediately, Mr. Speaker. The only thing I want to say is that the federal government, I believe, is in a field of some of these onerous burdens which provincial governments now have to deal with. The federal government is taking a very realistic and responsible view of the situation and is trying to contribute more money of their tax dollars as they can towards the administration of some of these things including the administration of justice. I welcome this agreement and I welcome such initiatives by the federal government in the field of law and in other fields, Mr. Speaker.

REPORTS OF STANDING AND SELECT COMMITTEES:

HON. L.D. BARRY (MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY): Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the annual report of the Newfoundland and Labrador Power

Commission for the year ending March 31, 1972. There are copies here for the hon. members.

NOTICES OF MOTION:

HON. G.R. OTTENHEIMER(MINISTER OF EDUCATION): Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce the following bill, "An Act Further To Amend The Memorial University Pensions Act."

HON. C.W. DOODY(MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT): Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow introduce a bill, "An Act To Ratify, Confirm And Adopt On the Part Of The Province An Agreement Made Between The Government Of Canada And The Government Of The Province Of Newfoundland And To Provide For Certain Matters Relating Thereto." That under another name would be the Newfoundland and Labrador Development Corporation.

HON. T.M. DOYLE(MINISTER OF TOURISM): Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on tomorrow I will ask leave to introduce a bill, "An Act Further To Amend The Provincial Parks Act."

QUESTIONS:

HON. J.G. ROUSSEAU(MINISTER OF RECREATION AND REHABILITATION): Mr. Speaker, the oral question posed by the hon. member for St. Barbe North yesterday, I have the reply. I am pleased to inform him that the 4-H meeting scheduled for Gander this weekend is going ahead as planned.

MR. ROWE(F.B.): Mr. Speaker, I thank the minister for his answer.

HON. DR. T.C. FARRELL(MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION): Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the answers to certain questions, question 142 appearing on the order paper of March 14, 1973 asked by the hon. member for Labrador North, answer to question 143 asked by the hon. member for Bonavista North appearing on the order paper of March 14, answer to question 144 asked by the hon. member for Labrador North

Answer to question no. (145), asked by the honourable member for Labrador North, appearing on Order Paper of March 14, 1973.

Answer to question no. (146), asked by the honourable member for Labrador North, appearing on Order Paper of March 14, 1973.

Answer to question no. (151), asked by the honourable member for St. Barbes North, appearing on Order Paper of March 14, 1973.

Answer to question no. (153), asked by the honourable member for Labrador North, appearing on Order Paper of March 14, 1973.

Answer to question no. (155), asked by the honourable member for Labrador North, appearing on Order Paper of March 15, 1973.

Answer to question no. (156), asked by the honourable member for Labrador North, appearing on Order Paper of March 15, 1973.

HON. HAROLD A COLLINS: (MINISTER OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND HOUSING): Mr. Speaker, I have the answers to question no. (38) in the name of the honourable member from St. Barbes North on the Order Paper dated February 26th and question no. (59) in the name of the same honourable member on the Order Paper dated February 27th.

HON. DR. A.T. ROWE: (MINISTER OF HEALTH): I have the answer to question no. (139) on the Order Paper of Wednesday, March 14th, asked by the honourable member for St. Barbes North.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the honourable the Premier who seems to be gun-shy and has not turned up for the question period for a few days, will the honourable acting premier tell the House when or if the government is in a position now to make a statement on the downtown development as was promised by the Premier about a week ago to the Concerned Citizens Committee that presented a petition to the Premier?

HON. T. A. HICKMAN: (MINISTER OF JUSTICE): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any change in the government's policy as announced by the honourable the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing in this House about two weeks ago.

MR. E. ROBERTS: (LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION): Mr. Speaker, the House is aware

the Premier outside the House did make a statement indicating that the government were apparently reconsidering it and we could expect a further statement. Can the Minister of Justice indicate to the House when we may expect this further statement which may or may not change the position of the government?

MR. HICKMAN: I am not in a position to indicate, Mr. Speaker, if and when there will be another -

MR. ROBERTS: Well, a further question. Will the Deputy Premier undertake to speak to the Premier or somebody down there and find out when we may expect some word on this?

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, also last week the Minister of Rehabilitation and Recreation undertook to get me some information on the Trainor Commission on Youth and Recreation in this province. Is the honourable minister in a position now to make a statement on this matter?

HON. J. ROUSSEAU: (MINISTER OF REHABILITATION AND RECREATION): No, I am sorry. I am still looking for the report.

MR. ROBERTS: It is taking a long look.

HON. JOHN G. CROSBIE: (MINISTER OF FINANCE): I agree, Mr. Speaker, that the honourable gentleman - Mr. Speaker, I arise on a point of privilege. It is getting to be a habit but I just have to point it out. I did not do it.

There is a headline in the "Daily News" today on page three which says, "Political patronage is the way things have to be done - - Crosbie." It was never said by me and if you look at the body of the story, the body of the story is more or less correct but the man who makes up the headlines at the "Daily News" is obviously subversive or he is stupid or he is malicious or he is completely mixed up in the night time. I never said political patronage is the way things have to be done. They are done that way occasionally. I would appreciate the "Daily News" having a headline tomorrow saying, "Crosbie said political patronage is not the way things are to be done."

MR. GILLETTE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the honourable Minister of Fisheries concerning the experimental or the alleged so-called experimental fishing venture of the "Boston York", which I believe is the name of the ship. I wonder if the minister can tell

this honourable House how the venture is proving out crewwise? Are they having any problem with the Newfoundland crews fishing in the North of Newfoundland or off the Labrador Coast at this time of year?

HON. ROY CHEESEMAN: Is the honourable member asking about the crew on the boat itself, the Newfoundlanders involved in the crew?

MR. GILLETTE: Yes

MR. CHEESEMAN: Not that I am aware of. They completed one trip and came in and went out again. If so, I am not specifically aware of it.

MR. NEARY: I would like to direct a question, Mr. Speaker, to the minister responsible for pollution. Would the honourable minister inform this House what steps the government have taken to -

HON. W. DOODY:(MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT): No minister is responsible for pollution.

MR. ROBERTS: We are all responsible.

MR. NEARY: I want to ask the minister, Mr. Speaker, what steps the government have taken to co-operate with the city council in finding a suitable dump to replace Robin Hood Bay?

HON. T.V. HICKEY:(MINISTER OF PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND ENVIRONMENT): Clean Air, Water and Soil Authority are working with the Municipal Council in the Town of Mount Pearl and all the other town councils and communities from Pouch Cove to Holyrood in determining what the future should be and what the policy should be with regards to waste disposal areas and as to what method should be used. There should be an announcement shortly. As to a study, when it is ready the announcement will be made.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Will the minister indicate who is doing this study. Is it the Clean Air, Water and Soil Authority or is it an independent study? Is it being made for the government or is it being made for the City of St. John's?

MR. HICKEY: There has been no decision, Mr. Speaker, as to who will do the study. We have asked for proposals. The decision has not been made. The choice has not been made. There are I believe four or five proposals which have already arrived. They are being considered. No decision has been

made and when that is made there will be an announcement accordingly.

MR. WINSOR: Mr. Speaker, might I direct a question to the honourable Minister of Fisheries. I meant to supplement the question asked by my colleague, the member for Twillingate. Is it correct that half the voyage or just about half of the voyage of the "Boston York" was foiled because of machinery breakdown? When the minister answers, if so who is responsible?

MR. CHEESEMAN: No, I am sorry, I cannot answer the question but I will undertake to get the information for the honourable member.

MR. WOODWARD: Mr. Speaker, a great concern exists in the Happy Valley-Goose Bay area with regards to the development of the Lower Churchill. I would like to direct a question to the honourable Minister of Finance. Can he inform the House if there is any likelihood of this project getting started this summer?

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Speaker, it is not possible to say whether the project will be started this summer or not because no final agreement has been entered into between the Churchill Falls and Labrador Corporation and ourselves nor is there any agreement between them and any possible purchaser of the power. If matters are cleared up in the next several months or if work gets started this year, the survey work and this kind of preliminary work, if it did get started this year there would be very little construction work. It would be preparatory work and the real work would commence the following year.

MR. W. ROWE: I would like to ask the Minister of Finance a supplementary question on the same topic. Is the government restricting any negotiations which have taken place to date to the Churchill Falls Corporation or are negotiations going on with other people? Has the decision in other words been taken that if the thing does go ahead that the Churchill Falls Corporation will be the ones who will be developing it?

MR. CROSBIE: The position there, Mr. Speaker, is that Churchill Falls and Labrador Corporation have the rights to the power development on this river, granted to them by the past administration, and I think that those rights continue until 1982 or some year later. So, we could not negotiate with anyone else

MR. CROSBIE: We can talk to other people but negotiations with anyone else will have to keep that fact in mind because if we took those rights away, we would naturally have to compensate them.

So any negotiations we are having at the moment are with Churchill Falls or Brinco alone and not with any other group.

MR. ROBERTS: Supplementary, I hesitate to differ with the minister but I heard him say that Churchill Falls have the right, as I recall the statute, a right, if it is proven financially feasible to do it, but if not then anybody else who will take it on, would the minister confirm that, because I think that is significantly different from merely saying Churchill will have a stranglehold on it. As I understand it, they merely have the right, if it is feasible, if it is feasible and they will not use the right, then the government are at liberty to negotiate with whom they wish.

MR. CROSBIE: The exact position is that Churchill Falls had been given the right to develop the water power of the Churchill River and other rivers in Labrador and they have that right for a certain number of years, I have to check the exact years, if they did not proceed with it and we said it was feasible to do so, they could not retain that right up to that time. The position is, however, they have indicated they want to develop the Lower Churchill, Now they cannot proceed to develop it without receiving a lease from the Government of Newfoundland. What we are discussing with them are the terms of that lease. We have told them that we have no intention of signing any lease based on the same terms and conditions of the Upper Churchill, and we have told them we have certain terms and conditions that we think this should be based on. These are much better terms and conditions.

MR. CROSBIE: We have been examining with them the implications of terms and conditions that we have suggested, whether they are financially possible or not, whether they would get a proper return or not under those terms and conditions. This has taken a lot of examination by our officials. Most of this information has now been exchanged, so the best way I can put it; I would expect we will have some information within the next few weeks or a month or two as to the exact position. I think that puts it the right way.

We have not negotiated with anyone else. That is not to say that it has not been mentioned, there have now been some talks but no one else has been negotiated with.

MR. WM. ROWE: A further supplementary on the topic, I think it is a topical question, Mr. Speaker, has the government given any firm consideration, for the want of a better word, to developing the Lower Churchill itself, to the Newfoundland and Labrador Power Commission.

MR. CROSBIE: It is certainly being considered as a possible alternative, not in any detailed sense but that is one of the alternatives. The difficulty with it is the amount of money we would have to raise ourselves. The organization of the project, you would have to have top notch people to do that. Brinco and Churchill Falls, although they have such a team. There are a lot of difficulties involved. In addition there would be all the money that we would have to borrow for other purposes as well.

So that has been thought about. We are prepared to have Churchill Falls do it, if we can reach satisfactory terms and conditions with them because, number one, they have already shown that they can do a project like this in a magnificent way and they have the know-how. They are putting this on stream well within their cost estimates. They have shown they are efficient. They have been good to deal with. So the government, as I understand the

MR. CROSBIE: position, is quite prepared to have them go ahead as long as we can ensure that we are getting all that we can out of them for the people of Newfoundland.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister of Public Works would inform the House for what purpose the Sir Robert Bond auditorium down on the third floor, the mezzanine floor, is being renovated?

MR. EARLE: Mr. Speaker, the Sir Robert Bond auditorium is being converted into office space. It will be occupied by the departments on that floor in future. It will be discontinued as an auditorium.

MR. NEARY: Supplement question, Mr. Speaker, does that mean now that we are going to save the military museum upstairs and instead renovate the Sir Robert Bond auditorium? Is that the reason behind it?

MR. EARLE: I think my colleague, the Minister of Tourism, already made a statement about the military museum upstairs. That is to remain where it is.

MR. NEARY: The Minister of Mines and Energy, I wonder if the minister would inform the House what steps the government has taken to carry out an independent investigation into the alleged abuse and misuse of helicopters and equipment and vehicles at the Power Commission operation in Bishops Falls and reports that last fall, at one of the camps, the equipment was used to hunt and kill and take out of the woods moose, which was reported to the honourable minister several weeks ago.

MR. SPEAKER: If the honourable minister wishes to answer I shall permit him, but I think it is the type of questions that should be placed on the Order Paper.

MR. BARRY: I will give the honourable member immediate indication, Mr. Speaker. I received, several weeks ago, a letter making certain

MR. BARRY: allegations with respect to the operations of the Power Commission.

I initially requested the Commission's comments itself and a report on the allegations. This report was received by me only last Thursday, I think it was. At first glance the report appears to meet the allegations, However, I have to confess that I have not had an opportunity to study the Commission's comments fully. I will do so. I will then decide as to whether the allegations have been met satisfactorily or whether a further investigation is warranted. That is about all I can say at this time.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Manpower and Industrial Relations what action, if any, the government is taking to assist in the strike that started this morning at Buchans?

MR. DAWE: Mr. Speaker, if either party require any help from my department, they will receive whatever is available and whatever we can do for them in the way of conciliatory efforts.

MR. NEARY: That seems like a satisfactory arrangement, Mr. Speaker,

I would like now to direct a question to - I think the hospital in Buchans is not yet under the Department of Health, I understand that due to the strike, Mr. Speaker, that the employees have agreed to carry on the essential services in the town and in the hospital for one week, what steps have the government taken to carry on the operation of that hospital after that week is up?

DR. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, in answer to the honourable member for Bell Island, the information came to us this morning that the union would keep the heating plant open to the hospital and various school - place a mobile generator in so we can keep heat and light to the hospital. Officials are working on the possibility of providing this mobile unit so that the hospital would not have to close.

On motion that the House go into Committee of Supply to consider certain estimates regarding the granting of interim supply to Her Majesty, Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY:

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before this afternoon's proceedings commence, I would like to make a ruling on a matter which came up in Committee of Supply on Tuesday afternoon.

My officials and I have researched the authority as best we possible could and the best authority on this subject is Erskine May. I now quote from him at page 416, the eighteenth edition of Erskine May, where it says as follows:

"Matters awaiting the adjudication of a court of law should not be brought forward in debate. Following the First Report of the Select Committee on Procedure, 1962-63, the House (which is the House of Commons in England) passed a resolution which set out the rule in detail. This Resolution bars references in debate (as well as in Motions and Questions) to matters awaiting or under the adjudication in all courts exercising a criminal jurisdiction and in courts martial from the moment the law is set in motion by a charge being made to the time when verdict and sentence have been announced, and again when notice of appeal is given until the appeal is decided.

In the case of court martial it applies from the time the charge is made and to the sentence of the court has been confirmed and promulgated and, again when the convicted man petitions the Army Council, the Air Council, or the Board of Admiralty. These are English bodies. The ban further applies to matters awaiting or under adjudication in a civil court from the time that the case has been set down for trial or otherwise brought before the courts, ad for example by notice of motion for an injunction. (1) such matters may be referred to before such date unless it appears to the Chair that there is a real and substantial danger of prejudice to the trial of the case, the ban again applies when notice of appeal is given until judgment is given. The ban also applies in the case of any judicial body to which the House has expressly referred a specific matter for decision and report from time to time when the resolution of the House is passed but ceases to have effect as soon as the report is laid before the House."

There was some debate as to whether this particular matter had been referred by the House or by government. The conclusion was that it had been referred by government, therefore the ban would not apply to it. Having said that, in effect this means, that the matter is not sub judice.

The Chair will however rigidly enforce the rule with regard to relevance and if and when this topic is referred to in the future, as in the view of the Chair this matter is well in hand before one of Her Majesty's supreme court judges, further reference to it must be strictly relevant. Honourable members are asked to deport themselves with a view to the enforcement procedures the Chair has with regard to matters of this type.

I believe we are still dealing with Head VIII - Social Services.

MR. W. N. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, just a brief comment on this. It is not strictly relevant, Sir, to the topic under discussion, it is relevant to the last day we were discussing this particular subhead. We saw then the Premier of the Province rise in his place, deliver a blast to this House, to the Committee, and then, without allowing anyone to reply or to make any further comment thereto, exercised his control over the majority of this House to get the committee to rise. That is something, So we on this side would like to record our complete and utter opposition to and we decry that kind of a tactic whenever we are debating anything in this House, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to make that point for the record and I hope it comes to the attention of the Premier who is very seldom in his seat.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, regarding your ruling, I have no intention of debating this matter, I am quite prepared to wait until the judge, Judge Mufflin in this case, presents his report. I would like to point out to Your Honour that the matter is not before the courts, it is being carried out under the Public Inquiries Act and -

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the honourable member would permit -

MR. NEARY: Yes, I know. I know Your Honour said that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is correct. It is the intention of the Chair to rigidly enforce the rule with regard to relevance in the debate on Head VIII. The honourable member's comments will have to be brief and to the point.

MR. NEARY: Very brief, Your Honour. I have no intention of debating this now or in the future until the report is presented. There is nobody on trial, Mr. Chairman. An investigation is being carried out and certain non-substantiated charges -

MR. CHAIRMAN: The honourable member is again warned in effect that he is being irrelevant to Head VIII - Social Services, and it has been brought to his attention, by a ruling of the Chair, that it has not been taken lightly,

and he is accordingly asked to proceed with relevant matters under Head VIII - Social Services, and not to speak on the ruling which the Chair has already given.

MR. NEARY: Well, Sir, if the matter does not come under - I am not questioning Your Honour's ruling but if the matter does not come under Social Services, Mr. Chairman, I would like to know what it does come under? Does it come under justice? I will deal with it under the Justice heading of this interim supply bill. It has to come under some heading.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are discussing interim supply and the matter of the inquiry is not a matter which is strictly relevant to this bill on interim supply. There is no interim supply requested for this particular item.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, there are lawyers fees included in this interim supply somewhere and when we get to that heading under the Justice Department I will debate it then. But in the meantime, Sir, getting back to Head VIII, I have a few more remarks to make about this subhead. But first of all, Sir, let me just review briefly the impression that I got from the answers that the minister gave me the last day we discussed this item, that no consideration has been given under the interim supply bill which takes the government up until the end of May, no consideration is being given to increase the food allowance, to increase the clothing allowance, to make children below school age or above school age entitled to the clothing allowance. There is no provision to carry on the extra ten dollar a month fuel allowance beyond the end of April. There is no indication, Mr. Chairman, and this is the most important of all, there is no indication that the \$30.00 a month provincial old age assistance is going to be carried on after the end of March, after the end of the present month, when the Government of Canada increases the federal old age pension. I think this is the most important. I think people who are receiving this allowance across this

province. Sir, are entitled to have the answer to this. They want to know whether they are going to get that \$30.00 a month after the end of March. Is there any provision in the interim supply bill to provide the \$30.00 a month old age pension for the months of April and May? If not, Sir, why not? I do not know if Your Honour is aware of it or not but at the present time one old age pensioner receives \$150.00 a month. That is the guaranteed annual supplement and the old age pension comes to a total of \$150.00 a month plus \$30.00 old age pension for the spouse of the old age pensioner who has not reached the the age to qualify for the old age pension, so that the two combined would get a total of \$180.00 a month, a total of \$180.00.

Now, Sir, if the province take away that \$30.00, the provincial allowance then a couple, were one only qualifies for the old age pension, will have an income of \$175.00 or \$5.00 less than they are receiving now. That is why it is important, Mr. Chairman, for these 1,500 or 1,600 old age pensioners across this province to have the answer to this important matter now. Are the Government of Canada going to give an increase of say \$25.00 a month to old age pensioners, and they will be worse off than they are at the present time? They will have a total combined income of \$175.00 instead of \$180.00 as it is now? I think they are entitled to an answer to this question, Sir, and I do not know why the minister is hedging on it. Why he will not provide the answer? The time is running out, Sir. They have to have the answer now because this comes into effect the 1st. of April. Why does not the minister give us the answer? Why does he not put the minds of these people at ease and let them know whether they are going to receive the \$30.00 provincial allowance or whether it is going to be taken away? Ottawa will give on the one hand and the province take it away on the other, saving money at the expense of the old age in this province. Why does not the minister give us the answer to this? People are waiting for it, they want to know.

AN HON. MEMBER: It is not the people, it is just you.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, only I. The honourable minister told us the other day how many, 1,500 or 1,600 families. So I would like to get the minister's comments on this before we let this item pass.

No comment, Mr. Chairman, well I will go on to another matter to see if I can get the minister to comment on this. I was rather disappointed, Mr. Chairman, to hear of the minister's decision not to allow Barbara Walsh and the Citizen's Rights Committee to put a desk, an information desk, in the welfare office on Harvey Road, the City Welfare Office. Now, Sir, the honourable minister, whether or not he is

familiar with what the Citizens' Rights Group wanted to do or not. I am not quite sure, but he told us in this House the other day that he was not going to have outsiders in there listening to confidential information. Mr. Chairman, that is not what Mrs. Walsh and the Citizens' Right Group wanted to do. They wanted to install a desk at the City Welfare Office on Harvey Road or be given an office where they could advise clients, advise recipients who visit the office on Harvey Road of what their rights are.

They did not want to be in the office when the welfare officer was interviewing the clients, they just wanted to be there to provide information to clients, to advise them of their rights and the right of appeal. That was something that I started when I was minister of that department, Mr. Chairman, but I was flung out before I got a chance to finish it. Too often in this province, Mr. Chairman, the welfare recipients are not aware of their rights. I tries to make them aware of their rights as much as I could, Sir, but it is a big problem, it is a big job.

The civil servants tell us that if the welfare recipients in Newfoundland were aware of their rights, they would bankrupt the government, I say; "So be it." That is no reason why they should not be advised of their rights, Mr. Chairman, that is no reason.

MR. EVANS: (Inaudible)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I draw to the attention of honourable members that the honourable member for Bell Island has the right to be heard in silence.

MR. NEARY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was rather disappointed when I heard the minister the other day on the open line programme when he would not even give Mrs. Walsh an opportunity to discuss this matter with him.

Sir, in this day and age, when we have a government so removed from the people, when welfare recipients cannot get through to the minister either by phone or by personal contact, there are numerous complaints pouring into our office every day, Sir, I get them myself, my colleagues get them, we hear them on the radio, where the recipients

cannot get in touch with their elected representatives. I can name them by the dozens. They cannot get in touch with their elected representatives, Sir. I would say that is all the more reason why Mrs. Walsh and her Citizens' Rights Group, should have an information desk over on Harvey Road to advise recipients of their rights.

Why should they not have it? Why the minister, Mr. Chairman, would not even allow the Citizens' Rights Group to put pamphlets in the bookrack over at City Welfare. Why not? Is this Communist propaganda they are putting over there or are they just advising the poor, little, old welfare recipient of his rights? They asked the honourable minister if they could put pamphlets over at the welfare office on Harvey Road and the minister said; "No, No, I am not going to agree to the Citizens' Rights Committee advising the welfare recipients of their rights, neither am I going to allow them to put a desk in there."

You talk about arrogance, Mr. Chairman, why should they not have it? Why should not the welfare recipients be advised of their rights? Is the honourable minister afraid it might cost a few more paltry dollars, that it might use up a part of this \$4 million that the Premier tells us that they saved in welfare? We have not heard the minister give a reason why the Citizens' Rights Group are not allowed to put pamphlets and have a desk over there at City Welfare, other than his own stubbornness, Sir, and arrogance and contempt for the opinion of the people of this province.

Mr. Chairman, I am going to call now on the Minister of Social Services to reconsider this request. It is a reasonable request, Sir, and I would like for the minister to reconsider it and advise this groups that they can have the desk over there at City Welfare and at any other welfare office in Newfoundland. These people worked and earned money at one time and paid taxes in this province. It is not their fault that they have to go for welfare. When they paid their taxes, Sir, they helped pay for the office over there at Harvey Road,

and all the other offices around Newfoundland and helped pay the staff of that department. That department would not be in existence today and the minister would not be getting his big, fat salary if it were not for welfare recipients, Sir.

I would like the minister to reconsider and co-operate with the Citizens' Rights Group and allow them to put their desk over at City Welfare to have somebody their experienced, trained, mature, raising a family of their own, who knows what the regulations of the department are, to help people file their appeals, to help people...

MR. A.J.MURPHY: There are forty-five trained welfare officers there.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, that is no excuse. That is no excuse.

MR. MURPHY: Oh no! We will put one in education, we will put one in labour, we will put one in every department.

MR. NEARY: That is no excuse, Mr. Chairman. That department touches the lives of more people than all the other government departments put together, Sir.

MR. MURPHY: Get the incense. Get the incense.

MR. NEARY: All the others put together. The minister should know better. The welfare officers are doing the best they can, Sir, They cannot come out and advise people what all their rights are. They do the best they can. If they did advise people what their rights are, they would have the minister down on their backs because it would cost more money and this government is not prepared...

MR. MURPHY: Mr. Chairman, if I may, that is an accusation against me.

MR. NEARY: What is the accusation?

MR. MURPHY: That I would force my welfare officers to do things they should not do.

MR. NEARY: Oh! sit down, sit down. If the minister cannot stand the heat, get out of the kitchen.

MR. CHAIRMAN: One of the honourable ministers must sit down.

MR. NEARY: There is no point of order, no point of privilege.

MR. MURPHY: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

MR. NEARY: Is it a point of order, Mr. Chairman?

MR. MURPHY: Lie down "Steve" crawl under the desk where you belong.

MR. NEARY: What is the point of order?

MR. MURPHY: Mr. Chairman, the honourable member intimated that if my welfare officers did something which was proper, I would force them to do something else. That is the basis of the statement that he just made and I would like that retracted. I do not bully my welfare officers, I will guarantee you that. They went through that once.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, the welfare officers - no I will not say it. I could tell the honourable minister what the welfare officers think of him but I will not say it, Sir. And his predecessor, I would like to tell what they think of him too.

AN HON. MEMBER: We already know, they love him.

