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VERBATIM REPORT

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SPEAKER: THE HONOURABLE JAMES M. RUSSELL

The House met at 10:00 A.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please!

PETITIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Trinity North.

MR. C. R. BRETT: Mr. Speaker, this is the second day in a row that I had to ask leave to present a petition. I do not know what it proves other than that probably my district has to be one of the ones that was probably neglected for a long time.

This petition is from the residents of the communities of Harcourt, Monroe, Burgoyne's Cove. The prayer of the petition is as follows:

Whereas the road from Georges Brook to Burgoyne's Cove is known as Route 28, is in a deplorable and downgraded condition;

Whereas residents must commute to and from their places of employment, Clarendville and Come By Chance each day:

Whereas our children must commute by bus to their schools in Clarendville and Shoal Harbour:

Whereas in a time of sickness residents must travel to Clarendville to see a doctor;

Whereas the area is attractive to tourists and supports fishermen:

Whereas the residents are concerned about rural development and development is impossible without adequate transportation means;

We the undersigned and voters of Burgoyne's Cove, Monroe and Harcourt in the electoral District of Trinity North request that the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador have the road from Georges Brook to Burgoyne's Cove upgraded and paved, commencing during the summer of 1974.

As I have already pointed out, Sir, this particular piece of road - maybe the whole district received a very small portion, practically none of the goodies that were thrown around even during an election time for the past twenty years. So maybe the time has come for some action on gravel roads. As was outlined in the prayer of the petition, it is necessary for people in this area to commute to work, children to school,

all the residents to Clareville medical facilities and it must be very, very trying to these people to have to travel over these muddy and dusty roads.

This year we hope to see the completion of a provincial park close to the Harcourt Area. This will obviously increase the amount of traffic that will be travelling over the road this summer, therefore, of course, increase the amount of dust that will be flying.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this petition be tabled and referred to the department to which it relates. Hopefully it will get some action this year.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Bonavista North.

MR. P. S. THOMAS: Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of my colleagues on this side of the House. We will heartily support the petition and we trust that the prayer of this petition will be answered during the coming season. Other members on the government side of the House have already announced their contracts have been asked for various roads in their districts. I am sure the honourable Member for Trinity North is no exception. I believe he announced yesterday or today that it would be approximately \$1 million spent in his district this year. I am sure that seeing that he is so close to the administration and very close indeed to the Premier that he can persuade the administration to have the prayer of this petition granted during the summer season. I trust that he will prove himself and that this administration will respond to the prayer of the petition.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any other petitions?

MOTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister of Justice.

HON. T. A. HICKMAN (MINISTER OF JUSTICE): I have a motion here but I have lost it, I think I recall it, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a bill, 'An Act Further To Amend The Judicature Act.'

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

ORAL QUESTIONS

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

MR. F. B. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, I have some questions for the Minister of Industrial Development or Industrial Relations and for the Minister of Education. Would the Speaker indicate whether the Minister of Education is going to appear during the oral question period?

MR. HICKMAN: The Minister of Education is in Port au Port .

MR. ROWE, F. B. Well probably the Honourable Deputy Premier or the Minister of Justice could answer a couple of questions, Mr. Speaker.

In view of the article in the "Daily News" this morning that all systems are go for the regional college, might I ask the Minister of Justice why he finds it necessary to go to Montreal to settle the legal formalities for eighteen point three acres of land which I understood were donated to either Memorial University or to the government for the purposes of construction of the regional college in Corner Brook?

MR. ROBERTS: That was donated by Bowaters.

MR. HICKMAN: Presuming that, and this is a pure assumption, I cannot find the article which the honourable gentleman is referring to. I certainly have not been directly involved in the legalities of the transfer of the property. I assume Bowaters' head office for Canada is in Montreal.

MR. ROBERTS: Bowaters Newfoundland head office is in Corner Brook.

MR. HICKMAN: Right, but the parent company is in Montreal and I assume that they are negotiating with the solicitors for Bowaters but I do not know. I really do not know.

MR. ROWE, F. B. Does the minister know whether he is going to Montreal or not?

MR. HICKMAN: Whether who is going to Montreal?

MR. ROWE, F. B. The Hon. Minister of Justice states in the paper that Alex Hickman will go to Montreal as a legal formality. It seems to come as a complete surprise to the honourable minister.

AN HON. MEMBER: Today is Friday to the honourable minister.

MR. HICKMAN: I will say it is. No, Mr. Speaker, let me assure you - wait a minute now.

AN HON. MEMBER: Does he want to see it?

MR. HICKMAN: I am delighted to hear it.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROWE, F. B. ... cabinet solidarity on the other side.

MR. HICKMAN: If anyone want to invite me - I suspect that this refers to some member of staff in my department. You know, why would I go to Montreal to draft a deed?

MR. ROWE, F. B. Well this is the very question I am trying to find out, Mr. Speaker.

MR. HICKMAN: Well I probably have, but ...

MR. ROWE, F. B. Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that the Minister of Education and the Minister of Industrial Relations are not in their seats to answer some of the questions. Probably the -

MR. HICKMAN: They will be here on Monday.

MR. ROWE, F. B. Could the minister -

MR. ROBERTS: A supplementary question.

MR. ROWE, F. B. Could the Minister of Justice -

MR. ROBERTS: Is the honourable member still on that one?

MR. ROWE, F. B. Yes.

MR. ROBERTS: Okay.

MR. ROWE, F. B. Could the Minister of Justice indicate who will be renting the building to the government and on what terms?

MR. HICKMAN: No I am not in a position to know.

MR. ROBERTS: Well a supplementary question then. Based on the fact that this land was given or agreed to be given by Bowaters for the purpose of the college, would the minister undertake to find out to whom it has been transferred and why? And whether it is being transferred to the company with whom the government have made a sweetheart deal in respect of the proposed regional college in Corner Brook? And if it is to be transferred, for what consideration? I realize he probably has not got this information.

MR. HICKMAN: No I have not.

MR. ROBERTS: Will he undertake to find it out?

MR. HICKMAN: I will undertake to find it out, Mr. Speaker, but at the same time I must take issue with the comment by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition. To my knowledge there has been no sweetheart deal made between the government and anyone. Honourable gentlemen will recall that when the regional college was agreed on in principle that proposals were advertised for by government from any companies who were prepared to enter into the necessary financial arrangements. There is no sweetheart deal.

MR. ROBERTS: The Hon. Minister of Justice has walked into it.

MR. HICKMAN: No, no.

MR. ROBERTS: A supplementary question. Is the minister aware that the proposal from Western Realities Company Limited, a company that is either about to be or has recently been incorporated, is not a firm price? Is the minister aware that officials from the Department of Public Works and Services are negotiating a price? Is the minister aware of these things? Will the minister check into it? Will the minister check into it to see if it is in fact a sweetheart deal that I say it is?

MR. HICKMAN: It is not a sweetheart deal but I will -

MR. ROBERTS: Will the minister undertake to -

MR. HICKMAN: Yes, yes.

MR. ROBERTS: Table in the House, Mr. Speaker, the documents, the tender documents, the proposals. Is the minister aware, Mr. Speaker, a further supplementary, that there was no firm price submitted, that there were no firm contract documents sent out? This is one of the great potential scandals of all times.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: Oh the thumper thumps again.

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

MR. ROWE, F. B. Could somebody, the Government House Leader or the Deputy Premier, indicate whether or not the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing will be in his seat this morning during the oral question

period? Mr. Speaker, I had some important questions to put to the Minister of Education and/or the Minister of Municipal Affairs with regards to the school tax authority for the Avalon Consolidated School Board in St. John's Area. I would like for it to be noted that they are not in their seats and not there to answer some fruitful questions.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. ROWE, F. B. Well why do they not turn up for the question period?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

HON. MEMBERS: Inaudible.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SPEAKER: If honourable members are quite, I will try and say something.

It has just been brought to my attention that we have in the galleries from St. Phillip's Elementary School, Grade V Opportunity Class, thirty-nine students, with their teachers, Miss Clarke and Mr. Sheppard. On behalf of all honourable members I wish to welcome you to the galleries this morning and trust that your visit here is most interesting and informative.

MR. ROWE, F. B. Mr. Speaker, I wonder if it would be in order to move the oral question period to 3:00 P.M., this afternoon, when some of the ministers are in their seats to answer the questions?

MR. SPEAKER: No, it would not be in order.

MR. ROBERTS: No, all out of order.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

MR. CHAIRMAN (STAGG): Order, please!

For the information of honourable gentlemen we have eleven hours and nineteen minutes time remaining of the seventy-five hours allocated to the consideration of the estimates.

MR. P. S. THOMS: Mr. Chairman, if I can at this time, seeing you mentioned the hours; if the estimates are not passed when the seventy-five

hours are up, shall we go into overtime?

AN HON. MEMBER: Sudden death.

MR. CHAIRMAN (STAGG): Sudden death, yes.

The question was addressed to the Chair -

AN HON. MEMBER: I think we better stick to hockey.

MR. CHAIRMAN:(STAGG): The rules are clear on that subject and I suggest the honourable member might read them.

AN HON. MEMBER: A good idea.

MR. CHAIRMAN:(STAGG): We are presently dealing with 711-03-04 on page 41 of the estimates.

MR. P. S. THOMS: When we concluded last night the minister was endeavouring to answer some questions that I put to him in regards to legal-aid. What I wanted to know is if he could explain the whole set up of legal-aid. How many lawyers were involved? The staff of legal-aid? What is covered, and if people outside of St. John's could apply for legal-aid and if they would be given legal aid? Because some of my constituents to date have been refused legal aid. So I would like for the minister to explain it.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Chairman, I very gladly appraise the information but this committee is very fortunate to have here this morning the Chairman of the Legal-Aid Society, the honourable the Member for Placentia East. I will defer to him as I understand he wants to have a few comments on the Legal-Aid Programme and then if there are some questions still outstanding I shall be very happy to answer them.

MR. F. AYLWARD: Mr. Chairman, I am glad of this opportunity first to inform the members of the Committee generally with respect to legal aid, and, of course, through this media to let the public know really what the Legal-Aid Programme has done and what it is all about.

I feel myself, Mr. Chairman, that the Legal-Aid Committee and the Law Society of Newfoundland have really done an excellent job in providing a top-notch service to the people of Newfoundland who are entitled to receive legal-aid, when one considers, Mr. Chairman, that this legal-aid programme only started in 1968, in June of 1968 actually. Well I suppose its inception was in 1964, I recall at a meeting of the

Law Society and I brought up this question. Like any society or organization where one brings up a question one generally ends up Chairman of the committee to look into it, and that is what happened with legal-aid.

But I recall the members of the committee, Mr. John O'Neill, Mr. Ed Neary, Mr. Marshall, who is now the Member for St. John's East, Mr. Allen Caule, Mr. Martin and Mr. Kevin Griffin of Grand Falls, who is now deceased. Well they worked for two years and subsequently reported to the Law Society and the Society in 1968 approved the setting up of the legal-aid. At that time we had no funds whatsoever and through the co-operation of the now Attorney General we were provided by the government with an office on Duckworth Street and an annual grant of \$10,000. From that grant of just \$10,000, we tried to provide a systematic type of legal-aid on the criminal and civil side in Newfoundland.

For the three years, Mr. Chairman, I think the members of the public should know it is really for 1968, 1969, 1970 and in fact 1971, the Law Society of Newfoundland provided legal-aid in civil and criminal matters without any cost whatsoever to the recipients of legal-aid. In 1971, the grant was increased by the provincial government, from \$10,000 a year to \$25,000 a year. At that time we engaged the services of a lawyer, Mr. Timothy Chalker, who stayed with the committee for about a year and a-half, then he stopped and went into private practice. So for 1968 we had \$10,000, for 1969 we had \$10,000 and for 1970, \$10,000 and for 1971, \$25,000.

So for all of these years, Mr. Chairman, the members of the Law Society, as I said, provided legal-aid to the recipients, under a restricted plan, without any fee whatsoever. In some cases where the lawyers to whom cases were assigned could not themselves handle these cases, they retained lawyers and paid the fee themselves. In 1972 we still received a grant of \$25,000 and we negotiated a reduced scale fee with the Minister of Justice. 1973, last year of course, was a great step forward when the provincial government increased the grant to \$100,000 and on behalf of the

make sure that the minister himself is fully aware of some of the problems which I am going to deal with very briefly, some of the problems in the District of White Bay South.

Starting at the extreme northern end, Sir, I would like to commend to the minister a suggestion that hopefully money will loosen up this year to provide water services at any rate for Jackson's Arm and Sops Arm and Pollards Point. These places have received certain grants under the old unincorporated water vote or communities water system vote, whatever the real name of it was. They received money there, not nearly enough to do the complete job to provide the basic of life, water to the people of those communities. Although part of the job has been done and I would ask the minister and his officials to try to look after that this year, any remaining work that has to be done, Try to look after it, Sir, the money you are talking about is in the tens of thousands, not a great deal of money at all but to the people concerned, while not a matter of life and death, there is a difference between a halfway pleasant life and a life of drudgery for the woman of the household or the man who comes home from work and has to lug water two or three miles during the heat of the summer. So I would ask that the tens, maybe \$30,000 or \$40,000 I do not know, \$50,000, I had a study in there done by an engineering firm and I forget the figures now with regard to the Jackson's Arm one. Jackson's Arm, Sop's Arm, Pollard's Point should be looked after, hopefully this summer, by the Department of Municipal Affairs and I hope the minister when he rises can say whether in fact that is going to be done or not.

Down in Hampden Bayside area they have, of course that is a municipality, they have a water and sewer system there which is inadequate for certain purposes, I leave it in the hands of the department to meet the exigencies of those communities when they arise because it has an organization there and they can contact the department.

Coming on to the Baie Verte Peninsula, Sir, Westport and Purbeck's Cove are two other communities where they have difficulties with these basic municipal services. Part again of the problem has been solved. One of the

legal aid in criminal cases. Now the province entered that agreement in March but the agreement was retroactive to January 1, 1973. Mr. Chairman, under that agreement the province was given the right to designate the provincial agency in the province to administer legal-aid. I feel that the province, the government and the people of Newfoundland were indeed very, very fortunate to have the legal-aid committee then constituted to be able to provide this service because the money alone really is not sufficient, Mr. Chairman.

We heard the Attorney General say here last night that he has encountered over the years considerable difficulty in trying to obtain lawyers for his department. We heard him say that he has offered as high as \$32,000 a salary scale for legal draftsmen and trying to get people to conduct the prosecution in criminal matters.

Now, Mr. Chairman, here they had these funds available and they wanted service provided to everyone in Newfoundland who is charged with an indictable offense and who could not afford the services of a lawyer. So, for the honourable gentleman from Bonavista North I would say this, that there are two types of legal-aid, legal-aid in criminal matters and legal-aid in civil matters.

In criminal matters which are covered by the agreement between the province of Newfoundland and the Government of Canada, every individual in Newfoundland who is charged with an indictable offense and who cannot afford the services of a lawyer is entitled to legal-aid in criminal matters, not summary conviction now but an indictable offense.

So, we have from the beginning, even when legal-aid was voluntary, made it abundantly clear that we wanted to provide legal-aid, not to the residents of St. John's or the residents of Corner Brook but to all of Newfoundland and Labrador. This means now today in Newfoundland anyone anywhere in Newfoundland or Labrador who is charged with an indictable offense or a child who is charged with an offense under the Welfare of Children Act, in these two cases these are covered by the agreement between the province and the Government of Canada. They are entitled to legal-aid if requiring these persons

to pay for a lawyer they would incur heavy indebtedness or be required to dispose of modest assets.

What this means in effect is that the person does not have to be a pauper. In fact, under the test applied on the criminal side, the situation could arise and very easily and very often does arise where a man who is working and has a family or even if he does not have a family and he finds himself charged with an indictable offense and he does not have any money and he would have to borrow money to pay a lawyer or he would have to dispose of some modest assets to get money to pay a lawyer, under this agreement, although he is working, he qualifies for legal aid.

So, this means, Mr. Chairman, that anyone in any part of Newfoundland or Labrador who is today charged with an indictable offense and cannot afford the services of a lawyer or if requiring him to pay for a lawyer he would be obliged to dispose of modest assets or incur heavy indebtedness, then he is entitled to a lawyer.

Now the point I am trying to make is simply this - I do not want to delay the committee, Mr. Chairman - but you can imagine what a demand on legal services this imposes. The Attorney General says the trouble he has trying to get people to conduct prosecution. The legal-aid committee was functioning so that we could then undertake and did in fact or have in fact to date provided this service to the people. When this agreement was entered into, I, as chairman of the committee, circularized the profession and I asked the number of lawyers in Newfoundland and Labrador who were prepared to provide legal-aid in criminal matters to send in their names to the legal-aid committee.

This was for Corner Brook we had an office, because Corner Brook was the only other center outside St. John's where there were a sufficient number of lawyers.

So, Mr. Chairman, what we did then was we circularized the profession and seventy-five lawyers indicated their willingness to accept criminal assignments. That means that seventy-five lawyers in Newfoundland agreed that if a person needed legal aid and he qualified

under the plan and he wanted a lawyer, the person entitled could select his lawyer.

I felt very strongly, Mr. Chairman, that throughout this programme we should try as far as possible to ensure that the individual receiving legal-aid had a right to choose his own lawyer, within the scope of course, depending if the lawyer was to provide the service. So, today anyone in Newfoundland who qualifies for legal aid in a criminal matter and he wants a lawyer, he goes to the legal-aid office in St. John's or in Corner Brook or he writes the legal-aid office and if he should qualify he is given this list of lawyers and he is entitled to select any lawyer on that list.

Also on the civil side we have seventy lawyers who are prepared to take civil assignments. I will come to that in a moment. On matrimonial matters we have another seventy lawyers. So, perhaps the Attorney General - I have suggested this to him - could probably take a leaf from our book and try to see if lawyers in private practices would not themselves take, if requested by the government, these prosecutions.

Be that as it may, Mr. Chairman, I am not of course concerned with that aspect of it here. What I want to get across to the members of the committee is that the people entitled and who require legal-aid today in Newfoundland receive equally as good if not better service than the people who are paying for it. I will give them an example now, Mr. Chairman. In addition to that what else they receive.

This year, under the federal agreement, in addition to funds being available to pay lawyers for providing the service in criminal matters, they also provide funds to the committee or to the government in Newfoundland which in turn provides and passes it on to us to pay for lawyers on duty just giving out advice. So, what we did this year, beginning in January, I circularized the profession to find out how many lawyers were prepared to act as what we call duty counsel. The function of duty counsel is this ; to attend in the magistrates courts and the jails, the lockups, every morning. Now,

we could not do that all throughout Newfoundland. What we did was in St. John's when a magistrates court is in session every day, we have a lawyer down there every morning about an hour before the court opens and if there is enough work and he is required to stay, he can stay there for the entire morning.

In addition to that, the lawyer who is on duty for the week must also be prepared to take phone calls after hours. We have an arrangement with Answer Telephone Service that if anybody anywhere in Newfoundland is charged with an indictable offense and he wants legal advice, he can phone the legal-aid office and they have a twenty-four hour answering service. If the person is picked up twelve, one, two, three or four o'clock in the morning and he wants advice, he can phone the legal aid-office at the number and he will be referred to a lawyer.

So that there is twenty-four hour service. I think this is really fantastic because anybody who has tried to contact a lawyer after six or seven o'clock, even if he is prepared to pay for it, has, I respectfully submit, encountered trouble. What this means is that the people who are receiving this service, I said, are getting better service in some cases than people who are prepared to pay for it.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I wanted to ensure again, as far as possible, that this service was not alone provided in St. John's and Corner Brook but throughout Newfoundland. So, in every center in Newfoundland where there was a practicing lawyer, the legal-aid committee made arrangements with that lawyer or with that law firm to provide the similar service. We could not send a lawyer to every corner in Newfoundland, in every magistrates court, because there are just not enough lawyers in Newfoundland.

In Corner Brook we have an arrangement similar to St. John's. In Grand Falls we have retained one lawyer who is prepared to provide the service. So he appears in court in Grand Falls on the same basis. The duty counsel will interview people in the lockup. He will arrange for a postponement of their case. He will not handle their case there. If the person should qualify, he is sent to the legal-aid office and there

he can select any lawyer he likes. There is a lawyer on duty in the court to assist as soon as he is confronted with a legal problem.

In addition, Mr. Chairman, to St. John's and Corner Brook, as I have mentioned, we have a lawyer in Grand Falls. In Gander there is a law firm there. We have an arrangement with that law firm to do the same. In Gander, so it is quite close to my honourable friend's district. Anybody, I suggest, to and from his area, could properly contact that with respect to criminal matters.

Also we have an arrangement with the law firm practicing in Labrador City, Messrs. Miller and Hearn, who are providing the service. In Port au Port the chairman and another member has a firm out there and we have an arrangement with them to look after that particular area. In Harbour Grace there is a gentleman, Mr. Moores, who is practicing there. Mr. Moores is providing a restricted service but as much as we can get from him in that area. I think I have mentioned all the centers where there are lawyers.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Marystown?

MR. AYLWARD: Marystown? No. The gentleman in Marystown appears to be doing so well that he has not indicated his desire or willingness to participate. In every center in Newfoundland where there is a lawyer practicing and where we can obtain that service under this agreement, these funds are available and we are providing it.

So, Mr. Chairman, I think that this is really an excellent service. Considering the number of lawyers in Newfoundland and considering the difficulties of transportation and the areas of Labrador and that, it is I think a tribute to the profession that they have found it possible of course to do the work.

Now, we have travelled throughout Newfoundland and even as far as Nain in Labrador -- cases anywhere. In all cases where the witnesses are required, in addition to paying the lawyer, where the witnesses are required the lawyer pays for the witnesses and of course he collects it from the committee.

Now, Mr. Chairman, this is of course on the criminal side. I have made every effort possible to try to bring this to the attention

of the people. This is why I am spending a little bit of time here acquainting honourable members with it. When the programme was introduced I published notices in both the papers here in St. John's and in Corner Brook. The notice read, "Any individual in Newfoundland or Labrador who has been charged with an indictable offense or has a child charged with a breach of the Welfare of Children Act who cannot at his own expense without himself or his dependant children suffering undue financial hardship such as incurring heavy indebtedness or being required to dispose of modest, necessary assets, is entitled to receive legal aid.

"Any individual requesting legal-aid should contact the legal aid office at the union bank building, Duckworth Street, St. John's." I gave the number. "Or the legal aid office at Corner Brook." I gave that number. I published that throughout all the papers for about three or four weeks, in January and February.

In addition to that, Mr. Chairman, I addressed the magistrates' annual meeting. I gave them up-to-date information including copies of the agreement and explained in detail the service provided. I sent to the commissioner of the RCMP about fifty copies of this notice and asked him to put it in a prominent place in every lockup throughout the country. Some lawyers I think said that the RCMP put this behind the door or the door when they opened it. Be that as it may they have been requested to post these notices in prominent places throughout every police station in Newfoundland.

Any individual when he is brought in, if he can read - I would hope that the police would bring it to his attention. I feel myself, Mr. Chairman, that the time a person needs a lawyer most is when he is first confronted with a law officer. This service should be available to him as soon as he is questioned by the police and certainly when he is placed under arrest.

Now, today in Newfoundland any individual who cannot afford the services of a lawyer, who finds himself in that position, may telephone these numbers and he will receive instantaneous advice. By that I mean as soon as they get a lawyer if it be after six o'clock,

there is a lawyer on duty.

As far as the civil side is concerned, we need to expand on that side, Mr. Chairman. I suppose the main area there, as I see it, is in divorce and matrimonial matters. Now the funds that we receive from the provincial government we must pay the outstanding ten per cent of the cost of providing legal aid in criminal matters and of course we have to pay for the lawyers who provide the service on the civil side on a reduced basis.

Now the honourable gentleman mentioned that he had two residents who are looking for legal-aid. Now, as one can appreciate, legal-aid on the civil side does not cover every type of situation. In the big area which I would like to see expanded and which we have in fact expanded considerably, that is in the field of matrimonial matters and divorce and separation agreements, I always feel myself that there can be more hardship result to a family from a broken home than from a broken leg or anything of that particular type. On the medical side we give people the top-notch medical service, doctors, dentists, hospitals, everything. On the civil side, a married woman with a family who has a serious matrimonial problem and she cannot afford a lawyer, well what is her situation?

I have tried as far as possible to see the programme expand in that direction because the man is generally working and he goes off and here is the woman and her family left without any financial resources whatsoever. In this case we have never in legal-aid rejected anyone who found herself in such a position, never. In fact, Mr. Chairman, in cases where on the face of it they would not qualify, at the offices the administrators have been instructed to bend over backwards to accommodate those people.

Under the existing programme as far as divorce and matrimonial matters are concerned, if the health of either one of the parties to the marriage is in danger by a continuation of the matrimonial trouble and a doctor or a social worker certifies that is the case, then that person is entitled to receive legal aid or a divorce or a separation agreement. The committee may be surprised to learn that

even under our restricted rules for divorce and matrimonial matters, this year alone we have had from January to May, over a hundred divorce cases.

Maybe, Mr. Chairman, - I will give you the statistics in a moment and I think they will show how fantastic the growth has been. But in divorce and matrimonial matters, these are the important areas. We are expanding in that direction. There are very, very few who have been rejected on that for assistance in maintenance, matrimonial matters and divorce. I will be happy when I see no restriction whatsoever so that when a person just needs a lawyer to have one without this requirement of requiring a doctor's certificate or a certificate of a social worker, when that is done away with.

Now, Mr. Chairman, a few moments and I will just give you the statistics which I think will show you how fantastic the growth has been. In 1969 we had 356 people apply for legal-aid. In 1970 we had 361. In 1971, Mr. Chairman, there were 496. In 1972 there were 591. Now, Mr. Chairman, in 1973 we had 1,359 applicants for legal aid. Of these 1,359; 989 were people requiring legal aid in civil matters and 246 in criminal matters. So, last year we had 1,359 applications. This year alone, Mr. Chairman, to date, from January to the end of April, we have had 863 persons apply to the legal-aid office for assistance. 272 of these were persons looking for assistance in criminal matters and 591 in civil matters.

To date this year alone we have assigned over 200 cases, criminal cases, to lawyers to look after under legal-aid. That is not throughout the whole of Newfoundland and Labrador. Also we have assigned over 200 criminal cases. So, you can imagine, Mr. Chairman, how fantastic the growth and expansion of this programme has been. I only hope that we can keep up with the phenomenal demands for legal-aid in Newfoundland. One can certainly see that if we have over 800 people looking for assistance so far this year that it will probably go very close to 2,000 applicants. That, Mr. Chairman, is going to impose quite a very, very heavy strain upon the people providing the services.

We will or we hope that with the assistance of the profession we can continue to keep the service on a very, very high and satisfactory level. Like people who can afford to pay for lawyers, they encounter delays. I think, Mr. Chairman, it is a tribute to the lawyers who have participated in the programme that one has heard so very, very few complaints about it and when one thinks that this organization has helped over 1,300 people last year and has taken over 500 assignments to lawyers, there is very little real criticism of it. They are dealing with a segment of society who find themselves very, very frustrated and in difficult positions and they are very, very prone to make complaints which in many cases are justifiable.

Mr. Chairman, I am very, very pleased with the type of service provided. I want to pay a tribute to the staff at the legal-aid office, Mr. Bonnell and Mrs. Lambert and the girl who works there and, of course, to the profession for the great assistance which they have provided. As I said before, when one hears the Attorney General talk about the trouble he has getting lawyers and when one sees the service we are providing, I think one can conclude what a wonderful job the persons administering this programme have, to date, done.

Mr. Chairman, in closing I want to thank the Attorney General himself for his personal interest in the programme. I would like to thank the law society and assure the people that we will continue as far as possible to provide what I think to date has been a very, very good programme. If, as my honourable friend from Bonavista North says, some of the people looking for legal aid - not everybody who requires a lawyer will receive legal aid. In the criminal side, yes but on civil matters, i.e., disputes regarding land, that is not covered. If a person should die and they want his will probated, that type of situation is not covered.

