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SPEAKER: THE HONOURABLE M. JAMES RUSSELL

The House met at 11:00 a.m.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

PRESENTING PETITIONS:

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Port au Port.

MR. F. STAGG: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition from the people in the communities of Point au Mal and Fox Island River and the surrounding areas within my district. Their petition is that the road from Fox Island River and Point au Mal to Port au Port be upgraded and built to a standard which will enable local community people and visitors to travel the road without fear of the road being blocked with snow or washed out by rain during seasonal conditions. This is a typical petition from a rural area in which the gravel road periodically is either blocked by snow because of the poor grading on it over the years, that it is usually lower than the surrounding terrain and in the Spring-time it is quite often affected by runoffs.

We in the district of Port au Port are extremely pleased with this year's highways programme generally, but nevertheless there are a couple of fairly extensive pieces of road and the Fox Island River - Point au Mal road is one of them. It is approximately twelve miles in length and to have a complete upgrading and paving job would be a major undertaking which I doubt would be able to be done this year. However, this is a petition which outlines the ongoing needs of people in this area and I am sure it is reflected in many communities throughout the Province.

Mr. Speaker, I support this petition and I trust that these immediate emergency conditions as outlined in it will be looked after by my honourable friend to the Southwest here and that in the near future a top-notch upgrading and paving job is in the offing. I would like to have this petition referred to the department to which it relates.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Labrador North.

MR. M. WOODWARD: Mr. Speaker, we on this side of the House support the prayer of the petition presented by the Member for Port au Port.

We, too, Sir, feel that the people from Point au Mal - what is it, Fox Farm?

MR. STAGG: Point au Mal, Fox Island River.

MR. WOODWARD: Fox Island River. Oh, yes! Point au Mal to Fox Island River, that their wishes will be met and the road will be upgraded and apparently, the conditions that exist there are of an unusual nature. The road is lower than the terrain. Is this the case? They have problems during the Spring runoff. That exists, I guess in a number of places throughout the Province, Mr. Speaker. We support the petition and seeing that the Honourable Minister of Transportation and Communications sits directly in front of the honourable Member for Port au Port, I am sure they have had some discussions on this particular problem. We hope that the minister in his wisdom will see fit to shake loose a few bucks, Sir, to see that the people, their needs are met and the road is upgraded.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Transportation and Communications.

HON. J. ROUSSEAU: I rise in support of the petition, Mr. Speaker, and I think to support the petition, but also to make a little statement, if I may, because I think the honourable Member for Port au Port put his finger on a very important aspect in respect to the problems that people in areas like this suffer through the Winter and through the Spring that if the roads were good shape we would not have the problems probably with the snow or with the spring runoff and the softening that we do have, and hopefully that all roads of this nature, this one particularly, and other ones as well, of course, if we could have these roads upgraded to such a status that during the bad season, the Spring season, when you have the water and the runoff and the melting of the salt from the winter programme that if these roads were in good shape they certainly would not be suffering the inconveniences that they now suffer. So, that along with the other petitions we received, of course, we will give sympathetic consideration to and attempt to assist those people which need it to the greatest extent. It is difficult, of course, when you have a road in the situation from Point au Mal to Fox Island Harbour where you have the actual road lower than the terrain. We will certainly give it sympathetic consideration and attempt to do whatever we can to upgrade that particular section of road.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN:

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Transportation and Communications.

MR. ROUSSEAU: Mr. Speaker, I had a request from the honourable Member from Labrador South yesterday for an answer to a question. He is not here so I will hold the question until Tuesday. But I just want to go on record as standing up, but I will hold the answer until Tuesday when he is back or if he is in the House later on today I will give him the answer unofficially and if he still wants it on Tuesday I am prepared to give it to him.

ORAL QUESTIONS:

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Hermitage.

MR. R. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if either the Minister of Transportation who I understand was in Labrador West last weekend or the Minister of Manpower would bring us up to date on the situation so far as the Wabush Mines dispute is concerned?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Manpower and Industrial Relations.

HON. E. MAYNARD: Mr. Speaker, the situation is the same as has been reported to the House on two or three occasions when some of the questions were asked during last week. The union is still on strike. There has not been any special requests or any requests of any kind to my department for involvement by anything other than the conciliation officer. I made it known to the parties that the conciliation officer is still available to assist them if and when his services are required. For the time being, at least, that is the only thing we can do until such time as a request has been received from one party or both parties for any other type of assistance.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Transportation and Communications.

MR. ROUSSEAU: I was in the district last weekend and since you asked the question, if by leave I could answer it? You know, it is difficult to go back to your district, with the two major town of Labrador City and Wabush, and not find out what is going on. I was apprised of the situation, of course, because everybody in the town of Wabush are involved in the strike be it the company or the union or the service industries. I have the information that I did receive while I was there. I passed along it to the minister so that he is completely now apprised of the situation. I am completely

apprised of the situation. I am certainly concerned with it. Any time you see a town of 3,000 or 3,300 which is dependent on one industry on strike, and I do not know if honourable members in the House know it but this is actually the third major strike that we have had in the area, in 1969, 1972, again now in 1975. They are difficult times for everybody concerned in either community, be it Wabush or Labrador City.

So, I talked to individuals up there and I would like to express my concern with it. We are aware of the situation and certainly we would like to see something occur to bring an end to it as soon as possible. I speak about that, if I may, as an M.H.A. since the honourable member did ask me in that light. We are certainly concerned with it and both sides have indicated to me their feelings, unofficially as the M.H.A., not to the government and I appreciate that. So I am apprised of the situation and will certainly keep an eye on it. I will keep reporting to the minister on anything that I receive as the M.H.A.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Hermitage.

MR. SIMMONS: A question for the Minister of Transportation: I understand that the minister was involved recently in recruiting personnel abroad. Does the minister get the question? I understand the minister has been recruiting some personnel for his department abroad. Would he care to brief the House on what the reason for this recruitment is and why they chose to go outside the Province?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Transportation and Communications.

MR. ROUSSEAU: I presume the honourable gentleman is referring to a recent visit to England to try to attempt to recruit some engineering technicians.

MR. SIMMONS: Yes.

MR. ROUSSEAU: Yes. Well, from what I understand in the department, it is very difficult to acquire in the Province technicians of the nature we are looking for. I can say flatly without equivocation that if we had the engineers in this Province or the technicians in this Province there is absolutely no possibility of hiring anybody outside this Province if these people were available. If they are not available then we have to

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try and get them because we do have a programme that we want to carry on. Now, we have gone to Memorial University. We have gone to the Maritime universities because there are also Newfoundlanders attending there. We have made every attempt to secure anybody we can who is a Newfoundlander either at Memorial here or outside the Province who are Newfoundlanders. We always go on a recruiting trip and any jobs that were offered to somebody who was not from this Province would only be offered if there was nobody in this Province to fill it.

Now, we have a number of

problems down in the department as the roads programme gets larger, we need a lot of engineers, we need a lot of technicians, we are not staffed now to the extent we would like to be. But if the honourable Member for Hermitage, or indeed any honourable Member of this House could indicate where we could get an engineer or a technician at the cost and at the, you know, that we pay at our pay scale and so on, we certainly would love to have them and I can guarantee unequivocally to the honourable Member for Hermitage that if there is an engineer or a technical person available if that was a position we are talking about who is qualified and ready to come with us in the Province, we certainly have no hesitation, it would be our wish to have these people. But where they are not there we have to go look for them, otherwise our roads programme will suffer.

You know there are times when honourable Members of the House ask me questions about certain parts of road and so on and you may have to have somebody to go down and take a look at it and do an estimate on it and so on and you have to have the staff for that. When you are short staffed of course you have got to put things off and you cannot do it for a week or two or three maybe because of the work load. We need more technicians. We need more engineers, and unequivocally our first choice would be people who are Newfoundlanders and who have studied in the Province and who are ready and available and qualified to work here.

MR. SIMMONS: A supplementary to the minister, would he indicate how successful the recruiting jaunt was and how many persons have been engaged as a result for his department? I presume also that all the persons we are talking about in terms of this recruitment are engineers.

MR. ROUSSEAU: Well not necessarily engineers, engineering technicians, you know which are technical people, shall we say, I do not think there were any engineers. I cannot answer the honourable member's question but I will find out because the officials made the trip and I think a couple of job offers were made. Now whether they were accepted or not I do not know but

I will get the numbers. But I do not think there were any engineers. I think we were successful enough within the Memorial here we made. I think it was four people, and I think we were ready to make offers with them. Whether they came or not I do not really know the status of that. What other success we have met in recruiting in the Maritimes I do not know, but I will undertake to get the number of job offers we made to technical people as a result of the recruiting trip to England.

MR. SIMMONS: One other related question for the minister; I understand that over the past number of months, a year or so probably, there has been some difficulty in getting equipment repaired because of a shortage of mechanics in the various repair depots, including in particular Grand Falls, I believe, I wonder would the minister indicate what efforts the department is taking to remedy this situation, to find additional mechanics and also what kind of success they are meeting with?

MR. ROUSSEAU: Mr. Speaker, I might say also that there is another difficulty, it is in the securement of parts. You know we have a difficulty there as well, so the machinery may not be down merely because we do not have the mechanics. It may be from parts as well. But we are attempting to get as many mechanics as we can. It is difficult, of course, maybe the new contract that is going to be negotiated with the public service will raise it to an area where we can get them. We are competing with industry and as honourable members of the House know, the difference between what we are paying mechanics and what industry is paying is quite a difference and it is very difficult to get the mechanics and to retain them.

I do have a complete list which I had to read out on the machinery, and on the mechanics we have for my estimates, if my estimates happen not to come up in Highways and I would be prepared after the final seventy-fifth hour to table the information on both the equipment, which was asked before and which I suggested I would do on all districts, how much

equipment we have, what the age was and so on by district and also the number of people who we have laid off during the past few years, People have been asking this and all this information I have, I had it for the estimates. If the estimates are not down I will be prepared to table it in the House.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Labrador North.

MR. WOODWARD: Mr. Speaker, I have a question maybe I should direct it to the Minister of Education or maybe the Minister of Manpower and Industrial Relations seeing that the President of the Treasury Board is not in his seat today. It is regarding the teachers requesting a government mediator to enter into the negotiations with Treasury Board, I feel that they are not getting close on their negotiations and a lot of anxiety exists in the Province at a crucial time when the public exams are coming up to have a teachers strike in the Province, if they do not agree, I wonder if the minister possibly can tell us how close we are and if the government is offering the services of a mediator to help to bring them closer together and if indeed we could end up with a strike before the exams starts in June?

MR. OTTENHEIMER: Mr. Speaker, all I can say, well I can give the factual information. The collective bargaining negotiations between the -

MR. WOODWARD: Which have been going on for a long time.

MR. OTTENHEIMER: - Newfoundland Teachers Association and the government have not broken off.

MR. WOODWARD: No. No, or no closer together, they are that far apart -

MR. OTTENHEIMER: Well they have been negotiating for some time and what has happened is that as provided in the act, section 14 of the act, has been the facilities made available there have been used and this is where both parties to the negotiations have agreed to request, and have in fact requested, the Chairman of the Labour Relations Board to appoint a conciliation officer to meet with them with the hope and view of whatever points of difference there are that his professional services will be of assistance. This is a procedure provided completely in accord with the act and that is in fact what has been done. I do not know if my colleague wishes to add anything to that.

MR. WOODWARD: Supplementary, the minister did not answer the question. The question was if the government would be providing a reconciliation officer to the negotiating team, has that been done and when does the teachers' agreement expire, are we getting close to the expiry date of the agreement or -

MR. OTTENHEIMER: Mr. Speaker, well the last contract ends at the end of the fiscal year but the Act provides not only for the collective, well for the whole collective bargaining framework and this is one of the procedures. Now in this procedure under section 14 of the Act, what the two parties do is not - this is not a procedure whereby they request the government or the Minister of Manpower and Industrial Relations to appoint a conciliation board, this is a provision whereby they request the Chairman of the Labour Relations Board, who is Mr. Geoffrey Steele, to appoint a conciliation officer. He would be an official of the Department of Manpower and Industrial Relations, but it is not the procedure of the conciliation board, appointed by the minister.

MR. WOODWARD: Has that been done now at the request of the teachers?

MR. OTTENHEIMER: I would presume, I think it was only forty-eight hours ago that both sides agreed and no doubt they have written their letters. Whether or not Mr. Steele has already made that appointment - I would think he probably only got the letter yesterday.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Hermitage.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries. I wonder would the minister indicate to the House whether he has received any reply to his representation which he indicated to the House a day or so ago he had made to Mr. Creeper, the Chairman or the President of the Atlantic Herring Management Board in reference to the problems of the herring seiners in Bay D'Espoir and other parts of the Province?

MR. CROSBIE: I have not received any reply as yet, Mr. Speaker, from Mr. Creeper, but as I understand the situation, the herring seiners in question have ceased operating in those areas at the present time, so the immediate crisis seems to have passed but I have not received any reply yet.

MR. SIMMONS: Supplementary; I certainly agree with the minister that the immediate crisis is passed. I would like to ask him whether his department or whether he intends making some formal representation to the federal government with recommendations as to how the matter ought to be resolved in terms of new regulations to regulate the areas in which these herring seiners can pursue the fishery?

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Speaker, I am away ahead of the honourable gentleman. I explained it yesterday that our representations were made to the Atlantic Provinces Herring Management Committee some two or three months ago.

MR. SIMMONS: Yes. I am aware of that.

MR. CROSBIE: We have made our recommendations. It is now up to the federal authorities to control this. I suggest to the honourable gentleman that he agitate the Hon. Romeo LeBlanc or Mrs. Sauvé or Mr. Jamieson and that he pester him every day on this matter, or them on this matter and then these are the people who can act. Our position has been made known to these federal authorities, and action has to come from them. So I would therefore suggest that he do that and that he ask our federal members to do the same. And since the federal member for that area is the Hon. Donald Jamieson, the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion -

AN HON. MEMBER: The money man.

MR. CROSBIE: - and the man who has the money and who we have a great love and admiration for -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. CROSBIE: I suggest that he contact his federal member -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. CROSBIE: - his federal member Mr. Jamieson and also ask him to see what progress is being made at Ottawa.

MR. SIMMONS: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Again the minister as always gives good advice, and I agree it would be much more pleasant agitating at least one of the persons he mentioned than agitating him. I am also disappointed that he sees this as pestering because my concern this is very genuine.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SIMMONS: I am preambing, Mr. Speaker, as I am required to do under the rules of the House.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SIMMONS: If Teddy Bear does not know.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Order, please!

MR. SIMMONS: Let me put the question, Mr. -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! I am sure the Hon. Member for Hermitage knows that no preamble as such is permitted to a question. It has to be very short and very precise, and he was getting into a preamble.

MR. SIMMONS: Yes, well, Mr. Speaker, the member does not know that. I understood the rules differently but I shall go without the preamble. I was going to ask the minister once again if he would reply to my original question - has he made in the last, since this immediate crisis, that he has called it, came up in the last week, last weekend, Friday and Saturday, has he made any formal representations to the federal government? For the record I have made the representations he suggested to Mr. Jamieson. Has he made any representations to the federal government on this matter?

MR. CORSBIE: Mr. Speaker, I have answered that previously, and I will answer it again. Yes, we have sent telex messages, and my officials have been in touch with their officials. I have done all that I can do as the Provincial Minister of Fisheries. And in fact two or three months ago we wrote the federal government and the Atlantic Herring Management Committee outlining the problem and recommending that in the bays of Newfoundland where there had been no quota set or no lines set and where they did not have sufficient information on herring stocks, that herring seiners be forbidden from operating in there until it was known what the stocks were capable of bearing and that the inshore fishermen should have the preference. This was done some two or three months ago before even the recent events of the last few days. So I hope that it answers it for them.

MR. SIMMONS: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I wonder would the minister let me have a copy of the submission to the federal government or would he care to table - either would suit me. I would like to have a look at it.

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Speaker, I would have to ask for the consent of the federal government to give the honourable gentleman a copy of such a letter. If he wishes I can ask them do they consent. If they consent, sure.

MR. SIMMONS: Thank you. I have a further question for the minister on another matter. I wonder would the minister indicate whether any extension to the Select Committee's deadline for reporting to the House has been agreed on? And also if it has been determined if the Committee will go to additional communities other than those which were originally announced by the Chairman of the Committee?

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister of Fisheries.

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Speaker, yes, we are going to ask the House, in fact, I have a motion ready now which I am going to move when the question period is over. I am going to request the House to extend the time for the Committee to report to June 5, and I discussed that with the Leader of the Opposition this morning. So I am going to move that with the consent on - it will be on Orders of the Day. And we would hope that the Committee could have their report concluded by June 5, and then our intention will be to have the House meet on June 5. We will finish our present business, I would think, likely within the next two weeks - it is hard to know - or certainly we will be finished by the middle of May. I can see no reason why we would not be finished by the middle of May. And what would then happen, I guess is that the House will adjourn until June 5. And on June 5 we will have the report from this Committee to consider and to debate, and there will be some legislation that is of major importance and complicated, but I do not think we can conclude in the next two or three weeks that would be tabled in the House so that everybody will have copies, and then we will deal with that legislation, say on June 5. So probably we will meet again on June 5, it might take a week or so to do with those matters then. So that is the plan. And I will move a motion to that effect on Orders of the Day.

As to whether the Committee will have further meetings, of course the Chairman and the Chairman members will have to decide that. But I believe that they will be having other meetings - but, you know, we will have to get that information from them after they have decided on that. They are meeting as you know on Monday and Tuesday to visit the communities that they did not get to last week because of the weather.

That is right is it not?

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Member for Twillingate.

MR. H. GILLETT: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Recreation and Rehabilitation - fear not.

MR. WOODWARD: Recreation.

MR. GILLETT: I wonder if the minister can tell the House whether or not he has received any approaches at all, whether communications or telephone calls from any of the religious bodies in Twillingate or from a representative of those bodies concerning the conversion of the old hospital into a Senior Citizens' Nursing Home? I was very interested in his announcement last night and this is why I am asking him the question, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister of Recreation and Rehabilitation.

HON. T. DOYLE (MINISTER OF RECREATION AND REHABILITATION): Mr. Speaker, I recall seeing such a communication, and I do not recall right now whether it came directly to me or if it came perhaps to the Minister of Health, and it came up at a meeting of the Social Policy Committee of Cabinet which is currently looking at the total problem on a provincial basis of delivery of services to our senior citizens with emphasis on extended care beds. I do recall, as I say, having seen some months ago, two or three months ago, a letter from some organization, perhaps the Ministry Association in Twillingate just asking the question, was consideration being given. And the situation is that at the present time and for the last seven or eight months we have been looking at the total problem on a provincial basis, and because of that we have sort of had a freeze on any new facilities or any decisions on using existing facilities until we come up with a provincial plan. The emphasis now is very much shifting to demands for extended care beds whereas the number of applications for ambulatory beds are decreasing, and up to now there has been a number of these inter-faith homes that have been constructed around the Province, they have been primarily concerned with ambulatory patients. It appears, we do not know for sure yet, but it appears that the need for ambulatory beds is decreasing, whereas the need for extended care beds or acute nursing beds is increasing.

As I said last night, and before, we hope to be in a position in a month or two to announce new government policy with regards to this whole problem on a provincial basis.

MR. GILLETT: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary. Has the minister answered that letter to whatever body -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. GILLETT: And if not, will he be good enough to answer it? I am just wondering how long ago that letter did come, Mr. Speaker?

MR. DOYLE: As I say I meant to mention that before I sat down, Mr. Speaker. I will check on that letter. As I say I am not sure if it was a letter or a comment in the media or what it was, but I had heard something in the last couple of months emanating from Twillingate asking that question. But I will track it down and let the honourable member know on Tuesday.

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed with a further question, I understand we have in the galleries fourteen students from the College of Trades and Technology with their teacher Mrs. Finkle. We would certainly welcome you here, and on behalf of all the honourable members and trust that your visit here is most interesting and informative.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Bonavista North.

MR. THOMS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries. I wonder could the minister inform this honourable House if his department or the government is going to pay any compensation to the fishermen of Placentia Bay who lost their gear because of ice conditions a month or so ago?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Fisheries.

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Speaker, the position is that we have a gear subsidy programme that is applicable to all fishermen in the Province who have purchased gear and there is a subsidy on twine and so on and so forth. That new policy was introduced last year and the subsidy programme was improved. Those fishermen are eligible for that assistance. They are not eligible for anything else. There is no federal-provincial programme that would apply to the Placentia Bay situation or to situations where people lose gear because of whales which go through their traps or individual misfortunes of that nature. So, there is no special programme.

Now, we are looking at this particular situation to see if we can devise something that might be satisfactory to deal with it. A final decision will be made next week. When it is made, I will announce it in the House.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Speaker, just before we go on to the regular business, I would like to move that the Select Committee of this House on the Inshore Fishery appointed by resolution on March 10 be given leave to present the report on or before June 5, 1975. I mentioned this to the honourable Leader of the Opposition this morning, and I do not think anyone is going to disagree with this. As you know, Mr. Speaker, the present resolution directed the Committee to present their report on or before April 30. Well, it is obviously impossible for them to complete their report by that time. The Government of Canada will be carrying on or will be announcing a programme of continual assistance after April 30 to replace the present programme. It is obviously going to take them and us a much longer time to decide on what other more fundamental steps have to be taken in connection with the fishery situation and to devise a programme

for the next three to five years. Therefore the Committee's report will be useful in that sense while we are carrying on these meetings and negotiations during the rest of the year.

So, I would like to move that the House do give the Committee until June 5. It would then be our intention to have the House meet on June 5 if we are adjourned before then, which is very likely, and receive the report so we can then debate the report and members can say what they think of it and what their views are. We therefore would meet again on June 5 for however long it takes to consider the report and any other legislation we might have at that time. So, I so move then, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: All those in favor of the motion, "Aye". Those -

The honourable the Member for Fogo.

CAPT. WINSOR: Just before we carry the motion, if it is in order, I would just like to comment for a second. I think speaking for the members on this side of the House, who is a member apart from myself, we agree with this because it is acknowledged by all, I think, it is almost humanly impossible to visit all the communities requested by the Committee to visit and to be able to submit a report by the deadline which was handed down of April 30. However, I am very pleased that the Minister of Fisheries is not going to apply the report as is stated here in this motion. That is that if the House then be adjourned, that the Committee would report to the clerk of the House and he in turn would instruct and make arrangements for the report to be publicized. I think he should stick to the original that the Committee should report to the House and not to the clerk of the House because that is the whole substance of the matter, that we should report to the House and not to anyone else.

So, I am very pleased that the minister is anticipating at least calling the House together to discuss this report.

MR. SPEAKER: All those in favor of the motion, "Aye".

MR. SIMMONS: Is this, Mr. Speaker, the appropriate time to make a comment on the motion?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Yes, sure.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a little unusual. I would not want the House to get into a debate on this particular motion. I am afraid that if we get into this -

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Inaudible.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I -

MR. SPEAKER: What I would not want to see is this get into a full scale debate of each member of the legislature being permitted to pass some comments on the particular motion. We have had the House Leader and the gentleman representing the official Opposition speak to it. I am willing to hear the Member from Hermitage, but I am afraid it might get into a full-scale debate, and I certainly would not want that.

MR. SIMMONS: No, Mr. Speaker, that was not my intention. I just had a brief comment and I wanted to put it at the appropriate time. If this is not the appropriate time -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. SIMMONS: I am prepared to do it -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. SIMMONS: - at some other time.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, to a point of order. If the honourable gentleman is going to be allowed to comment on the resolution, I am sure it must be as the rules of the House state, by leave of the House. So, before the honourable gentleman will comment who is going to comment, he must ask the leave of this assembly to speak on the resolution.

MR. SPEAKER: No, no, no -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

That, I think, is perhaps the best way of getting around it because otherwise if the honourable Member for Hermitage speaks, then an honourable member to my left might want to speak and it could get into a full-scale debate.

MR. SIMMONS: What is the sense of the resolution?

MR. SPEAKER: On the other hand, the motion may be a debatable motion, then -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: It is a debatable motion.

MR. SPEAKER: - I will recognize the Member for Hermitage.