MR. NEARY: But, Sir, I am not going to the mat with the former minister and the present minister. I am going to stick to the facts and debate the issue, Sir. There is nothing personal in this. I do not know why members on the other side of the House are so jumpy. They always take debating in this House as a personal thing. I had a member challenge me outside the House one day, challenge me, because we come into this House to debate the issues, they think it is personal. What is the House for, Mr. Chairman? What is the House for? It is a debating forum and that is what we are here for. Members on the opposite side will be well advised, while collecting their \$10,000 a year, to get up, make a few points, make a few speeches and try to do something for their districts.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. NEARY: Never mind sitting over there like a bunch of crackies. Get up and do something, say something. Here is an opportunity.

MR. YOUNG: Point of order, Sir. Is the honourable member permitted to refer to members of this House as crackies?

MR. NEARY: Now, Mr. Chairman, we have heard from the...

MR. CHAIRMAN: To that point of order. It is certainly an unparliamentary way in which to refer to honourable members of this House and it would be

appreciated if the honourable member for Bell Island would refrain from such nomenclature in the future.

MR. NEARY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The honourable "Mr. Digby" from Harbour Grace would not know a point of order if it stared him right in the face. What I am asking here, Mr. Chairman, I am asking the minister to reconsider this very reasonable request. I hope before we pass this item that the minister will get up in this House and say: "YES, we are going to help the poor people of this province by granting this reasonable request and allowaing the Citizens' Rights Group and Barbara Walsh to put a desk over at City Welfare, put their pamphlets and booklets and whatever else they want to put over there, to help the poor old welfare recipient know what his rights are and process any appeals or grievances that they might have.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall Heading VIII, Social Services carry?

MR. NEARY: Now, Mr. Chairman, there is arrogance for you. Is the minister going to answer this?

MR. MURPHY: Oh! sit down like a good boy, will you! Sit down!

MR. NEARY: Sir, I could carry on for another three or four hours on this particular heading alone. There is contempt and arrogance the like of which I have never seen in this House before

Mr. Neary.

It is a reasonable request. Why does not the minister -

MR. MURPHY: Beautiful! They could not pick a better man to advocate any cause, to get something done.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, if the honourable minister wants to get up and make a speech, I will certainly yield the floor to him. Come on! Will the honourable minister get up and make a speech?

MR. MURPHY: Carried.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, what can you do? What can you do?

MR. MURPHY: Sit down and shut up.

MR. NEARY: This is the great government that is going to bring - they are going to bring government to the people. They are going to bring government to the people? You cannot even get in to see them. Their doors are locked - closed door policy. You cannot get through on the phone. "You cannot reach the minister," he was told the other morning on the Open Line Programme, on a number of occasions. He had several strips of hide taken off him by recipients who were trying to get through to him.

MR. MURPHY: Very careless -

MR. NEARY: He would not talk to them on the phone. He would not allow them in his office - locked out.

MR. MURPHY: I cannot call the honourable gentleman what he is.

I will just say that -

MR. NEARY: We hear now, Mr. Chairman, that he will not allow this group, that are doing such yeoman work in St. John's and on the Avalon Peninsula, to help the poor people of this province -

MR. MURPHY: Is that not terrible?

MR. NEARY: Here is the minister now, "the champion of the poor." He was going to reduce the price of beer, he told us before the last two elections - the poor man's champagne. Now, Sir, he will not even

allow them to put a desk over at Harvey Road where they can get in there -

MR. MURPHY: They are coming to take me away, Haw! Haw!

MR. NEARY: That is very funny, Mr. Chairman. The minister is awfully witty, Sir.

MR. MURPHY: He will eventually crack under the great strain.

MR. NEARY: The members on the other side are cracking under the strain. They are awfully jumpy these days. They are in a foul mood. We saw the Minister of Finance display his ignorance in this House yesterday and the former Minister of Social Services. We saw the Premier, with his attack on the "Evening Telegram."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would the honourable member deal with Head VIII, Social Services. He is now digressing into matters which are certainly irrelevant.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, I have tried now as best I know how to get two answers out of the Minister of Social Services. The minister is just too arrogant, Sir, to answer the questions. I want to repeat the questions because we will hear about these questions in the next few weeks. (1) Is there any provision in this Interim Supply Bill to carry on the Provincial Old Age Pension allowance of thirty dollars a month after the end of the present month? There is a thirty dollar provincial allowance, Mr. Chairman.

MR. MURPHY: Tell us about the thirty dollars.

MR. NEARY: The honourable minister did not hear it because he does not know what is going on down there anyway.

MR. MURPHY: There is a forty -

MR. NEARY: He has proven that in this House and on radio.

MR. EVANS: (Inaudible).

MR. NEARY: The honourable minister does not know what he is talking about.

Mr. Neary.

The second request for information was for the minister to state the government's reason for not allowing this information desk and the pamphlets to go into the City Welfare Office over at Harvey Road? Is the minister going to sit there tongue-tied? Is he going to give the committee the information?

MR. MURPHY: Carried!

On motion Head VIII, Social Services, carried.

HEAD VI - EDUCATION AND YOUTH - \$27,800,000.

HON. G. R. OTTENHEIMER (Minister of Education and Youth): Mr. Chairman, this is obviously an amount for the work under the aegis of the Department of Education, for two months. I would point out that multiplying it by six would not be an accurate way of coming to a total amount which will obviously be available when the estimates of the department are before the House. I do want to point that out. Basically, I can break down the major categories in approximate figures: teachers' salaries, \$10 million to \$5 million; public service salaries, (the people within the Department of Education, in the civil service structure and vocational school salaries) \$1.3 million; provision and distribution of school supplies, \$650,000; (a lot of this obviously could well come due in May, ordering of supplies, even in April perhaps, for the next year) operational grants to the schools, \$1.8 million; transportation for school children, \$1.3 million; College of Trades and Technology, (this is a grant to them, salaries there and general expenditure there) \$700,000; training in manpower programmes, (most of this will be for students who get provincial allowances or get allowances) \$250,000; grants-in-aid to Memorial University, \$3.5 million; College of Fisheries, (they work like the College of Trades and Technology and the university through grants-in-aid) \$500,000; capital expenditure for erection and equipment of schools, \$2.5 million; within the vocational school system for equipment and construction, again within a capital area, \$750,000.

There is another capital amount of approximately \$500,000, most of which would be for the three new vocational schools, Happy Valley, Baie Verte and St. Anthony, any construction completion but mostly would be for equipment so that they will be able to start with the necessary equipment to give the courses they are supposed to be giving next September.

That essentially is the breakdown for the Interim Supply. I think it is fair to say that there is probably a certain amount of insurance built in because there are certain things that if they cannot be done in April or May that perhaps could retard the whole programme. I think there is a certain amount of insurance there, especially thinking in terms of school supplies and the necessary payments one makes to the D.E.C.'s., so that even if supply were delayed for a period of time, no one expects, at least there would be authorization to continue with these social educational programmes.

MR. F. B. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, I was wondering if the minister could indicate, when he closes this, the amount of money that is going to the George McLean firm for various items in the department? No doubt some of my colleagues will want to ask the same type of question and probably elaborate on it. When he does close, Sir, I would like for him to state specifically what work is being done by any of the McLean Organizations for the Department of Education and Youth, since this has become a somewhat controversial thing, particularly in light of the statements made by the former Minister of Education?

I would also like for the minister to indicate whether or not the \$1.8 million for the two months represents an increase or not over the similar expenditures for the two months last year, because this present year the province is experiencing a severe winter. The cost of fuel oil has gone up and the amount of oil being burned by the various schools has increased over the past winter. Last year in fact there were a great number of complaints made by officials of the school board, concerning the amount of fuel that was burned during last winter and

the same thing has happened this winter. I think, for that reason alone, there would probably have to be an increase in the operational grants to the school boards. As well, Sir, I might point out that there are a fair number of schools, particularly on the Great Northern Peninsula, and probably some of my other colleagues can point out examples in their particular districts as well as some other honourable members on the other side, who have had their water and sewer lines frozen up during the winter. They have had to dig up the earth and to try and find them.

and some of these lines have been damaged and in a number of cases I understand some schools that have hot water heating systems have had the electricity go out in their communities for a period of time and there has been some damage done to the heating systems in the schools. So, Sir, because of the severe winter conditions alone I would suggest that the operational grants should be increased when we compare it with the amount of these grants last year.

Sir, the same thing holds true for transportation of school children to the schools. We have had an increase in the number of students that have to be transported to school this year over last year. If we look back at the grants to the school board for the purpose of school bus transportation, there has not been any significant increase whatsoever of that grant, when we compare last year's grant with this year. Sir, we have had an increase in the number of students that had to be transported. New central schools have been built.

What I am considerably concerned about, Sir, is that we are going to have a situation where the safety and the efficiency and the adequacy of the operation of school buses is going to be decreased because after all the school bus contractors are operating these school buses for the purpose of making a profit. It is a business enterprise and you can hardly expect these school bus contractors to operate at a loss. I am afraid that the safety factor is going to go down and we are going to be faced with a serious accident or situation in the operation of our school buses during this present year.

So, Sir, I would like for the minister to indicate whether or not the grant for the purposes of school bus transportation represents an increase for these two months over the corresponding two months last year.

As well, Sir, the capital grants to school boards: The minister suggested that the capital grant would be \$2.5 millions, I believe, for the coming two months. Again, Sir, we have a situation here - and I can

give one example to point out the situation that we have with our school boards. I think that we have to have a very, very serious look at the whole business of financing education at the secondary and elementary level in our province. I have some information or had some information that indicates - I will not name the particular school board but I will give you an example - last year the capital grant was \$356,000. Sir, that same school board has a \$1.6 million debt and the approximate cost of servicing that debt is \$108,000. In other words, Sir, what we are seeing here is a situation where approximately one-third of the capital grant to a school board does not go for actual capital expenditure but instead goes to servicing the debt of that particular school board.

Sir, I have not yet got the information for some thirty-four or thirty-five other school boards but I am told, Sir, that the situation is similar if not worse. Approximately one third of the capital grant going to school boards goes not for capital expenditure, the building of schools, the addition of classrooms, gymnasias and things like this, but instead to servicing debt.

Sir, I do not know whether a continuation of the school tax authority is the actual answer. Since this is Interim Supply, Mr. Chairman, I am not going to get into any great detail on this because probably the better place for it would be in the actual Educational and Youth estimates when that is brought down. I am beginning to wonder if the continuation of the great number of school tax authorities is the answer here in this province of ours. I am beginning to think that we have to look at least at a provincial school tax authority or have the government take over the full responsibility for financing education in this province, full responsibility altogether.

I think that asking school tax authorities or school boards to take over any percentage whatsoever of the cost of education with respect to collection of revenue is simply passing the buck. I know that the past administration started this business of school tax authorities and I do not mind admitting it. The simple fact of the matter is that we have

to reconsider this whole concept of having these school tax authorities and having assessments and all this sort of thing, duplications of cost of administration and collection and disbursement of monies and not only that, Sir, but more seriously we have a situation where one school tax authority or one school board region simply has a better capacity to collect money than other regions. The result of this is inequities as far as educational opportunities in this province are concerned.

Sir, I would just like to get back to the original question however. Is this capital grant for the two months coming, does this represent an increase over the corresponding capital grant for the same period last year.

Sir, I have to point out, particularly in view of the recent statements made by the Minister of Finance, respecting where this twenty four point something or another million dollars is going, that has come from Ottawa as a result of a change in the formula for the equalization grants, Sir, I would like just briefly if I may quote from a paragraph from the Federal Budget Speech delivered by John Turner.

"The government therefore proposes that beginning the next fiscal year the general equalization systems should be substantially broadened to include new grants on account of municipal taxes imposed for local school purposes. At our recent Finance Minister's conference a widespread consensus in support of this proposal was evident among the have and so called have not provinces alike. This is a major advance. It adds a new dimension to a revenue equalization system already far superior to that of any other federal country. One of the main advantages of this will enable the lower income provinces to come to the relief of hard pressed property owners and tenants who have had to carry an increasing burden of local school taxes." I will skip a few more lines. That is about the main point of it.

Sir, there is every indication in the comments made by the Minister of Finance for the Federal Administration of Canada that the money, this \$24,000,000 that is coming to this province is supposed to be used in the

area of education. We do not have municipalities in Newfoundland collecting school taxes. We have instead a few school tax authorities and we have some school boards assessing the parents in various regions.

Sir, the choice is this; we either have to set up school tax authorities, a multiplicity of them that I just cannot see working in this province. We have to have more assessments being levied by the school boards or we have to make the various local governments responsible for setting up school taxes. Sir, whichever way we do it, whether it is a provincial school tax authority or whether the provincial government is wholly and solely responsible for funding or financing education in the province, that does not matter in terms of what this \$24,000,000 is supposed to be used for.

There is every indication in the Federal Finance Minister's statement in the Budget Speech that this money is supposed to go to the area of education. Sir, I would suggest that the operating grants and the capital grants can be increased dramatically to meet the needs of our students in this province, if we make use of the \$24,000,000.

Another suggestion that I might make, Sir, and I am going to elaborate on this in greater detail at a more appropriate, namely when the estimates for the Department of Youth are handed down, in a month or so time. Another suggestion that I might make and I am making this very generally now because I do not have all the figures for the other thirty or so school boards but it seems to me, Sir, that a tremendous amount of money can be saved in this province if we take all of or a portion of that \$24,000,000 and liquidate completely, if the \$24,000,000 can do it. I honestly do not know, Mr. Chairman, probably

the honourable Minister of Education does have the figures as far as the debts of the school boards are concerned. But I would suggest that if this \$24 million is to become available and it is strongly suggested that it is supposed to go to the area of education, that this \$24 million be used to liquidate, wipe out altogether the present debts of the various school boards in this province so that they do not have to use up one-third of their capital grant for the purpose of servicing that debt. Then they can go ahead and use these capital grants from the provincial government for the original purpose of the grant, and that is to make additions to schools or to build new schools. Sir, we could get into long term financing again that will come at a later date.

But, Sir, I would like the minister if he could indicate here whether or not there has been an increase over the corresponding two months last year for capital grants and whether he is making any strong efforts to latch onto that \$24 million for purposes of education. From what I read in the Budget Speech, I am firmly convinced that that is the purpose for which it was intended to be used, namely in the field of education whether you have municipalities, school tax authorities or school boards threatening money from the people for the purpose of education.

Sir, I would like for the minister also to indicate how much of that \$27.8 million in interim supply is going towards the start of construction of the regional college in Corner Brook, and how much, Sir, is going to the start or renovation of a building for a community college in Stephenville. Sir, more important than that, I think it is time that the Minister of Education or his administration, I am in fully sympathy with the Minister of Education, because I have a feeling he is caught in between somewhere along the line, Sir, the honourable the Premier took a trip to the West Coast several weeks ago, and I have stated this publicly

and I will state it here again in the House today, that he did nothing except cave in to political pressure and announced, without articulating any kind of policy or velocity beforehand, the start of construction of a regional college in Corner Brook and a community college in Stephenville.

Now, Sir, I am not quite so sure whether regional colleges that are only and wholly and solely an extension of the university is what this province needs. Let me point out I am not against a college in Corner Brook, in case some people try to interpret it that way. But I think this administration has to give some very serious consideration to throwing up regional colleges which are only an extension of the university throughout this province. Sir, why is this?

The reason, Sir, is this -- (1) we do not have a large population. We have a very disperse population. (2) There are a great number of young people in this province today seriously considering the value of an education through the university. They are seriously considering the value of an education. Too many of our people have gotten their degrees, they have gone out and looked for work, where they changed their minds after, and all throughout North America there is a tendency towards a decrease in the university population.

Now we have a slightly different case in Newfoundland. We have a case where we have had to do a lot of catching up and consequently we are behind to the extent that we have the lowest per capita attendance at our university as compared with other provinces, so that there is a certain amount of catching up to be done. But, Sir, I think we are kind of fortunate in that we were a little behind at times in respect of attendance at university in our province, because other provinces are finding a dramatic decrease in university population. The last thing we need to do is to start throwing up all kinds of extensions, branches and arms

and tenacles of a university in this province, when we may find two or three years that there are very few students who want to attend these particular extensions or regional colleges.

Sir, what this province needs, as far as I am concerned, is pure community colleges, set up on the West Coast, in Labrador, on the South Coast, in Central Newfoundland and probably some other strategic locations, community colleges, Sir, that have a university component as well as a broader component of education, a very flexible component that can meet the needs of the surrounding communities.

Sir, I am really extremely concerned, as are many people in this province, over the fact that this administration has not articulated a philosophy nor a policy with respect to the types of institutions that they are planning to build as far as post-secondary education is concerned in this province and secondly, they have not suggested a flight plan, if you will, for other areas of the province but instead for just one region of the province.

There is one other point I was going to mention, Sir, the community college that has been defined so far by both the President of the university and the honourable Premier, in a radio broadcast that I heard him on one day, defined a community college. If he did not mention the word community college, I could have sworn he was talking about a vocational school. Now, Sir, if a community college is so similar to a vocational school, what is a community college, as defined by the Premier, what is it doing going up in Stephenville, going next to a vocational school in Stephenville Crossing? I believe, the honourable Chairman will probably inform us - it is Stephenville Crossing, I believe. There is an adult education centre in the same area, I understand.

Sir, all indications suggest that there is no philosophy involved here, no policy but simply a submission to, a caving in

under a little bit, well not a little bit but a fairly strong amount of political pressure. Sir, this was the administration who was going to make wise decisions, Never, never were we going to hear about political decisions being made by this administration.

AN HON. MEMBER: Priorities and planning.

MR. F. ROWE: Priorities and planning, that is right. I have not heard yet of any suggestions coming from the task force on Education respecting this community college business or this regional college business. It has been battered around, Sir, for a number of years, needless to say, so everybody should have some indication of what the needs are respecting post secondary education.

Now, Sir, talking about post secondary education, I think it is important for us to point out, Sir, that one of the reasons we have to take a very serious look at expenditures in post secondary education and use the most feasible and economic and efficient formulas possible is that not enough is being done in the area of elementary and secondary education, school education. We got to watch having "ETV", off campus, on campus, summer courses, off campus summer courses, extension service of the university, I think I mentioned "ETV," our regional adult education centres, vocational schools next to community colleges.

We cannot have this multiplicity of post secondary educational institutions that cost a heck of a lot of money in this province when we need more money to be spent at the secondary and elementary level.

So, Sir, I would really appreciate hearing the minister indicating some semblance of policy, particularly in the light of the wild statements made on the West Coast respecting the two institutions which, by the way, I might point out is completely different from what was indicated in the Throne Speech. The Throne Speech indicated that we were going to see regional colleges

that have a university component as well as a broader spectrum of education.

I would not disagree with that, generally speaking, I would like to see the details first, but that is a general concept that is not disagreeable. But then when we hear about two separate institutions that have been described, this is most unacceptable in terms of cost and what we are going to get out of it.

So, Sir, I think all honourable members of the House would appreciate some clarification of what is going on with respect to post secondary education and also how much of this money is in fact going to the regional college in Corner Brook, next month.

I would like to ask one other question, Mr. Chairman. Last year, about one week prior to the by-election in Labrador South, there was a very little, tiny

march on the Confederation Building by a group of concerned mothers who were worried about the cancellation of the mothers' allowance.

Now, Sir, I have spoken loudly and clearly on the mothers' allowance and I pointed out last year that all aspects of the mothers' allowance were not good. There were people receiving the mothers' allowance who did not need to receive it, even though you had to sign a sheet of paper or something to get it. But generally speaking, this mothers' allowance was of considerable assistance, for instance, to many, many, many mothers in the district that I represent, very poor communities, Sir, and they are not just limited to St. Barbe North, they were of considerable importance.

The honourable Minister of Social Services then came out in a statement with the honourable the Premier, following that meeting with the mothers, and the Premier said that the mothers' allowance will not be reinstated and "I take full responsibility for it." A great statement, Sir, only to be followed by the honourable Minister of, whatever the department was called then, Social Services or its equivalent, and the honourable Minister of Social Services indicated that he is working on a great new formula that would benefit the needy mothers of this province to a much greater extent than the mothers' allowance did. Now, Sir, we have not heard a word since.

So, Sir, we are now asking the honourable Minister of Education and Youth to indicate to this honourable House whether his department is planning anything to substitute, for the needy mothers of this province, for the original parent subsidy. Not all mothers in this province, Sir, I do not believe all mothers in this province should get it. But for the needy mothers of this province, for instance, three fishermen families up in Castors River North, in December the three husbands were lost in a fishing accident off the coast, one family has ten kids, the other family has ten kids and the other family has nine kids, seventy-five per cent

of them going to school. Sir, you cannot tell me, and these are poor families, that the mothers' allowance would not help these three families, and these are not the only three families in this province who need such assistance. Sir, that is the parent subsidy or I should probably have brought the point up when we were dealing with the social services on interim supply

Sir, I think that is about all I have to ask the minister at the present time, school bus transportation, did I mention? Can I be reminded whether or not I mentioned school bus transportation.

AN HON. MEMBER: Go ahead.

MR. ROWE, F.B.: I did not mention that.

Well, Sir, I understand from speaking with a number of school board officials - yes I did, I mentioned that. Yes, Mr. Chairman, that is all for the time being. Thank you.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, before the minister replies to my honourable colleague perhaps I will save him the trouble of jumping up and down, and he may want to get up once and give the answers. On the matter of school bus transportation, Sir there seems to be a great difficulty on the part of parents in communicating their grievances to the authorities, that they have about school buses.

I have an example here, Sir, I tabled this letter about one week ago, for instance, over in the District of Port de Grave, in Juniper Stump, the parents over there have had great difficulty with the school bus operation in that area. They have tried, Sir, unsuccessfully, to get their grievances resolved. I am not going to read the whole letter, I tabled it, Mr. Chairman, and anybody who wants to read it can read it, but I just want to read a couple of paragraphs from this letter just to show you the difficulty that the parents in Juniper Stump are having. They are referring here to the children. "They were often left, while running the three or four hundred feet to the bus after it stopped, sometimes the bus door was closed in their faces. Parents who called the bus owner had to be prepared to take abuse and severe criticism for daring to call and ask for an explanation. Another

high school pupil would have missed the scholarship examination several years ago if his parent had not picked him up on the way to work and taken him the eight miles to the Ascension Collegiate in Bay Roberts, because he was left when only a few feet away from the bus. It is realized that the bus has a schedule which must be adhered to but such incidents are inexcusable. In the meantime," the letter goes on, "buses of the larger type seem to have no difficulty at all in getting into and through this area anytime of the year for passengers, for a political rally or for personal reasons." They are referring to the conditions of the road there, Mr. Chairman. I am not going to read the whole letter.

But what I want the minister to tell the committee is -

MR. MURPHY: Is this letter going to be tabled, Mr. Chairman?

MR. NEARY: The letter was tabled already. When I make a statement in this House, Mr. Chairman, I can back it up, I am not like the honourable minister. So I would like for the minister to tell us what recourse, Mr. Chairman, do parents have to process their grievances? I know that the school bus contracts are the responsibility of the school boards, but the Department of Education give the school boards the money to operate the school buses and surely they must have some say in the operation of this service, within the regulations. I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, that if there are no regulations or no procedure to give the parents a process under which they can put in a grievance, it is about time we did something about it. This is only one area, I know of numerous other parts of Newfoundland, Sir, where parents are having difficulty with the school bus service.

Well here is one example here, the letter has been tabled and I would like to know from the minister what is going to be done about it. While the minister is on his feet, would he also inform the committee if Mr. Thomas Freeman is still a part-time executive assistant to the Minister of Education. In the "Evening Telegram" November, 21, 1972, when an announcement was made that Mr. Thomas Freeman was appointed Chairman of the Pippy Park Commission, it was stated by the then minister that he was also a part-time executive assistant to Education Minister John Carter. The position is without salary. I understand

that Mr. Freeman was a dollar-a-year man."

Well, Sir, Mr. Freeman was, as the honourable House knows, or is the head of quite a large business firm here in Newfoundland that does business with the government. If Mr. Freeman is still a part-time executive assistant to the Minister of Education, would that not, Mr. Chairman, give him the inside track, would there not be a possible conflict of interest here? Would not Mr. Freeman have the inside track on bidding on government contracts? And would not there be a little bit of favouritism?

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Oh, the honourable Minister of Finance is back in his seat. Back in his seat! Cannot take it! What about DOMAC, Mr. Chairman, they got the rip-off, the Linerboard Mill. We will deal with that when we come to it - all about DOMAC.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: All right, Mr. Chairman, but I would like for the honourable minister to tell us whether Mr. Freeman is still a part-time executive assistant to the Minister of Education or not. If he is, what precautions, what safety measures are being taken to see that there is no conflict of interest, that Mr. Freeman does not get the inside track on bidding on hospital equipment and supplies for the Health Science Complex here at the university and the hospital in Carbonear?

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: I will say it in the House. What did the great Leader of the Tory Party of Canada say about house immunity today? Ah, well, I am getting the transcript and I will shove that down the throat of the honourable Minister of Finance next week.

So these are the only questions that I have to ask the honourable minister, Mr. Chairman.

MR. G. M. WILSON: Seeing the honourable member for Bell Island had to read that letter, that is nothing new, Mr. Chairman, to the honourable member for Port de Grave. It is nothing new for it to come from one person. This letter was circulated, there were suppose to be 179 names on demand. When

I had got the letter, I am the only one that has a letter in my possession that is signed by the party concerned, all the rest were sent it, and it was not signed.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WILSON: The signatures might not be put on that one, They sent us back the old letter which came out in the election racket. They were never signed. I was the only that came here and got the handwriting and got the letter signed. Well let me tell the honourable member for Bell Island that the honourable member for Port de Grave is the owner of the company that has the buses.

MR. NEARY: I did not say that, Mr. Chairman.

MR. WILSON: I am saying it. I am telling you. I am the owner. Sometimes the driver, when other drivers cannot maintain order, the honourable member is satisfied to

take it over and maintain the order. Apparently, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Bell Island continually on the floor of this hon. House wants to bring some hon. member into it. He must get delight out of bringing them in. Well, I am going to tell the hon. member for Bell Island, they told me already to watch my blood pressure. At this particular time I am not going to worry too much about my blood pressure or his either, but when I took a bus contract in 1964 I had signed a contract and every year I have signed a contract since. I ran the bus service to suit the schools that I have taken the pupils to and the officials, not for the hon. member for Bell Island. I have no worry about the bus service coming on the floor of this hon. House or even the man who is running the bus service, Mr. Speaker, because at times when my busses even cannot reach the homes in bad weather my car takes them there. If someone in the community of Port de Grave District have an alibi against the hon. member for Port de Grave, well surely it is not hurting the hon. member very much because at the particular time when I came in here from Port de Grave I happened to be 168 pounds and today I am 206 which goes to show -

I understand the hon. member for Bell Island. He wants to get something off his chest to raise up a flair and what not, probably to agitate the hon. member for Port de Grave. I saw times in different places that if the hon. member agitated me so much as he agitated me here, that probably he would find something a little different. He would probably be topsy-turvey.