I had a call from a fellow at the university. He sold his guitar to a friend for four dollars and he did not pay him so he wants legal-aid. Does the honourable gentleman know what I mean?

We have hundreds of that type of thing. Well that situation is not covered. Generally, it is easier to say what is not covered than what is covered on the civil side.

The legal-aid programme is provided throughout all Newfoundland and Labrador. Where the person qualifies, regardless of where he resides, he is entitled and will receive the services. Of course, every type of legal problem - if two women or two neighbours have an argument over the backyard fence and one takes a crack at the other, which is a summary conviction matter, that is not covered. Summary conviction matters and a great number of civil matters are not covered. All indictable offenses and matrimonial matters and things of this nature are.

MR. NEARY: Is there any such thing as a little act of christian charity on the part of a lawyer any more?

MR. AYLWARD: There have been about 1,500 acts of christian charity a year. Mr. Chairman, I thought we had a little deal going here this morning. The Hon. Member for Bell Island canvassed not alone his own caucus but another caucus, this honourable crowd over here, and he solicited a large amount of money to back him up on a walkathon tomorrow morning. I said to him when he asked me to sign, "Now surely God this will not be a conflict of interest or held up as corruption or anything!" Bearing in mind that legal aid was the next topic, of course, I quickly signed up for five dollars.

MR. NEARY: I did not get -

MR. AYLWARD: I should have known better because there he is up to his old tricks again. I bet when I sit down he will be complaining about the escalating costs of legal fees. I am going to serve notice now on behalf of everyone over here that we shall revoke our undertakings to back him if he should mention one word about legal fees. I think I made it clear. I want you to back this up, Mr. Chairman, if it should come to a vote. I know we cannot take that vote here but we

can take it in other quarters nearby here. I am going to serve notice on him now that if he should even mention one word about legal fees and real estate transactions which are not, of course, covered by this programme, then, of course, we are going to -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. AYLWARD: No matter what Paul Hellyer said. We all know what he said.

AN HON. MEMBER: Is that not what one calls blackmail?

MR. AYLWARD: We are going to have a vote in the common room and we are going to revoke our backing.

Mr. Chairman, seriously, I think there has been a great job done on this. Without the co-operation of the lawyers, it could not have been successful. Of course, they are getting paid now but they are providing a service and it is not costing the people anything. I think they are entitled to it. I want again to thank the Attorney General for his interest in the programme.

MR. THOMS: The honourable gentleman said that it was not costing the people anything but we are asking for \$200,000 here. Indirectly, the people are paying anyway. I thank the member for his information. I would like to ask him if there is any breakdown as to the number of cases within the boundaries of the City of St. John's and outside St. John's? I am under the impression that the bulk of this legal aid is in St. John's and very little of it is outside St. John's. This is why I brought up the question yesterday because one of my constituents who had a legitimate case and needed legal-aid was refused legal-aid. Now I can get the information for the gentleman if he so desire.

I would also like to ask him, i.e., if a young Newfoundlander has a car (I will put a case before him now as an example) and is in bed asleep and his father comes in and takes the car and goes off and has an accident and he in turn is fined

\$1,500 or sued for \$1,500, under these cases can he receive legal-aid? There is such a case in my district at the present time. I do not know if it is in court. Maybe I am out of order but I am not mentioning any names nor dates. In such a case, can he receive legal-aid? He is unable himself to appear in court with a lawyer. If he does not get legal-aid he is on his own.

MR. AYLWARD: The father or the son?

MR. THOMS: The son.

MR. AYLWARD: What is the son charged with?

MR. THOMS: He is sued for an amount of money.

MR. AYLWARD: No. If it were an action against him for a civil matter, he would not. If the son were charged with stealing, say theft of a car or something of that nature, if it were a criminal matter he would qualify. If a person should owe money and be sued that type of case is not covered, small debts or even large debts. If it were a case - the discretion in the committee. If, i.e., the committee looked at it and they saw that this is a desperate situation, he is a family man and he has a family and there is something unjust about the whole thing. There is a question here that the chap took the car, he went out and had an accident, he broke up the car and he is responsible for paying for it; he would not qualify.

MR. THOMS: How about the breakdown?

MR. AYLWARD: I beg the honourable gentleman's pardon?

MR. THOMS: The cases within St. John's .

MR. AYLWARD: The breakdown inside St. John's. I will have the committee or the staff at the office to try to work on that for me. I hope to get that information. I will certainly give it to the honourable gentleman privately. Undoubtedly because the lawyers are in St. John's, a large number of cases come from St. John's. Yesterday, i.e., at the office, they had about ten people interviewed. They have people from as far away at the Port au Port Peninsula. Geographically, generally

speaking, my honourable friend is right, most of them would come from around the St. John's Area and Corner Brook. That is only because people are closer to it. We get a lot of requests by mail and by telephone. Where one lives has nothing to do with it. It is only that the lawyers are more accessible if one should live closer to them. Does the honourable gentleman follow me?

I would say that the honourable gentleman's question that most of the aid is provided to people around St. John's and around major centres, I cannot give him, statistically, what the answer is but when it is compiled I will be glad to send my honourable friend a copy of it. It should not be that way. If so, it is because there is just not that much crime in my honourable friend's district. If there are more in St. John's and more aid provided here it is because probably there are just not that number out there.

MR. THOMS: Is the honourable gentleman confessing to the "Sin City?"

Mr. Chairman, I wonder could the honourable gentleman tell us something about these divorce cases, not about the cases themselves but I understand now that in the United States there is such a thing as a-do-it-yourself kit for divorce. Are there such kits in Newfoundland?

MR. AYLWARD: There is an awful lot about these kits on the go but I think the kits are out in British Columbia. There is some outfit that produces these kits. I do not know of any such kits myself. I am not that familiar with the divorce laws. I have not practised any of it myself. I do not think there are any such kits in Newfoundland. If a fellow wanted a kit, I imagine he could be directed to one. He should not need a kit if he were entitled to legal aid. The kit will be looked after in the kitty, under our programme. There is no need for a kit nor a kitty, Mr. Chairman, if you should find anyone in your district who has serious matrimonial problems and you feel that a continuation of the matrimonial home would be bad for the health of the children or either parties of the marriage, then they only

need go to a welfare officer or a doctor and get a letter and then write the legal-aid office and say, "If I continue to live with that chap, it will be bad for my health." Believe you me, they have no trouble getting these letters today from the doctors and from the welfare officers.

If my honourable friend should have any such problems in his district, just send them to the welfare officer. He will give them a letter and they write legal-aid, they would be entitled to legal-aid.

I expect a great demand from Bonavista South in the next few weeks.

MR. THOMS: Bonavista South. Never from Bonavista North.

MR. AYLWARD: Bonavista North.

MR. GILLETTE: There is one little question that I would like to put to the Hon. Member from Placentia East and also the Chairman of the Legal-Aid Committee.

Does this legal-aid also include advice over the telephone?

MR. AYLWARD: Yes.

MR. GILLETTE: It does. I see. It does not necessarily mean an actual court case.

MR. AYLWARD: No, no.

MR. GILLETTE: Any legal advice.

MR. AYLWARD: Any legal advice; that is right.

MR. GILLETTE: Thank you very much!

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stagg): The motion is that Head 711-03-04 be increased from \$150,000 to \$225,000. Those in favour "aye." Contrary "nay." Carried.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, on 03-05, I wonder if the minister could tell us exactly what goes? This is the Criminal Compensation Board.

MR. HICKMAN: There were two cases last year, Mr. Chairman. The awards totalled \$3,160.

MR. ROBERTS: I thank the minister. I wonder if he could tell us why the revised estimates show \$20,000 to begin with and secondly, if two were granted, were there any applications that were not granted? If so, for what reason?

MR. HICKMAN: My instructions are, Mr. Chairman, that these were the only two applications that came before the board last year. The total cost of operating the Crimes Compensation Board last year was \$5,373.

MR. ROBERTS: Does that include the \$3,100?

MR. HICKMAN: That includes the \$3,160.

MR. ROBERTS: Did the minister then say that it cost the board \$2,000 to give out \$3,000 in grants?

MR. HICKMAN: Close to it.

MR. ROBERTS: Could the minister tell us where the money went? That is astonishing.

MR. HICKMAN: Well the amount paid to the chairman and members of the board was \$1,908. The amount paid for legal fees, these would be the fees paid to the counsel for the applicant, was \$305 and the amount paid to two victims of the crime was \$3,160. I understand that one was a particularly long-contested hearing.

MR. ROBERTS: I find it interesting that it only cost \$305 in counsel's fees. Let us assume there was a contested hearing, Mr. Chairman, although I do not know what is contested because these are not adversary proceedings as I understand them -

MR. HICKMAN: We have to prove the amount they lost.

MR. ROBERTS: Yes but that is not an adversary proceeding, that is an ex parte application. Who contests it? The board is required to be satisfied and that is most presumably a prima facie subject to a rebuttal. Surely, this is not an adversary proceeding.

MR. HICKMAN: No, it is not.

MR. ROBERTS: It is ingenious to put it at its best for the

minister to say that the reason for the high cost of the board is that it was a long, lengthy hearing and it was contested. It may well have been long and lengthy. It is a small matter but there is an important principle here.

Mr. Chairman, if counsel fees are only \$305 for counsel for the applicant, and I am very pleased to hear that as part of the award under the scheme the board are prepared to award counsel's fees to the applicant's counsel, then it is hard to see how the board claims \$1,900. I wonder, Mr. Chairman, if the minister would undertake - it is an extremely good idea. It is the good samaritan principle being adopted. I am not sure that \$3,100 is generous enough. I do not know the merits of the individual cases. I am not commenting on that but I find it passing strange that the damages - is damage the right word? To put a less pejorative word on it, the compensation for the whole province only amounted to \$3,100. The innocent victims of criminal acts (That is the scheme, Your Honour, is familiar with. There may be one or two members of the committee who are not) are able to claim against this fund and are able to get a measure of compensation for damages they may have sustained or injuries. It covers personal property as well, I believe.

MR. HICKMAN: Yes.

MR. ROBERTS: To begin with, it is not widely known. It should be widely known. Twenty thousand dollars might not be adequate but the principle is there and we should not worry about the money in that sense.

Mr. Chairman, what concerns me is that we laid out \$1,900 (That was the figure the minister gave me.) in payments to the three gentlemen who were on the board, one of whom was a civil servant -

MR. HICKMAN: No.

MR. ROBERTS: I thought Mr. McCarthy used to be chairman of the board.

MR. HICKMAN: No, the chairman is Mr. Herb Morgan.

MR. ROBERTS: Who are the other members?

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Thomas O'Reilly and Frank O'Dea.

MR. ROBERTS: Three members of the bar. One of them is a very senior and distinguished member of the bar. The other two are young, junior but equally distinguished. They claimed \$1,900 in professional fees for giving out \$3,100. That is a little like the tail wagging the dog. I wonder if the time has not come when the minister might not thank those gentlemen, (I mean they have the right to be compensated for their services,) thank them most sincerely and say that Newfoundland cannot afford their services for this type of thing. The minister's officials stand available to give legal advice where such would be needed, although I do not see how many points of law would come up. It is not an adversary proceeding. We could take three citizens. The going rate is nothing like \$1,900. Even royal commissions do not get up to that level. Possibly we could take these three gentlemen whom I am sure were appointed on a nonpartisan basis, as is the wont of all administrations in this type of thing. Thank them for their services. Perhaps we could give them a Confederation Medal, which costs twenty-five dollars, plus tax. Thank them very warmly and then say that the province no longer has need of their services. Then we could find three people, who perhaps for a much more modest fee would agree.

Mr. Chairman, surely there is something wrong with a scheme in which \$3,100 costs us over \$2,000 in administration. I mean that really is wrong. It really is too much. Surely, we could do without it. If these gentlemen, quite properly, insist upon professional remuneration, they are entitled to that but we do not need professionals. Surely any level-headed citizen could sit on this board. An applicant would come in and would say that he has been

wronged by a criminal act and wished to claim some damages. I mean a Workmen's Compensation Board handles millions of dollars a year in a somewhat similar type of proceeding. I do not know what their ratio of benefits to claims is but I am sure it is not sixty dollars in benefits against forty dollars in administrative charges. That really is ridiculous. Medicare gets up to maybe eight or nine or ten per cent. Workmen's Compensation may be on that basis, not forty per cent. It is a small amount but it is an important principle.

Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the minister would undertake to either defend it, if he feels that it is defensible or if not if he would undertake to look into it and see what should be done.

MR. HICKMAN: I certainly will.

MR. ROBERTS: Certainly will what?

MR. HICKMAN: Look into it.

MR. ROBERTS: Will the minister undertake to report back to us after he has?

MR. HICKMAN: Yes.

MR. ROBERTS: Okay!

MR. GILLETTE: Mr. Chairman, I was interested in a remark made by my colleague, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, when he said that this compensation can also cover property. Now where would one start or where would one end if this be the case with property? Could the minister give us an example of property damage?

MR. HICKMAN: That is a pretty good question.

For instance, if someone goes in and sets fire to one's house - there must be a conviction, convicted of arson -

MR. ROBERTS: In a criminal act.

MR. HICKMAN: In a criminal act. If he be convicted of arson and there is insurance, obviously there should be no compensation. It is conceivable that if a person came in and were convicted of arson and destroyed one's property as a result of that criminal act or breaking and entering, then one would qualify for compensation but there has to be a criminal act and a conviction.

following therefrom. I am glad I asked that question, Mr. Chairman, because it could leave the impression that property damage when the owner of that property is not aware of who damaged it - this is the impression that I got, to tell the truth, when I heard it at first -

MR. ROBERTS: It is not an insurance scheme. It is a criminal compensation scheme.

MR. GILLETTE: Yes, it has to be criminal.

On motion head 711-03-05 carried.

MR. ROBERTS: Inaudible.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: This is royal commissions.

MR. ROBERTS: Yes, I would think the minister probably has some information there.

MR. HICKMAN: Well, during interim supply I gave the list of the fees supplied. This year we have not got all the bills in from the Commission on Labrador. There is the Commission on Mineral Revenue under the chairmanship of Mr. Leonard Martin, Q.C. There is a commission looking into all aspects of the St. John's Urban region study. There is also the Commission on Municipal Government that have not yet completed their work.

The Commission on Municipal Government in Newfoundland, under the chairmanship of Professor Hugh Whalen, has reported that they have all the consultants' reports before them. This was April 17. They anticipated about five more meetings and they are aiming for June 15, 1974, for the presentation of their report. It was going to be May 15, the month before.

MR. ROBERTS: I thank the minister for the information. There are three or four royal commissions outstanding. First of all, is there anything new on the Labrador Commission? We have been expecting the report hourly for the past month. Any word on when? I understand the Eskimo and Indian, Montagnais, Naskaupi dialect translations will be tabled at the same time, the Premier said, but is there anything new on the Labrador Commission?

MR. HICKMAN: I am told that the resumé as we know it, is a six

volume report - that the résumé of the report which in itself is about that thick is now completed and ready for presentation to cabinet.

MR. ROBERTS: Why cannot the report be made public?

MR. HICKMAN: Well, the hope was and the idea behind it was that when the report was tabled, if the resume would come with it, it would make, at least for the general public -

MR. ROBERTS: The general public are not going to read the résumé.

MR. HICKMAN: Well, I hope they will read the résumé.

MR. ROBERTS: They may read the press report or maybe the press résumé.

MR. HICKMAN: Right! Well, I am sure of one thing, the press will find it much easier to make a résumé of the résumé than a résumé of the report.

MR. ROBERTS: I have more faith in the press than that. One minute on television and they will be able to cover it accurately I am sure.

MR. HICKMAN: So that our hope is to get the thing - I think cabinet should take a look at it first.

MR. ROBERTS: The résumé?

MR. HICKMAN: Yes.

MR. ROBERTS: Although letting us have the report then?

MR. HICKMAN: And then table the report. I think the honourable the Premier said here a few weeks ago; our intention is to table the whole works at the one time, hopefully while we are still sitting now.

MR. ROBERTS: Well, I appreciate the - I think, to take my tongue out of my cheek for a second, the government are doing the right thing to prepare a resume because these large reports are just never read. Indeed the authors of royal commission reports would do well to remember that after about the thirty-second page nobody gets - take the Neary Report for example, I am sure nobody has read the Neary Report more than once. You know, the Mr. Ed Neary - it was an unfortunate report.

The authors of these large reports - the Neary Report happened to be a small one - would do well to remember that nobody reads them, that the most they do is serve as very useful compilations. For

example, a very short report which I think is a very good one, Doctor Miller's Report on Nursing Education, is forty-two pages but it contains in it a whole new charter for education of nurses in Newfoundland. So, the government are doing the right thing to prepare a résumé although I am always suspicious of résumés because somebody is doing the editing and I for one would want to see the full report to be able to see how valid the résumé is.

I do not see any reason why the government are holding up tabling the full report merely while they await the résumé. Could we not have the full report made available and then once the full report is made available, we will bear in mind there is a résumé and that résumé could be made much more publicly available. How many copies of the full report have been printed? I mean, is it in just a typed volume or has it been printed in copies?

MR. HICKMAN: It is printed similar to the Steel Commission Report, that type of printing and bound.

MR. ROBERTS: Probably done down in Printing and Photography.

MR. HICKMAN: I think it was done down in Printing and Photography.

MR. ROBERTS: Well, could not a copy be laid on the table of the House this day? There is nothing confidential or secret. The administration have had a chance to look at it and have agreed to table it. It is not as if it were something that had to be milked out of them. It is not that sort of report as I understand it.

I am serious. It could be a Magna Carta for Labrador or it could be the biggest pile of balderdash ever seen. It is one or the other. There are mixed views. Could it be tabled today or Monday? My colleague from Labrador North and I am sure the gentleman from Labrador South, these two men would read it. I am sure they would. The gentleman from Labrador West, I have no doubt has already read it. He may well be the only member of the cabinet to have read it in its entirety. Whether it is garbage and balderdash or whether it is the most brilliant piece of work or whether it is a combination, some members will read the full report. I will try to read it. There may be many others who do.

Can it be tabled? Why do we have to wait for a résumé? A résumé is just some official, probably a fairly junior rank official in the way these things are done - well, I do not know who is doing it. I do not really care who is doing it. My normal experience has been that these things tend to get shuttled down from a deputy minister to a director to somebody fairly low down the scale. Why should we have to await that process? Indeed when it comes to public distribution, if this report be one twentieth of what it should be, I would suggest to the administration that they might well try some means of disseminating it widely throughout particularly the Labrador.

I do not want to bring up the subject - I would enjoy the debate but I suspect it is not the place for it, the much maligned Newfoundland Bulletin, something along those lines that could go to every home in Labrador and say, "Look, here is this report. Here is what they have recommended," not a one hundred nor two hundred page résumé because nobody will read it but maybe a twenty-four page booklet or a twelve page booklet. I mean, that is the sort of thing that should be done with this sort of thing because if this royal commission report done by Mr. Snowden is to have any value, it has to have that value.

To come back again, can the minister - hold on now, he is not with me.

MR. HICKMAN: Yes, I am with the honourable member.

MR. ROBERTS: Okay. Why can it not be tabled today? Must we await this résumé? We have been waiting it for weeks and weeks and weeks and weeks and maybe weeks and weeks and weeks more. There is considerable interest in it. There have been no meetings in Nakkovik or in Wabush passing resolutions that they want to see the Snowden Report but I know that my colleague, the gentleman from Labrador North, who would be saying this if he were here but is today on his way to Goose Bay. He has other fish to fry, Your Honour might say. We are going to send another "Peddle" walking. The gentleman from Labrador North is interested.

I have no idea where the gentleman from Labrador South

is. Probably off on a martinizing visit to his district or something. I know he too is interested. Why can it not be tabled today? I mean, if there are copies there is nothing secret in it, is there? We are not going to get another edited version. There is no thought of just printing the résumé and no six volumes, is there?

MR. HICKMAN: No. No. There will be no edited version, Mr. Chairman. The decision of the administration which was announced in the House is that the résumé and the report would be tabled as soon as cabinet had an opportunity to look at the résumé. I would hope the cabinet will do that within the next two or three days or next six days. That is all I can say.

While we are on that though -

MR. ROBERTS: What is the résumé? I mean, I know what the Premier said but it defies logic. Are they going to make sure the résumé is accurate?

MR. HICKMAN: No. It is so that we will be hopefully sufficiently familiar with the résumé and with the report that we can answer knowledgeable any questions that are put in the House at the time of tabling.

MR. ROBERTS: Surely each departmental minister will look at the section affecting his department and the gentleman responsible for Labrador will be familiar with the whole.

MR. HICKMAN: Well, that is the situation with it.

MR. ROBERTS: The Premier probably has not read past the introduction.

MR. HICKMAN: One thing I might say while we are on it. The honourable gentleman was talking about what reports are read and what ones are not read. The report that we found the greatest demand for - it is encouraging to me - is the Steele Commission Report.

MR. ROBERTS: It is a very good report.

MR. HICKMAN: It is. I think we ordered 2,000 copies and we are down to three.

MR. ROBERTS: Where did 2,000 copies go?

MR. HICKMAN: I think it was 2,000. Maybe it was 1,000 or 1,500.

MR. ROBERTS: It might have been 200.

MR. HICKMAN: Oh, no. The last request we had came from the law libraries in the United Kingdom.

MR. ROBERTS: Oh, all the law school libraries.

MR. HICKMAN: Oh, yes.

MR. ROBERTS: Oh, well that explains it.

I find it interesting. The Steele Report I think is a good report.

MR. HICKMAN: The municipalities have been after them.

MR. ROBERTS: Sure. I mean, any public body sort of gets on the list to keep ones law school library or ones municipal element, to keep those up to date. Sure: They get in CCH Clearing House Reports that Newfoundland has had a royal commission on the magistracy and everybody sends off for it. It is a good report.

I am not so much concerned with helping law school libraries as I am the people of Newfoundland. Anyway, I will have to give up on the Labrador Commission Report. I must say that it does defy logic. The cabinet have every right - in my view have always had the right, it is entirely a sensible thing - to receive a royal commission report and to study it before releasing it. They will wish in releasing it to make a statement as to the government's position with respect to it. That would be in order. The reason why this one is being held up, you know, just does not make any sense. I suspect the truth is that nobody in the cabinet other than the gentleman from Labrador West has read the report and that is the reason why it is - somebody said, "Well, boys, we should not put it out now until we are sure of it." I am familiar with that type of reasoning.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: The honourable gentleman has more faith in his colleagues than I do. Some of them may well have read it. Some may even have understood it but many of them, Sir, have neither read nor understood.

MR. HICKMAN: They promised me I could quiz them on it.

MR. ROBERTS: Promised the honourable member he could quiz? That

would be like "\$64,000 Question" and those only covers the commissioner's fees.

Now, on that point and this would apply equally to the Whalen Commission, the Snowden Commission - I wonder if the minister could table and if he does not have it if he could get it after lunch, I would like to know publicly how much the commissioners are being paid. I shall not accept the statement that they are being paid by the university. I believe they are but if they are being paid by the university, they are on a secondment basis and we the people are reimbursing the university for it.

So, I would like to know if they are being paid by the university, what is being paid to the university in respect of them. Professor Whalen is a very estimable gentleman. He has written some very good works. He is head of the Political Science Department. Donald Snowden is head of Extension. He is on a leave of absence. I do not know what the arrangements are there. I would like to know how much they are being paid. Both these gentleman I understand are full-time.

The other members of the commissions, these two commissions - there are three in each case I believe - are part time. I would assume - I would ask the minister to confirm or if not so, to set me straight on it - that the other commissioners, the Labrador one, Magistrate Goodyear who presumably is not being paid at all because he is being paid as a magistrate, Mrs. Hettidge and a Mrs. Snell, Mrs. Lawrence Snell, and on the municipal commission, Mr. Harnett, Mr. Tom Hopkins and Mr. Clarence Powell. I assume Mr. Powell is not being paid because as chairman of the Board of Commissioners of the Public Utilities Board he is a full-time public official.

Perhaps the minister could speak on those points. I assume the nonpublic official members are being paid a per diem rate. I should like to know what it is. I would like to know how much Mr. Ed Neary was paid for what has to be, with all respect, one of the most useless reports ever submitted to any government by any person. It has received

universal condemnation from all concerned.

I am most interested to know the staff costs of these things. I have the impression and the minister on the interminable supply debate earlier more or less confirmed this, that the staff costs of the Snowden Commission are mounting roughly to the point of the national debt. I would like to know what they are. I would like to know as well what the Whalen Commission is because I have been hearing the most horrendous stories from my academic friends about the great bonanza which royal commissions represent. There is a new mother lode. It is called getting on a royal commission. I would like to know just what the staff costs are.

Mr. Snowden at one stage was talking, as I recall it, of sending members of the House to Norway, to the Northwest Territories, to Southeast China and I know not where but I do not recall any of them going. If they went, they came back. Where we having sort of "See the World"? What sort of travel bills? These are the things that are relevant. Unfortunately royal commissions are neither fish nor fowl. They do not tend to show up in the public accounts. Maybe we should require every royal commission to state on page one in the appendix thereto, "The following are the costs incurred on this".

This is public. It should be public. These things are set up to tell the public, set up to enquire into subjects for the public benefit. I think the information should be made public. So, I would ask the minister to tell us what he could about them now.

MR. HICKMAN: I will have to give a commitment, which I will, on both these commissions, to give the committee the amount that is being paid to the members.

MR. ROBERTS: And that is agreed to be paid.

MR. HICKMAN: And agreed to be paid. I have not that in front of me.

On the Labrador Commission and this is not up to date, this is two months old - the staff salaries, \$73,043; travelling, \$50,689; Ryan's Searching Service, \$10,591 -

MR. ROBERTS: What is Tom Ryan? I mean, he is a good searcher but my God! Tom would give one title to St. John's on that.

MR. HICKMAN: Miscellaneous, office rents, phones, advertising,

rent of equipment, \$37,303. We have not received the bill yet from the university. My understanding is that Mr. Snowden stays within salary during his year or year-and-a-half leave of absence. Presumably now that he has gone back to work we will receive a bill from the university for his salary.

MR. ROBERTS: It must have been agreed what he is to be paid.

MR. HICKMAN: They were to be reimbursed his salary.

MR. ROBERTS: What was agreed to be reimbursed.

MR. HICKMAN: I do not know that.

MR. ROBERTS: What is the salary?

MR. HICKMAN: That I do not know.

MR. ROBERTS: We are entitled to that.

MR. HICKMAN: Yes. That I will get.

The Whalen Commission - a note here, "Whalen's fees, \$5,000."

MR. ROBERTS: The man is full-time secondment to the Premier's office.

MR. HICKMAN: There is something wrong with that.

MR. ROBERTS: There bloody well is something wrong with it!

MR. HICKMAN: The other expenses: York University Research, \$45,000; staff salaries, \$36,690; travelling, \$13,352; rent, office supplies, telephone, etc., etc., \$15,627.

MR. ROBERTS: I appreciate the position the minister is in. He is at best a conduit of information but these are staggering amounts. These people are using government offices properly. Where are we racking up \$15,000 in rentals on one commission? On the Labrador Commission, \$50,000 in travel? Now, I mean, they used government aircraft in Labrador properly. I mean, I have no complaint at all with that, better than some of the uses government aircraft are put to. Is there any check on this? One can go around the world a dozen times for less than that. I mean, who controls them? Who audits them? Is there any pre-check or is it just a matter of somebody waking up on the commission one day and saying, "By God! I think we should go and have a look at the system of local government with respect to Indian affairs and native affairs in Ubangi." The next thing we know four of them are gone, winging off to Ubangi if there be such a country.

