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**VERBATIM REPORT**

THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 1975

SPEAKER: THE HONOURABLE M. JAMES RUSSELL

The House met at 3:00 P.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

MR. J. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a petition from the residents of the following communities in Bonavista South, the community of Brooklyn, the community of Winter Brook, of Portland and of Jamestown. The total number of the signatures are 357 voters of the area.

And the petition, Mr. Speaker, is asking that the road which is now a gravel road, indeed a very rough, narrow, winding gravel road, that this road be reconstructed and paved. This road, Mr. Speaker, is approximately fifteen miles in distance, including the road that goes down through the community of Brooklyn as a loop road and down through the community of Portland, Jamestown on to Winter Brook, fifteen miles of road which they are asking for to be reconstructed and paved. All the school children in the area from Winter Brook and Jamestown and Portland and Brooklyn are transported daily by school bus over this gravel road to Lethbridge and Musgravetown where the elementary school and the high schools are located. Also the many men in the area, because there is no employment there except for a small woods operation, these men are working in the Clarendville area, they commute daily back and forth from Jamestown and Winter Brook to Clarendville where they are employed, and the need for the road is justified on that basis maybe alone.

The population of the communities are not large, and over the years the previous government their intentions were to relocate these settlements, to resettlement them and to move them into Lethbridge and Musgravetown. But the people who choose to stay on, the populations have been growing slowly during the past four or five years, and they are determined to stay there, remain in these communities in the hope that governments or government will provide the services, in this case a good transportation system, to their communities.

In support of the petition, Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that this morning a delegation from these communities who presented a petition to me as their member, we also met with the Minister of Transportation and Communications, and his assistant deputy minister and we discussed at length their problem and what we hope could be done in the next while, whether it be this year or next year. And the Minister has assured the delegation that he will look into their problem and will give them an idea in the next number of weeks what the department hopes to do in that area during the next while, whether it be this year or next year.

So I support the petition recognizing the fact that Bonavista South is being the most neglected district with regards to upgrading and paving of roads over the years. We have approximately over 100 miles there are 115 miles of gravel road in Bonavista South - little gravel pavement done by the previous government - 115 miles of rough gravel road. So this fifteen miles is part of much-needed reconstruction and it is hoped that we can as a government in the next two terms of office carry on and do the work that we are now doing in Bonavista South.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. MORGAN: We did substantial work last year, and I am hoping within the next two terms of office we can hopefully by that time have all the road work in my district reconstructed and paved.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. MORGAN: So, Mr. Speaker, we are doing work this year in Bonavista South but recognizing the fact that fifteen miles that the petition is asking for will cost approximately, to reconstruct and pave according to the engineer's estimates \$3 million, and the

MR. MORGAN: the federal government refuses to recognize the need for reconstruction of roads in these rural parts of our Province, much needed transportation system, sure, but the fact that DREE and the federal government fail to recognize this very important need and therefore fails to have any financial input, unfortunately we have to bear all the brunt financially of carrying out this kind of work.

So, Mr. Speaker, in closing my remarks I support the petition and I hope in the future, whether it be this year or next year, that these kinds of problems where we have school children going back and forth each day over rough gravel roads such as we have Jamestown, Winter Brook and Portland, be overcome by means of reconstruction and eventual paving.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Bell Island.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the petition presented by the Member for the time being for Bonavista South on behalf of his constituents in Jamestown, Winter Brook and in the Brooklyn area. I have had a number of representations from the people in that area, Sir, over the last week or so and I was very glad to be able to counsel these people and give them advice and to tell them how they should go about resolving their problem.

MR. MORGAN: (Inaudible) come down in the next election.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I believe, I am not quite sure, but I believe all these communities on whose behalf the member just presented the petition, I believe all these communities in the next election will be in the new District of Terra Nova.

MR. MORGAN: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: But in the meantime the Member for Bonavista South is presently their member and of course rightly so they went through him to ask him to present that petition. Prior to say 1971, or 1972, Mr. Speaker, there was a tremendous amount of paving done in that area and any paving done now, Sir, on trunk roads in the area, as I understand it, would be ninety per cent paid for by the Government of Canada under the new DREE agreement.

AN HON. MEMBER: Trunk roads.



MR. NEARY: Trunk roads, yes Sir.

MR. THOMAS: That is true.

AN HON. MEMBER: Tell the truth now.

MR. NEARY: However, Mr. Speaker, it really does not make any difference who pays for it, the people are quite justified. It is the Canadian taxpayers and the Newfoundland taxpayers who will pay it anyway, whether it is ninety ten, whether it is one hundred per cent by the Province, it really does not make any difference that the Mr. Speaker, is quite justified. It is unfortunate, Sir, in the last three years, that the great paving programme that was begun down the Bonavista way was not continued by the present administration. I would like to go to show, Sir, how much we miss Rossie. We may have to get him back again. They even named a bridge after him down there.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any other petitions? The honourable Minister of Transportation and Communications.

MR. ROUSSEAU: I would like to speak on this one first, Mr. Speaker. I met with the delegation this morning at the request of the honourable member and there are a number of problems down there as the member suggested. There are fifteen miles of road which is to be upgraded and of course which we do not do in one year anyway, as it would be a cost of approximately \$3 million which would be more than ten per cent of the provincial budget. The member is quite right and when he suggests that the Department of Regional and Economic Expansion will not consider tributary or off roads in a Province though the main thoroughfare is a matter which they will consider so it is left completely to provincial funds.

We had a meeting with representatives from each of the communities in this morning. They were elected a week or so ago at a public meeting in the area and I assured them of two things this morning, that one was to take a look at the bridge down there which they are having some problems with and also we would look at the maintenance programme. They had some complaints in respect of that. They were quite happy with the summer programme for the winter but the summer maintenance programme was

satisfactory in their opinion, we have made a commitment we would take a look at that. We made no commitment in respect of capital spending for reconstruction, of course, and not for paving, as we told them. And we explained the situation to them. They were reasonable people and we accept that. I might suggest that the honourable member had mentioned last week to me about a meeting with a delegation and I had not recalled which delegation they were because the number of telephone calls you get are quite a few requesting meetings with the minister.