AN HON. MEMBER: And need a dentist.

MR. WILSON: But when you enter public life, Mr. Speaker, you have to take all of this abuse and trying to show the people on the outside that the hon. member for Port de Grave is so and so.

MR. NEARY: (Inaudible).

MR. EVANS: Go home and be quiet, ding-a-ling.

MR. WILSON: A letter originated from some of the political abuse that

the Liberal party before -

MR. NEARY: No, not true, Mr. Chairman.

MR. WILSON: And it is a possibility from the hon. member who was defeated in Port de Grave District and probably from the hon. leader who was in the community at the same time when the letter was probably drafted.

MR. NEARY: No, do not be ridiculous.

MR. WILSON: I am not ridiculous and when the gentleman who wrote the letter was confronted with it to sign the letter, he knew nothing at all about it. He was going to get the names in a few days and I went around and went to the houses with him and he could not get one person to sign that petition against the hon. member for Port de Grave. Now then if the hon. member for Bell Island wants to know the reason why that the bus never went down there, the hon. member for Port de Grave knows when it is feasible and safe to get a bus into a position. I had a seventy-two pupil bus, no road to get there and twenty-three years with a government that never put any road to a place to get a school bus down.

Now this is what happened: Last fall in November there was \$20,000 spent there and you are still not able to get into Juniper Stump but I can tell the hon. member that he will not be able to talk about a road next year to go into Juniper Stump because the hon. member for Port de Grave is going to have that road done.

AN HON. MEMBER: Good. He is going to do it himself.

MR. WILSON: And neither did the hon. member for Port de Grave take a school bus service to go and stop to the door and wait for the parents to comb their children's hair for them to get aboard the bus to go. That is another thing the hon. member does not do. One hundred and forty pupils have to go to school and if you wait for some of these people to comb the hair of these children to get them to their schools, someone is going to have to miss. You just heard about colleges and community colleges and what

not, I am afraid that we will not want anything at all if that is what is going to happen because some of the buses will be getting to school when the other crowd are coming back. So if the hon. member wants to get at the hon. member for Port de Grave, I tell the hon. member for Bell Island he can just watch his blood pressure too because I have no argument but just the facts. The people who sent the hon. member for Port de Grave in this House of Assembly, they know it and if the hon. member does not do his job, when the four years are up they know what to do with him. But I am going to tell the hon. member after the four years are up and the hon. member for Port de Grave wants to come back in this House, he will not want any help from the hon. member for Bell Island to come back here. He will be back with colours.

MR. ROWE (W.N.): Mr. Chairman, I just heard something from the hon. member for Port de Grave that I did not think I would live long enough to hear, the shocking accusation that perhaps the member for Bell Island was trying to agitate him. Mr. Chairman, I would have gotten up on a point of privilege at the time but I was too shocked, Sir, to hear that kind of an accusation come from an hon. member from the other side of the House, the hon. member for Bell Island trying to agitate another member of this House, Mr. Chairman. Unheard of! The hon. member should rise in his place now and retract that statement, Mr. Chairman, and the hon. member for Bell Island was never known to deviate from issues and current problems facing the people of the Province of Newfoundland. It is only because the member for Port de Grave is relatively new in the House, he has only been here for a couple of years, that we tolerate that kind of a gross accusation against one of my colleagues on this side. Next session, Sir, we will not tolerate it. We will not tolerate an accusation that -

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member should direct himself to the Chair.

MR. ROWE (W.N.): Yes but I am a little bit overwrought by that type of

accusation, Mr. Chairman, and when you have high feeling and emotions in a situation like that, you tend to get a little sidetracked from the point at issue. But I would like to defend my hon. colleague, the member for Bell Island, because he is so reticent and silent himself on these issues and so incapable of rising in his place and defending himself.

However, Sir, be that as it may, there is one question only that I would like to direct to the Minister of Education and that concerns what we are getting quite used to in this House, the hon. Premier rising in his place and lashing out some spontaneous, ill-considered, ill-thought out statement in response to either pressure in the House or outside the House, I do not know what, but he gets up and he comes out with a statement which he regrets and lives to regret thereafter. I am referring to a statement which he made during the last session of the House, a commitment he made to set up a committee to investigate the denominational education system in this province. No sooner had the hon. Premier made this statement, in a flash, without any prior warning or without any forethought of any kind given to it, no sooner had he made the statement, then we heard nothing else from him on the subject thereafter. We have asked the hon. Minister of Education on one or two occasions, on Orders of the Day, to give us some kind of an idea as to how this committee, if it is set up, is progressing or what stage has been reached in any negotiations. But the minister has said that we will have lots of opportunity to talk about it on supply. Now this is the first opportunity we have had. Ordinarily I would not raise it, Sir, until the main estimates come before the House, but I think it is a question of great concern to everyone. What is this government's position on that question which was referred to by the hon. Premier, the last sitting of this House? What progress is being made by the committee? I understand that the Premier did make some oblique reference thereafter to the fact that this committee was going to enquire into all aspects of education,

not only the denominational system. Thereafter, I think the then Minister of Education, the member for St. John's North, who was unceremoniously and ignominiously tossed out of the cabinet several months ago, prior to being thrown out mentioned that perhaps this type of thing had been taken over by the task force on education, part of the restructuring scheme of this government.

What I would like to know, Sir, no matter what committee or what task force or whatever group of people are in charge of these negotiations or these studies, what progress has been made to date, either by conference with the D.E.C.'s and the relevant churches or are the government acting on their own in a vacuum, so to speak? What is the present policy? What is the present position of this government and what progress have they made, Sir, in either negotiating or coming to some conclusions with regard to the denominational educational system?

MR. OTTENHEIMER: Mr. Chairman, I will endeavour to deal with all the matters brought up, in I hope sufficient detail. First with respect to Mr. Tom Freeman - Mr. Freeman was an executive assistant of the hon. member for St. John's North, when he was Minister of Education. Every minister has a right to an executive assistant. The usual, traditional and obvious thing which happens is that if a person is no longer a minister, obviously he no longer has an executive assistant and that person resigns. As a matter of fact a day or two days after my appointment as Minister of Education, Mr. Freeman called me. I suggested that he drop into the office. We chatted. He was perfectly aware of the tradition and custom and the convention and he gave me his letter of resignation. That point I wish to make clear and unequivocal. Mr. Freeman has not acted as executive assistant to any minister since the resignation from the cabinet of the hon. member for St. John's North.

It has been pointed out as well but I wish to state it again that during the number of months when Mr. Freeman did act in that capacity, he did so without remuneration.

With reference to the comments of the hon. member for White Bay South, the Department of Education neither alone nor with anybody else is investigating denominational education nor indeed investigating anything, in the usual meaning of the word investigate. It does not basically have investigative functions unless perhaps in school attendance areas, where there might be. There is no investigation into denominational education going on. In the usual term in which that word investigation is used, there are no investigations.

The Department of Education is in close touch, dialogue, exchange of ideas, frequently debate, difference of opinion as well, with I suppose every group concerned with education and that obviously includes denominational representatives. In fact there is a denominational policy commission made up of D.E.C.'s, Minister and Deputy Minister of Education who meet on a fairly regular basis to discuss matters of mutual concern and interest. This is a continuing process. Since my appointment to this portfolio, there have been three meetings. (If my memory is correct, I am quite sure it is that).

There is, of course, the general advisory council which is made up as well of representatives from the D.E.C.'s, the university, from the N.T.A. and from various divisions within the Department of Education. This meets on quite a regular basis, sometimes every four or five weeks. I think that that is the average there.

There has been established as well a task force committee with a very broad term of reference and that essentially is to make recommendations with respect to the best use of our resources, human, financial, structural and physical, in education and human resource development. That term is specifically used because by no means did we wish to concentrate exclusively on the academic or on the regular day-school system but to encompass the whole area of education in training and providing opportunities for the human resource of the province.

These are essentially a number of the committees and groups that we are working with. The task force sub-committee on human resource development is chaired by Dr. Leslie Harris. I think he would be known, if not personally, certainly by reputation to all members of the House. I do not have a list of the complete membership here but people who are represented on it would be: the President of the College of Fisheries, the President of the College of Trades and Technology, Mr. Gill Pike, and there are a couple of people who are not teachers, citizens and parents. I think it is essential to have an input from them as well, not only from teachers, professional educators, people who are concerned professionally in this area but also parents and citizens. I hope that that clarifies that point.

With respect to regional colleges: In the Speech from the Throne it was stated to the effect that this government wish to make access to post-secondary courses available in areas outside of St. John's. They wish to establish a policy whereby it would not be necessary for all to come to St. John's. It was stated there that the first such institution would be on the West Coast. This general statement was made more specific, more precise and exact by the Premier some weeks ago, when he was in Corner Brook, when he announced that the regional college would be in Corner Brook.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to point out that the decision to put the regional college in Corner Brook cannot properly be called a political decision at least in the sense of partisan politics. The university itself which obviously is not the only entity concerned in the location of these because they are an important area of opinion, but their studies and recommendations were that Corner Brook be the locality for the regional college. Certain studies the Department of Education itself had done indicated the same, and there was a group (I do not know if they are still in existence or not) called the "West Coast Advisory Committee On Post-Secondary Education" or something to that effect,

which had representatives from Stephenville, the Port au Port Area, from Corner Brook, from Deer Lake, pretty representative of the West Coast. It was in fact their recommendation made to government some time ago. Certainly it is consistent with the advice that government have had from professional and knowledgeable and concerned people. It is consonant with the government's assessment of these reports and our own studies in that area.

One, of course, can get into a lot of semantics on regional colleges and community colleges and various terms. I think or at least it should be fairly clear what the first such

institution, a regional college will in fact have a mandate to do. It will be offering first and second year university, it may well offer a kind of associate degree at the completion of two years, if there is a need for that. The two years could be regarded as terminal or could be regarded as feeding in. It has been stated on a number of occasions that such a college and indeed every educational institution for people outside of the days school scene should provide for a broad spectrum of educational needs but not educational only in the sense of credits or degrees, of grades or of this preoccupation with diplomas and certificates, but educational in a much broader sense as well. A broad spectrum of educational needs and also of social needs in the whole area of extension, creative use of free time, studies related to the economy of the area in which people live.

I do not think it is possible, I certainly do not think it is desirable to establish a blueprint and say; "From now on every college is going to have that." Because, if it is there to serve the needs of the area and that is the only reason or the chief reason that it is there, then obviously it has to respond to them.

AN HON. MEMBER: (First part inaudible) still talking about the thing in Corner Brook?

MR. OTTENHEIMER: Right, but even the one in Corner Brook must, you know, a regional college in Corner Brook, any improvement in educational facilities in Corner Brook must not cater exclusively to first or second year university students. It must also be a centre whereby a broad background of educational and social needs can be met.

Personally I think the term (I know people use the terms and they have a history) but personally I do not think the terms are very beneficial or fruitful if you talk about regional or community or this or that. The words take them out of their context, with college after them. A region or a community - what is regional is community, what is community is regional. I think you need to take a much

I should say in connection with this too, it is related but it is related to many other areas of education in Newfoundland and that is, that we have to, as a people, as school boards, all institutions of learning and training, we have to accept it, we have to make maximum use of the physical structures and facilities that we have, we cannot keep on duplicating all of the time. These facilities which have cost millions and millions of the taxpayers money have to be used to the maximum. There may be some consequential inconveniences for somebody sometime. That is obvious and inevitable but the only way that we will be able to provide for the changing and growing needs in the education of the people of this province, in children, adolescents and adults, the only way we can ever hope to do it is by making maximum use of the facilities we have.

There are areas in the province where this is being done. There are two, and I will get into this further, probably when the estimates come up, I just want to make that as a point. This is obviously is true for any institutions which would serve the educational and social needs of an area or a region, a community or anywhere in the province. This has to be part of the philosophy.

The honourable gentleman asked me whether there was a vote here for capital construction for any community or regional college. No, there is not. It is my understanding that starting next September, first-year university will be offered by using facilities in Corner Brook. I presume the university have been or will be or are in contact with the school boards there to make arrangements for the use of those facilities. There is no vote here for capital construction in connection with either Corner Brook or Stephenville or any centre for community and regional education.

I should say as well that these capital school grants, as indicated in the Interim Supply Bill, should not be interpreted as an increase nor indeed as a decrease over last year's amount. It is a fairly hefty sum because these things are paid quarterly and it is to

provide, in an unlikely occasion that the budget would not be passed even in two months time or whenever it happens to be, that there would be authority to pay out these amounts because they go quarterly. I am not sure if they always go divided by four or not. There may be greater demands in one period than another.

I do think that the provinces, the school boards, our collective problems with respect to the financing of education, that an important area there is going to be a provision of long-term financing for school construction. Many, if not all of the school boards in the province, are in difficult financial situations as, of course, is the province. We are far from the wealthiest province, we have a large debt, we have large borrowings to undertake and this is the situation of the province. It is the situation of many institutions which are in the province, including the school boards. I do think that a system allowing for long-term financing of capital construction, say over a twenty year period, will be a big help. It is not going to solve all the problems but I think it will be a big help.

With respect to operational grants and school bus transportation, I would not wish to now either suggest that one should interpret the Interim Supply as either an increase or a decrease. Some work is going on and some suggestions for changing the regulations for school buses in the school bus transportation area. These are not finalized but when they are worked out and agreed upon, I am quite sure they

facilities, these things have to develop in a co-ordinated manner, and certainly all of the financial resources that we have are made available on as intelligent and sensitive a basis as this government figures, in education and in other areas as well. If honourable gentlemen were to say; "Well, all that \$24 million should go into education," one could easily come back and say; "But it has because the interim supply is \$26." It does not really work out that way.

I think I have covered matters -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible

MR. OTTENHEIMER: Well, I did not want the honourable gentleman to get up and say; "But you did not say anything about this, the honourable gentleman will not give any information, he will not do this and he will not do that."

MR. ROBERTS: Inaudible.

MR. OTTENHEIMER: I am certainly glad you did. Actually at the time I am sorry I was out but I asked the Minister of Finance if interim supply was coming. He said, "no," I said, "fine, because there is something quite pressing down in the office," and then I heard, when I came up there was a sort of a hassle over a point of order.

MR. ROBERTS: Inaudible.

MR. OTTENHEIMER: No, no. Well, Mr. Chairman, I think I have covered the major points. Let me just say one thing, just in closing here and that is the federal government - an aid to education.

This is an area, a province like Newfoundland and probably other ones as well, the constitutional semantics of education as a provincial jurisdiction; it is certainly a provincial jurisdiction, if you want to call it that, but it certainly should not be regarded as exclusively a provincial responsibility. Now obviously federal funds are involved in post secondary and through

DREE and through Manpower training programme, there is no doubt about that. We are very glad to have them and we need them and need a lot more. But I do believe that the federal government is slopping off a responsibility with a facade of constitutionalism when it refuses to get involved more directly in the financing of education, especially in the less wealthy provinces.

MR. WINSOR: Before we pass this vote, would the honourable minister care to comment on the integrated schools? I am thinking in particular of the one in operation on Fogo Island, is this the direction now in which the government would propose going? Has it been accepted by each denomination and how is it working out?

This school is comparatively new. It opened I think at the beginning of the school year and I would like to know - because I have heard rumblings that it is not all that it was expected to be, maybe it is just rumbling, I hope so - but is this the direction now in which the government would like to follow?

MR. OTTENHEIMER: Mr. Chairman, as I recall, the honourable member for Fogo was there at the school opening and the Premier was and I was and the then Minister of Education was. I was not aware that there were difficulties. It is, as the honourable gentleman says, a totally integrated school, every denomination there. It worked out plan, programme, representation on the school board, and it is therefore everybody in the area. I was not aware that there had been any difficulties. If there are, I hope they are minor and I hope that the wisdom and real good sense and hard work and no doubt perseverance of those who planned it and worked it out, will continue to solve any difficulties.

I would think that that will happen. Certainly it appears that this co-operative effort to put facilities there for the benefit of everybody, through the co-operation of all segments

of the community, it certainly appears that this is the extremely sensible, it seems to be the best optimum use of the resources we have, the money we have and the buildings we have. Naturally most of these things - and this came to Fogo voluntarily.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. OTTENHEIMER: At Fogo it would be cheaper to operate that school than let us say two or three schools, roughly one third the size. There can be no doubt.

Now I think you can get to a certain size where whatever economies you make up you might well lose in the quality of instruction and the lack of very much personal rapport. It is certainly not the case in Fogo.

I am aware too that in other parts of the province people are thinking the same way, and of course Fogo was not first. There were schools where all segments of the community went; it has existed for some years. I am aware too that in other areas of the province conversations are going along with this in mind and I do believe that there will be an increase in this co-operative approach to providing school facilities. But to be really meaningful, obviously it should be voluntary. That is what it has been and I think that is really the only way these things can properly work, when people want to co-operate and work together.

I am aware that discussions are going on in other parts of the province to co-operatively plan and develop educational facilities as well for all segments and all groups in the community. I think that is a very helpful sign.

MR. F. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, I do not wish to delay the progress of the committee on this. However, there are a couple of very serious things that we still have not been completely straightened out and Sir, one is this whole matter of community and regional colleges.

Sir, even if the announcements made by the Premier on the West Coast a few weeks ago was not politically motivated, this does not necessarily mean that the decision to build a regional college and a community college is a wise decision.

Sir, the fact of the matter is that in one region of the province, one region, and we have the South Coast Region, the Central Region and the Labrador Region and probably some other regions of this province will now as a result of this announcement expect a regional college which as described by the Premier is only an extension of the university, as described by the president of the university is an extension of the university but as described by the hon. Minister of Education tends to be a little broader in scope. Now, okay we will deal with the broadening in scope in a few minutes but we do have an extension of the university on the one hand in one region and in that same region we have a community college alongside of a vocational school.

Sir, what I am concerned about is that every other region of this province is going to expect the same kind of treatment in the future. The South Coast will want their community college as well as their vocational school as well as their extension of their university, and I submit that this is going to result in duplication of post secondary education with resulting increased expenditure for what the people of this province are getting out of it. We are starting something that is going to mushroom on us, snowball on us and it is going to be a terrific burden and expense to this province when we still do not have enough money in this province to take care of the elementary and secondary school education in this province.

Sir, I think this has to be straightened out because the Minister of Education a few minutes ago started to broaden the definition of the regional college in Corner Brook to the extent that by the time the definition of the community college in Stephenville is altered to keep it away from looking like a vocational school, that the two of them will end up looking very much like the same institution or there will certainly be resulting duplication in these institutions. On top of that every other region in the province is going to want it and we simply cannot afford it, Sir.

Neither did I hear from the hon. minister, Sir, unless I missed

it completely, a statement of policy or philosophy or motives regarding post secondary education in this province. We cannot talk about community colleges nor regional colleges nor vocational schools, we have to have a statement of policy into which we can fit these various types of institutions. Now, Sir, the minister informed the committee that the announcement made by the Premier on the West Coast was made as a result of various reports having come from various educational sectors of this province. Sir, I would ask the hon. minister if he would table the various departmental reports and the various reports that have been submitted by various educational sectors of this province. Table these reports, Sir, because I have a report here called The Conference Developing Further Education for Newfoundland and Labrador, held in Gander, January 14, 15 and 16, 1971, sponsored by the Department of Education and Administration, Memorial University of Newfoundland and reported by the extension service of Memorial University.

Now, Sir, the Department of Administration cannot empire build as a result of regional colleges or anything else in this province. Sir, this conference brought in many, many people from all sectors of education in this province and there are four or five pages of the people who participated and headed up the various committees at that conference. Sir, the very first recommendation of this very important conference is that it is strongly recommended that colleges established outside of St. John's be regional community colleges. "The concept," Sir, and I repeat this, "the concept of junior colleges is far too narrow to meet our needs. These regional colleges must be flexible enough to meet the changing needs of the region. These needs should be determined in consultation with the local citizens. It is recommended that the conference emphasis the urgency of establishing community colleges in the province." Sir, the other great number of recommendations there are consistent with that first recommendation and that is that there have to be regional or basically community colleges or what we are talking about,

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. ROWE(F.B.): The words, Sir, are very important. The hon. minister suggested that we should not get involved in arguments over semantics or trying to get precise definitions or anything else. Sir, I submit that we should get very seriously involved with the definitions of the post secondary institutions that we are setting up in this province because now, Sir, we are going to have, as I understand it, a regional college in Corner Brook, a community college in Stephenville and there is already a vocational college in Stephenville and there is already an adult education centre in Stephenville and there is in fact a number of other institutions such as off-campus courses through "ETV" and summer courses being held in these centres from the university.

Sir, if we do not establish what exactly it is we have planned for the various regions of this province, we are going to end up with very expensive post secondary educational institutions in various regions of this province which are going to be duplicating each others work. I am sincere in making that suggestion and I know that there are very many people, educators in this province who are extremely concerned about the same thing happening. I will submit, Sir, that we should start off with a pure and simple community college that has a university component as well as some of those broader components particularly if we have other institutions such as vocational schools and adult education centres in some of these regions.

Sir, I am not satisfied at all with the explanation provided by the minister, simply because it seems to be a little bit of a retreat from the definition as given by the president of the university and also by the Premier and the definitions that I heard on certain local radio stations. The Premier in fact said first, two years of university and that is it, whereas the institution in Stephenville will be more along the vocational, general, broader social aspects of education.

Sir, one quick comment, if I may, on this whole business of school taxing. Sir, I have to disagree strongly with the hon. the Minister of Education when he suggests that this is not the time to deal with school tax authorities or changing legislation with respect to school tax authorities. If I misinterpreted the minister, I apologize for it. Sir, if we let this thing monster, multiply over the next three years, we are going to have entrenched and established in this province a multiplicity of school tax authorities that we simply will not be able to wipe out and there will be this duplication that I am mentioned before and more important, Sir, nobody can tell me that the capacity to collect school taxes by the St. John's School Tax Authority is similar to the school tax authority that could be established on the Northwest Coast of this province, the Northern Peninsula. Sir, there is no comparison and this will result in gross inequities and inequalities in educational opportunities in this province over the next three years. Further to that, if these school tax authorities get entrenched, Sir, I submit that it would be very difficult to streamline them into a provincial school tax authority. Sir, I agree with the government really not, and you can say the past administration might have started the same thing but that is not the argument. Do not pass the buck for financing education in this province to the communities, to municipalities or to local school tax authorities or to the school boards whether the money is coming from the federal government the fact of the matter is it is cycle, it has to come somewhere along the line to the provincial government. This provincial government should take its full responsibility for financing education in this province particularly if the .

provincial government as stated by the minister, feels that the federal government should take a greater responsibility. If the federal government should take a greater amount of responsibility for financing education in this province, surely it is up to the provincial government to break the responsibility of negotiating with the federal government for such purposes. Consequently, what the minister has really admitted or said in other words is that the provincial government should be taking responsibility for financing education in this province, particularly if it has to look to the federal government. Sir, if these school tax authorities are allowed to multiply, become entrenched with their duplication and resulting inequalities in educational opportunity, two or three years is much too late to try and straighten the situation out, once entrenched.

Last, Sir, with respect to that \$24 million: The only thing I can say to the hon. Minister of Education and to the hon. Minister of Finance is that it was obviously the intention of the federal government to assist the financing of education in this have-not province by changing the formula of equalization grants by providing this \$24 million. The minister said that the federal government should take a greater responsibility in financing education in a province like Newfoundland. This is precisely what John Turner in Ottawa is trying to do by providing this \$24 million. The hon. Minister of Finance was out of the Chamber, Mr. Chairman, when I quoted from Mr. Turner's Budget Speech. He suggests quite specifically that this is municipalities, in terms of the taxes levied on the citizens. In this province where the municipalities do not impose the school taxes, that does not matter. The fact of the matter is that it is either school boards, through assessments, or local school tax authorities. The intention is there, Sir.

I am presenting my argument and my argument is simply this:

If there is any discrepancy on the part of any honourable member of this House, there is a heck of a lot more on the other side of this honourable House than on this side. We have all kinds of willy-wiley statements being made by the Premier, on the West Coast. We have changes being made here in the House. We have all kinds of-

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please! The honourable member is not being relevant now.

MR. F. B. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, I do not mean to question Your ruling. I was being distracted, to say the least. I also believe, Mr. Chairman, that the honourable member who is speaking has the right to be heard in silence. Is that correct?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is correct.

MR. F. B. ROWE: It is the full intention, Mr. Chairman, of the people in Ottawa to do just what the hon. Minister of Education has suggested and that is that the federal government should bear a greater responsibility for financing education in a province such as Newfoundland. This \$24 million is one way that the Federal Liberal Government are trying to do that. It is stated quite specifically in the Budget Speech of the Federal Minister of Finance. I would suggest that the minister indicate to this House whether or not he is willing to go into cabinet and fight to the death for that \$24 million to go into the area where it is supposed to go and that is, namely, education?

MR. OTTENHEIMER: Mr. Chairman, I do not intend to go at any length into it. With respect to the \$24 million, I could say, "Good, we have the \$24 million Mr. Turner sent down." This is in the Supply Bill, \$26 million in it - no, there is \$24 million plus \$2 million. All the millions are not set up in little baskets, some red, some green and some Tory blue, and put here and put there and put other places. While I certainly can see that it is an argument to which obviously an education critic in the opposition would make and perhaps should make,

I think too that when one looks at it realistically. We do not divide all the money we have access to and make different colours for different departments and that type of thing. However, the only thing really that I wanted to comment on was the honourable gentleman's remarks about the access to post-secondary education facilities in the province. It is basically this: (1) It has been announced that there will be a regional college at Corner Brook. This will give first and second year university. It will give extension courses. It will give a broad range

of courses for educational and social needs. (2) The honourable gentleman said that he had a report of a conference which suggested, you know, something else. I certainly do not doubt that because I have reports down there suggesting so many things, and men of sincerity, I have one, we are talking about the West Coast, I have one suggesting for a college at St. George's, another one. I am not sure where it is, but you know practically all over the province. Well this is what we have to do, certain reports or suggestions and this and that are available to us and we have to study them in a way that we will make the best decision that we can. But certainly the fact that there will be a report suggesting this and a report suggesting that, you know, would not in itself establish that the government could or should do it.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. OTTENHEIMER: Oh, I am glad to hear that.