MR. SIMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, it is not my intention to delay the House. As I said, I just had one or two comments. The members sitting on the other side of the House who are members of the Select Committee need not fear. I am not going to make any great vicious attacks. I want to correct only one statement that I heard in the exchange a few minutes ago about my being, the statement to the effect that I am against this Select Committee. I object to that, Mr. Speaker, and of course that is almost not worthy of comment. I am one of the members who sat in this House and supported the appointment of the Select Committee. To suggest that a member is against the Committee because he gets up in two question periods of the last two weeks and asked some questions which are aimed at improving the function of the Committee, questions like, would it meet in more places at more convenient time, to construe that as being against the Committee is a fairly asinine conclusion to say the least, Mr. Speaker.

But, to my point and the comment that I just wanted to make while the motion is before the House, the inshore fishery on the South Coast of the Province is rather different in character than in other parts of this Province. It should not be lumped in with the inshore fishery on the North East Coast because it is quite different, particularly different in that it is the only year 'round fishery in Newfoundland. In view of that, and without getting into a protracted discussion on it, but in view of the fact that it is a different inshore fishery, I submit, the Committee ought to take sometime to hear the particular views of the inshore fishermen on the South Coast. It is true -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Order, please!

MR. WILSON: The honourable Member for Hermitage wants to discuss the Committee on the Inshore Fishery. We have not brought in any report yet. I suggest that if the honourable Member for Hermitage is going to be allowed to carry on the tactics he is doing, that we will all get into it.

MR. THOMS: So, he can. It is a debatable motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

As the Chair feels that -

MR. WILSON: It is not a debatable motion.

MR. THOMS: Yes, it is.

MR. WILSON: Not.

MR. SPEAKER: - the honourable Member for Hermitage was getting into a general debate and being far from relevant to the particular point of the motion which was to whether or not the period of time should be extended from April 30, I think it was, until June 5. The honourable Member for Hermitage was wandering into a general debate on the whole fishery, inshore fisheries problem.

MR. SIMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try to be more to the point if that is what Mr. Speaker suggests. I had not wanted to get into a general debate. I sense there are people on the other side who are pretty touchy on this particular subject. So, I shall be brief and to the point. I was just -

MR. EVANS: Inaudible.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. SIMMONS: I was preambing, Mr. Speaker, about the unique nature of the South Coast Inshore Fishery. I was pointing out that the Committee has met at Harbout Breton. It is true. In addition in view of the proposed extension of deadline as contained in the motion, in view of the proposed extension, I would like to suggest that the Committee consider meeting on both sides of Hermitage Bay, on the West Side. Probably they will have to go up to or as far as -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

The honourable Member for Hermitage is now saying exactly the same thing as he repeated a few moments ago when the Chair reminded him that the only relevant part of this motion in the Chair's opinion is to whether or not there should be an extension from April 30 until June 5. If the honourable Member for Hermitage persists in being irrelevant to the motion, the Chair shall request him to take his seat.

MR. SIMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am saying, Mr. Speaker, that I can see a case for the extension of the deadline if during that extended period the Committee will get to two parts of the Province which

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has a unique inshore fishery, a fishery from which the Committee has not yet received much representation. I refer to the East side of Hermitage Bay, the communities of Hermitage, Sandyville and Seal Cove. I suggest a meeting in that area, and the West side to cater to the people of MacCallum, Francois where there is a successful inshore fishery. The meeting may be held at Ramea or Burgeo. I understand from talking to them that this would be fairly convenient for them.

MR. SPEAKER: Those in favour of the motion "aye." Those against, "nay."

I declare the motion carried.

MR. CROSBIE: Committee of Supply, Mr. Speaker.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY:

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1104-01. The Member for Labrador North.

MR. WOODWARD: Mr. Chairman, before we move on, what page are we on?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Page seventy-three.

MR. WOODWARD: Before we move off this subhead on energy, going back to a number of years ago when the government made some attempt or tried to make some attempt at some uniformity in the electrical rates throughout the Province and the great disparity that exists between the hydro rates and the diesel generated rates in the rural areas, some attempt was made to bring the two rates closer together. We have seen in a number of areas where we feel that the government did not go far enough in its policy. Maybe it was because of the increased rates in diesel fuel. But maybe the minister would like to enlighten the committee as to what their policies are now. Will we eventually have one rate for electricity in this Province or will we continue to have rates that apply to different regions of areas because of the difference in the generation of electricity?

MR. BARRY: Mr. Chairman, this government, last year, took action to attempt to make uniform the diesel rates and hydro rates for the normal domestic consumer. And the information I had at the time was that the average amount of consumption by the average domestic consumer was, I believe, 500 kilowatt hours a month, and that this -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. BARRY: Up to 500 I am pretty sure, Mr. Chairman.

MR. WOODWARD: (Inaudible).

MR. BARRY: It is up to 500 that the rates were standardized, and it was contemplated that this would permit the use of the normal domestic appliances. It did not contemplate electric heat being installed

and did not contemplate that the individuals applying electric heat on the diesel systems would be in a position to have the same rate as if they were on the hydro system. But for the normal domestic appliances, this was the information I got. The monthly rate of consumption would -

MR. WOODWARD: (Inaudible).

MR. BARRY: No, well, I am not sure. It was not a large amount but we did make the attempt to get for the normal domestic consumer - now I have to say that the only area, I think, where I have received objections or representations to take further action is from the Happy Valley area, the Goose Bay-Happy Valley area, where it has been impressed upon, because of the climatic conditions and so on that the normal monthly consumption is greater than the amount that is now standardized with the hydro rate. The problem, of course, is not just the matter of that it may be several hundreds of thousands of dollars possibly - I forget the exact figures. We had an investigation done as to what it would cost to make the entire system uniform, and I had some information on this at one time. I am not sure if I still got it here. But it is not just the cost, the immediate cost of making the hydro rate and the diesel rate uniform which would result in some decrease of the diesel rate and some decrease in revenue to the Rural Electrification Authority or the power distribution districts, I should say.

In addition to that loss of revenue, you have to consider to what extent can we permit or encourage the use of electric heat on diesel systems, for example, where you have then the very rapid increase in the rate of consumption, where you have then the need for the installation of additional diesel units, and this is the problem. It is the rate of growth you can experience if you encourage the use of electric heat in diesel areas as much as the decrease in revenue that government would get by reducing the end block in the diesel rate.

I might say, Mr. Chairman, that the entire question of pricing of both hydro rates and diesel rates -

MR. WOODWARD: Yes, but somewhere along the line, we are going to have to reach a happy medium, You know, if you are going to get in control

of the utility, the public control of the utility, then you got to be fair and equitable. You got to get one rate for all, eh?

MR. BARRY: Mr. Chairman, I am not sure that we will ever reach the stage where we can say, and you will have an isolated diesel system out on an island say, that -

MR. WOODWARD: You remember the Resettlement Programme? You have talked about it millions of times. We do not have too many people living on islands any more.

MR. BARRY: - that we have the same rate as those hooked into the hydro system when we would, therefore, encourage considerable increase in consumption and fantastic increase in cost of providing additional generating facilities and additional diesel units just to keep up with the rate of growth. So that is the problem. If I can just check my figures on this. I am sorry I said - yes, the Happy Valley area feels that because of the particular climatic conditions, their particular circumstances, that we should reconsider our policy here. I pointed out to the people in the area, and the honourable member, of course, is aware that we are speaking of another few years in any event until the inter-tie is made with the Gull Island site in which case they would be on to a hydro system and the problem would not longer exist for that particular part of the Province. We would still have our Burgeo -

MR. WOODWARD: Five to seven years.

MR. BARRY: Well, say, five years. We still have our Burgeos and our Rameas and so on where we have the isolated system, or the Rameas, in any event, systems out on islands.

Yes, I said 500, Mr. Chairman. I was wrong there. The average household consumption would be approximately 300, approximately 300.

MR. WOODWARD: Yes.

MR. BARRY: Yes, not 500.

And this is computed by looking at the various appliances, lights, toaster, iron, vacuum cleaner, food mixer, kettle, water pump, television, radio, rangette, range, clothes dryer, hot water heater and assuming an oil fired furnace instead of electric heating. So ,

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I cannot say, Mr. Chairman, that we are prepared to revive our policy at this time. We had it under review. We are prepared to keep it under review but at the present time I am not prepared to say that we are in a position to make uniform the rates on the diesel systems with those on the hydro systems. But I agree with the honourable member that we should strive for uniformity

as much as possible but we also have to keep in mind the responsibility we have for insuring that there is some control on spending, some control on expenditures and there is no assurance that we can permit unlimited growth on the diesel system without running into very severe increases in expenditures. There is the problem.

Before I sat down last night, Mr. Chairman, I just mentioned a few figures on rate, the price of electricity generally. I would just like to read out this little clipping that I took from a United States newspaper back in October, 1974, last Fall. It said, a study by the National Utility Service Incorporated shows that the fifty largest electric utilities in the U.S. increased their rates by an average of 55.4 per cent during the first six months of 1974 compared with an average increase of 12.4 per cent during the entire 1973 year. And it says that they are blaming higher operating costs with the unprecedented heights. It says that even higher rates are in prospect. This is in the U.S. They go on to point out that the Consolidated Edison Company of New York, the giant utility down there is charging the largest, the highest rates in that particular country. Its average rate for residential, industrial and commercial users was 5.807 cents per kilowatt hour, cents, that is not mils. That is not five mils. That is 5.807 cents per kilowatt hour.

MR. WOODWARD: To residential?

MR. BARRY: To residential, industrial and commercial and that is the average, the average price, a forty-three per cent increase from the first six months of 1973. As a matter of fact, there are some places in the United States, Mr. Chairman, the electricity bill is becoming almost as large as the rental bill or the payment on a mortgage.

MR. WOODWARD: That all depends on the mortgage.

MR. BARRY: No, what I am trying to point out is that -

MR. WOODWARD: I do not think that is a fair comparison. If your mortgage is (Inaudible.) the equivalent in electricity.

MR. BARRY: What I am trying to point out is there you have a country where pretty much the same situation as we find ourselves they were several years ago, where the normal electricity bill, while it is a bill that everybody notes because they pay it every month and it is a significant amount

even now in Newfoundland and in Canada, that there has been a drastic dramatic escalation in the size of that bill as compared to the size of the rental bill or the food bill or so on. The relative proportions that we find these in three years ago, the electricity bill has become much larger and a much higher percentage of the rental bill or the food bill and so on. It shows that there have been increases or up to eighty-nine per cent in 1974, in six months of 1974. For example, the Florida Power Company had an eighty-nine per cent increase. Other companies in the United States, one had an increase of 87.6 per cent in New York, another in New Jersey up 76 per cent; Southern California up 72 per cent; Baltimore Gas and Electric up 63.8 per cent; Philadelphia up 63.6 per cent.

Just to give you an indication, Mr. Chairman, that while there is nobody can be all that happy or enthusiastic about the fact that rates have recently gone up in our Province by fifteen per cent, that we have to keep our proper perspective and we have to look at our position relative to other places in the world and other places in Canada. We have to keep in mind that just as energy is becoming more costly in other parts of the world we cannot expect it to be other than the same here in Canada and here in Newfoundland.

The honourable Leader of the Opposition asked me, he made a number of points with respect to the Newfoundland Light and Power recent rate hearing.

MR. WOODWARD: Wait until this afternoon. He will be back and then you can tell him.

MR. BARRY: Pardon?

MR. WOODWARD: Wait until three o'clock. He will be back.

MR. BARRY: Oh! He is not going to be back until three o'clock. Okay, I will hang on. We should be finished this by then though, should we not?

MR. WOODWARD: No, I do not think so.

MR. BARRY: You are going to whip through all the rest of these estimates. In any event, Mr. Chairman, if honourable members have any further questions on this I will be happy to supply them. They might be interested in knowing that the total growth of energy generated in the Province this last year,

including the Upper Churchill, the total increase was forty-five per cent increase, that the total growth for use within the Province was 11.2 per cent increase.

MR. WOODWARD: Not high.

MR. BARRY: Well, not high, you consider that the national average is 6.4 per cent, it is high.

MR. WOODWARD: You are not talking the factors into consideration.

MR. BARRY: If you consider that the total utility growth, the total growth for those customers receiving power either from Newfoundland Light and Power or directly from the Hydro Corporation, the power distribution district, that that rate of growth was twenty-one per cent. You can see that there is a significant load growth in the Province. Oh, yes! As far as the Holyrood Thermal Plant is concerned the capacity of this plant is two billion kilowatt hours. The generation in 1974 was approximately one-sixth of the capacity of the Hydro Thermal Plant. However, peaking was up to one-half the capacity. So that meant that one unit, there are two units, one unit had to on at all times.

MR. WOODWARD: Yes, one-twelfth.

MR. BARRY: Pardon?

MR. WOODWARD: One-twelfth.

MR. BARRY: One-half.

MR. WOODWARD: One-half, peaking.

MR. BARRY: Peaking. We had to have half, one of the two units on all the time in order to be able to meet the peaking requirements of the Island load.

MR. WOODWARD: Mr. Chairman, I would like to point out a number of factors, and I think of the minister in his wisdom to site the comparisons of electrical rates in the southern states such as Florida, which I am not too familiar with -

MR. BARRY: New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore -

MR. WOODWARD: But I do get the odd light bill from Florida Power. When you make comparisons as to that type of consumption merely because of the climatic conditions versus the consumption of electricity in the climatic conditions that we have, not only in, and you can make some great comparisons between the consumption on the Avalon Peninsula versus the

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consumption on the Great Northern Peninsula and then a much higher consumption in the Labrador sector. This is why, I think, that you have the representation from the Happy Valley-Goose Bay area and indeed supported by the Chamber of Commerce and the Board of Trade in St. John's and indeed supported by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce because they have studied the factors involved.

Now when you take into consideration only the difference between the daylight hours during the wintertime that exist in the South and in the North where normally we are getting during November, December, January and up to February, you are getting about six hours of daylight and twenty-two hours of darkness, this, in itself, adds for higher consumption. Then when you think

in terms of the heating period, and today and while you see the growth here, Mr. Chairman, and I have watched the growth of electricity as that is applied to the standard of living throughout the rural areas of Newfoundland, and today I am sure that anyone on the committee first when the authority was set up, people were merely using electricity for the purpose of lighting their homes but then again this growth is not because of the fact that people want to go into electric heating into their homes but now their standard of living has risen to a point where they can afford the essential appliances that are taken for granted in areas around the Avalon Peninsula and other areas in Newfoundland where they have been I would say very fortunate over the years to have such cheap electricity from hydro.

Now if it is the government's policy, and no doubt it is, to get control of the public utilities in this Province, maybe taking control of the electrical and then going into other public services such as telephones and things of that nature, I have no doubt, Mr. Chairman, that we should not have in this small Province where we have a population of little better than a half a million people, we should not have any disparity in electrical rates or any public utility rates. There should be a uniform rate throughout the Province and this does not necessarily mean by having a uniform rate throughout the Province, Mr. Chairman, that the people who live in the areas that have the climatic conditions are far worse, that to have the shorter daylight hours, are going to pay far more even at that, than what is being paid by the people who are on hydro in the urban areas of this Province. And that should not exist. That, Sir, is total discrimination and it should not be applied.

I will give you a prime example, Mr. Chairman, and the minister is no doubt aware, he has got a lot of information, he has got a lot of supporting data on the presentation from the Chamber of Commerce and the people in Happy Valley. We have people in the Goose Bay area with a two bedroom house and an oil fired furnace who are paying during the Wintertime as much as \$130 a month for electricity. My house on an average, I have a very, I will just say modern house, nothing elaborate,

my light bill, winter and summer averages between \$55 a month to \$75 a month.

Now when you compare that to what people are paying on an average of \$10 to \$15, maybe some of the houses in the city up to \$30 a month now, if that is the case for an ordinary house, that is a lot of money. But then when you look at that, and we are not going to solve that problem, Mr. Chairman, what we are busy looking for is a unified rate and then you pay the penalty for living in the North, if you want to call it that. If you chose to live in climatic conditions where the climate is more severe, it costs you more for heating, it costs you more for electricity, then this is fine. You accept that, but then you should not pay a higher rate because of the fact that you have elected to live in that particular area of the Province. Now this is the type of policy that we had hoped that the minister, when we talked about energy and we talked about this great energy policy and we are going to get control of the developments, we are going to give the benefits and going back to yesterday, Mr. Chairman, where the minister even indicated, not in so many words, but indicated the fact that we would set aside a surplus of power to take care of the residential growth over the next few years. We are not going to attract heavy industry to consume large blocks of power anymore in this Province. We are concerned about citizens. We are concerned about having a continuous supply set aside in the event that something goes wrong and we are not going to have our people - I think that type of banking, that type of security is good for this Province. But then again,

we should not. Now, where the diesel generated sector of the Province is becoming less and less, and the cost to get a unified rate is not going to be that great, I think we talked in terms of less than \$700,000. When the study was made we said, okay, we can take \$700,000 and apply one rate for electricity all throughout the Province. I think that is the case. When we think in terms of the vast sums of money now, Mr. Chairman, that are going to be spent in the development of hydro, thinking in terms of maybe \$2 billion for the Lower Churchill alone, the mere pittance of \$700,000 is nothing. We should not even look at it.

What the minister should say, go to his colleagues in cabinet, we are going to have one rate in this Province. We are going to stop this discrimination that exists. We are not going to have regional disparity in this little Province of ours and we are going to go ahead with a unified rate. I think that type of policy would lend itself and apply to people who are in need. The people who are in need of this type of policy, Mr. Chairman, are the people who are subjected to the climatic conditions for long periods of time, where you have an eight month heating season, where your furnace is continuously cutting in and cutting out.

Now, the other problem is the fact that we are going to try to stop the growth of the, and the high consumption of electrical, diesel generated. Mr. Chairman, if you stop this, then you are going to stop the standard of living. The minister can understand that in rural Newfoundland, especially in the Coastal Labrador areas where the consumption is going up - I know how high it is going up, I know the increase in the consumption of diesel fuel at the power plants over the last four to five years. I have had the good fortune to deliver the fuel to them. Well, what happens in this case, Sir. They are not going to heating. They are merely moving away from the two or three or four electrical bulbs that we have in the house, they are putting in the odd washer, we are putting in the odd electrical range, we are putting in the odd automatic dryer.

Now, we cannot deprive people of that type of thing. Neither can we restrict them from doing this. That is the thing that has been

taken for granted for a number of years. We would like to continue on with that sort of a thing. But, Mr. Chairman, as the thing develops, then this sort of a thing, if we do not come to some grips with the rates, it will be eventually with the increased cost of fuel and everything goes up, it will be out of the reach of the people. So, they are going to have to cut back on the consumption of electricity. Then they are going to have to do without their automatic dryers, their automatic washers and a number of other things unless the minister and his government can see fit to come to grips with the problem and say, yes, there is one rate for electricity in Newfoundland regardless of how it is generated, whether hydro, diesel or whatever the case.

On motion Read XI, Mines and Energy, without amendment, carried.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Inaudible.

MR. BARRY: Could you find the honourable the House Leader there, Mr. Chairman?

MR. WOODWARD: Mr. Chairman, I must advise the Committee that we do not have a quorum.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have a quorum.

MR. CROSBIE: The next head is the Department of Health.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Head X, Department of Health, page sixty-two, 1001-01.
The Hon. Minister of Health.

HON. DR. A. ROWE (Minister of Health): Mr. Chairman, I am happy to introduce the estimates for the Department of Health. In presenting the Department of Health estimates, I would like to put on record some remarks concerning the department's achievements during the past year and as well to inform the people of the Province about some of the activities that will be going on in the health field in 1975. Health is not a particularly easy department to administer with a staff of 1,180 a budget this year of \$170 million. This includes some \$34 million for capital expenditures and \$136 million for estimated current expenditures. And a review of the budget will show that of the current expenditures some eighty per cent is now utilized in the cost of operating general hospitals. Hospital construction is continuing on a number of projects in various areas of the Province. We are nearing the end of a four year \$100 million health facility construction and modernization programme. We are about to commence a five to seven year programme of similar magnitude. And while we are pleased with progress, there is much more to be done and all of this cannot be commenced in one year. The capital expenditures must be phased to our financial capabilities.

Last year saw the completion of new community health centres at St. Alban's and Port Saunders and a new medical clinic at Port Hope Simpson, a new out-patient and diagnostic clinic in addition to the Come By Chance Hospital was also completed, and improvements to out-patient facilities for the hospital at North West River.

Before the end of 1975-1976 financial year, a new hospital under construction at Twillingate, Carbonear and the extension to the Waterford Hospital will be completed, The new extension to the hospital at Corner Brook will be finished and renovations to the existing hospital nearing completion. The first phase of the major hospital expansion at Bonavista, that of a new out-patient and diagnostic facility

is nearing completion and the construction of accommodation for health workers at St. Anthony is nearing completion.

Now the largest single project, the Health Sciences Complex being constructed on Memorial University campus is continuing with the completion schedule for 1976, as I informed the honourable House yesterday. I would like to note here, Mr. Chairman, that the rapid escalating construction and material costs and some delays caused by labour problems have necessitated an increase in the budget for this project from \$45 million to \$51 million. This is the figure used in the budget speech. One could not have adequately predicted the rate of escalation in construction, materials and labour costs at the time the original budget for this project was prepared some four years ago. And lengthy labour problems could, of course, cause further delays to the completion of the project and have a serious implication on maintaining the integrity of the budget.

Now this year, Mr. Chairman, in addition to completion and continuation of the major project under construction, funds are being provided for the continuation of planning, and certain construction of hospital facilities continued at Bonavista and the beginning of Clarenville and the Burin Peninsula, Grand Falls and Happy Valley. Much planning has already been done on these projects and architectural planning will be completed in 1975 to permit an early start on construction. The architects and the consultants have been appointed for the planning of Bonavista. We have already appointed

the hospital consultants for the Clarenville and the Burin Peninsula hospitals and their functional planning studies have been completed. And again, as I informed the House a week or so ago, we are in the process of appointing architects and project managers for the latter two hospitals and we hope that actual construction can get underway later this year.

Provision has again been made in the 1975-76 capital estimates for the start on the planning of the new hospitals for Placentia and Channel. I have to comment that as far as Grand Falls is concerned that a satisfactory agreement has been reached between government and the Central Newfoundland Hospital Board, allowing for expansion to an expenditure of \$20 million. This will allow the phasing in of the needs on a priority basis, firstly the ambulatory care facilities to be followed by the increase in beds of 118 to a total of 301. But a combined effort on behalf of the hospital board and government will continue to endeavour to significantly reduce costs and to permit a phased programme of construction spread over several years.

The Central Newfoundland Hospital is important as a regional referral centre in the provision of the additional facilities to enable that hospital to carry out this role have to be achieved at some reasonable cost but must be phased over a period of four to five years. And although the above, Mr. Chairman, represents a massive outlay of capital funds, there are other projects on which studies have been done and on which construction has to be phased within the next few years. These include expansion of the Janeway Child Health Centre, the improved facilities at the Grace General Hospital and the upgrading and replacement of several cottage hospitals.

I would add, Mr. Chairman, that every cottage hospital, every government hospital has in my time been surveyed regarding the structure and regarding the physical plant and recommendations have been made to the department regarding renovations or rebuilding. In this regard I would like to announce what I would call a seven year forecast for the construction of hospitals and other health facilities.

If I could take a moment, if you look at the increasing attention and expenditures that must be devoted in the years ahead to preventive and to public health and to non-institutional health services, major efforts must still be maintained to improve and expand our health institutions. And therefore, within the department for purposes of planning, we have prepared a preliminary seven year forecast for construction of new facilities and the expansion and renovation of existing facilities. The date of commencement of construction and the phasing of any particular project must be considered in the context of an overall plan which is related to the Province's ability to provide the necessary funds. And such a plan, I would like to point out, is subject to regular review and priorities in phasing of these developments can be effected by emergence of new health problems and pressures and by variations in economic planning.