The honourable Member for Bell Island asked a question in the House last week and the name did not tick with me but I had arranged a meeting previously with the people from that area and last -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROUSSEAU: - last week the member had mentioned it

and I did not have the opportunity to meet with them but I was p  
 this morning to meet with them. You know, it is difficult, I ca  
 appreciate the way these people feel all across the Province and  
 can only try and explain our position to them. They were unders  
 this morning and certainly I undertook to write them within the  
 week or so, so that they will be able to go back to their public  
 and explain just what the situation is in respect to government.  
 we will take a look at it and the two commitments that I could t  
 that I knew I could carry through on, I did take. The other com  
 which I was not able to commit to them, I will put it in writing  
 I will take the brunt for it. They did their job by coming in a  
 member did his job by supporting them and now we have to look at  
 a total context of the Highways Programme in the Province and th  
 have a letter within a week that they can present to a public me  
 down there from me and we will outline our position in respect  
 at that time.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any other petitions?

NOTICE OF MOTION:

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Justice.

HON. A. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on t  
 ask leave to introduce the following bills: A bill, "An Act F  
 Amend The Summary Jurisdiction Act," a bill, "An Act To Adopt  
 For The Province Of Newfoundland."

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. HICKMAN: That is just for anyone who might be listening  
 The position is that we have discovered that the Ode to Newfour  
 never been legally recognized as our anthem and we are determin  
 this shall be done.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Hear! Hear! A great step forward.

MR. HICKMAN: On behalf of the honourable the Minister of Fin  
 give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce the  
 bills: A bill, "An Act Further To Amend The Public Service (P  
 Act," a bill, "An Act Further To Amend The Civil Service Act,

"An Act Respecting The Counting Of War Service as Pensionable Service," and the honourable the Minister of Finance will move the House into a Committee of the Whole to consider certain resolutions in relation to the advancing or guaranteeing of certain loans.

ORAL QUESTIONS:

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Placentia East.

MR. F. ALYWARD: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Transportation and Communications. I would like to ask the minister if he would bring the House up to date on what steps his department have been taking to improve the road conditions on the Cape Shore, which I am sure he must be aware of, in the past few days?

MR. NEARY: We got that answer yesterday.

MR. ALYWARD: Well, it needs to be answered again today, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. ROUSSEAU: I will gladly answer that. The honourable member has been on my back for the past few days in attempting to get some work done down in that area. First of all, let me say this, that we appreciate the situation that exists down there. They have had a bad winter and the children down there have lost a number of days of school. The situation is now that apparently they are losing more school because the school buses cannot get over the road. Somebody has to take the frustration out on somebody and the logical man is the Minister of Highways. I have not been down to the area, by the way, although I had an invitation this morning from the Superintendent of Education but, you know, it is just no way I can get down. I know the road is bad. I do not belittle anybody suggesting that the road is bad.

Yesterday we directed a bulldozer down there. Now, there was a bulldozer suppose to go down, a larger one, to accumulate some material as I suggested to the House yesterday. A smaller one was inserted and we are attempting now to find out why that smaller one was sent down instead of the one we requested. That smaller one is able to do the job that has to be done, in other words, to accumulate the material that the trucks can haul on the road. The reason for the bigger one was to



accumulate a stock pile so that in the future we would have it t  
That is not in any way going to deter the ongoing problem that  
exists down there. We have made a -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: The big one is going down?

MR. ROUSSEAU: The big one is going down but what I am trying t  
is the fact that the smaller one is down there will not affect a  
reconstruction we can do right now because it will do the ongoin  
What we had hoped that the larger one would do was to accumulate  
so that we would also not only do the job to upgrade the road bu  
have a stock pile there in the event we got a heavy rain some  
in the future. But the construction company that we had this do  
from substituted the smaller one for the larger one did not tell  
and we have asked them for a reason why they have done that.

Now, -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: The Premier said to say you are going

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, is this -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order, please!

MR. ROUSSEAU: Does the honourable member - this is a matter o  
to a lot of people.

MR. NEARY: Does the member go to the minister?

MR. ROUSSEAU: Well, he -

MR. AYLWARD: Mr. Speaker, I do not think the questions are - on a point of order. I do not think any honourable member has any monopoly on questions here. Any member of the House of Assembly is entitled to ask a question. My only reason for asking it - I know the answers but I want the public and the people of St. Bride's to know the answers.

MR. NEARY: Well, why do you not put out a question?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. ROUSSEAU: You know, the -

MR. NEARY: Inaudible.

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

MR. ROUSSEAU: You know, the only thing we can do - we would like the people of St. Bride's - I know they are upset and they are upset with me, you know. But, you know, all I can tell them is that we are doing what we can do. I hope they can appreciate that. I have directed a concentrated effort. I have sent the chief engineer of the department and the superintendent of the district down. They are down there now in the area taking a look at it. The dozer is down there. I have ordered as many trucks as we can get together to haul the fill that has been unloaded to do the road. I think those of us who had the opportunity to see it on television last night recognize the problems.

Really to call it a road is probably being charitable. It is not really a road. We have had a bad Winter by everybody's estimation down in that area, the worse one we have had for thirty, forty or fifty years depending on who you talk to. The frost is coming out of the ground. The run-off from the snow that is melting is providing a very difficult situation in respect to the roads. All I can say to the people of the area is we are doing our best. There is nothing more we can do. I appreciate the fact very much, as a former teacher of the children missing school. That is not something we wish to have this Winter. When the problem was there we flew them from the area by helicopter into school to make sure they got to school. We will do everything possible that we can do to get the roads upgraded. I would hope that by tomorrow at the latest we will have it so that at least it will be passable. We will continue working and attempt to make the road as



passable as possible. We will do everything in our power. As I said, I have ordered a concentrated effort and that is all we can do right now.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question, Sir. What the real need down there is a new political spokesman.

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

MR. NEARY: But, Sir, a supplementary, Sir -

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

MR. NEARY: A supplementary question to the minister.

MR. HICKMAN: A point of order, Mr. Speaker. That is not a supplementary question.

MR. NEARY: No. I am putting a supplementary question to the minister.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: - if the minister would just restrain himself.

MR. SPEAKER: If the question period is to continue as it should, then I suggest the honourable Member for Bell Island ask questions and not make speeches prior to that.

MR. NEARY: Would the minister tell the House whether or not the problem in St. Bride's is that the equipment is there but all the highways are closed. The people need down there is the go ahead, the okay from the minister to use the equipment. Is that the problem?