I think the situation with respect to the regional college at Corner Brook is now pretty clearly stated. As a matter of fact, I think the honourable gentleman is going to be honest that, that is quite clear and progressive and beneficial. The reference in general, throughout the province to these educational facilities will not be made in detail certainly until the government have had the benefit of the recommendations of a task force subcommittee we have set up. Why would we ask people like Les Harris and Ray Barrett and Ken Duggan and others for their advice in this very volatile changing area, where across Canada people are changing their minds and reassessing their positions? You do not wait to do what is obvious until you get the advice of professional advisers, you do not wait to do the obvious. You do not postpone the responsibility of government when it is obvious and clear-cut, you make your judgment and you do it, and that is what is being done in this area. But where it is not obvious where there are many possible interpretations and obviously the sensible thing to do is wait until you get the professional advice, you do not have to take it but at least you make the decision with the knowledge of it, and that is what we intend to do and that report should be in around the middle of the summer.

On motion Head V - Department of Education and Youth, carried.

HEAD IX - REHABILITATION AND RECREATION

On motion Head IX - Department of Rehabilitation and Recreation, carried.

AN HON. MEMBER: It is not carried.

MR. W. N. ROWE: On a point of order. The minister got up to speak, and was harassed by those on the other side to sit down. My honourable colleague wants to say something about the supply bill. If the honourable minister does not want to speak, my colleague does.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Head IX - Rehabilitation and Recreation, the decision was made too quickly. attempting to see whether the House was ready for the question or not.

Does the honourable member for Labrador North wish to address the Chair.

HON. J. G. ROUSSEAU: (MINISTER OF REHABILITATION AND RECREATION): The \$2,500,000 is made up as following; Subheads, 902-General Administration, \$2,000 for each, a total of \$4,000. 903 - Homes for Special Care, \$170,000 budgeted for each of the two months, for a total of \$340,000; 904 - Hoyles Home, \$200,000 per month, for a total of \$400,000; 905 -Harbour Lodge, \$80,000 per month, for a total of \$160,000; 907 - Children's Home, \$145,000 per month, for a total of \$290,000; Boys Home and Training School, \$60,000 per month, for a total of \$120,000; Girls Home and Training School, \$18,000 per month, for a total of \$36,000; Rehabilitation, 910 - \$17,000 per month, for a total of \$34,000; 511-Recreation and Sports Service, \$156,00 per month, for a total of \$312,000; Youth Services, \$40,000 per month, for a total of \$80,000; Labrador Services, 913 - \$318,000 per month, for a total of \$636,000; Grants to Private Agencies, \$44,000 for each month, for a total of \$88,000.

That makes a total of \$2.5 million dollars.

Salaries Total: Salaries for each sub-head are included in the total amount and is estimated at about \$403,000 per month for a total of \$806,000.

and \$806,000 out of the two and a-half million are for salaries. They have been included in each subhead.

If any honourable members have any questions, I will yield the floor.

MP. WOODWARD: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the honourable minister if he could explain to the House and my concern (and not wanting to delay this bill I am not going to put the usual garbage in as has been going on during the last few days) is that in this particular department of government, the Department of Labrador Affairs, which was a separate department of government, has disappeared into a division called Labrador Services.

Labrador Services is merely something to acknowledge I do not know what, Mr. Chairman. I see here in the estimates, Mr. Chairman, \$636,000 being asked in Interim Supply. I would like to ask the honourable minister if he would care to explain to the House what course of action or what input or what benefit will the Division of Labrador Services, which is under his direction, be to Labrador? If he intends to fill the vacancies for regional representatives that existed in Labrador West, which is the district of the minister, the District of Labrador South, (the honourable member for Labrador South is not in his seat today) and if this is some form of regional government that the Throne Speech of March 1971-1972 talked about or explained to the people that would come to our particular area.

I have explained on a number of occasions that we have been out of touch with government services. Labrador Affairs initially was, I think, brought into being to fill that vacuum. It did not serve that purpose adequately. I would like the honourable minister to explain his version and seeing that we are spending a considerable amount of money, what type of services will Labrador Services bring to the coastal communities and as well, Mr. Chairman, to the Areas of Goose Bay and Happy Valley.

Furthermore, there are grumbings coming out of the west, the minister's own district, of not feeling or not having the presence of

government. Is this the thing that the government is doing to bring some form of regional government to that part of the area? We hear so much about what is being done in Corner Brook where we have satellite government stations, we hear of regional colleges going up and regional colleges being built close to vocational schools and things of that nature, maybe the honourable minister would care to explain his version or what results we will get in Labrador from the Division of Labrador Services.

I am asking this because when this bill (57) went through committee stage, I did not get the opportunity to ask it in the House. I would also like to ask the honourable minister if the services that were looked after by the Department of Labrador Affairs, such as the gear subsidies, the coastal air subsidy, the student exchange programme or cultural programme exchanges that they had going, will remain with this department or this Division of Rehabilitation and Recreation or will this be fragmented and fed off into some other department such as Transportation and Communications?

These are important questions I would like to ask. I would also like to ask the honourable minister if there is provisions made in this expenditure for the continuation or the supply of the Community of Nain?

Furthermore, maybe he could explain to the House or to the committee how much it is costing the province for the particular air lift that is taking place now to supply that community.

I would also, Mr. Chairman, like to go on and maybe one of the most pertinent questions to ask the minister is if there are any funds in this particular budget for George McLean, which is a standard thing.

When we think in terms of the \$24,000,000 at this particular point, I have to disagree with my colleague and honourable member for St. Barbes North. I think that monies that are coming by the way of windfalls from Ottawa in that direction, like the \$24,000,000 that have come about in the equalization grants from Ottawa, should go to bringing closer together the people in this province, so you do not have people on the fringes trying to get in and not feeling a part of what is going on. I think this exists in Labrador for a considerable amount of time. So, I would ask that the honourable Minister of Finance, in his wisdom, and I am sure he will do this, if he would redirect that spending towards a trans-Labrador highway and that great wealth and that great potential. I am sure that the honourable minister is going to do this and I appreciate it very much when I get -

MR. CROSBIE: Who is the gentleman going to name the road after? The Crosbie Trail.

MR. WOODWARD: Yes and we will have a tombstone every mile. In a serious vein, Mr. Chairman, I think the additional money that is coming in and when Ottawa is trying to combat disparity throughout the provinces and when you think in terms of what is happening in one part of our province and in another and Ottawa is trying to bring us closer together on a certain standard, uniform standard throughout the province, I would like to think in terms of any money that is being directed in this sense will go towards bringing this particular province closer together. As far as the division of Labrador services under the Department of Rehabilitation and Recreation is concerned, I feel it is the people in Labrador themselves feel it is a downgrading. We become

a division where once we were a department. So, maybe the honourable minister can explain this to the House while we are spending the \$636,000 in the next couple of months in the division of Labrador services.

MR. ROUSSEAU: I will answer some of the more direct questions first. You asked if any of the money was for the continuation of supply at Nain. Yes, we have already made a policy statement that it is our intention to complete the stockpiling at Nain, as a result of the fire, which I think is completed now. There may not be particular funds in this part of the estimates for the actual reconstruction of the facility that was burned but it will be in the estimates, undoubtedly. Now whether there is any amount in here I doubt it because it is a little too early to have it but it certainly will be included in the - the depot has to be replaced and the warehousing has to be replaced. That will be in the main estimates. We have completed the supply at Nain.

Now, you asked me how much the cost is. I really cannot tell you as there are so many factors involved. I do not know what the cost of the building is going to be. We are waiting for our bills from the federal government with regard to the airplanes we leased from them. We are waiting for our bills from Labrador Airways. We have some indication of the cost of the 250,000 to 300,000 pounds of food that we purchased. All these costs have not been accumulated yet. I have no idea. I could give a figure as a guess but I may be way out, really. As soon as a figure is available, the member will be most welcome to have it. I do not have the figure and I would not like to throw out a figure that may be too far off and maybe cause my colleague down here to have a slight heart attack, too early. So, as soon as we get the figure, we will give it out. Most of this money of course is recoverable. So, as soon as that is compiled, we will see to it that it is made available.

Now, you asked about the programmes under the

Mr. Rousseau.

Labrador Affairs Department and I would like to just say a few words, if I may. The Division of Labrador Affairs is not an attempt to create a vehicle like the Department of Labrador Affairs. The intention of the Division of Labrador Affairs, the main part of it will be right now the Division of Northern Labrador Services, out of the old Department of Social Services and Rehabilitation, and to use this vehicle also to administer the programmes specific to Labrador with regard to, as you say, the student exchange, travel and culture exchange and the subsidy rebate programmes. Actually it is the vehicle for the administration of this.

I think the honourable member will agree that towards the end of its life the Department of Labrador Affairs was really serving little purpose in government except to do these individual things which were small in nature but also serving to provide a communication with government, through the minister who was acting, and this was never, as you know, formally laid out. The minister assumed a certain position because he was in that department more so than whether he was from Labrador or not. If you are Minister of Labrador Affairs, you have a certain responsibility there. I think that this was more or less done by the individual occupying the position rather than by the department. So for administrative facilities, to facilitate this operation, because there were certain programmes that were specific to Labrador, the creation of the Labrador Services Division. The reason it is called the Labrador Services Division is because it is no longer just the Northern Labrador Services Division out of the Department of Social Services and Rehabilitation. We are including the programmes that were included in the Department of Labrador Affairs. To continue to call it the Northern Labrador Services Division would not be the proper name for it. To call it Coastal Labrador, which we thought of, would not

be proper again because the subsidy, the student exchange and the travel and culture exchange apply to all of Labrador.

I trust that this department, as it now exists, of course, will still be the larger Northern Labrador Services Division. The other facilities that were there will also continue to operate, as they did before, within the division. It was done really more for administrative facility than for anything else. It is also a contact for people in Labrador, certainly. It is not meant all of a sudden to be a new department, with new ideas. It is merely taking over the administrative units that were there before, that were peculiar and specific to Labrador.

Now when you mention that, you have a quota here to acknowledge, I do not know what it is, and an attempt to acknowledge anything is an attempt to co-ordinate the facilities that we have specific to that area. I think that that would answer the question.

The vacancies with regard to the resident representatives: We have one now in Labrador North, in the honourable member's area. There are posts available there in both the other areas. We certainly intend to take a look at them. The mummings of the presence of government in Labrador West and quite possibly there are - we waited for a building for quite a while but the building will now be open, we hope within the next two or three weeks. We will co-ordinate all the government departments that are there now. We will use this specific building and as well my colleague, the hon. Minister of Manpower and Industrial Relations, has informed me that an apprenticeship officer will be stationed there now, fully, from the department of which he is minister. This is very important to the area because of the great number of apprentices with the Iron Ore Company of Canada and Wabush Mines. We are trying to get as many facilities up there as we can. I would certainly like to see personally a resident representative there, somebody to provide information or to provide a channel through which they could become

aware of the various programmes that are available in government. Labrador South, of course, we have given some thought to possibly - in the stores along the northern coast, we have two people there where maybe it might be better for one person to be a community worker rather than two people working in the stores, something of this nature to help these communities develop and help them with any advice and things that may be available from government or how to go in any area in which they wish to direct their efforts.

The additional money from Ottawa, of course, I presume that I am getting a slice of it in this department's estimates, at least I hope I am. The question of the Labrador Highway, of course, is not specific to that \$24 million. We would like to see a lot more come from Ottawa for that. Hopefully some time in the future it certainly will.

There is no money here for George McLean in these estimates. There may be some in the main estimates. There is none in this. I do not know if I can find any services that George McLean performed in my department that I think would be of use to my department. I have no compulsion whatsoever to use his services. Right now here, there are none. Is that satisfactory? I think that that is all the questions.

On motion Head IX, Recreation and Rehabilitation, carried.

HEAD X - HEALTH, \$18,700,000.

HON. DR. A. T. ROWE (Minister of Health): Mr. Speaker, the Interim Supply requested for the Department of Health in the amount of \$18,700,000 is made up as follows: salaries, operating costs of hospitals not operated by government, government hospitals, university school of medicine and other capital costs. I have a breakdown of each item. If the House would like to hear it, I would be quite happy to read same.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, I would suggest, if honourable members would agree, that the minister send me a copy of it. I guess I am the one on this side is most interested and presumably his colleagues, his ministerial colleagues, are aware of the details.

DR. ROWE: I would be very happy to let you have a copy. Would you like to have this in block amounts?

MR. ROBERTS: No, Mr. Chairman, I am really quite easy on it. Do we propose to raise the committee for six o'clock?

DR. ROWE: I would be quite happy to copy it.

MR. ROBERTS: Okay then, we will have copies a little later. If you are going to raise the committee, Mr. Chairman, I guess it is time we got at it.

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

On motion report received and adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: It now being 6:00 P.M., I do leave the Chair until 8:00 P.M.



PROVINCE OF NEWFOUNDLAND

**THIRTY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF
NEWFOUNDLAND**

Volume 2

2nd Session

Number 28

VERBATIM REPORT

Thursday, March 15, 1973

SPEAKER: THE HONOURABLE JAMES M. RUSSELL

The House resumed at 8:00 P.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

Before we begin tonight's proceedings it is a pleasure for me on behalf of all the honourable members, indeed a personal pleasure, to welcome to the Speaker's Gallery at the back, from the Third St. John's Wesley Boy Scouts Senior Patrol, six boys of that patrol, with their Troop Scouter, Mr. Jack Head, who is a personal friend of mine from a number of years ago. These scouts are working on their silver citizen's badge. This afternoon they visited and toured the Court House and as another part of awarding of this badge they are visiting us tonight.

It is a real pleasure for me on behalf of all members of this honourable House to welcome you to the galleries and trust that your visit is most informative and interesting.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN: Head X - Health.

MR. E. ROBERTS: Well, Mr. Chairman, the minister has been good enough to supply me with a fairly rough breakdown of the subheads under which this item of a mere \$18.7 millions is divided. I do not think there are very many points we wish to raise at this time on the health estimates. On the main estimates there are a number of larger topics we will be wishing to examine at some length. The whole Carbonear Hospital situation at some length, the question of doctors incomes, doctors salaries or payments to doctors. There are a number of other quite major questions. They will wait and they will be all the better for having waited.

There are two or three fairly minor but very important points that I do wish to raise. One of them is to ask the minister if he could bring us up-to-date on the situation with respect to doctors on the western side of Fortune Bay and on the Connaigre Peninsula. For the benefit of the committee, I am sure the minister is familiar with it, there are normally a minimum of four doctors in the area between Belleoram and Hermitage. The information which I have is that at present there are two only and

that these are stationed at the cottage hospital at Harbour Breton. The practice at Belleoram, which I understand is to be shortly the practice at Mose Ambrose, and the practice that covers the area, roughly speaking, from Poole's Cove to Mose Ambrose or English Harbour West is vacant or at least it was as of two or three days ago. The practice in Hermitage is vacant or at least again it was as of two or three days ago.

There has been a great deal of agitation from the people in that area, Mr. Chairman, and it is worthy agitation, it is rightful agitation. I have here a petition from St. Jack's, one of the communities in the area, which has been sent to me, signed by - I have not counted them, but thirty, forty or fifty people in the area. The prayer of the petition is that a doctor be stationed in the area. I have had numerous telephone calls from down there. I have been on the "Open Line Show" at CJOX in Grand Bank, once or twice, and this has been the subject of a number of calls. There apparently was an announcement recently by the honourable gentleman, the member for Fortune Bay, to the effect that a doctor would be stationed in - let us say the Belleoram practice, shortly. The people there were overjoyed to hear the news but somewhat disconcerted when the senior medical officer at Harbour Breton, whose name I confess I do not know,

DR. ROWE: Doctor Hastings.

MR. ROBERTS: Doctor Hastings came on the "Open Line Show." He was not telephoned, he telephoned in to say that he knew nothing of this, that he heard nothing of it and while that did not necessarily say there was not going to be a doctor in the Belleoram practice, that certainly was a disconcerting announcement for him to hear. Indeed he heard of it only when people came up to him in the street and said that there was going to be a doctor back in the Belleoram Area, Sir, the Hermitage Area as well. There has been considerable agitation down there and I would ask the minister if he could bring us up-to-date on where the matter stands. The minister may be familiar with a mimeograph (I do not know what that is called, Anyway it is the sort of a thing where you write in

ink on a jelly and you reproduce things that way) from a teacher named Mr. William Granter -

AN HON. MEMBER: Gestetner.

MR. ROBERTS: Is that a gestetner? It is not a hand-crank machine. But anyway it is a letter Mr. William Granter, in the community of Rencontre East, again in the Fortune Bay District, Copies of this have been sent to the Premier, to the honourable gentleman for Fortune Bay, to Mr. John Nolan of CJON, to Mr. Howie Hickman of CJOX and to Mr. Les Thoms, the next member for Fortune Bay. I do not pride the hon. Premier on being a Liberal, Mr. Chairman, and I do not pride the hon. gentleman the member for Fortune Bay on being a Liberal. The matter is much too serious to be joked about, the letter is four or five pages long and if the committee wish I will read it all, but I do not particularly wish to. I mean I am happy to, but it makes the same point a number of times, quite graphically. The point is, since September 1972, when Mr. William Granter moved to Rencontre East to take up the position as a classroom teacher and principal of the three room school in the community, they have only seen a doctor once. He came in the month of September for a period of three to five hours and other than that there has been no doctor there since. The school nurse or the public health nurse visited on several occasions. The honourable gentleman does not say how often.

Mr. Granter lists a number of incidents occurring throughout the fall and winter period in which people were taken ill, in an emergency, and had to be rushed off, usually by coastal boat, to hospital. Now I am not going to stand in the committee or elsewhere and say that these things will not happen. I know enough about the health services in this province to realize that as long as we have isolated communities, and Rencontre East of course is isolated, it has no road, as long as we have people living in a relatively dispersed fashion we are going to have this sort of problem. That is not the point.

The point is that the reason, surely, there has only been one visit by a doctor to a community of about, according to Mr. Granter, 250 people

only one visit in seven months - surely that there is no doctor in the Belleoram Area, two doctors from Harbour Breton are covering and they have to service, those two doctors, about 9,000 people, they are covering the practice at Hermitage and the practice at Belleoram and the normal practice of the Harbour Breton Area. That is about one doctor for every 4500 people, that is in round figures, about three and a-half times the provincial average, judged on the figures of about 1 to 1250 which the Minister of Health gave us here last week.

So it is a serious problem. It is one of very real concern to the people in the area. I think they have a valid reason for concern. I do not think they are asking for anything that is the least bit unreasonable. I am not necessarily aware of the minister's difficulties in recruitment. He has been on the radio. I am aware of some of the difficulties in recruiting staff but he has been on the radio and on the television and Information Newfoundland have been sending out bulletins since last October saying that there were

ten, fifteen, twenty, substantial numbers of doctors coming from the United Kingdom. Well, that is well and good, it is not new but it is well and good. Perhaps the minister is able to get one for the Belleoram practice and for the Hermitage practice. I think I have outlined the problem and I would like to hear what the minister has to say on it, Sir.

HON. DR. A.T. ROWE (MINISTER OF HEALTH): Mr. Chairman, I am very happy to outline the present situation. The hon. Leader of the Opposition is well aware of the difficulty of supplying doctors to the rural areas. It was pretty well known to him in his time there. I will go back from the time in September. There are at the moment four doctors down there. There are two at the Harbour Breton Hospital, Dr. Hastings and Dr. Sharma. Now in Hermitage is Dr. Dhillon who arrived a couple of days ago and in Belleoram I think his name is Dr. Ruddock. Dr. Hastings, Dr. Sharma and Dr. Dhillon are three of the doctors that I recruited while I was in the United Kingdom and I would say that at the moment there are ten that are here. I can go through the names if you wish. There is Dr. Hastings and Dr. Sharma in Harbour Breton, Dr. Dhillon in Hermitage, Dr. Belton in Gander, Dr. Diabes and Dr. Diabes in Channel, Port aux Basques, Dr. Dias in Hampden and all these are doctors that were recruited in October.

Now I am well aware of the problems that they have had as in the letter from Mr. Granter. It is a terrible inditement of services to very isolated communities and I really do not know the answer. At the moment with Dr. Dillon, who is now gone to Hermitage, and Dr. Ruddick, who is now in Belleoram, the clinics will be done in McCallum, which is another place they have had a lot of trouble from, and in Rencontre East. I am sure everybody is very concerned as to how you can provide emergency services to these sort of communities and I can only say that we have arranged with these doctors to do clinics there at periodic intervals. If the weather is favourable then they can get over at the appointed times. I remember last summer visiting with my colleague, the hon.

member for Hermitage, the Community of Francois on the South Coast where there were forty-seven families. It was very difficult to get in there at any time. What do you do for the forty-seven families at Francois? You try and get a helicopter in when you can. You try and get a boat in when you can. The doctor from Burgeo was supposed to go over at specific times but due to weather he generally cannot make it at the time. There are a number of these communities and I can only say that I am very concerned about it. If anybody has any advice on how we can upgrade them, I am very happy to hear it. I think the newest practitioner (or as we like to call them now perhaps, the physican-assistant) of whom there are a number to be trained through the Memorial University, starting this year, maybe a partial answer.

On the question of the doctor supply, I am quite happy to tell you that the ten doctors have arrived here and there are about another ten being processed. I am quite satisfied with that situation. I am quite happy to say that as to my knowledge at the present time there are four doctors in the areas in which the hon. Leader of the Opposition mentioned that there were two. I am happy to say that there are now four. That is the information that I have.

HON. H.R.V. EARLE (MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SERVICES): Mr. Chairman, as the hon. Leader of the Opposition mentioned matters of particular interest to my District, Fortune Bay, I should like to clarify the situation a bit. This is not something new in Fortune Bay. Fortune Bay unfortunately is one of the more isolated sections of Newfoundland and it is only in recent years that the west side of Fortune Bay has been connected up with the insular highroad by connecting through Pools Cove and that area, and communications were very, very bad and very difficult. The one place which the hon. Leader of the Opposition has singled out, namely Rencontre East from which a long letter from a school teacher was received, is, I would say, one of the most isolated places in Newfoundland. It is smack in the middle of Fortune Bay and

miles from anywhere, with no road connections. It is a small settlement of approximately 250 people, who are living under very difficult, deplorable conditions, I might say. The only communications they have, of course, is by coastal boat and by mobile telephone and the health service, even in the best of times when doctors could be obtained for Fortune Bay, was rudimentary to say the least. There was at one time a boat operating on Fortune Bay which used to make monthly visits to Rencontre East with the doctor from Belleoram.

Now the hon. Leader of the Opposition will remember that when he was the Minister of Health at one period his department suggested that they take off that boat and I fought against it and had the boat kept on there so that the people could be served. But the fact of the matter is that in difficult weather, in stormy weather in that particular part of Fortune Bay, a doctor very often at great personal risk has to go to settlements of that sort. I know they had a very fine old English doctor in that area who stuck there about two years. One evening he was called late to go to Rencontre East and it was blowing a gale, an absolute gale, and there was somebody supposed to be dying up there he was so sick, and the man at great risk to himself got in that boat and went over to Rencontre East and made it about midnight in a blinding snowstorm. When he stepped ashore he asked where the patient was, and they could not find him as he was out to a party. Now that sort of thing does not encourage a doctor to stay in any area.

But I can see people when they are in isolated areas and they become panicky sometimes they make tremendous demands, outrageous demands upon the doctor and doctors are only human. Several doctors recently have gone to that area and had a look at it and said, "No, no way will we stay there." The houses conditions and the clinics conditions were not good. In all the years that the former government

were there they did not provide good facilities for the doctors in that area and it is only since this present government took over that I have been able to get an agreement for a modern clinic and doctor's house to be built in the area and we are hoping when that is done that it will give the doctor a more comfortable condition in which to live and we will be able to persuade him to stay there.

All of the matters which the hon. Leader of the Opposition mentioned I am extremely familiar with because I have had these petitions and letters and requests from the area all winter. They have suffered an extremely bad winter in the area. The snow conditions have been intolerable and the road conditions have been worse. It has been very, very difficult for the people to get to Harbour Breton for hospital and when they get there at times there is only one doctor on duty and they have to wait for many, many hours, having paid fifty or sixty dollars to get there, and then possibly they may or may not see a doctor. The whole condition in the area is deplorable to say the least. I have been working extremely closely with my colleague, the Minister of Health, been talking to him consistently and frequently and he is at his wits end to find a doctor for the area. Fortunately he has come up in the last few days with a doctor for Belleoram, and I believe the doctor is moving in on Monday. He happens to be a young man who was down there for a short period of three months and he got on very well with the people. He went off on a holiday to Toronto and he decided when he came back he would give it another three months trial. So he is going into the area for three months. I hope by that time that we will have a good clinic and a good home built for the doctor and hopefully, if we can get a man with a pioneering spirit and a man who is prepared to rough it, and believe me he will have to rough it, we may be able to persuade a doctor to stay there.

The people themselves realize how difficult it is to get a

man to stay in the area and they are extremely grateful when we can get one but, of course, in the depths of winter and under the conditions that they had this year to be without medical service was extremely hazardous, extremely uncomfortable and most disturbing to the people and I am not at all surprised or alarmed that there were so many protests came in. I know had I been living under similar conditions, I would have been protesting every week. But protests, Mr. Speaker, cannot get doctors to go to places. Doctors are free agents. Doctors can chose their own locality and it is amazing and I think it is a great credit to the doctors themselves that they will sometimes go to isolated areas and spend many, many months in complete isolation, away from their fellow doctors, no consultation of any sort, working day and night, all hours of the day and night, and on perpetual calls. Yet some doctors have the nerve and have the kind of stamina that can go and face those conditions, and more credit to them. I only hope that we get at least another such person to go to Belleoram Area.

MR. ROBERTS: Oh my! Oh my, Mr. Chairman!

MR. ROWE(W.N.): He did not wave around his letter of resignation at least.