But nevertheless in our seven year forecast, for the period from April 1, 1975 to March of 1982, the following projects, whether they be renovation, expansion or totally new construction are scheduled to be completed and I list them alphabetically and not in any order or priority. They include Bonavista, phases one and two, the M.J. Boylen Hospital at Bale Verte, the Burin Peninsula Hospital, the Carbonear Hospital, Central Newfoundland, Channel, Clarendville, community clinics and here we have up to thirty scheduled for various areas around the Province, the Grace General Hospital, certain additional facilities, most in line with services and teaching, the conversion of the old General Hospital to the convalescent and chronic care unit, the Health Sciences Complex, the International Grenfell Association hospitals and nursing stations, particularly those at Nain and the ones that are planned for Flowers Cove and for Forteau, the Janeway Child Health Centre, the Paddon Memorial Hospital at Happy Valley about which we have recently had some discussions with delegations from that area and the need here is urgent because of the fact that it is planning for the Lower Churchill and also because of the possibility of the oil, Eastcan expansion, Placentia

Hospital, we have agreed to undertake planning, set aside a specific amount of money for this.

We talk about rehabilitation facilities and the need to expand the present children's rehabilitation centre and space in the old General Hospital for adult rehabilitation, The Twillingate Hospital, the Waterford Hospital, the Western Memorial Hospital, and I will have to mention also somewhere in the planning, a special public health building to accommodate the many Departments of Health which are now outside the main centre.

In addition to the above projects, the plan envisages a significant expenditure on the conversion and the upgrading of the cottage hospitals and improvement projects to other hospitals whose planning and priority still require further work.

But I would like to point out that these are plans, these are our forecasts. We have a time sheet which we use within the department. This obviously will vary every few months or every six months when some priority, some develop, some crisis or catastrophe in a hospital or an area which requires some expansion, but these new expenditures and the total expenditures in the seven year forecast for health construction is up towards of \$200 million and I would say that hopefully, if the economic climate is such that we continue, we would like to think of perhaps up to \$30 million a year for four or five years and then having reached these plateaus, to gradually decline annually.

Now, it is interesting here when you talk about capital expenditures to review. In the period 1968 to 1971, for instance, the total amount budgeted for capital and actually spent was \$12 million, in 1968 to 1971. In the past three years, from 1972 to 1975, the amount spent was \$52 million, which as you must agree is a pretty considerable increase in capital costs.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible) in Grand Falls.

DR. ROWE: Not entirely. But I think it would be relevant here to also refer to the fact that across Canada the ratio of hospital beds to population is nine beds for every thousand persons. In Newfoundland, counting all those beds under construction, plus the present facilities,

when these are all completed we will still have only six beds per thousand or three beds per thousand below the national average. And if you remember also that many of our beds are not up to what we would consider the standards required by the Canadian Accreditation surveyors, these in time will have to be replaced.

But by any standards, I do not see how we can have sufficient hospital beds of adequate standard for probably the next decade. And however important and expensive as these construction projects are by themselves, they are not the answer to many of the health needs of the people of this Province. And the whole area of preventive and public health services requires increased effort, and good medical care presumes access to a physician in this regard, perhaps one of the most satisfying achievements in Health has been the overall increase of 146 doctors since 1971. We now have 560 doctors working, which is one doctor per 970 people. St. John's has one doctor per 550 persons, which is about the national average and especially for Ontario and British Columbia, the two best off Provinces. But even in the so called over-doctored Provinces, the problem of maldistribution exists as it does here and it poses one of our real problems for satisfying the medical needs in the rural areas.

I would have to mention here the problem of the bursary students who are not fulfilling their obligation to give return-in-service. This is well known. We have discussed it every year. The previous administration had discussed it. Last year four of our new graduates failed to honour their commitment. I anticipate certainly an equal number in this year. And beyond action to recover the monies owed to government there seems to be little that we can do but decry the lack of responsibility which these doctors have adopted to what is a moral obligation. They seem to think that returning the money is the answer. That is not the answer. Their education has been paid for out of government funds. What we require back, Mr. Chairman, is not the refund of money but these doctors to go to places in Newfoundland where their services are required and I would be very happy to hear suggestions from any honourable member as to how he thinks that we could put some teeth into this obligation.

Actually we did two years ago stop the programme, and it is operating now only for those medical students who had been brought under this arrangement prior to, I think it was December of 1973. We have not taken on any new medical students since that time, but we are continuing the same programme for dental students.

I think the House also, Mr. Chairman, would like to know in looking at these estimates that in the year 1974 although the Province was free of major epidemics, one very important thing was the occurrence of seven cases of diphtheria. This served as a reminder of the need that we must maintain a very vigorous programme of preventive immunization. We gave over 200,000 doses of vaccine given by public health nurses in 1974 to infants and school children. So, we gave over 200,000 doses of various vaccines in 1974, given by public health nurses. In 1975 we plan to expand the preventive immunization programme.

I think that we should note also that just five visits to the doctor or nurse, five visits will now protect a baby against seven different diseases. These five visits will protect them from diphtheria, from whooping cough, from polio, from lockjaw, from measles, from German measles and the mumps. I think that it is worth recording that we do encourage every mother with an infant to have these inoculations and thus prevent the child from the seven diseases that I mentioned.

Another interesting point is the decline in infant mortality in this Province. We now are down to a figure of 19.3 per thousand live births. It is the lowest on record in this Province, but it is still slightly below the national average which runs from about fourteen to seventeen. In recognizing the importance of the healthy child population, the Department of Health in 1975 are seeking to recruit two physicians to work in the school health programme. As you know, we have Dr. Neville-Smith who is doing tremendous work as a chief school medical health officer. She will now be assisted by two others, one of whom is being recruited for Corner Brook and another one now being recruited to work out of Grand Falls.

We hear sometimes complaints about the delay it takes to have inspection services done by the public health inspectors. I would like

to point out that in the past year we have increased the staff of the inspection division by five inspectors to meet the increasing demands for service. One of these included a resident from Northern Coastal Labrador and he is presently working in that area and two more are presently receiving training at the Public Health Inspection Center at the Ryerson Institute in Toronto, and they will be returning to work in the Province.

But, Mr. Chairman, in 1974 the number of inspections we had completed in excess of 37,000 inspections. Of this 37,000, 13,000 were in relation to food control activity and 12,000 related to sanitation such as sewage disposal, drinking water quality, pest control, etc. But, there are a number of health or health related problems to which we must in conjunction with other government and non-government agencies address ourselves more intensively. The Throne Speech made mention of nutrition as one of the areas that we see in health which should have a greater priority. We have set up an interdepartmental committee on nutrition with representatives from the Department of Social Services, Education, Rehabilitation and Recreation and the Social Policies Secretariate.

This committee has a brief to produce later this year with specific implementible proposals for raising the nutritional status of Newfoundlanders. One of the major problems is that although Newfoundlanders eat more calorie-wise - if you looked at the results of the Canada Nutritional Survey last year which was most interesting it points out that while Newfoundlanders are not short of food, we do not include in our diets certain of the more nutritious things. We fill up on calories mainly.

We have been saying for some time that we have within the Department of Health and Health Education Division, diets, low cost nutrition diets, if you can call diets today low cost. But, as far as possible, our dietitians and nutritionists, looking at the food prices across Newfoundland, have developed what they call good nutrition diets at as low a cost as possible. We have been advertising them. The public can write in to the Health Education Division and obtain copies of these low cost nutrition diets.

We have not had very much in the way of requests thus far, but one is hoping that the message will get across that we can provide people with diets which are explained in a simple way as to the foods that they should be eating and some idea of the cost of producing these diets.

I think I can mention too that there has been considerable discussion about the problems of alcoholism. Most have been in co-operation with my colleague, the Minister of Rehabilitation and Recreation, under whose estimates this vote appears. We are interested in from the medical point of view of establishing within the Province a number of detoxification centers. I expect you will be hearing more about the whole alcoholic programme from my colleague when he presents his estimates. But, in any case, it is a very important item when you consider the human misery that is caused when you -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: What type of sinners were you referring to?

DR. ROWE: Pardon?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: What type of sinners were you referring to?

DR. ROWE: Sinners?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Alcoholics.

DR. ROWE: Alcoholics. What you call detoxification centers. These are people who get into almost the D.T.'s. We do not really have enough - we do not have any real centers where they can be taken and specifically treated and cared for.

Now, in New Brunswick they have just developed a very good programme along this line, and I hope to think that in the not too distant future we will be able to go up there and have a look at exactly what they have. But, detoxification centers - it is not enough just to dry out the person who is an alcoholic. It is not enough just to dry them out. We should have detoxification centers where we can do some real alcoholic medical rehabilitation.

A word about the effectiveness of community oriented programmes. It depends largely upon the personnel that we have to carry out these programmes. The question of manpower, the implications for increased personnel, for nutritionists, for social workers, for health educators,

and especially for public health nurses - at the present time for example, ninety-nine nurses are providing the public health nursing services to our communities. The nurses' emphasis is primarily on health promotion for all the family although health counselling, teaching, demonstrating and providing nursing care and emotional support are also given.

I have been saying that one of our most difficult people to recruit are public health nurses. It is not generally understood. These are first of all graduate RN nurses. They then go away for a period of a year, and Dalhousie has been the main training center, to do a year's training in public health nursing. We endeavor to encourage girls to go away and do this. We are recruiting a number from the United Kingdom but they are in short supply and we are trying to devise ways and means of encouraging more of our nurses to go into this by virtue really of a pilot project which was started at Memorial University School of Nursing last year for a public health nursing programme. If this can be expanded, we can look forward to producing our own public health nurses among our own RN's within the Province.

We realize that with the limited number of public health nurses, only ninety-nine, that we are only giving perhaps a limited service. We are doing the best we can. We do have a programme to expand this.

Again with regard to dental services, the same thing applies. We have a dental programme which is well known. It has been in for many years looking after dental health for children up to the eleventh birthday. But, the officials tell me that if you look at the percentage of figures, only about thirty-eight per cent of the children who could have taken advantage of this managed to get treatment last year because of the inadequate number of dentists and parodontal personnel. We have a number of dental hygienists on our staff. They go into the schools. They give information to the children on dental health. The hygienists conduct clinical sessions. They are a very important part of the dental team. We again desire to expand this.

MR. WOODWARD: Are you training the dental hygienists within the Province?

DR. ROWE: Not within the Province, no. They are again at Dalhousie doing -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

DR. ROWE: Yes. At the moment we have seventy-six dentists registered in the Province. Thirty-eight of these or fifty per cent have received government subsidy assistance during their dental studies. There are five others who received financial assistance from the government for the purpose of locating a practice within a rural community, in other words, brought in from outside. There has been a net increase of dentists of from fifty to seventy-six since 1968. But we do have unfortunately the worse dental population ratio in Canada, one to 7,000 compared with the Canadian average better than about one in 3,000.

So, we can be criticized for the lack of dentists. There are several arguments. We have not had success in having Newfoundland students admitted to Dalhousie Dental School. There is a difficulty with getting Newfoundlanders into other dental schools. We had a recruitment programme in the last year and brought out three. We now have a number of applicants from the United Kingdom who will be interviewed in the near future to come to Newfoundland to set up practices, and hopefully

we will beef it up by another five to seven this year.

We developed a new, I think, an attractive recruitment programme for dentists to encourage them to come to this Province. But not only getting them here but the question of having them to remain here is one of the important asides, Mr. Chairman, the problem of keeping them in the rural areas. We already have been through the problem of medical students, and it is no less difficult to recruit and retain dentists for the rural areas.

The mobile dental clinic that I mentioned last year is now in the final stages of construction and we have arranged for two drivers from the government car pool to go up to Toronto at the end of April to drive this back to Newfoundland when it will be placed into operation in the early Spring. We have geared it this year to work on the West Coast, somewhere in the area between Stephenville and Port aux Basques where there is a lack of dental services, and this will make it fairly complete.

When you are talking of dental services we should mention that fluoridation, of course, is one of the most desirable approaches and we are endeavouring to develop this concept in co-operation with my colleague the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. A letter is on the way to councils, if it is not already gone -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

BR. ROWE: - and we are offering to pay a fair bit of the cost of introducing fluoridation. And I think that the town of St. Alban's is showing an example this year by asking to be included in the -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

BR. ROWE: Up between fifty and one hundred per cent, but I have some more figures if you need them.

HON. MEMBERS: Inaudible.

BR. ROWE: I do not know if it was ever pushed but we will go up to one hundred per cent if the community really says they want it.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

DR. ROWE: But we are trying now to stimulate the -

MR. ROBERTS: Inaudible.

DR. ROWE: Pardon?

MR. ROBERTS: (Inaudible) make it mandatory by legislation.

DR. ROWE: Well I understand that one of the difficulties here is that the City of St. John's, for instance, have somewhere in their by-laws that they have to have a plebiscite before they can bring in fluoridation.

MR. ROBERTS: This House overrules the City of St. John's.

DR. ROWE: But as I understand, I mean that is one aspect that immediately comes to mind when you ask the question.

MR. COLLINS: What did the member do about it when he was the Minister of Health?

MR. ROBERTS: I am sorry?

MR. COLLINS: What did you do with it when he was Minister of Health?

MR. ROBERTS: I pushed it but it did not go far enough.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: But any way we find now -

DR. ROWE: We are trying together to push it now in a more democratic way of saying, you must have it. We are trying to encourage them -

MR. ROBERTS: What measure is the minister taking that he has not taken before?

DR. ROWE: A combined letter with my colleague to every town council in the Province offering the programme and asking them to get involved in the programme.

MR. ROBERTS: That is the total extent of the new effort.

DR. ROWE: No, it is not the total extent of the new -

MR. ROBERTS: Well what goes on that?

DR. ROWE: Discussion with the dental -

MR. CROSBIE: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister speak uninterrupted without this caterwauling across the House?

MR. ROBERTS: If he does not want to.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! There is a certain amount of leeway provided and allowed at certain times when ministers and members engage in a discussion that each agrees to. However it appeared that the minister was being interrupted continuously by the honourable member. Maybe it will have to be revised -

AN HON. MEMBER: his bully boy to do it for him.

MR. ROBERTS: Let the minister look after himself.

DR. ROWE: I am quite able to look after myself.

MR. ROBERTS: That is what I just said.

DR. ROWE: Thank you.

MR. ROBERTS: Inaudible.

DR. ROWE: I would like to go on to discuss the increasing industrial activity in the Province, and I think it is becoming more critical and there is a clear need for the Department of Health to develop and to improve its capacity in industrial health by establishing a Division of Industrial Health. Now this is not new. It was told to you last year. There is not one full-time official devoted to this important area in Health, and industry carries with it many health hazards not alone to individual employees but on occasion to members of the general public and to the environment. Many of these hazards are well known and controlled but others may exist and require attention. Accordingly since I presented the last estimates or - we have advertised for a Director of Occupational Health Services. It was advertised extensively in Canada, in the States and in the United Kingdom. Unfortunately this type of specialist is very much in short supply, and we have not to date received an encouraging response to our advertisements. We have actually had three applications but no really acceptable candidate. And I think it may indeed be necessary for an official of my department to be given such additional training as may be required and assigned to this important activity. And the

Minister of Mines, whose department is most affected, and myself are having discussions along this line. But health services and the demand for health services are not static. And new developments and new pressures, the increasing standards of expectation, all make the management of health services a demanding and difficult and sometimes an extremely difficult exercise. And a good example of this is the one we had in the House recently on the question of acupuncture. And as background we are aware that it is an ancient practice in China, and for some considerable period it was conducted in Chinese communities in Canada. But there has not been until very recently a general movement towards the more widespread application among the community at large. But the pressure for acupuncture is now with us. And one of the problems concerned with this practice is that the impact of acupuncture in the use of relief of pain, as a certain form of anesthesia. And there seems little doubt that many individuals have obtained considerable relief of their symptoms from acupuncture. And at a recent national conference at which my department was represented by the associate deputy minister, they set out a number of recommendations and guidelines for the practice of this. And essentially these recommendations, as I informed the House last week, state that acupuncture must be considered a medical or a dental act which should be carried out by fully qualified physicians with additional special training in the technique of acupuncture. Acupuncture is still in the experimental stage and should be practiced under conditions where objective scientific evaluation can take place such as a clinic or a teaching hospital.

In this regard the Newfoundland Medical Association, with their parent body, the Canadian Medical and our provincial department with the federal department are at present discussing necessary legislative and regulatory mechanisms to ensure that there is an ethical and safe practice of acupuncture in the Province.

When you look at the activities that I have mentioned, Mr. Chairman, all of these demand planning and development divisions, and it seems that in government there is an inadequate and an inordinate amount

of time apparently to planning, but I think that essentially in something as important as health, we cannot move too much in an ad hoc direction but must intend to do things on a monitored than a planned basis.

I could talk about many other aspects of the Health Department. I could talk about our philosophy that no one in the Province should be more than half an hour from some primary care facility. I could talk about the new ambulance programme, the extension of programmes to place more government hospitals under local boards, the question of rehabilitation and geriatrics, and the development of programmes to assist individuals with drugs, dentures and eyeglasses. And it is true that we have not up to now announced a programme, but a specific programme regarding these is being developed and the question comes back to, of course, how many dollars can be provided to give sectors of our community these facilities? And I think we have to be very careful in trying to define which categories of the population are most in need. It is not necessarily the old people. It might be the people marginally economic with large families. So there has to some really in-depth study and again, I think, perhaps we should even talk about the question of co-insurance. But I believe that if we can once get this programme established, and I am hopeful that it will be, I think then we will have a comprehensive health system which we all can be pretty proud of and as good as most of those that operate across Canada and certainly better than most other countries.

I could discuss for a little while the health objectives we have set ourselves for 1975 but no doubt these will come up under the various items.

But I think that in presenting a budget of \$170 million, I felt it necessary to provide the committee with some detailed preamble to the health estimates so that the honourable members of the House will have some generalized idea of our health programmes and plans, and I think that this is difficult to assess when you just look at the study,

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of individual figures shown under the subheads. I am happy, Mr. Chairman, to continue to answer any questions on the health estimates to the best of my ability.

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MR. ROBERTS: Well, Mr. Chairman, - if they get enthusiastic about that, Mr. Chairman, I would hate to see what would happen if a good speech had been made. I listened with interest to what the minister read. Let me right at the outset, Sir, apologize to the Committee for slurring my words. It is not the ordinary reason why members on the other side slur their words, Sir. I was in the hands of the Dental Branch of the medical profession this morning. I am not sure what the technical term is but I have a portion of my lower jaw frozen, it does affect some of the sibilances and I cannot be quite in -

MR. EVANS: Did you have your brain frozen the same time?

MR. ROBERTS: No. The honourable Member for Burgeo, Sir, has shown us what happens when a person's mental processes have degenerated, not when they have been frozen.

MR. EVANS: You did not have them to deteriorate. You were born like it.

MR. ROBERTS: Now, Sir, I would like to raise one or two points of general concern, and I would hope on the health estimates as on the other estimates throughout the piece, you know, the debate will be mainly on this first subheading 1101-01 - I am sorry the 1001-01 subheading, and then when we have done that the individual heads will probably be dealt with quickly by the Committee.

It is hard to know where to start, Mr. Chairman, because the record of this administration in health has been one of greatly increasing expenditures for which they can claim neither credit nor responsibility, no significant improvements in services, no new programmes or no innovative measures taken in three years in office. And today we are at the point where I understand almost every hospital in the Province has told the government that they are not receiving anything like adequate funds, and indeed I understand that some of them are saying that unless they get more money than is provided in the estimates they are going to have to reduce services.

Now let me deal first of all with one specific instance of this, the International Grenfell Association who provide medical services to all of Labrador except Labrador City and the City of Wabush, and who provide services to all of the people who live in St. Barbe North and

White Bay North, and a significant number of the people who live in the electoral District of St. Barbe South. I understand there is a meeting that has been arranged. I believe the minister is to be asked although he is certainly not the major character in the piece. The meeting is between representatives of the I. G.A. and representatives of the Premier, indeed, I am sure the Premier himself - I am not sure, but it may be scheduled to be held Monday or Tuesday of next week.

The I.G.A. asked for this meeting, Mr. Chairman, because the amount of money which the government made available to them after protracted negotiations was such that the I.G.A. were going to have to significantly reduce the level of services which they offer. Now that is nothing new to the minister. I have here, a number of other people do, my colleague from Labrador North has it as well, a copy of a letter dated March 17 which was sent by Dr. Thomas at St. Anthony, the Executive Director of the I.G.A. to the Minister of Health, the gentleman from Carbonear. And perhaps I should ask the minister at the outset - I have not spoken to Dr. Thomas about this matter since - have the matters in this changed or is this still the situation?

DR. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, I think that this particular matter which was brought up by Dr. Thomas is the item for discussion on Tuesday in meeting with the Premier, and I do not feel at this time that the question should be really discussed.

AN HON. MEMBER: Well.

DR. ROWE: It is a request from the I.G.A. for additional funds for their operation, and that they would wish to discuss it entirely with the Premier, and I do not feel at this time that I should get into controversy on the items that they mentioned until this meeting has been held.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the minister's feeling but I do not accept it.

DR. ROWE: That is fair enough.

MR. ROBERTS: You know the meeting is being held next week at the request of the I.G.A. It is being held as a sort of a desperation measure because they have gone through all of the normal avenues, and

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the allocations made by the minister or by his staff, by the minister reflected in the estimates he now brings before us, are not a matter of additional funds to enable them to expand their services, but are a matter of providing them with enough funds to enable them to carry on their present services. The amount of money involved is \$400,000, and I have no idea what the I.G.A. budget is. In my days as minister we used to make that available in the estimates but the present minister has changed that practice. But I assume it is of the order of \$4 million or \$5 million or \$6 million.

I think perhaps, Sir, I should begin by reading the letter and I may say it has been sent to me as the Member for White Bay North. It has been sent as well to my colleague from Labrador North because it effects the health services being offered, not new services, not additional services but the services presently being offered. And I may say the minister to whom this is addressed, the Minister of Health, is a man who has several times publicly, and we had releases from Information Newfoundland to bolster this, has told us that the I.G.A. continue to be the government's chosen agent for the delivery of health services in the portion of the Province in which they operate.

Now against the light of that commitment by the minister, let us look at what is going to happen unless the administration change their mind, and I would stress, Mr. Chairman, and I would hope the minister will deal with this, that the meeting with the Premier is a last step, a final resort, negotiations with the minister have proved to be of no avail, expressions of good will, I have no doubt, but no cash. Negotiations at the official level have proven even more frustrating and now the I.G.A. are faced either with getting the money, the assurance of the money at the meeting on Monday or Tuesday or they are going to reduce services.

Now, Sir, that is why I bring the matter up now, because I hope that the government will provide the I.G.A. with this extra money. Let me just read the letter, I think that puts it in the prospective. It is addressed to the minister. It is dated March 17.

"Dear Dr. Rowe, Whilst we appreciated the visit of Mr. Hearn and Mr. Osborne," who as Your Honour, I am sure, is aware are officials I believe in the Hospital Insurance Division of the department, "Whilst we appreciated the visit of Mr. Hearn and Mr. Osborne to discuss our projected budget for 1975, for our hospitals and nursing stations, we were extremely disappointed with the results and with the information conveyed to us by Mr. Hearn and by Mr. Osborne."

DR. ROWE: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I wonder would it be considered ethical, Mr. Chairman, for this to be read out now if the meeting is not until Tuesday?

MR. ROBERTS: Why is it not ethical, Mr. Chairman. The letter has been sent to me and I -

DR. ROWE: I asked Mr. Chairman for a ruling on that.

MR. ROBERTS: Well to that point of order, Sir, obviously there is no point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: When the honourable the Leader of the Opposition was preparing to read the letter, or I anticipated he might read the letter, I consulted my recollection of the rules and I do not think there was anything unparliamentary about the honourable Leader of the Opposition reading this letter. It may or may not be the proper thing to do in the ordinary course of events, however, the Chair can only rule on things that are parliamentary or unparliamentary and if they are unethical or if there is any other reason why it should not be read unfortunately I cannot adjudicate upon that.

MR. ROBERTS: I thank you, Your Honour.. It is perfectly ethical. The letter is not marked private. It is not marked confidential. It is -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: It has been sent to me and I may add I have the permission of the author of the letter to raise the matter if I deem fit.