Is there any check on this?

MR. HICKMAN: The only check, Mr. Chairman, that is imposed is that whenever the invoices are presented, I think it is Treasury Board or the Treasury Board secretariate examine the invoices to verify them.

MR. ROBERTS: That is locking the barn door after the horse is gone.

MR. HICKMAN: No. When one appoints a royal commission - there has been no change ever since we have had royal commission -

MR. ROBERTS: There were no bills like that under any royal commission we were - even the Warren Commission did excellent.

MR. HICKMAN: Yes. The Warren Commission travelling account was not modest by any means.

MR. ROBERTS: It was not \$50,000.

MR. HICKMAN: No but it was probably the equivalent thereof by the dollars of that time because they travelled Europe, as the honourable gentleman will remember, and North America.

MR. ROBERTS: I would pay a lot more for the study of the education of Newfoundland than I would for -

MR. HICKMAN: When we appoints a royal commission, we give them their terms of reference. The minute they start to try and restrict them they become very upset and say that they are taking away their independence.

MR. ROBERTS: They are taking away our money.

MR. HICKMAN: I know. We should be able to decide the kind of studies that we should make, the comparative studies we should make. I have often said here in the House before that I think we should have a royal commission to study royal commissions.

MR. ROBERTS: What we should have is we should call tenders for royal commissions.

MR. HICKMAN: I will get that for the honourable member.

MR. ROBERTS: All right. I appreciate the minister's position. I mean, he is responsible but he is not in a day-to-day sense. I am deadly serious. These things are getting out of hand. I mean, I can tell the minister now

Don Snowden is a friend of mine and I have a great deal of respect for him as a man and as an individual and his ability and training. But the Snowden Royal Commission is a horror story. When you look at the expenses, \$50,000 in travel is outrageous, just outrageous. Now I will say then, I will be quite prepared to say I am wrong if somebody can show me where \$50,000 is validly gone. But people have been winging around the world. They brought in I think Mr. Sherman McCurdy who is a very fine man. He was my high school principal. He and my father were associated for many years. Dr. McCurdy was brought all the way from Alberta to look at education in Labrador. Now is there nobody in Newfoundland or in Labrador who could look at education?

You know these things were \$10,000 to Mr. Tom Ryan. Certainly it was validly earned, it was not an inflated invoice at all. But, you know, unless that produces what amounts to a complete title survey of Labrador in which case it would be money well spent - you know, what are these things for? Something is going to have to be done about them because royal commissions just sort of wing around and send the bill. The Whelan Commission, if the minister checks into it, would be the same thing. Fifteen thousand dollars for office rentals, but I mean they use government offices. These people are down in the King George V Institute, are they not? That is the traditional roosting place of royal commissions. I mean that is a government building. I do not know what other rents may be involved.

Persons for staff, secretaries, you know, it is -

MR. HICKMAN: They must have their secretaries.

MR. ROBERTS: Well you know, I would like to get more. The Premier and I are deep in negotiations about more secretaries. They are pretty essential people indeed but some of these, it is not crooked, it is not inflated, it is just spendthrift. It really is, there is no regard for it you know, I would imagine Dr. Miller's bill for this is extremely modest. I would imagine Mr. Gaffery Steele's bill is equally modest. I am not talking about professional fees. A lawyer's time is worth so many dollars an hour or so many dollars a day and he is entitled to charge for that.

I mean, I think that is reasonable but these other commitments, you know. I am not even speaking at this stage, there will be opportunity to debate it in due course but you know these reports come in and they are usually filed away in Limbo; let us face it. You know, the number of reforms that have come from royal commission reports over the years are so few as to be. The Carter Commission, I am not only talking about Ottawa, the Carter Commission, the Glasgow Commission, the Hall Commission on health services, you know, a magnificent document, a great social document but the advances that have come in health services at Ottawa are not - most of them are foreshadowed, indeed forecast, indeed advocated in the Hall Commission Report, but the motivating force is not the Hall Commission or not the report of that commission.

So if the minister would get me the information I should be grateful. All I can say to him is really it is something that should be looked into and some means is going to have to be found to control these commissions because the Snowden Commission and the Whelan Commission, from what I hear - now I am subject to correction and I stress I do not have the data, that is why I am asking - from what I hear, Sir, they have turned into two of the great boondoggles of modern times in Newfoundland. There is nothing wrong. There is nothing illegal. There is nothing unlawful. There is no one stealing money or getting money improperly but there certainly has not been what I would consider to be a prudent approach to the expenditure of public funds. After all we are short of things for everything else in this country. You know we should proceed with due economy on these as well.

Could the minister tell us whether there have been any bills received from Dr. Miller for that commission?

MR. HICKMAN: No.

MR. ROBERTS: For Mr. Steele?

MR. HICKMAN: Yes. The total, Mr. Steele has been paid \$25,197.90.

MR. ROBERTS: That would include -

MR. HICKMAN: That would include - that was one of the cheapest commissions

we have had and the secretarial -

MR. ROBERTS: And one of the best.

MR. HICKMAN: He did not hire a secretary for the commission or a counsel for the commission, he did it all himself. I think the only other cost we had from the Steele Commission was for -

MR. ROBERTS: Printing probably.

MR. HICKMAN: That is right Creative Printers \$4,000.68; \$1,304.00 for the typing.

MR. ROBERTS: Are there any other bills outstanding that we have not had?

MR. HICKMAN: Not that I am aware of.

MR. ROBERTS: Professional gentlemen have a lackadaisical approach to their accounts as a rule.

MR. HICKMAN: I know.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. HICKMAN: No, that is all of the Steele Commission.

MR. ROBERTS: No not only the Steele Commission, I am talking about any other commissions?

MR. HICKMAN: No, only Dr. Miller.

MR. ROBERTS: That would be, I think, a modest one and money well spent. I do not quarrel with that. Has Doug Fraser's Commission finally been paid for?

MR. HICKMAN: Oh, yes that was paid for last year. I have forgotten what it was.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): Shall 711-06 carry.

On motion 711-06 carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): Shall 711-07 carry?

MR. ROBERTS: What is legal assistance as opposed to legal aid, Sir?

MR. HICKMAN: Legal assistance is in anticipation that I am going to have to retain some young practicing solicitors to do some work this year. You know, we have one -

MR. ROBERTS: Well you have young Martin in Corner Brook doing prosecutions, which is a good thing.

MR. HICKMAN: Yes, but apart from that, I do not want to talk about matters before the court but the Price -

MR. ROBERTS: He cannot talk about the merits of the case but -

MR. HICKMAN: No but the Price Newfoundland case.

MR. ROBERTS: Who will be retained to act there, Jim Greene?

MR. HICKMAN: No, Herb Morgan has been retained. We are having an awful time retaining solicitors. The honourable gentleman for Placentia West mentioned something that I have tried to work out with the Law Society to retain lawyers practicing lawyers to act on criminal cases. Well I should not put that - I cannot say what is on my mind publicly but it is difficult to get -

MR. ROBERTS: Well I will say it, the profession will not. Lawyers are officers of the courts and if they will not work for regular fees, if they will not just do the work, the profession should be damned well ashamed of themselves and I say that as a member of the profession.

MR. HICKMAN: He is talking about the criminal cases.

MR. ROBERTS: Yes.

MR. HICKMAN: Yes, but I am talking about civil cases.

MR. ROBERTS: Well the criminal cases of the courts are apparently in a shambles because we have not got enough prosecutors.

MR. HICKMAN: Well!

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. HICKMAN: It is.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. HICKMAN: No, I have checked with both the magistrates down there and they do not confirm that.

MR. ROBERTS: I am only going by what has been quoted. I do not practice but Mr. Collins has been quoted.

MR. HICKMAN: That is right.

MR. ROBERTS: Is it Mr. Collins who has been quoted?

MR. HICKMAN: Yes, and Mr. Sparkes. I have done some enquiries on that because I know from the years when I was in practice, it works out to about every one postponement is asked for by council for the Crown. It is generally for good reasons, where an investigation has not been completed and the Crown should never come to trial then on some of these serious cases unless the investigation has been totally completed. You

owe that to the Crown, you owe it to the accused.

MR. ROBERTS: Normally charges should not be laid unless an investigation is completed.

MR. HICKMAN: You know, you do not hold up laying a charge in a murder case until you complete the investigation.

MR. ROBERTS: No that is true enough but it is not the murder cases we are talking about.

MR. HICKMAN: Well these are the ones the complaints are coming about down in the court house. For every request there is for an adjournment by the Crown or a postponement, it works out to about four for counsel for the accused. You know, if they want to play that game, we can play it but I would say that they will find it far more inconvenient than the Crown in a sense because there has to be a fair amount of good will between counsel in any case and as a rule they arrive at a date that is satisfactory to their clients and then get a date set by the magistrate but occasionally this does not happen.

I do not want to repeat all of the stuff I said last night about the problems with it but we anticipate some fairly heavy civil litigation this year too. One of them is the Price case that started back in Max Lane's day.

MR. ROBERTS: That is where Price are suing over Victoria Lake Watershed?

MR. HICKMAN: Yes, that is going to go to court now.

MR. ROBERTS: Oh, sure it should.

MR. HICKMAN: We are going to have to retain outside counsel to act.

MR. ROBERTS: Again, you know I appreciate the minister's dilemma and it really has got little to do with him one way or another.

But let us move for a minute to this offshore question in Ottawa where the Prime Minister it turns out was misquoted by the press here. The Prime Minister did not say Ottawa wanted to go to court. The Hansard, which is in my office if I need to get it, and I think he said the same thing on local T.V. Did not Mr. Rex Murphy interview him for "Here and Now" two or three nights ago? He said essentially the same thing on

the television I understand, I did not see the show myself but he did say the same thing, that it is not a matter of Ottawa wanting to go to court, Ottawa has offered to make a negotiated settlement with the province but apparently the province and Ottawa have not been able to come to terms on a negotiated settlement. Well that is fair enough. A negotiated settlement implies agreement and if there is no agreement there is no settlement.

Where does the matter now stand? I could bring it well within the scope of 711-03-07 (I see Your Honour is looking somewhat quizzical) by saying, "Is there some money in here for legal assistance?" Because obviously outside council, I say obviously, I am not implying that the minister's staff are not thoroughly able to deal with it but if they deal with us they will not be dealing with something else. This, I would think, would be a major piece of work and to my knowledge we have nobody in Newfoundland other than Mr. Cabot Martin, a gentleman who has great opinions which may or may not be founded on legal fact but we know there is no member of the Bar other than Mr. Martin who has made any real study in this and I understand there are people in Ottawa who have been involved in this and probably in the Law Schools. It is a constitutional as well as a legal question.

But where do we now stand? The Premier told us that he, and apparently the Prime Minister's statement in reply to a question by Mr. Boddin who is the member for one of the Calgary seats out west. The Prime Minister's statement was made while the Premier's letter was in the mail to Ottawa. So the Prime Minister when he made the statement obviously was not aware of the province's latest position on this. Well that is well and good. What is the province's latest position? And what is our position? Not a matter I feel that I need be hesitant asking about. It is a very public matter. It has come up a number of times. Would the minister table a letter or if he does not want to table correspondence would he undertake to make a statement? Where do we stand on this? Are we going to end up before the Supreme Court of Canada on a reference? I mean it will not be litigation as such, it will be a

reference I assume. If so, you know, are terms now going ahead? Who will be acting for us? All this sort of thing! What are they? I am not asking for a lengthy disaeration. What is our case? What are we seeking? Are we seeking complete ownership? Are we negotiating a sharing deal? You know there are a number of possibilities in this. Are we concerned about management? Is that our sole concern? We are obviously concerned about it. What is the position?

MR. HICKMAN: I am not in a position to give a statement, Mr. Chairman, on what the total position of the province is on this case. We, and I want to use my words guardedly because I understand negotiations are still going on between them. I suspect yesterday, I do not know but I suspect yesterday between the Prime Minister and the Premier.

The work and the negotiations have been carried on primarily between the heads of the two governments and between the Minister of Mines in Ottawa, Mr. Macdonald, and our Minister of Mines and Energy here. So I am not in possession of all the details.

It has been said on several occasions publicly that we, and indeed I think the other Atlantic Provinces share our views but probably not to the same extent, are most apprehensive over the rather cavalier attitude that was adopted by Ottawa towards granting offshore licences.

MR. ROBERTS: It began back in 1961, did it not?

MR. HICKMAN: Back in the early 1960's, I suspect that nobody took the thing seriously anyway and said, "If you want to go out and speed around the Grand Banks and the Hamilton Bank; you can go to it but you are not going to find anything out there."

Apart altogether from the question of ownership, it is the belief of the government that there should be some fairly rigid restrictions and very limited licences. What I mean by "limited licences", licences to very limited areas. As a provincial government we feel that if we have the kind of jurisdiction we think we should have, that we can then impose upon those who are doing the exploration off our shores an obligation to spend a great deal of money on shore. Because I feel if it be left up to the oil companies to decide where they are going to

get their rigs repaired or where they are going to get their small boats repaired, where they are going to get their supplies, the real beneficiary as far as Eastern Canada is concerned, is going to be Halifax and not some port in Newfoundland. Last week I saw that, I guess it was the "Sedico I" coming into Halifax for the annual refit. I do not know but maybe she is too big to be refitted in Newfoundland, I do not know but certainly the oil companies are under no obligation right now to spend a nickel in Newfoundland. They are spending money here. I am told there is quite a community -

MR. ROBERTS: I am told they have driven the rent scales for large houses rates sky-high.

MR. HICKMAN: Around St. John's. I have yet to meet a person who is employed on the oil rig but other people have. I am told there are quite a few here.

How far the province is prepared to go. Obviously we would be much happier to negotiate a settlement with the Government of Canada. How far we are prepared to go? I do not think it would be in the public interest even if I had the facts to say so at this time.

As far as our legal position is concerned, we have taken advice from a constitutional lawyer, in either Ottawa or Toronto, whose name escapes me - (Does the honourable gentleman remember his name?) Then a Mr. Jennings -

MR. ROBERTS: Peter Jennings?

MR. HICKMAN: Ivor Jennings.

MR. ROBERTS: Ivor Jennings.

MR. HICKMAN: Ivor Jennings in Cambridge and there is a man in Harvard -

MR. ROBERTS: That is Sir Ivor Jennings.

MR. HICKMAN: Right, Sir Ivor.

MR. ROBERTS: He is a great expert on parliament.

MR. HICKMAN: Yes, but he is also an expert on -

MR. ROBERTS: He has a shelf of books on parliament.

MR. HICKMAN: Yes. There is a gentleman in not Harvard at Yale who has done some opinions for us. I cannot recall their names.

MR. ROBERTS: The only other question I would ask on this is one that, I suspect it is the right place. Mr. Robinette, what was he paid for the infamous opinion where he told the government they had no criminal case against the alleged owners of certain buildings rented to the liquor authorities?

MR. HICKMAN: I have to confess I gave that last year so I did not bring it along this year.

MR. ROBERTS: Well okay then the bill, no further bills have been received in connection therewith?

MR. HICKMAN: No, no, no.

MR. ROBERTS: Is the minister going to table the opinion now or will he wait until we come into office to make it public?

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): Shall 03-07 carried?

On motion 03-07 carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): Shall 03-08 carry?

MR. NEARY: Sir, Oh that is just a token vote.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: This is one of the minister's pet projects, Sir. I wonder if the minister could tell us what he expects under this heading. It is only a token vote, but -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Oh, no, it is \$50,000.

MR. HICKMAN: No, no, \$100,000.

MR. NEARY: One hundred dollars, a token vote.

MR. HICKMAN: That is not quite accurate. Last year we had a vote of \$15,000.

MR. NEARY: Yes.

MR. HICKMAN: We could not spend it.

MR. NEARY: I see.

MR. HICKMAN: Because, you know there is no one more frustrated than I am trying to get this Family Guidance Act. It took us years to decide to bring it before the House. As the honourable gentleman will recall, back

in 1968 I wanted to bring it in and could never get on with it. Then we brought it in. The whole report envisages a great deal of local participation by various agencies. Our grant of \$15,000 was designed to sort of get it off the ground. I have made three or four tries. Now the last one is a Mr. Hawkins and someone else, I was going to say some Mental Health Association has shown some interest. I have asked them if they will try and get it off the ground. We put in a token vote because if we can get it off the ground, then we have the authority to give them the money but if we did not spend it last year there is no point in putting in the same amount this year.

MR. NEARY: I presume the minister is talking about implementing the recommendations of the Gushue Royal Commission.

MR. HICKMAN: Yes, that is right.

MR. NEARY: I wonder if the minister could tell us what kind of problems he is encountering because -

MR. HICKMAN: I cannot get the volunteers.

MR. NEARY: Is it getting the volunteer workers or?

MR. HICKMAN: The voluntary participation, the people, the community involved.

MR. NEARY: But who is looking after it in the minister's department? Does the minister have this responsibility assigned to someone?

MR. HICKMAN: Yes, Mrs. Noonan.

MR. NEARY: To Mrs.?

MR. HICKMAN: Noonan.

MR. NEARY: Mrs. Noonan who is also one of the legal counsels in the minister's office.

MR. HICKMAN: Yes. And who was also one of the researchers. In fact I believe that Chapter was done by her for the Gushue Report.

MR. NEARY: Yes, she did play a major part I think and she specializes in this field I believe.

So the problems really are getting the co-operation of the volunteer organizations, is this right?

MR. HICKMAN: Yes. You almost think you have them and then you do not.

MR. NEARY: But the minister indicated last year that his department was going to hire a number of expert social counsellors, graduates of universities.

MR. HICKMAN: Yes.

MR. NEARY: He will remember that I made the point that it may conflict with the Minister of Rehabilitation and Recreation in his department or the Department of Social Services. But there is no intention of building up a staff in that department.

MR. HICKMAN: No.

MR. NEARY: It is purely a voluntary thing.

MR. HICKMAN: Yes.

MR. NEARY: Well good luck to him, that is all I can say.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): Shall 03-08 carry?

On motion 03-08 carried.

On motion 03-09 carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): Shall 03-10 carry?

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, I presume this is in connection with the act for barring the policemen from moonlighting. Is this what this is all about? Would the minister care to explain this?

MR. HICKMAN: Yes. This Act, Mr. Chairman, was passed in 1970 and was not proclaimed because we did not have the regulations. What it is designed to do, it is a good act, it is a uniform act it had nothing to do with moonlighting or nothing to do with the Newfoundland Constabulary or anyone else. It gives us the right to see that anyone who is acting as a security guard, you know, he has to be bonded, he has to be of good character, he has to be - oh there is a long form set forth in the regulations, and he pays a licencing

fee when he is licenced. What we do not want is, you know, until this Act was proclaimed I could go down and stick my name up as a security guard. Now I would be no more competent to act as a security guard and would be given all kinds of responsibility and right of access to all sorts of buildings unbonded and everything else. This is what this is designed to do. Some how or other this was misinterpreted as meaning it had something to do with the Newfoundland Constabulary but it did not.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, would the minister then indicate if these private investigators and security guards have to undergo any training before they are issued a licence or a permit or whatever it is?

MR. HICKMAN: They do not undergo training. About the only thing we could do is make sure they are bonded and that they are physically fit and that sort of thing.

MR. NEARY: In other words, there is really no difference now except they have to register with the minister's department. That is the only difference?

MR. HICKMAN: Pay a couple of dollars.

MR. NEARY: There is no training course or anything like that?

MR. HICKMAN: No, Sir.

MR. NEARY: To be bonded, okay.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): Shall 03-10 carry?

On motion 03-10 carried.

On motion 03-11 through 03-12 carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): Shall 03-13 carry?

MR. NEARY: A breakdown of this one, Mr. Chairman.

MR. HICKMAN: I am very proud of that vote, I see my friend sitting there who cannot say anything responsible, I know that he is proud of it too. That money is going to be used to enable the band of the Newfoundland Constabulary to give concerts around the province and at the same time I believe that somebody is going to be prudent enough out of that vote to find some money to enable them to buy some new instruments.

The Newfoundland Constabulary about three years ago decided to reactive the constabulary band which had been in mothballs for, well I cannot remember, I have been practicing law for twenty-five years, I cannot remember the band until it was resurrected two or three years ago. There is a band master, Mr. Osmond. I think it is Osmond or Osbourne - Osmond, who has done an excellent job and he for a very modest sum has been training the band. Honourable gentlemen will recall that last year at Christmas the constabulary band performed on television. I was told by the network that it was one of the few demands they had from the viewers throughout the province for a repeat performance. Out of that vote will come, I hope, a well equipped band and give Newfoundlanders everywhere a chance to look at them. I commend the members of the constabulary who are members of the band because they have agreed quite voluntarily to adjust their annual leave schedule in order to allow the band to travel during the summer months. That is what the \$14,000 is for. I hope the honourable member agrees.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): Shall 03-13 carry?

On motion 03-13 carried.

On motion Head VII - Justice, carried.

HEAD XIX - MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND HOUSING

HON. H.R.V. FARLE (MINISTER OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND HOUSING): Mr.

Chairman in introducing my estimates for the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing I would just like to make a few introductory remarks. It is quite possible that the Department of Municipal Affairs is one of the busiest in all of the provincial government. It is also one of the most sensitive to public opinion because we are dealing directly with the actual living conditions of people in large and small places throughout the whole province.

I should also like to say that it never fails to amaze me that we get so many people throughout the province serving on municipal councils and putting in a lot of time, a lot of valuable time and giving a lot of good advice for nothing at all. There is nothing in which the

government gets better value than it does from the work and efforts of municipal councils throughout the province.

I would like to indicate a deep debt of gratitude to these people who do so much voluntary work for the province and very often I might say, Mr. Chairman, with little or no thanks and more than often a great deal of criticism for what they are trying to do for their settlements.

Now in my department there are several sections of it which are of particular importance to the House and to the people of Newfoundland. I would like to mention just a few of the heavier ones and to make some comment on them. Probably the most contentious and most troublesome thing coming under my department at the present time is the question of water and sewerage throughout the whole province.

At the moment I think I have on my desk approximately eighty-two applications from different settlements requesting and almost demanding water and sewerage facilities. The fact is that in many of these places they have reached the stage where they are living in desperate pollution, drinking water in many cases is not fit for human consumption and has to be boiled before using and in other places there is a dire shortage of drinking water, not to mention the terrific contamination that has taken place in many places sometimes through the supply of an adequate amount of water which in turn creates a tremendous sewerage disposal problem.

It is a known fact that if we would service a community and give it only water and people use water much more freely, we automatically have to dispose of more sewerage and if they have not the proper facilities, which in most cases they have not, the whole community in many cases becomes completely contaminated and we have this condition to deal with in very many places.

As I said there are pending at the present time approximately eighty-two applications in our department for this service and these vary from probably a minimum cost of \$200,000 for an installation up to something over \$2 million to \$3 million. Conservatively estimating

at the present time, I would think we have over \$30 million worth of work that urgently needs to be done. There is not that amount in the budget in comparison. Now when you look at my budget you do not actually see what is provided for water and sewerage because most members understand that these are done by means of financing, in the first case, with banks. The government give guarantees usually on a five year period where the community can go and borrow from a bank and this can be paid off over the guarantee and then bonds are issued and the repayment is put on probably a forty year bond issue term.

So that actually in my estimates there is nothing at all for water and sewerage systems. This will be done under the usual method of guarantees to communities. The amounts as you see them in there, I will explain of course how they are used and what they are used for.

At the moment we have systems which we are committed to continue, totalling a value of nearly \$6 million. These are projects which are partly underway, partly finished and which we are committed to finish hopefully this year or next year. So that immediately takes a big bite out of what we can do in the current year.

Now tied with this there is also our programme, which this government reinstated, of fifty/fifty cost sharing basis in paving in communities. You will recall that the former government had this programme for some years and they cancelled it out, I think in 1967. This government reinstated it and for the past couple of years we have been helping communities on the basis of a shared cost of fifty/fifty on street paving within communities.

Now this does not by any means take care of the tremendous number of problems there are in local roads within communities. This is an on-going and very serious problem with us. It comes down to simply this, that the majority of municipalities or small towns or community councils or local improvement districts simply do not have enough revenue or have no way of generating enough revenue to take care of the maintenance, snowclearing etc. on their local roads, roads within the community.

One of the things which have happened, on the formula of paying so much per head for the people in these communities it develops as a very unfair method because you have communities with comparatively small population but a long mileage of road or I say a comparatively large population with a long mileage of road that are getting a very small grant. You have other places where a large population is getting a tremendous grant. So based on the head count and that type of payment it is not fair.

I feel that we will have to and we are seriously studying this idea of bringing in a system of paying for mileage covered. It is a much fairer and equitable way to do things.

As I say, my colleague, the Minister of Transportation and Communications, and myself have this under very careful study at the moment and we are coming up to government with some strong recommendations on it.

This problem of dealing with local roads within the communities is particularly pertinent in unincorporated communities also because there again in most areas the Department of Transportation and Communications, possibly through lack of equipment, certainly through the number of roads to be done, cannot possibly give them the attention that they should get.

So this in itself, I am just mentioning it by the way, is a very, very troublesome and difficult problem and I might say a very expensive one which we have to deal with.

Under my department there is a Division of Development Control. This is the protected roads and the building and development control throughout the province. This is probably the most contentious division that I have to deal with because nobody, I say "nobody" can be convinced as a rule that if their application be turned down they should not be given permission to build. All kinds of arguments can be put up by the person who has been turned down as to why he should be allowed to build in a certain place. If his father has had that land for one hundred years and the family has lived on it for generations, it is wide opened fields, it appears to him to be something that can be easily taken care of; he sees no reason at all why he should be turned down.

Now I find that there are not a great many really contentious cases. Of the numbers that we handle, somewhat less than I think five per cent develop into really contentious cases but these are contentious cases. There is no way that you can persuade people that they are in the wrong. For that purpose we have an appeal board wherein if the departments turn down an application this can then go to an appeal board of independent people; they will decide if the ruling of the departments is correct.

Incidentally I might say it is not just my department that deals with these. When you are talking about a building, it has to undergo inspection by health authorities to see that there is no danger of creating pollution or anything of that nature. It also has to go through Transportation and Communications to see that it does not create a traffic hazard in the area where it is being built or any other danger to the public. Of course, it has to go through the Environment Control to see that it is not going to affect that in any way.

But the final decision, after all that is done, does rest with my department and we are the people who bear the flak for it. Believe me there is a lot of flak, there is a lot of complaint in many ways.

What I am doing at the present time, I have set up an interdepartmental committee of top civil servants to discuss with my Director of Development Control, Mr. Don Ryan, to see if there is any need of changing our regulations, to see if there is anything we can do to perhaps ease up on them somewhat or if not ease up on them if it is essential that we keep them as they are.

I am hopeful that that committee would also be in a position as time goes on to deal with the more contentious cases before they go to an appeal board, to see if there is any justification at all for granting a permit. This committee is meeting now and shortly I hope will come up with some recommendations to me.

But I might say in passing that in spite of the very heavy burden of criticism that that division comes in for, it is one of the most essential in our province. We have a good record in Newfoundland, an excellent record of building control. In many other places throughout

Canada they are envious of the fact that we have been able here to keep unsightly things off the highways or hazardous buildings off the highways and this sort of thing. We have done a good job. That division has done an excellent job in spite of its criticism. One of the most notable things in this province as compared with many other provinces of Canada is the way in which they have controlled highway signs. You can go in many parts of Canada where the highways are a mass of, forest of signs cutting out all scenic value and making it a most unattractive area.

Well this division has been very active in controlling unwanted highway signs. Here again, when some chap sets up a motel or a tourist establishment or something like that he cannot be told, he will not see the reason why he cannot put up all the signs he wants to out on the road somewhere. It is a very difficult and contentious problem. Of course, you have to look at it from a service standpoint. The tourists coming into the country must be able to know where these places are located so that they can estimate what time they will get there, what sort of service is available and what generally is available to them.