MR. ROBERTS: Not this once. I was not feeling in a particularly combative mood when the committee met, Sir, after listening to the homily by the gentleman from Fortune Bay. I only take issue with one thing he said. Most of what he said made sense. It has been said a thousand times and it happens to be true and it is still true. The quite false statement though, that nothing was done to provide a better accommodation for the doctor in the Belleoram practice, cannot go unchallenged, as I am sure the Minister of Health would confirm, If not, I have a copy of the records to prove it. Despite the fact that the hon. gentleman, the member for Fortune Bay, had been the member since 1962, he had not met with any apparent success from 1962 until I had been Minister of Health for over a year, indeed

I do not remember hearing from the honourable gentleman then, I may have but there was a plan to build at Belleoram. The place had not been set but I believe it has now been set at Mose Ambrose, a combination clinic and doctor's residence the same as the one which was built in King's Cove in Bonavista South. This was part of a plan to build fifteen or twenty doctors' residences, some of them with clinics attached, throughout the province.

The present Minister of Health inherited this plan. There were no delays on the governmental part, I think he will confirm the delays were in the implementation through the Housing Corporation. I am not accusing them of any malfeasance, it is just simply that they were not able to do it. I understand the project was put out to tenders, only one tender was submitted and it happened to be from a firm in the English Harbour East Area. The tender was considered too high by the powers that be and accordingly the matter was sort of left.

I understand from people in the area that it is hoped to issue tenders again shortly, presumably in the hope that in the year the cost will have gone down. I hope that is so, although experience I have had of building is that it goes up about ten to fifteen percent a year in this province. The proof of the pudding will be in the eating. We will see if the government made a correct decision or not in deciding to postpone by about twelve months the construction of that clinic in (I understand it is Mose Ambrose, it is not Belleoram any more).

That is fine, but I just wanted to let the gentleman from Fortune Bay know that his memory is playing him false tricks again. The fact remains that no one denies the conditions in the Belleoram house were quite unacceptable. I do not remember any representation, during my tenure as Health Minister, from the honourable gentleman from Fortune Bay. There may have been such representation but I just do not recall them. I do recall doing something about the problem, unbidden by the gentleman from Fortune Bay.

There are one or two other points I want to raise unless the

minister wants to comment on what I have just said.

DR. ROWE: No, I am quite happy to give the figure, Mr. Chairman. The tender was called and the figure received was twenty thousand dollars more than an exact, similar clinic that had been built in King's Cove.

AN HON. MEMBER: Twenty-seven thousand.

DR. ROWE: Twenty-six thousand more it had been, one we just finished last spring. We felt, I think reasonably so, that a twenty-six thousand dollar difference in one year was enough to sort of make us go back to tender again. We only had one bid at any rate and that is essentially the answer to that.

MR. ROBERTS: At this stage I am not quarrelling with the government's decision. I think we will have to wait to see, the proof of the pudding again will be in the eating. There may be more than one tender this year when the bids come in. There may well be a tender at a lower price than the eighty-nine thousand or whatever the tender that was received. If there is, we will see but I think the facts should be on the records that it was a conscious decision by the government that as a result of - I do hope that tenders will go out in time for work to start this year. They should go out very shortly to enable that to be.

The only other point I want to raise, Mr. Chairman, on the health estimates, the government have not yet settled the budgets with the hospitals for the current year, it is three months into the hospital year, I do not know if the committee are aware or not but hospitals throughout Canada are on a budget year that is the calendar year not the financial year.

MR. MURPHY: Is that unusual?

MR. ROBERTS: Yes - is what unusual? To have it on the calendar year?

MR. MURPHY: (Inaudible)

MR. ROBERTS: Most unusual. Normally the hospitals are notified during the calendar year or early in January what their budgets are. We are now at the stage where roughly one-fourth of the year has gone and the information I have, which may or may not be correct, is that the

hospital budgets have not been settled and no hospital in Newfoundland known with any degree of certainty, I suppose they know the minimum, there will be no cutbacks, but they do not know with any degree of certainty whether they will be allowed to improve any services, to expand any services or to bring in any new services. That is a fact that the committee may want to be aware of and the minister may or may not have something to say on it. It just shows the confusion of the government's budgeting process at this point in time.

MR. CROSBIE: The budget will be a lot earlier than any of yours.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Finance is obviously...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: (Inaudible)

MR. ROBERTS: Hold on now! Hold on! The Minister of Finance is obviously in one of his bad moods. If he wants to say something, let him after, Mr. Chairman...

MR. CROSBIE: I am sure we do not want to see each other.

MR. ROBERTS: After I finish what I have to say, then, if the honourable ill-tempered gentleman wishes to come into the debate, I shall welcome him.

MR. CROSBIE: I have your permission, do I? I did not know I needed it.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, the honourable gentleman does not need my permission.

MR. CROSBIE: You are quite right.

MR. ROBERTS: If he wants my permission, I would be happy to grant it to him. In the meantime, I hope he will do the courtesy to the committee of observing the rules. As I was saying - I notice that the minister's request on the breakdown he has given me under the operating costs; "Hospitals not operated by government" he is requesting \$7.8 million for the month of April and \$3.9 million for the month of May. In other words, the month of April apparently is two months' budget and the month of May is one month's budget.

I can think of at least two reasons why this should be so. One

of them would be acceptable and the other would be questionable. I wonder if the minister could tell the committee why?

DR. ROWE: First of all, Mr. Chairman, on the point of view that the hospitals and their budgets, I am not defending the actions, but back when I was in medical practice, the medical director of the Carbonear Hospital, which was a hospital not operated by government, it was in February and March that we had the visits from the officials in the Department of Health telling us what our budget might not and might be for the year. At the present time the officials and the director of hospital insurance is on the West Coast finishing up, today I think in Baie Verte, on the budget itself. I do not think that was very much out of line in that regard. The amount of \$7.8 million shown for the month of April as against \$3.9 million shown for May, the difference exists because hospitals are provided advances towards the end of each month to cover the operating costs for the following months. But no advance is made in any year in March with respect to this or in the coming year. Consequently, you have to make payments to the hospitals in April which cover the April month and the May month. The payment in May is to cover the June month. So there will be twice as much for April and May and the other month for June. That represents three months.

MR. ROBERTS: I thank the honourable minister. I am not surprised. The reason is as it always has been. I said that there was an acceptable reason and that is it. Okay. On the other point - I am stretching my own memory, I think that that was probably before the time that I was Health Minister, the latter couple of years we started settling them late in December and early in January. Mr. Chairman, there is only one other question that I have at least at this point on the health estimates: (We will have ample time when the main estimates are brought in to debate a great number of points) I wonder if the minister could bring us up to date though with respect to the proposal to build a doctor's

residence and a public health centre at Port Saunders in the northern part of St. Barbe South? This is a project which was approved by the Liberal Government before we left office in January, 1972. It is not yet started, unless it has been started in the last couple of weeks or month. It was deliberately held up by the government for some reason. The minister could perhaps tell us what the reason was. Also I have understood (I am confused because I have understood two things on this) that there is a proposal to build a cottage hospital at Port Saunders and I have understood that there is a proposal to build at Port Saunders an operation similar to the one which was built at Roddickton in my own constituency. These cannot both be true. Only one of those understandings is a correct understanding. Perhaps the minister could clarify that.

DR. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, I would be quite happy. I have no information of a project at Port Saunders being approved by the last government. I just do not know if that is so. As far as I am concerned my part in this project has been a meeting with representatives from Port Saunders Medical Committee, including people from the immediate area, followed by a meeting with Dr. Thomas of the I.G.A and my colleague the member for St. Barbe South. About the middle of January we were out in Port Saunders and met with Dr. Thomas. A decision was made then that because the facilities of Port Saunders were and had been completely inadequate that two things would be done: (1) We would build a community health centre, very similar but somewhat improved on the one that is at Roddickton and in this regard the community committee were fortunate enough to obtain a LIP Grant. I forget the actual amount. It was about \$70,000 towards this project. The plans include utilization of the present clinic with an extension. The plans have been approved by the department, approved by the I.G.A., approved by the committee. Excavation has been started.

The second point is that Dr. Thomas has arranged that as from this summer there will be a doctor permanently settled in Port Saunders to work in conjunction with the new community health centre. So that is the story on that.

MR. ROBERTS: That is a very good thing. It has been ten years since there was a doctor in Port Saunders. In the days when it was the responsibility of the Health Department and there was an interest in it which I do not think would serve any good purpose to rake it over again, Not all of us but a number of us are familiar with it. I am sure the gentleman from Humber East is intimately familiar with it, the gentleman from St. Barbe South is, the Minister of Health is, and I am.

The doctor concerned of course is still in the province. He is in Marystown now and serving superbly and indeed I suggest if there is any suggestion, if he ever be taken out of Marystown there would be something close to a riot in that community. He is well regarded by the people in the area.

It is good to have a doctor in Port Saunders, just as it is good to have one in Roddickton. I think the Roddickton experiment has proven to be very successful. Port Saunders is the obvious next step. The one beyond that should be in Labrador South.

AN HON. MEMBER: St. Barbe North.

MR. ROBERTS: Or St. Barbe North, it is getting closer to St. Anthony. The honourable gentleman from Fortune Bay thinks his constituents are isolated and see doctors very infrequently as is the case. I am sure the honourable gentleman from Labrador South, who has even fewer constituents spread out over even greater distances of coast, can confirm this as can any of us who know anything at all about that area. Just for the benefit of the minister though, there was a proposal from the Grenfell people, a letter from Dr. Thomas to me, as the Minister of Health, it would have been December, 1971 -- January, 1972, it was approved. I have been wondering for

over a year why it had not gone ahead. I do not know why the minister does not know about it. It may be that nobody has told him about it. That is fine, but I think it should be recorded that that project as it is now going ahead without a LIP grant, of course, was approved to go ahead twelve months ago. It has been delayed twelve months and I am glad it is coming ahead now.

MR. WM. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, I am interested in one - well all of it obviously, but one particular question in the health estimates that concerns doctors in rural areas in the province. I realize, Sir, that you cannot indenture anybody, you can not commit anyone to slavery in the province. What are the arrangements between the Department of Health and doctors who are recruited by the minister, who come to the province and go to the remoter areas of the province? Is there any constraint on them at all to keep them in a particular community? Is there any financial penalty, for example, if they do not live up to a particular contract?

I would assume that their travel from Great Britain, for example, to Newfoundland is paid for. Is there something written into an agreement with the doctors to the effect that that is to be forfeited if they do not live up to an agreement?

Generally speaking, if there is a written agreement or an oral agreement, or some kind of an arrangement, how long does the doctor usually have to stay in a place before he is absolved of any further commitment, financial or otherwise, that type of a question. Mr. Chairman, what kind of constraints, does the doctor have to keep him in an area once he goes there - instead of using Newfoundland, in the future, as many doctors have in the past, as a stepping stone to greater things in North America?

DR. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, the two points I would like to make on this are, first of all, we pay the expenses of the doctor and his family

to come out to Newfoundland, except for very large items of furniture and a car, We will not pay for that sort of thing; ordinary personal, household effects and individual travel.

Now if he comes out to a practice and leaves it within a certain period of time, we take back from him what it costs to bring him out to Newfoundland. If he does not fulfill the two years that we desire, we will not pay him any return expenses at the end of this time. In between, what can we do other than take back what it cost us to get him out here? We do this. The honourable Leader of the Opposition is well aware this is done, not infrequently.

Apart from some financial embargo, there is really no other plan that you can make. The problem arises with the bursary students, the people who go through on the government scheme. The people in Justice Department tell me that this can only be a moral obligation. There is no way that you can put teeth in this to make it legal, and the chap is bound that he has to stay in this locality where the Department of Health directs him. It cannot be made a compulsion; it is only a moral obligation. Essentially I do not think we can go much beyond that. Does that answer your question?

The only other two points I would like to make are that I am informed, for the first time in several years, when the doctor (I forget his name now) arrives for Lourdes, every district medical practice in the province will be filled, which has not happened for some time. How long people will remain there, the answer to your question, I just do not know.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, I am glad to hear that the district medical practices are filled, One of the reasons they have not been filled the last couple of years is that they have been expanded substantially. There have been six or eight added in the last two or three years. But it is good news they are filled.

On a slightly different tack, the fee-for-service doctors have gotten a raise of about \$800,000 distributed in a number of ways. What is being done about the doctors in the cottage hospitals? Surely their scales - I would be surprised if their scales have not been raised. The minister perhaps could tell us.

DR. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, the honourable Leader of the Opposition will remember that when he was in the office he authorized a study called the PAS study, by some people from Chicago, and their study was received and a certain part was implemented as a result of which I am not able to give you the figure for the amount but there was an increase to the cottage hospital salaries for doctors.

MR. ROBERTS: Was it much? Five per cent? Ten per cent?

DR. ROWE: It was not that amount - and there were different steps laid down. I would be happy to provide you with a copy of the report, but there was an increase. I cannot tell you off hand exactly what it was, but I will be happy to provide you with the information.

MR. ROBERTS: I would like to see the report, I mean the bill for doctors tends to come high.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I understand a board has been appointed for the Gander Hospital, indeed I have most of the names, perhaps the minister could make a little statement on it.

DR. ROWE: I am quite happy to say that the chairman has been appointed but the board members have not yet been appointed.

MR. ROBERTS: Inaudible.

DR. ROWE: I am quite happy to name the chairman, Mr. Lewington, President of Eastern Provincial Airways.

MR. ROBERTS: May I say, an excellent choice.

DR. ROWE: Thank you.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, I have one or two questions I would like to ask the minister. The first question I would like to ask the

minister, Sir, and this is just a matter of curiosity, but in answer to a question the other day concerning expenses for the most recent recruiting trip that the minister and his party made to England:

There was a list, amongst the expenses, almost \$1200, over \$1100 for Mrs. Barbara Nugent, the Premier's receptionist, could the minister indicate what function Mrs. Nugent served in this trip overseas? Did she do any work or is this just a trip to her native home?

DR. ROWE: When I came back from this trip on November 3, I made a press release which covered the names of the people who had been on the trip and Mrs. Nugent performed I think I could say three specific things.

One is that we interviewed fifty-seven individual doctors. By the way, we took over the offices of IGA, who were good enough to let us have their offices in London for this several days. She arranged the appointments for the people that we interviewed. She talked particularly to the wives and she herself being English, came to Newfoundland just after the Second World War, had lived in both countries, so was able to give a lot of background information. Thirdly, she paid the travelling expenses of the doctors who came to interview us. So there were three specific things. It was not a holiday for her while she was on this recruiting trip. I am quite satisfied to say that there were three specific things that she was responsible for.

AN HON. MEMBER: Dr. Colohan, Dr. Lawton and myself, to interview the individual doctors.

MR. NEARY: It seems rather strange, Mr. Chairman, the honourable minister did not take his own secretary. Be that as it may, there it is another mysterious item that we will never understand.

DR. ROWE: There is nothing mysterious about it. The lady is herself English. She had a fair bit of background of Newfoundland as well as England. She was available. We had a lot of appointments. I am quite satisfied. There is no mystery. I am quite happy, you can ask me any question about it.

MR. MURPHY: But we have a headline now, "Mysterious business..."

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, the other question I want to put to the Minister of Health, we will deal with Mrs. Nugent when we get to the estimates, I have a few more questions to ask about that.

MR. MURPHY: That is right.

MR. NEARY: In the meantime, Sir, the minister has had a running battle for the last couple of weeks with the druggists in the province and there have been a series of meetings, I do not know if the problems have been resolved. The minister may be justified and he may not be justified in the action. Maybe in the long run he will save the province some money by having the long-term cases now supplied from Central Pharmacy, It may be a good thing. I believe we tried that at one time. I do not know whether it worked or not - sending drugs through the mail you know, in my opinion, is not the best way to get people's drugs along to them. Anything can happen to them, especially in the isolated areas where you may get the ice in for several weeks in the wintertime and so forth and it may force some of the drug stores in these rural areas to close down, because they have now lost a large slice of their income, by Central Pharmacy providing drugs to long-term cases. We can deal with that matter later too.

What I really want to ask the minister is;

Does the government intend in the next month or two to place druggists in any of the hospitals, the cottage hospitals or in any of the hospitals in the rural areas? I would like to hear the minister's comments on this.

DR. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, there are several points about this. First of all I think that was the policy that was adopted some years ago. The indigents or the people on welfare who received drugs are of two types, one who need drugs on a permanent basis and those who need drugs on a very short term basis for an acute immediate illness of a few days or a week. It was the policy at one time that all people on what we call long-term drugs had them supplied through the central pharmacy in St. John's, sent out by mail. For some reason or another this was dropped. All we have done is sort of reinstitute this on a trial basis to see what the difference is.

We are negotiating at the moment with the Newfoundland Pharmacy Association and the Newfoundland Pharmacy Board. We are endeavoring to come up with some proposals, which have not yet been completed. I have asked the association to let me know if there are any drugstores in the province that are suffering hardship because we have put in this, on trial, again of sending the drugs for long-term patients while the short term patients are still supplied by the local drugstore.

MR. ROBERTS: How long is long-term?

DR. ROWE: I do not know if it can be defined specifically but I think a person has to be on drugs for six months, a year, two years or maybe indefinitely. I would think that the best thing would be to apply it to the patient who will have to take this drug for an unspecified period. If that is anything over a month or two, it may be worthwhile getting it sent direct from the central pharmacy where it costs very much less. So that is the situation. We will be able to tell in a few months exactly what difference this makes to the cost. As I say, I am very aware. I do not wish to detract from anybody making an income but I have asked the pharmacists if they can prove to me or show that any drugstore is suffering hardship because of this policy. I would like to know about it.

The second question that you make is the question, "Do we plan to put druggists in any of our hospitals?". We have no plans. There are pharmacists in some of the larger hospitals but we have no plan to enlarge on this situation at the present time.

I am sure that there is not a person in this House who is not concerned about the high cost of drugs to individuals in the province. From my years of practice I knew what a hardship it was when you wrote a prescription for drugs for three or four sick children in the family. I can say that we are giving great consideration to this. I am sure people before have talked about bulk purchasing in the Atlantic Provinces and getting together and sort of buying the drugs in bulk. This may be one thing. The English system whereby a premium is paid by a person who is to obtain drugs, perhaps there may be some way to introduce the programme, such as the Blue Cross Programme, where you pay a specific amount and you get your drugs at a subsidized rate.

We are having consistent, constant and repeated looks at the drug situation and hopefully we may come up with something which may be of benefit or perhaps we would have to look into it through the eyes of someone more top.

MR. NEARY: My remarks were not a criticism on the honourable minister's policy. If the province can save money, I would say more power to him. The only thing is that in this new policy there may be a withdrawal of services in certain rural areas. If there is a withdrawal of service, then will the departments step in to make sure that the people are able to get their drugs from -

MR. ROWE: It was for this reason that I specifically asked the association to tell me if they know of any drugstores which are suffering tremendous loss of income because of this. This is why I want to know.

MR. THOMS: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to ask the minister one or two questions.

As the minister is already aware, there is a shortage of nurses, not necessarily in the greater centres of Newfoundland but certainly in the outports of Newfoundland. I was wondering if the minister could inform us

if there is any programme afoot to increase the output of nurses and if in any of these programmes there is room for male students to become male nurses?

MR. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, you have touched on what is really a hobby-horse of mine, to try and interest males in becoming nurses because for some years now I have been saying that I think there is a great place in nursing for males. While there is a stigma attached to the male nurse, I think that if we could get more men to take it up as a full time sort of profession, we could certainly fill many of the other areas. I am very happy to co-operate and to become enthusiastic over encouraging males to become nurses. I think it is very worthwhile.

They can take the course. I am not sure what percentage the schools have but there are a certain number that graduate. The numbers are very, very low, perhaps one in a class of forty or fifty nurses. I do not know why more men do not go into it. They tell me it is because of the financial distributing of the family, but at the same time I think that the nursing salaries at the moment are pretty reasonable. I do not think that this should be a bar to a chap going into it.

The second part of your question, on the supply of nurses:

ARNN tell us that there is perhaps no real shortage of nurses within the province. I am not sure that I accept that because when you look at, again some of the rural areas, you look at problems that IGA have, the problems in some of the cottage hospitals, I am sure that there is a shortage of nurses for specific areas such as there is a shortage of doctors. The Miller Nursing Commission, which is now working, may have some answers to give us when they bring their report later this year. Certainly I am anxious to see the number of nurses increased.

I would say that in this regard in hospitals today the nursing assistant is doing what up to a few years ago the registered nurse was doing. I think this is a good thing but I still think that we do not want to overload the hospitals with the nursing assistants. We need also to bring up the ratio of N's. I am very happy to work toward this.

MR. WOODWARD: Mr. Chairman, I would like to direct a couple of questions to the honourable minister. There is great concern in Northern Labrador and especially in Northern Newfoundland about the changing of the Air Ambulance Service. There is talk of replacing fixed-wing aircraft with helicopters for Air Ambulance and there is great concern that the helicopters do not have the flexibility and will not lend themselves to this service as well as the fixed-wing type aircraft would. I wonder if the minister maybe could just elaborate a little on this.

MR. ROWE: I know of negotiations at the moment for a change at North West River from a piston aircraft to a turbojet. Is that correct? Except that they say that they can do more flights in less time. They can do more jobs in shorter periods of time.

I have no knowledge of replacement with helicopters. Whether Dr. Thomas has been talking or not, I have not any knowledge of this particular project. I know of just the one incident in that North West River where this change is being made.

MR. ROBERTS: Of interest, turbo-beavers are very hard to come by. They do not make them anymore. They have not made them for two or three years. Is it proposed to buy another one? There are now three in the province, GFS which has been based here, GPV based at Goose Bay and UKK based at St. Anthony. Is it proposed to move one of these three or is another one coming into the province?

MR. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, the only answer I can give is, at least at the moment, there is negotiation. With regard to North West River, that is the only one of which I am aware at the moment.

MR. ROBERTS: That is okay and it makes great sense to replace the JAT with a turbo-beaver especially with the long haul up to Nain and out on the Coast. My question was: Is it proposed to take one of the three? Forestry now operate two, or Air Services, wherever that has ended up in the restructuring, operate two and the other one is based at St. Anthony and International

Grenfell operate it with financial help from the government. Is it proposed to move one of these or is another one being brought into the province?

MR. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, frankly I do not know what the present situation is with that, I just do not know.

MR. ROBERTS: Does whoever is responsible know?

MR. EARLE: I might be of some assistance to the honourable Leader of the Opposition. I would like the hon.

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Leader of the Opposition to know that the air services come under my particular department. At times this whole question of the types of planes and so on is undergoing very complete review as to the planes we may or may not use. The turbo-beaver is a very expensive plane to operate, actually. We are giving consideration, not only to different types of planes but the helicopter service and all that. This will not be done hastily or will not be done quickly. It is under complete review and after we have the best advice that is obtainable then we will act in connection with the air services, the types of planes that we will have.

MR. WOODWARD: Mr. Chairman, getting back to the question that was asked of the minister. I did not get this from Dr. Thomas in St. Anthony.

The fact is I have heard rumours throughout the industry that the fixed-wing aircraft in the air ambulance service would be replaced with helicopters. I think this is perhaps what the hon. Minister of Public Works and Services is saying. There is a possibility of this coming about or it is being studied or looked at.

MR. EARLE: I am just saying that the matter is under consideration and study at the present time.

On motion HEAD X, Health, carried.

HEAD XI - MINES AND ENERGY - \$3,840,000.

HON. L. D. BARRY (Minister of Mines and Energy): Mr. Speaker, \$3,340,000, this category is broken down as follows: salaries, \$90,000; current account, \$2,650,000; capital account, \$600,000. Salaries of \$90,000, this amount is requested to provide for the salaries of existing staff and for new staff expected to be appointed during April and May, 1973, to the department. Current account, \$2,650,000 is made up as follows: minister's office, travelling, \$1,000; general administration, travelling, \$2,000; (I notice they have no provision for salaries in the minister's office, we will forget that) Mineral Development Division, travelling, \$3,500; motor vehicle acquisition, \$3,500; geological, \$10,000; equipment, \$5,000; publications, \$3,000; mineral development programme, \$200,000. This is

to enable the purchase of field equipment, including vehicles, the hiring of field personnel, the initial reconnaissance of field survey areas. Any shortage of funds at this time would delay the commencement of the field work for the coming summer and thus prejudice its success. The amount requested here is to provide for the hiring of staff, purchase of equipment and vehicle acquisition. This expenditure is in connection with the Canada/Newfoundland and Labrador Mineral Exploration and Evaluation Programme and is recoverable from the federal government through an appropriation-in-aid.

Energy Resources Division, travelling, \$5,000; the rural electricity authority, \$800,000, a grant-in-aid; Newfoundland and Labrador Power Commission, \$1,600,000, industrial incentives; the Mineral Lands Division, travelling, \$7,000; (this is to provide for travelling and relocation expenses of new staff) acquisition of vehicles, \$5,000; then the block provision Canada Pension, unemployment insurance.

The capital account of \$600,000 is made up of \$100,000 for the mineral development programme to enable the start of construction on a mineral's laboratory;

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. BARRY: Somewhere in the area around here, I believe, off Higgin's Line somewhere. The rural electricity authority, \$500,000, grant-in-aid. For a total of \$3,340,000.

MR. W. N. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, when the minister -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. W. N. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, is there any chance of getting a word in? I must get a copy of it.

MR. CROSBIE: (Inaudible).

MR. W. N. ROWE: Good, copies. It shows the Minister of Finance being bowled over, this time on the ice.

Mr. Chairman, there are one or two questions that I would like

to ask the minister. There is \$500,000 I think, capital grant-in-aid to the rural electrification authority or whatever it is called, R.E.A.'s. Does the minister have on hand a list of communities in which presumably diesel power is going to be installed this year or perhaps new replacement and that sort of thing? If he does have that information on hand, I would like to have it, if he could supply it, Mr. Chairman.

The other point I would like to make -

MR. CROSBIE: (Inaudible).

MR. W. N. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, are you able to keep order in the House? It seems to be getting unruly over there in crackies corner Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please!

MR. W. N. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, one point I would like concerning the minister's department and that concerns a statement he made to rotary yesterday, one of the service clubs, in any event.

AN HON. MEMBER: The Board of Trade.