MR. COLLINS: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: I said I had not been talking to him about the details of this letter, of course not. When I got the letter, if the gentleman from Gander is so tender let him stay and listen. Now I am prepared to table the letter, Your Honour, and I am not aware of any answers there may have been, I have no access to those, but a copy of the letter was sent to me, it was sent to my colleague from Labrador North, it was sent to the Chairman of the International Grenfell Association, it was sent to the Controller of the International Grenfell Association, sent to the two M.H.A.'s who are affected because, Sir, what Dr. Thomas says in this letter - and I will obviously not be able to read it now until after lunch - is that the I.G.A. are going to have to close a number of their stations. They are going to have to close a large part of the St. Anthony Hospital. They are going to have

to close the nursing stations in Conche and Port Hope Simpson. They are going to have to withdraw all in-patients at Port Saunders. They are going to have to close the clinic at Englee. They are going to have to close six beds at Happy Valley. They are going to have to cut the nursing staff, six beds out of twenty-three, is it not?

AN HON. MEMBER: Twenty.

MR. ROBERTS: Out of twenty, they are going to have to close - that is thirty per cent, is it not, of the beds at Happy Valley - this is a serious matter, and if the minister attempts to suggest that it is unethical then he and I will have to take issue on that point. The minister can try to hide it, and sweep it under the rug, this minister's record, Sir, has been that he makes statements and he is overruled.

The Paddon Hospital people came in from Labrador, they now have an assurance of a hospital. The budget had nothing in it for the Grand Falls Hospital, the board came in, the minister was overruled and now the Grand Falls Hospital is going ahead. Well that is well and good.

AN HON. MEMBER: The minister was not overruled.

MR. ROBERTS: Well if the minister was not overruled he certainly was not supported. Mr. Chairman, does Your Honour want to call it one o'clock, it is about one o'clock?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It now being one o'clock, I now leave the Chair until three o'clock this afternoon.

The Committee resumed at 3:00 P.M.

Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, when the Committee rose for lunch I had made some reference to a letter which had been sent by Dr. Thomas of the Grenfell Association to the Minister of Health, and I was proposing to read the letter, and I think I would like to begin my remarks at this point by so doing. The letter was dated, and of course, you know, if anybody wants it tabled then I am quite prepared to table it. There is no problem there. Or if anybody in the press wants it they are quite welcome to it. It is not privileged in any way. And it was sent to me obviously for reference and use.

AN HON. MEMBER: In the House.

MR. ROBERTS: In the House or outside of the House, for the benefit of the gentleman for Bonavista South.

MR. MURPHY: Do not be saucy now!

MR. ROBERTS: In the House or outside of the House, under the House, above the House, in Newfoundland, in Labrador, and in the rest of Canada, you know, anywhere. A letter is either marked confidential and private, in which case it is treated as such, or it is a public document. Why else would it have been sent?

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: Dear Dr. Rowe: Whilst we appreciated the -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

MR. ROBERTS: Oh well March 17, St. Patrick's Day. If the Hon. Member for Bonavista South would like a copy -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: you know, I would be delighted to -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: - send him one or a dozen if he wants.

Dear Dr. Rowe: Whilst we appreciated the visit of Mr. Hearn and Mr. Osbourne to discuss our projected budget for 1975 for our hospitals and nursing stations we were extremely disappointed with the results

and with the information conveyed to us by Mr. Hearn and Mr. Osbourne.

The net affect is that our -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, you know, if we are to engage in that sort of thing with the gentleman for Burgeo, I am prepared to, but I would just as soon not -

MR. EVANS: You would not know how.

MR. ROBERTS: No, I agree, Mr. Chairman,

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

MR. ROBERTS: I would not know how with the honourable Member for Burgeo.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! On a number of occasions now the Member for Burgeo-LaPoile has interrupted the member who is speaking -

AN HON. MEMBER: Name him! Name him!

MR. CHAIRMAN: - and I would suggest that the interruptions cannot continually indefinitely. So while I treat the matter with a certain amount of humour, eventually the axe will have to fall on the honourable member.

AN HON. MEMBER: Right on the -

MR. ROBERTS: Well, Your Honour, if the axe were to fall on his head it could not hurt him.

"Dear Dr. Rowe: Whilst we appreciated the visit of Mr. Hearn and Mr. Osbourne to discuss our projected budget for 1975 for our hospitals and nursing stations we were extremely disappointed with the results and with the information conveyed to us by Mr. Hearn and Mr. Osbourne. The net affect is that our budget needs to be reduced for all of our hospitals and nursing stations by at least \$400,000 for this year. As the budget we

submitted was probably on the low side, and we feel very realistic and represented no new services that were not formerly approved, we feel that we are placed in an impossible situation. The International Grenfell Association has no funds that it can further allocate to the operating of hospitals, nursing stations or community health centres. A number of these latter projects, such as the community health centres at Roddickton, Port Saunders, Port Hope Simpson, etc., was entered into by us on the clear understanding that there would be no net cost incurred by the International Grenfell Association. A similar situation exists in Happy Valley, as you know. " I am glad to see the member for Labrador South here this afternoon because this affects his district very much so. He may already have heard of the problem, I am not sure. "Therefore, if we are to operate within the budget, as indicated to us by your officials, we must advise you that we shall immediately withdraw certain services, and we request your permission to do so at once. As the year is one-quarter over and any savings incurred would take another three months to become manifest, it is essential that we take immediate and drastic action. "

Now perhaps I should add a word of explanation. Although this letter was written on 17th March and the government's fiscal year begins on the 1st day of April, all of the hospitals in this Province are now and have to my knowledge been always on a financial year which is the calendar year. The hospital at Twillingate, of which my friend and colleague, the member for Twillingate is the board chairman, operates on a financial year which equals the calendar year. As far as I know all hospitals do throughout Canada. I do not know why they are different from government but anyway they are. That is what Dr. Thomas, the author of this letter is referring to here.

He goes on: " Insofar as St. Anthony Hospital is concerned, with a short fall of a quarter of a million dollars, we feel that we should withdraw one half of our pediatric beds which are in service and thus cut down on the nursing and ancillary personnel. We should take steps to close the Department of Psychotherapy and Occupational therapy. We should close all psychiatric beds and transfer in the future any in-patients in psychiatry to St. John's, although this will naturally incur increased

costs to the Welfare Department for transportation and to the hospitals in St. John's, nonetheless savings would result for our hospital. As we have to save approximately \$65,000 in our nursing stations, we feel that we should immediately close two stations and would suggest the closure of Conche and Port Hope Simpson and the withdrawal of all in-patients at Port Saunders and operate that facility as an out-patient diagnostic clinic only. Further we would suggest that Englee be immediately closed. Although demands at Happy Valley are great and additional beds are needed there, in order to effect a minimum of \$25,000 savings in Happy Valley, we should immediately close six beds and thus cut the nursing staff." And as was pointed out this morning, six beds is approximately thirty per cent of the twenty beds which I am told are available at Happy Valley.

Dr. Thomas goes on: "Your immediate consideration of these requests is sought, for we feel immediate and drastic action must be taken if we are to operate within this budget. I am calling a special meeting of our executive committee to confirm the action suggested above and will have this action ratified by our board at the forthcoming full board meeting. I regret the necessity of the above, and feel that unless additional funds are forthcoming to meet our proposed budget, we have no other recourse because we, the I.G.A., have no additional funds available to us than are already budgeted for." Signed, yours sincerely, Gordon W. Thomas, M.D., F.R.C.Sc. Copies have been sent to me, as the member for White Bay North and to Mr. Meyer, who is the chairman of the I.G.A., to Mr. Mack, who is the controller of the I.G.A. and to the gentleman from Labrador North.

Now, Mr. Chairman, this letter, as it says, was written only after the budgetary process had gone the normal and proper route. And it was written, as I suggested this morning, and I repeat now, only as a matter of desperation. I do not know what the Grenfell Association budget is for this year or indeed for any year. I knew when I was in the Department of Health how much money the health department paid them or for that matter paid any other body to whom the department made funds available. But what Dr. Thomas is saying in this letter is that the government have reduced by \$400,000 the sum of money which

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the I.G.A. consider necessary to enable them to operate their services. Dr. Thomas is saying that if the government will not make available that money - and up until this point, to my knowledge, the money has not been made available, I am not aware of what reply has been made to that letter. I assume there has been a reply made -

that unless that money is made available then the I.G.A. will have to cut their services. He outlines in detail, and I read them, what I would consider to be very, very serious cuts in the medical services available to the people of Labrador South, the people of St. Barbe North, to the people of part of St. Barbe South and to the people of White Bay North, and indeed for that matter the people of Labrador North, all of them in two connections, in the local connection that the first line of facilities are available, these will be reduced and cut back, nursing stations closed, beds closed, and then in the more general sense, the regional base hospital, the hospital at St. Anthony which serves as the regional referral facility for the area I described that the I.G.A. are responsible for, that would have its level of operations reduced significantly.

Now, Mr. Chairman, all that I say is that I ask the minister to assure us that this will not happen. The minister can say that there is a meeting set up with the Premier and I know not whom else, obviously a very high level meeting, and I hope the meeting will produce a resolution of it. But it is not enough for the minister to say that the matter awaits that meeting. Dr. Thomas has said, and this is a public letter speaking for the Grenfell people, and I believe it is well known in Happy Valley that they are going to have to take this action, and I assume it is well known in the other areas they serve. So we stand on the verge of a very serious reduction in health services, and this from a government that is coming into this Committee and asking for \$14 million more to operate the hospitals this year than they did last year on the shared cost portion of the Hospital Insurance and the Hospital Operation Programme.

Mr. Chairman, it is not good enough. It is the first time to my knowledge in many years that we have even been on the verge of this sort of action, I know that hospital boards are in a continuous and a continuing, you could call it a row or an animated discussion, a heated discussion with government, they always want more money than the government are able to make available, and they always feel they need more money than the government feel they can make available and there is nothing wrong with quite a dynamic

tension existing between the boards on the one hand and the Department of Health on the other.

But if I know Dr. Thomas, and I think I know him well, he has been a constituent of mine for ten years now. He has been a constituent of mine and a very fine citizen indeed, Gordon Thomas, a man of stature and ability, a fact that is widely recognized by anybody who has come in contact with him. He is not a man to make idle threats nor is he a man to write this sort of letter unless he felt driven to it. I will have more to say if the minister cannot satisfy us, but if the minister can satisfy the point then I am willing to let it drop. I raise it now only because March 17, today is April 18, in the month to my knowledge there has been no resolution of this problem which means we are one month further into the year and we now have only eight or nine months left in which the I.G.A. must save an amount of \$400,000 out of their total budget. That matter is urgent. It is serious. It is important and it very much affects the quality of health care available to the people who live in Northern Newfoundland and Southern and Eastern Labrador.

The services there are good, but they are certainly not as good as they should be, not as good as they will be, not as good as they must be. And the services, Sir, will be seriously reduced if the government do not provide the I.G.A. with enough money.

Now if the minister feels that the I.G.A. are wasting money then let him say so. But in the absence of such an assertion, which I would not expect the minister to make, to be quite honest, I would be surprised if he were to take that position. If he cannot take that position then he must either assure this Committee that the government will provide the I.G.A. with enough money or we are going to have to realize the fact that these services are going to be reduced. The people in those areas have a right to know that it is the government that is reducing them and not anybody else and a right to know why. Now, Sir, I will leave that for the time being. There are a number of other points I wanted to touch upon in a fairly general way.

I would like to ask the minister, Mr. Chairman, how accurate his estimates are? The minister has a notable habit of bringing estimates before the Committee that turn out to be less than accurate. For example, last year the request for subhead 1015-06-01, which is only one subhead, it may be said, except that one subhead this year is \$85 millions out of a total expenditure of \$104 million. It is a very substantial subhead. This is the vote out of which all of the operating costs of all of our hospitals are paid with the exception of a very few directly government run hospitals that are listed lower down in the estimates.

He told us he was going to spend \$61 million. He actually spend \$71 million. That may include salary increases. But the minister, if he recalls, I am sure will recall that he and I had quite a tedious argument here in the Committee last year, where he refused to indicate just what sort of salary increases were being contemplated. Well, you know \$10 million blank cheque is a pretty big blank cheque. On the revenue side Ottawa pays a large portion of this - it is a shared cost programme - the minister told us we would get \$33.5 million, we in fact got \$37.3, but since our expenditure went up much more the total amount that we had to find was a great deal more than was originally estimated. It was several million dollars more. We saw that reflected in supplementary supply.

Now I could go through the health estimates and make the point, but I think I have said enough to establish the question I would ask, I would like for the minister to tell us, how accurate his estimates are? And saying that they are the best that can be done now is a fair statement, but it does not quite go far enough. I would like him to indicate the areas where there might be significant changes. I want to know - I do not care how much is provided in the \$85 millions for salary increases. The minister may try to pretend that, well if we reveal that information it would somehow affect negotiations. That is a sham, Sir, because, of course, the unions have good research staffs, and they are fully aware of how much is provided in, at least to the nearest \$200,000 or \$300,000, I should think out, of that \$85 million how much is provided for increments and for new salary scales, for raises as a result of negotiations? But how accurate are they? Are we

going to be faced next year with another \$10 million or \$12 million, not an increase over the year, but \$10 million or \$12 million more than is being budgeted?

The minister's estimates, Sir, have already had a coach and four driven through them. The estimate on the Grand Falls Hospital has become a joke because the government capitulated to the political pressure the people there raised. The gentleman for Grand Falls gave us the edifying spectacle of offering his resignation in return for a hospital, and the government decided to provide the hospital. The Happy Valley people were disconcerted because there was nothing in the estimates for them, for their hospital, the Paddon Hospital, in the Valley. They have been assured, as I understand it, by the Premier that there will be work done this Summer. It may or may not come out of the Health estimates, but if it does not come out of the Health estimates it will come out of some other public fund and the minister might indicate where?

AN HON. MEMBER: It will not come from DREE and that is for sure.

MR. ROBERTS: I am sorry? No it will not come from DREE.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: DREE provided -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: I am glad the Member for Bonavista South mentioned that because one of the many political frauds perpetrated by the group which he supports is pretending that DREE would support hospitals. DREE has never held out any promise or hope that they will get it -

AN HON. MEMBER: They should.

MR. ROBERTS: They should sure.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: Now let me talk about that, Mr. Chairman, The gentleman for Bonavista South says DREE should support hospitals. The Minister of Justice says that DREE should support jails and courthouses. The Minister of Energy wants DREE to support energy projects. The minister of this, the Minister of that - what the devil are we going to have a

government of a Province for if all it is, is just a begging bowl from DREE.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: We have our own remedies. We have our own responsibilities.

The Government of Canada through the Medicare Plan or through the Hospital Insurance Plan are putting millions into our health services. We are getting a higher share proportionally, far more than fifty per cent. We are getting about eighty per cent of Medicare out of Ottawa. And if the Hon. Member for Bonavista South would exercise a little simple mathematics he would discover that in this vote forty-five out of eighty-five, more than fifty per cent of this vote to which I have just referred, the operating cost of the hospital. I mean to say that DREE should do it. Now look I am all for hooking money out of Ottawa, but the answer to every problem is not that DREE should do it, and yet the honourable gentleman's political friends put about that sign for a bit, put about that particular fraud, a political fraud. Let him not bring it up. DREE - I could think of lots of things that DREE should be doing. They should be in Municipal Affairs. They should be doing Gander, Grand Falls, Clarendville, the St. John's water supply, they should be in roads. Sure if the DREE money came out of the Transportation budget this year, Mr. Chairman, there would not be enough left to pave even what little is going to be paved in Bonavista South the year. Thanks to DREE that

what work is going to be done is being done. Now, Sir, we are the first ones to crack DREE when we do not think they have gone far enough, but let it be said that DREE have done infinitely more than the gentleman from Bonavista South has ever done for the people of Bonavista South. Now, Mr. -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: No, they have done nothing for medical service, DREE has not, nor has DREE done anything at all for the weather office and also, Mr. Chairman, I would suggest that DREE has done remarkably little for the Arts and Culture Centre. But the Government of Canada have put millions and are putting millions in. The Health Sciences Centre would not have gone ahead without federal money, \$30 million in it. It is up to \$50 million or \$60 million now and when the story comes out of that, when the story comes out of how that has been handled, that will be about four royal commissions in itself, the Health Sciences Centre over here.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: Well, if the honourable gentleman does not know, he should wait. He will find out. Now, Sir, DREE never put anything into the Health Sciences. Ottawa agreed to give \$30 millions and as far as I know Ottawa are going to give \$30 millions.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: \$15 million so far.

MR. ROBERTS: Well, I do not know how much they have given so far. They did not say they would give \$30 millions at once. In this here, \$6 million in this year in this department to go against that complex over there. Now, Sir, one or two other points: I would like the minister to tell us a little about the effect of the Medicare increases. I understand that the result of the wage settlement arrived at between the government, MCP on one hand and on the other hand the NMA was about an extra \$2 million. I assume that that is all out of provincial money but perhaps the minister could tell us. As Your Honour, I am sure, is aware the Medicare formula is not a shared cost formula in the way that the Canada Assistance Plan is. The amount which this Province receives

from Medicare is determined by reference to the national average expenditure on the services comprised within the plan. If we decide to increase the wage rates of our doctors, as we have, as I understand it, the money comes out of our Treasury. So that would mean the \$2 million, which I understand is the amount of the increase, would be from our Treasury. Perhaps the minister could speak to that point.

A year ago, Sir, the minister undertook in this House to appoint boards for the Burin Hospital area and the Clarendville Hospital area. The minister shakes his head. He might go back and have a look at the Hansards and there was a clear understanding there that the people would be consulted and that boards would be appointed. I have seen nothing yet.

MR. NEARY: Every hospital, he told us, was going to be put under a board.

MR. ROBERTS: I have seen nothing yet and perhaps the minister could tell us exactly what is proposed to be done. As far as I know, the people on the Burin Peninsula are not even aware where the hospital is to be located. The minister is saying it is going to be built. Well, where is it to be built? While we are at the Burin Hospital, the Burin Peninsula Hospital, would the minister indicate what his plans are with respect to the present hospitals at Grand Bank, Burin and St. Lawrence. Are they to continue in their present role? Are they to continue in another role? Are they to be closed? What is to happen to them? If we are to have built on the Burin Peninsula, I assume it will be in the Salt Pond area, a hospital of, say, 150 beds in size, what is to happen then to the other beds? Are they to be continued? Are there too many? Are there too few? What is to be done? The minister has been noticeably reticent on that point.

Mr. Chairman, while I am on the Burin Peninsula I have been asked by people there to raise the fact, I think the minister may have touched upon it this morning, there is now no dentist at Grand Bank. I believe there is only one dentist in practice on the Peninsula and that is Doctor Ramos.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Doctor Parsons -

MR. ROBERTS: Yes, I know Doctor Parsons is now in Wabush or Labrador City.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: The rent is still being paid for his office.

MR. ROBERTS: Is it? I see. Well, a very generous minister we have indeed.

But there is only one dentist in practice on the Peninsula, Doctor - is Ramos the correct pronunciation?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: We have denturists in the area.

MR. ROBERTS: Yes, I will come back to denturists. I am for denturists. It is the minister who is stopping them in Newfoundland.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: Ramos, Ramos. Well, Doctor Ramos then, and as far as I know he is the only dentist in practice -

DR. ROWE: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I would like him to withdraw the fact that I am against denturists. As Minister of Health I am responsible for bringing in certain legislation. I will not have it said that I personally have a feeling one way or the other and certainly not in my official position.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, to that so-called point of order. At best, it is a difference of opinion between - at best it is a difference of opinion between two honourable gentlemen. As far as I am concerned the honourable the Minister of Health by his actions has shown quite clearly he is against the practice of denturists in Newfoundland. Now, if there is a

MR. ROBERTS: point of order, I mean, you know, I would ask Your Honour to rule. If not, I would like to carry on.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. ROBERTS: Your Honour, do I or do I not have the floor? A point of order has been raised. If Your Honour is going to rule on it, then I shall, you know, gladly listen to the ruling. But I submit there is no point of order, Sir.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well occasionally a matter of opinion may be so tense that an honourable member may feel that it is a matter of privilege, and that he may rise as if on a point of order. I would suggest that it was more a matter of privilege that the honourable member rose on although had we been asked to consider it as an item of privilege it in all likelihood would not have been allowed. However, the honourable member has risen and has made his point as is proper with the point of order. Quite often debating points are made under the guise of the point of order. It is a very useful debating tactic in the parliamentary system, and it is usually the only point of order that any honourable member needs to learn.

MR. ROBERTS: Thank you, Your Honour. I submit that it is more abused than used in this House.

But as I was saying -

MR. BARRY: (Inaudible).

MR. ROBERTS: Is the gentleman from Placentia West challenging the Chairman?

MR. BARRY: No, no.

MR. ROBERTS: Okay, he is just making his usual schoolboy remarks. Now, Sir, as I was saying, there is only, as I understand it, the one dentist in practice on the Burin Peninsula. That is producing quite a heavy work load obviously upon that dentist. It would even at the best of times, but in view of the fact that there had been two in practice now the question is, what is the minister going to do about it? I lay the responsibility squarely at the feet of the minister, not for the

dentist who was at Grand Bank leaving. That was his choice. It is a free country. But the minister very grandiloquently proclaimed a year or so passed in this House, or through N.I.S., I am not sure what it was, but very grandiloquently told us that he had solved the dentist problem at Grand Bank thanks to the representations of his colleague from Burin, the Geneva-bound Minister of Justice. And so those who live by the sword must die by the sword, as somebody once said, and since the Minister of Health took credit for having the dentist there, he must now accept the responsibility for the fact that there is no dentist there, and I think the least he should do is tell us and the people of the Burin Peninsula what he is going to do. He may talk about dental recruitment programmes, Your Honour, that is at best a tired record.

Let me read two sentences, a paragraph to Your Honour.

"There is a great awareness by my ministers of the inadequate dental care available to our people. This is a most difficult problem and every conceivable solution is being considered." Now, Sir, that was not said yesterday, although the Minister of Health said the same thing this morning. That, Sir, was in March 1, 1972. The minister's gestation period is longer than that of an elephant when it comes to hatching some scheme that will have something to do with getting more dentists, and I am not minimizing the difficulties, but the minister, Sir, boasts of his success in attracting doctors and neglecting to point out that most of them are the result of the medical school which was started by his predecessor administrations in office and his predecessor ministers, including the present Minister of Fisheries, the present Minister of Justice and myself, along with others. The Minister of Health has had nothing to do with getting more doctors in Newfoundland.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. ROBERTS: Oh, he was Minister of Health. Well, he did not do anything but he was Minister of Health, the present Minister of Justice.

MR. REID: Who has? Who has?

MR. ROBERTS: Ah! The share-owing gentleman from Trinity North raises his head. No, Sir, I do not claim to have got them. My father got a doctor for Newfoundland. He is now practicing in Roddickton.

AN HON. MEMBER: One?

MR. ROBERTS: Yes, he is my brother, my father's son, my brother. That is why I say my father got that particular doctor.

AN HON. MEMBER: Your mother -

MR. ROBERTS: Your Honour, I would hope so. I would hope so.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Health boasts about the number of doctors he has got and obtained. I say to him and I say to the committee he has not obtained any significant number of doctors. The fact that our doctors supply problem today is much, much, much less than it was a few years ago, is not the result of any policy or programme the minister has initiated. It is the result of the medical school beginning to produce doctors. It is the result of Medicare.

MR. EVANS: (Inaudible).

MR. ROBERTS: Your Honour, I would suggest to the gentleman from Burgeo, Sir, that he might wish to go to the medical school, to the psychiatry class as a subject.

MR. EVANS: - Waterford Bridge, Sir.

MR. NEARY: Get a denturist to shove in some teeth so we can understand him.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, as I was saying, I got a little away from the point of what I was saying because the Minister of Health, it is not enough for him to tell us he is thinking about dentists. He allegedly has been thinking at it for more than three years. And even an elephant, I believe, takes only eighteen months to produce offspring. The Minister of Health, surely, in three years could produce a programme that will attract a significant number of dentists to this Province. To my knowledge he has not .

If he has then I know he will be the first to stand and say it.

I know the people in Grand Bank who must now drive back and forth to the Marystown-Burin area and must queue up to get in -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: No, I am talking about dentists. I think the honourable gentleman should just sort of chomp the bit for a moment, bite the bullet and wait until I come to the denturist question and then I shall take a bite of that too.