Along these lines the director of the division has come up to me with suggestions of particular places on the highway where we can accumulate signs for a particular area so that tourists or anybody who is not familiar with the area can come in and stop and see what is available in that area and where to go. I think this is an excellent idea. It is quite likely that we will be acting on it in the near future.

The other big operation in my department, of course, is the housing problem. The Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation, the St. John's Housing Corporation and the Metro Board, the St. John's Metro Board all report to me. While I have mentioned in water and sewer and development control there are some very contentious subjects, at the present time with the rapid accelerating cost of homes to all our people I do not think there is anything which comes in for more criticism and more demand than the whole question of housing.

Actually our programme for this year was announced in the Budget but very briefly dealt with, as it had to be in a budget. I would just like to read some further comments on the housing programme - perhaps to clarify it somewhat. The housing programme presented in this year's Budget, generally outlined on page 21, is the first attempt in this province to institute a complete housing programme. I might hasten to add, however, that the basic programme outlined does not cover the total housing needs of the province but it does go a long way towards providing housing for our people, based on subsidized payments which were intended to be at such a level that they could afford to pay.

Of course, the big factor which will affect the ability to pay is the high cost of housing. It had reached the point where it is impossible for the average citizen to meet such a cost.

There are two other areas which we have not yet been able to enter but hopefully this can be forthcoming as soon as we can get agreements with the federal government regarding cost. These are in the rehabilitation of older homes on a provincewide basis and a land subsidy programme. Both of these I will deal with later.

Returning to the programme indicated in the Budget Speech, there are five main items. As a matter of fact, each is a programme in itself and will make a major contribution to housing starts not only for this year but over the long term.

The first programme is that of a banking of land sufficient for further development. Here we see during the next four years the need to obtain land sufficient for say a twenty year period. The provision of these lands under one ownership is of course one which will have to be handled with the greatest care because of the speculative nature of such a programme. The Housing Corporation who will be handling this will use discretion at all times so that on one hand we are not paying highly speculative prices and the other hand are not harming the individual landowner.

Two: We have embarked on an all-embracing programme to develop serviced residential land sufficient for 3,000 housing units per year for the next four years. I might say that in the case of this

fiscal year, 1974-1975. The Housing Corporation has advanced its plans to the stage where we can confidentially look to meeting our goal for this year.

These servicing programmes have a great deal of flexibility in that they not only relate to the usual federal provincial, seventy-five, twenty-five per cent agreement but to loans from the federal government to the province. In addition to direct lending by the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation from provincial funds to municipalities who can develop lots on their own. In the large areas of course we use federal funds but in certain cases where it is more practical to service say ten or twenty lots per year and where the municipality is capable of doing so, we work out financial arrangements with them so they can do the work.

On the other hand, there are areas where the housing corporation handles the work directly. Again in the larger projects, the housing corporation borrows from the federal government on a ninety - ten loan arrangement or on a seventy-five - twenty-five per cent split. Needless for me to say that apart from the social benefits from such projects we are able to draw considerable money into the province, creating additional employment and all the attendant benefits.

We also intend a crash programme to build or require an additional 1,500 subsidized housing units. These are intended for the larger centers. The cost of housing of this nature is one that is causing the province and the federal government very considerable concern. It might be added at this point that in the larger centers outside St. John's, the prices which we have been quoted recently are so beyond our ability to meet that we are now reassessing the effect of these costs.

In St. John's hopefully we can still meet the costs and hope that the builders will respond to the efforts of the federal, provincial partnership in their tender and proposal calls. Subsidized rental housing is becoming less than the most efficient methods of housing people. On the other hand, in the larger centers it will meet a need. We realize that some very considerable number of units will have to be built, hence the 1,500 that I mentioned.

In regard to the housing for small communities in rural areas, we were this year able to negotiate with the federal government an agreement based on a seventy-five - twenty-five per cent cost sharing arrangement whereby we can finance the construction of up to 700 units in Newfoundland this year. Bearing in mind the inherent nature of our society in that home ownership is a basis of family security, this programme is intended to encourage the continuation of housing on a home ownership basis.

The new concept of course is that we will subsidize the mortgage payments for people who are paying off their homes. The subsidy in regard to this agreement amounts to a reduction in interest rate in the first instance to a minimum which the partnership can carry. In addition we plan to make cash subsidy payments up to \$400 a year. The federal government has agreed to a one year pilot project. We hope that by the end of this year the programme will have proven so successful that it will be continued.

Incidentally, Mr. Chairman, this is the programme which I have mentioned a number of times under which last year we helped build 414 houses. This year it has now been brought up to 700 houses. The amounts which can be lent have been substantially increased from \$9,000 last year up to about \$17,500 this year. I think the committee will realize that under today's costs \$9,000 may not go very far in the construction of a home.

Probably the basic concept of a programme of this nature is that it is possible for any family to acquire a home regardless of their income if in the first instance they are prepared to accept the minimum housing but based on National Housing Act standards. On the other hand they are prepared to make other contributions in the way of labour, land and probably certain materials.

The fifth programme we indicated was to institute provincial subsidies to match federal subsidies towards the payment of mortgages on homes in any part of the province where the federal government is making the money available directly, more particularly as it could apply to the larger centers. For example, CMHC under their assisted home ownership plan at the appropriate interest rate will also contribute

up to \$300 a year in subsidies towards mortgage payments. The province intends to match the federal contribution by making a further \$300 available towards mortgage payments, that is a total of \$600 will be available all together, \$600 per year.

Here again we are subsidizing home ownership. This is a concept which both governments I know have entered into with a certain degree of trepidation. On the other hand, there is no comparison in the cost to both governments and the satisfaction to the individual if such a programme be compared to subsidized rental units.

I mentioned earlier that there are two areas where the government is concerned and I am personally very concerned where we have not been able to meet what are great needs. I refer in the first instance to the making available of money for rehabilitation on a provincewide basis. In the second instance, the subsidization of serviced land. In regards to money for rehabilitation, the benefits of the programme would be to enable individuals to retain their present home and renovate it to an acceptable standard. In this regard, the cost to house the family would be less. The psychological benefits of the retention of a family home would be evident and there would be a considerable saving on the valuable resources of the province by the use of the older material which is at present available. The problem faced is the great cost involved.

I use the word rehabilitation because really our goal must always be to provide a housing unit that is adequate for a family as compared to repairing shacks that in the end would not constitute good housing and in a very short time would require further expenditures. The problem however is being worked on very actively. I feel that the time is not far off when we will be able to announce a worth-while programme in this regard.

In regard to land subsidy, I should first say that this description is really inadequate. What we are really working on and developing is a land strategy programme for the province. In other words, the subsidization of land in itself is not sufficient as such

and must be tied in with a programme of subsidies related first to serviced land and secondly to specific areas so that we can encourage a reasonable development pattern in the province.

May I hasten to add that this does not mean to say that we are talking about resettlement under another name. It means however that in a given community under our land servicing programme of 3,000 units a year we develop areas that are satisfactory to the local council and that as a result at what may be termed reasonable cost to the purchaser. This should contribute an overall good planning within the municipalities and the province. What I am really saying is that a land strategy programme should relate to the sensible development of communities. It does not particularly relate to the location of the community itself.

I feel the needs of given communities will be dictated to by the economic and social advances of that community rather than any hard-and-fast programming by our government at any time. This, Mr. Chairman, is just a brief enlargement on the housing programme for this year.

Now, as we go down through the estimates I am prepared to deal in detail with any questions that may be asked.

MR. F. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, the minister mentioned that his particular department is probably the busiest department and most sensitive department of government and I tend to agree with him. I think it could be placed on a par with the Social Services Department and the Department of Education and the Highways Department or the Department of Transportation and Communications simply because that department deals with the bread and butter issues of the province, the provision of public and social services.

Now, the minister paid a debt of gratitude to the people serving on the various councils and local improvement districts throughout the province. I wish, Sir, I could say that the various councils and local improvement districts feel the same way towards the minister's department and the government as a result of the action or lack of action that has taken place over the last two and a half years. The minister in his opening remarks did list off a

number of problems facing his department and facing the various communities of Newfoundland. Mr. Chairman, I do not think that the minister at all came up with any enlightening news with respect to the solution of these particular problems. We have been waiting now for two and a half years for the solutions to the various problems facing the various communities and towns and cities throughout this province. We have yet to hear of any breakthrough with respect to the solution of these problems other than studies that have been conducted by the minister's department. We have seen very little action from the department with respect to increased expenditure for the solution of water and sewerage problems, water supply systems, paving and upgrading of local roads and winter maintenance and summer maintenance of roads within these various communities.

Sir, I have to refer to the various Throne Speeches that were presented by the government on three occasions respecting the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing. In the first Throne Speech, delivered in March, 1972 reference was made to the rapid growth in number of councils which have become incorporated under the Local Government Act and which stated that this was most encouraging. To quote further, "As a very important part of my government's policy to improve the quality of administration, My ministers recognize the need to strengthen the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing by establishing regional offices in the larger strategic locations in the province."

I would like, Mr. Chairman, for the minister to indicate to the committee how many of these regional offices of the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing have been set up throughout the province, where they have been set up and the number of people on the staff of these various regional offices and whether indeed they have in fact been set up, because this was a promise, a commitment made via television during a Throne Speech which turned out to be the election manifesto for the Progressive Conservative Administration in March of 1972.

The Throne Speech also contained in it, quoting again, "The question of providing additional financial assistance to municipalities

has received very serious consideration. In view of the fact that the Newfoundland Federation of Municipalities has recommended to the government that the ceiling on revenue grants paid to municipalities be raised, my ministers have decided to remove the \$75,000 ceiling and to increase this figure to \$100,000."

Now, Mr. Chairman, the following year in spite of this new policy of removing the \$75,000 ceiling and increasing it to \$100,000, the committee saw during the consideration of the estimates that the actual grants to the councils or the municipalities did not increase. The total vote in that area did not increase that year although the people of Newfoundland were told that the ceiling had been raised from \$75,000 to \$100,000.

In a later Throne Speech, to put my remarks in a proper prospective, Mr. Chairman, on January, 1973, quoting again from that second speech, "The forecast for the coming year is promising in the field of municipal government. The groundwork has been laid and the framework established for a whole new concept in local government including a royal commission on that matter." A reference was made to the St. John's urban, regional study, the study into the Town of Stephenville, Harmon Complex and also Grand Falls or Grand Falls - Winsor study.

"My government has requested the reports of all these groups by the fall of this year." That was in 1973. I would like for the minister to indicate to the committee, Mr. Chairman, what the status of these various reports or studies or commissions is and whether the reports have been received, what action has been taken by the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing to carry out the recommendations of these various studies, commissions and/or reports.

Again in a later Throne Speech, Mr. Chairman, January, 1974, quoting again, "The responsibility for complete development of our resources rests with local authorities as well as the provincial and federal governments. The ensuing year may well be a crucial one for local government within our province." This is two and a half years later. "My government awaits the report of the Royal Commission on

Municipal Government which is expected shortly and which together with the report of the Planning Task Force on Community Service Standards will produce a comprehensive over-view of all aspects of local government and community development. These studies constitute the first comprehensive overall scrutiny of local government within the province. My ministers look to them to provide a development plan for the future. It is expected that measures will be brought before you in this session to give effect to some of the recommendations arising from these studies."

Now, Mr. Chairman, what I tried to indicate here is that this theme has been developed over the past three Throne Speeches, over the past two and a half years, raising the expectations of the people of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, raising the expectations of the various local improvement districts and the councils that there is going to be a great breakthrough in the area of local or regional government and presumably something concrete would come out of it.

So far, one of the major criticisms I feel that can be directed at the various ministers of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the department and the government in general is that the people of Newfoundland are still waiting with bated breath, not only for the recommendations of these studies but for action that would result from these studies that would improve the quality of life in the various communities throughout this province be they large or small.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I have been making representation on behalf of a number of communities, particularly in my own district, for incorporation ever since I was first elected. We keep getting back - the delegations that have been into the minister's office or into the office of various officials of the minister's office - this answer that the government is still awaiting the Royal Commission on Regional Government or Municipal Government or whatever it is called.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the minister this basic question that I will put to him in oral question period. Is there or is there not a freeze on the establishment of councils or local improvement districts and/or local improvement districts in this province? Will the minister clearly define for this committee what the policy

of the department is with respect to the incorporation of communities in this province? Because, Mr. Chairman, to take one example, the example that I am most familiar with, my own district, there are thirty small communities in the district of St. Barbe North. I am using this as an example because I am sure St. Barbe North is not totally unique compared to other provincial districts in this province. There are thirty small communities, three of which are incorporated. The other twenty-seven communities are unincorporated communities and one questions the functioning of the three districts that are in fact incorporated.

All I know, Mr. Chairman, is that in the communities of this particular district, as must be the case in other communities, there is total and utter chaos.

There is no direction, no guidance and the people in the various communities are left on their own with respect to getting a proper water and sewer system - not even a water and sewer system, Mr. Chairman, just a water supply system, getting a drop of water into their homes. There is confusion with respect to who is responsible for the summer maintenance of roads in these communities the winter maintenance or plowing of these roads during the winter months of the year. There is confusion with respect to whether or not the vehicles or the equipment of the Department of Transportation and Communications or the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing is responsible for financing what we call the "bullying" of a section going into an individual's home, in order that the oil can be delivered to these homes. Most of these homes in certain communities are further than the length of the hose of the oil truck.

What I am trying to say, Mr. Chairman, in giving those little details that may not seem to be very dramatic but to take them in their total, all those little, nitty-gritty problems when put together in an individual community and then when one takes twenty-seven unincorporated communities and put them together, one must realize that there is a very critical and a very serious problem in these rural communities in Newfoundland. The people of the province, particularly in rural Newfoundland have been waiting anxiously for two and one-half years now for some solution or for some guidance to these particular problems. They have been waiting most anxiously, Mr. Chairman, simply because in three throne speeches (I single out the first manifesto television campaign, election throne speech that was delivered on March 1.) the people of Newfoundland were given every indication that with the change of administration that municipal problems would end overnight. That was the impression that was left. We have seen quite frankly, Mr. Chairman, nothing but studies, a promise to look at the problems. We have been told that we have to await various commission reports and their recommendations.

I would like for the minister to rationalize the lack of action, particularly in rural Newfoundland, with respect to giving these people some kind of guidance, direction, structure and strategy with respect to regional or local government.

Mr. Chairman, I would like for the minister to indicate when this royal commission is going to be completed. How long will it take to act on it? Do we have to wait for the next provincial election and see the recommendations of this royal commission as a number of planks in the platform of this administration? Are we going to see action before that point? I would like for the minister to say a few words about regional and local government.

I am going to ask the minister a number of questions. I take it that the minister is jotting down the first question of a series.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. F. B. ROWE: The second reference that I would like to make, Mr. Chairman, is to this Development Control Division. My colleagues and myself realize that this province, as should any province in Canada, should have some control over building, whether it is private homes or building establishments, building of any kind. There should be some control so that one does not have uncontrolled buildings going up all over the place.

Mr. Chairman, the minister was quite correct in stating that the Development Control Division is probably the most troublesome, the most controversial division of his department, if I am stating it more or less correctly. Mr. Chairman, I can think of two reasons or probably three reasons why this trouble exists. We have a Development Control Division in some cases which is applying rules and regulations to certain areas of the province, such as very small communities spread out along a coastline with all kinds of available land, and rules and

regulations that are really set up to apply to major growth areas, such as around the Port au Choix Area. I note that the Honourable House Leader is smiling away again, Mr. Chairman, with his great knowledge of rural Newfoundland, I am sure he understands the situation in Port au Choix, Savage Cove and in Angel's Cove.

Mr. Chairman, I think one of the basic problems with the Development Control Division is that the regulations are not flexible enough and that regulations and rules that are being applied, rightly so to major growth areas such as the Port Saunders Area, the Port au Choix Area and the Hawkes Bay Area, are also being applied to thirty small communities to the north that are anything but major growth areas. As a matter of fact, in some cases it might be the very opposite of growth areas. These same regulations are being applied to these very small communities. I think more flexibility needs to be built in to the regulations. I think that that is one major problem with the Development Control Division.

Mr. Chairman, another major problem is the simple fact, as I suggested, which exists with respect to the Employment Opportunities Division of the Department of Social Services, last evening. The Development Control Division simply does not have the manpower. It simply does not have the manpower to implement the rules and regulations that they operate on. There is still, Mr. Chairman, a negative feeling on the part of the people towards the Development Control Division. About the only time that a citizen hears from the Development Control Division is when this division has said, "Your permit to build has been turned down for certain reasons."

Mr. Chairman, I would rather see the Development Control Division be something a little bit more positive. I would rather see more personnel working in the division. I would rather

see more offices spread throughout particularly rural Newfoundland. How one office and a few individuals can take care of the area from Port aux Basques to Baie Verte to St. Anthony is beyond my comprehension. I think that individuals should be spread throughout that particular jurisdiction from Port aux Basques to Baie Verte to St. Anthony. There should be individuals stationed instead of travelling to these areas from time to time. We have cases now where the appeal board's individuals will not go to the Great Northern Peninsula to hear appeals. What is the reason, Mr. Chairman? The roads are too bad. These same individuals are expected to leave their homes up on the Great Northern Peninsula and beat, swim, (they really require amphibious craft to get to Corner Brook) to Corner Brook to meet with the appeal board.

What we need are more individuals in the Development Control Division, more accessibility to the appeal board, an attitude on the part of the Development Control Division. Now I am not criticizing the individuals in Development Control Division, because they are simply understaffed. If we had more staff in the Development Control Division, I am sure that they could go out into the field and give positive guidance to individuals who wish to build. Suggest to them; "Well, here are the things that are undesirable with respect to locating in certain places and here are the things that are most desirable. If one should build here here, there, there, there and there, there is less likelihood that one is going to get a waterline to these homes within a reasonable period of time because if one were building along in a nice, straight line or a relatively concentrated block, it would be more easy to service these homes with water and to put a road in there and have it maintained during the winter."

Mr. Chairman, these are two criticisms that I have of the Development Control Division. I think with an increase

in manpower and more flexible rules, it could solve an awful lot of hard feelings or controversy surrounding that particular division.

Mr. Chairman, the third criticism that I have of the division, not of the division but of the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing really or the government as a whole because it involves a number of departments, is the length of time that it takes to process the applications for permits to build.

Now the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture gave a slight ray of hope there in a statement that he made earlier in the session when he said something along the lines that any applications that are made for permits to build and that are referred to the Crown Lands Division will be dealt with or processed within a certain time. I think the minister indicated two or three weeks or somewhere along these lines. If the Development Control Division had not heard back from the Crown Lands Division within a certain period of time, it would be assumed by the Development Control Division that there is no objection on the part of the Crown Lands Division. It is something along these lines.

MR. MAYNARD: Either way around.

MR. F. B. ROWE: Either way around?

As a point of clarification, would the minister mind explaining that?

MR. MAYNARD: Mr. Chairman, what I said was that people who are making applications for crown land on which to build, the normal practice over the years has been that we would refer the application out to various departments and sit and wait until they came back with an answer. Right now what we are doing is giving all departments thirty days in which to reply. If they do not reply, we automatically assume that they have no objections and the lease of crown land goes out.

MR. F. B. ROWE: Well, I hope that that is true, Mr. Chairman. I hope that from now on any person who is making application for a piece of crown land to buy does not have to wait any more than that thirty days. This has been one of the major problems, referring it to the Department of Health, the Clean, Air, Soil and Water Authority, a municipal body, the Department of Highways and this sort of a thing.

Mr. Chairman, I sincerely hope that the mechanism that has been used in the past and which this present administration did indeed inherit has been streamlined or has speeded up so that the people do not have to wait for up to two years in order to get an application to build approved.

Now I will pass a compliment along to the minister and the deputy minister, seeing that the deputy minister is in the chamber as well. There were a number of individual cases that I went to the minister and the deputy minister with and which they were most helpful on. I appreciate the action that they took and I realize the precedents that they might be setting. It was a dangerous precedent in a number of cases. However, they did personally help me out on behalf of a number of my constituents with respect to straightening out certain applications to build, to hook up electricity and this sort of a thing.

Mr. Chairman, the problem still remains, with respect to permits to build in the Development Control Division, that of being understaffed, too large a jurisdiction to cover. Hopefully now the delays in processing will be shortened because of what the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture has said.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I would like to turn to water services in this province. The government has been a complete disaster with respect to the provision of water supply systems to the unincorporated communities of this province. I say the government,

Sir, because it has been passed back and forth from the original Department of Community and Social Development, I think then to Rural Development and then I think back to Municipal Affairs and Housing. Now it is my understanding that after two years of no vote in the estimates for water services and very little action that finally the provision of water supply systems to unincorporated communities now comes under the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing, under the division labelled 1906-water services.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I note in the vote for community water services (this is presumably for unincorporated communities) there is a vote of \$600,000 for this coming year. Last year it was \$435,000. Mr. Chairman, I think I can quite honestly say that for all intents and purposes the provision of water supply systems to unincorporated areas and the communities of the province has been virtually cut off over the past couple of years relative to the expenditures that took place during the year previous to the installation of this particular administration.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I can well understand the need for study and another look at the provision of these water systems. I know that in my own district the installation of these water systems were somewhat of a disaster because of the supervision and the nature of the water supply systems themselves and the time of the year in which they were installed. I notice that for my own district and there are others, rural districts, in the same boat, that the total preliminary cost estimate for the provision of water systems, water supply systems in that district alone and for which preliminary designs or final designs have been completed, the total cost comes to just over \$300,000. The total vote for community water services is \$600,000. Now obviously, Mr. Chairman, that vote is desperately inadequate for the provision of water supply systems for unincorporated communities throughout this province.

Now, Mr. Chairman, after two and one-half years or a virtual standstill on the provision of these systems, although it is not within my power to do so, obviously this vote should be drastically increased in order to provide these water systems.

Mr. Chairman, another thing that disturbs me is the fact that I understand members have been asked to give a priority list on the communities that should receive these water supply systems. I have been provided with a list of eighteen communities for which final designs have been completed and I have been asked to indicate what communities are for the priority list for the provision of water supply systems in these communities.

Mr. Chairman, there is no way that I can indicate what community has a higher priority for water than another community in my own district.

I submit, Mr. Chairman, there is no way any other member of this Committee can indicate to the minister what community has the higher priority over another. A community is a community, water is water, people are people. They all need the water to the same extent.

I would recommend after two years of studying and I give the minister credit for having had a consulting firm come into the province and conduct a study or make recommendations with respect to the establishment of water systems in cold temperature areas, I think that is badly needed and presumably these final designs that have been completed are based on water systems, in this particular case, for cold temperature areas.

I commend the minister for having done this study or having this study completed. Presumably we will see superior water supply systems in these unincorporated communities. Although I commend him for that, I have to condemn the minister for not having provided sufficient funds for the installation of these systems during this coming year after two years of waiting.

One other point that I might make, Mr. Chairman, is - well it is a question. What is the minister planning to do about the St. John's Water Supply system? I understand the city is fast running into problems in respect to the water supply. Has the minister met with the council, the St. John's City Council, to discuss this problem. Or is the minister going to do what a number of his colleagues have done during this session and that is try to pass the buck over to Ottawa with respect to improving or increasing the capability of the water supply system in St. John's?

A couple of other questions; Mr. Chairman, the housing problem in this province. This was one of the major planks of the minister's administration in seeking election, the solution of the housing problem in this province. The minister read at some length there a statement regarding housing. I wonder if the minister could indicate to the Committee what federal contribution is in this housing programme? What the total federal commitment is and what the total provincial commitment

is?

I mentioned the business of regional offices established throughout the province and I mention this business of the ceiling going from \$75,000 to \$100,000. I would like for the minister to have a word on the government's initiative to formulate a policy of cost-sharing for the paving of streets in incorporated communities. What expenditure is involved there? What the requests are, the needs are compared to what the minister can provide? This is the business of the cost-sharing agreements for the paving of roads in incorporated areas. I was wondering if the minister could indicate what applications or what requests have been made and the degree to which the minister's office can meet these requests during the coming year? I would like for the minister to comment on this whole business.

Again this comes from the Throne Speech manifesto of March 1, 1972, where the government maintained that when a person is removed from his home through any urban renewal development that this person has the right to move into a comparable home from which he had moved. This is the subject of a private member's bill at the present time but I would like for the minister to comment on it.

I would like for the minister to comment on the FDM's promise, the honourable the Premier's promise, during the campaign of 1971, on October 26 specifically, when the Premier promised to establish an industrial park for Corner Brook. Could the minister indicate the status of that industrial park at the present time? What the private sector contribution is? What the provincial government contribution is? What the federal government contribution is?

Could the minister also indicate or comment on the statements or resolution made at a Progressive Conservative Convention on May 16, 1970, in which it was stated that an adequate policy of land grants to residents of the Island of Newfoundland will be made available to those people willing to take up long-term residence in Labrador? This was a resolution coming out of the Progressive Conservative Convention on May 16, 1970, an adequate policy of land grants to residents of the Island of Newfoundland willing to take up long-term residence in Labrador.

I think the minister indicated or commented on the revision of the function of the government of the Housing Corporations. This was a campaign statement made by the Hon. Premier, October 21, 1971, when the Premier said that the functioning of the Housing Corporation will be revised by the government.

I was wondering if the minister could comment once again on a campaign statement made by the Hon. Premier on October 21, 1971, when the Premier said the Progressive Conservatives will provide serviced land in urban areas - serviced land in urban areas. Could the minister indicate where and what urban areas serviced land has been provided? What the federal and provincial contribution has been?

The Premier also promised that serviced building lots will be provided in other growth areas - serviced building lots will be provided in other growth areas. Could the minister indicate to the Committee, Mr. Chairman, what growth areas have been provided with serviced building lots? What the federal and the provincial contribution was in each case?

The Premier also promised during that campaign that he would prepare and implement urban renewal schemes where possible. Would the minister be prepared to table a list of all the urban renewal schemes that have taken place since October 21, 1971? And again what the federal and provincial contributions have been?

Also during that campaign the Premier promised to end the policy of government subsidization of slum landlords. Would the minister care to indicate to the Committee what action has been taken by the government to end the policy of so-called government subsidization of slum landlords?

Mr. Chairman, there were a fair number of commitments made during that campaign. The Premier said at the time that the Progressive Conservatives would provide low-interest loans to improve existing older homes. This statement was made in Corner Brook, October 21, 1971.

Also in Corner Brook the Progressive Conservatives said the Premier would provide a concentration of low rental housing and improved housing

for those on social assistance.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I ask the honourable minister to provide some answers to the Committee relating to his estimates but I felt moved to remind the administration on the other side of some of the commitments that were made prior to March 1, 1972. I would like the minister to give a progress report on all those great new plans and policies that were going to be implemented once this honourable administration had the opportunity of administering the province.

So probably, Mr. Chairman, we could call it 1:00 P.M. and give the minister an opportunity to get together the answers.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROWE, F. B. Well I am sure that the minister -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROWE, F. B. No, I will not kill the time, Mr. Chairman,

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROWE, F. B. I must say, Mr. Chairman, you notice my nonpartisan approach to the question of the minister because there are some things that the minister has done that he can be commended for but I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, that the people of Newfoundland are extremely disappointed in the performance of the administration with regards to Municipal Affairs and Housing in this province. Expectations were raised greatly in October 1971, in March 1972 and we have heard nothing but statements of studies taking place and where we have had action, Mr. Chairman, I would submit that it has been the result of the fact that the federal government in Ottawa had been willing to kick in a substantial amount of money.

Mr. Chairman, I cannot really understand why the federal government are so kind to the provincial government of Newfoundland because they always get a slap in the face from either the Premier or the Hon. Minister of Finance at every opportunity. So I would like the minister to comment on some of the questions and remarks and observations that I made over the past few minutes.