MR. ROUSSEAU: Now, that is a beautiful question, Mr. Speaker. That is a beautiful question. This Winter when the problems were down there and when the problems were anywhere in this Province I ordered them to go ahead at whatever cost necessary to get the equipment down there during the Winter. I just ordered them down there now to get as much equipment as they need, every truck we can get ahold of -

MR. NEARY: Well, that is what I wanted to know.

MR. ROUSSEAU: - to haul this fill. I have just suggested that I have ordered and directed a concentrated effort down there. Now, that is what I can do. I have sent two top officials from St. John's down there to take a look at it as well. I have ordered the dozer. The dozer was substituted which is not particularly pleasing to the department. I am asking the construction company why. We understand there was some

with the larger one. The dozer down there now will dig out the rock. The beach rock or the pebble rock apparently that was being put on it was too slippery, was not doing the job, and that is all we can do, you know, order the concentrated effort. I cannot go down myself, you know, with a shovel and a truck and grader. That is all we can do. But, I can tell you one thing, that -

MR. NEARY: You went down in a helicopter.

MR. ROUSSEAU: - we appreciate the situation and we certainly intend to rectify it as soon as is humanly possible.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice, Sir. Would the Minister of Justice care to react to public statements that there is a line up to get into jail, that you now have to queue up, wait your turn to get into jail, to get into Her Majesty's Penitentiary. Is this true? It is unbelievable. Could the minister, you know, enlighten the House on this situation?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, there are at present 129 inmates in Her Majesty's Penitentiary at St. John's and seventy at the Salmonier Correctional institution. Of that, I thank the honourable gentleman for asking the question.

MR. NEARY: He came prepared. He has the information already.

MR. HICKMAN: There are fifteen prisoners in Her Majesty's Penitentiary who are the responsibility of the Government of Canada, known as federal prisoners, thirteen of whom are now ready for transfer to the federal institutions, and they will be transferred out as soon as the Liberal Government in Ottawa indicate that they are prepared to accept them.

Treasury Board of this Province has approved the acquisition of a trailer to house some of the inmates who are minimum security but the fact is that there are more -

MR. NEARY: There is a waiting list.

MR. HICKMAN: Waiting list is not the word, Mr. Speaker, at all.

MR. NEARY: Then what is it?

MR. HICKMAN: The simple fact is that both the police of this Province has been doing an excellent job in apprehending criminals.

MR. NEARY: And there is no place to put them.

MR. HICKMAN: I realize this disappoints the Hon. Member for Bell Island but they have been doing a first-class job. Secondly, the courts have been imposing adequate and appropriate sentences.

MR. NEARY: That is debatable.

MR. HICKMAN: And both the Salmonier institution and the institution known as Her Majesty's Penitentiary are presently filled. We could accommodate all the provincial prisoners, all the provincial inmates if the federal government were in a position to take their thirteen off our hands and transfer them to -

MR. NEARY: What about Springhill?

MR. HICKMAN: - to Dorchester and Springhill. We have requested that the transfers take place and so far they have not indicated to us that they are ready to receive them. But I would hope that this transfer will occur in the very near future and this should eliminate any problem. We have had that problem before. You know for the past fifteen years -

MR. NEARY: Not as severe as it is now.

MR. HICKMAN: Yes. Over the past fifteen years it has been just as severe and even more so at times, but it is always for a very temporary - it is a very temporary problem that is solved when the federal prisoners are transferred to the institutions in Springhill and in Dorchester. But, you know, I do not want anyone to misinter

what I am saying, and I am not saying this out of lack of compassion because I believe that the last place a person should go is to a penitentiary. I think that every other effort should be made first. But I am moved to suggest, to point out to this House that obviously the two police forces in this Province are doing a first-class job of apprehending those who break the law, because the apprehension rate is increasing very substantially and obviously the courts in this Province are reacting in imposing penalties that are in keeping with the crime. But I am still not convinced, maybe I am wrong, but I am still not convinced that we should take any great pride in this. My feeling is that the emphasis must be on the rehabilitative process.

Last year, for instance, last year in Newfoundland, I do not know if people realize it or not, but we had one of the lowest incarceration rates than we have had in about twenty years and the reason for it was that our courts, I think, were availing of the conditional sentencing. But be that as it may the responsibility of the police are to apprehend. The responsibility of the courts are to fairly and equitably adjudicate and to impose equitable sentences and this they are doing. Unfortunately, we have a full house at this time.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Sir. Would the minister tell the House if the financing and arrangements for borrowing and all the plans are yet finalized so that the town of Bonavista may continue with its water and sewerage installation that was started three or four years ago under the former Liberal Administration?

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

HON. B. PECKFORD (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing): Mr. Speaker all the projects that are presently underway by the Department of Municipal Affairs have been started in the last couple of years. They

are being looked at in light of our capital works projects this year, and we will have the decisions for all these councils as to the amount of the second phase or the third phase of any project that will be expended on that project this year. It is rather premature for me to indicate precisely what will be done in Bonavista or in any other place, because we are still in the midst of getting the final lists done up which should be done in a few weeks time. Any project that has been started will be completed by the administration. It is just a matter of the degree of money, the amount of money each year to be spent on the various phases until it is completed. So it is just a matter of how much money will be spent and that I cannot say yet until we finalize our programme.



MR. NEARY: A supplementary -

MR. SPEAKER: Before I recognize the honourable Member for Bell Island, I would just like to -

MR. NEARY: Yes, Sir, okay.

MR. SPEAKER: - to welcome to the galleries Mayor Edward Parsons and Councillor Ralph Cook from Parsons Point. I welcome you to the galleries and trust that your visit here is most interesting and informative.

The honourable Member for Bell Island.

MR. NEARY: Sir, a supplementary question to the honourable minister. Is the minister aware that the Town of Bonavista have already, or the minister's department have already ordered the pipe and materials and they are just waiting approval now so they can complete their borrowing to get on with this project before the cost further escalates?

MR. PECKFORD: Oh yes that is quite logical, Mr. Speaker, we do it in many places where we order the material and so on, and then arrange for the borrowing after we have realistic prices on the material. Yes that is quite fine, Sir, quite fine.

MR. NEARY: Sir, could the minister be a little more specific and tell us whether the borrowing and the financing will be arranged say within a period of a week, two weeks? How soon will the decision be taken?

MR. PECKFORD: No, I cannot be any more specific at this time, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Member for Bonavista North.