The people in the Grand Bank and Fortune area and Garnish, for that matter or Grand Beach, who wish to go to a dentist, because dentists do certain work that denturists do not, nor should they, as they readily admit, these people, Sir, now have to drive that extra distance and in addition have to take their place because Dr. Ramos has a very busy and a very good practice. You cannot have it both ways, Sir. He is willing enough to take credit so I say to him let him take some responsibility.

Now let me turn to denturists. Of all the farcical and foolish policies and moves and lack of action that this administration has taken in any health field, the situation with denturists surely takes the cake. Three years ago, I guess it was, I brought a motion into the House on Private Members' Day to request, to express the opinion of the House, that the practice of denturism, denturism I guess we would call it, should be made lawful in Newfoundland.

MR. EVANS: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: You know the honourable gentleman from Burgeo, Your Honour, moved from Isle aux Morts to St. John's, and as somebody in Isle aux Morts once told me, he said the honourable gentleman from Burgeo thereby elevated the intellectual life both of Isle aux Morts and of St. John's.

MR. EVANS: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: Now, Sir, there is no point even taking a flick at him. He does not know when he has been flucked. Now, Mr. Chairman -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Inaudible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

MR. ROBERTS: Was this out of order, Sir? It is the honourable gentleman from Burgeo who is provoking me.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: I thought it was not bad if you want to know yourself. I thought it was not bad at all as a matter of fact. Does Your Honour want to make a ruling on the point?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Carry on.

MR. ROBERTS: I thank Your Honour very much. Now to come to denturists - by the way I have not copyrighted that, Sir, you cannot copyright it, so any honourable member opposite who wishes to use it I am afraid he is able to do it.

Now, Sir, the question of denturists, we had a resolution and it was debated at some length in the House and the House approved it with an amendment which the cautious, careful, Minister of Health brought in and that amendment proposed that a select committee be set up and a select committee was set up and I believe the gentleman from St. John's South was Chairman (Is that right "Paul"?). And the gentleman from St. John's South, who is nowhere regarded as a flaming radical - when the barricades go up - wherever the gentleman from St. John's South will be will be a place of honour, I grant, but will not be on the barricade. The red flag of revolution is not the banner of the gentleman from St. John's South. But even such a cautious and conservative and steady gentleman as the Member for St. John's South recommended, the Committee unanimously recommended, my friend and colleague from Twillingate served on it as did the gentleman from Bonavista South, I believe, and I am not sure who the other member, there would have been at least one other member but -

AN HON. MEMBER: The Minister of Health.

MR. ROBERTS: The Minister of Health himself. They recommended unanimously that the practice of denturism be legalized and that the matter immediately be put in legislative form and go ahead. Well, Sir, that was at least two years ago. All that has happened since then is the Minister of Health has appointed a committee to do what? Well we are not quite sure from

reading his statements but it would seem to be to draw up some regulations.

Now, Sir, you know it is a delaying tactic. It is a stalling tactic. It is a device of obfuscation. It is an effort to prevent denturism being legalized, that is all it is. The principle is clear, there should be legislation in the House and if the House supports it, as I believe it would, I believe there will be unanimous support in the House, it should be made law.

Other Provinces now have denturists practicing legally and lawfully and I have heard no complaint. All the things that were alleged to have been happening by the scare mongers just do not happen. Nova Scotia, I believe, has denturists who are practicing. They obviously have solved the regulatory problem.

AN HON. MEMBER: No.

MR. ROBERTS: All right, then I am grateful for the correction but they are practicing. We have denturists who are practicing, and they are doing well, but they are practicing, as any of them will tell you, unlawfully. Now the mere fact that nobody has taken a prosecution does not mean that - they are now practicing, as any dentist will tell you, without the protection of law, and so are the people of Newfoundland. There is no excuse at all -

MR. MORGAN: Nova Scotia did the same thing you know.

MR. ROBERTS: Well, if Nova Scotia did, that is fine. That is Gerry Regan's problem. At least Gerry Regan does the right thing on oil and gas. But, I bow to the honourable gentleman's knowledge. He has obviously taken a bigger study, made a bigger study of denturists than have I.

But, Sir, all I am saying is that the Minister of Health is stalling and delaying. I know of no excuse for it. I know of no reason for it. There must be a reason. He has not said what it is. This session now is nearly gone, and no sign of any legislation. That means we are into 1976 for something that began in 1972. It is just not good enough. It is not fair to the people who wish to avail of a denturist service. It is not fair to the denturists. We accept the fact, the minister accepts the fact that the denturists have a place to play in the spectrum of those who develop and deliver health services in this Province. Yet, they are not regulated. They are unhappy with that. The people of Newfoundland have a right to expect that the government will intervene and regulate these people in the public interest. That is what the denturists want too.

The minister's performance has been disappointing in the extreme, Sir. Shoddy might be the way I would have to describe it.

Now, Sir, one or two other points in -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Can I get a copy of this?

MR. ROBERTS: Yes. The girls made me a copy. Sure, any copies that you need, sure.

One or two other points in a general opening way. I would like the minister to tell us what he proposes to do in the Channel-Port Aux Rasques area for the hospital there, what is going to be done, what has been done, what will be done, and equally at Placentia. The Cottage Hospital there is equally in need of repair or replacement. Perhaps the minister could indicate his thoughts there. I had mentioned the location of the Burin Peninsula Hospital. I would like him to tell us about the cost of the Health Science Center which has escalated somewhat.

I would like him to tell us why.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: The minister may have - but I want him to tell us why. I do not think he said that this morning. I did not hear every word he said this morning as I was in sort of the hands of a dentist for a while, but would he tell us why. What about the costs of Twillingate and Carbonear? Did the minister mention that this morning? The minister boasted this morning I am told by my friends and colleagues that in year so and so, the year and so and so, so many millions have been spent on health services, on capital accounts, and in a year so and so later to so and so later a great deal more has been spent.

He did not mention the fact that as of this day the only hospital construction or reconstruction or extension project that is underway anywhere in this Province was initiated by him or his colleagues is the Waterford Hospital. That is the only - I am sorry, I how. The Bonavista Hospital.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: And the Come By Chance

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Carbonear.

MR. ROBERTS: The Come By Chance extension. Come By Chance should be burned. Back in the time that the honourable gentleman from St. John's West was the Minister of Health, it should have been burned. When the Minister of Justice was the Minister of Health it should have been burned. When I was Minister of Health it should have been burned.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: Putting on a new addition are we?

MR. MORGAN: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: No, I would like to burn the honourable gentleman from Bonavista South, but that is a wish I share with his constituents. Now, Sir, I agree they have a new hospital and more power to them. I think it is a very good thing. I look forward to the day when it is open, and I hope it benefits the people there and the people over in Port Union and Catalina are delighted. If they get hold to the honourable gentleman from Trinity North if ever he visits it again, they will be even more delighted. Now, Sir -

MR. NEARY: I am going down tomorrow night -

MR. ROBERTS: Ah, that is it.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: Now, Sir. Now, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to make the point that the four large projects under construction were all initiated by the previous administration. That is a fact. It is that simple. The present government are carrying them on. They have got at least that.

Now, Sir, the cost of drugs, and I do not mean illegal drugs. I mean, of course, lawful drugs. The minister again has had a long history of evasion, of prevarication. Every now and then a little statement will come dribbling out from the Information Services, through, well we are looking at it, we are studying it, when somebody raises something in the paper, a little more thought. Sir, back in 1972 we were told in the Throne Speech, "there is a great awareness by my ministers of the inadequate dental care available to our -" I am sorry I read that. "My ministers are not alone in their alarm at the high cost of drugs. This subject has been given intense study, not only in Newfoundland but in other Provinces. A solution must be found and much effort will be made to find that solution."

Well, Sir, here we are more than three years later and the government have yet to do a jot or a tittle, a scintilla or an iota towards reducing the cost of drugs to our people. I

MR. ROBERTS: would like for the minister to tell us what can be done, Again I am not attempting to minimize the problems. I am aware of some of them. I may not be aware of all of them. I would like him to tell what has been done and what is going to be done. The cost of drugs continues to rise significantly. In many Provinces they have brought in sort of prescription care to go with Medicare and legal care and all the others. A number of Provinces have them. Can we have that here? If not, why not?

Now, Mr. Chairman, in that very same Throne Speech we were told that the Northwest Coast of the Province "is being considered for a hospital facility." I wonder if the minister could tell us when construction will start and exactly where that hospital is to be located. That is the Northwest Coast, I guess really anywhere between Bonne Bay and St. Anthony would qualify. But that was in the Throne Speech and the minister helped to author it and he benefited from it.

Now, Sir, the only other point I wish to raise is the - to take a swipe at the cost of funeral services. Is the Minister of Health responsible for funerals?

AN HON. MEMBER: No, that is Social Services.

MR. ROBERTS: I mean, if I were to say the Minister of Health is responsible for funerals I would be maligning him in a professional sense and whatever I would do I would not malign him in a professional sense. I am not prepared to say, Mr. Chairman, that the doctors are responsible for the funeral services in Newfoundland.

MR. NEARY: Social Services.

MR. ROBERTS: I know, but I think it is too much to say that doctors are somehow connected with funerals, Sir. It is a base canard on the medical profession to say that doctors bury their mistakes, Sir, while we at the Bar send ours to jail. Now, Sir -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: No, it is in Social Services "Vel" actually, although the

Minister of Health might tell us whether the government are going to take action to require that all deceased people be embalmed before they are buried. I would hope that no such requirement will come in, because as a requirement it would be wrong and needless and I have heard some suggestion it might come in.

MR. NEARY: They all look like they are embalmed over there now.

MR. ROBERTS: Many of them are well pickled I can tell you.

Now, Sir, the final point I wish to make in a few opening remarks on this, and where we go from here depends on what the minister says and his attitude, if he is prepared to be helpful and tried to come to grips with the problems. I am as concerned as he is about industrial health and I am very glad he made some points this morning and the most significant thing that he said, I thought, was not the repeated assurances that they are going to try to do something or even, you know, that adds are going in and all that sort of thing, they are not new. That sort of thing, you know we got that far four or five years ago.

The significant thing is that apparently the ongoing jurisdictional dispute between the Department of Mines on the one hand and the Department of Health on the other has been resolved. I hope that is so. An ongoing dispute between the Department of Mines on one side and the Department of Health on the other as to exactly who had the responsibility, now as one I never -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: For industrial health in the mining industry sense. If the honourable gentleman can go back through the correspondence of his predecessors, he will find there was a raging row. I was in it on one side and I did not -

MR. BARRY: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: Okay, well I would like one or the other of the ministers to explain it because the argument was always put to me, which I never accepted, was that the Health Department could only get in when some health problem arose. In other words, after the man got ill, then the Health Department had a concern, which I think should be the other way around,

the whole point of industrial health is to go into an operation as of the day it starts and make sure it is perfectly safe from a health point of view. And my particular concern, Sir, now is asbestosis at Baie Verte, the Johns Manville operation there.

Sir, I am not a medical expert by any means at all and I do not claim to be an expert in problems of asbestosis, but I am told and I understand from what I have read, that every asbestos operation in the world develops asbestosis type problems and asbestosis, Sir, is an insidious and a deadly disease. It is as bad as the radiation poisoning we saw at St. Lawrence. Apparently the little fibres which are part of asbestos, or part of the asbestos mineral, get into a person's lungs, a miner's lungs or the people working in the plant that separates the asbestos fibre from the rock in which it is embedded, in which it is found, that that asbestos gets in your lungs and given a reasonably short period, ten or fifteen years, I would not even attempt to pronounce the name, but a disease develops which is inevitably and invariably over a short period thereafter, fatal.

Now, Sir, in Quebec recently the CNTU, the trade union organization there, made a study of the Thetford Mines asbestos operations and came to the conclusion, quite startling, quite striking, that all the men who worked there were being exposed to very high risks and there were quite significant incidences, inexplicable by any standard other than industrial hazards of asbestosis and asbestosis type conditions. So I would ask the minister what has been done, particularly with respect to the Baie Verte Mine. It is not

good enough to wait until we have developed thirty or forty men with a bad lung condition, with some fatal illness or some fatal condition. I want to know what surveys are being taken. I want to know what standard this government have adopted as being the part per million, the concentration of asbestos fibres in the air which is permitted in a mining operation. I would like to know - I do not care whether they are inspectors employed by the gentleman from Placentia West or the gentleman from Carbonear - I would like to know how many inspectors there are and what standards there are and what monitoring there is. We have had one drastic experience in Newfoundland in the St. Lawrence mines, an experience that nobody would want to see repeated. And I am told that if we do not take care, there is the possibility or even the probability of the same type of problem occurring again at the Baie Verte mines. The men in those mines are exposing themselves to the risk of asbestosis. And what I want to know, is the risk known? Is it the minimum possible risk? Are we taking all the steps? The Quebec mines have been shown to be very unsafe. Indeed, it is so much so that the union there, the union representing the men, has made it a major item in their contract negotiations. They are concerned with wages. They are concerned with working conditions. Above all they are concerned with the health aspects.

There are a number of other industrial areas that, I think, present significant health hazards. The ERGO operation at Long Harbour, I am not aware of any problems that have arisen, but phosphorus is a very deadly chemical, a deadly poison under certain circumstances and, you know, there was vegetation killed there three or four years ago. I would like to know, what is being done there? The concentrating and pelletizing plant in Labrador City is a perennial problem, the dust concentrations that arise there. I understood that some measures have been taken but I would like to be certain. What I am saying is particularly relevant though, as I have said, to Baie Verte. I want to know what the standard is? What concentration of asbestos fibres are allowed in the air in Newfoundland? You know, is it one part per million or one hundred parts per million or one thousand parts per million,

whatever it is as a measure? Who set it? Has it been reviewed? Should it be reviewed? What is being done to monitor it? Now down in St. Lawrence we have monitors on the monitors and so we should. It became necessary because it was the only way that the men in the mine could be certain that they were not being exposed to radiation levels that were above the tolerable norm.

I am deeply concerned about the problem at Baie Verte, Sir. It is one that has troubled a number of us for a long time. And what should have been done in the past is one point, and it can be argued and discussed and debated but where we are today is where we are today. I am concerned now with where we are tomorrow. And so I would ask the minister if he could tell us exactly what is being done with respect to the asbestos mine at Baie Verte? I think it is the most serious potential problem we have in the Province. The mine has been opened now since 1964 - the gentleman from White Bay South, there is no gentleman from White Bay South - 1964, I think, the mine came into operation, 1964 or 1965. That is ten years now. I am told that the break-out period is anything from a year to fifteen on, which means no problems would have probably surfaced as yet, if I understand the fact correctly. There are people in the world who are expert in it. There are a number of doctors at Mount Sinai in New York with whom I have been in correspondence, Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City. These are the same people, I believe, who did the study for the CNTU, although I have not seen the full study, the Thetford Mine Study. It is a potentially very serious problem. We could be sitting on another St. Lawrence. We do not need the suffering and hardship ever again that the people of St. Lawrence underwent. So I ask the minister if he could tell us exactly what the situation is? And if we are satisfied with it, well and good. And if we are not, then we will have more to say.

Mr. Chairman, those are a few general opening remarks on some of the matters that we think are important. I have asked a number of questions. I have made a number of points. Perhaps what I should do now is ask the minister to say whatever he wishes to say on it.

Maybe other honourable gentlemen wish to enter into the debate as well, of course. And if the minister, if he satisfies us, then well and good. If not, then there are certainly some questions we will come back at because the points we have raised, Sir, we regard as very serious and very important and ones where the government's conduct is either not good enough or positively unwelcome. So it is, you know, the minister's turn as far as I am concerned on round one.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. John's East.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, all the last few remarks of the past forty minutes were tempered by more reasonableness although not without attendant dullness. I would say by and large for the last forty minutes we have been given the greatest, as far as I am concerned, example of a rationale for both mental and physical retroactive abortion that a human being could probably ever witness.

Mr. Chairman, most of the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition who had been the predecessor of the honourable the Minister of Health, were directed against him and his works. I can say both from observation and association with the present Minister of Health that he so far outshines his predecessor that it is not even funny. That is the reason for the very biting remarks.

When the Leader of the Opposition was Minister of Health, Mr. Chairman, he was going throughout all of his tenure to have filed in this honourable House a white paper on health. At the time it was, I suppose I might say, my misfortune to what we call 'shadow' the minister, the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. ROBERTS: And it was my misfortune, too.

MR. MARSHALL: And I certainly do not admit it. It is not part of my curriculum vitae or something that I really brag about. But, the fact of the matter is, throughout this entire time we are asking him about his white paper that he was going to file again and again and again. The records of this honourable assembly will show that it was never filed once. A white paper is supposed to define and set forth the things which were to be done in health services. Unfortunately, not only did the Leader of the Opposition not file it but it was left to his successor the present minister to carry it out so that the present minister need not file a white paper because he has carried out these works.

Now, I, Mr. Chairman, am not going to talk because I know the honourable Minister of Health can answer most of the matters that came up, but there is one matter to which I am going to refer that has come up again and again in this House and through the mouth of the Leader of the Opposition, be he Member of White Bay North, as Minister of Health, but particularly since he has been Leader of the Opposition.

This is with reference to the letter and the communication that he came up with in this House from the International Grenfell Association.

Now, this information was communicated to him, Mr. Chairman, by Dr. Thomas who is the administrator or person in charge in Newfoundland of the International Grenfell Association -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. MARSHALL: (Would you mind?) Undoubtedly an eminent doctor and undoubtedly a man who can make a great contribution and has made a great contribution to this Province. But, I would question, Mr. Chairman, the communication of a copy of a letter to the Minister of Health that was written by Dr. Thomas, the International Grenfell Association to the Minister of Health and sending copies to members of the Opposition.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. MARSHALL: For this reason, if my memory serves me correct, and I took notes on this, he referred to conversations which he had with the Messrs. Osborne and, I think, Hearn was the name. I know these gentlemen will forgive me if I say that I do not know their position in the Department of Health, but I do know that they are officials in the Department of Health. These particular gentlemen as is wont, as is the procedure when estimates are being put together, communicated obviously to the International Grenfell Association the financial ability of the government with respect to its upcoming budget. Now, this is normal and usual and this is the procedure that is used not only, I would imagine, with the International Grenfell Association but it is also used with the St. Clare's Hospital, the Grace Hospital, with every type of individual or entity around this Province when budgets are being put together.

So that these gentleman then went and communicated the tentative feelings of the Department of Health. Budgets are put together from the point of view of negotiations between the parties. It was quite normal and obvious that Dr. Thomas together in concert I suppose, with many people would write to the Minister of Health expressing his disapproval. He did choose, as I know, as he indicated, to obviously send a copy to the honourable Leader of the Opposition, and

the Member for Labrador North. And perhaps, Mr. Chairman, the rationale can be that these two gentlemen are involved with the International Grenfell Association. But it behooves me to observe that when we were in the Opposition, members of the Opposition, I do not recall myself having received or having had notice of too many such communications from the International Grenfell Association or Dr. Thomas along the lines of this particular communication.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. MARSHALL: Now this has happened as I say, I bring this up because it has happened over and over again - now I wish the honourable Member for St. Barbe South was here because I feel that the International Grenfell Association obviously affects his district as well. And I do not believe -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. MARSHALL: that the honourable Member for Labrador South - the Minister of Industrial Relations - it would not surprise me if he did not get a letter.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. MARSHALL: I know that St. Anthony lies within the district of the Leader of the Opposition, but as I say I just draw it to the attention that when we were Opposition we did not get such a notification.

Now I question the wisdom of Dr. Thomas and the International Grenfell Association in giving a communication such as this at this stage to members of the Opposition. There is no doubt in this Province, since freedom has hit the Province, since the election return of this government, by the way, nobody objects to communications with the Opposition, this is everybody's right. But there is a time and there is a place for everything. The Leader of the Opposition has from time to time championed Dr. Thomas. I know of Dr. Thomas, I know him personally as well as the Leader of the Opposition, but certainly not as closely. And I know that he is a man of great medical abilities. I know the International Grenfell Association has contributed a lot to this Province as well, and will in the future. But I am constrained as far as I am concerned to observe from this communication to ask this question, whether

or not the Leader of the Opposition is using the International Grenfell Association and Dr. Thomas, or whether Dr. Thomas and the International Grenfell Association is using the Leader of the Opposition?

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. MARSHALL: Either way the health services, Mr. Chairman,

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. MARSHALL: Either way the health services of this Province are not -

MR. ROBERTS: This is nothing new to you -

MR. MARSHALL: - going to be -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. MARSHALL: - are not going to be served -

AN HON. MEMBER: Polar bears.

MR. MARSHALL: I think it is a matter of great, great concern.

In this particular Province as I say nobody objects to communications with the Opposition, nobody objects to communications with -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. MARSHALL: - the government.

MR. WOODWARD: Bishop Seaborn.

MR. EVANS: Roberts campaign manager.

MR. MARSHALL: It hurts. I thought the honourable Member for Labrador North had a thicker hide.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! The honourable gentleman has the right to participate in the debate as well as anyone else does.

MR. WOODWARD: I agree with that, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. John's East is being quite relevant, his remarks may not be agreed with -

MR. WOODWARD: ... Dr. Thomas -

MR. CHAIRMAN: by the honourable gentleman to my right. However I must bring to his attention as I have brought to the attention of other honourable members that this type of behaviour cannot go unchallenged.

MR. MARSHALL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am not attacking Dr. Thomas. I say Dr. Thomas is doing a great service to this Province. But Dr. Thomas is no more immune in statements such as this as any other member of society is. And if he chooses to line

up with the Opposition or the Opposition chooses to line up with him, and it happens to be in such a manner that an elected representative senses that this is only doing damage to the International Grenfell Association and to the health services of this Province, surely it is pertinent and relevant to bring it to the attention of this Committee, Mr. Chairman.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. MARSHALL: We do not just represent St. John's East or a St. John's districts in this Province, we represent the entire Island.

AN HON. MEMBER: And Labrador.

MR. MARSHALL: Now as I say it is quite evident to me, subject to being convinced, and I am a very convincible person, and I hope it is not true, that either the Leader of the Opposition is using the International Grenfell Association and Dr. Thomas -

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. MARSHALL: in which case he is not serving the interest of this Province because the International Grenfell Association is bigger than the Leader of the Opposition and even bigger than Dr. Thomas or any member here,

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. MARSHALL: as far as the contribution it has made. It is either that, or Dr. Thomas is using the Leader of the Opposition. And I think that the only person who can really answer that is not the Leader of the Opposition, not the people here, or perhaps Dr. Thomas might like to answer it himself.

I understand from the Minister of Health who has indicated to me when I just sat down and this spurious point of order was brought up by my good friend for Labrador North to the effect that Dr. Thomas is going to meet with the Premier and members of the government sometime later on next week. Now the question I would like to ask is this; why would Dr. Thomas, if he is going to meet with the government next week, and perhaps this thing can be ironed out because this government, any government would have the interest of the people of this Province at heart, why would Dr. Thomas and the International Grenfell Association

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choose to circulate a letter to the Leader of the Opposition, and members of the Opposition on the basis of information that had been received from civil servants

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prior to a meeting with the Premier of this Province and this government, if, either, you know, if this being so and this being the fact I think it behooves him to explain as to whether or not he feels his friend, the Leader of the Opposition is using him or he is using them. Now, Mr. Chairman, I say this is not an isolated instance. This has occurred from time to time again because the Leader of the Opposition who has to use little pegs to stand on from time to time, including the Member for Bell Island, before that the former Premier and what have you, they have to shore him up. He has to use the Doctor Thomas and he has used the International Grenfell Association from time to time. I think it is about time, Mr. Chairman, that this matter was brought to the attention of the House and I think it has to be aired and it should be decided because the International Grenfell Association has made a great input and a great contribution to this Province and it is situations such as this which arise which can very much derogate from its usefulness and its utility to the people of this Province and I do not think that this is something that any member, certainly the responsible members of this House, would care to see.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. CHAIRMAN: I almost had to be cross-eyed in situations such as this but I believe my friend from Trinity North had the floor first.

MR. C. BRETT: Mr. Chairman, I feel compelled to speak a few minutes on this heading. It is a matter that -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Do not be too long.