MR. W. W. MARSHALL: It now being 1:00 P.M., Mr. Chairman, but just before we go, the honourable Member for St. Barbe North when he is talking about expectations failed to reveal the great expectations that were ridden by his brother, the Member for White Bay South, when he incited the people to write in about modern sewerage, because of the great gifts that were coming from the Greeks Gods in Ottawa.

But on that note, I think perhaps we will call it 1:00 P.M. we cannot go on with anything else because it is 1:00 P.M. It is 1:00 P.M., Mr. Chairman -

MR. CHAIRMAN: (DUNPHY): It now being 1:00 P.M. I will adjourn the Committee.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): Order please!

I do now leave the Chair until 3:00 P.M. this afternoon.

The Committee resumed at 3:00 P.M.

Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

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

Before commencing this afternoon's discussion I would like to welcome to the galleries approximately seven Grade VII and Grade VII students from Balbo Elementary School at Shoal Harbour, with their teachers, Frazer Russell and William Day.

Also visiting from Peacock Academy, Happy Valley, Labrador, accompanied by students from the Beaconfields School in St. John's, approximately eighteen students - that would be nine from each institution - with their teachers, Mr. Penny and Mr. Ennis.

On behalf of members of the House of Assembly, I welcome you to the galleries this afternoon. I trust that your visit here will be interesting and informative.

For your further information we are this afternoon discussing estimates of expenditure, proposed expenditure under the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

The honourable the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

MR. EARLE: Mr. Chairman, before we broke up for lunch the honourable member for St. Barbe North posed a great many questions, many of which I think would take probably a week's good research to answer properly and in proper order. I have done the best I can. I have a note of his questions and will try to answer them as concisely as I can. If I should happen to miss any, I have no doubt the members of the opposition shall ask them again.

His opening remarks in particular dealt with or tried to deal with the so-called lack of activity at this department in recent years, since this government took over. It is rather ironic and completely foolish that he should come out with such a statement because when I was asked to take over the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing I checked with the minister who is now the Minister of Fisheries to see how things were down there and just what I was facing. I was informed that the department had been virtually a poor relation for

the past ten years. It had been almost completely neglected. There were many, many projects started, a great deal of money expended but there was not the supporting staff given to the department so that any of this stuff could be properly controlled or properly handled.

The first thing we had to do on taking over was to try to clean up that awful mess, to try to get the department functioning properly. There had been no senior staff appointments for many, many years. The department handling millions of dollars and water and sewer projects and street paving and so on was struggling along on the same staff literally that it had had for several years before hand. This was particularly disastrous prior to the 1971 election.

In the year of the 1971 election the lid was off completely. Municipal projects are supposed to be great vote getters and literally the Liberals at that time just took the lid off without any regard as to what the result would be. For instance, in that year of 1971 by far the greatest expenditure on water and sewer systems and street paving was engaged in just prior to the election. There was something like \$20 million spent that year without any sensible regard at all as to how it was to be done.

Now, leading up to that, just to establish a pattern: I am just trying to establish the proof here, which is not too hard to do, that things were in a chaotic state. Prior to these years in water and sewer and street paving projects, I can give a list right from 1960 right through to 1973 of how the things were handled. In 1960 on water and sewer there was only \$126,000 spent. The next year it jumped to \$2 million. In 1962 it was \$4.8 million and in 1963 \$5 million. That year the shared-cost road paving programme came into being and a million dollars was spent on road paving during that year. So, the total expenditure on water and sewer in 1963 was \$5.3 million and approximately a million dollars on street paving in towns.

The next year it was approximately \$4 million and \$1 million. The following year it was \$4 million and \$800,000. So, we can see for these three years the amounts spent, 1963, 1964, 1965 and 1966 were fairly consistent, in the \$4 million to \$5 million bracket which

was spent on these projects.

In 1967 the expenditure went to just over \$6 million. In 1968 for some unknown reason it dropped down to \$3 million. Then the subsidy, the agreed cost-sharing on roads programme was dropped but strangely enough the work on water and sewers was also very low for 1969 and 1970. In 1969 it was \$475,000 and in 1970 it was \$4.7 million. This is just to point up my argument of what I said before. That was 1969 and 1970, \$475,000 and the following year \$4.7 million.

Then all of the sudden, bingo, 1971 hit and \$20,485,000 was spent that year. This is when the thing went completely crazy. Now, the only reason I am producing these figures is that the honourable member said that since this government took over we have done practically nothing, that we have been at a stand still.

Let me just quote a few figures to refute that. In the 1972-1973 year on water and sewer and on street paving this government spent \$26 million. We topped the big election year of 1971 but we did not quite reach the total of the two years at that time but very close to it. Yes we did. Actually we went \$2 million over. We went \$2 million over 1971 and 1970 since in the two following years when this government took over it spent \$26 million as against \$24 million for those previous two years. So I do not think anybody can say that there was any slowing down activity. In fact it accelerated very considerably during that period.

Of course, I already said this morning that what we are facing this year is a very heavy and considerable expenditure, providing the House of course votes me the power to spend the money and the authority to do so.

Now, just to break this down a little bit further for the information of the committee: The places where we have been active in what has been done can by no means be construed as Progressive Conservative districts as against Liberal districts. It has been general all over the province. There has been no distinction made and we have treated everybody alike. In co-operation with DREE on DREE water and sewer programmes we spent \$7,900,000.

On the water and sewer and street paving programmes, just to give you some idea: Bay de Verde, street paving, \$50,000; Bonavista North, Badger's Quay, \$285,000; Hare Bay, \$1 million; Wareham, \$200,000; Wesleyville, \$110,000; for a total of \$1,603,000 on water and sewer in that district of Bonavista North. Bonavista North, in case the committee does not realize, is not generally termed to be a Progressive Conservative district.

Now in Bonavista South they did not come off quite as well. In Bonavista South we do have a member. In his district during those two years there was only \$1,325,000 spent. Burgeo and La Poile - it was all confined to Port aux Basques, Channel-Port aux Basques where \$405,000 was spent on water and sewer. The district of Burin - my good friend, the Minister of Justice, always seems to be able to get his edge in quite well. I must say he does an excellent job for his district. We spent on street paving in Burin, \$400,000; Fortune, \$600,000; Grand Bank, \$150,000; St. Lawrence, \$40,000. On water and sewer in Grand Bank, \$600,000; Lawn, \$250,000; for a total of \$2,040,000.

Carbonear and Victoria received \$1,213,000. Fogo is not a notorious Progressive Conservative district. Fogo did not do too badly. They got \$965,000 in two places, Carmanville and Musgrave Harbour, all of which was on water and sewer. Grand Falls is a big area with a large population. There is a great deal of work still to be done there. In Grand Falls we spent \$430,000. Gander had water systems in Appleton, Bishop's Falls, Botwood, Peterview and road paving in Botwood and Glenwood, for a total of \$970,000.

In Green Bay, Nippers Harbour, \$205,000; Kings Point, \$50,000; Springdale, \$100,000; and \$200,000 on street paving in Springdale for a total of \$555,000. In Humber West, \$700,000 on water and sewer and \$1,300,000 on roads for a total of \$2 million. In Humber East, Deer Lake, \$495,000 on water and sewer, \$350,000 on road paving; and Howley, \$90,000 on water and sewer for a total of \$935,000.

Harbour Grace had a total of \$1,770,000. This was \$200,000 only for street paving. The rest was on water and sewer. In Harbour Main all of the money was spent in Holyrood to the extent of \$300,000

on water and sewer. In Hermitage district quite a fair amount of money was spent. Milltown, \$1 million; St. Alban's, \$650,000; and on street paving, \$75,000 for a total of \$1,725,000.

In Labrador North, Happy Valley, \$200,000 on street paving. Lewisporte district, \$155,000 on street paving, \$650,000 on water and sewer. In Placentia East, Dunville, \$70,000 water and sewer; Placentia, \$1.1 million. That is a total of \$1,170,000. In Marystown, \$170,000 on street construction and paving. In Port au Port - this is all on Stephenville - \$100,000 on water and sewer. In St. Barbe North - of interest to the member who was criticizing - Cook's Harbour, \$70,000 on water and sewer; Flowers Cove, \$70,000 on water and sewer; for a total of \$140,000.

In St. Barbe South, Bellburns, \$25,000; Daniel's Harbour, \$50,000; Port au Choix, \$65,000; Port Saunders, \$40,000; Woody Point, \$80,000 on water and sewer and \$50,000 in Port au Choix on Street Paving for a total of \$310,000. St. George's, \$2.8 million on water and sewer. That is a big project, a very, very urgent one. Stephenville Crossing, \$50,000 on water and sewer for a total of \$2,850,000.

St. John's North - this is the Town of Mount Pearl. Mount Pearl is a rapidly growing community which needs a great deal of work done. Their demands are very consistent and very heavy. We have not been able to meet them all but we are doing what we can. We spent \$200,000 on street paving in Mount Pearl. In St. John's South, in the Goulds we spent \$50,000. In St. Mary's, at Admirals Beach we spent \$36,000 on water and sewer. In Trinity North, at Catalina we spent \$770,000. In Clarendville, \$750,000; Port Union, \$400,000, for a total of \$1,920,000, all on water and sewer.

In Trinity South, Hants Harbour, \$210,000; Heart's Desire, \$300,000; New Perlican, \$120,000; Whitbourne, \$93,000 on water and sewer and \$200,000 on paving. That is a total of \$923,000 in Trinity South. Twillingate; Cow Head, \$25,000; Twillingate, \$190,000. That is \$215,000 spent there. In White Bay North, Englee, \$100,000; Goose Cove, \$125,000; Roddickton, \$200,000; St. Lunaire, Griquet, \$86,000

all on water and sewer, for a total of \$511,000.

In White Bay South, Coachman's Cove, \$115,000; Fleur de Lys, \$285,000; Seal Cove, \$210,000, all on water and sewer, for a total of \$610,000. As I said, Mr. Chairman, that amounts up to in the two years a total of \$21,223,000 on water and sewer and \$5,180,000 on street paving for a total on these two projects in our department of \$26,403,000.

This is since this government took over. I gave the figures for the previous years. These were all provincial expenditures, Mr. Chairman, I think they indicate if nothing else that this department certainly has not been sitting down doing nothing during the past two or three years.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. EARLE: No, the election years things are done without any thought at all or real meaning. The \$20 million that was spent in 1971 has taken us the last three years to try and straighten out because projects that were carried out in that time, hastily done, without proper planning, some of these systems are in a frightful mess. The subsidies on them are unreal. The maintenance is unreal. That coupled with a lack of staff has given this department one terrific headache. It has more than it can possibly do.

Now to try to cope with this situation, what have we done? I said the department was in almost total disarray. So, we have appointed an additional assistant deputy minister of technical services. The questions asked this morning on regional offices - we took our time about getting the regional offices set up. It was an election promise contained in a Throne Speech. We have got district offices now in Corner Brook and Gander.

The gentlemen have just been appointed to head up these regional offices. They are a Mr. Colbourne and Mr. Antle. These men are presently undergoing training and their offices will be in functioning condition within a very short time. Each of these offices will have a staff of about seven or eight people. Now this of course is in addition to offices which are already maintained for development

control at Corner Brook, Grand Falls and St. John's. These have separate offices where the staff is already there. So, regional government or regional control of government is gradually becoming a accomplished fact.

I am very hopeful that when we get the proper staff in these areas that they can look after many of the problems which cause delegations to have to come to St. John's. It will be much cheaper, much better for many of the towns, the councillors and so on, if they have their problems, that they can talk to somebody in their area and hopefully somebody that is particularly familiar with the town or village that they are talking about.

We have set up a division of municipal finance and this is functioning well. Senior staff has been upgraded and we have recently been able to provide proper accommodations for them. The office space on the ground floor there has been reshaped. After some of the departments were moved out of the building, we were able to get sufficient space to take care of the staff.

Just recently I have been granted nineteen new staff members. Most of these are at a senior staff level for the reason that in our engineering division particularly we need some very highly qualified people. As I have said, we are dealing with millions of dollars worth of water systems and sewer systems. Not only from the planning and installation systems but the maintenance of them afterwards needs highly qualified technical or engineering people to look after them.

We often hear in the press of complaints of different systems giving trouble and so on. Very often that is due to the fact that the people who are running them do not have the foggiest idea how to run them. Sometimes it is just not possible in a small place to get a person with sufficient knowledge and training to look after one of these systems. So, we are beefing up our engineering division so that we can give these people proper training, give them proper help and have people to go out and see that the work is done properly in these places.

I am convinced that when this functions properly it will save

the government hundreds of thousands of dollars yearly and needless work. This is what we are trying to do. Recently, as I mentioned this morning, we have set up a committee of several senior departments to deal with this development control question which is a very thorny one. What I am trying to do is to bring in advice from the other departments concerned to see if there are any changes needed in the development control and to try to sit on and decide on some of the more difficult cases. This committee is functioning and it is beginning to work. I think that it will bring good results.

I am not convinced, enough convinced myself, yet perhaps I will be convinced that it will be necessary to make some changes in the regulations.

I was interested to hear the Member for St. Barbe North speaking this morning to thank me for having helped him and my department for having helped him in a couple of naughty problems that he had down there in his district. It only goes to show, Mr. Chairman, that we do not try and distinguish between districts. We try and help everybody we can but for him to say that to me was almost a kiss of death on this side of the Committee because all my own colleagues, many of our own members on this side of the Committee had the same problems or even more severe problems. They are coming to me all of the time; in many cases I just simply cannot help them.

It was fortunate that in the case of the Honourable Member for St. Barbe North, in a couple of tricky cases he had, we were able to help but in many cases which apply to members on this side of the Committee it has been literally impossible to get the thing moving unless we just throw all the regulations out the window. I think members on both sides of the Committee will agree that we are not going to do that.

The other thing which is working extremely well at the present time, cementing our relations with the municipalities on a very strong basis is our municipal-provincial liaison committee. We meet monthly. We meet in different parts of the province. Last week I was out to Corner Brook and I have been down to Placentia Bay and Marystown and various other places. We meet monthly with a committee of the municipalities, elected by the municipalities. We discuss with them, on a rational basis because it is a relatively small committee, the problems which apply to the municipalities throughout the province. This has been working extremely well and I am awfully pleased with the co-operation that I am getting from the municipalities.

I tried hard to establish good relations with the city and town councils and indicative of that I have had two successful meetings recently with the Lady Mayor of St. John's and some of her officials.

I have also met Mount Pearl on many occasions. In fact I have met just about every council in the province I suppose at one time or another. It is perhaps an indication of how much we have to do in that respect that since the 1st. of January in my department we have interviewed 200 delegations. It is not a bad record out of something like 700 councils, local improvement districts and what have you, the whole thing. They seem to want a government since the 1st. of January. Most of these come in with really serious problems in their mind and it always takes an hour or two or three hours to discuss it with them.

Now there was another question asked this morning. Oh, yes! Before I get on with that, we are strengthening our field services. This is as the honourable Member for St. Barbe North said very truthfully this morning and I know he is aware of what he is talking about in this connection. The field services have been sadly lacking in advice to help the people, particularly in the remote areas such as the one he represents. It is very difficult to get the staff and have people to travel into all these areas to discuss problems and hopefully to try and deal with things before they come up with problems, but we are trying to improve our field services and we are getting more staff for that purpose.

I only wish that the honourable Member for St. Barbe North could be with me at times when I have to go before treasury board. Actually I am a member of treasury board and I am arguing on my own behalf. But it is treasury board who hold the purse strings and does not want any department of government to build up a needless bureaucracy. It is very, very difficult to deal with on the question of new staff. You have to have a copperfast argument, a tight argument to get the staff you need, and sometimes I feel completely frustrated but we are having some success. We are getting some of the staff we need. As I have indicated we have recently been permitted to get nineteen more in the top brackets. So I think that will be a great help.

Now it was also asked as to what happened to the various studies that were going on as far as municipalities were concerned. The three I know of, which were Stephenville, Happy Valley-Goose Bay and Grand Falls,

have been acted upon. The Town of Stephenville is to amalgamate with Harmon and there is to be an election on May 28. There will be a council representing all of that area when this goes through. The election, as I say, will be on May 28. In Happy Valley-Goose Bay amalgamation has taken place there and the council has been elected. What was the question on Grand Falls?

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. EARLE: We do not have the report on Grand Falls. There is a study going on in that area but we have not yet received that report but two out of the three reports have been received and reports have been acted on so I do not think that is too bad a track record.

I have so many papers here, Mr. Chairman, it is difficult to follow it all. Oh, yes, another thing that was stated this morning by the honourable member, that there is a freeze on the permission of villages and towns to have councils. This is not so. Actually in the past two years we have approved twenty-eight new councils. These are either town councils, local improvement districts or community councils. As a matter of interest to perhaps the Committee, these have been appointed at Seal Cove, Red Bay, Port Hope Simpson, St. Brides, Newmans Cove, Lark Harbour, English Harbour East, Benton, Aquaforte, Small Point, Tilton, Salvage, Northern Arm, Hearts Delight, Cottles Island, Conne River, Chance Cove, Seldom Come By, Joe Batts Arm, Torbay, Terrenceville, Shoal Harbour, Musgrave Town, Conception Harbour, Colliers, Campbellton, York Harbour and Rencontre East, and also Flowers Cove, Sandy Cove and Cooks Harbour. These are in St. Barbe North, these are the three in the honourable member's district who asked the question.

We had two requests for incorporation from his district, namely; Anchor Point and Bird Cove which were rejected. Bird Cove actually had only forty-six per cent of the electoral that wanted a council and we do not act on a minority like that. We do not accept a request for council if it be less than what? Sixty per cent?

AN HON. MEMBER: Over fifty per cent.

MR. EARLE: Over fifty per cent of the voters want a council. In this case there was only forty-six and we did not act on it. Anchor Point

and that area down there, these are the areas where we are about to try these deep frost experimental projects on the preventing of the freezing of water systems in particularly cold sections of Newfoundland. Hopefully if this proves to be successful we will then be able to tackle the Labrador Coast and section on the Labrador Coast where it is very, very difficult, in fact almost impossible I suppose, because of the terrain, to try and put in systems, at any sort of an economic cost, that will not freeze during the winter. We did have a consultant study this and he has given us some advice on it. We are going to try these on the Northwest Coast. As a matter of fact they would have been tried this past winter but by the time we got approval and got the consultants report together it was too late to get the material. These two projects did not go ahead but they will be going ahead this year. As I say out of that we hope to determine the type of system that we can put in the areas where the frost danger is most severe.

I have been talking to some people knowledgeable in this thing and of course in cases like the Armed Forces at Goose Bay and even Churchill Falls installation, when they were building that they managed to keep their water from freezing and their sewer from freezing but if you looked at the cost of what it cost them to do that nothing short of an armed force or a government could possibly stand such an expense for so few people. The cost of doing that is simply outrageous.

For instance, this is off the side but in Labrador City and that area whereas a normal building lot in the Province of Newfoundland, on the Island of Newfoundland, costs what we think to be an outrageously high price of now about \$8,000 to \$10,000 each. In Labrador City it costs approximately \$16,000 to \$17,000 for the same size building lot. The pipes and the water system and so on have to be buried sixteen feet deep to be assured of not freezing. So you can imagine what the cost of trying to service systems in Labrador will be. But nevertheless we are going to try it to see what we can do with it.

Now while on the subject of commissions, there were questions asked as to what had happened to the different commissions. Quite frankly

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): Order please! I wonder if the honourable gentleman would permit me to welcome to the Committee on behalf of all honourable members, particularly the Member for Bell Island, twenty-eight Grade XI students from St. Boniface Regional High School, Bell Island, accompanied by their teachers, Robert Crane and Gary Normore. The Hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

MR. EARLE: I just wanted to mention the work of the commissions - these were questions this morning. The Whelan Commission on Municipal Government, quite frankly I might tell the Committee that I am somewhat disappointed that there has been delay in getting that report. The latest I hear is we may get the report about the middle of June. This is most essential, that we get this report, because it is holding up so many of our plans, so many things that we would like to do. We think it would be very unwise to act in a great area of municipal government until we get the recommendations of that report. I suppose we can be accused of just using this as an excuse but it is a genuine excuse because we hope that out of that report there will be good recommendations on perhaps the centralization of local government.

You know, just to mention a few things that come to mind at the present time: You get towns and villages quite close together and you get everybody in each place, one gets a fire engine, the other wants a fire engine and the third one wants a fire engine. You get three places perhaps within ten miles of each other and probably small places, each wanting a fire engine. Then each one wants to build a fire hall and a town hall. They get a LIP grant or something, they get half way with the thing because the LIP grant is not enough and then they come back on our department and ask if they can have the money to finish it. This is the sort of thing that we run into. Now possibly, I am only saying 'possibly' pending on the recommendations of the report, all of this effort could be centralized and carried out at a much cheaper rate, a great saving of money for the province. I am hoping that apart from the actual functions of municipal government that the Whelan Report will give us some practical suggestions as to how we operate in these areas and just

what money we spent and how we spent it, because I am convinced that there has been a terrific amount of money wasted needlessly in the past on this sort thing.

On the St. John's Urban Region Study, this is a massive study and some people who want to be sarcastic about the thing when I appointed the Henley Commission to study the study they said this is really going to the ultimate. "You have had a tremendous study which cost, I think, \$130,000 and now you are appointing another commission to study the study." Well that is not in fact the case. What the Henley Commission is doing is going around all this huge area which covers (what is it?) a fourth of the population of all Newfoundland I think it is. They are going around to all the areas from Holyrood to Bay Bulls, Flatrock, Pouch Cove, St. John's, Mount Pearl, Goulds, Kilbride all these areas and they are holding hearings to get the opinion of the people on what forms of government and what systems they want to live under.

I think this is a very, very useful and I hope will be a very productive exercise. It certainly is democracy working at the grass root levels because it has been quite evident that since Mr. Henley's Commission went out on the road and started these hearings that there has been a lot of diversion of opinion. Not everybody agrees with the Proctor Redfern Report, and people are speaking up. This is the sort of thing we want before we mistakenly put into effect perhaps some of the recommendations of that report which might well be wrong.

So we are getting the advice of the people and this is what we as a Conservative Government promised to do before the election. We promised to bring people into government. I know of no better way to do it than to hold public hearings and get a cross-section of opinion. This is what we are doing.

Now it is delaying a little bit, it is costing a bit of money but it will be well worthwhile. I am sure from the comments which we have had so far it will be very well worthwhile. I do not hesitate at all in backing up Mr. Henley's Commission. They are doing a good job. I hope that they will come in with an excellent report.

Which brings me around to the whole question of this area, I think the rest of the Province of Newfoundland generally thinks that St. John's Area gets everything. It has to be realized that the immediate urban area of St. John's has about 120,000 population. It has grown up rather rapidly over recent years and has or is creating some tremendous problems. We are trying to look at these in a sensible manner. We have had studies done on what we believe to be the essential services of this area. The first one of course is an adequate water supply for this whole urban area, from Holyrood right through St. John's and Torbay and the whole business.

The main pipe line, without talking about servicing these communities but the pipe line itself to bring the supply from Bay Bulls Big Pond into St. John's and the auxiliary pumping stations and so on which have to be put on that line, will cost a minimum of \$19 million, perhaps \$20 million in round figures. Now if you add to that the services for all of the towns on the Southside of Conception Bay, for Torbay, Portugal Cove, all of these other places, you can see what sort of a figure we are getting into. I think a very rough estimate, which is only an estimate at this time, is something over \$58 million for this particular area, which has to be spent. It will have to be spent in the next few years because Conception Bay South and many of these areas around are growing rapidly. The population of the Towns of Conception Bay South has increased by 6,000 in recent years. Any one with half an eye can see how Mount Pearl has increased.

All of this, and Mount Pearl in particular and the area around St. John's are all feeding into the sewer system. Now they are all drawing on the same water. If we do not do something by the end of 1975 we are going to be in really serious trouble as far as the supply of water is concerned. As a matter of fact at the present time certain badly needed building developments are being held up, the building of homes which people are really screaming for have been held up because of the danger of over extending the water and sewer supply. This is a great

worry of the St. John's City Council at the present time. Anybody knows that quite contrary to a federal concept on this thing that we are dumping raw sewage by the tens and millions of gallons into the Harbour of St. John's. On a hot day in summer you only have to go down there and smell it.

So another big study which is now completed, and I have the study, is disposal systems for this whole area of sewage.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): Order please! We do not have a quorum. We have a quorum.

MR. EARLE: Mr. Chairman, I was just talking about the St. John's urban area and I dealt with the water supply system. There is also the most serious problem coming up of the disposal of sewage. Engineers and consultants have been doing a lot of work on this. This incidentally has all been started since this government took over. There is a proposal for a very extensive sewage disposal scheme including putting it out into Freshwater Bay but in a treated way, going by tunnel through the Southside Hills - a very large project which will in itself, if we can manage it over the next few years, probably cost \$50 million or \$60 million.

So when we are talking about this sort of thing, when we are dealing with a population of 120,000, we are not talking \$5 million, \$10 million or even \$50,000, we are talking

hundreds of millions of dollars. Somehow or other in the foreseeable future and in fact in the immediate future we have to find in this province the money to do that and at the same time try to look after all of the many other applications we have from all over the country. This is just a measure of the problem.

Now, to come down to some of the smaller things which I was asked this morning. As far as the unincorporated water systems, this was of particular interest to my friend from St. Barbe North because he seemed to indicate that there had not been very much done down there. I do not think I will bore the House with trying to list all these that have been done. I have here about four sheets of names of places where artesian wells and small water systems at a cost of anywhere from \$5,000 to \$20,000 each have been installed in the past two years.

So, there have been a great many of these small systems put in and they will continue to be put in. As I say, anybody that wants that list can have it.

Now the other questions mainly as I recall them related to housing. These questions, if I have them right; re, indicate the scale of the federal share of financing in the present programmes which the minister has set out. The answer to that one, as indicated in the budget speech, the funds being made available to Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation in the present estimates will result in over \$35 million being spent. Thus the federal government which would be the principal source of funds would be asked to commit some \$27 million. So, it is \$27 million, and \$8 million for us. This of course is not unusual as the activities of government housing throughout Canada where heavy reliance is placed on funds available under the national act by provinces and their agencies, The details are as follows:

In land banking, the federal will spend \$3,240,000 and we will spend \$360,000. That is a total of \$3,600,000. In land servicing, the federal will spend \$11,700,000. The province will spend \$1.3 million for a total of \$13 million. In public housing the federal will spend \$8.4 million and the province will spend \$2.1 million for a total of

\$10.5 million.

On the federal - provincial lending programme, the federal will spend \$6 million and we will spend \$2 million, for a total of \$8 million.

Another question was asked - land servicing in urban areas and land servicing in growth areas - state the federal share. In reference to the alleged statement made by the Premier in 1971 regarding land servicing in urban areas and growth areas, projects are underway or completed in the following communities - in other words we are living up to our election promises. These are either completed or in process of being done.

Fermeuse, thirty-two lots; Fortune, fifty-four lots; Bay de Verde, 104 lots; Carbonear, fifty-three lots; Gander, 321 lots; Harbour Breton, fifty-one lots; Sunnyside, seventy-five lots. Tenders have already been called for Stephenville, 230 lots; Corner Brook, 230 lots; Burin, ninety-five lots; and St. John's, 1,200 lots. Tenders are in preparation for a call for St. John's of an additional 1,200 lots; Arnold's Cove, 100 lots; Carbonear, thirty lots; Marystown, fifty lots and Mundy Pond, 150 lots. In addition to that investigations are now being carried out in Labrador City, Wabush, Goose Bay, Grand Bank, Winsor, Glovertown, Gambo, Catalina, Bonavista, Port Union, Port Aux Basques, Bay de Verde, Winterton, Hants Harbour and several others.