MR. P. S. THOMS: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture. Could the minister inform this House if he has received petitions from the sheep farmers of Conception Bay North as pertains to protection from dogs for their sheep, and if so, what action he has taken?

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister of Forestry and Agriculture.

HON. H. COLLINS: (Minister of Forestry and Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I have no knowledge of a petition being received unless it is today, I have not seen it yet.



MR. THOMS: Inaudible.

Sir, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Could the minister inform this House as to what quality of lumber the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation is talking about in their letter to all tenders? They say that if local lumber is to be used wherever possible providing that the quality is right. Could the minister explain this word 'quality', does it have to compete say, for example, with B.C. Douglas Fir or something like that or is it top-notch local quality?

MR. PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, I cannot give a real definitive answer to the question. I will have to get the information from the Housing Corporation. Suffice it to say right now, Sir, that we have in the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation to comply with the regulations as outlined in the National Housing Act, because most of our finances are federal-provincial, and therefore we have to concur with the regulations set down in the National Housing Act. So that is the only thing that will govern any restrictive buying on our part for Newfoundland lumber. But to specifically answer your question as to the degree of quality required, you know, real specific, I can have that for you tomorrow if that is fine with the honourable member.

MR. THOMS: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Is this circular brought about by, say, the national regulations or are they brought about by the stipulation that all local tendering should use local lumber? You know, this two -

MR. PECKFORD: This circular that they have sent out is in direct response to a government decision, a provincial government decision to try to use local Newfoundland lumber wherever possible on any project undertaken by a department or an agency of the department.

MR. THOMS: Mr. Speaker, oh the Minister of Tourism is gone. I am sorry.

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Member for Fogo.

CAPT. E. WINSOR: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Hon. Minister of Transportation and Communications. We all realize that the minister has many problems, but many truck drivers are finding it very difficult to make their business pay because of the half load limit. Can the minister say when the half load limit

will be lifted? I know it depends on the weather.

MR. ROUSSEAU: Yes, I cannot give definite dates right now, Mr. Speaker. They are being lifted in certain areas, and we recognize this as a problem for the truckers, you know. But again we have to look at the total roads in the Province. We lift them as far as possible. And I can assure the honourable member we are aware of loss of money and loss of earning because of this. But right now - I would say into next week possibly we will start lifting in certain areas that have not been lifted yet. I have had a few calls on that as well. And as soon as possible, as soon as we know there will be no damage done to the roadbed we will lift them, and that should be, I would think, within the next couple of weeks, I would say by the end of the month and the first week of May any way, but possibly before that depending on the weather. If the sun continues to shine, the roads are dry we will do it a lot quicker, if not, well I would say within two weeks will be a rough estimate.

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Member for Bonavista North.

MR. THOMS: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Hon. Premier. Now that the federal government has announced a \$50 million programme to help the fisheries of Eastern Canada, does the Premier anticipate also announcing some similar programme as far as the Government of Newfoundland is concerned?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Premier.

MR. MOORES: No, Mr. Speaker, as we had a major input in creating that situation, we feel that - well, first of all, let's face it, the fishery is being recognized. A great deal of detail has to emerge from this programme yet, and it certainly would not be the appropriate time or place now to discuss in detail what is not yet spelled out in detail. As the Hon. Don Jamieson said yesterday from Ottawa, it is very important to spell out the exact detail before, you know, the member for Bonavista North or anyone else, Mr. Speaker, goes off half-cocked.

MR. THOMS: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Could the Premier inform this honourable House as to how much money of this \$50 million comes from the Provincial Treasury? If he has an input in it? Or what does he consider an input?

MR. MOORES: Well, we have not compiled our income tax nor our corporation tax this year of what we pay the federal government, Mr. Speaker, but there is a percentage there. But certainly when we are talking about input, we are talking about the co-operation working together and the various pressures being put on Ottawa and the co-operation we have with Ottawa as the honourable member well knows.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Member for Bell Island.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Finance and the President of Treasury Board, could the Hon.

tell us what the chances are of reaching an agreement with the liquor store employees in the next few hours or are we going to have to do without a drop of stuff tomorrow?

MR. MOORES: That is a total irresponsible question, Mr. Speaker, and I did not even think the member for Bell Island drank.

MR. NEARY: Sir, I like a drop of wine.

But, Sir, a supplementary. Would the Hon. Premier indicate whether or not negotiations are continuing today to try to avert a strike tomorrow? I mean that is not irresponsible. Is there any effort being made to stave off a strike by these employees?

MR. MOORES: Every effort is being made by the Treasury Board officials with all the unions that are negotiating, Mr. Speaker, obviously. That sort of question is totally irresponsible, and totally out of place until negotiations have been finalized one way or the other.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister of Mines and Energy, Sir, would tell the House if the government intends to fight the most recent application made by the Newfoundland Light and Power Company to the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities for an increase in rates? Does the minister himself intend to make any representation? Will the government be fighting this application for an increase?

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister of Mines and Energy.

HON. E. BARRY (Minister of Mines and Energy): Mr. Speaker, when the initial application was made for the increase in electrical rates earlier this year, it was our understanding that the projected needs of the Corporation could involve a further increase of some five per cent on the second rate hearing. Now the present application before the Board involves more than the five per cent that was then indicated and for that reason we have requested, and we are obtaining

copies of the evidence which the Company proposes to set before the Board, the facts, the financial statements and so on which the Company expects to present before the Board justifying this higher increase, and if it appears that such an increase is not warranted then it may be that we will have to make representation before the Public Utilities Board. But at the present time, until we obtain the evidence, I understand we should have that within a few days, we are not in a position to give an answer to that statement. We do want, however, to see a justification for the increase greater than the five per cent which we understood was to be the amount necessary to allow for the inflation and escalation in cost over the last year or so.

AN HON. MEMBER: Is it fifteen per cent?

MR. BARRY: No, I do not think it is quite fifteen. It is something less than fifteen, but it is almost fifteen but a little less. It is close to fifteen per cent and that is a significant amount more than they indicated to us, as I say, prior to the last rate increase that they would be looking for this year.

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Member for Bonavista North.

MR. THOMS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Tourism. I wonder could the minister inform this House when he will be announcing the dates so that people can apply for caribou and moose licences?



MR. SPEAKER: The honourable the Minister of Tourism.