MR. BRETT: Well, I have forty-five minutes. So, I promise you I will not be that long. But Health service is a matter that is sort of near and dear to me and when I think of the way that my particular district was treated for twenty odd years, and, as I said, I feel compelled to get up and make a few remarks. We have heard from the honourable Leader of the Opposition, the self-appointed expert on Health in the Province, he did hold the portfolio in the last administration. He must have been there long enough to learn a few medical terms, some terminology and ever since that he has been the expert. Of course, the members of this House and the

whole Province are very much aware of -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. BRETT: Well, I wish he would. Joey will probably cause him to resign before too much longer. But his record as minister of that department leaves much to be desired and I wish he were here in the House now because I would like to ask him just what did he do for my district. I do not have knowledge of the situation -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: He opened -

MR. BRETT: He most certainly did, one that was built by the people of Trinity North. He came out and he cut the ribbon. He most certainly did.

MR. NEARY: The people of Trinity North are shareholders.

MR. BRETT: No, they are not. The Chamber of Commerce built it. Okay, let me get on. But anyway, the honourable Leader of the Opposition has many characteristics and there are two that are very, very outstanding. He is the one gentleman in this House that can get up and speak for ninety minutes and say absolutely nothing. The other characteristic that he is very famous for, in my opinion, is having tremendous amount of guts or intestinal fortitude, because how he can get up and talk about Health with his record and how he can condemn the present Minister of Health is beyond me because the people of this House and this Province know that if there is, and I suppose we are all honourable men, but if there is anybody in this House that is dedicated and honest and sincere and doing an exceptionally good job it is the present Minister of Health. The whole Province is aware of it.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. NEARY: (First part inaudible) Clarendville and Catalina.

MR. BRETT: Mr. Chairman, three years ago when I became a member, I think back to the services that were in the area that I represent and I would like to go through it if I may. I feel it is relevant to what we are discussing now. Let us take Clarendville. We had one doctor operating in the front porch of a house that was 100 years old and the waiting room was, I suppose, about four by five or four by four, and you practically had to sit on each

other as you waited to see a doctor. Shortly after we took over this Province, and what my friend from Bell Island said is true, the government of this Province did not build a clinic, but certainly they co-operated. The clinic there was built by the Chamber of Commerce in Clarenville but the government of the day did install equipment in the basement, I suppose, or the first story of that building, a lab and X-ray unit and they staffed it. It is still there. They are paying the salary staff. They are not paying any rent on it but the equipment belongs to the government and where we had one doctor under the honourable the Leader of the Opposition, in Clarenville we now have three. I personally give credit to the present minister who co-operated to the extent that we got that clinic.

Now, to go a little bit further down in my district, in the area of Trinity. The last time that there was a doctor in Trinity was way back probably before I was born. They did have a district nurse. They have had a district nurse there for quite a number of years in the person of Mrs. Norse, I think it is, or Moores or some such name. But anyway it has been years and years and years since there has been a doctor in Trinity and the present Minister of Health was successful in obtaining a doctor for that area. Now, that is not all. In addition to that we have a new home there for the doctor and I would like to talk about that because the honourable the Leader of the Opposition was the Minister of Health at the time and just prior to the October election they bought one of these prefab homes.

MR. NEARY: Who did?

MR. BRETT: You people did.

MR. NEARY: Is that the Medical Health Centre?

MR. BRETT: No. Listen to me now, "Steve". Give me a chance.

MR. NEARY: Okay.

MR. BRETT: And they brought it to Trinity and they stuck it in the middle of a bog, if you are a Newfoundlander you know what that is, and it was left there for the whole winter.

MR. NEARY: Inaudible.

MR. BRETT: No, not - Trinity. And by the time we got around to

having a look at it, it had deteriorated to such an extent that it cost us thousands of dollars to make it livable. I went into that home that the former administration put down there as election bait and left and it was a crime. It was a pity. The beautiful pictures, the paintings had all gone damp and moldy.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: I saw it, yes.

MR. BRETT: The furniture was ruined. The ceiling was dropping out of it, the walls. You never saw such a mess in your whole life. We had to spend almost as much as that house cost to make it fit to live in. Well, they put it down there for election bait but they did not win the district.

In addition to that our present minister saw fit to him and the Department of Public Works not only put this house back in shape for the doctor that we have there now but they have also renovated the clinic. They have a modern clinic and doctor's office there and for the first time -

MR. NEARY: Who did it?

MR. BRETT: And for the first time in years, I do not know, it goes back to the 1930's, the people in the Trinity - Port Rexton area have excellent medical services. Now, a little further down in the Catalina - Port Union area, for years and years, I do not know how long, we had one doctor operating out of the public building. If you wanted drugs you had to go down a narrow passageway down into the basement that was usually flooded to get them. We have gotten rid of that but I do not pretend that the government is responsible for getting it out of the public building. There is a new clinic there but it is privately owned.

However,

under this administration and through our present Minister of Health we now have two doctors and we have had two doctors ever since -

MR. NEARY: Inaudible.

MR. BRETT: No, it is not true.

Ever since this administration came into power we have two doctors operating in that area. So, Mr. Chairman, you can see that there has been tremendous improvement over a period of three years. For twenty odd years, and particularly when the honourable Leader of the Opposition was Minister of Health, there was nothing, absolutely nothing, not one single solitary thing done, and he has got the gall, the intestinal fortitude to get up over there and talk about health services in this Province.

Now, the hospital for Clarendville. He is pretty good at making mileage, you know, political mileage out of hospitals. He had a pretty good teacher, ah? I think they won three elections in Carbonear on their hospital. He is hoping to win another one on the one in Clarendville.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Guaranteed.

MR. BRETT: Would you like to come over? Last Thursday I was not in the House, I was with the fisheries committee. If I had been, I suppose I would not have been allowed to speak because the question was asked of the minister. But, it is quite obvious, Mr. Chairman, that the honourable the Leader of the Opposition is trying to make political hay out of the Clarendville hospital. Back in 1950 - I am not sure if it was 1956 or 1958 - but back in the 1950's the then Leader of the Liberal Administration came to Clarendville - I know where he parked his car even, near the police station - and he said -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Did they lock him up?

MR. BRETT: No, they did not. They should have. He said, if you will elect whoever it was at the moment, at the time who was running, he said, if you elect him, you will get not one hospital but two, two hospitals in the Clarendville area. You are going to get a general hospital and we are also going to give you a children's hospital. That was back in the 1950's. That is all that was ever heard of it, a promise.

Well, in March, 1972 -

MR. NEARY: Inaudible.

MR. BRETT: Well, in March, 1972, we were elected. The following year - I want to give you a little bit of history on what has taken place, how far we have advanced - but anyway in March of 1972 we were elected. The following year a decision was made by this government that Clarendville was the chosen site for the regional hospital. This is what has happened. I do not want the Leader of the Opposition or anybody on this side making any political hay out of it.

But, exactly what happened was this. Officials of the Department of Health and Public Works and Services together with representatives of the Clarendville area inspected potential sites in late June of 1973. A site on the then proposed West access road was recommended by that group, that is the new access road into Clarendville.

Then in October, 1973, the same year, a few months after, the engineering firm of Sheppard and Hedges was appointed to do a site feasibility study. This study was received by this government in January of 1974. The study confirmed the suitability of the site. Subsequently, the site was acquired for the development of the hospital. Following that in July of 1974 the consultants were appointed, the Company of Agnew-Peckham and Associates and the functional planning commenced. The preliminary functional planning was completed in October of 1974. This preliminary programme was discussed with a committee from the area on November 1, 1974. Now, the people who met with the minister, the names are here but I will not read that out. But, they did meet with the minister.

Then this preliminary programme was reviewed and the final version, the final completed copy was received by the government in February of 1975. Now, you know, we could, this government could very well have put \$1 million, \$2 million, \$5 million in the budget this year for the Clarendville hospital. This is what the honourable Leader of the Opposition and some of his colleagues are trying to make mileage out of, there is no money in the budget, you are not going to

do anything. Well, if we had put \$20 million in the budget, you could not do anymore than we are doing. You cannot build a hospital until the thing is planned, and you cannot put up a \$20 million building without some plans. You just cannot plan that overnight.

The Burin hospital and the Clarenville hospital is considered as one project by the Department of Public Works. Now, I have been told - I understand that proposals have - the Minister of Public Works has advised me and the Minister of Health that they have invited proposals for project managers. So, I would assume that they will be appointed certainly not later than probably the end of this month. This would be followed by the appointment of the architects. Now, as I said, I repeat myself, we cannot start to build a hospital until the thing has been planned. This is proceeding as fast as it physically can.

Again I repeat, you can put as much money as you like in the estimates. It would look great for me politically, but it would be very deceiving to the people to put a lot of money in the estimates when we know darn well we cannot spend it.

So, Mr. Chairman, that is about all I have to say. In my opinion, medical services in the whole Province, you know, they have gone ahead several hundred per cent. I could stand up and talk about different programmes that we have brought in. There are other speakers I know, but one that I feel compelled to mention is the ambulance programme. This meant a lot to me and to my colleague here since it cost in excess of \$100.00 to get an ambulance to come to St. John's. As you know any serious cases in that area, in rural areas of Newfoundland, must come to St. John's or go to Gander or Grand Falls. Whereas it cost in excess of \$100.00, now it costs \$20.00. So, this programme is just one of the many that this administration and the present minister is responsible for.

In the next four years, and I hate to disappoint you all, but no doubt there will be more rapid strides made in the field of health.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member for Labrador North.

MR. WOODWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I suppose it would

be only right to say a few kind words about the minister. I think in his opening remarks in his presentation on his estimates he did a good job. It was a professional job done by a professional man. I hate to think in terms of the Member for St. John's East coming in to the rescue of the minister. I feel that he is quite capable of protecting himself and selling his estimates to this honourable House.

Then again, I am more surprised, I suspect, that the minister or the Member for St. John's East should in any way feel that the medical officer or the executive officer of the Grenfell Mission such as Dr. Thomas, should not bring to the attention of the Member for Labrador North where most of the Grenfell Mission nursing stations and indeed two of their hospitals, plus three of the nursing stations are in my district. I am in continuous contact with the Grenfell Mission on a day to day basis. I served for a period of three years as Chairman of the Community Health Council in Happy Valley. And, I will talk more on that.

The Grenfell Mission along with Dr. Thomas would like to expand that health board to encompass some of the areas that are not now represented by citizens utilizing the Grenfell Mission facilities throughout Labrador. But, I am more surprised, Mr. Chairman, that the Member for St. John's East would indeed leave the inference with this Committee that Dr. Thomas is playing politics, cheap, petty politics.

Dr. Thomas, and I do not know if all the member of this House are familiar with Dr. Gordon Thomas, is a young man who came up to St. Anthony in the early days when tuberculosis was raging on the Great Northern Peninsula and the isolated communities throughout Labrador.

MR. WOODWARD: He supports whichever party gives him the most funds, and I suspect, Mr. Chairman, when you look at the Liberal regime on the Great Northern Peninsula and the Liberal regime for the twenty-three years and look at the medical services that were provided through the efforts of the Grenfell Mission and the Liberal Government and then as early as two to three years after the Tory Administration came into power and now is trying to reduce that quality or that degree of medical services throughout Northern Newfoundland and Labrador, I suspect that Dr. Thomas is quite annoyed and no doubt, Mr. Chairman, I think he has a right to be annoyed.

The budget this year, if you look at the letter, they had suggested that it would be slashed by some \$400,000. And the minister is quite aware of this. And no doubt that if this is true, and I have no reason to believe that Dr. Gordon Thomas, who is one of the most prominent citizens, the most prominent doctors in our Province, is telling the truth. I would not suspect he is telling a lie or is trying to play cheap political politics with the practice that he has built up, medical practice that he has built up in Northern Newfoundland and Labrador. And for the Member for St. John's East to take his place in this House and say, why, why did he have to send copies of a letter. I think the onus is on the doctor to send copies of letters or correspondence, when they are thinking in terms of the expenditure of public funds, to members of this House.

Why should we hide that from the House or from the members, Mr. Chairman? Is there a need? Is there something secretive about hospital budgets when the minister today is asking the public of this Province for some sum of, I do not know how many millions of dollars is involved here in total. What are we looking for? \$104 million! But then Dr. Thomas should not approach the members who represents the districts that he is operating medical facilities in to ask for support with respect to not having his budget slashed or cut. Is this an unfair request, Mr. Chairman? That is an unfair request.

MR. MARSHALL: I wonder would the honourable member permit a question?

MR. WOODWARD: No, I cannot permit a question. Mr. Chairman, if I may add, with all due respect for my colleague, my good friend, the Member for St. John's East, I think he has very little knowledge of what the Grenfell Mission is doing throughout Labrador and Northern Newfoundland. He does not have the eminent knowledge that I have with respect to the medical facilities on the Northern Labrador. I do not know if he ever slept at a nursing station throughout Northern Labrador, the honourable member?

MR. MARSHALL: I will answer the honourable member. I have never slept on a nursing station but I would like to ask the honourable member, does he feel that his Leader of the Opposition committed a flagrant, perhaps breach of confidence in revealing the contents of that letter from the honourable - from Dr. Thomas?

MR. WOODWARD: I do not think - I think that the Leader of the Opposition who has worked very closely over the years, for the last ten years and in his previous position as Minister of Health, no doubt worked very closely with Dr. Thomas and his staff throughout Labrador and I have no doubt that before the Leader of the Opposition would debate this issue or this letter in the House that he had first talked with Dr. Thomas in that regard. I do not think there is anything secretive about the document. I received the same letter, Mr. Chairman, and there is nothing indicating that it should be kept secret. You know, we are not dealing with Dr. Thomas. We are not dealing with the Grenfell Mission. We are dealing with the people in Northern Newfoundland and Labrador and the effect

that the cut in the operating budgets of the hospital is going to have on the people in those areas.

MR. MARSHALL: I asked the honourable member, and you did not bring it out on your own, it took the Leader of the Opposition -

MR. WOODWARD: Mr. Chairman -

MR. MARSHALL: Could not you?

MR. WOODWARD: Mr. Chairman, must I be harassed or must I be allowed under the rules of the House -

MR. EVANS: You are allowed now.

MR. WOODWARD: - to continue without interruption?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! Of course the rules as they apply to the honourable member apply to anybody else. I recall interrupting the honourable member as he was interrupting.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The honourable member who just interrupted him. So it is the case of one interruption deserves another I suppose.

MR. WOODWARD: But it should not be allowed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to interrupt both.

MR. WOODWARD: But it is not right, Mr. Chairman. It should not be allowed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I think that dragging into this House today the name of one of our most prominent citizens and doctors is very unfortunate.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: If I may repeat the Member for St. John's East, Mr. Chairman, I do not think that the Minister of Health - I think that the Minister of Health when he rises in his place to speak in this debate will say that he has the greatest respect for Dr. Thomas. I do not think -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: I do not think they are playing politics with medical services in Northern Newfoundland and Labrador. I would not like to think

of that, Mr. Chairman. I have known Dr. Gordon Thomas for a long period of time. He has given most of his life to practicing medicine in Northern Newfoundland and Labrador. On a number of occasions he has been asked to go to some of the bigger hospitals as a medical officer in charge of some of the greatest hospitals, not only in Canada, but in the United States. And we have to admire this man when he thinks in terms of devoting his lifetime in medical practice to the people of Northern Newfoundland and Labrador. He built a good facility, Mr. Chairman, something that should be admired. But now we see this government, the Tory Administration, because they feel maybe that he is leaning towards the Liberal Party, or he has been known over the years possibly to support the Liberal Party, say now we are going to stifle that organization, we are going to cut back, because Dr. Thomas is known to be a Liberal. Is this what they are saying to the House?

HON. MEMBERS: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: Mr. Chairman, are these the attitudes and the feelings of the government of the day, when the Member for St. John's East has got to jump into the debate to try and defend the Minister of Health?

HON. MEMBERS: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: Mr. Chairman, if I may go on, and I would like to bring to the attention of the Committee, and maybe the minister when he speaks again with regards to what is happening in Northern Newfoundland and Labrador, and in the areas where I am concerned, and have a responsibility as a member, to think in terms of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Health. I do not know if his department have taken a look and are paying any attention to what the Royal Commission on Labrador is recommending. I think they have some good recommendations.

DR. ROWE: You are talking about the Snowden Report?

MR. WOODWARD: The Snowden Report. There is only one Royal Commission on Labrador, Mr. Chairman, and I am sure that the minister -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: - if he is not familiar with it then -

AN HON. MEMBER: There was another one in Labrador West a year or so before that.

MR. WOODWARD: Was there?

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: What I would like to think in terms of, Mr. Chairman, is the recommendation of the Royal Commission with regards to having the Paddon Memorial Hospital expanded and serve as a regional hospital for Labrador, so that the people will not get involved in the expense they have today in travel as using the St. Anthony Hospital for referrals and people coming in from the Coast and having an immediate stop at the Paddon Memorial Hospital or the North West River Hospital and then in turn being transferred to the hospital at St. Anthony. Maybe

the minister when he rises in his place can tell the committee exactly what his government's policy is in this respect? Another very important thing I should think, Mr. Chairman, is the fact that we have seen this year a terrific increase in air transportation. The fares have gone up some thirty per cent and possibly there will be another rise in air fares. The burden that is causing people to travel off Labrador down to the Island or even into St. Anthony - has the minister given any consideration to looking at a total or subsidy as far as subsidizing patients' air fares who have to come out of Labrador to any other part? And maybe the minister can tell the committee what will happen with respect to having a full nursing station at David's Inlet? And what will happen with respect to the proposed nursing station for Postville? And there are a number of other recommendations, Mr. Chairman.

I think it is quite obvious now and the people are fully aware that the government is now paying I suspect, if not all, the major portion of the expenditures in the operation of the hospitals.

DR. ROWE: Are you talking about I.G.A?

MR. WOODWARD: Yes, I.G.A.

DR. ROWE: Ninety per cent -

MR. WOODWARD: Ninety per cent. But the I.G.A., as I understand it, do have a substantial investment in fixed assets in some of the communities, and they do own a major portion of the property, that is the old property. So in this respect I think there is a great need for a better liaison between the people and the hospital. People over the years have looked at the Grenfell Mission as something that -

DR. ROWE: Are you speaking of the I. G. A?

MR. WOODWARD: And the I. G. A. or the operation of the hospitals, whichever way you want to it.

It is commonly known throughout the Province that most of our hospitals are operated by hospital boards and the communities have representation on the boards in the way of a number of citizens, Mr. Chairman. Maybe there is a need for such a board. Maybe the board

should be expanded. The Goose Bay-Happy Valley board should be expanded to have representation on that board from other areas as well. And maybe the minister can give us his views with respect to what should be done or what he is recommending as far as boards are concerned? Hopefully or eventually the hospital boards will take over the operation of the hospitals in the event that we run into difficulties with the Grenfell Mission or if the government sees fit to ^{stifle} stifle the expenditures and to push the Grenfell Mission into any hardship as far as the operation of hospitals is concerned, which is an indication that is happening this year. So maybe this is all I have to say, Mr. Chairman. Maybe when the minister speaks again he can give his views.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Hon. Member for Bonavista South.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, speaking on the heading of the minister's salary in the estimates for the Department of Health, today I feel that listening to the debate so far that the greatest injustice ever done to one of the most patriotic, medical services provided to the Labrador Coast, and the Northeast Coast of this Province has been done the greatest injustice ever this House of Assembly has seen, where we have seen the International Grenfell Association a few weeks ago, March 27, write the Minister of Health asking for assistance to prevent the closing down of the following services: the closing of the stations, the nursing station at Conche, to close the nursing station

at Port Hope Simpson, Port Saunders and to close the six beds at Happy Valley, these possible closures, to prevent the closures of these stations, Port Hope Simpson, Conche and Port Saunders and six beds at Happy Valley and possibly half of the pediatric beds at St. Anthony, to prevent the close down of these very important medical services to the services of the Labrador Coast and the Northern part of our Province. One of the most important letters, I would say, that came from an association in this Province to the Minister of Health asking for attention. And Mr. Chairman, the fact that the Minister of Health on March 31 wrote back to Dr. Gordon Thomas, Executive Director of the International Grenfell Association pointing out the fact that the meeting will be convened between the Grenfell Association, the Premier of the Province and Dr. Rowe, Minister of Health for this Province, and the fact that the Leader of the Opposition had the nerve and the gall to stand in this Assembly today and to jeopardize the whole aspect of the medical services for the Labrador Coast. And, Mr. Chairman, he did that by making this very issue a political issue.

MR. NEARY: Sit down, dumb-dumb.

MR. MORGAN: It was not the Hon. Member for Carbonear. It was not the Hon. Member for Trinity North. It was not the Hon. Member for St. John's East. It was not the Hon. Member for Labrador North. But the very irresponsible action of the Leader of the Opposition in standing here and making this very serious plea to this government on behalf of very important medical services provided by the International Grenfell Association along the Labrador Coast by making that very issue a political issue, Mr. Chairman, the irresponsibility of a man, whoever represents the White Bay North-St. Anthony area to have the nerve to stand in this House and jeopardize the negotiations, the talks between the International Grenfell Association and government, between the Premier and the Association, between the Premier and the Minister of Health and the Association, surely that Hon. Member for White Bay North, surely, he must realize what he is doing. That kind of irresponsibility is damaging, really damaging, the possible overcome of this situation, of this very serious problem. It is

unbelievable to me. It is very really unbelievable that the member for that very area who realizes the importance of the nursing station at Port Hope Simpson, who realizes the importance of the nursing station at Conche and Port Saunders and St. Anthony, the psychiatric beds, the pediatric beds - surely, he must realize what he is doing or does he realize what he is doing -

AN HON. MEMBER: No.

MR. MORGAN: - the fact that he came before the House today, and he tried to, tried to, make this issue a political issue, not realizing the damage he is doing, the damage he is doing to this service, the fact the the negotiations will take place on Tuesday coming, Tuesday. I will read from a letter sent to Dr. Gordon Thomas March 31 by the Hon. Minister of Health, the last paragraph:

I confirm your appointment to meet the Premier on Tuesday, 22 April at 12 o'clock noon, and I would hope that no action will be scheduled to take place before that date.

But yet the member for the area, the man who is aspiring to become Premier of this Province, the Leader of the Opposition, will stand in this House and kick around this issue like a political football knowing and fully realizing that he is jeopardizing the whole negotiations, the possible closure of these very important services to the Labrador Coast, even to his own district.

Mr. Chairman, it is unbelievable that a man can be so irresponsible. I am wondering, and I stand today wondering, irrespective of the fact that Doctor Gordon Thomas was the campaign manager in the last provincial election for the honourable Leader of the Opposition, and I know that, Doctor Gordon Thomas, he was a very effective campaigner, campaigning on behalf of the Leader of the Opposition, but irrespective of that, surely the honourable Leader of the Opposition must realize the fact that it is not just Doctor Gordon Thomas. It is the fact of these very important medical services to these communities along the east, along the Labrador Coast and the Northeast Coast of this Province. How can he have the gall and nerve to stand in this Assembly and make a political football simply because Doctor Thomas happened to be a loyal Liberal, happened to be a good supporter of the Liberal Party?