In addition loans have been made by the province directly to the following communities - this is where we lend the money to the municipal councils in the places: We lent Botwood money for ten lots; Bishop's Falls for twenty-five lots; Centerville, eight lots; St. Lawrence for sixty lots; Deer Lake, thirty-three lots; Clarenville, sixty-three lots; and Gander, thirty lots.

Now, information was requested on the industrial park at Corner Brook. We have already developed one industrial park at Corner Brook consisting of thirty-five acres. The servicing of the land is complete and it is now in a position to sell. All the final costs are not in but a reasonably accurate detail as follows:

Federal loans from DREE, \$755,000; Federal grants, \$280,000.
The amount expended on land acquisition, which is part of the loan received,

is \$320,000. Revision of functions of the various housing corporations - this was related to a statement made by the Premier in 1971: The Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation has been restructured and enlarged and is presently taking care of the government's housing policies as it relates to most areas of the province. The Corner Brook Housing Corporation continues in its role of administering rental housing in Corner Brook as well as advising the government on housing needs for that area.

The St. John's Housing Corporation continues its role of managing 442 units in St. John's and continues to develop land as it is required. The St. John's Housing Authority manages the subsidized rental housing in the St. John's area. I think these are the answers to the questions. Just to enlarge on the restructuring of the St. John's Housing Corporation - in line with the Premier's comments at the time we had two studies done, one by the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation itself and one by my department.

The one done by the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation was done by a firm by the name of Eric something or other - I cannot remember the name. The one done by our department was by Leonard Associates. We studied both these reports extensively. It is our feeling after giving due consideration to them that the Leonard Brothers report at this stage was quite unrealistic and perhaps impossible of attainment because it envisaged a very cumbersome, big system of bringing all of our present housing efforts together under one heading.

So, what we have done is we have followed the recommendations of the other report and are strengthening the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation, putting in top management and good personnel there so that they themselves as they get into their stride and develop their own procedures and so on and improve on them, they will be able to take over these other functions. This is going to be a fairly long-term project. They will eventually, I think, be the government body which will control all housing efforts. In the meantime, the other functions will carry on and may carry on for some years but hopefully we will draw all of this together in time in what we hope will be the most efficient organization.

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Now, Mr. Chairman, I have done my best to answer all the questions that were asked this morning. If I have missed any, I am sorry but perhaps they will be asked again.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to delay the committee, Sir, but I do want to bring up the matter of replacing water lines, worn out water lines on Bell Island that were put in about fifty or sixty years ago by DOSCO. This past two winters, Sir, I would say about anywhere from forty to fifty per cent of my constituents were without water because of frozen water lines and broken water lines.

About six or seven years ago, Sir, the former Liberal administration started the great task of trying to put in a water and sewer system on Bell Island. Up to that time there had been no organized water and sewerage on Bell Island apart from what DOSCO had done in a sort of a haphazard way down through the years.

DOSCO, Sir, did not put in water lines for the benefit of the people that lived on the island. They put in water lines mainly for the industry, for their own use, and the majority of the people that hooked into DOSCO's main lines had to do it under cover of darkness. They had to more or less bootleg the water. One was not allowed to hook on.

Eventually in the later years people could go out. DOSCO sort of relaxed the rules a little bit and people did manage to hook on. It is an old system, Mr. Chairman. It is worn out, rusted out and the pipes are not, in a lot of cases, deep enough in the ground. Where people had to go out and hook into the main line after dark, they had to do it before daylight - they did not get an opportunity to put the water lines deep enough in the ground and every winter they freeze up.

The only good part of the water and sewerage system on the island at the present time is what the Liberal administration did starting, about seven or eight years ago, shortly after I became the member. Do you know, Mr. Chairman, up to that time there was no water and sewerage in the big schools on Bell Island? It is only in recent years we managed to get the - oh, let me see, about four or five years ago, I think we managed to get the water into the bigger schools. Up to that

time most of the schools over there were using chemical toilets. I know the school that I attended, Sir, St. Kevin's Boys School, they used a chemical toilet and one had to hold ones nose when one went into the school. One could hardly stand the odor in the school during the day. I swore that if I ever got an opportunity that I would correct that situation. I am happy to say that I had the opportunity to do it and I did it. So, we put the water and sewerage in all the schools, all the bigger schools on the island anyway.

Sir, this is a bad situation. This winter a delegation from the town council and from the community came to the minister's department. I think the minister gave them a grant of \$4,000 or \$5,000 so that water could be delivered from door to door in a 250 gallon oil tank. Now, in my opinion, Sir, in this day and age that is not good enough. People are entitled to a little better than that, Mr. Chairman.

There has not been one inch of water and sewer lines put in on Bell Island since the Progressive Conservative Administration took over, not an inch. There has not been an inch of new paving done over there either since the Progressive Conservative Administration took over. We are talking about Municipal Affairs now, Sir, and I have to deal with water and sewerage. Not an inch! When the minister was reading off that list of commitments that were made by the former Liberal Administration, we did not hear Bell Island mentioned in there, Sir. The Town of Wabana was not mentioned in there.

Despite numerous pleas and numerous requests to the minister's department, there is no indication, Mr. Chairman, that any relief is in sight. The people on Bell Island will have to endure the hardship that they have had to endure over the past two winters by either going out and bringing a barrel of water in the back of their cars, a lot of them, or depending on the door-to-door delivery in that haphazard way by the Town of Wabana, by bringing the water around in a 250 gallon oil tank.

I ask the minister now, Sir, publicly and in all humility, to take a good, hard look at this Bell Island situation. I know, Sir, it is expensive to put water and sewerage in on Bell Island but the most

of the work is done now. The whole community practically has water and sewerage now, Sir. There are parts of the community where one can only put in water and not sewerage. The deputy minister knows what I am talking about because I have had a good many meetings with the Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs when he was the assistant deputy minister in that department. I had a good many meetings with the deputy minister. I must say, Sir, that I always managed to get excellent co-operation from the staff of that department, excellent. Maybe the minister is right that they were short staffed for a while. Maybe the minister has succeeded in beefing up the department.

Sir, it will not do any good beefing up the department unless the government is prepared to loosen up the purse strings, unless "Old Scrooge", the Minister of Finance, is prepared to give the minister a few more dollars to put water and sewer systems in around this province. Unless the Minister of Finance is prepared to do that, there is no point in beefing up the department and taking on fourteen or sixteen additional officials and become top-heavy down there. They have more chiefs than they have indians. There is no point in that unless they are prepared to spend the money. There is every indication, Sir, that there has been a retrenchment in that department in the last year or so.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Nonsense!

MR. NEARY: It is not nonsense, Sir. Delegation after delegation is coming into Confederation Building. Half the time they cannot get to see that minister. The minister is unavailable; cannot get to see him. They are being pawned off. They go back home disgusted. I have talked to delegation after delegation down in the lobby of Confederation Building. They are going away disgusted. How many petitions have we had in this session of the House for water and sewer projects? I think the minister told us this morning he has eighty-two on a list. How many of these projects are going to be done this year?

Wait and see? It will be like the Department of Highways, wait and see. Why does not the minister tell us what projects are going to be done this year? Is Bell Island going to be one? Will the Town of Wabana get any money this year to replace the worn out DOSCO lines that have been there for sixty or seventy years? Will they?

We were working on it. I would say, Mr. Chairman, without fear of contradiction that the former Liberal Administration spent close to \$1 million, over \$700,000 I would say, putting in water and sewerage on Bell Island. Not an inch has been put in since this honourable crowd formed the government. I do not think it is intentional. That would be the last thing to enter my mind, Sir, to say that it is intentional on the part of the administration. Political discrimination, I do not think it is. I would say it is more just disinterest on the part of the administration because we are not the only community. I am not fighting for the other communities. I am only interested in the Town of Wabana at the present time because I do not want to see these people go through the same hardship that they had to go through last winter and the winter before and the winter before that.

We started out with a plan to put water and sewerage into every part of that municipality. The deputy minister knows. Down in his planning office there is a town plan for Bell Island. It was done, I think in 1958 or 1959. I was gradually picking away at it, getting a water line put in here and a water line put in there and a few hundred feet of sewerage put in there. We were chipping away at it. The job is far from being complete. I ask the minister now to tell me - I could not think of a better day, Sir, for a delegation of students to be in the galleries from Bell Island because they will hear the minister's answer and hear what the minister has to say when I take my seat. I call upon the minister now on behalf of these people who have had to lug water in buckets and go out to a pickup truck and drain water off a 250 gallon oil tank, on behalf of these people I ask the minister to state now whether or not it is the intention of his department and his administration to continue the water and sewer programme that was started on Bell Island by the former administration seven or eight years ago.

MR. EARLE: Mr. Chairman, I am very happy to answer the honourable member for Bell Island. My straight answer is no. I will not repeat the mistakes of the previous government in that system over there. It

was a mess when it was put in. It was not put in properly. It has caused us numerous headaches. He asked us to have a look at it. My officials are cross-eyed from looking at that system over there.

What is needed on Bell Island is a completely new system. The old stuff over there is not worth a hoot. If we are going to do the job, we will do it properly. We will not do just a half-ass sort of a job. I would be disloyal to every other district in the country if I came out at the present time and answered the honourable member's question by saying, "Yes, we will do Bell Island." In due course, after our estimates are passed and so on, I will be advising various sections of the province what we will do this year. We will do the utmost for all Newfoundlanders that our money will permit.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, obviously the minister, Sir, does not know what he is talking about. The system that was put in, as the deputy minister knows - all he has to do is check with the deputy who can check with his officials - the system that has been put in, Sir, so far is perfect. There has not been one bit of trouble with the system, not a bit.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: As far as \$200,000 a year subsidy.

MR. NEARY: Oh, well now that is not what the minister said. The minister said that the system was not working. It was put in in a haphazard way. It was put in under close supervision. It was supervised by Gorman-Butler Associates who have an excellent reputation in this province.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. W. ROWE: The department hires them on.

MR. NEARY: The department still have Gorman-Butler under contract. Of course, the minister knows all about

Whitbourne, I suppose his equipment is over there putting in the water and sewer line.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Lundrigan's, did he? Well, Sir, the system on Bell Island, what we have of it, what has been put in so far is working perfectly. The minister did not criticize the subsidy; that is a different matter. He criticized the system. But, Sir, there is not a community, not a town council, a community council nor a local development, a local improvement area in Newfoundland that is not bankrupt, not one. Why single out Bell Island? You are paying off a couple of hundred thousand a year, so what? When Bell Island was working over there we put that much into the public treasury in one week. That is no excuse. That is no answer. The system is working. What is there is working perfectly. There has not been a bit of trouble with it since it was put in. What is not working, Sir, if the minister will only pay attention to me, what is not working is the old DOSCO system, the system that DOSCO put in seventy-five years ago. That is what is not working, and down in the minister's office there is a set of plans. He does not have to go out and hire a consulting firm to look at it, the plans are down there. Water and sewerage plans have been down in the office since 1959 I would say and I told the minister a few moments ago when I spoke that we were chipping away it, chipping away at it, spent probably \$800,000 or \$1 million in the last seven or eight years improving the system, and it is perfect. The minister should not get up and brush off my request by criticizing, saying the system is not working, because the system is working. You can flush your toilet up on the Scotia Ridge now, Sir, and away she goes, out to the sewerage treatment plant. No problems with it unless somebody should take off a manhole cover and stuff something down in it. That happened once or twice, seven or eight years ago. I remember once they took off the cover and put a dog down in the manhole. But even that is not happening now, Sir, because the covers are welded down.

So, the minister just cannot get up and brush it off in a haphazard way by saying, "No, that system is not working and we are going to wait until we get plans," Well, the minister already has the plans. All we need is

the money, a few dollars. The Town Council will be in to see the minister very shortly, Monsieur Gendreau, the idol of the Tory boys.

AN HON. MEMBER: He got a big vote on Bell Island anyway.

MR. NEARY: No, he did not get a big vote. We will see how much he will get the next time. Monsieur Gendreau will lead a delegation in to see the minister and say, "Look, we have to replace these old worn out lines." What will the minister say? That is what I want to know. The minister cannot say, "Well look, go home until we get the plans made." The plans are already there and they can bring them with them in their brief cases if they want to. Then the minister says, "Oh no, I am not going to do this because I will have to do it for every community in Newfoundland." Well what is wrong with letting the communities know if they are going to get water and sewerage this year or not. We already had the Minister of Transportation and Communications refusing to give the House a list of projects that his department are going to do this year. Do not tell me we are going to have another minister refuse to give this committee the information when the minister is asking approval of the committee to spend millions and millions of dollars of the taxpayers money. What does the minister want, a blank cheque?

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Agreed. That would be great? If that minister had a blank cheque he would not know what to do with it. Look old scrooge sits in the seat where the Minister of Justice is. Well, there is the old miser himself right there, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

MR. CHAIRMAN (MR. STAGG): Order please! For the second time in as many days I must draw to the attention of visitors to the House of Assembly that while some of the proceeding may be humorous and on occasion may evoke a response of laughter or some other response, it is customary and indeed it is one of the rules of the House of Assembly that the visitors are here at the sufferance of the House and are not to participate in proceedings. Probably I should direct my comments to the member for Bell Island and insist

that he not be so humourous.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, I am not being humourous, I am being very serious with the minister. I would like to ask the minister before I take my seat again if he has received any requests from the Town Council on Bell Island for additional financial assistance to extend the water and sewerage system and if so will the minister be acceding to the Town Council's request? Will he be meeting with the Town Council in the near future? Just what is the situation? The minister must not be permitted to leave the thing hanging up in the air, Sir. Surely this administration can make one decision, Sir, make one. I call upon the minister again not to just brush this matter off, hoping the problem will go away. There is a very serious problem there and people who have been fortunate enough in the last few years to be able to put in furnaces and to put bathrooms and toilets in their houses, Sir, are in an awful spot. When lines freeze up, they cannot get water in the winter time. It is a terrible situation. It is an awful worry and an awful bother to these people, Sir, and an awful inconvenience. I would like to know what the minister is going to do about it.

MR. EARLE: Mr. Chairman, I find it very hard to follow the honourable gentleman's arguments. In one voice he says that when you flush a toilet over on Bell Island it goes half way across Conception Bay and in the next breath he says that everything is in trouble over there.

MR. NEARY: That is the part that works.

MR. EARLE: The part that is working. All I can say to the honourable gentleman is that recently we have not had any approach from the Town Council of Bell Island. If they do approach us I shall certainly see them. We will have an accumulation of information at that time, which we hope will be able to give them some satisfaction. But at the present moment I cannot answer the immediate demands or questions of any one particular council in Newfoundland. We are going to deal with all of them as we can and the best way we can and Bell Island will be no exception.

MR. WM. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a few brief remarks

about matters concerning this department. First of all, Sir, let me say publicly, I do not know if I have ever said this before and I do not want to embarrass the deputy minister, the highest permanent official in the department, but I would like to say publicly that both while I was in the administration and since I have been out of the administration, serving as a member of the House, that I have had and I believe I speak for my colleagues in this, I have had nothing but co-operation of the highest order from that gentleman, the deputy minister, and any member of his staff with whom I have had need on occasion to contact or with whom I have had to speak on occasion concerning some problem in my district or outside my district for that matter, nothing but co-operation.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WM. ROWE: Well this is exactly what I am saying, nothing but co-operation. That is not to say that the staff can always do what you want them to do for the simple reason of course that they do not set policy. They may recommend policy but they do not set policy nor do they decide on how much money is going to be spent in Newfoundland. That is the prerogative and the responsibility of the government or the committee of Cabinet known as Treasury Board.

But I would like to say publicly and I hope this is not the kiss of death for the deputy minister, he is among the best public servants that I have every had the good fortune to come across while working on behalf of my district, easy of access if he is not out of town or on some conference on the Mainland or travelling around the province, no problem getting through to him. Some officials I believe members may find are difficult to find on occasion. They are always at meetings of this, that or the other thing. If the gentleman should happen to be at a meeting the gentleman who I am referring to now should happen to be at a meeting, he always calls back post haste, superb type of public servant. If we had, I am not saying we do not, but if we had 5,000 public servants of his calibre and his desire to co-operate with the elected arm of government, then the problems in Newfoundland, provided the money is forthcoming, would not be long being solved.

The minister, Sir, well I do not want to get involved too deeply into this particular subject, suffice it to say and we are talking about the minister's salary and the minister of this department, suffice it to say, Sir, that it boggles my mind, and I do not think I am unique in this regard, it boggles my mind as to how that honourable gentleman, and I believe he is an honourable gentleman and a decent and sincere honourable gentleman, but why that honourable gentleman should find it necessary on nearly every occasion that he rises to speak in this House he has to become sort of partisan in a bitter fashion. Now if he had been a long time Tory and had spent twenty years or so, Sir, trying to get into office and finally got in and saw a few mistakes and if it has put the devil in him because these mistakes were made, that would be understandable partisan bitterness. But when you are talking about an honourable Minister of the Crown who supported the previous administration for twelve years, I believe it was twelve years, He was in the administration for eight years I believe, supported it for twelve. In the administration for eight years and can with a straight face, unblushingly rise in this House and start talking about the previous administration and we are not doing the stupid things that the previous administration did in Municipal Affairs and that sort of thing, You know how he expects anybody to treat that seriously or how he expects himself to be treated as a credible member of the government when he gets on like that is beyond me, Sir, because the honourable minister voluntarily supported the previous administration for twelve years. I am prepared to say he did a good job when he was there just as I hope that all honourable gentlemen who were in the previous administration or this administration tried to do and in fact did in most cases a half decent job. For him to rise in his place and talk about the mistakes of the previous administration when he was there for about half its life, certainly there for all the period of time that he rises to criticize, when he would be there to this day, I believe my colleague from Bell Island would agree the honourable minister would be here to this day if he was not forced out of it as a result of the exercise of the

prerogative of the previous Premier, the former Premier of this province.

Just no where is the dignity of that honourable gentleman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please! I wonder if the honourable member be not relating to matters which are irrelevant to Municipal Affairs and Housing at this point.

MR. WM. ROWE: Your Honour, of course is the arbiter on that but I do think it has something to do with Municipal Affairs. We are talking about the minister and the credibility of the minister and all that sort of thing. But anyway I will not belabour that point, I will just ask him in his own interest to cease and desist that line of attack because it does not do him any credit, it does not do the government any credit, either government, the government to which he belonged previously or this present administration. It just does not do him any credit. He should not get on like that because I do believe that he is genuine and sincere in what he is trying to do. Whether in fact he is doing what should be done is another question. I think perhaps the member for Bell Island put his finger on it when he mentioned a certain miserlyness and I am not talking about the honourable minister personally but I do think that he may have a tendency, a conservative tendency to say, "Well if you cannot pay your own way, forget about it." I believe he has a tendency to do that. I am not saying he does it on every occasion but I seem to detect in the honourable minister, in his operations of that department, a feeling that well if a community cannot afford a certain public service then perhaps they should not have that public service, water and sewer or paving or whatever it might be. If we followed that argument that idea to its logical conclusion, Sir, there would not be much done in Newfoundland. There would not be much done. Newfoundland would be depopulated. It would be moose pasture, Newfoundland, if we followed that argument. Because there is not enough money generated in Newfoundland itself with regard to municipal services to do hardly anything in this province if we were not depending to a large extent on Ottawa, under the DREE programme, on Ottawa in its equalization payments which allows the government to run certain public services. So the argument that I fear he might be applying to a place like Ming's Bight, for example,

which has 100 families or so and simply cannot afford to pay for in any reasonable period of time or in any reasonable manner a water and sewer system that they have been asking for, if he should apply the argument that he has been, indicating to me that he believes in, namely if you cannot pay your own way you are not going to get it, well then if he should bring that to its logical conclusion he should shut down the Municipal Affairs Department because there is very little that we can do in this province today, as it is now, without further resource development. Without further income of our own, from our own sources, there would be very little, Sir, that we would be able to do.

So I do hope that the minister does not pursue that type of a feeling too strictly. I hope that he does open up the coffers to a certain extent and not expect small communities throughout this province or concerning which there is every indication people will be living for many years to come, I hope he does not think that merely because they cannot pay their own way they should not have public services. That would be a wrong way, a wrong approach, a wrong rationale for municipal affairs or municipal services in this province.

Sir, with that general remark I would like to point out to the minister one or two things that he already knows, I have not been too successful in talking to the minister and getting an opportunity to talk to the minister. To tell you the truth, Sir, after the first two or three attempts to see him, where he agreed on one or two occasions and when the delegation concerned came to see him he was off to a Treasury Board meeting or something like that, which is not his fault, I know how these things happen having been in the same position myself on many occasions. I have not really gone after the minister to sit down and talk to him on many of the problems because I find it difficult to be in the same place at the same time as the honourable minister. Therefore, most of my communications with the department have been by way of meetings with the deputy minister or one or two others or by use of the telephone and therefore most of the stuff I am going to talk about now is in the possession of the department, the officials of the department. I just want to

make sure that the minister himself is fully aware of some of the problems which I am going to deal with very briefly, some of the problems in the District of White Bay South.

Starting at the extreme northern end, Sir, I would like to commend to the minister a suggestion that hopefully money will loosen up this year to provide water services at any rate for Jackson's Arm and Sops Arm and Pollards Point. These places have received certain grants under the old unincorporated water vote or communities water system vote, whatever the real name of it was. They received money there, not nearly enough to do the complete job to provide the basic of life, water to the people of those communities. Although part of the job has been done and I would ask the minister and his officials to try to look after that this year, any remaining work that has to be done, Try to look after it, Sir, the money you are talking about is in the tens of thousands, not a great deal of money at all but to the people concerned, while not a matter of life and death, there is a difference between a halfway pleasant life and a life of drudgery for the woman of the household or the man who comes home from work and has to lug water two or three miles during the heat of the summer. So I would ask that the tens, maybe \$30,000 or \$40,000 I do not know, \$50,000, I had a study in there done by an engineering firm and I forget the figures now with regard to the Jackson's Arm one. Jackson's Arm, Sop's Arm, Pollard's Point should be looked after, hopefully this summer, by the Department of Municipal Affairs and I hope the minister when he rises can say whether in fact that is going to be done or not.

Down in Hampden Bayside area they have, of course that is a municipality, they have a water and sewer system there which is inadequate for certain purposes, I leave it in the hands of the department to meet the exigencies of those communities when they arise because it has an organization there and they can contact the department.

Coming on to the Baie Verte Peninsula, Sir, Westport and Furbeck's Cove are two other communities where they have difficulties with these basic municipal services. Part again of the problem has been solved. One of the

communities, Westport, is an incorporated community. Part of the problem has been solved but they all have additional problems. I believe they are looking for a sewer system now and I will be the first to admit, Sir, that when you are dealing with say 150 families or something along that line, to talk about spending anywhere from \$250,000 to \$500,000 or more for a water and sewer system does tend to throw your whole concept of

economics out of kilter because if you apply that to 700 communities or say 600 communities of equal size then you can see the types of money you are talking about, you are up in the hundreds of millions of dollars. I fully realize that but I do ask the minister to give every possible consideration to try and provide this basic service to the Community of Westport and of course Purbeck's Cove which is very small. It has no organization at all there but perhaps some assistance can be provided there when needed.

Seal Cove, Sir, is in a bind as the minister knows and the deputy minister knows. An amount of money I believe at the time it was \$600,000 or \$630,000 cut out for a water and sewer system for the Community of Seal Cove, a town, a local improvement district I believe it is now, or a town council type of operation any way, but two-thirds of the community have been done, two-thirds - one-third. I get calls really every day from people who are not hooked up to the system. I believe that more money will be needed and that more money will be forthcoming. Again I ask the minister publicly and his official to try and help out on that. I believe they are making progress but I do hope that the whole thing can be completed this year. There may be some problems with the contractor or the job that was done there, I do not know, but I do hope that the Municipal Affairs Department can cope with that problem and get us fixed up this year.

Wild Cove which is right next to Seal Cove is an unincorporated community, a small community, thirty or forty families, fifty families, around that range. It happens to be growing as a matter of fact. It does not have any kind of an adequate water system to this day, although again money was spent from this fund that used to be in the Department of Community and Social Development to try and provide water for them. They have a water committee there. Again they are after me and after the department to provide enough money in the coming season to have some kind of a decent water system. They are not asking for water and sewerage at this point, I believe they feel it is out of the realm of possibility at this particular point in time but they do want, do need enough money to provide water for that community. And again, you are

talking about I believe tens of thousands of dollars, nothing more than tens of thousands. How much is up to an engineer to estimate; \$50,000 or \$60,000 perhaps but a small amount when compared to some of the massive amounts spent throughout this province for some of our larger communities.

Fleur de Lys, Sir, and Coachman's Cove again received money from the Department of Municipal Affairs several years ago. Fleur de Lys was among those pioneer communities which decided that the council itself, with of course the okay of the Department of Municipal Affairs the council itself would do the job of putting in a water and sewer system and tried to save the money which would ordinarily go by way of profit to a contracting company. I do not know whether this was the right decision at that time or not. It had to be that way at the time otherwise it could not have come within the formula of the Department of Municipal Affairs for subsidization.

I would like to hear from the minister what he thinks now of this experiment. I believe there were several communities which went ahead on this basis. What he thinks of this experiment and instead of calling tenders and having a contractor do a job, a water and sewer system, of having the town itself purchase the equipment or rent it as the case might be and put in the water and sewer system itself with the help of a management team or a consulting engineering firm that could help out and give guidance along the way.

Fleur de Lys has been some three years or over three years trying to get their system operational, without a great deal of success. A lot of money has been spent but I received many complaints. The whole job does not look too sightly at the moment when I visited the district, I go there and have a look at it. It does not look too sightly. I am wondering what kind of - from an engineering standpoint and the department's standpoint, what progress has been made? What point has been reached? How much more money is needed? And what is the possibility of providing whatever monies are needed to complete that job for the benefit of the people of Fleur de Lys?

Also of course, Sir, finally, other smaller communities—Mings Bight are looking for money for a water system and a sewer system, if possible. Again a small community. The department has been good enough to have some surveys done, some engineering reports done on it.

By the way, these engineering reports I found to my experience do not always jive with local knowledge of a situation and as often as not the local people are right, I think in the case of the Mings Bight engineering survey that there were some gross errors made as to the availability of water, the amount of water in a particular pond, the difficulty of getting the water down and all this sort of thing, the cost. I think there were some gross errors made. I believe that it is possible to do it probably cheaper than the engineering report indicated.

But in any event, I would like the minister, if he can at this time, to tell the Committee, to tell me whether it is likely that Mings Bight will obtain enough money to get a water system this year. The same thing applies to Pacquet again in my district. That about completes the roster at this particular time, Sir, for the District of White Bay South.

I would like to know, on behalf of the people of that district, what is going to be done this year.

Now before I sit down, my honourable colleague the Leader of the Opposition, who had to leave the Committee to go to a speaking engagement some distance from St. John's, asked me on behalf of his district to put certain questions to the minister concerning communities in his own District of White Bay North.

Main Brook I believe that the Department of Municipal Affairs was instrumental in having some wells drilled in the Community of Main Brook but unfortunately they were dry holes and no results. Apparently they are going to have to do what would be called probably a proper water system piped from a surface source of water down through the community to be piped into the homes. I would like to know what the minister is going to do in that community this year.

Now these are the type of problems that the minister referred to a little while ago, smaller problems, I believe in response to the Member for St. Barbe North, smaller problems or some minor questions. They may indeed be minor in the scale of the totality of Newfoundland and Labrador, Sir, but I would assure the minister, as he knows from representing a rural district himself, that as minor as they may be, minor in scale compared to the other parts of Newfoundland, St. John's, Corner Brook, Grand Falls that to the people concerned they are not minor, they are very major problems. They need an answer on this type of thing just as much as the people of St. John's do, or the people of Corner Brook do.