MR. W. N. ROWE: The Board of Trade, right. That is a good service club. A couple of days ago the minister made some reference to the giving of permits to people for offshore exploration purposes. I think the point he made then was that there was going to be a year's delay perhaps, although he could not be too specific, a year's delay as far as giving provincial authorization is concerned and that people would have to, if they got federal authorization, rely on speculation. If they acted on the federal authorization, they would have to rely on speculation as far as getting the provincial authorization was concerned. One thing that did strike me as kind of funny, Mr. Chairman, was that this seems to be a major change in policy and I thought the minister could have done the House the courtesy of making that statement by way of a ministerial statement in the House, since the House is sitting. I realize in the ministers' desire to get publicity and to make major speeches to major

organizations, they sometimes neglect the courtesy which they owe to this House, to make important statements to the House when the House is in session. I would like to have him clarify the situation with regard to the permits. All I have seen is what I have read. There were some interviews which the minister had on television which were necessarily very short. I would like to know what the idea is behind it? Undoubtedly, the ministry is going to try to get some regulations governing exploration off our shores. I am wondering if it has anything to do with the fact that the ownership of the offshore resources are, as yet, undetermined, whether he hopes that this will be resolved in the next year or so, either by legal suit in the Supreme Court of Canada (ultimately it will be going to the Supreme Court of Canada) or whether there will be some political decision made between this government and the Government of Canada as to the ownership and management of the offshore rights?

I would just like to hear some clarification of the minister's statement yesterday, which he made outside this House, Mr. Chairman.

MR. BARRY: With respect to the honourable member's question on the rural electrification authority, the amount set out for capital here is \$500,000 as a grant-in-aid. Now I do not have the figures nor the information with respect to the communities that will be receiving diesel electrification this summer, mainly because this is a matter I think that this House is going to have to decide once the budget is brought down. I do not have any hesitation in saying, however, that one item I will be fighting for in the estimates is the electrification of a place in my own district, a place, a small community called Petit Forte, which when I was elected last summer, one of the first things I found was that this was, I think, the only community

in Newfoundland that was entitled to electrification under the then existing policy, the policy of the previous administration. I think the policy was in excess of fifteen customers and this was the only community in Newfoundland that qualified and had not receive electrification. When I found this out, I told the people that I would do whatever I could to see that they were put in the position of being able to have electricity as soon as possible. I received a commitment from the Minister of Finance that he would use his best endeavours to see that this figure was included in the budget for this coming year. I might say that is the one promise I made when I got that commitment. The one promise I made to the people in my district was that the community of Petit Forte would be electrified this year.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. BARRY: Why was it not done last summer? One thing was as I understand, if I recall correctly, the estimates had been passed before I was made aware or before I got the facts, I think it was the number of customers there, that they were actually entitled to it under the policy. Plus because of previous ill-gotten schemes, this administration was in a very difficult position as far as new projects were concerned. The funds had previously been committed by some members of the previous administration, and our administration and I think the people of Petit Forte understood that we would do what we could for them but it might take some time. I am happy to say that it looks as if this community is one which may be able to expect electrification this year.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. BARRY: This \$500,000, Mr. Chairman, is to enable - there are certain things which are going to have to be done, certain equipment which is going to have to be ordered. We know that there are going to be certain things done under rural electrification. We know there is certain equipment going to have to be ordered. The where does not have to be decided at this date. We know that there is going to be a certain amount of money spent.

AN HON. MEMBER: What about Marystown?

MR. BARRY: I do not think it is all going to Petit Forte.

HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. BARRY: Basically this is to enable certain invoices
equipment -

MR. ROWE, W.N. Just draw a picture. Do not go into detail like that
necessarily, just a broad picture.

MR. BARRY: In order to be able to supply services to the people of our
rural communities.

AN HON. MEMBER: Carried.

MR. BARRY: The next item raised by the honourable member confuses me
a little.

MR. ROWE, W.N. Do not go into detail on it now. Just gently.

MR. BARRY: I assume that the reference he was making was to the statement
that the existing policy of this administration is to preserve the status
quo as much as possible, in order to avoid complicating negotiations with
the federal government in the jurisdictional dispute, off-shore. The
existing policy of this administration is to preserve the status quo as
much as possible, in order to avoid complicating negotiations with the
federal government in the jurisdictional dispute off-shore.

Now, when this administration came into office, I could say without
any qualification whatsoever, the province was on the verge of giving
away a great resource, and it was only a miracle, a fluke or an over-sight
that one hundred per cent of the Continental Shelf had not been given
away by the previous administration.

Now there will be more details supplied as we go through the estimates.

Unfortunately I do not have all the information at this time but if
the honourable members wanted it, facts and figures, they could be gotten.
But I could say that I was terrified when I saw what the previous
administration had almost done -

MR. ROWE, W.N. Almost done.

MR. BARRY: They had wanted to do it but somehow it is perhaps an indication
of their incompetency at the time that despite their overwhelming desire

to give away the offshore resources, they could not quite manage it. They did their best. All I can say is Thank God they did not have another month or two months or they might have succeed!

Now the first thing this government did was to rationalize the position offshore. We sat down, looked at every promise that had been issued, looked at every piece of paper that some so-called oil companies were going around waving in the air and saying it was the right to produce petroleum from the Newfoundland Continental Shelf when in fact it was some gobbledegook arranging from orders-in-council that somehow had ended up in the hands of these wheelers and dealers, setting out such things as leases will be supplied subject to terms and conditions to be negotiated, letters from various politicians, setting out that there were commitments made to these companies when in fact there was no right given under any authority of this honourable House, as far as we can see, looking at what had been expressed by the then administration, looking at the wording of documents which fortunately did not carry the great seal of the province.

MR. ROWE, W.N. Fortunately, right. An over-sight. We made a mistake. We should have applied the seal.

MR. BARRY: Let me put it this way, if the previous administration were still in power, it morally could not refuse to recognize the commitments that it had made unofficially. Now with the change of administration, fortunately for the people of Newfoundland, fortunately this administration could say to everybody, you are not getting one more iota than you are entitled to by law, not a jot, not a piddle -this has basically been the policy of this administration. We sat down and we looked through all these pieces of paper, we asked what are these people entitled to, because, of course, we have to recognize, as much as we might hate to in many cases, we have to recognize commitments that are made by the previous administration because otherwise the credit of the province will suffer. Well I tell you that it hurts to have to do it at times.

But anyhow no commitments were ignored. In any event, where the province was not legally obligated, this administration said, you have nothing. We do not care what undertakings you were given by the previous politicians

You have nothing and you are not getting anything until we decide how these resources are going to be distributed for the maximum benefit of Newfoundland.

Now I made a statement yesterday for the Board of Trade, that possibly exploration was being impeded because this administration was taken the position that it was not going to follow willy-nilly, blindly behind the federal government and issue permits to companies holding existing permits from the federal government. There have been companies come into us and said, "we hold this permit from the federal government. Now we are getting a little bit concerned your case looks a lot better now than it did three, four or five years ago we are getting a little concerned about spending so much money without a provincial permit. Will you give us a provincial permit?" In some cases these companies had applied for a provincial permits previously but because other wheeler-dealers had gotten in between them and saw a good thing, these legitimate companies had not been given the permits by the previous administration. In other cases companies had, as I assume, ignored the province's case at that time and not bothered to

not bother to apply. To all of those we are saying, no we are not going to follow willy-nilly behind the federal government. We are going to decide the terms upon which these permits will be issued. At the present time it will merely confuse matters, aggravate matters, complicate settlement with the federal government if we issue a set of conflicting regulations, if we start issuing conflicting permits and so on.

It comes down to a matter of balance, Mr. Chairman. Granted exploration made be impeded to a certain extent but in the long-run it cannot be challenged. I do not think the province is going to be better off. We also have companies coming in and attempting to do a little bargaining, putting a little pressure on, saying well look we have this multi-million dollar programme laid on for this summer, if we do not get your permit, we may have to postpone that or even put it off forever. Now is that a bluff? In some cases, Mr. Chairman, I am happy to say that companies that have indicated (I found out about one, just today) that they would not be able to continue with an exploration programme without a provincial permit, when told that the provincial government were not going to issue a permit, that as much as they hated to put the company in the awkward position, that it was not best for the province to issue permits at this time and the companies therefore, had to like it or leave it, to take their chances or to suspend drilling, I would say in most cases these companies are going ahead and carrying on their drilling programmes.

Again I want to challenge the reference to my ignoring the common courtesy to the House. This was unwarranted. This was not needed, this statement. There was no change of policy here. This had been clearly set out, this holding of a status quo had been clearly set out months ago in public statements from the then Minister of Mines, Agriculture and Resources (who is now crossing the floor) and from myself, since December. All that was done yesterday was to set out

some of the consequences that could flow from this policy. But on balance, Mr. Chairman, I submit that this policy is the one that will most benefit the people of Newfoundland.

MR. W. N. ROWE: The honourable minister has provoked conversation I think, Mr. Chairman, in the House by some of his intemperate comments. My feelings are not hurt that the honourable minister did not come to the House and make a ministerial statement. Really, my feelings are not hurt. It was a major statement of policy or implementation of policy which he should have mentioned in this House and given someone on this side a chance to comment on, and perhaps make a statement on it outside the House as well.

What really intrigues me, Mr. Chairman, is the honourable minister standing up and making broad general statements: the previous administration nearly did this, nearly did that, nearly gave away all our offshore resources. What kind of a statement is that, Mr. Chairman? Would someone explain that to me, nearly gave away this? "Terms and conditions were not in an order-in-council, therefore, we did not quite give it away we nearly gave it away, or the Great Seal of the Province was not applied to something or other and therefore it did not have any legal effect or something and therefore, we nearly gave it away but we did not give it away." What kind of a silly statement is that, Mr. Chairman?

Politicians did this and politicians did that, with no names being mentioned. Anyone here? Did the honourable minister have anything signed by me? Giving away the Grand Banks to somebody, for example? I cannot remember doing it. Did the hon. Leader of the Opposition give away Cape Chidley to someone when he was in the ministry?

AN HON. MEMBER: Kelly's Island.

MR. W. N. ROWE: Did you give away Bell Island to somebody? You might have tried.

MR. BARRY: Mr. Chairman, I could just mention that the constant reference to Cape Chidley is a very sensitive point because there happens to be a couple of islands out there that could be quite crucial to the extent of our Continental Shelf, the Button Islands. Could we have the Button Islands substituted for all references to Cape Chidley, Mr. Chairman?

MR. W. N. ROWE: Okay.

MR. BARRY: It is purely a matter of exercising jurisdiction.

MR. W. N. ROWE: The wheelers and dealers, says the honourable minister, Mr. Chairman, going around waving pieces of paper - as if that is the responsibility of someone in the previous administration or that administration for that matter. Certainly every promoter or developer and every businessman is going to squeeze the last drop out of whatever pieces of paper he can wave. There is no doubt about that. If he is given an order-in-council or a copy of an order-in-council, saying generally and basically that you can fool around out here in this area of land; however, we do not know what rights you are going to have to it as yet. Certainly, he will try to milk that dry, trying to raise money and that sort of thing, but who is to be held responsible for that? Certainly nobody in the previous administration any more than an administration is responsible for a job that a contractor might do on a piece of public works that is contracted out to him. You cannot hold the previous administration, not the present administration, responsible for wheelers and dealers going around and waving pieces of paper. One of the wheelers and dealers, Mr. Shaheen, suddenly became respectable there a couple of weeks ago. There was nothing too bad to say about him before two weeks ago. He was brought into this House and some of the honourable members on the other side, (not the minister. He had nothing to say. He was not in the House. I doubt if he would have said anything detrimental to the man's personality or character if he had been in the House) some honourable gentlemen

in this House and one-time members of this House did not spare the horses, Mr. Chairman; made every possible use of the immunities of this House, I might say, and the privileges of this House to try to make that man look like a crook and a scoundrel, on public television. Suddenly, he is respectable. Is he one of the wheelers and dealers that the hon. Minister of Mines and Energy is now referring to? I do not know. He did not mention any names.

Another question that might be asked, Mr. Chairman: When will the terms and conditions respecting the offshore areas be drawn up? This government have been in power for well over a year, a year and several months and still no terms and conditions, no regulations have apparently been drawn up concerning the offshore oil resources or mineral resources or any resources. That is not a question, The drafting up of these rules and regulations is not a question which depends on ownership. Surely our position is that we profess and claim to have total ownership just as I would assume the federal government claim and profess to have total ownership. Each of us, therefore, claiming total ownership in every respect, make rules and regulations respecting it. We do not have to wait for the question of ownership to be determined. What is the delay? This is the government who were going to do everything, when they got elected. What is the delay in setting up or coming up with some terms and conditions? I do not blame the minister for this. He has only been in since December 5 or something, two or three months. There has been no time to do anything except get his feet wet and find out what the department is all about. This government, through an assortment of ministers - well one minister I think, who is a variety unto himself - they have been in power for a year and several months. Surely, it is not beyond even their wit to come up with some rules and regulations, within a year and three months.

Now we have the minister coming up and acknowledging quite frankly the possibility, the danger and the risk that the province may, in fact, lose out in the short haul, although it may gain in the long run by ceasing and desisting from passing out any kind of permits or any type of permit of any order to people who want to drill or explore offshore. My answer to that is quite simple: If this cease and desist order is as a result of no rules, regulations, terms and conditions having been drafted up, then this government are incredibly negligent. These rules, regulations, terms and conditions should have been drafted up quicker than this. Therefore, there should be no reason for this province to suffer in the short run or the long run. I hope we do gain in the long run and I am sure that the minister is being very conscientious about drafting up terms and conditions and that these terms and conditions will protect Newfoundland's best interests. I have no doubt about that at all. I know they will.

We are going to lose a year now, perhaps more, before anyone else - I do not profess to understand fully the policy that is being enunciated - apparently many months, perhaps a year or more will go by before any new permits of any kind will be given to people to explore offshore. Certainly that seems to me to be an inordinately long period of time. This should have been done by now. We are going to lose a year. I would ask the minister to be a little more temperate in his remarks in respect of the last administration, not to stand up in this House and say this was nearly done and that was nearly done. The fact and the point of the matter is that it was not done, Mr. Chairman. Although it might have been convenient for the government, the present government to drag in names like Mr. Doyle, Mr. Shaheen and other people like that, six months ago, now at least in respect of one of those gentlemen, it suddenly turns out that he is not a wheeler-dealer. He is not the scum of the earth as he was painted to be but he is a respectable man, going arm-in-arm with the government of this province now to develop

a major project, a major Canadian project.

AN HON. MEMBER: Ship to ship.

MR. W. N. ROWE: Pardon!

AN HON. MEMBER: Ship to ship.

MR. W. N. ROWE: Ship to ship, right. I did not quite understand the honourable member. I thought he was being unparliamentary.

MR. ROWE (W.N.): I thought he was whispering unparliament language to me. Well, yes I am finished. I just want to say that these things were not done and nothing was given away by the previous administration no matter how it is painted. The hon. minister with his trained mind and his ordered ways of doing things, like myself for example, I do not like to see anything which is haphazard, any loose ends and this sort of thing and it has to be tied up, it has to be clued up and the thing has to be rationalized and systematized, there is no doubt about that in my mind. But to be making immoderate statements, like this was nearly done, giving the impression that things were in fact done when they were not done, Mr. Chairman, is unworthy of the hon. minister and he should try to stick to the facts and try to paint a true picture of the offshore resources in this province.

MR. BARRY: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member referred to intemperate statements made by me. There were no intemperate statements. The statements made by myself were carefully considered and completely intentioned. The fact is that it is not simply a matter of giving a company a permit to explore. This is being done, not officially but the companies come to us and we are saying to the companies, "Go ahead. We have no objection to your continuing your drilling programme which you were doing when the previous administration was, in without any contact with the provincial government at all." We are not saying, "stop drilling," We are saying that although you have permission to explore, we are not at this time going to commit the province to giving you the right to produce on certain royalty terms for a certain period of years.

MR. ROWE (W.N.): That is the same way it was all the time.

MR. BARRY: That is not the same way it always was, unfortunately in some -

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

MR. BARRY: Would you believe, AMICO?

MR. ROBERTS: No, table the order-in-council.

MR. BARRY: The order-in-council, can be done.

MR. ROBERTS: Well, please table it.

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

MR. BARRY: Mr. Chairman, could you control some of the intemperate members on the other side of the House?

AN HON. MEMBER: Copy cat.

MR. BARRY: I can get the order-in-council for the hon. members but I think I can explain why we are tied in, and this refers also to my comments with respect to the so-called oil companies that were floating around, these pieces of paper. The AMICO permit and permits of two other companies incorporate, by reference, the federal permits. Without having the exact wording, it is basically that the Newfoundland Government will not impose terms any less beneficial than those imposed by the federal permits. Now that ties us down. That restricts the terms that this province can set on permits issued to these companies. My reference to the things that the previous administration almost did was that in many cases we were placed in the embarrassing position of having companies going around with pieces of paper which they, I think in good faith, assumed to have given them certain rights. It was only because, as I said, there was a new administration that could not be bound by informal commitments, informal arrangements, it was only by that that we could sit down and say, "These are the terms of your contracts, these are the terms of your agreements and you are not getting one jot more than that." But that does not mean that the province was not placed in an awkward position, as it was.

Now if the hon. members have any other comments or questions, I will be happy to answer them but I hope that explains my previous remarks.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, it only makes it worse. Now let me have a look at this. It is hard to know where to start. I have seldom seen a minister make such an ass of himself, Sir, so quickly. Now,

Mr. Chairman, the minister gets up and he says, if I am not quoting him correctly I know he will be good enough to set me straight and I shall be grateful to him for that, that the previous administration nearly gave away the province, Sir, the offshore portion of the province, nearly gave it away. My colleague gets up and takes issue with that. The minister gets up and, in as lame and as limp an explanation of policy as I have ever heard, backtracks. It turns out that all that happened, all that happened, he says, is that we only are bound by the terms of the contracts we have made. He just said that before he took his seat. He said it, Mr. Chairman, as I sat here and heard him. He said, "We (the present administration) are not bound by an informal agreements," whatever that may mean. It could only mean that there are no formal agreements.

MR. CROSBIE: (Inaudible).

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Finance once again feels impelled to leap in and says there would have been. Yes, and the moon may have been made out of green cheese. Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Finance, if he wish to address the committee, will have his opportunity. His colleague was just being very proper, asking to be heard in silence, and let the Minister of Finance do as his colleague wishes. The moon may have been made of green cheese. The previous administration may have dammed the narrows and bottled the water and sold it in Saudi Arabia. Each of those statements is as logical as the statement made by the present Minister of Mines and Energy. He admitted that the previous administration made no commitments at all, no commitments at all, other than the ones they have honoured.

Now let me just quote, and seldom does one get the chance to quote with as much approval, "Information Newfoundland" as this release here. It is one issued by the hon. junior member for Harbour Main, on October 19, 1972 and "I bows accordingly." Now, Mr. Chairman, I want to refer to a number of parts of this because it was a major statement of policy

and it was well annunciated. It certainly was. It is too bad the gentleman from Placentia West was not aware of it. I now quote verbatim from what has to be holy writ.

AN HON. MEMBER: My moment.

MR. ROBERTS: I agree it is the hon. gentleman's moment. His colleague from Placentia West should have something to say on it. I will read the previous parts a little later but I am not taking them out of sequence. "In addition," said the minister, "certain companies which will go unnamed," including (and I am not quoting now) the infamous John Shaheen who at that stage was not the Saviour he has become since.

AN HON. MEMBER: One of nature's gentlemen.

MR. ROBERTS: Right, right, but at that stage was not even worthy of being named.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. ROBERTS: Right. The hon. gentleman knew what was in the wind, that is why he did not name them. "In addition certain companies which will go unnamed claim to hold exploration rights by virtue of other arrangements made with the previous administration." That is us, the guilty little us. That is us. Mea culpa, as the minister would say.

AN HON. MEMBER: Maxima culpa.

MR. WM. ROWE: I was ten years old.

MR. ROBERTS: The honourable gentleman was at fault. Some rely on Orders-in-Council, allegedly evidencing the intention of that administration to issue an interim permit. I would like to stress that no arrangements other than the interim permits, and to the extent noted above, exist with respect to the province's off shore resources. So much for the gentleman from Placentia West with his infamously vile statement. I have rarely heard quite as scummy a statement in my time and I have heard some scummy ones. I have been accused of making some. But I have rarely heard one quite as scummy as that statement, not a shred of evidence to support it.

MR. BARRY: Point of Order, Mr. Chairman, I ask the honourable Leader of the Opposition to retract that statement, if you can call it a statement. It makes me almost throw up but that, Mr. Chairman, was unparliamentary language and I ask for a retraction.

MR. ROBERTS: Does the Chairman want to make a ruling?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The authorities that I have read, do not include the expression "scummy statement," which I presume is the expression to which the honourable member for Placentia West is directing himself. I do feel that it is an unparliamentary phrase and perhaps the Leader of the Opposition could rephrase the comment.

MR. ROBERTS: Your Honour of course I withdraw it. It is not a scummy statement. It is an infamously vile statement. It was either said maliciously or negligently.

The Minister of Mines, Agriculture and Resources, who then was responsible for the administration's policy with respect to offshore mineral rights, on October 19, made a clear and concise statement. The other gentleman gets up here, nearly five months to the day, and launches a broad side attack and if the gentleman

for St. John's Centre earlier said, "oh that will grab a headline," I can see the headlines now, "Smallwood nearly gives away province," I can see it now. I rarely heard quite as vile a statement and I am shocked that it comes from the honourable gentleman.

Now, Mr. Chairman, what were the permits outstanding? Quoting the honourable member for Harbour Main, the Minister of Economic Development still, as of today, says that the Government of Newfoundland has issued permits despite the fact that, as I heard the Minister designate of Mines and Energy, there have been no permits issued, There are nine permits issued. They are called interim permits. Pursuant to section 8 of The Petroleum and Natural Gas Act, 1965. They may have been cancelled subsequently but, as of October 19, and I take the minister at his word, "the Province of Newfoundland has issued a total of nine interim permits.

"These interim permits cover in all approximately 108.5 million acres. They are divided into two distinct groups. Four interim permits cover some 31.5 million acres and they entitle the holder, when regulations are promulgated, to obtain the right to explore for and to produce offshore petroleum under certain conditions."

In other words, they have given production rights, not exploration rights, production rights. It goes on and makes it quite clear, "the option to obtain the right to produce petroleum distinguishes this first group of permits from the second." It names the companies as -"two of the first group of permits are held jointly by AMOCO Canada Petroleum Company Limited and the Imperial Oil Enterprises Limited." I think that has been broadened since that particular consortium or joint venture.

"One is held by Canadian Homestead Oils Limited," and they have been bought out by some American firm I think, have they not? Is that the one Mr. Robert Brown used to own?

AN HON. MEMBER: Humble.

MR. ROBERTS: Humble is it? Well Humble is now Exxon, The Standard Oil, the Exxon Companies as they now call them. "Another by Mobil Oil Canada Limited, AMOCO Canada, Imperial Oil, and a fourth by Mobil Canda Limited. AMOCO Canada, Imperial Oil and Mobil Oil of Canada are large American-owned oil concerns and presently have active exploration programmes on Newfoundland's continental shelf."

Those permits may have been granted originally by the so-called previous administration, by the Smallwood administration, I do not remember and I have not bothered looking up my records, they may have. I was Acting Minister of Mines, Agriculture and Resources - I may have signed some of those permits. Maybe I did not. I do not remember, but if they were put in to me by the officials, if they were covered by orders-in-council, and everything was proper, of course I would have signed them, but I do not remember.

So in other words, no matter who issued them, on October 19 the Minister of Economic Development, as he now is, the Minister of Mines, Agriculture and Resources, as he then was, came out and said the administration had ratified that, and those four permits were honky-dory as of that point.

"The second group of interim permits, covering some 77 million acres, do not purport to and do not in fact give to the holder an option to obtain the right to produce offshore petroleum; they merely licence the conduct of various oil exploration programmes. Some so called oil companies", and I assume although I may not be correct, I assume that that refers to people such as Shaheen Natural Resources, "some so-called oil companies may attempt to represent that this type of interim permit grants more; that it grants the option to obtain the right to produce as in the case of the first group.

"Such is not the case," said the minister, "and it is with regard to this second group that a measure of confusion has arisen. Certain major oil concerns have incorrectly assumed, based on the misrepresentations of the holders," still reading the press release, "that such interim permits," it is far longer than that, "give the holder the option to obtain the right to produce offshore petroleum and accordingly wish to pay to the holders substantial sums for an assignment of the interim permits." A clear statement of policy, and a very clear statement of facts.

"The Government of Newfoundland notes that such a course of action is unwise in that such transfers or assignments do not obligate the Government of Newfoundland in any way to grant the right to produce to these companies, and this point has been made several times in the past." It has been made in the House here.

Then we come to the statement I began with, "In addition certain companies which will go unnamed, claim to hold exploration rights by virtue of other arrangements made with the previous administration. Some rely on Orders-in-Council allegedly evidencing the intention of that administration to issue an interim permit." There obviously were Orders-in-Council evidencing an intention, of course there were, but just as obviously that intention is not binding in law or in fact or in any way at all.

The minister is nodding his head, I assume the Minister of Energy is nodding his head, I assume that means that he agrees with me.

MR. BARRY: Will the honourable member yield for a question?

MR. ROBERTS: Yes, of course, I should.

MR. BARRY: Do you see yourself a member of an administration, having put through an Order-in-Council, expressing the intention of your administration to issue permits, do you see yourself then being in the position of being able to go to these companies and saying you are not going to issue the permit?

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, without any question or hesitation at all, of course I do, if it were in order to issue the permits, when the time came they should have been issued, if not they should not have. That is as true a statement as a statement can be. I cannot prove it to be true. I cannot prove it to be true anymore than the honourable gentleman cannot prove it to be true when he says, "the administration nearly gave away half of Newfoundland." I can merely say what I would have done -

MR. BARRY: Are you not saying that you are failing then to live up to a commitment that you made?

MR. ROBERTS: No, no, no! No, no, no! Anymore than any of the honourable gentlemen who left Cabinet for failing, to live up to a commitment, of course not. The intention of the administration was couched in very broad terms. Perhaps the minister would table the orders in due course here for us and we would have a look at those. We will have a look at just what the intention was, just what the statements were. There is just too much.