Mr. Chairman, that kind of irresponsibility to me really irks me because I know the people who are residing in Conche and Port Hope Simpson and the people who are residing in St. Anthony. They need these medical services and I am sure the people of these communities knew what their member was standing here today and doing they would have second thoughts about his responsibility, not only as aspiring to become Premier of this Province but the responsibility as their M.H.A. alone to have the gall to jeopardize a grave injustice to this great International Grenfell Association. Maybe I should have reservations in saying that because, Mr. Chairman, I listened a couple of years ago to the honourable Member from Labrador South who represents an area which is much in need of medical services, who represents an area which depends practically entirely upon this Association and I had my reservations about this Association and their activities. I do not want to be derogatory but I listened in this House of Assembly as a member of this Assembly to other members and I listen very attentively. In 1972 it was, the latter part in the Fall of 1972, to the honourable Member from Labrador South who stood in this House and spoke with great knowledge of the actions and the services provided by the International Grenfell Association. I listened attentively. And upon listening to the honourable Member from Labrador South, I had reservations, grave reservations whether this Association was providing

the kind of medical services to the people on the Labrador Coast, to the people on the Northeast Coast, if this Association was really providing the kind of medical services the people of Labrador South, the people of Labrador North, the people of White Bay North, of the Straits, the kind of services they should have. And I have grave reservations after listening to the honourable Member for Labrador South. I prefer, Mr. Chairman, without any hesitation to listen to more attentively the viewpoint of the honourable Member from Labrador South with regards to the activities of the Grenfell Association more so than listen to the expoundings of the honourable Member from White Bay North who seems to be in the same political gathering, the same political camp as Doctor Thomas. I listened to him very attentively. But irrespective, Mr. Chairman, as a member of a different part of the Province, irrespective of what kind of service the Association provides, the fact that the honourable Leader of the Opposition stood here today in this House of Assembly and jeopardizes the possibility of this Association receiving one quarter of a million dollars or more from this government, receiving -

MR. ROBERTS: Jeopardizing by raising in the House with regret -

MR. MORGAN: The fact, Mr. Chairman, that the honourable Leader of the Opposition without knowing whether Doctor Thomas agreed with him or not, stood up in the House and disclosed correspondence that was sent to the honourable Minister of Health, it was not sent to the honourable Leader of the Opposition. A copy was sent. A copy was sent, Mr. Chairman. It was not an official letter forwarded to the honourable Leader of the Opposition or forwarded to him as the M.H.A. for the area. It was a copy of a letter sent to the honourable Minister of Health, a copy of a letter that was asking for assistance, asking for assistance in a very serious situation. But the honourable Leader of the Opposition, his decision was to stand in this House and to do every possible effort to turn the whole thing into a political issue, a political football and he is jeopardizing by doing that, he is jeopardizing the medical services of the people in his own district and the Labrador Coast and it is a shame. It is a shame.

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MR. ROBERTS: How am I jeopardizing?

MR. MORGAN: It is a shame. It is a breach of confidence, number one.

It is a

MR. MORGAN: breach of confidence. There was no indication to me as a Member of this House that the honourable Leader of the Opposition had permission from Dr. Gordon Thomas that he could bring the case before the House of Assembly. I got the indication that he was bringing forth correspondence that was strictly correspondence between the Premier, the honourable Minister of Health and Dr. Gordon Thomas.

AN HON. MEMBER: How did the Premier get into this?

MR. MORGAN: Because Dr. Gordon Thomas had asked for on March 27 -

MR. ROBERTS: I do not know anything about a letter of March 27.

MR. MORGAN: March 27 from Dr. Gordon Thomas, medical doctor, the doctor wrote to the Minister of Health, the honourable A.T. Rowe, asking for a meeting.

MR. ROBERTS: I have not seen that. I do not have that.

MR. MORGAN: What I am saying, Mr. Chairman, what I am saying -

MR. ROBERTS: To a point of order, Sir, I do not mind the honourable gentleman's ravings, that is his problem, but there is a rule of the House that requires a member to be prepared to table and in fact to table any correspondence to which he refers. I said I am prepared to table a letter which I read. Would the honourable gentleman please tables these letters which he is referring to, Sir, so I may have the courtesy of seeing them as well?

MR. MORGAN: No, Mr. Chairman, no I am not prepared to table these correspondence.

MR. ROBERTS: I moved a point of order, Your Honour. Would Your Honour please give me a ruling? Your Honour I think citation 159 is the one which would govern it. But admitted a document which has been cited ought to be laid upon the table of the House if it can be done without injury to the public interest. And the honourable gentleman obviously cannot maintain it would injure the public interest to table a letter of which, I might add as well, a copy of which was not sent to him, a copy of which was obviously given to him by the Minister of Health in an effort to blacken Dr. Thomas' reputation, which is what the honourable gentleman has been doing for the past half an hour or so.

The letter which I cited was sent to me by Dr. Thomas and properly sent. It was sent under no restriction at all. It was sent obviously for such use as I saw fit. The honourable gentleman from Bonavista South, if he has a copy of the letter in his possession, obtained it from the Minister of Health, who if anybody is guilty of a breach of confidence it is the Minister of Health, Sir.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, on that point of order, the honourable Leader of the Opposition did not receive a letter addressed to him. The letter he received was a copy of a letter sent to the honourable Minister of Health, the honourable A.T. Rowe, from the International Grenfell Association.

MR. ROBERTS: Sent to me by Dr. Thomas.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, the point I am making is the fact that the honourable Leader of the Opposition this morning in this debate disclosed the contents of that letter. Therefore, I am now debating the contents of the letter as disclosed by the honourable the Leader of the Opposition in this morning's debate.

MR. ROBERTS: But how did you get a copy? Was a copy sent to you of that letter?

MR. MORGAN: I am commenting on the debate.

MR. ROBERTS: Oh no, come on. The copy was sent to me properly. It was sent to four people. That is not the issue in any event.

MR. MORGAN: That is not the issue.

MR. ROBERTS: The issue is whether you will table the letter or not.

MR. MORGAN: I am commenting on your debate this morning.

MR. ROBERTS: The issue is whether or not the honourable gentleman will table the letter he cites.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: I will deal with that and I am also going to read the speech which the honourable the Minister of Health made in which he talked about the I.G.A.

MR. MORGAN: Point of order. Point of order. Point of order.

MR. ROBERTS: I am ready when the Chairman is ready.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! Well gentlemen I guess there are rules for both ways. However, I quote from Beauchesne, page 134, section 159, subsection (3) which reads as follows: "It has been admitted that a document which has been cited ought to be laid upon the table of the House." That in itself is a question we have yet to decide because we are in committee at the present time. And, "if it can be done without injury, or if it can be done without injury to the public interest. The same rule, however, cannot be held to apply to private letters or memoranda. On the 18th May, 1865, the attorney-general, on being asked by Mr. Ferrard if he would lay upon the table a written statement in a letter to which he had referred on a previous day, in answering a question relative to the Leeds Bankruptcy Court, held that he had made a statement to the House upon his own responsibility, and that the documents he had referred to being private, he could not lay them upon the table. Lord Robert Cecil contended that the papers, having been cited, should be produced; but the Speaker declared that this rule applied to public documents only."
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Inaudible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! In the absence of further evidence it is the opinion of the Chair that these are essentially private documents and that they are originally the subject of correspondence between Dr. Thomas and the Minister of Health

and they are no way public documents in that they were not sent to the media nor were they subject of the type of documents that could be tabled in the House, and consequently they are not the type that need to be tabled. If the honourable members wish to table them the Chair has no objection to receiving them here. However I cannot force the issue at this point.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And I think that about sums it up.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. MORGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. MORGAN: It is a good ruling, Mr. Chairman. I abide by it.

The fact is what I am now debating, what I am now discussing is the contents of a letter that was disclosed to this honourable Assembly this morning, the contents of a letter sent to the Hon. Minister of Health from Dr. Gordon Thomas, the International Grenfell Association, and the contents of that letter was brought forward to this House of Assembly by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition,

MR. BARRY: Shame! Shame!

MR. MORGAN: which is to me, as I pointed out earlier, a very serious injustice, a breach of confidence between the International Grenfell Association and government.

HON. MEMBERS: Inaudible.

MR. MORGAN: It has done serious damage to the meeting that will take place next Tuesday between the Premier and Dr. Rowe, the Hon. Minister of Health, and the International Grenfell Association.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. MORGAN: The injustice has been done, Mr. Chairman, by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, and unbelievably so by the honourable member for the area concerned - St. Anthony and the Conche area, and Port Hope Simpson, all that area is concerned with. It is unbelievable that you have such irresponsibility as to jeopardize in negotiations between such very important and necessary medical services to the area and government. He was not concerned, Mr. Chairman, this morning when he

brought the issue before the House, he was not concerned whether the International Grenfell Association can keep the nursing station at Port Hope Simpson open. He was not concerned whether they could keep the Port Saunders nursing station open. He was not concerned whether they could keep six beds at the Happy Valley Hospital open. He was not concerned whether or not they could keep half of the pediatric beds at St. Anthony open or closed. That was not his concern, Mr. Chairman, and that is what hurts me. That is really what hurts me. The fact is he was using this very issue as a political football.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. MORGAN: A political football. Such irresponsibility, Mr. Chairman, is really unwarranted on the part of him as his role as an M.H.A. for the area, as their representative, the man who stands in this Assembly and represents the St. Anthony area, the area covered by the International Grenfell Association.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, that kind of irresponsibility portrays to me that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition is willing to step to any depths for his own political gain.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! The honourable member has used the word irresponsibility on a number of occasions, and while no objection came from the honourable members to my right it is a phrase which has a rather disturbing overtone to it. And the word irresponsibility can be interpreted in many ways. It is not one of the phrases which has been put forth as unparliamentary, although all of these have to be taken into the context in which they are used. So I caution the honourable member that having put his foot in the door, with this phrase, or this word, that he is not going to rush through it pell-mell.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, in my view, and I repeat again, in my opinion as a member of this House of Assembly I feel in my own humble opinion that this kind of action today was not only irresponsible but contemptible.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. MORGAN: Contemptible. -

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. MORGAN: of a member of this House of Assembly to jeopardize these very important medical services simply for political gain,

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. MORGAN: simply for political gain.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I am not going to speak at length with regards to the International Grenfell Association. I sincerely hope, and I say it from the bottom of my heart, I sincerely hope that the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition's actions today in this House has not totally destroyed any credibility between the International Grenfell Association and government, and when I say government, I mean the meeting that is going to take place next Tuesday with the Premier of the Province and the Hon. Minister of Health and the International Grenfell Association. I sincerely hope that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition's

contemptible actions today have not jeopardized these negotiations, and that the nursing stations, as I mentioned earlier, will be able to continue, the government will see fit to arrange the necessary assistance, financial or otherwise to the International Grenfell Association to keep these services, very important and of the utmost importance, services to the Labrador and to the St. Anthony area.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I am getting away from that topic. You know, I listened with great interest to the honourable Leader of the Opposition when he stands up and he expounds to be the man who did everything for medical services in this Province, when he happened to be the man who for a while was sitting in the wings, according to the former Premier, sitting in the wings of the Premier's office waiting for an appointment to cabinet. One of these days he goes along to the former Premier and he says, Mr. Premier, do you think I am qualified for a cabinet post? Of course, the honourable - at the time - the honourable Mr. Smallwood said, well, let me see now. What have you been doing for the past couple of years. You have been in my wings and you have been listening to what I have been telling you to do and you have been doing what I have been telling you to do. You have been very attentive and you have been very obedient. You have always obeyed me. You have always done what I have told you to do.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Inaudible.

MR. MORGAN: Now, Mr. Chairman -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. BRETT: Sit down and take it, boy.

MR. MORGAN: Now, Mr. Chairman, any -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. MORGAN: So after that kind of a conversation, at the time the honourable the Premier says, well, now, let me see, you ran down in White Bay North and you got elected. Of course, anybody could, because it was a very Liberal District.

MR. ROBERTS: Your Honour, I will raise the point of order if nobody else will. If it is in order, I would like nothing better than to debate the matter. But, Your Honour has had numerous points of order drawn to

Your Honour's attention about relevancy. I mean, if the honourable gentleman wants to make a personal attack on me to go along with Gordon Thomas, I am in good company and let him feel free to do it. I would merely point out that I would ask the right to reply. I would also point out that all his importunings of his Premier have not resulted in his going in the cabinet. That, Sir, is a fact.

MR. BRETT: He is not one of the Premier's men either.

MR. ROBERTS: Charlie Brett has not been in the cabinet yet either. He is too busy owning drug stores in Catalina.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Inaudible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think it is rather peculiar that the Leader of the Opposition has called upon the Chair for a point of order. When the Chairman rises, he should at least listen to what the Chairman has to say.

I must admit that I was otherwise occupied when the honourable Member for Bonavista South started on his latest tack. But, one of the gentleman at the table was good enough to inform me that it was a totally irrelevant, the discourse that he had embarked upon and consequently, the point of order raised by the Leader of the Opposition is quite correct. He was being irrelevant.

MR. MORCAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am sorry I strayed. But, Mr. Chairman, the point I was making is the fact that we are talking about the Health estimates, and I want to relate to the estimates that were brought forward to this Assembly previously by the honourable Leader of the Opposition when he was then Minister of Health and the present estimates of the Minister of Health, the honourable Member for Carbonear. Mr. Chairman, when the honourable member became , the honourable Member for White Bay North became the honourable Minister of Health, of course he had to get the good wishes of the Premier to get in cabinet. At the time when he approached the honourable Premier with regards to becoming a cabinet minister, the honourable Premier looked at the portfolios vacant and he said to himself, well now, the honourable Member for White Bay North, you are closely associated with the drug situation in the Province, you know, you are connected. Let me see now. Where can I fit you in?

So, the honourable Member for White Bay North became the Minister of Health.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Inaudible.

MR. MORGAN: And shortly - Mr. Chairman -

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, to a point of order, to a point of order. There are some rules. I would not attempt to get as low as the gentleman from Bonavista South. But, is the honourable gentleman suggesting that the reason I was made Minister of Health was because of the fact that, as is well-known and is clear to my conflict of interest statement, and is indeed when the gentleman from St. John's East crept up from the sewer one night and made an attack on me in the House where I was Health Minister, that matter was discussed at some considerable length.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: Sir, I am speaking to a point of order. I am speaking to a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, I am speaking to a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! Order, please!

MR. ROBERTS: To a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will

both honourable gentlemen please be seated. I was going to allow the Hon. Leader of the Opposition to finish. However, I should have interrupted him immediately because the attack or the -

AN HON. MEMBER: Remarks.

MR. CHAIRMAN: - remarks made concerning the member for St. John's East where he said that the honourable gentleman crept up from the sewer -

AN HON. MEMBER: St. John's East?

MR. CHAIRMAN: - is completely unparliamentary. I do not know what else I can say about it. It is the sort of statement that does nothing to add to the quality of debate. Indeed it drags it down into the sewer from which the honourable gentleman alleged the other honourable gentleman came.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, may I then continue?

MR. MORGAN: Point of order?

MR. ROBERTS: Thank you, Your Honour. The point of order was the honourable gentleman from Bonavista South saying that the reason why I was in the - I heard him carefully -

AN HON. MEMBER: Is that a point of order?

MR. ROBERTS: It is a point of order, yes, for the benefit of the gentleman.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. ROBERTS: No, Sir.

The point of order is: Is the honourable gentleman saying that and if so, is it in order to say it? There are some very real rules in this House about personal, questioning one's motives so forth and so on. And if so, I say to the honourable gentleman that if he has the courage, not of his convictions, because I let that speak for itself, if he has the courage of a cockroach, a low, loathsome creature, I ask him to step outside the House and repeat them, repeat those statements, Sir, and my solicitor will serve a writ on him, my solicitor will serve a writ on him, Sir, for libel and slander the first time the honourable gentleman makes those statements outside. My connection

with a drug retail firm -

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

MR. ROBERTS: Sir, am I not to be allowed to continue?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The honourable member is making a speech.

MR. ROBERTS: I did not think I was but -

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think the point has been made. The Member for Bonavista South was in a rather facetious way, as far as the Chair was concerned -

MR. ROBERTS: No, Your Honour -

MR. CHAIRMAN: jocularly -

MR. ROBERTS: (Inaudible)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Chair is attempting to make a ruling. This is the second or third occasion in which the Leader of the Opposition has interrupted the Chair and that should be the last person anyone should interrupt.

I believe that the remarks made by the Member for Bonavista South, once they will appear in Hansard, would be those which would possibly question the motives of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition. However, the context and the tone in which they were said I do not believe that was the import of the honourable member's statement. So I would suggest maybe that he would rephrase them. And as far as the statements made by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition are concerned, they do basically fall into the grounds of a disagreement between two honourable members as to facts or interpretation of facts or whatever. And as to the invitation to step outside, well maybe both honourable gentlemen -

MR. ROBERTS: No, that was not the connotation. It was an invitation to repeat his statements outside. I would not get involved in physical violence.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I see.

MR. CHAIRMAN: As far as the Chair is concerned, I would suggest that the Hon. Member for Bonavista South might perhaps rephrase his remarks.

MR. CROSBIE: The Hon. Leader of the Opposition rose on a point of order - it was not a point of order - and then spoke, not quoting the words used by the member -

MR. NEARY: (Inaudible).

MR. CROSBIE: I am rising on a point of order.
- and then spoke -

MR. NEARY: What is the minister speaking on now?

MR. CROSBIE: I am raising a point of order.

MR. NEARY: In the debate has he raised a point of order or a point of privilege, Sir?

MR. CROSBIE: Can I carry on?

MR. NEARY: Or is he questioning Your Honour's ruling?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

MR. CROSBIE: I have a point of order, Mr. Chairman, that I want to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Fisheries has risen on a point of order.

MR. NEARY: No, he did not.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, he prefaced his remarks with 'point of order.'

MR. NEARY: He did not.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now if that is not rising a point of order, the Chair fails to know what is rising a point of order.

MR. NEARY: He did not.

MR. CHAIRMAN: However, I thought I had disposed of the points of order and

MR. CROSBIE: Well, I have another point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: - ostensible points of order that were before the House. But we have rather spirited exchanges between honourable members and there may be some points of order that the Chair has missed. So I am willing to listen to the Minister of Fisheries.

MR. CROSBIE: My point of order is this, Mr. Chairman, that a spurious point of order was raised by the Leader of the Opposition. No one on this side has been given a chance to speak to it or to point out that he had not even quoted what the member for Bonavista South had said.

He twisted what he had said and alleged there were charges made and went into all kinds of gutter language himself and no one on this side of the House was allowed to address themselves to the point of order or point out what in fact had been said by the Member for Bonavista South, who said nothing except that the honourable gentleman was made Minister of Health, perhaps because he knew about drugs. Is there any charge to that or any serious or scurrilous aspect to it? Then the honourable Leader of the Opposition is allowed to get up on an ostensible point of order and carry on like he did without us having a chance to speak to it.

MR. ROBERTS: Your Honour, if I may be allowed the privilege of replying to that? The Minister of Fisheries has done exactly what he has accused me of doing. He misquoted the honourable gentleman from Bonavista South and I would invite Your Honour to send for the tapes. The problem, I would suggest, is that the gentleman from Bonavista South did not have the wit and the brains to quote what the gentleman from St. John's West told him to say, because we all saw the gentleman from St. John's West prompt the gentleman from Bonavista South and we all know that, Sir, the gentleman from Bonavista South would never have the wit to come up with anything like this on his own.

So, the problem is that the gentleman from St. John's West feels that he is out of order, the problem is that the gentleman from St. John's West feels that he is out of order simply because the gentleman from Bonavista South would not quote him properly. Now, Sir, I am not responsible for that and therefore I submit there can be no point of order. I would ask that the gentleman from Bonavista South get on with his speech because the Minister of Health has been noticeably silent during this entire day and he is the one man who should be heard from.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! Order, please! Well, honourable gentlemen are abusing the point of order rule. That is all the Chair can say. Now, I will do my best to maintain order to have orderly debate, but if honourable gentlemen wish to get up on spurious points of order and then to launch into long debate, well then the Chair is a fairly ineffective tool. But the point made by the Minister of Fisheries is quite correct in

that when the honourable Leader of the Opposition raised a point of order, I immediately arose to give my opinion on it. I should have entertained some debate upon it but I believed at that time that I would be able to dispose of it and to get back to the normal debate at the time. However, that was not to be and maybe it is some indication of the general mood of the day and also that we are coming to the end of a rather long week.

MR. NEARY: Now, we have a long weekend coming up.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Fortunately, there is a long weekend coming up.

MR. ROBERTS: Hear! Hear! Well ruled.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, thank you for your ruling, Mr. Chairman.

I did state that, getting back to the appointment of the honourable Leader of the Opposition to the position of Minister of Health, and we are debating the estimates of the Department of Health today in the House of Assembly and I am referring back to the time when the honourable Leader of the Opposition was the Minister of Health and his estimates. So I want to relate with regards to his estimates how he became Minister of Health and I tied in the fact how he did become Minister of Health. He became Minister of Health with a decision made by the Premier of the day based on a certain number of factors, and one of the factors concerned was that he was involved and quite knowledgeable on the drug stores and the allocation of drugs. That is my point I made and I stand by that point, either in the House of Assembly or outside the House of Assembly.

So, Mr. Chairman, the honourable Minister of Health at the time, the honourable, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chairman, -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chairman, the honourable -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, could I be heard, Mr. Chairman, could I be heard in silence, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the fact that the honourable Leader of the Opposition did this today in the House of Assembly, he deserves the kind of contempt we are showing him. He deserves the kind of contempt

we are showing you, to jeopardize the health services along the Labrador Coast because of playing politics. That is right. You are playing politics. That kind of action is not deserving of a Leader of the Opposition let alone a member of the House of Assembly.

So, Mr. Chairman, getting back to after he became Minister of Health, now today we hear the great expoundings of he wants a hospital in Clarendville. He wants the extension to Grand Falls, a new hospital in Bonavista, a new hospital in Burin. But, Mr. Chairman, do you recall Mr. Chairman, maybe you do, hopefully you do, back in 1972, 1971-72 when the same honourable gentleman, then Minister of Health, went down to Bonavista, stood on a platform at the opening of a recreational fair and said what is Jim Morgan complaining about. Jim Morgan, he is Chairman of some association out here. What is he complaining about? What is wrong with your hospital? We are giving you new bathrooms. We are giving you new bathrooms, Mr. Chairman. That was the very comment made by the honourable Leader of the Opposition, then Minister of Health, with his -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: bathrooms, you need it.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, then with his colleague, his colleague then, the honourable Member for Bonavista South at the time, then standing with him, side by side on a platform at the recreational fair in Bonavista. He said,

ladies and gentlemen, he said, what is Jim Morgan complaining about? He is saying the hospital is outdated. It is dilapidated. It is falling down. It is a firetrap. What is he talking about, Mr. Chairman, he said. What is he talking about? Ladies and gentlemen, do you know that we are right now building you new bathrooms in the out-patients department of your hospital?

MR. CROSBIE: Go on. I was not spending all that money.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, that was the total allocation of \$16,000 and the people of Bonavista went away and they said, you know maybe the honourable Mr. Roberts, the honourable Member for White Bay North of the House of Assembly is really right. Jim Morgan is talking nonsense. There is nothing wrong with our hospital.

MR. ROBERTS: If they said it then they are saying it now.

MR. MORGAN: There is nothing wrong with our facility. There is nothing wrong with our beautiful hospital, our cottage hospital, nothing wrong with it at all. That is the question mark they had in their minds. Then, Mr. Chairman, I happen to have considerable correspondence at the time back and forth between the government of the day and myself and committees in the area and it was pointed out in black and white specifically that the policy of the Liberal Government of the day was to close out the hospital in Bonavista, to give them a little clinic, to give them a little modern clinic, maybe with two doctors, maybe with two, not guaranteed, possibly only one and that all the people on the Bonavista Peninsula, 35,000 of them, would travel up to Clarendville because maybe, maybe there was going to be a regional hospital in Clarendville, that was only maybe. As the honourable Member for Trinity North pointed out today, the Premier of the day, I think it was 1970 -

MR. BRETT: 1950 approximately.

MR. MORGAN: 1950 first of all, 1950 goes to Clarendville, we are going to give you a new hospital.

AN HON. MEMBER: Two.

MR. MORGAN: But we are not going to give you just one hospital, we are going to give you two hospitals in Clarendville, two hospitals. But we

are going to cancel out Bonavista, close Bonavista. Bonavista South is all Liberal anyway. We do not need the votes, cancel them out. Rossie Barbour will get elected again. We do not need them. Cancel them out. We are going to put two hospitals in Clarendville. That was the theme, that was the policy of the Liberal Administration under the present Leader of the Opposition as Minister of Health.

MR. ROBERTS: In 1950?

MR. MORGAN: No, in 1969 and 1970.

AN HON. MEMBER: And 1971.

MR. MORGAN: That is right. In 1970 you sat on a stage in Bonavista and advocated, you do not need a new hospital, all you need is new bathrooms.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Whoever circumcised him threw away the wrong piece.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, that was the Leader of the Opposition. Mr. Chairman, when I am travelling around in the summertime and a bug gets in the car I ignore it completely.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! Order, please! I suppose the Chair could ignore a remark such as the type -

MR. ROBERTS: It is debate, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: - made by the Member for Bell Island. All I can say is we have come up from the sewer but not too far with remarks of that type.