Raleigh is in the same boat, I think they need a water system. I am not sure whether these communities are incorporated or not but in any event they do need water systems and the Leader of the Opposition to raise these matters publicly. I know he has already made representation to the department privately but he did ask me for the record to raise them publicly.

Also there is Conche, Ship Cove, which on the note that the Leader of the Opposition gave me said, "Should be started this year." I am not sure whether any survey work has been done, any engineering reports have been done on Conche and Ship Cove, Sir, but if not, I hope that work can start quickly and, if so, I hope that as a result of the reports the department will be in a position to get some work underway in these particular places.

Also he mentions some larger communities, St. Anthony, St. Lunenburg, Goose Cove, Englee where some have water only. There is a water and sewer system in St. Anthony I believe that work needs to be carried on with. He asked me to raise these questions as well concerning the District of White Bay North.

Sir, on this question, before I sit down, on this question of the minister not telling members of the House of Assembly or the public what his department intends to do specifically this year, I find it difficult to reconcile that statement that he will not tell us what they specifically intend to do with his earlier statement that he is determined to tell the

truth rather than give the people of these communities the runaround.

Now I would say, Sir, that the minister knows what he intends to do this year, at least ninety per cent of what he intends to do. As you look down through the various subheads you notice figures for this, that and the other thing - Community water services \$600,000, engineering and planning for this, that and the other thing. I am sure that when he brought his draft estimates to Treasury Board, that Treasury Board insisted on knowing what he was going to do. So I think he does know.

If he do not tell us here that can only be construed, Sir, as the opposite to what he already said. He does not tell us what he is going to do. He has already said that he does not want to give the people a run around but when somebody calls me from Pacquet or Mings Bight now I have to say, "Yes, the estimates of the minister's department went through the Committee this afternoon." And the person on the other end of the line will say, "Well, are we going to get any work done in Mings Bight or in Sops Arm or Jackson Arm?" I have to say, "I do not know." He will say, "Why?" I will say, "Because the minister would not tell us. He knows what he is going to do but he will not tell us what he is going to do."

Now if that is not giving the people the run around, keeping them dangling on a hook, I do not know what is. I think the minister can conscientiously and truthfully tell us now what he intends to do. If he wants to write me a letter privately concerning the District of White Bay South, I shall take that. I can understand that he has a limited amount of money for an infinite number of demands, I realize that. I realize that it may be difficult to stand up and say that out of the 700 communities in Newfoundland in need, we are going to attend to fifteen, for example. I realize what kind of repercussions that would have throughout the province. I realize that his hands are largely tied. But that is no excuse, Sir, for the minister. If he cannot do it publicly now, there is no excuse for him not sitting down tomorrow or the next day and writing a letter to myself and any other

member of the Committee who make the request, telling us what is going to be done so that when we are asked as members for the district, we are not made to look like jackanapes and fools in the eyes of our constituents. Because they find it very difficult to believe, they find it difficult to believe, Sir, that we cannot possibly know what is going to be done because they were told two months ago, they were told by the minister's department that we cannot tell you what is going to be done next year because the estimates are not down yet. We have to wait until the estimates are passed by the House of Assembly. Giving the firm impression to the people that once the estimates are brought into the Committee and passed then they will know if there community is going to have some work or not done in it this year.

Now for me or the minister to go back to the people and say the estimates are down and for us to say we still do not know what is going to be done next summer or this summer, this does not jive in the mind of any reasonable individual and you can hardly blame them for not being able to swallow that kind of a statement hook, line and sinker.

So I would say for the sake of efficiency and truthfulness with the people concerned that the minister at the earliest opportunity should let me, let other members who make the request of him, let them know what work is intended to be done this summer so that the people concerned will at least have an answer and they will not, to use the honourable minister's phrase "They will not be given the run around again." They will at least know "Yes" or "No." They will not be left dangling.

Sir, I do hope the minister can spend a few minutes in commenting on one or two of the matters I have raised.

MR. EARLE: Mr. Chairman, it is not too difficult to comment on the matters which the honourable member raised. Just to clear up the first point, first, I do not think that the public nor the press nor anybody else after these years are so interested nor am I so conceited as to think that I passed the association of the Liberal Party is of any interest to the general public. I took full responsibility for

the Liberal Party when I was with it and with the Liberal Government. I have always said that I was responsible for what happened in that time. At the time I parted with them I gave due notice that I would do everything I possibly could to destroy that government because I felt it had failed and I resigned on that.

There is nothing more to be said about it. I now think that this government is doing a good job and I support it just as I loyalty supported Joe Smallwood for eight years. If this government made any mistakes and I could not deal with it, I would resign from this government. However that is enough said on that subject.

The point is, Mr. Chairman, there are a number of questions which the honourable member asked about White Bay North. Most of these have to do with small unincorporated communities. There is in the estimates here a vote under which this comes, which is \$600,000, Item No. 906-03. He will note if he looks at this that this has risen from \$435,000 last year to \$600,000 this year.

The honourable Member for St. Barbe North mentioned, this morning I think, that there had not been much progress in this particular field, that is in providing water services to small communities. Actually there has been quite an astounding increase. Two years ago that vote was \$300,000, last year it was \$435,000, this year it is \$600,000. So it should indicate to the honourable member that we are at least going to do as much as we did last year and hopefully more although prices have gone up on all jobs so tremendously. The work is going to cost much more for every project that we undertake.

Now as regards to his statements when he rather accuses me of giving the people the run around, I have always said to delegations that until I am in a position to give them a firm answer, I prefer not to give them an answer. Many delegations go out of my office completely dissatisfied. I do not mind that because I would rather that I were able to give them an honest answer than give them a straight answer.

The position is on these items that he mentions here today that on the larger ones, which I mentioned I have eighty-two applications on

hand at present for water and sewer systems. These as I said this morning will be financed by government guarantee. Just to repeat, this is done by issuing guarantees to the council for bank loans which generally are of a five year duration. Then after that time they are refinanced and turned into bonds - forty year bond systems with subsidy from the government.

Now the position as of this moment is that I have not yet been advised by government, in fact government have not yet decided how much I am going to be permitted to guarantee for the coming season. So none of these major jobs other than those in which we have DREE funding and some of which tenders have been called for, none of these have yet been allocated but when I am in a position to allocate them I will tell the people what jobs and I hopefully will tell the members what jobs we can do.

Now the small jobs as he referred to them, in the smaller water systems there is a vote here of \$600,000. How this is usually handled - my officials come to me from time to time and say that Flower's Cove or some other place whatever it may be, Jacksons Arm or something, has a request in for \$10,000 jobs, some more wells or some more lines or something of that sort. We look at the thing and we will say, "Okay that can be done." We go through the course of the year depending on how available our men are and our engineers are and so on to see that the thing is properly supervised. We go ahead and we keep on with these projects as we go and there will be a great many of these done this year. I cannot tell the member actually if individual places will be done but he can be assured that his district in common with all the other districts will get fair treatment on the money we have to spend in this respect.

I will be the happiest person in the world to be able to tell these councils when I am able to announce to them that, yes, I will do such and such a thing in such and such a place. I will also advise the member of the district, whether he is on this side of the Committee or on the other side of the Committee, but at this stage I really do not know

what individual places we are going to do.

I do know that in the case of Fleur de Lys to finish off that particular place, the estimate is about \$200,000. I do not know if that one will be one of the ones that will be fortunate enough to get it this year or not but that is about it, it is about \$200,000 on that job. Some of them of course are a lot smaller than that and some are perhaps in the same field, but we will treat them all fairly and we will do what we can and when I know what we can do I shall tell them.

MR. W. N. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, before the minister sits down, I think my colleagues would allow it. The minister did not comment on the question I asked, How has this sort of pilot project worked out? I have another question before the minister gets up as well. I believe there were, what? Probably a-half a dozen communities who decided to go it on their own, so to speak, rather than have tenders called for contractors. That is one question I would like for him to comment on. Secondly, perhaps the minister could set it out in perspective for all of us in the Committee, Mr. Chairman, if he could give us a ball park figure on what would be the cost at this moment of completing all water and sewer system which have been requested or which are outstanding now in the province. For example, would it be \$200 million? I am not asking for anything exact but what is the range, what is the scale of money we are talking about in order to get water and sewer systems to an acceptable level or what might be considered acceptable by the people concerned?

MR. EARLE: Mr. Chairman, to answer the first question, first. With the experimental projects where councils themselves were allowed to employ consultants and contractors to do the work, the majority of these cases worked out fairly well. Some of them were quite bad, some of them did not work out at all well. This was generally due to the management and overseeing of the job and so on.

I would think in most cases we are quite satisfied with the work they did. I do not think that we will get away from that completely this year. We will probably have a look at the job and see if the council in our opinion is capable of doing it and having it done properly and we will probably go along with it. One cannot be too specific on this. One has to judge every case as it comes up.

Now on the ball park figure, I always hesitate to give this but I mentioned it several times. About six or eight months ago I was asked the same question and I said that in order to give the people satisfactory water and sewer systems in the areas where it is possible to do so, I estimated that it would cost about \$250 million. That is a very broad figure. Prices have escalated to the point now that I would not be at all surprised if that figure could not be revised to \$300 million. As a matter of fact this morning when I opened my remarks I stated that the projects which I considered urgent at the present time and which are presently really urgent requests are probably somewhat upwards of \$30 million, these which need immediate attention.

MR. WINSOR: Mr. Chairman, perhaps I should begin by complimenting the minister. After complimenting the minister I should be able to criticize if the need be. I want to compliment the minister on the way in which he has dealt with many delegations which I have arranged to see him. He has always been willing to meet a delegation even though they have, as he stated, gone away very unhappy. However, Mr. Chairman, the minister did mention the fact that there was approximately \$900,000 spent in the Fogo District in water and sewer systems. Musgrave Harbour I think is the one the minister mentioned and Carmanville. He omitted Lumsden I think. Lumsden has been just about completed.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. WINSOR: Do not discredit me by taking Lumsden out of Fogo District as yet. It may disappear in redistribution.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. WINSOR: That is fine.

Mr. Chairman, all of those systems were committed during the last administration. Most of the money I suppose was arranged and it was a matter of arranging for additional money to have the jobs completed. I am sure that the people of those communities are very appreciative. They are not too much concerned about when the systems were started as long as they enjoy the facilities and getting into our modern way of living by having water and sewer. It is next to roads. Water and sewer has taken on a new light in this province, Mr. Chairman. Every community of any size now is craving for some kind of a water and sewer system.

Mr. Chairman, I have to criticize the minister for not taking some positive action on the installation of the water system at Fogo. The minister is quite aware of the situation there. He should know better than anyone else in this honourable committee because having been born and having grown up there, he knows the community of Fogo better than I do. There is a dire need for some kind of a system at Fogo.

Mr. Chairman, for the past three years \$500,000 has been in the bank there in Fogo and no arrangement can be worked out or has been worked out with the Clean, Air, Water and Soil Authority to get that job off the ground. I feel the people of Fogo expect some positive action from the minister. They expected it last year. I hope this year that they will be able to get that. Whether they start phase one or phase two or the whole thing, it is very important, it is very essential. I would urge the minister to give full, special consideration. It is the land of his birth. No man can do any less

However, Mr. Chairman, there is a grave need for some source of a good supply of drinking water practically all over the District of Fogo. I named but a few. There is Joe Batt's Arm, another community which the minister is well familiar with, Shoal Bay, Tilting and Seldom, practically all the communities on Fogo Island. Then on

the mainland part of the district we have Horwood, Stoneville, Gander Bay, Clarke's Head, Fredericton, Davidsville and others.

I must say that the minister did make an attempt to have something done in providing wells in certain communities. Last year, Mr. Chairman, I received, as perhaps other members did, a letter from the minister's department advising us that a sum of \$5,000 was available to provide wells in certain communities and left the onus on the member to suggest in which communities that \$5,000 should be spent.

The honourable minister must realize that no member, if he should have any political sense at all, would place himself in a position where he would have to favour one community over another to have the meagerly sum of \$5,000 spent to provide a source of good drinking water.

Mr. Chairman, I think this is typical all over the district. How the minister is going to get around it, I do not know. I can appreciate the fact that the minister does not have enough money or sufficient money to do all of those things. Is it not possible to pinpoint where the water is most urgently needed? There are some places in the Fogo District during the summer and as a matter of fact all year round, during the hot weather of summer, if there should be such a thing, the frosty weather of winter and we know that there is lots of frost, where people are just unable to get sufficient water to manage their daily chores, in certain parts of Gander Bay and in that area, they go by truck and whatever other convenience they can get hold of.

Mr. Chairman, there is the matter of fire equipment. It is really frightening, Mr. Chairman, in some of those communities, there is not one single piece of equipment around within miles. If there were a fire to take place at Gander Bay, the nearest fire equipment I suppose is at Gander. God knows what would happen by the time they would get a fire engine out from Gander to fight a fire in any part of Gander Bay. There is some equipment I think at

Lumáden and Musgrave Harbour but these are probably the only two communities that I know of where there is any fire equipment at all. Those are matters which affect the lives of all of the people and especially in those communities where they are incorporated.

Mr. Chairman, I would like, as my colleague the Hon. Member for White Bay South, to request the minister - I feel that he will do justice to us and let us know what to expect. When I go to the District of Fogo, every town council, every community is asking me the same as they are asking I am sure every other member on both sides of the committee, "What is going to be done in our district this year? How are we going to get a good source of drinking water? Are we going to get our water and sewer system completed?"

Mr. Chairman, the minister or the deputy minister received a delegation yesterday from the Town Council of Carmanville. They are concerned because they find that they are going to be perhaps \$100,000 short of completing that system at Carmanville. Surely, Mr. Chairman, the minister will not permit the installation of part of that system without arranging for the full thing to be completed?

Mr. Chairman, I am asking the minister if he would be good enough, after today I would suspect that those estimates will get through, to see that delegations or the member will not have to go back to their communities and say we just cannot give any information on what is going to be done because the estimates have not been passed. We know, Mr. Chairman, that that is only a way of evading the real question. We know the minister knows right now how much money is going to be spent in each district, what systems he is going to undertake to have completed or new ones installed. Is that not correct?

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. WINSOR: It is not correct.

Well then if that be not correct, would the minister undertake to -

MR. NEARY: Where is their planning and priorities secretariate?

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. WINSOR: I would suspect that the minister knew a long time ago. However, if that be not the case, I accept that.

MR. NEARY: Get rid of the planning and priorities.

MR. WINSOR: Mr. Chairman, the minister, like we have, has a district which I am sure is very demanding for those services. I wonder will they be able to find out sooner than we are what is going to be done in that district or several others that I might have mentioned?

Mr. Chairman, I would plead with the minister to give us some information that we can take back. After all, one part is as good as the other. One part is as much as entitled to know what is going on as the other. Whether it is Progressive Conservative or Liberal, it does not make any difference. I am sure the honourable minister would not tolerate the impression from anyone that he would be more lenient towards a Progressive Conservative District than a Liberal District. I have a feeling that if the minister had to make a strong decision he would favour my district perhaps, the District of Fogo, in preference to maybe Hermitage or Fortune.

Mr. Chairman, I sincerely hope that the minister will be able to give us some information that we can take back. If the minister should want to tell it like it is, well then we shall hold him responsible. Of course, we will have to plead our case with the minister and hopefully we will be able to get the information that is expected of us.

MR. ROUSSEAU: Mr. Chairman, I would like to say a few words. I feel impelled to do so and I would like to say that I am thinking as an M.H.A., which is impossible I guess as a minister of the government. I should say a few words about the problems that arise out of Municipal Affairs and Housing which are quite unusual to my district,

when I hear the honourable members across the committee and my colleagues on this side of the committee, in respect to the towns that I represent in this committee, the Town of Labrador City, Wabush and Churchill Falls, which are amongst the nicest towns in the province, I would like to spend just a couple of minutes because I do not want to delay the proceedings. It is a time for the opposition to have the opportunity.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to go on record and for a few minutes I would like to go into the Town of Labrador City, Wabush and Churchill as they relate to the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Mr. Chairman, as you know in the activities of the municipalities and in the activities of the school boards in Labrador City, Wabush and Churchill Falls, the cost or by far the greatest amount of it is borne by the mining companies, the Iron, Ore Company of Canada, Wabush Mines and the Churchill Falls, Labrador Corporation. It is anywhere from sixty to eight per cent of the operational costs and the total capital costs. Psychologically this is certainly not a healthy situation. There is a feeling in the area which people have that what one is given is given by the companies. It is a rather paternalistic attitude. I guess the strong and deep pride of Newfoundlanders (There are many Newfoundlanders in Labrador, from all over the province, who have moved there) and the feeling is that they are really receiving handouts from the companies on a paternalistic basis and this is not something that makes them feel proud of the fact that they are part of this province.

Mr. Chairman, last year the grants were raised from \$75,000 to \$100,000. The municipalities were pleased, Labrador City and Wabush. Churchill Falls operates more or less as a private town. The \$25,000 increase was welcomed, as one dollar would be or \$25,000,000. It is still a long ways to go. I am sure I have talked with my colleague on a number of occasions. While it is not much, at least it is something. When one talks about operating

budgets in the area of \$3 million to \$5 million, when one is talking about the company proportion of that, one is talking about again the feeling that the mining companies are again going beyond the scope and people feel that government should become involved. Last year we were quite fortunate in that the first cabinet meeting of the island part of the province was held in Labrador City and Wabush, last July. The Premier stood and suggested at that time on behalf of the government that government should become more involved in the mining towns. We certainly welcome that principle.

By law, under the acts that created the corporations in Labrador City and Wabush, they are not asked to pay more than forty per cent of the operating budget of the municipality. In effect they pay seventy-five and eighty per cent. It is a difficult situation, as I said, from a psychological point of view. People like to feel that their government is helping. I would like to see the programmes that relate to this type of thing, the grants being raised with the acknowledgement that part of the tax dollar is being returned to the people who pay them. That really is a minor situation. It is in hand now. I am sure that with the passage of time and the study that my colleague has going on in the area now in Labrador City that, sooner or later, of course, possibly there will be an elected town council in the area and things may change at that time.

Mr. Chairman, the most important thing I would like to bring up is the question of housing. Perhaps nowhere in the province is there any more need for housing than in Labrador City and Wabush. There may be other places which need as much. The housing up there is built by the company for the company employees. There are long lists of people who are waiting for houses in Labrador City and Wabush. There is a long list of company employees.

Mr. Chairman, as we all know, in any situation where one has a one-industry town, like Labrador City and Wabush or like any other area, one is going to have the situation whereby one has to

have service industries. It often comes as a shock to people when I tell them that there are over 3,000 people employed in the service industry in Labrador City, not I.O.C. employees but people outside of the mining companies. There are 3,000 employees or more now. That was the latest figures we received some time ago. These people need housing. There are some houses in Labrador City or some apartment buildings that are open to the general public. I am talking about the non-I.O.C. employees. In many instances many of the I. O. C. employees, who have not been there very long, of course, have problems acquiring houses. Our turnover rate is unbelievable with regard to people leaving the area because they they cannot get housing.

Mr. Chairman, for somebody who has lived in Wabush and Labrador City, there is a special feeling of community there. I have been at it for twelve years now and I still cannot get used to it when the grapevines starts, the telephone rings and we hear that somebody is leaving town, somebody we know and this is constantly going on, day in and day out. We never get used to the news that somebody else is leaving, somebody who is part of the community. Often times the reason is housing. We have a great need for housing.

Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased that the minister has directed his officials as well as the members of the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation to enter negotiations with Wabush Mines. Wabush has offered land in the Town of Wabush for a housing development of one kind or another. Unfortunately, of course, because one is in the north, (I will now say it here) the cost of preparing the building lots for these are abnormal because of the area in which one is. There is no way on the rough estimates that I now hear that a person could afford a building lot. They are quite extensive, quite high. I do not know what is going to be done but something has to be done.

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We are not crying and shouting. We feel the time has come to recognize that there is some money coming out of Labrador City and Wabush

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and there is some going back. I think right now in my estimation that probably the number one problem that we have now is housing. It is housing for those IOC employees who are unable to get them and those Wabush Mines employees who are unable to get them as well as housing for the other people in the area. The serviced industries, they have no housing.

Young families come up in there, like many of us did. It is a very young population. They want to settle down and live there for a lifetime and life is good and clean and simple up there. Because there is no housing available, they do not stay for the period of time that would make the community a stable place in which to live.

The efforts so far of my colleague I am very grateful for. I think the people also share my attitude in this respect. I think that we have to get something done. I know that I am saying this for the record but I must say one thing, that my colleague did send some officials of his department into Labrador City and Wabush and they met with various people. I read the report that they gave when they came back. The report was as accurate as if they had had it from somebody who had lived there for a lifetime. The picture is well-known by the minister.

I stand merely now to plead on behalf of the people of Labrador City and Wabush that everything be done possible - I know the minister is doing this - but everything possible be done in order to provide housing for the people of Labrador City and Wabush, for those people with the Iron Ore Company of Canada and Wabush Mines who cannot get housing and especially those people who are not employees of either company and who find it next to impossible to acquire housing.

When they do and it is a basement apartment, some of the prices that they have to pay for rent are exorbitant. It is unfortunate and it is a matter of grave concern to all the people in Labrador City and Wabush and to myself and I know also to government. So, merely I stand for a few minutes to ask the minister publicly to continue his efforts which I am very pleased with and to make every effort, which I am sure he will do, to provide some housing, some government housing, in the Labrador City, Wabush area as soon as is humanly possible.

I can assure the honourable minister and I can assure this committee, Sir, that the people up there would appreciate it greatly. I think they have waited a long while patiently for it. I think the time has come when they would like to see some positive and real effects of the housing programme of this province in their back yard. So, I thank him for these few minutes. I did not mean to take up any time but I think it is a matter of significant importance to the people in my district to bring it to the attention of the committee and ask their concurrence in my support for this cause.

Let me say one thing too that I might add in closing. The people in my district in effect are people from all the districts. The forty-one districts in the province are in my district. It is the cosmopolitan area of the province. So, in effect in standing up and asking for this I am asking for support because they are people who lived in the various bays and coves and towns and inlets and parts of Labrador and parts of the island. So, they are your people and they are in my district for one year or ten years or maybe for the rest of their life. So, the plea is on behalf of all of them. I am sure that it will be heard by the minister and appropriate action will be taken.

MR. WILSON: While sitting here and listening to the honourable members speaking of their districts and water and sewerage, I myself have been put to wonder from sitting down there if I have a district at all. because my district takes in, Sir, Georgetown, Brigus, Juniper Stump, Cupids, Bay Roberts, Port de Grave and Country Road, Clarke's Beach, South River, North River, and Halls Town.

Neither one of these communities in my district has any water and sewerage but I can assure you, Sir, that a few of them have plenty of pollution. I am wondering why, by listening to the honourable members this evening in this honourable committee and hearing the money that is being spent in different districts, Sir, there could not be some spent in my district because it has been a great honourable or Liberal district for years and years. I am wondering why it was overlooked.

Nevertheless, Mr. Chairman, I suppose we are all here for a purpose. That purpose is to do the best for our fellowman, let him be Liberal, Tory, NDP, whatever category he stands in. To me, Sir, and in this honourable House that would be my attitude since I am here. Neither do I want to pretend to be looking for anything for people they have not asked for. I intend when it is put before me to see it, to ask for something for the people who need it and there is a necessity surely, should the burden be placed on my shoulders to do so and if I am not in the position to do that, I should take my back seat.

Now, especially referring to the Town of Clarke's Beach, people may say, "Well, you live there." I am not altogether interested in my own field as far as that is concerned. If I do not want to drink pollution, probably I may be able to afford without coming to the government to dig an artesian well. That is not saying that my next door neighbor can do the same thing. Somewhere along the line they have to be provided for.

Well, in the Town of Clarke's Beach we have an old peoples' home there. There are about a hundred people in it. As far as I understand, a lot of the wells in that area are being polluted because the system is not working well. Since going to the department, there have been engineering studies done on this.

Also, the next town that is deeply buried in pollution is the Town of Brigus. The reason why is because it is lying in a lower land area on a level with the sea. Other communities by the hillside and what not have a better chance to get clear of pollution than somebody who is down on the sea level. So, the Town of Brigus, I think, had an engineering study back in the good old Liberal days. There was nothing done with it, nothing done about it.

Sure, I am not naive enough to come into this honourable House and figure that the Town of Clarke's Beach and Bay Roberts and all of these can be all done at the one time when I understand that in Bay Roberts the work now will take about \$4 million to do the water system, about \$3 million for Coley's Point, about \$385,000

for Mercer's Cove, Bay Roberts, \$89,000 to draw a line to come from the old peoples' home at Clarke's Beach. I understand it is a quarter of a million dollars or more for Brigus. Naturally, if all of this were thrown into one place there would be lots of people who would not receive anything.

In the olden days, Sir, as far as when I came up, there were not very many apples or oranges kicking around. There may have been one but everybody was looking for a part of it. Wisely enough it was shared. I think that we should in this honourable House feel in the same position. Some of us can get by without water and sewerage and people are not asking for it. While they are not asking, why would government put the burden on their shoulders of having to take something on them when these people are not even looking for it. The people who are looking for it as a necessity to them, surely we should give it to them if possible. That takes money.

Listening here in this honourable House this evening about what water and sewerage programmes have been put forward, I think there is a lot of money involved. Another thing we have to consider is since all the water and sewerage programmes have been given out and the contract is after getting out and all the rest of it and while I am satisfied to go along with the honourable minister's not releasing where it is going to be done, the contractors are all apt to jump in as soon as they hear that the money is going to be spent there.

I am one here to stand on this floor and say that just about half of this cost could put the water and sewerage in lots of places, for half the money. This is what is leading us where we are to. I know myself that as far as the department is concerned in the Liberal days as well as in the Progressive Conservative days - I was the mayor of Clarke's Beach over there for four years - I never had any trouble coming over to try to get something found out in the council area. I tell you that there have been a lot of things done that no one had to sit down and start figuring before they did it.

My district from one end to the other is about eighteen or twenty miles from end to end. In that district there is a council in Clarke's Beach - and just across the bridge from one community to another. There is a council in Clarke's Beach, a council in South River, a council in North River, a council in Cupids, a council in Brigus, a council in Bay Roberts, in the vicinity of twenty miles. There is a fire truck in Brigus, a fire truck in Cupida. They are looking for one in South River, looking for one in Clarke's Beach. There is a fire truck in Bay Roberts. When a fire hall can be built half way into town, there is only ten miles and they can be to every home there.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Do they all go to the fires?

MR. WILSON: They all go to the fires when they are called. They have to get voluntary men to go on them. Honourable gentlemen know what that is. Why not come through a system and build a fire hall and put a paid crew around the shop when the fire trucks are there? I could be taxed and the other fellow could be taxed because his insurance would be that much cheaper that he would be able to pay extra tax.

Somewhere along the line someone did not do their homework for twenty-three years. I am sorry to have to say it. I am one with the other members in this honourable House who are after falling in the category that we have to take this upon our shoulders and be told that this is not done and that is not done. We are the same as a man whose business has fallen into debt. We are paying off the debt. Until the debt is paid off, we cannot get on our feet. There is no man who can swim with a load on his back.

I am not pretending to know it all as far as this government is concerned or any other government. If the Liberal government were in power or the NDP were in power, they would have to have the money to do the job. We have to utilize what we have and do the best with it. We have no cause to see what is going ahead in this honourable House, calling one gentleman down and the other one because they are in separate parties. Surely, we can go out on the street and meet man to man and come in this honourable House, and they are trying to get at the skin. If a member is elected for a district, whatever he may be, he should try to do the best he can and to the best of his ability. I find this in this day and age to

be a very, very sad thing to be handing out to a younger generation. Tomorrow the generation that is coming is only going to be as good in the future day as what we build it. Surely if we are not men enough to try to build it and be honest in our ways about it, we cannot expect to reap any benefits.