To go back over it, Mr. Chairman, the minister said, as I understood it, that no permits had been given. If he said that it was incorrect. We may have a change -

MR. BARRY: No.

MR. ROBERTS: The minister did not say it, well I said, "if he said it."

MR. BARRY: This administration had not issued any.

MR. ROBERTS: Well I am reading a press release which purports to say that - it does not state it clearly, but it is certainly that this administration ratified nine permits.

MR. BARRY: No, no, this is merely expression of the situation as this administration sees it. This is this government's interpretation and analysis of these pieces of paper that were floating around when this administration came into office. That

is all that was being done by that statement.

MR. ROBERTS: The minister says that, but the statement at no point makes that clear. Indeed it makes it just the other way around. Let me read the opening paragraph of the statements:

"It has come to the attention of the Government of Newfoundland that certain companies who hold interim permits for offshore exploration work from the Province of Newfoundland are misrepresenting the nature of these interim permits. Still others claim to hold rights based on other arrangements supposedly made by the previous administration."

Until the minister said that, I genuinely was confused whether these permits were the ones we had issued or whether they were ones the honourable gentleman had issued. Certainly they have ratified them, they have not cancelled them. They claim to have cancelled some and I take their word for what it is worth but the press release was very cleverly not clear on the point. I thank the honourable gentleman for making it clear.

But in any event

the permits issue are issued and the present administration have accepted them, ratified them. They could have changed them. I do not know if they could have been cancelled by Order in Council although as a general principle what is done by order may be undone by order. If not, there is legislation.

Secondly, the so called merely giving the province away bit is exposed as a completely inaccurate misrepresentation of the true situation. The evidence of that is in the statement itself. I have read the relevant portions.

Finally the minister himself, when he is questioned he refers to informal arrangement. I do not know what he is talking about. Maybe he can elucidate them. There may be any number of things floating about that I know nothing about. The only arrangements that bind this province, Mr. Chairman, are ones that are entered into properly, entered into by Authority of Legislation or other authority which gives the government, the executive government of this province, authority to act.

Then finally perhaps the minister could clarify - I realize he does not have the orders in front of him although I am surprised because he choose to make a fairly major policy statement and he should have had the information here.

MR. BARRY: No, in response to a question from the honourable the

MR. ROBERTS: Well, a very pertinent observation from my friend and colleague, because the minister quite impertinently makes a major statement on policay outside the House.

MR. BARRY: Mr. Chairman, impertinently. Is this parliamentary language? Who is not impertinent?

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, would Your Honour rule then that -

MR. W. ROWE: Impertinent means not pertinent.

MR. ROBERTS: I await Your Honour's ruling.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The word impertinent I think is one of the more temperate words that is sometimes heard in debate. I do not think that it is unparliamentary.

MR. ROBERTS: I thank the chairman for his ruling.

As I say the minister quite impertinently goes outside the House and makes a major policy statement. My colleague quite properly picked him up on that. The place for major policy statements is here in this House.

MR. CROSBIE: What was the major policy statement?

MR. ROBERTS: Down at the - was it the Board of Trade?

MR. ROWE: No more new permits or no more new something or another.

MR. ROBERTS: So there we are.

MR. ROWE: I had to pick up what I could on television.

MR. ROBERTS: There you are. Was it in color?

MR. ROWE: No, it was not in color, more is the pity.

MR. ROBERTS: That is a pity. Well we will see about that. Mr. Korbai or Mr. Butler will remedy that. George McLean will produce the minister in living color from now on. Well, the Premier was produced in living color when he launched the "Frank B. Moores" in Newcastle, somewhere in England.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: A lovely party.

MR. ROBERTS: A lovely party was it? I did not see the honourable minister in color. Was he launched?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Much too cute.

MR. ROBERTS: I can believe that. I really can believe that. The honourable gentleman is much too cute to be caught recorded on film or any other way.

Now, Mr. Chairman, as I was saying the minister goes outside the House and quite impertinently makes a major policy statement. Well, that is fine. My colleague gets up and picks him up on that and so he should. The minister responds by doing the pertinent and proper thing, making a major policy statement in the House.

In the course of that he referred to some Orders-in-Council or some documents, orders and permits under orders - I do not know - in which he said that the previous administration, that depository of all the sins, look at what the previous administration did. They made a deal with John Shaheen, The previous administration, that terrible, terrible sin they committed.

They made a deal with John Shaheen to build an oil refinery at Come By Chance, using public money for a second mortgage, that repository of original sin, Joe Smallwood and his colleagues. How dare they do that, take public money to build an oil refinery at Come By Chance. Why no one else will ever hear of that in Newfoundland's history. In any event those paragons of ill-virtue, us, we, mae maxima culpa, for the benefit of the gentleman, the junior gentleman from Harbour Main, junior in votes, not junior in any other way.

AN HONOURABLE GENTLEMAN: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: Yes, he will have his own seat to contest. I do not know whether he will have it or not. That is in the hands of the electorate.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: They may go over to Bell Island to look at the mortgage.

MR. ROBERTS: That would be quite a contest. I must say I would be tempted, Mr. Chairman, I would be tempted to pay admission to watch that contest. That would be comparable to - no, that is not parliamentary. I should not say that.

Anyway, the minister came in and in the course of his remarks he said that there were some documents issued that said that the Government of Newfoundland hereby undertake - I am paraphrasing him but he was paraphrasing something, so two paraphrases do not make it correct - that they will not issue permits on terms any less beneficial than the Government of Canada do. That is how I understood him. If I am wrong, when he speaks he will doubtless correct me.

Two points; first of all he did not say to whom it was beneficial. I assume any less beneficial to the government but it may be any less beneficial to an oil company, which is a strange way to phrase a permit. I would like to see the permit. I would like to see the document. It may well have been done. I am not saying that it was not done. How do I know what was done? I am being blamed here in the House for things that happened when I was nine years old. I mean this happened when I was maybe twenty-nine. Who was the Minister of Justice who did these terrible things?

Who was it? Was it the gentleman from Burin? He was Minister of Justice. He has been in a number of reincarnations. The Buddhist Philosophy looks to nine before one gets to Nirvana. The minister is in his second or third. The Minister of Finance is several ahead of him but that much closer to Nirvana.

It is impossible not to laugh with the Minister of Industrial Development, Mr. Chairman, I am glad that he is not on my side. That is all I have got to say. I am glad I have him where I can see him and not behind me.

Anyway, as we were saying before we were so humorously interrupted, these permits -and the minister will obviously clarify it - maybe he should undertake to table them. We are going to be here for a week or two in the House yet, Sir, there will be loads of time to table them, have a look at them. Obviously these permits do not confer a right to exploitation. They may be the ones referred in the first group, the AMOCO Canada and those other two-bit companies, AMOCO Canada Petroleum Company, Limited. But those people run a bull's-eye shop down on New Gower Street, Sir and Imperial Oil Enterprises, Limited run a small operation somewhere up north of Nain, do they not?

MR. W. ROWE: A three seater, a three seater.

MR. ROBERTS: A three seater.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: A new tack.

MR. ROBERTS: Mobil Oil Canada Limited; is that not a branch of what used to be the Rig Six?

I can believe that. In which case they are no longer a small enterprise. Not only that but they can probably end up lending the government considerable money and certainly considerable expertise.

These three peanut companies who have no reputation in the oil world, we should not encourage in Newfoundland in any way. I mean, who wants Imperial Oil in Newfoundland doing exploration? Who wants Canadian Homestead Oils Limited? Who wants Mobil Oil Canada Limited? I mean, who wants any of those people in Newfoundland in the oil business? I do not know who we should have, but we obviously do not want these peanut people.

They may or may not have the right to exploit. The minister has not made that clear. If they do have the right to exploit oil, I say more power to them because surely these are precisely the sorts of companies, possibly even the very companies that one wishes to see in Newfoundland.

Mr. Chairman, that is not bad for a few brief remarks. I think the minister is entitled to a round at bat, either or both of them, come one, come all! I would be very interested to hear them touch on the points I have raised and then we shall see where we go from there.

MR. DOODY: Mr. Chairman, I hesitate to get involved in this tremendous debate between these learned gentlemen but I will have a small piece of the action anyway since I have been described as an assortment of ministers.

Some of the points, I think, that should be clarified are the leases things. This administration gave out no leases at all, no new leases, no leases of any sort that did confirm four permits that had been given to the oil companies under the previous administration. That was the correct term. It was not meant in a disparaging way, but it was the previous administration -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. DOODY: No, no, no! He read that.

The four permits that we gave them were given because of the fact that they were not peanut companies. We confirm these because they were good companies. AMOCO had spent in good faith millions of dollars out there in exploration. The permits that they got were given on the terms and conditions of the Order-in-Council which I am sure the minister

which I am sure the minister will table for the benefit of the House. I says there quite clearly that they will be granted permits under conditions not less beneficial than the regulations outlined by the Government of Canada. Strangely enough it is true that these conditions were to be not less beneficial for the oil companies benefit, not for the party. But unfortunately the Government of Canada's regulations leave an awful lot to be desired.

AN HON. MEMBER: The most generous in the world.

MR. DOODY: They are the most generous in the world in terms of, of all conditions, however these are not my opinions, these are the opinions of experts and hopefully we will have some small influence in correcting the -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. DOODY: Yes, yes, that is right.

The other companies have been given nonexclusive rights to explore. We have honoured the commitments that have been made. You just cannot, despite the fact that the honourable Leader of the Opposition says that orders given can be revoked that is theoretically true. I do not think it gives the province a good business imagine, I do not think it is a sort of thing that inspires confidence. It is not the sort of thing that a business community would look forward to, saying that this administration gives and the next one takes back. Should we invest money in a banana republic as somebody unkindly referred to us? I do not think it is a good attitude to have, I personally would bend over backwards -

MR. ROBERTS: I agree. But I just wanted to ask a question, Obviously we cannot be a banana republic but would the minister not feel -

MR. DOODY: Not in this climate.

MR. ROBERTS: No, God knows! But would the minister not feel if the companies were not reputable that to cancel leases would not give one the image of a banana republic, indeed it would be just the other way.

MR. DOODY: That is right. Well as I said, companies to whom these four permits were given, they were not peanut companies, they were not banana republic.

It was mentioned in the debate that Mr. Shaheen or Mr. Shaheen's companies were among the companies whose permits were not classed as Class A permits, I think you will find in that release.

MR. ROBERTS: No, that is true.

MR. DOODY: They do not call them that.

MR. ROBERTS: Well we call them the expiration permits as opposed to the exploration.

MR. DOODY: Now there are three classes there. When we were breaking them down, we had them broken down that way. They filtered it out in the pipe line.

There were other companies out there whose letters of intent or whose pieces of paper, as had been described, were held by such people as the Cathedral Corporation and other names that escape me.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. DOODY: That may have been one of them. There was another one out there, it is a name I forget, but I know the president of the company was the manager of a hotel in Panama. That is some more of Mr. Doyle's shenanigans or what have you, He himself had some holdings out there. In order to rationalize the thing, we honoured the four to which the previous government had given these rights, we conditionally honoured five others insofar as we felt obligated to do so and we cleared the board of the rest. That gave this government then to which we are not obligated, I felt -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. DOODY: Good!

So this thing cleared the board on the offshore area for us to talk to the Government of Canada and try to rationalize the distribution of licences and permits on our offshore area because, unfortunately, they are overlapped. The Government of Canada had given permits, other firms felt that they had provincial permits - they did not agree. Now with the exception of these four which were mentioned earlier we have a clear board

on the offshore area.

The great benefit of that, of course, is the fact that we are now in the position to talk to the federal government in terms of a common set of regulations. We are presently engaged in associating with them and trying to get provincial input into the formalization of these regulations which the minister can tell you more about shortly. But we do have regulations drafted and they are available and they can be set out at any time. We have not lost any drilling time. There is no company that I know of, I do not think the minister knows, that has been driven away from the shores of Newfoundland because of the fact that we have not had any regulations. It is an old story or an old adage in the oil industry that these companies do not drill regulations, they drill prospects. It takes a lot to deter them when they see there is something down there worth going after.

The point that I think I was trying to make is that it was not an exercise in driving anybody away. It was simply a matter of trying to rationalize what appeared to us to be a very unbusinesslike mess on the offshore area. I think we have made a lot of progress in that direction and I believe that the people of Newfoundland will in the long term benefit from that. I do not know if there is much advantage in pushing this debate very much further. I think we have done as much on the offshore as we are going to do this evening. We will leave it to the other experts, the AMICO's and the Bide Arms, to finish off the debate.

MR. ROBERTS: I thank the minister for his very temperate and helpful remarks, I think he has set it in prospective. Let me just ask one question, make one observation, The observation is that the hope is to have a common set of regulations with Ottawa. I find that very good. I also find that quite consistent with issuing permits. There is a caucus underway. I do not want it because they may be saying something that we should all hear. I find that quite consistent with the previous administration action in issuing permits which said, "when we come to issue exploitation permits, they will be on terms not less beneficial than Ottawa," that is a common set of regulations.

So it seems another one of those heinous crimes of which we were accused, it is not quite so heinous when the light of day is shed upon us.

Secondly, in view of the minister's statement just now that nothing has really been stopped, that no company has wanted to drill and has been turned down, which you know is good news because I think everybody in Newfoundland has a very great interest, hopefully a vested interest but at the very least a contingent interest in these offshore resources, whether we own them or Ottawa owns them, as Canadians we certainly own them, and as Newfoundlanders, on the lower end of the income scale and the lower end of all the scales of positive virtues, possibly, the economic virtues, and the upper end of all the scales of negative economic virtues you know we want the money, we need the money. What has been stopped by this policy statement, reiterated apparently the other day and originally made some months ago, what has been stopped really? The minister says no drilling has been stopped. Nobody has come looking for it -

MR. DOODY: Would the honourable member permit?

MR. ROBERTS: Yes, sure.

MR. DOODY: What has been stopped has been the flogging as collateral of these pieces of paper by some of these companies who have been going around selling an interest in supposed shares off the cost of Newfoundland which we really felt should have been the property of the Government of Newfoundland or the people of Newfoundland rather than these companies, that Cathedral Corporation or Katy or whatever, they should have been stopped. That is what has been stopped.

MR. ROBERTS: Okay that is fair. The Katy Corporation that is the - the Bury Brothers are down in Argentina, are they not? Where is the member for Placentia East? He is not here. Are they not big servicing oil rigs? I did not go to Louisiana to look at them. They are reputable. That is the Katy Railroad, the Missouri Kansas and Texas Railroad.

MR. DOODY: What is reputable? John D. Rockefeller was a rogue.

MR. ROBERTS: Well said. Well said.

MR. DOODY: What is reputable is what helps the province.

MR. ROBERTS: Sure John Shaheen was a rogue -

MR. DOODY: That was before we met him.

MR. ROBERTS: I have heard the laying on of hands, Mr. Chairman, doing miraculous things.

MR. DOODY: It is getting close to the 17th. of March, Mr. Chairman.

MR. ROBERTS: The blarney that is coming from the honourable gentleman. But that is fine. Obviously John D. Rockefeller was a rogue, and the jails are filled with unsuccessful John D. Rockfellers, nothing succeeds in this racket quite as much as success. If it benefits the province, so be it!

The whole point is that the debate has been a good one. I think it has shown the so-called previous administration, let us call it the Smallwood Administration.

MR. DOODY: Do not feel badly about it. I do not mind being called a Tory.

MR. ROBERTS: Well the honourable gentleman in due course will be called the previous administration, I expect to be here to do it, Sir.

The Smallwood Administration, to put the correct and proper name on it, and I am quite proud to have served in the cabinet with Joe Smallwood.

MR. DOODY: You should have been.

MR. ROBERTS: Of course I am, and I will boast to my children and presumably their children, in due course, grandchildren; you know, I served with the man. He may have made mistakes. He did. But he still did more good as Premier of this province than I submit any dozen other men will ever get the opportunity to do.

But the Smallwood Administration which was painted, not by the minister, but has been painted as somehow having done something shady or scandalous or wrong in respect to these offshore permits, This has been exposed as the fallacious myth that it was.

AN HON. MEMBER: Fraud.

MR. ROBERTS: Well fraud implies intent and I would not go that far.

AN HON. MEMBER: Constructive fraud.

MR. ROBERTS: Constructive fraud?

MR. DOODY: The honourable gentleman for Bell Island -

MR. ROBERTS: Constructive fraud?

But the point is that the offshore resources, when the present administration took office, were in good legal shape, as good as they could be considering that the question still has not been resolved, neither the ownership question nor the regulation and control questions have been resolved. Neither of them is being resolved, I should suggest, in the immediate future. It may take years to solve this particular question. It is a sort of thing where a minister could make his name last, if he were only wise enough to come into the House and not make intemperate statements but make statements that are accurate. Not try to make political capital but

take things as they actually are and actually were. When we got into the debate I think it became clear what actually was and what actually is and I am not going to say that everything that we did when we were members of the government of this province was perfect. Indeed I should be the first to say it was not but I am glad to have had the debate because last year in this House it was painted that we somehow were all crooked and corrupt and fraudulent in connection with these permits. It turns out that there has been none of that. It turns out that the things were in fairly tidy shape and there may have been some statements of intention or there may not have been. I have no idea what - I am responsible for what was done during my period in cabinet but I am the first to say I have no idea what all of it was. The hon. gentlemen now that they have had a year in cabinet, I suggest they are beginning to realize that the volume of cabinet work is so great that one relies on one's colleagues, one relies and one is responsible, no attempt to get away from responsibility. If somebody says it is in order, then it is in order. If the hon. Minister of Highways brings in some regulations and somebody says, "What are they about?" and he says, "Well, these are some snow clearing regulations." Somebody says, "Have they been through Justice?" He says, "Yes, Justice drafted these and they are okay." I mean that is the end of it. Nobody reads the regulations and I am willing to bet that not one of the other eighteen gentlemen around the table take them home and read them.

Indeed not in my experience in cabinet and in conversations with the clerk of the executive council who has been around a long time. He used to say there was only one man who ever read all the cabinet papers in his experience and that was the father of the member for Hermitage District who had a reputation for reading papers and noting decisions and if ever there was any question the clerk of the council, Mr. Channing, an estimable civil servant, would ring the hon. gentleman's father and

would say, "Sir, what was the precise point?" and the minister would recall it. He was noted for that. That is fine, but I am not attempting to get out of any responsibility.

Obviously in this whole offshore rights business it has not been as bad as it was painted. The minister may well come into the debate still, if he wants to, he is welcome and we will see what he says and then I shall see what I shall say as a result. I am glad to have had the debate. I think we have clarified it and we have clarified this press release, we have clarified the present position and we have clarified to a degree the administration's policy. It will be a matter that will be debated, time and time again, in this House in the years to come because it is an important matter. It is one on which the administration must adopt a policy. They have assigned one of their brightest ministers to it, and cleared away the administrative decks so he could devote his full time to it. That is a wise move and indeed it is one of the few things about restructuring that really strikes me as having any merit.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. ROBERTS: Well, if the hon. gentleman, the Minister of Economic Development, if he could have been assigned to it full time he would have done at least as good a job as the puisne Minister of Mines and Energy will. I have no hesitation in saying that two of the stars of this administration are sitting in that front row there. I warn them that when their Premier hears that I have been praising them. The last minister I praised, as I recall it, was the former Minister of Education, the gentleman who is now vacationing in the Canary Islands or wherever he is, I warned him. I do mean it. I am sorry, there is the present Minister of Education back from Cambridge.

The point is though that the administration have chosen to put a degree of priority on this and I think that is a good thing

because it is an important subject and it has been a useful debate. It may have started a little heatedly but that is what it is, a debating parliament. I mean, why should we apologize for being a little heated as we are debating important subjects? I think a great deal of information has come out and unless either one of the terrible twins over there, one of the dynamic duo wishes to say something, then that may produce a further reaction from us but if not, let us get on with it. Anyway that is what I have to say.

MR. BARRY: Well, there are a couple of statements that I feel that I should make, Mr. Chairman. Again with reference and I do not mean to regenerate controversy or add fuel to what has been a heated debate but I am seriously concerned about the way this debate got started, because it is an indication of how many heated debates evolve from what I submit - The hon. the Leader of the Opposition is not listening but -

MR. ROBERTS: I am listening, but there are not fourteen members on the other side of the House.

MR. BARRY: The statement is though, to the hon. the Leader of the Opposition, it is a question and that is, why does the hon. the Leader of the Opposition, time after time after time - I do not mind as I have a fairly thick skin - but why does the hon. the Leader of the Opposition feel it necessary to become personal? Now I made certain statements here, starting off, and those were statements that were not prepared. They were in response to a question from one of the hon. members on the other side of the House. It was not a completely detailed statement but it was a statement that I believed in, and that I believe I can support; that I hope to supply information to this hon. House. I undertake to supply information that I think will support it.

Now I may be wrong. I may be incompetent in the way I in the way I analyze the material, but that does not make it necessary

for a personal attack. I ask the hon. the Leader of the Opposition if there is any particular reason or any particular merit in starting off this sort of thing, in all sincerity.

MR. ROBERTS: I am quite serious about it and I think it is a good question to ask. So let me say, Mr. Chairman, that first of all there was no personal attack. I made no reference to the minister personally. I made reference to the statements he had made in this debate, and that is not personal. Hon. gentlemen on the other side seem to feel that if one criticizes a statement, that is a personal attack. That is not a personal attack. It is not. It has not been. It will not be, now, forever or never. The hon. gentleman made a statement and he obviously made a careless statement.

MR. BARRY: No.

MR. ROBERTS: Well, he says it is not careless, that is fine. Then it was a considered statement. The considered statement was that the previous administration had nearly given away. Now I was a member of that administration and I am personally, in a political sense, responsible, just as my colleague was. While I was not in the chamber, I heard it because, as hon. gentlemen know, it is possible to hear the proceedings of the House outside the room. So he gets up and he makes a statement which is untrue. It may have been a considered statement but it is untrue and it was proven to be untrue as we went through the material and as his colleague, the Minister of Economic Development, the gentleman from Harbour Main, sort of agreed. The previous administration did not nearly give away anything. What the previous administration did was fully in order. The hon. gentleman ratified those parts which they wished to ratify, namely nine permits in all, four of them exploitation and five of them exploration, and they cancelled some other statements of intention. Fine, perfectly in order, perfectly straightforward.

That is why I made my remarks on the debate. If I was somewhat strong and heated in my language, and I was, it was because

I have sat here for a year and a-half now and I have taken personal abuse of every kind. Now the hon. gentleman is part of an administration and he has to answer for what it does or does not do, just as I have to answer for what the administration of which I was a part did or did not do.

MR. BARRY: Only excathedra.

MR. ROBERTS: The hon. gentleman is not pope, to my knowledge. There has been no Vatican (1) Council.

MR. BARRY: My career is still young though.

MR. ROBERTS: Well, I should hope so and indeed the hon. gentleman may very well end up in that seat there or in this seat here. I would not be at all surprised if he did.

MR. BARRY: (Inaudible).

MR. ROBERTS: Well, that may happen to him as well, but the hon. gentleman has a political future ahead of him, of course he does and I would be the first to welcome it. But the hon. gentleman is responsible. I have listened to the gentleman on the other side of the chamber make personal attacks on my colleague here who, all right, is fiery and he draws attack, but he has been abused.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. ROBERTS: No, I am not complaining. The hon. the Minister of Industrial Development, I am not complaining.

MR. MURPHY: (Inaudible).

MR. ROBERTS: That is the sort of thing I mean. I have heard of rudeness and I have heard of arrogance but the hon. gentleman for St. John's Centre sets new records for both. But we have sat here for a year and a-half and we have listened to debate going far beyond the political norms, far beyond them. We have heard the so-called previous administration, we have seen the man who was Premier of this province dragged publicly, his name, through the mire by men on the other

side,deliberately knowing what they were doing.

AN HON. MEMBER: For shame!

MR. ROBERTS: Not for shame! But let them take him to court if he did anything wrong. If the man broke a law,take him into the courts, give him the right any person has, any common criminal. Instead we have seen him smeared deliberately by people on the other side,and not the hon. gentleman, I am the first to say that.

AN HON. MEMBER: Again a question, s there any difference with what has been happening with George McLean?

MR. ROBERTS: Yes, we have made statements about Mr. George McLean which have not been disproven. We have said, "Put them to the proof.

Give McLean his day in court,before a select committee."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. members are not being relevant to Head X1 - Mines and Energy,and have not been relevant for some time now and I ask that further debate be directed to that head.

MR. ROBERTS: A debate on Mr. McLean bonanza was quite relevant to a debate on oil being a bonanza but

I thank Your Honour. It has gone a little beyond that. I made no personal attack on the honourable gentleman. I made no personal attack on any honourable gentleman opposite and I am not going to, but I will debate the statements that the honourable gentleman makes. In so doing, one must refer to the honourable gentleman. How else is one going to identify the statements?

The word is unparliamentary so I cannot use it, but I thought it was that sort of statement. It is a harsh adjective. It is not a personal attack. I did not say the honourable gentleman was (unparliamentary word). I did not say that. I do not think that he is. His statement was in my view a harsh, it is a harsh adjective, but I think it was merited. I think it was a vile statement. I do. I could be wrong. I am putting forward an opinion. To call a statement vile is not to call -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Vileness in a statement denotes the same thing to the speaker

MR. ROBERTS: No, Mr. Chairman, that is neither a doctrine in law nor a doctrine in fact. One can debate a statement - no, this is an important point, Mr. Chairman. One can look at a statement and say that it is trash.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: Of course we are, two hours, and we are spending the people's money.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Nonsense.

MR. ROBERTS: The honourable gentleman may think it is nonsense but his sense of nonsense fortunately is different from anybody else. The point is, Mr. Chairman, that to call a statement trash is not to call the person who made it trash. To call a statement - (unparliamentary) is not to call the person who made it - unparliamentary.