HON. T. HICKEY: Mr. Speaker, very shortly, a matter of possibly two or three days.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable the Member for Bell Island.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the honourable the Minister of Transportation and Communications. Would the honourable minister tell the House whether or not he has received the report of the Atlantic Transportation Commission on whether or not a distribution system should be established in Bishops Falls? If so, would the minister tell the House what the government's position is on any recommendations that might have been made by the Atlantic Transportation Commission?

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

MR. ROUSSEAU: I am not aware of it but it may be down in the department. You know, there are so many studies that come in for transportation, federally and provincially, and the honourable member knows full well -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. ROUSSEAU: - that it is a federal study. It is down in the department. I quite frankly cannot keep track of all the studies that have been initiated by the federal government, by the CTC or anybody else and as they come to my desk I try and get an opportunity to read them one at a time. This one now may be down in the transportation office. Normally what happens when a study comes in is that my officials in the transportation division take a look at it and try and synopsise it for me because there is no way you can read it. We had one in the other day. It is about four inches thick. There is no time for it. So when he gets it on my desk, we will take a look at it and he will synopsise it. I do not recall it right now, no.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary: Can the minister then tell the House who authorized Mr. O'Brien, the Director of Transportation, the minister's director to go to Bishops Falls to attend a meeting to discuss



this matter and what instructions was Mr. O'Brien given by the  
before he goes out to that meeting?

MR. ROUSSEAU: To Bishop Falls?

MR. NEARY: Yes.

MR. ROUSSEAU: Which meeting are you talking about, by the way?

MR. NEARY: The meeting to discuss this matter of Bishop Falls  
a distribution centre?

MR. ROUSSEAU: I thought you said Botwood, excuse me.

MR. NEARY: No.

MR. ROUSSEAU: I am sorry. I am sorry. I will take that under  
ment.

MR. NEARY: Take what? Take the matter under what?

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day.

MR. NEARY: No, Sir, just one more question, Sir, for the Minister  
Health.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: The time is up.

MR. NEARY: No, the time is not up yet, Sir. We still have time  
to go. Would the Minister of Health care to tell the House what  
now in connection with the Jackman Hospital in Labrador City? I  
they are bursting at the seams. They need to expand. Would the  
tell us if there are any plans in his department now to expand the  
Memorial Hospital at Labrador City?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Health.

HON. DR. A. ROWE: No, Mr. Speaker, I have no official request  
Captain William Jackman Hospital. I have no doubt the honourable  
is referring to an interview which apparently appeared on one of  
television stations within the last day or so and is the only one  
which I have on that particular subject. I would say, however,  
are looking into one of the important areas there, the provision  
specifically the improved X-ray equipment because of the fact that  
located in these mining areas where there are certain problems.  
know nothing about their plans for expansion other than what the  
station told us in one of their news casts.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Bonavista North.

MR. P. THOMAS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Health. I wonder could the minister inform this House if he has yet given the financial aid to the Gander Hospital so that they can employ personnel so they can open up the extra forty beds at that hospital?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Health.

DR. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, the answer to that question is that all hospital budgets are presently being reviewed. In the case of the Gander Hospital the extra request is also being reviewed by the financial authorities at the present time and that is where the situation is.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:

On motion of the honourable Minister of Finance, a bill, "An Act Further To Amend The Department Of Finance Act," read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: Order (2) which is Committee of Ways and Means, the Address in Reply to the budget debate.

The honourable Member for Bell Island.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the responsibility for leading off the traditional Budget Speech on this side of the House falls on my shoulders today, Sir, because the Leader of the Opposition who would normally lead off in the Budget debate is visiting his district and visiting Labrador.

MR. NEARY: It is a very heavy responsibility, Sir, that I have today to lead into this Budget Debate. I will try the best I can to make a half decent job of it. I know, Sir, that we are sort of coming down the home stretch now as far as the sittings of the House are concerned. I understand that the Government House Leader, who is off to Japan, left word before he left to try and have the House closed, say, by the latter part of next week. It has been reported in the papers. Well, Sir, that may or may not be possible. The Premier says well, we could not care less type of attitude.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. MOORES: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Well I was there, Mr. Speaker, when the discussion took place and I know precisely what the Government House Leader said and I can say, Sir, that the objective now is to try and get the House closed the latter part of next week or the middle of next week. Well that is fair enough, Sir, because there is not much business left anyway to debate in the House. We still have the Budget Debate and an amendment to the Throne Speech and we have a few odds and ends, bits and pieces of legislation to consider but I would say by this time next week there will hardly be a gig left in the honourable House, Sir. She will be on her last legs and drawing her last gasp. And you know, Mr. Speaker, that may be a good thing because, Sir, I am amazed over the last couple of weeks at the lack of interest across this Province in the sittings of the House of Assembly.

You know last night, Sir, on CBC news, on the early evening news, and now they are trying to, they are trying to be provincial in their newscasts. I do not think there was one reference to the House of Assembly. You would swear, Sir, that the House did not exist, not a word, not a sound in the early evening newscasts, and no fault of the gentleman in the press gallery who are reporting the news. I am sure that he had done his homework well. That he had -

MR. EVANS: Poor Opposition.

MR. NEARY: That he had produced, pumped out the words that were demanded

by his news editor, but Sir, there was not a word about the House of Assembly and very little on the other stations that I could see. No fault, Mr. Speaker, of the newsmen in the press gallery. For the last couple of weeks they have been just as bored and fed up, I would imagine, as the ordinary person across this Province because they realize Mr. Speaker, that every little bit, every little scrap of information that they are pumping out of this House to meet their deadlines and satisfy their news editors is of very little interest to the ordinary people of this Province.

MR. EVANS: You need a new Leader, boy.

MR. NEARY: Sir, there have been very few matters raised in this session of the House of Assembly that are of any benefit or any interest to the ordinary people of this Province. The key issues, Sir, the real issues facing our people somehow or other have been avoided by the government and Mr. Speaker, they can say what they like about the Opposition and the Opposition members, Sir, but it is the government who calls the order of business of this honourable House.