MR. NEARY: Could Your Honour give us a citation?

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, you know, seriously, these kinds of remarks in the House of Assembly, if I had to take them seriously, Mr. Chairman, and if all members of this House of Assembly on this side of the House had to take seriously the comments we hear back and forth every day from the honourable Member from Bell Island, we would not be here today, Mr. Chairman, because, you know, we would have such a decorum in the House of Assembly, such a decorum -

MR. NEARY: Sit down.

MR. MORGAN: - that kind of nonsense and trash. Well, Mr. Chairman, I am not addressing my remarks today to the honourable gentleman from Bell Island who does not even know even the first class concept of medical facilities in the area.

MR. NEARY: Sit down. Sit down. Birth rate decreases -

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! Order, please! Confrontations between the honourable gentleman and the Chair are not unknown. I rose a couple of minutes ago concerning remarks made by the honourable member, directed at the Member for Bonavista South. I have previously admonished the honourable Member for Bell Island concerning

his descriptions of the Member for Bonavista South.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Humorous but unparliamentary. And these things do appear in the records of this House. The honourable member is quite adept at directing his remarks at the microphone because they do get in the Hansard.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: It is inaudible, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, I trust that we will not have any more remarks of that type.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. MORGAN: I am not too worried about these remarks, Mr. Chairman, because you know something, the same remarks that the honourable gentleman from Bell Island made about me today, he also made last week about his own Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: You cannot expect any better.

MR. MORGAN: So, I am not too worried about that, Mr. Chairman.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: No, we do not expect any better. Right.

MR. MORGAN: The same remarks in the cafeteria. His a great leader.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. MORGAN: The same remarks. The same remarks, oh yes. He loves his leader, Mr. Chairman. The same remarks. That is right.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Inaudible.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, the fact, Mr. Chairman, that we today are now having under construction a new hospital in Bonavista, and the fact that I have once in a while to turn the radio on and I turn the television on and listen to the gall of the honourable Leader of the Opposition to say, what has happened to the second phase of the hospital. What is happening to the first phase of the hospital? Where is the money for the hospital in Bonavista. Mr. Chairman, the nerve of that man when he was the very man who advocated close down the Bonavista Cottage Hospital and move them all into Clarendville. We do not want a hospital in Bonavista. All you are going to get is a clinic out in Bonavista.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, the fact that today we have under construction the first phase of the new hospital for Bonavista, call it what you want, a regional hospital or a district hospital or a fever hospital, it is a replacement of the old cottage hospital, a dilapidated building, a fire-trap. We are seeing that today under actual construction, the first phase. The fact that, Mr. Chairman, without any hesitation I say with all confidence that the second phase of that construction will be going ahead this Summer. The first phase is now being constructed costing over \$1 million, consisting of the outpatients' department, the outpatients' division, of new doctors' offices and diagnostic facilities. The fact that in July or August of this year tenders will be called for phase two, the bed section, and the fact that we will have thirty-seven beds in the new hospital, Mr. Chairman, my appreciation and my thanks can only go to one man, to one man and his colleagues in government, that is the honourable Minister of Health, the present Minister of Health, the honourable Member for Carbonear, and only him.

Whenever I listen to any comments from the Leader of the Opposition advocating that a new hospital go in Burin, a new hospital go in Clarenville, an extension in Grand Falls, I have one little small question to ask. What did the honourable member do when he was Minister of Health? What did he do?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: He turned sods.

MR. MORGAN: He was only there when his Premier said to him, let us go out and turn a sod next week. Let us go out and turn a sod and pretend we are going to have a new hospital in Clarenville.

MR. NEARY: When he went out to turn one, they had all been turned by "John Crosbie".

MR. MORGAN: So, Mr. Chairman -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: The Carbonear one.

MR. CROSBIE: I was not allowed to turn a sod.

MR. MORGAN: The honourable Leader of the Opposition, he has no right. He has no - I should not say, no I will not say it - but he has no right to stand in this House and criticize in any way or form the tremendous, the excellent job being done by the present Minister of Health and this government because I am sure they will all agree on this side of the House

of Assembly and if he is speaking his mind and speaking it truthfully, all members on the other side of this Assembly will agree that the honourable Minister of Health has done over the past two or three years, a tremendous job in that portfolio and we all wish him well in the future years.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. MORGAN: Now, Mr. Chairman, I am going to twist my angle a bit now. I am going to agree with this time, agree with the Leader of the Opposition on a point he made today. I am going to agree with the point he made about denturists in the Province because I was a member of the Select Committee of the House of Assembly who travelled around the Province extensively visiting the major centers, holding public hearings, getting viewpoints. And the honourable Member for Twillingate was there as well at the same Select Committee. The honourable Minister of Health was on the Committee. We heard the views of the Federation of Labour and other major associations from different organizations, different groups, individuals, clients of denturists, clients of dentists, even from dentists themselves. Of course, that was obvious because they were lobbying against the legalization of denturists. We heard their views and we heard their comments.

The honourable Member for St. John's South who was chairman of the Committee, when he brought forward his report he spoke briefly on the report and the report strongly recommended the legalization of denturists in the Province

so as they could manufacture complete plates, not partial plates but complete plates - upper, lower dentures - and that these denturists who are practicing throughout the Province be legalized and that regulations be drawn up to govern these denturists. And, of course, we also during that time as a Select Committee of the House of Assembly travelled across to Nova Scotia and we visited the Deputy Minister of Health -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. MORGAN: Yes, the Minister of Health of Nova Scotia. We discussed with him the legislation and the regulations that would govern the denturists after they were legalized. I understand to date that the Nova Scotian government have not yet drawn up regulations to govern the denturists. They have a piece of legislation passed by the House, an Act that gives the denturists the right to practice and deal with the public in the Province of Nova Scotia for the manufacture of complete plates, not partial plates but complete plates.

In the meetings and hearings we have held around the Province in my own point of view I think denturists definitely should be legalized. I think they have a service to offer the people.

AN HON. MEMBER: Has the legislation been proclaimed in Nova Scotia yet?

MR. MORGAN: Yes. Yes. No. That is right too. Not proclaimed but passed by the Legislature, yes. But just prior to our meetings we held around the Province that whilst some harassment of the denturists by the dentists in combination with the law - the R.C.M.P. in particular - there were a lot of question marks whether these denturists should be allowed to continue on in their practice or not. Well, all our hearings pointed out quite clearly to us that they were provided a much needed service to many areas of the Province, rural Newfoundland in particular, and that these services provided by the denturists was much needed. They were usually lower costs than what they could get from a dentist, and many people were availing of these services. And from talking to the Denturist Association, and the denturists concerned they were willing to accept the training and to become qualified up to a certain standard, and I felt, as I do now firmly, that these denturists should be legalized.

But as the Minister of Health pointed out today he is not against legalization. He was on the Committee that recommended legalization. He is strongly in favour of legalization. It was just a matter of procedure of government to get the proper laws drawn up and to legalize these denturists so as they can improve the present dental services to the outport areas in particular of our Province.

Well, Mr. Chairman, I agree with the Leader of the Opposition on that point that we should have these denturists legalized, and, in fact, as soon as possible.

The cost of drugs to me as a member of an outport area is a big concern. I have letters every day from my constituents who are - some of them are old age pensioners, some of them who are low income people - and they are very concerned about the cost of drugs. It is only the people on social assistance get assistance for their drugs, and the people who are off social assistance do not want no part of welfare, and do not want no part of government assistance, they find it difficult in covering the cost of their drugs, and in particular the old age security recipient.

So I would like to see some kind of a programme, or a formula brought in by government to assist these people who find it difficult in the purchase of drugs. And as to whether or not we should help the old age pensioners alone, or whether we should help the low income people in one category, you know, how it can be done is a question I am sure that is the concern of the Minister of Health today, his counterparts in Ottawa, and his officials on both levels, what we should do to overcome the present cost of drugs. But it is obvious to me as a member of this Legislature that something has to be done, and something should be done in the near future to offset the cost of drugs to our people in this Province.

Now, Mr. Chairman, the present Minister of Health has done an excellent job in recruiting doctors, - an excellent job. And I defy any member of this Legislature to say differently. The Minister of Health if I recall correctly from my information is that during the past year, 1974, I think there were approximately thirty-something doctors brought into the Province.

They came into the Province as the result of the recruitment, the recruitment efforts of the honourable Minister of Health. It was only his efforts and his efforts alone and his officials that we got these doctors in our Province and we have them serving the rural parts of our Province, places like Bonavista South. I do feel that the graduates of the medical school, that we must stipulate in the future that these graduates be more or less regulated by law, if you wish, to go out and serve in areas like Bonavista and King's Cove and Trinity and Port Rexton and these places, to serve the rural areas of the Province.

I understand that last year, no, not last year, 1973, I think there were twenty doctors from our new medical school, twenty doctors who graduated from MUN from the new Medical School there at our University here in St. John's, and around I think it was twelve of them out of twenty stayed in the Province to practice here in Newfoundland and I certainly hope this trend continues in the future when we have graduates coming out of our local school. They will not go off to New Brunswick or Ontario or out in Manitoba or New Brunswick, that they will stay in Newfoundland, not only in Newfoundland but they will stay in Newfoundland to go out to the places where they are much wanted. Their services are much wanted in places like Bonavista and Wesleyville and Fogo and these places and not just skip off to the more lucrative places, in most cases in Canada like Central Canada.

So, Mr. Chairman, these are the few points I would like to make today. I do also mention, as was mentioned by the previous speaker in this debate, the new Ambulance Programme. People seem to have overlooked this very important programme because the people in my district, for example, prior to the implementation of this programme an ambulance service from Bonavista coming into St. John's was costing \$192, just to leave St. John's, one way into St. John's, an ambulance. Many of the people on low income, the fishermen and the old age security people just could not afford to get an ambulance and they would think twice and maybe three times before they even called the ambulance and say, look, we need to take this patient into St. John's, and the families could not afford to pay for it. Now, thanks to the new programme of this government, it only

costs \$20, \$20 per patient to travel to St. John's from Bonavista. That, I am sure, is a very important programme to areas like Bonavista South and along the East Coast and areas far away from where the services are, like the St. John's area.

So, Mr. Chairman, in closing I again repeat my earlier remarks that I sincerely congratulate a man who I know is devoted to his job, a man who is very sincere in doing a job to overcome the problems with regards to medical services and health needs in our Province and I sincerely hope that he will remain in politics and I sincerely hope that he will be with us after the next election and stay on even in the same portfolio and to carry on doing a job to improve the medical services and needs of all Newfoundland. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, I submit I was here first. The tradition is that both sides alternate in -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: No, Sir, there have been four speakers on the other side and only one has spoken from this side. So I submit I should be recognized.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: By all of them - we have had three speakers from the other side now and only one from this side,

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

MR. ROBERTS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I understand His Honour, the Lieutenant-Governor is coming at quarter of six. Is that correct?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: Well, whenever His Honour comes, there is no question. He is entitled to be admitted and that is that. Let me, first of all, comment -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: The Minister of Health must be a very chagrined and unhappy man today because he brought in his estimates and read the statement that he prepared or had prepared for him and I got up and

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made a few comments and asked some questions and the entire debate has now centred about what I may or may not have done during my three years as Health Minister and also

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with a couple of gratuitous and unnecessary personal attacks upon Dr. Gordon Thomas of St. Anthony.

MR. MORGAN: No attacks, no attacks.

MR. ROBERTS: I think the Minister of Health, Sir, as I say, should be chagrined and unhappy. He has just ceased to matter in the Health estimates debate and that is unfortunate because I think he has a contribution to make and I am sorry that he had to ask the gentleman from St. John's East, the gentleman from Trinity North, the gentleman from Bonavista South, and other gentlemen opposite to jump into the debate, that the minister could not speak for himself.

I would hope, Mr. Chairman, that the minister will reply, Sir.

MR. CROSBIE: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, the honourable gentleman is making statements that he does not back up. Any member of this Committee can speak when he gets the Chairman's eye.

MR. ROBERTS: I am not challenging that.

MR. CROSBIE: But the honourable gentleman gets up and makes a false statement that the minister asked them to defend him. That is completely false.

MR. ROBERTS: To that point of order, Sir, I am not challenging, I am not challenging the right of any member to speak subject to Your Honour's - I am merely pointing out the fact that the Minister of -

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Health on a point of order.

DR. ROWE: I would just like to clarify for the record that I did not ask any member on this side to speak in my favour or against my favour. I did not ask anybody to speak in this debate, for the record.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, so much for the points but the facts speak for themselves. Let me first of all say one word to set a matter straight for a man who is not here to defend himself, Dr. Thomas. I have heard some statements made that Dr. Thomas was allegedly my campaign manager. Let me say for those who are concerned or interested in this matter, there seems to be a lot of chatter on it, that I do not know how Dr. Thomas may or may not have voted, I hope he voted for me. Eighty-five per cent of the

people in White Bay North have voted for me and therefore it is reasonable to assume that Dr. Thomas may have voted for me, but it is equally reasonable to assume that he may not.

AN HON. MEMBER: He never voted for you.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, I want to say simply because Dr. Thomas' conduct needs no apology for any gentleman opposite. I shall in a minute read the relevant portions of the Minister of Health's speech when he talks about the I.C.A. But let it just stand on the record that Dr. Thomas has never campaigned for me or with me or served on any campaign committee of mine. Somebody said he served on the Executive Board of the Liberal Party, that is not correct. He has never served on the Executive Board of the Liberal Party.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: No, he has never served on a district executive. The honourable gentleman's great friend, the late Max Smith once served on a district executive. A lot of people have served on a district executive.

Now, Sir, let me - But I wanted to say that in case any, I am not worried about honourable gentlemen opposite. I am concerned that anybody in the press gallery or elsewhere might have somehow felt that a misstatement was made and not corrected.

AN HON. MEMBER: He said he was your campaign manager?

MR. ROBERTS: Who said it? Morgan or Brett -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Morgan.

MR. ROBERTS: Well the honourable gentleman from Bonavista South apparently said he was my campaign manager, that statement, Sir, was no more accurate than most of the statements made by the honourable gentleman from Bonavista South.

Let me turn to one or two of his points. Sir, I am not going to get into the personal attacks. I expect those from the gentleman from Bonavista South. I regret them. I expect them. The gentleman from St. John's East tried exactly the same tack three or four years ago, was hoist on his own petard then, was humiliated then, and that is why he spoke today. I invite him to go back and have a look at the Hansard

of that evening. He got into it today. It is a long standing personal grudge. He has made a number of personal attacks on me in this House. I say to him, fine, well and dandy, have at it. What I own, I own and what I do not own, I do not own.

MR. MORGAN: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: As for the gentleman from Bonavista South, Sir, in either nastiness or ability, in neither case does he hold a candle to the gentleman from St. John's East who in either case, and either count, either being nasty or being able, is infinitely ahead of the gentleman from Bonavista South.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! The honourable Leader of the Opposition is protesting personal attacks upon himself and in doing so, is, in the opinion of the Chair, doing the same type of thing which can only lead to the standard type of response for that type of comment. We are dealing with Head 1001-01 - Minister's salary, Department of Health. There have been many irrelevant comments made this afternoon and this morning and maybe it is time to get back to discussion that are more pertinent to this very important head of expenditure.

MR. ROBERTS: Thank you Your Honour and I am grateful that Your Honour draws me to task. I find that comforting, Sir. Now let me deal in turn with one or two of the points made by the gentleman from Bonavista South.

He accused me of having breached a confidence in having read into the letter or read into the record of this House a letter written by Dr. Thomas to the Minister of Health. I do not need -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: No, Sir, that letter is neither confidential nor given to me in confidence. The letter was sent to me to be used as I saw fit in my capacity as a member of this House. It was also sent to the gentleman for Labrador North, and to two other gentlemen. It may have been sent to many others. I do find, Sir, I do -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: I am sorry?

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: No, I did not - as far as I know Dr. Thomas is quite capable. Now let me - I will come back to that -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: Dr. Thomas is quite capable of writing his own letters. I have no indication otherwise. I may add that -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: I am sorry, the gentleman for Labrador West -

AN HON. MEMBER: the Member for St. Barbe North or the Member for Labrador -

MR. ROBERTS: I have no idea. I have read what I know. Maybe other gentlemen did or did not, I do not know what they got. I know what I got. And I make no apology for that. I find it interesting though, Mr. Chairman, the gentleman for - Now the copy was sent to me. It was not stolen. It was not purloined, It was sent to me, and I do not know whether Dr. Thomas was in St. Anthony or not, but a phone call or a message to him would confirm that that letter was sent to me, and it was not sent privately, confidentially or any other way. It was sent to me so that I could raise the matter here, I assume. Why? Because the government, the Minister of Health, this letter was written only after long discussions between the Minister of Health's representatives on one hand and the I.G.A. on the other. It was sent in a mark of desperation, because the Minister of Health is unable, or has been unable to date, to carry out the

undertaking, the spirit which he made in the speech which he gave at St. Anthony to the I.G.A. on July 5, 1973. And I have here the text of that speech. And it speaks very highly of the I.G.A. His closing words, "I have a high regard for the work of the International Grenfell Association and wish them continued success."

Now the Minister of Fisheries or one of his colleagues and confreres said that some how, I am not sure which honourable gentleman said it, they all have been saying the same thing, said, Mr. Chairman, that somehow there was something that -no, what was it? "this was jeopardizing," that is the phrase, "this was jeopardizing." It was the gentleman for Bonavista South. This was jeopardizing the I.G.A.'s chances to get some more money. Well if I ever heard of a naked threat, an attempt to coerce. The gentleman for Twillingate has been on the Board of the Notre Dame Bay Memorial Hospital for what? thirty years?

MR. GILLET: Close to thirty years.

MR. ROBERTS: Close to thirty years. He has been Chairman for a number of years. He was Chairman while I was Minister of Health, and he is still Chairman now, as far as I know, and was Chairman while the gentleman for St. John's West was Health Minister, and a number of other years. He has been Chairman for a while.

Every hospital in Newfoundland has discussions on the budget. Sometimes they are satisfied and sometimes they are not. But never, Sir, in my experience, and that includes three years as Minister of Health, was any letter written to the Minister of Health like that. I do not recall one. I recall lots of discussions. I recall at one stage the Western Memorial Hospital being very concerned about the amount of money that was allocated to them, but at no point do I remember or recall receiving a letter, and the Minister of Health, the files are there, can have them searched through -

AN HON. MEMBER: May I interrupt the honourable gentleman?

MR. ROBERTS: No, the honourable gentleman may not interrupt me Mr. Chairman.

AN HON. MEMBER: His Honour the Governor is on his way.

MR. ROBERTS: If His Honour the Governor is here then I will gladly, you know, that is fair enough, but the honourable gentleman cannot interrupt me.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: Now, Mr. Chairman, let me - may I just conclude the remarks. I want to make one point. And I will make some more on Monday or Tuesday. The gentleman from -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: The gentleman from Bonavista South attempted to accuse me of a breach of confidence, and in so doing his weapon was a letter which the Minister of Health obviously gave to him.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: The Minister of Health had no cause but give it to him, a letter from the Minister of Health to Dr. Thomas or from - no, better still from Dr. Thomas to the Minister of Health. So if there was a breach of - the gentleman for Bonavista South has no cause to have - how did he get the letter? He did not get it -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: He came in and he stole it. He came in and he stole it.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: Ah, then the Minister of Health gave it to him. And that, Sir, was given to the gentleman for Bonavista South for the sole purpose of trying to attack Dr. Thomas or me, or both. That, Mr. Chairman, was given either with the consent of the Minister of Health or it was taken from his desk.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

MR. ROBERTS: It can be neither other, Mr. Chairman -

MR. MORGAN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, it can be neither or both.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Hon. Member for Bonavista South on a point of order.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, I want to make it

quite clear that in no way during my debate today did I say any derogatory, inflammatory comments of any kind against Dr. Gordon Thomas.

MR. NEARY: Oh, no!

MR. MORGAN: I did make what I felt was rather maybe derogatory but not unparliamentary words about the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: Tell us -

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

The honourable member's point of order is a difference of opinion between two honourable members. I recognize the Minister of Health.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Health on a point of order.

DR. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, my point of order was the implication given by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition was that I passed this to the honourable member for the express purpose of having him create an attack on himself and Gordon Thomas. I would just like to say that that is a - I do not know how to describe it. It is just so utterly low.-

AN HON. MEMBER: Despicable!

DR. ROWE: that I have no -

AN HON. MEMBER: As usual -

DR. ROWE: It is despicable, and -

MR. MORGAN: - twist it around.

DR. ROWE: But for the record, when we were discussing this earlier this afternoon, I have not had a chance yet to reply to the remarks of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition who spoke up until the lunch hour and came back at three o'clock and spoke until almost four o'clock. Since then several other people have been speaking. I have not had a chance to reply and say that I have had correspondence with Dr. Thomas since then. I have not had the opportunity.

AN HON. MEMBER: That is right.

MR. ROBERTS: What is the point of order, Sir?

DR. ROWE: That was the point of order that this was not given to my colleague to raise any points of disorder in this House.

MR. ROBERTS: To that point of order, Mr. Chairman, I said and I repeat that either the gentleman from Bonavista South was given that letter or he stole it. And if he was given it, it is a breach of confidence by the Minister of Health. And if he stole it, it is the member from Bonavista South who took it from his desk. It is either one or the other.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: (Inaudible).

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman -

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, I am speaking to a point of order, Sir.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of personal privilege.

MR. ROBERTS: By the way is His Honour, the Governor here?

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman -

MR. ROBERTS: Is His Honour - I move that the committee rise -

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman -

MR. ROBERTS: - Mr. Chairman -

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

MR. ROBERTS: I move that the committee rise, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

The Chair is not going to entertain any motion while he is on his feet. Now this whole item this afternoon has given rise to acrimonious debate. And the acrimony of the day is probably the worst we have had for quite some time. Debate is by its very nature provocative. The items brought up by the Leader of the Opposition have evoked very strong reactions from honourable members to my left. But if honourable members are going to debate, they must learn to swallow their smoke and debate at the proper time. And rising on points of order is not, technically speaking, the proper way to debate.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not think either one of the honourable gentlemen's points were points of order. However, there may have to be a new rule written into our rules as to point of explanation where one honourable member gives a very one-sided interpretation of what other honourable members have said. However, lacking that device I suppose honourable members will have to rely on the point of order. I believe now that the committee is going to rise.

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Chairman, I think we will all have better, clearer heads on Tuesday afternoon. I move that the committee rise and report progress and ask leave to sit again.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

On motion that the committee rise and report having passed Head XI - Mines and Energy and have made further progress and ask leave to sit again, Mr. Speaker returned to the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply have considered the matters to them referred -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. EVANS: (Inaudible).

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

Before the Chair and the committee is going to report, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor has arrived so admit His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.

MR. SPEAKER: May it please Your Honour, the General Assembly of the Province has at its present session passed certain bills to which in the name and on behalf of the General Assembly, I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

A Bill, "An Act To Authorize The Raising Of Money By Way Of Loan By The Province."

HON. GORDON A. WINTER (LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR): In Her Majesty's name, I assent to this bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply have considered the matters to them referred and have directed me to report having passed Head XI, Mines and Energy, without amendment and make further progress and ask leave to sit again.

MR. SPEAKER: The Chairman of Committee of Supply reports that they have considered the matters to them referred and report having passed Head XI, Mines and Energy, without amendment and make progress and ask leave to sit again.

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

MR. CROSBIE: If there is no objection, I would like to just revert back to Notice of Motion and give notice of some bills here and then move that we adjourn.

MR. SPEAKER: Does the honourable minister have leave? Agreed?

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CROSBIE: On behalf of the honourable Minister of Education, a bill, "An Act Further To Amend -

MR. ROBERTS: Inaudible.

MR. CROSBIE: - The Schools Act." Well, I was just saving time instead of distributing them all around. That is all.

MR. ROBERTS: I know you did not count them, "John" -

MR. CROSBIE: Well, all right then we will take a different tack.

These are none of them are all that essential I do not think.

A bill, "An Act Further To Amend The Memorial University Pensions Act."

A bill, "An Act Further to Amend The Education Teacher Training Act."

On behalf of the Minister of Social Services, a bill, "An Act Further To Amend The Welfare Children Act."

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