MR. BARRY: You are going pretty close to the -

MR. ROBERTS: Nonsense, not close to it at all. The honourable gentleman is an honourable man, a decent man, a good lawyer, a good member for his constituency. He may have some political weaknesses but we are all a prey to that. I am glad that he raised it, Mr. Chairman because I do not believe in, none of us on this side believe in personal attacks. We will debate hard and we will take hard knocks in return, with no hesitation, no whimpering, no crying. Why should we? If we cannot stand it, all of us

in this House can leave if we do not like it. None of us are here because a gun was put to our heads, and told: "Get out and run." Each one of us is here because he went to a constituency and stood for election and was confirmed by the people. It is not personal to say that a statement is trashy, etc., etc., whatever words one wants to use. I would not want the honourable gentleman to think that the word that is unparliamentary was one that I had dreamed up weeks in advance. It was not. Maybe if I got out my thesaurus and weighted the matter carefully, I might find a more precisely apt word but the statement struck me as being most unpleasant, as being unfair, as being quite vile. I say that it is a hard word. It is a harsh condemnation, in my view, of the statement. I think it was merited. I could be wrong but I think that it was merited. I think that it was a most injudicious statement to make. It was incorrect.

Mr. Chairman, if the gentleman from Bonavista South and the gentleman from Burgeo have nothing to contribute to the debate, perhaps they would be good enough at least to observe the rules of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All honourable members should observe the rules of the House. The Leader of the Opposition was called to order some time ago with regard to the rule of relevance in head(11), Mines and Energy and at that time undertook to make his further remarks relevant, and has since that time continued in the same vein as when he was interrupted.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, I am trying to follow the rule of relevance. I am responding to the relevant remarks made by the minister on this head. If one is allowed to make a relevant remark, surely one is relevant when one replies to the relevant remark.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The remarks to which you may be replying may in themselves have been irrelevant, indeed in this case I think that they have been.

MR. ROBERTS: That is true, Your Honour, but surely if the gentleman is allowed to make an irrelevant remark which is not deemed irrelevant, then I am allowed to make an irrelevant remark without having it deemed irrelevant. Is Your Honour with me?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, that is not so.

MR. ROBERTS: Fine. Then let us make sure that the rules are equally applied, as Your Honour has always done, to both sides of the House.

If the honourable gentleman wish to withdraw his irrelevant remark, I shall withdraw all of my irrelevant remarks.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: I will take back my marbles if you will take back yours.

MR. ROBERTS: The honourable gentleman from Green Bay -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible

MR. ROBERTS: A personal attack! I merely mentioned the honourable gentleman's name. A personal attack, to say the honourable gentleman does not have all of his marbles. He just said that I do not have all of mine. Come on, now, come on! The honourable gentleman from Green Bay is not even understudying the Premier.

Anyway, Mr. Chairman, I think the committee have probably come to the point where we could carry this particular head, head (11) and launch into a - whoops! the gentleman from Bell Island has a word or two. Anyway, I have said what I have to say for the time being. Thank you.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, if we have disposed of that matter, the honourable minister mentioned the name of McLean. It is becoming a very common name around this House. Now, we have under this subhead \$3,000 for publications for the next two months. Will the honourable minister explain to us what is meant here by publications?

MR. BARRY: This is, Mr. Chairman, a quite worthwhile public service which is provided by the Department of Mines and Energy. A considerable amount of mineral resource data is awaiting publication. The amount requested is to provide funds for the initial preparation of various bulletins, newsletters, etc. for publication at a later date. This is to disseminate information around the province and outside the province in order to attract risk capital, in many cases; to encourage development, exploration and development of our mineral resources.

MR. NEARY: Will these publications be written and printed by the minister's own department or will they be done in Printing and Photography or will they

be contracted out?

MR. BARRY: The proper course will be followed, Mr. Chairman. Am I understand it the material is prepared mainly by the Mineral Resource Division. In many cases it is papers and some very excellent papers I might add, that are done say by the geologists of the Mineral Resource Department. I have to confess I cannot say who does the actual printing but I am sure that whoever does it, it will be done within the government core, following the necessary tendering.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, I am not sure if I have the minister's statement made within the House about a week ago on the publication that the minister's department puts out on the offshore drilling but I think the minister told us that Mr. McLean is paid \$1500 a month.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: That is the Gros Morne newsletter.

MR. NEARY: The Gros Morne newsletter. Well, does McLean put out that little publication that comes out from the minister every month?

MR. BARRY: No. This was originated and we are keeping it very simple. We are not getting into anything elaborate as you see, anybody who receives it. It is merely type written and mimeographed I guess or however they reproduce it, because we do not want to get into any unnecessary expense here. This is done mainly by Mr. Cabot Martin, my adviser who also has a very competent secretary, I might add, who does an awful lot of the research herself and who has been of great assistance to Mr. Martin and myself in getting this newsletter out.

This is the way it is prepared.

MR. NEARY: Well, Mr. Chairman, does McLean have his hooks into the minister's department at all at the present time?

MR. BARRY: I do not understand the honourable member.

MR. NEARY: Does McLean have any involvement with the minister's department at all at the present time or in the foreseeable future?

MR. BARRY: Not that I am aware of.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, the minister told us that a substantial amount of money is going to be spent on mineral development. I wonder if the

minister would care to try his luck - he did not make a very good job of explaining the policy on the offshore drilling and the offshore mineral rights. He was good on rural electrification.

I wonder if the minister would explain to us what is meant by mineral development and where it is taking place and how much money is going to be spent on it in the next couple of months.

MR. BARRY: If I could take that as notice, I would be able to give a better answer. I will give a general answer now but the details could be available. Basically what this is, Mr. Chairman, as I mentioned, a federal-provincial programme which commenced in 1971 and which is to continue until 1975. There are five stages to the programme, one of which deals with

development of a mineral inventory and the actual carrying out of certain geochemical, geophysical exploration etc. This is what this money is for, if the honourable member wanted more specific information, possibly if he wanted to wait until the estimates came out, I would have the complete detail.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, I will wait until the estimates come out because coming from an old mining town myself I am quite interested in mineral development.

Now perhaps the minister could tell us a little more about this minerals laboratory. The minister, when asked a question by my colleague here from White Bay South, just shrugged his shoulders and brushed it off and said we are going to build it over here on the Higgins Line somewhere, who knows. The minister is aware that the Higgins Line is in the Pippy Park?

AN HON. MEMBER: I believe it is Lord Taylor's.

MR. NEARY: Well I do not know if they are going to take over Lord Taylor's house and turn it into a minerals laboratory. But could the minister actually pinpoint the location where this laboratory is going to be built? Mr. Chairman, is the honourable minister listening to what I am saying?

MR. BARRY: Yes, we are just checking.

MR. NEARY: If the members want to hold a caucus, Sir, we can recess for ten minutes and have a coffee and then -

MR. DOODY: We are getting the information for the honourable gentleman.

MR. NEARY: But what I am suggesting to the minister, Mr. Chairman, that over in the area that the minister suggested this laboratory was going to be built, it happens to be in the boundaries of the Pippy Park. It is not within -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Well then it is not on the Higgins Line.

MR. BARRY: Well the Higgins Line is just outside of here, is it not?

MR. NEARY: That is right, and the Higgins Line goes right up through the Pippy Park.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, I am very familiar with that area because I happen to live there for three and a-half years and then moved down to Portugal Cove Road, and the honourable minister wanted to know where I got the money, did it come from the building material on Bell Island?

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: The Minister of Justice whose eyes roam heavenwards when he makes a statement.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: And made a snide remark to the Leader of the Opposition.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to know a little bit more about this minerals laboratory. Has it been designed? Has all the architectural work been done? Have tenders been called? Or when will tenders be called on it? Who is the successful tender and so forth? Could the minister give us more information on this?

MR. BARRY: Mr. Chairman, my reference to the Higgins Line, it was my understanding that the Higgins Line passes by the rear entrance to the Confederation Building parking lot. Now it is on this side of the Higgins Line, near the intersection to the parking lot, I would assume that would not be in the Pippy Park.

MR. NEARY: That is a swamp.

MR. BARRY: Well maybe the swamp can be drained or filled or whatever you do with swamps. There is a bog reclamation scheme, I believe.

MR. NEARY: Maybe we will have a floating laboratory.

MR. BARRY: Basically it is in close proximity to the Confederation Building. I can get the grid co-ordinates presumably, if the honourable member wants it. But the land, as I understand it, is available somewhere to the rear of the Confederation Building and fairly close by.

As far as the building itself is concerned, the Department of Public Works, a plan was being prepared and the Department of Public Works have just recently finalized the estimated cost. Now as far as actual tenders, I do not

think there is -

MR. EARLE: No, but tenders will be called when the plans are made.

MR. BARRY: Our policy is once the plans have been prepared, tenders will be let.

MR. DOODY: Do you have to answer that same question during the estimates?

MR. BARRY: Oh, yes.

MR. THOMS: Mr. Chairman, if I may for one second, I am interesting more or less in the controls that now exist on the Grand Banks and if they are sharing in the implementation of these controls particularly as far as drilling on the Grand Banks at the present time is concerned. Also I take note that I believe last year on the Grand Banks we had three rigs involved, I believe there was one up North.

MR. DOODY: Two on the Grand Banks and one up North.

MR. THOMS: No, you had three on the Grand Banks at one time. Is that not correct?

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. THOMS: No, no, I believe you will find there were three on the Grand Banks and there was at least one ship or something up North.

MR. BARRY: The ship was not there last summer, as I recall. There were two AMICO rigs on the Grand Banks and one further north on the Grand Banks. There was nothing up -

MR. THOMS: There was nothing north of the mobile one, not on the Labrador.

MR. BARRY: Not to my knowledge.

MR. THOMS: Well anyway there were three out on the Grand Banks. I note with interest that the area that we have on the Grand Banks right now where we have three, there are at least three, three and a-half, maybe four times larger than the area, in the Gulf of Mexico, where there are at the present time something like 1800 either rigs or wellheads. Now I stand to be corrected on this. So the amount of rigs that we have on the Grand Banks is comparatively small with what possibly could be there within ten, fifteen or twenty years.

MR. BARRY: Not rigs.

MR. THOMS: Rigs or wellheads, whatever you mind to call them, they are oil outfits. Is there any thought at all given to possibly having some of these (and rigs I am thinking about in particular) having any of these rigs built within the island of Newfoundland? Is there any negotiations going on with the companies or any possible thought along this line at all by the department?

MR. BARRY: Your first question was with respect to the controls,

MR. THOMS: Cost sharing.

MR. BARRY: Cost sharing? There is no cost sharing.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. BARRY: Unfortunately we have been lacking in the expertise necessary to stay right on top of the situation, the province. We intend to rectify that. But right from the beginning the Mines Inspection Branch has been involved, they have been out there keeping on top of the situation as much as was possible with the expertise that they had in this particular area. I understand that the federal officials are also on top of the situation, it is under the British North America Act, wherever the ownership ends up, the environmental protection aspect will clearly remain federal responsibility. So that the major input is going to have to be from the federal government in this area, just because of the clear jurisdiction under the British North America Act.

MR. THOMS: Would it be for the cost or personnel?

MR. BARRY: Cost and personnel.

Now there is also obviously going to be cost as far as the companies are concerned because the federal government and ourselves will be setting certain requirements which have to be followed and the companies have to bear the cost of these or do not drill, basically.

The second point you referred to was the possibility of rigs being built in Newfoundland, here you get into certain economic facts of life, one being that we cannot insist upon all companies using Newfoundland built rigs until we are in a position to show them that the rigs can be built in Newfoundland on a competitive basis, competitive as far as time of building

is concerned, the price and so on.

Now when we get to the competitiveness and the encouragement of this type of industry, it is the same as the development of any other major industry. You have to get people involved who are interested in getting into this type of business. You have to provide whatever you can in the way of opportunity, to assist them, but basically it is a private enterprise operation. Now the honourable Minister of Economic Development has been working in close liaison, since December, with me and of course is at an obvious advantage because of being in the department prior to my moving in and is completely aware of the industrial potential that can arise from developments offshore. You can be sure that if there is anyway, not just rigs but an industry in the building of rigs or any other industry can be developed

in Newfoundland that this government would be trying to bring this about.

MR. THOMS: Are we looking into the possibility that maybe within a couple of years, we can build somewhere?

MR. BARRY: This we are looking into. We have, for example, obtained information on the sort of thing that is happening in Norway. I got a catalogue today and you would not believe what a country has done in only three years, that started off just like Newfoundland, from scratch. Now they are into the building of rigs and they are building the most complicated and technical equipment. They are competing with Houston in the States, which has been in the business for the last one hundred years probably. If Norway can do it, I am hoping that we can do it. We can learn from them. We are collecting as much information as we can and basically it is going to be a matter of encouraging private enterprise to get involved. I might add that this is the reason why there has been so much talk about oil and gas. It is not to start predicting that there is going to be any great bonanza, it is to make people aware of the opportunities that are there so that Newfoundland industry will develop as a consequence.

MR. ROBERTS: Well, Mr. Chairman, we are making right smart progress here with this vote. Let me get a word in now and then you are on. We have a few minutes yet.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible) five minutes.

MR. ROBERTS: I am not going to be that long. I have only one small question to ask. To come back to rural electrification, the minister's responsibility there - I was not in the Chamber when the earlier discussion was held and I wonder if I could bring up a case that might not be striking as Petit Forte but is just as real to the people, namely St. Carols. It is the one community left in White Bay North that does not have electric power. Electricity was really one of the great triumphs

of the Smallwood years. It is a meaningless triumph now when one has no lights, and means nothing.

MR. DOODY: How many customers?

MR. ROBERTS: I do not know how many customers there are, but I think there are seven or eight families. It is very small. It is not even a harbour. It is easy to say that it should not have lights but the only thing is that there are people living there. If they were part of St. Anthony - I sometimes have felt that we should have made the boundary to St. Anthony an inch wide, two miles long, out to St. Carols. It is just around the point. The Minister of Fisheries, I am sure, knows the community. It is the community where the little boy died last year with infectious hepatitis or whatever it was. Remember, they could not get in or out for a couple of days.

AN HON. MEMBER: How many families are there?

MR. ROBERTS: I think there are eight. I think there has been a marriage there. The point is that it is a very small place and really to call it a community is perhaps to put too large a name on it. But there are a group of people there, Sir, who do not have electricity. It should not cost a great deal of money to run - I guess you could hook on to the St. Anthony system and run a line of poles down. It is only a couple of miles. It would not cost that much. It might cost \$10,000 or \$20,000. I have no idea what these things cost. It is the only community left in White Bay North without electricity, except for the Fischot Islands. Fischot Islands is now moving. Mr. Harnum the director of resettlement was supposed to be there. This is Thursday today. The people have asked for information and he was going down to talk to them. Fischot Islands, the one community left on the islands, where they move as they do in Labrador South. They have a summer home and a winter home. They have a church on the island and they have a school on the mainland. The mainland is called Fore Harbour.

Anyway, if the minister could look into it because there have been

petitions, letters, there has been all the bit but no action. Now that we have cleaned up all of the major - they cannot be a large community left in the province now without electricity.

AN HON. MEMBER: There are a fair number but I do not know how many.

MR. ROBERTS: There is not a large community. Is it ten families or twenty?

AN HON. MEMBER: Fifteen.

MR. ROBERTS: Fifteen. There are not fifteen customers I am sure in St. Carols. I could arrange to have fifteen there if the honourable gentleman wants. I could ask some of my friends to move down for a couple of weeks and get hooked up and pay what the man charges. That is a little extreme. Surely we have now come to the point where a rule which was made two, three or four or five years ago now surely (it was a good rule at the time. It was the means of establishing a priority system) can go and we can clean up these few pockets (to use the literal term) of darkness. All I can ask is that the minister take it under consideration. I am sure that when we get his estimates there will be \$4 million or \$5 million or \$6 million for the R.E.A. in it. There is every year. A few thousands out of that can surely be found to bring lights to St. Carols. They have had a rough winter down there. The little boy died there and did not add any joy to it. They have little enough in this world. There is no harbour there. There is no road. There was a commitment to build a road but it got washed down the drain last year.

MR. DOODY: They have the satisfaction of having the honourable gentleman for their member.

MR. ROBERTS: right, and they will get the road. They will get the road, I can assure the honourable gentleman, if they are there, they will get the road. But meanwhile could they have the lights?

AN HON. MEMBER: Why will they not move?

MR. ROBERTS: Because this administration and the previous administration had a policy that nobody had to move unless he wanted to and they do not want to move. The resettlement people have not tried to move them but the benefits, if that is the phrase, of resettlement have been pointed out to them. They do not want to move. They have a one-room school there, most of them work in St. Anthony, they walk back and forth and they work in the fish plant or around St. Anthony, awfully good people but they just do not have any lights and all that I can ask is that the minister would have somebody in the Power Commission look at it and see if it is possible to squeeze the few dollars to give them at least a monocule, we could not do it in the past because when I became member of White Bay, there were only four of thirty-four communities that had electricity. As of now St. Carols and Fischot are the only two.

So I bring it up, it is a good place to bring it up and I hope it can be done, if not, I shall have to go on bringing it up.

MR. BARRY: Briefly, in response, the present policy is, as I understand it, the same as the previous one, that there would be electrification where there are fifteen or more customers.

I do not have the exact number of communities that remain to be electrified, but there is a fair number that will result in considerable cost, gain it is a question of the dollars that are available. I can tell you that I know what it means for a community to be electrified. I was born and spent seven or eight years in a community with no electricity and I know the

difference -

MR. ROBERTS: Inaudible.

MR. BARRY: Except I think you can more fully appreciate when you have lived in a community with no electricity and then one that has electricity, or the same one when it later gets electricity, you can see.

So I am sympathetic to your request. I can only say that again there is the question of financial consideration.

MR. ROBERTS: I would be grateful and I appreciate the position. Could the minister let me know at some point? I suppose he will have to talk to the Power Commission and the REA people, you know the Power Commission wearing their other hats, but could he let me know because the people of St. Carols intermittently are in touch with me and intermittently I like to tell them what I find out.

MR. WOODWARD: Mr. Chairman, I would like to speak just briefly, I do not want to delay the committee in this debate. A couple of questions that I would like to ask of the honourable minister, more or less for information purposes.

Having been around the business circles and the city for the last month or so, there is some very high expectation with regards to the offshore drilling and the service industry that will be created by that offshore drilling. It does not only exist I suppose on the South Coast of Newfoundland and I understand, as I talk to the minister today, that there is a permit given for exploration, I do not know if it is exploitation or not, but exploration. Maybe the minister can fill the committee in on this when he speaks.

Off the coast of Labrador, possibly two areas off the coast of Labrador, a company called Eastcam of Calgary that I have been in touch with personally, they indicated that they would be doing some

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drilling off the Labrador Coast, possibly in Southern Labrador and moving north into the Makkovik Area. I just wanted the honourable minister to hear what I am saying. I hate to talk to the walls, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Woodward:

But the question that I am asking I suppose is; is the government giving some incentive for business people to get involved in this type of industry? Will it tie into the hon. Minister of Industrial Development, the Canada Corporation or whatever this thing is called? How do business people go about getting involved in this sort of thing? I am sure that people in Southern Labrador who have watched the drilling there in the Cartwright Area have no doubt, as the hon. member for Labrador South will probably speak, there are some benefits derived from offshore drilling over the last couple of years there. We in the Goose Bay Area have been looking at this sort of thing and we have been hearing a lot of talk and a lot of publicity given on what is going to happen at the shipyard in Marystown, I guess this is very close to the hon. minister's riding, what is going to happen to Argenticia on the South Coast. We hear very little benefit that could derive from this offshore drilling on the Labrador Coast or the coastal communities. There have been a number of people who have gotten involved but with very little assistance from the government or very little direction given. Myself, I have been exposed to this particular service not around the coast of Newfoundland in a small way but involved in the high Arctic with the exploration people, supplying services to them. I have not yet heard from the province as to who is getting involved in the servicing but maybe the minister - Is he going to help the business people? How do you go about this thing or do we just send up a balloon and say, "Look this is what is likely to happen," this sort of a deal? I think this is what the people of the province are expecting.

You know people come to me and say, "Get involved in offshore drilling and servicing and you are going to get rich because the hon. Minister of Energy and Resources has said that this is going to be a big thing." There are high expectations in this respect, Mr. Chairman.

Before we move on I would like to maybe hear some comments from the hon. minister as to his views, possibly on the unification of the electrical rates in this province.

MR. BARRY: Mr. Chairman, dealing with the last point first, if I could suggest that this is a resolution on the order paper now and I have my officials preparing facts and figures in respect to the cost involved and so on. If the hon. member would wait for a period of time, I do not know if the resolution will get on before the estimates do, but in whatever event, I will have that information then in complete detail.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee rise and report progress and ask leave to sit again.

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

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

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do not adjourn at 11:00 P.M. today.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak to the motion. That is a debatable motion, is it? Your Honour concurs that is a debatable motion. That is not a motion that the House adjourn, Sir, that is a motion that the House do not adjourn.

MR. MARSHALL: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. This is a motion which is to be put without debate.

MR. ROBERTS: Your Honour, if the hon. gentleman says that, he believes that but could we have a ruling, could we have a citation, please? I am not sure of the point. I have asked, is it a debatable motion? It is not in our standing orders, so I do not know that. All motions are debatable

Mr. Roberts.

No, the motion to adjourn is not debatable. This is not a motion to adjourn. This is a motion not to adjourn. All I am asking for at this stage is a ruling from Mr. Speaker. The motion is that the House do not adjourn at eleven o'clock. Would the Speaker - it is an important question. I confess quite candidly that I do not know the rules on this point. If the Speaker would wish to adjourn, we still have a little time. Would the Speaker wish to adjourn for five minutes and have a look at it? That might be an idea.

MR. SPEAKER : Quite honestly the Chair is not sure if it is a debatable motion. Could we take a five minute recess and find out the information?

On motion the House recessed for five minutes.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please!

With reference to the ruling just requested about the nonadjournment, I refer to Standing Order (1) on page 6 which says: "In all cases not provided for hereafter or by sessional or other orders, the usages and customs of the House of Commons of Canada as in force at the time shall be followed so far as they may be applicable to this House." I refer honourable members to Beauchesne, page 106, Standing Order 32 in which it says: "The following motions are debatable and there is given a list and which does not include the one not to adjourn at eleven o'clock

and section (2) says all other motions including adjournment motion shall be decided without debate or amendment. I also refer to the latest edition of the Standing Orders of the House of Commons, October 1969, which quotes exactly the same as Beauchesne. I rule that the motion is not a debatable motion.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, with great respect, Sir, could we have a recorded division on that please? Mr. Speaker, I meant to appeal your ruling and I would ask that members, two of my colleagues stood, I ask that the Clerk be directed to call the names, the full recorded vote please.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is that the Speaker's ruling be sustained those in favour please say "aye." Those against "nay," It is my opinion the "ayes" have it.

MR. ROBERTS: Would Your Honour please call in the members?

MR. SPEAKER: Those in favour of the motion please rise; The honourable Mr. Barry, the honourable the Minister of Economic Development, the honourable Minister of Mines, Agriculture and Resources, the honourable Minister of Social Services and Rehabilitation, the honourable the Minister of Supply and Services, the honourable Minister of Education, the honourable Minister of Justice, the honourable Mr. Marshall, the honourable the Minister of Fisheries, the honourable the Minister of Highways, the honourable the Minister of Public Works, the honourable the Minister of Provincial Affairs, Mr. Stagg, Mr. Aylward, Mr. Wells, Mr. Peckford, Mr. Senior, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Young, Mr. Evans, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Howard.

MR. SPEAKER: Those against the motion please rise; The honourable the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Gillett, Mr. Woodward, Mr. W.N. Rowe, Mr. Neary, Mr. Thoms, Mr. F.B. Rowe, Mr. Martin. I declare the motion carried.

MR. ROBERTS: Could Your Honour please tell us the count.

MR. SPEAKER: Twenty-three to eight.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, with respect, I think there are probably twenty-two or twenty-four on the other side. Could we have that rechecked please?

MR. MARSHALL: On a point of order. The honourable Leader of the Opposition is obviously plying and plying for time, there is no provision for this in the Standing Orders. The division has been taken. Your Honour's ruling has been upheld and the matter is disposed off.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, if I may speak to this point of order. The Standing Orders of our House, as Your Honour has just ruled, say - Your Honour just referred to Standing Order (1) -

MR. MARSHALL: Is the honourable member -

MR. ROBERTS: I am speaking to the point of order made by the honourable minister without portfolio.

MR. MARSHALL: The -

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, am I allowed to speak to a point of order without harassment from the other side?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. ROBERTS: The Speaker is speaking to the Clerk, we will wait until he is finished. May I speak to the point of order, Your Honour?

MR. SPEAKER: It is not a point of order, as such. I think the decision has been made and since appealed and sustained. I so rule.

MR. ROBERTS: I am not talking about the division, Mr. Speaker, what I am saying is that the Clerk count, I am not sure if it was correct. I was about to speak to a point of order, if I may be permitted to do so. The point of order is now as Your Honour just made. Your Honour in making a ruling which I challenged, referred to the Standing Orders of our House page (6) on the orders adopted on May 8, 1951, Standing Orders of the House of Assembly, Your Honour allowed the gentleman from St. John's East to speak to a point of order, may I speak to the same point of order Your Honour? That is all I am asking.

MR. MARSHALL: Your Honour -

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, I am speaking to a point of order -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. ROBERTS: the honourable gentleman cannot interrupt one point of order with another.

MR. MARSHALL: This is outrageous.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, the Standing Order is you have no choice but to leave the Chair, I submit, Your Honour. It is now eleven of the clock.

MR. MARSHALL: Inaudible.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! I feel that the Honourable House Leader is on a point order, I have made my ruling I feel and sustain, and there should be no further debate.

MR. ROBERTS: It now being 11:00 P.M., under Standing Order (8) I submit Your Honour has no choice but to leave - the clock, Sir, that is the clock of the House. "At 11:00 P.M., unless the closure rule be then in operation, the proceedings of any business under consideration shall be interrupted and Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the House without question put, provided that all business not disposed of at the termination of the sitting shall stand over until the next sitting day when it will be taken up at the same stage where its progress was interrupted."

I submit, Sir, it being after eleven o'clock Your Honour must leave the Chair.

MR. MARSHALL: The position with respect to this is quite clear, the House was not adjourned at eleven o'clock when committee of supply was called for.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, it is after eleven. Is Your Honour going to permit this outrage? Your Honour is not to be party to this.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! I feel that it is eleven o'clock and following the rules of the House I have no choice but to leave the Chair until three o'clock tomorrow.

On motion the House at its rising do adjourn until 3:00 P.M. tomorrow, Friday.