So, Mr. Speaker, we would expect and we were looking forward, and the people of this Province were looking forward, Sir, to hearing a few announcements in the Budget Speech that would be of some real benefit to the people of this Province. We were expecting to hear announcements in the Budget Speech of proposals and measures that would help the ordinary people of this Province but all we got, Mr. Speaker, was a wine and roses budget. It was the kind of a budget, Sir, that will make the rich get richer in this poor old Province of ours while the poor get poorer. And what I mean by that, Sir, is that the kind of a budget that was brought down by the administration, and they boasted about the fact that it was a \$1 billion budget when in actual fact it was not a \$1 billion budget. The \$1 billion plateau will not be reached probably until this time next year.



and they seem to be more concerned about the fact that they wanted let the people of Newfoundland know that this was a billion dollar budget. Sir, it is not the amount of money that is in the budget counts. It is the way that that money is being spent. That is why Mr. Speaker, and that is why I call it a wine and roses budget. There was nothing in there for the ordinary person of this Province, but there were all kinds of goodies in there for the contractor -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Pave the roads in one day.

MR. NEARY: Well, Sir, I will come to that if the minister will just give me a little time. For the contractor, for the businessman, for the well-to-do person, there were all kinds of goodies in there.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: For the St. John's millionaires.

MR. NEARY: We are told - and for the St. John's millionaires, but of some of the members of administration.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: But, Sir, the budget included a lot of little items and goodies that will only be of short term duration to our people. Money granted there will be a little bit of paving done and there will be a few feet of water and sewerage put in here and there. This is all designed, Sir, to help the government to get back into power. That is all that is designed for, Sir. It is all short term. There was nothing in the budget, Sir, for instance, in the way of creating jobs over the long haul, job creation. There was no tax relief in the budget. While the other Provinces of Canada, Sir, - one of our sister provinces, I think it was Manitoba boasted about a billion dollar budget at the same time that Newfoundland did. They brought in all kinds of measures that would help the ordinary people of the Province to cope with the high cost of living. They brought in reductions in the sales tax. They brought in financial assistance to young couples who are buying homes for the first time. They brought in measures to help the old aged who are struggling with the cost of living. They stacked on top of the old age pensions and the old age supplements that are coming from Ottawa, they stacked on top of the provincial allowances.

Then, Sir, Ontario back in the early part of April brought down its budget, and they provided for all sorts of benefits for the ordinary people of that Province. They cut the sales tax. They extended free drugs in certain categories to the handicapped, to the old aged, and they gave first time home buyers a grant of \$1,500 on top of the \$500 grant from the Government of Canada and the other financial assistance for housing from the Government of Canada.

Then Quebec, Sir, I think it was about a week or so ago, I believe it was a week today or a week yesterday brought down a billion dollar budget. They in turn, Sir, provided quite a few benefits to the ordinary people of that Province. They reduced income tax, for instance, and they provided all forms of other kinds of assistance to the poor people in the Province of Quebec.

But, here in Newfoundland, Sir, poor old Newfoundland, there were no concessions for the ordinary people of this Province. Instead, Mr. Speaker, what we have seen is a budget that will make the government one of the most expensive creatures in the whole of Canada



that can only be fed by placing an even heavier burden on the taxpayers of this Province. And I would submit, Mr. Speaker, that as soon as the election is over, if the administration can weasel their way back into power, Sir, that all these yellow bulldozers that we will see roaming around Newfoundland in the next few weeks and few months, and all these ditches that will be opened up to lay sewer lines, the bulldozers will be withdrawn, the ditches will be filled in, and if I am any judge, Sir, of the track record of this administration, if they happen to be smart enough to weasel their way back into power, that what will happen, Mr. Speaker, is this, that there will be a mini-budget. As soon as the election is out of the way, Sir, if they can get back in, as sure as Your Honour is sitting in that Chair, there will be a mini-budget.

Mr. Speaker, if the Liberals should be fortunate enough to get back in, Sir, if the Roberts Administration, if Mr. Roberts is asked to form the government, form the administration of this Province, Sir, then the first thing that we will have to do is to get to work, get out our broom and work night and day, work hard and work vigorously to rescue this Province from financial disaster.

Does Your Honour remember or do the members of the House remember the couple of years leading up to the last provincial election? Does Your Honour remember or do members remember the great issues of the 1971 and 1972 election? What were they?

MR. EVANS: Anti-Joey.

MR. NEARY: Well apart from an anti-Joey campaign, Sir, apart from the negative platform, one of the big issues was that the former administration was borrowing too much, that we were going to bankrupt the Province.

MR. HICKMAN: Right on.

MR. NEARY: Right on, the Minister of Justice says, and the Minister of Justice was one of the honourable gentlemen who made some of these statements while he was on this side of the House that we were going to bankrupt Newfoundland, the Liberals. Joey was going to put her belly up, we were told by the Hon. Premier and the Minister of Fisheries and the Minister of Finance and all the other ministers as they went around the Province campaigning and trying to con the Newfoundland people into voting for them instead of for the Liberal party. Well, Sir, what has happened in the three years? What has happened in the three years?

Mr. Speaker, it is very seldom that the member for Placentia East, Sir, is in his seat, but I wonder would he be a little quiet so I can make my speech and go back to his own seat, Sir. If he wants, Sir, to have a chat he should go out in the common room. That is what the common room is for.

But, Mr. Speaker, what has happened in three short years? Well, Sir, we have seen record borrowing in this Province. We have seen our provincial debt, both direct and indirect, go from \$1 billion, that is direct and indirect in 1971, up to \$1,600,000,000. Our provincial debt has increased by more than fifty per cent over a three year period. It is hard to believe, Mr. Speaker, that this is the same group of gentlemen that accused Mr. Smallwood and the Liberals of plunging Newfoundland into bankruptcy. And, Mr. Speaker, you would not mind the debt increasing by almost sixty per cent if there was anything that you could point your finger to to show for it. But, Sir, we have borrowed at a record rate over the last three years and today we have record unemployment in Newfoundland. We have the highest cost of living of any province in Canada. At the end of January, Sir, according to Statistics Canada, at the end of March, pardon me, we are told by Statistics Canada that 45,000 Newfoundlanders are unemployed.

MR. NEARY: In just three years, Mr. Speaker, in just three years the administration has practically doubled our borrowing and more than doubled unemployment in this Province.

Now, Sir, that is a pretty dismal record for the administration to boast about and no wonder, Mr. Speaker, no wonder the Premier made up his mind when to have a provincial general election. We had all kinds of rumours over the last few months, the date was set for February, then it was moved ahead to March and the trawlermen's strike came on, then it was moved ahead to April and then the Energy Commission came on and they made a blunder and a big boo boo at the Energy Commission so they had to postpone the election again. And then the Member for St. John's East rocked them back on their heels when he left the Cabinet and so is it any wonder, Mr. Speaker, that the honourable Premier is unable to make up his mind at this time whether or not he should go down to Government House, dissolve the House and have a general election?