Right here now I do not want to try to put any pressure on, but Briggs is a town of low lands and if we only had everybody who is looking for water and sewerage in lots of cases in communities, if we either had sewerage out and if we never had sewerage out, we had water in, it would solve the problem. One of these things would offset pollution. If we got clean water in, there is no water going to be polluted because we got it in. If we have sewerage out, there is no sewerage to pollute the water because it is gone out.

This is where we are all wrong. A little town wants water and sewerage. There is thousands of water there but they want water and sewerage. It is one or the other. I heard in this honourable House today from the honourable member, for St. Barbe North I think it was, that he could not find out and see why there were special priorities for water and sewerage. Well, I say there is a special priority if there is a town that is polluted in low level land. If that is polluted, well that should be a priority. If a town is built on a hillside, the pollution is running away from them. So, therefore it is running down on the low land fellow and he has all the pollution. Well, I say that is a priority.

I think we should try to reason out and try to do the best we can for those communities that are in need of such water and sewerage. People are looking for it but let us find out and see before we cast it over on the people that the people are even satisfied to pay taxes when that time comes to receive the benefits. Until we arrive at that, we are going to be in a sad position. I hope the honourable minister and this government will find fit to try to look after water and sewerage in some of the areas of which I have spoken about if they have the funds to do so. If they have not got the funds, well, we just have to wait until the money is relieved. Thank you.

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MR. NEARY: I must say, Sir, what the member for Port de Grave says makes a lot of sense. Sir, the first thing I want to do now while I am on my feet - I am going to change the subject slightly after I raise this matter. Somebody called me, I think it was yesterday, to ask me to bring to the attention of the committee that a sewer line is being put in, I believe over in New Perlican. Is there a sewer line being put in at the present time in New Perlican?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: New Perlican. Well, it was pointed out to me, Sir, that the sewerage, the outfall from the sewerage is going to be right down on the beach where people swim, where the kids go swimming in the summertime. I am told that there are picnic tables right on or near that beach. The person who called me from that community, I think it was last night or the night before, asked me to bring it to the minister's attention because it certainly would not be conducive to a good picnic sight, Sir, to have the sewerage flowing right out in the salt water there, right on the beach. I would like to bring that to the minister's attention and have it checked into because maybe what is needed there, Sir, is a sewerage treatment plant.

I know there are other areas of Newfoundland where sewerage is running out in the salt water and there are areas where they have sewerage treatment plants but this one apparently is right in an area where people go to have picnics and so forth.

Now, Sir, I want to change the subject for a few moments if I may because the Minister of Municipal Affairs is also responsible for housing. I want to change the subject for a few moments and talk about housing. Now, my colleague, the Leader of the Opposition, put forward a number of suggestions and ideas and proposals to the minister yesterday. I do not propose to go over these again, Sir, but there were some good ideas thrown out by the Leader of the Opposition. I hope that the minister will take note of them.

What I want to talk about first of all, Sir, before I get to the royal commission report on the cost of home construction and housing in this province, a report of the Commission of Enquiry, I think it

was done by Mr. Kostaszek, 1959, I want to refer to this report, Sir, but before I do I want to bring to the attention of the committee a statement that the minister made the other day that I was rather interested in. The minister in outlining a sort of a housing policy, in trying to defend the administration's lack of a policy I suppose, was being interviewed by CBC, I think it was "Here and Now".

I heard the minister make a statement that sort of caught my attention. That was the minister more or less was abusing the Government of Canada for not removing the twelve per cent sales tax on building materials. The minister was merely parroting, Sir, his counterparts in Ottawa. The Tory members of parliament have been talking about this for some time without too much success. So, the thought immediately occurred to me, Sir, then if this minister, our provincial minister responsible for housing, is sincere in what he is saying, really means it, is acting in good faith, then why would not the province - they have it all in their own hands - remove the eight per cent sales tax on building materials in this province?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Ottawa has much more money than we do.

MR. NEARY: Oh, the minister says that Ottawa has much more money than they have. Well, Sir, the minister knows full well that to remove the eight per cent sales tax in this province would probably cause the province in loss of

revenue of about \$25 million because I am told the matter has already been investigated. The loss in revenue would be around \$25 million. How much would the Government of Canada lose in revenue? The minister thinks that the Government of Canada have their own printing press up there - money running out of their ears. Sir, it is just as right and just as proper for me to suggest to the minister that his government remove the eight per cent sales tax on building materials in this province as it is for the minister to go on television and publicly abuse the Government of Canada for not removing the twelve per cent sales tax.

The minister could say to me, "Oh, it is easy, you are over in opposition, to make this suggestion but where will we make up the loss in revenue?" Does not the Government of Canada use the same argument against the minister?

But, Sir, be that as it may, the thing that irritates me in this province, Mr. Chairman, is the eight per cent that is tacked on to manufactured homes, Atlantic Design Homes that are manufactured out in Stephenville. The minister knows full well, Sir, that in the case of these homes there is rank discrimination - discrimination of the worst sort. Not only is the eight per cent tacked on to the building materials but the eight per cent is added on to the selling price of that home. The selling price - they are collecting the eight per cent on everything, Sir, even the profit that Atlantic Design Homes are making.

I am told, Mr. Chairman, I have it from a very, very reliable source, that an Atlantic Design Home, Sir, a manufactured house in Stephenville can be put on a foundation in Eastern Newfoundland, and this is of some interest to the Committee, now just listen to this - an Atlantic Design Home, a manufactured house out in Stephenville can be put on a foundation here on the East Coast of Newfoundland for \$16,900. Now let us say a potential homeowner has a piece of land or can get a piece of land for \$3,000, \$4,000 or \$5,000, he can put in his foundation probably for \$2,500. So his piece of land and his foundation would probably cost him about say \$6,500. He can get the manufactured

home put on that foundation for \$16,900. You know what the total cost then is, Mr. Chairman? The total cost of that house is \$23,400.

Well let us give him an outside price. Let us exaggerate it a little bit. An individual here on the East Coast of this province can get a manufactured home from Stephenville put on a foundation, paying for the piece of land for \$25,000. Why in the name of heavens, I do not understand this, why are our people then going for the expensive homes? Why are they paying \$45,000 and \$50,000, \$55,000 and \$60,000 for a home? Is it because this company in Stephenville have not been able to get their message across?

I was really amazed, Mr. Chairman, I am sure members of the Committee who are listening to me will be amazed. The same home, it is a three bedroom home, it is well constructed, it is a magnificent home, Sir, I have been in them. When I was the Minister of Social Services I brought fourteen or fifteen or sixteen of these homes for welfare officers. The same home, a three bedroom home, can be put on a foundation on the West Coast for \$15,700. So on the West Coast you can do it for a little over \$1,000 less than on the East Coast. It is absolutely fantastic, Sir.

I did not believe that in this day and age when the cost of homes have gone completely out of reach of the ordinary people that you could still get a home put on a foundation, and incidentally, Mr. Chairman, it is not necessary to put in a foundation. If you had a piece of land they would put the home there for \$16,900, It does not need a foundation but the ideal situation of course would be to have the foundation. This company out in Stephenville, Sir, this is not a commercial for Atlantic Design Homes by any stretch of the imagination but it is a pretty good piece of information to pass along to the general public.

The factory out in Stephenville is capable of manufacturing 500 homes a year. They are turning out now an average of 150 homes a year. That means that they can at maximum capacity produce another 350 homes.

So I would like for the minister, Sir, I do not know if there is a problem with these homes. Are these homes not accepted by municipalities?

By the City of St. John's? By the City of Corner Brook? The Town of Grand Falls? Are they acceptable? I remember first when these homes came on the market, Sir, I heard it said by people who, you know, had pretty half decent homes; "There is no manufactured home going on this street, going next to my house because all they do is decrease the value of my property." Is that still the situation? Is there a stigma attached to these homes? I do not think so, Sir. Some pretty well-to-do people living in some of these homes today.

The Atlantic Design Home that is manufactured in Stephenville has come a long way since they established that industry out there a few years ago. I am told, Sir, that this company ranks with the best in Canada, has one of the finest reputations of any company manufacturing homes in Canada. It is practically number one on the list. They have come a long way. They have a good reputation. Well what is wrong, people are not buying these homes? I hear every day young people cannot afford to buy homes because they are too expensive \$55,000, \$60,000.

I am also told, Mr. Chairman, and I do not know if this is correct or not, that the pre-cut homes are doing a thriving business in Newfoundland, doing a thriving business. Right down here off the Torbay Road where a development is taking place, you can see the tractor trailers going by this building practically every day with a load of joists and beams, board all pre-cut. You know where it is pre-cut, Mr. Chairman? Up in Montreal.

So it is hard to understand, Sir, why our people are not going for these low-cost homes, these low-priced homes. They would rather import the pre-cut material from Montreal and to put a house up. Even with the pre-cut material from Montreal - I see them advertised in our local papers every day - it is still going to cost \$35,000 or \$40,000 to put that home down there on the Torbay Road or wherever they are putting them up in Newfoundland.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Is that right? \$35,000 or \$40,000?

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Even with these pre-cut homes?

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Except the manufactured home, I am just pointing out to the Committee, \$16,900 put on the foundation. Does my honourable colleague know that you could get a home in Newfoundland for that price?

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Well I just said it. You do not even need a foundation. It is an ideal situation to have the foundation but to put in a foundation I would say would cost about \$2,500. To buy a piece of land what? \$4,000 or \$5,000?

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Well, okay, fine! Maybe this is the problem.

AN HON. MEMBER: Land is the problem.

MR. NEARY: Pardon?

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Aw, well maybe land is the problem.

AN HON. MEMBER: A great big problem.

MR. NEARY: Perhaps the minister could tell us what his administration, what his department intends to do about this land situation. What I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, I am going to throw this out and we have been accused on numerous occasions on this side of the Committee of not being positive and constructive in our thinking, we do not put forward any new ideas or any constructive ideas. I am going to suggest to the minister now, Sir, that they provide, the government, his minister's department provide the land up on which to put a substantial number of these manufactured homes from Stephenville. Let the government pay for it and let the government put the homes on the foundations then sell them to the individuals. Does that not make sense? Instead of going off with illusions of grandeur and putting up these luxurious homes, the windows leaking and the walls popping out and the poor consumer with no protection, no guarantee against poor workmanship and shoddy workmanship,

these homes I imagine from Stephenville could pass the test. Why would not the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation? I am glad to see my honourable friend, the Chairman, no not the Chairman, the Manager.

AN HON. MEMBER: The Chairman.

MR. NEARY: The Chairman of the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation here in the Chamber today to hear my few remarks.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Pardon?

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: No, I am not trying to be nice, Sir, I am just trying to be objective and trying to be helpful.

Well, Mr. Chairman, why not buy these homes by the hundreds, not by the dozens by the hundreds, and stick them up? The government have the land down in the new satellite city. They have land all over this city, down in Virginia Waters.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: No land down there? Up the Torbay Road? Why does not the government, Sir, put the foundations in and put these homes on the foundations and sell them for \$25,000 or \$26,000? I am sure there would be a lineup tomorrow morning, people would be cued up from here down to the overpass to get one of these homes.

The whole trouble is, Mr. Chairman, there is not enough initiative not enough imagination has gone into this whole problem of housing. No fault of the Chairman of the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation. I know the honourable gentleman is governed by the policy of the administration. But, Sir, this strikes me as being a reasonable proposal. Why would the government not do this? Why would they not do it? Is there any reason?

This outfit out in Stephenville now producing 150 homes a year average can go up to 500 homes, at \$26,000 a home. Even if you said \$28,000 a home, would you still be getting a low cost home compared to the price of constructing a home? And the carpenters -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Pardon?

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

MR. NEARY: Sure! Go ahead!

MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, I think the honourable Member for Bell Island in what he is getting along to is right. I back him up on that as far as I am concerned. Not \$26,000. I, myself, was in the building and construction out in the outports. I can supply a two bedroom home, land and the whole business, for less than \$15,000 and a three bedroom home, that is with no basement, built on a concrete foundation, a three bedroom home, a house, three bedrooms, forty-two by twenty-six, is \$17,500, the house, land and all, fit for the king to go into.

MR. NEARY: Well does the honourable member -

MR. WILSON: Excuse me! And being at it since 1943, never had to charge a cent interest on my money and could supply for seven and eight years, and in here in this honourable House of Assembly, my business today is worth half a million dollars.

MR. NEARY: Does the member's company pre-cut? Pre-cut homes are they? Does he pre-cut them?

MR. WILSON: No build them? They are right ready, take them right out of the raw stock, right ready to build them and put them into.

MR. NEARY: Well there you go, Mr. Chairman, I did not think there were any low-cost homes left in this province.

MR. ROWE, W. N. The land cost is the problem.

MR. NEARY: The trouble is the land. This is the problem.

MR. WILSON: Land costs a lot where I am speaking of, cost about probably \$1,000 a building, a building lot.

AN HON. MEMBER: It is not serviced land though?

MR. WILSON: No it is not serviced. Use septic tanks and all the rest of it.

MR. NEARY: Well, Sir, that is a very helpful piece of information.

But, Sir, I am going to suggest also to the minister when I am on the question of manufactured homes in Stephenville that the eight per cent retail sales tax on these manufactured homes be abolished and that would reduce the price of the home further, Sir, would bring it down to, (let me see. Eight per cent of \$16,900 - \$48,55) would save the homeowner, the buyer, \$1,352. That is a substantial saving, Sir, for a young couple trying to get a roof over their heads today.

Now the government may not find it within their power, no more than the Government of Canada have been able to do it, to eliminate the twelve per cent sales tax on building material, the federal twelve per cent. This province may not be able to see their way clear to eliminate the eight per cent sales tax on building material in this province but they could take it off the manufactured home, Sir, and give the poor people of this province who are trying to get a roof over their heads an opportunity to own a home of their own.

I believe the day is long past, Sir, when there is a stigma attached to a manufactured home. Welfare officers are living in them all over this province, doctors. If my memory serve me correctly, Sir, the Department of Health bought a number of these homes a few years ago to be used as doctors' residence in various parts of the province.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Pardon?

AN HON. MEMBER: One in Trinity.

MR. NEARY: One in Trinity. Magistrates? I do believe, Sir, that magistrates are living in these homes, these manufactured homes, manufactured out in Stephenville.

AN HON. MEMBER: One.

MR. NEARY: One. Well that is what I said, I do believe that magistrates are living in them. I believe there is more than one.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Pardon?

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Complaining about the home.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Is that a manufactured home he is putting into this?

AN HON. MEMBER: No.

MR. NEARY: But, Sir, the opportunity is there. I am sure that a lot of people in this province would be very proud and very happy, and would be very pleased to own one of these manufactured homes. I hope this will not be construed as meaning that I am putting in a commercial for Atlantic Design Homes because it is not, but he is in the process of doing some research on housing in this province, this is just a little item that I happened to stumble upon. I thought it would be a piece of information worthwhile passing on to the committee.

Now, Sir, in the last few days we have been told that mortgage money at certain lending institutions in this province has dried up. Of course, we are well aware of the facts, Sir, the interest rates on mortgage money is eleven and a-half per cent, I think, at the moment on a new home and eleven and three-quarter per cent on an old home.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: I am coming to that. Certain lending institutions you cannot even borrow the money at all but in others, Sir, you have to now wack down forty per cent as a down payment. I do not know what the trust companies insist on as a down payment. I think it varies. Perhaps some of the lawyers who deal in real estate matters could tell me but I understand it varies anywhere from fifteen, twenty, twenty-five or thirty per cent, depending on the mood and I suppose the fiscal situation at the moment but in the chartered banks, most of the chartered banks I am told in this province you cannot at this moment borrow a nickel mortgage money, if you can, you have to wack forty per cent down. It used to be I think five per cent, ten per cent, I believe it was five per cent. I think it went as low as five per cent.

MR. ROWE, W.N. You could go up to ninety-five per cent.

MR. NEARY: That is right. You could borrow ninety-five per cent. Your mortgage could be up to ninety-five per cent, five per cent down payment. Now it is forty per cent.

MR. HICKMAN: It is going to get worse.

MR. NEARY: It is going to get worse. The Minister of Justice says it is going to get worse, Sir, that is all the more reason why we should be looking around for alternatives, why we should be trying to solve this problem and not just sitting back hoping it will disappear, hoping that it will evaporate in thin air, because it is not going to, as the Minister of Justice pointed out.

So I would submit, Sir, that the minister and his colleagues give very serious consideration to dropping this eight per cent retail sales tax on the selling price

of manufactured homes in this province. This is one area, Sir, in my opinion where a lot of our people can, if the land be made available and I think it is up to the government to make the land available, serviced land, and not even sell the land to these poor individuals who are trying to get a roof over their heads, not even sell it to them, not sell the land, Sir, lease it to them. The government should buy and service the land. I do not know how much they have got under their control now. They must have a fair amount especially down here in the satellite city. Lease the land to the individuals who want to buy homes and after they pay off their home, if they want to buy the land, well sell it to them over a period of ten or fifteen years. What is wrong with that? They are doing it up in Ontario. God only knows the people up in Ontario are in a better position financially to purchase homes than the people in Newfoundland where we have the second lowest per capita income in Canada. I think P.E.I. has that reputation now, do they not, of being the lowest?

MR. WM. ROWE: Yes.

MR. NEARY: Or second, why not lease the land to these potential home owners? If they want to buy it, fine, if they can afford to buy it, but I do not think very many people can afford to buy a building lot today. But it is up to the government, Sir, to find the alternatives. These people cannot afford to buy the land and the house. They cannot get a mortgage for the land and the house or they cannot meet high monthly payments. Why not lease them the land until they get their house paid for? Then if they want to buy the land, sell it to them. If not, carry on with the lease. That might be one of the solutions, Sir, to the very serious problem that we have facing us in this province in connection with housing.

Now, Sir, I would like to refer if I may for a few moments to the Report of the Commission of Enquiry on the Cost of Home Construction and Housing in Newfoundland. Honourable members will probably remember, Mr. Chairman, that this enquiry was commissioned because of a controversy that developed between myself and the legal profession in this province over the high legal rates that are charged for real estate transactions in this province, one of the bitterest controversies, Sir, that every raged in this province.

I remember how it started. I made a statement to "The Evening Telegram" one day, Sir, and as a result of that statement it apparently caught the imagination and caught the attention of the whole of Newfoundland and I was invited to appear on a television programme, I think it was "Analysis", where the gentleman who at the time was Secretary of the Newfoundland Law Society or the Newfoundland Bar Society, one Don Mercer, he was secretary of the Newfoundland Bar Society at the time and I will never forget that afternoon.

MR. WM. ROWE: He will not either.

MR. NEARY: I did my homework and I had my case well prepared when that gentleman came to the CJON television studio, and he was not too well prepared. I do not want to boast, Sir, but I was head and shoulders over him. I had never read a law book in my life, Sir, and I could snow him under and he got mad and he threatened to walk off the television programme. He said, "I do not have to put up with this." I kept referring to the Law Society and the "Lawyers' Union" and I said they had the best closed shop in the world. He did not like that. You know, nobody dare criticize the lawyers, the Bar Society. "Who do you think you are? You little fellow from Quigley's Line, you know, to dare criticize the lawyers in this province." So, one of the biggest controversies that ever developed in this province.

I will bet you, Sir, I was about two-and-a-half months, night and day, radio and television, newspapers, being interviewed here, there, everywhere, I was beat to a frazzle trying to keep up to it. Then lo and behold! one day I got a call from the gentleman who happened to be the Premier of the Province at the time. I am going to tell the committee something now, Sir, that I have never told anybody before in my life.

MR. NEARY: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Yes that is - now I did not put it that way. But he reminded me that I had a number of colleagues who were lawyers and they were beginning to be a bit resentful. They were beginning to detest this little upstart from Quigley's Line that was out criticizing the lawyers for the high legal fees they were charging and wanted to know what I was going to do about it.

I said, "Nothing. I am going to keep this battle going until the government does something about it." I happened to be sitting just inside the rail at the time as a private member in this House. Well that honourable gentleman thought that I should know that my colleagues were not too pleased about this. They were after speaking to him. But he did not tell me to quit. He did not tell me to stop. He just said, "Boy, you are doing a good job. Keep up the good work." I knew. I got the message, Sir. I knew that some of my colleagues - when I would walk in the Common Room and sit down you could cut the tension, the silence. My honourable colleague knows. I think we were both partners in crime at the same time.

MR. WM. ROWE: That is right.

MR. NEARY: Anyway, Sir, about two weeks later the controversy was still raging, about two weeks later I got the call from Mrs. Templeman to come to the eighth floor right away, emergency, urgent. I rushed down, thought I was going to be flicked out of the House, I figured, this is it, the lawyers have won out. The ordinary poor little layman, the fellow who is fighting for the ordinary poor people of this province is going down, going to be flung out on his ear. When I went down, much to my surprise, I was congratulated for the job that I had done for the past couple of months on exposing this situation to the general public and I was told that there was going to be a royal commission appointed to look into the high cost of housing, not the high cost of legal fees, to look into the high cost of housing in Newfoundland, because it was indicated to me that it would be far better not just to zero in on legal fees. "This is only one aspect of the high cost of housing in this province. Look at all the contributing factors to the high cost of housing."

Well I scratched my head and I said, "Well, I think I would prefer just to deal with one item. I would personally prefer to stick to the legal fees rather than muddy up the water." But anyway I was sold on the idea that we should take a look at the cost of home construction and housing in this province generally and I bought it because I thought it was a good idea. It

was something that was necessary and something that had to be done.

So, Mr. Leonard Kostaszek, a gentleman from Ontario, was commissioned as a one-man commission of enquiry. Mr. Kostaszek I think about a year later and probably \$75,000 or \$80,000 richer - How much was it?

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: About \$100,000 richer out of the public treasury produced volumes one and two of his report and I doubt very much, Mr. Chairman, I doubt very much, I happened to be a member of the Cabinet when the report was submitted and I doubt very much, Sir, if many members of the House have really taken the trouble to read this report. I know I have not. I must confess, Sir, I have not taken the trouble. When I get one of these royal commission reports the first thing I go for is the recommendations. I never go for the nonsense, the back-up material, the - I was going to use an unparliamentary term then - the stuff in between. I never go for that at all. I go straight for the recommendations and so in this particular case I glanced through the report and I went for the recommendations.

Now, Sir, when the minister estimates were coming up I decided to dust off this report because it has been laid on the shelf somewhere in Confederation Building. Not one of the recommendations of this report in my opinion and I could be wrong, perhaps the minister can tell me, has ever been implemented. The report was put away in one of the dark closets of Confederation Building and it has never yet seen the light of day. Sir, the report came in in 1969, we were kicked out in 1971. Probably the report was lying dormant for the two years that we were there and it has been lying dormant for the two years that this administration is there. So this is one time, Sir, when we can both share the blame.

MR. WM. ROWE: One thing was done by us, the condominium legislation - but the Minister of Justice will not set the regulations.

MR. NEARY: Oh yes, that is right. I am glad my colleague reminded me of that. The condominium legislation, we put it through this House and every day I hear reference on radio and television why is it not proclaimed? I heard a gentleman the other night in the construction industry -

MR. WM. ROWE: Mr. Foley, the president.

MR. NEARY: That is right. Mr. Foley said, "Well, if we could only get this condominium legislation proclaimed, why we might be able to make some homes available to people in this province, in St. John's especially."

MR. HICKMAN: The regulations are drafted.

MR. NEARY: The regulations are drafted. Well, Sir, that is probably one good thing that came out of the Kostazek Report. But generally speaking the report has been gathering dust, Sir.

Mr. Chairman, one thing that the report proved, and if I never do anything else in this world, Mr. Chairman, if I never accomplish anything else in this world, and I was paying attention to my honourable friend from Placentia East this morning when he was up telling us about all the great things that the lawyers were doing in this province and I heard my colleague here on my right, the member for Bonavista North say, "Yes, but it is going to cost the taxpayers \$200,000." I remember the member saying; "The people are getting all this for nothing."

There is no such thing, people are getting it for nothing. They helped to pay for it, they are paying for it out of their tax money, getting legal-aid.

MR. MARSHALL: Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

MR. NEARY: What is the point of order?

MR. MARSHALL: My hourly reminder; we have now passed the six hours left mark, we are now almost down to five. I know they cannot be relevant but I just want to remind the honourable member that he is being irrelevant as he has been irrelevant for approximately sixty of the sixty-six hours. Now he may proceed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The honourable member is reminded of the rule of relevancy.

MR. NEARY: Of course, Mr. Chairman, but I might say, Mr. Chairman, that tomorrow, Sir, I am due to go to Bell Island to walk in a fifteen mile walkaton, sponsored there by the Bell Island Football Association, and honourable members were very generous to me today in this honourable House. I think the count right now is \$242 I have managed to raise today,

on both sides of the House, Sir, for this charitable -

AN HON. MEMBER: You have to walk fifteen miles.

MR. NEARY: You have got to walk the fifteen miles but Sir, my honourable friend said that he was not sure whether it was bribery or corruption but -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: I do not believe I got the honourable member's \$5.00 yet and maybe when I am finished, Sir -

MR. AYLWARD: With the amazing legal fees, all on this side are going to withdraw their offer.

MR. NEARY: I have the cash, Sir, in my pocket. But I do not have the honourable member's \$5.00, Mr. Chairman. You know what the prize is Sir? Whoever raises the most money gets a prize and you know what the prize is, Sir? A pair of football boots. So the honourable members better watch out next week because I will really be putting the boots to them.

AN HON. MEMBER: No announcements on radio and television this weekend.

MR. NEARY: The television cameras will probably be there tomorrow. But, Sir, Mr. Kostaszek agreed with me. After his research, after his interviews with the Law Society, he did confirm that legal fees for real estate transactions in this province were out of line, completely out of line with the rest of Canada.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: My honourable colleague here last night I think it was or the Leader of the Opposition said they are the highest in Canada.

MR. WM. ROWE: There is no lawyer in Newfoundland on welfare.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: I am not too familiar with the legal fees for litigation. I do not know. Well maybe, maybe I will.

MR. WM. ROWE: What did Kostaszek say?

MR. NEARY: Mr. Kostaszek, Sir, made a recommendation to the government. "Legal and professional fees," Mr. Kostaszek said and here is what he said, Sir, "The Commission believes that any review of professional fees generated from real estate transactions must be the sole responsibility of the Newfoundland

Law Society, preferably as one aspect of the total fee schedule," he says. Then he put a note down on the bottom, "The Commission's terms of reference only include the review of real estate fee schedules and so forth. Any attempt to legislate professional fees," he said, "would have a detrimental effect on professional practices in the province. Our remarks therefore outline a course of action which we will offer to the members of the society for their very serious consideration."

Want to hear the rest of the recommendation? "One," here is what Mr. Kostaszek said, "One - appoint committee to review existing professional fee schedules. We recommend that the Newfoundland Law Society appoint a committee to review the existing legal fee schedules and effect possible reductions in the light of present and proposed changes. Any changes to the professional fee schedule should reflect proposed changes in the land title registration system." Has that been done? No, of course not.

MR. HICKMAN: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: I see. You can computerize everything today except the registry office.

MR. HICKMAN: It is not the registry office but you have to do the surveys.

MR. NEARY: I see. Well, Sir, according to my information it is something that is essential, it must be done in this province. I have been told by none other than the one and only professional searcher that we have in this province, who is an expert in this field, who I do not think is looking for a job or a contract for himself, Sir, I do not think he is. I think he has quite sufficient work.

MR. HICKMAN: There was a study made by the former member for Green Bay in the 1950's.

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

MR. WELLS: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply have considered the matters to them referred and report having passed certain items of expenditure under the following heads, Head VII, all items, with some amendment, and made further progress and ask leave to sit again.

On motion report received and adopted.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I move the House at its rising do adjourn until tomorrow, Monday at 3:00 P.M. and this House do now adjourn.

On motion the House adjourned until tomorrow, Monday, May 13, 1974 at 3:00 p.m.