So they are hoping, they are hoping, Mr. Speaker, that the few little goodies that they hinted at in the Budget Speech will be enough to swing the electorate of this Province around to their way of thinking again in the next election, whenever it is called.

Mr. Speaker, somehow or other, and I could be completely wrong but somehow or other, Sir, I am convinced in my mind that the people of this Province are not going to fall for this kind of glib talk and they will not vote for this kind of a con job in the next provincial election.

MR. EVANS: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: The people, Sir, are aware of the fact that what few goodies were provided for in the Budget will be taken away again after the next provincial election. They will remember, Mr. Speaker, as surely as you and I are members of this honourable House, that following the Provincial General Election, the Mothers' Allowance was wiped out and the people will also remember, Sir, that they cut the students' allowance and the people will also remember, Mr. Speaker, that our great march for jobs in industrial development has been curtailed. Economic development

is off the rails. And that this honourable administration has not been able to continue. It has been too much for them. They have not been able to cope with it, to continue this great march forward that was started in the Smallwood years and under the Smallwood Administration.

And all the town councils, Sir, who have been frustrated for the last three years, who have been unable to get water and sewerage, delegation after delegation coming into Confederation Building and all the other buildings that are scattered around St. John's, unable to get any satisfaction from the Tory Government about their water and sewer problems, and all the mayors and town councillors who have become so frustrated that they were forced to resign because they could not cope with the lack of co-operation and assistance that they were getting from the administration, and all the people, Sir, who had been eating dust in this Province for the last three years are not going to be impressed or influenced in any way at all by all these yellow bulldozers and trucks and water and sewer digging machines and backhoes that will be around the Province this coming summer.

If I were the administration, Sir, I would not bank my hopes too much on fooling the people with that sort of technique, with that gimmick, Sir. You know, Mr. Speaker, does Your Honour remember, I know Your Honour cannot answer me, does Your Honour remember how they used to say that Joey, when there was an election coming, they would say, Oh there is an election coming up. Joey got the paving machines out. I know over on Bell Island they used to call the paving machine, the voting machine.



Joey got all the paving machines out, the trucks out, the bulldozers out, the graders out and so forth. They used to always say that Joey was using the peoples' own money to buy their votes. Well, Mr. Speaker, this honourable crowd must believe in that technique because, Sir, they are following precisely the technique that was used by Mr. Smallwood and used by, I am afraid, many other politicians before him and I think it will probably be used by a good many more politicians after that administration is gone. It is a technique and a gimmick, Sir, that people are now wise to do a little work, throwing out a few goodies, sending a few bulldozers around the country, laying a bit of pavement. That technique is being used out and the people are not going to fall for it. They are not going to fall for it.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Well, Mr. Speaker, I would submit to Your Honour that probably the chief reason for postponing the election until the Fall of the year or next Spring, the real reason, Sir, even though all these other reasons that I have given have changed the honourable the Premier's mind, people who he takes his advice from and people who do his polls for him - I might say, Sir, I have been told that the poll that was done by the honourable the Premier and the Tory Party recently did not show the honourable the Premier in too favorable a light with the electorate of this Province.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: It showed it could win an election any day.

MR. NEARY: It showed, Sir, that the administration could not win an election any day.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Right.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Your poll showed we could win.

MR. NEARY: No, Sir. You know, it is a funny thing. There were two polls going on at the same time.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Yours was better than ours.

MR. NEARY: I do not know about that, Sir. I do not know about the poll that was done by the honourable the Premier, on behalf of the Tory Party, did not show the Premier and the min:



and a good many members on the government side, did not show them in a very favorable light.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Strong on Bell Island.

MR. NEARY: No, Sir, very weak. Very weak on Bell Island. You do not have to do a poll to find that out. All the minister has to do is go over there. So, that kind of frightened the Premier and the administration off. The advice that he is getting, do not call an election now, you cannot win it. Wait until the Fall. Do some road work. Do some paving. Do some water and sewerage work. Carry out a few projects here and there. Throw out a few goodies and wait until the Fall.

But, Mr. Speaker, the Premier and the administration may think that all these things will help them crawl back into power. But, the real reason, Sir, I would submit, the real reason that the honourable Premier is holding off and not calling the election as early as I had thought that he would is that he is hoping for some strange reason, hoping, Sir, that there will be a strike of gas and oil offshore. This will be the jackpot. This will be the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow that will be thrown out as the gimmick to the Newfoundland people to send this honourable crowd back for another four years.

Now, Sir, that is a bit iffy, a bit iffy. The Minister of Mines and Energy has been telling us about that now for the last two or three years. It is like playing the slot machine. You pull the handle and it does not produce. Well, you can go down in Las Vegas and gamble. Sir, I would suggest that if the cabinet want to gamble with the future of Newfoundland, they take the Churchill Falls jet and go off to Las Vegas and gamble.

MR. BARRY: You were down to Argentina doing the same thing last -

MR. NEARY: I go down there once in a while to see my poor old mother-in-law.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: My mother-in-law was sitting right next to me, in case the member did not know it.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: At the same machine.

April 24, 1975

Tape 1723 (afternoon)

IB-

MR. NEARY: At the next machine. You know, Sir, I have had a little bit of experience in playing slot machines. That is what the - every time I pull the handle and a nickle comes out, it reminds me, Sir, of the administration, gambling, gambling. They have not hit the jackpot and they are hoping this Fall or next Spring to hit the jackpot and then be able to go

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to the people and say, there it is, look, we took the right stand at the Energy Conference. We have now hit the jackpot. We have discovered oil and gas offshore and now we are going to get the big price, you see. We were right when we took this stand in Ottawa. We were really looking ahead and the minister says it is going to happen. Well, Sir, I can tell the minister right now that he does not have to wait until the Fall to make any announcement about a discovery of oil and gas offshore. It is there, Sir, off Labrador. I can tell the people of Newfoundland right now, Mr. Speaker, that they do not have to wait for a general election to find out that there is gas and oil off Labrador, not on the Grand Banks, off Labrador and off the East Coast. It is only a matter now of doing a little more drilling, developing some new technology for getting the gas and oil to shore. Therein lies the problem, Mr. Speaker. There is the problem, Sir.

Even though the honourable the Premier will take to a provincial wide television hookup and radio hookup and call press conferences and go around this Province ranting and raving about the gas and oil offshore, Mr. Speaker, it will be ten to fifteen to twenty years before you can get that gas and oil in to shore where it will be of any benefit to the people of this Province.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Nine to six.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Five to six.

MR. NEARY: Five to six. No, Sir, No, Mr. Speaker! The honourable minister may have inside information that I do not have but I have a fair amount of information concerning this matter and I am told, Sir, anywhere from ten to fifteen years. The minister may be more optimistic. The minister may say five to six but, Sir, Mr. Speaker, the thing is this, that it really does not make any difference if it is a Tory Government, if it is a Liberal Government, Sir, the gas and oil is still going to be discovered. The gas and oil is still going to benefit the people of Newfoundland some time in the next -

MR. BARRY: We have policies and you do not.

MR NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the policy that the administration has at the

moment, Sir, is that they are unable to come to an agreement with Ottawa about the jurisdiction of this gas and oil. Sir, this is a rather urgent matter. Maybe that is why we need a new administration in this Province so we can settle this matter, so that when the oil companies come to the honourable the Premier in the Fall of the year prior to the election they will be able to say, Mr. Premier, we have had another summer's drilling under our belt. The oil and gas is there in commercial quantities. Now you can make your announcement. You can have the election and you can hope that everybody in Newfoundland is going to become a millionaire and that they will put you back into power and everything is going to be wine and roses.

Well, Sir, we have got a long way to go yet before that happens before we all become millionaires in this Province, Sir. Mr. Speaker, no matter what the administration does between now and the Fall of the year, there is no way that I can see that they can win the election.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: There is no way they will lose.

MR. NEARY: Paving, road work, water and sewerage, a recreation centre here or there or a goody here and there, Sir, will not win back the credibility of this administration in the eyes of the people of this Province. It is going to take a strike offshore.

Now, Sir, whether or not they will be able to use this to their advantage is the big question. Apparently the Premier thinks that he can and he is basing his hopes on the fact that there is going to be a big strike and that he will be able to make the announcement and that they will win the election on this issue. Mr. Speaker, I hope, Sir, that this evening on CBC, in the evening news, that they will be able to spare ten or fifteen seconds of the time they have allotted for their news cast to tell the people of this Province, tell the people of this Province, Sir, that there is gas and oil off Labrador and off the East Coast of Newfoundland.

It is only a matter of time when this will be proven, when the drilling is finished this year, and that in all probability the Premier of this Province will get aboard of his gas guzzling Cadillac and drive down to Government House and ask to have the House dissolved to call a provincial general election as soon as this happens. Now there is is, Sir, in a nutshell.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: I got a Cortina that was taken off the market after I bought it.

MR. EVANS: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: So my friends all those within hearing distance of my voice, all those people who may get a few words of what I say today -

AN HON. MEMBER: Who writes it?

MR. NEARY: Billy Graham does not write it. I am not an evangelist, Sir. I like Garner Ted Armstrong. So I would say beware, not of the ideas of March, beware of September or October. Beware, Sir, of the big announcements. Beware when Fleagle Eyed Beagle himself will take to the airways and say we are having an election, and we are having it because everybody in Newfoundland now is going to become a millionaire, we just discovered gas and oil offshore. But Sir, the gas and oil is there. It was the former Liberal Administration that started the offshore drilling, that enticed the people to come in here to do the drilling. I remember attending a big cocktail party over at the Arts and Culture Centre when Sedco I was brought here and put on the Grand Banks, Amco came with great fuss and fanfare. And, Sir, I would submit that the gas and oil will be there long after the administration is gone. The point that I want to make here is, Sir, there is no way, Mr. Speaker, no way that the administration can convince the people of this Province that they are going to be the ones to develop that gas and oil with the track record that they have over the past three years, and the people know that they will have to return to Liberalism, return to the good old days of Liberalism.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.



MR. NEARY: So that we can take advantage -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: - so that we can take advantage of any resource that we may have offshore, whether it is in the liquid form or whether it is in the mineral form.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: I beg your pardon?

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the first thing that we will do when we form the administration of this Province this Fall or early next Spring will be to go to Ottawa and get this matter of offshore jurisdiction straightened out. It should have been done three years ago, Sir. We had the door open in Ottawa. We were negotiating but somehow or other this honourable crowd, Sir, have not been able to succeed.

AN HON. MEMBER: They wanted to give it all away.

MR. NEARY: And, Mr. Speaker, the first thing that the new administration will do when we are put back into power, apart from gas and oil and all the other things that we will do to start our great march forward again, one of the first things that we will do, Sir, is put the Premier's airplane up for sale, and also sell off the Churchill Falls jet.

AN HON. MEMBER: What are you going to use for hospital flights?

MR. NEARY: And, Mr. Speaker - we will manage the hospital flights the same way as we managed them before.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Do not ever let anybody be under the misconception, Sir, that this plane is down there to take care of hospital cases. It is a red herring if I ever heard one.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Yes, Sir, we will visit the people and we will use commercial airlines, we will use Eastern Provincial Airways and Air Canada, and Air Labrador, Labrador Airways and NAP.

MR. BARRY: There are no chartered airlines to Rigolet.

MR. NEARY: Yes, Sir, there is -

MR. BARRY: Great Northern Peninsula.

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Tape 1725 (Afternoon)

PK - 3

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, it would be cheaper to use one of the helicopters that the government has chartered.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: But you do not need an airplane down here in the hangar with a big crew and a big maintenance staff. That is why I called it a wine and roses budget, Sir, it is all made up of goodies, big posh offices, wall to wall carpeting.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: We will sell off that airplane, Sir, and we will sell off the Churchill Falls jet and there will be no more using that jet, abusing that jet to take ministers -

MR. EVANS: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: - around Canada, and to fly all kinds of weird people in and out of Torbay, and to take people on vacation at the expense of the taxpayers of this Province. And, Mr. Speaker, the size of the staff in the Premier's Office will be slashed and put back, Sir, put back to more a realistic numbers. And there will be great reforms, Mr. Speaker, in our election laws whereby, Sir, the public treasury that every man and every woman in Newfoundland of voting age who is eligible to run will be able to run for election in this Province whether he can afford it or not. It will not be a rich man's game any longer once we get back in power.

One of the things that will be done, Sir, there will be election reform.

AN HON. MEMBER: Like what?

MR. NEARY: Like paying for candidates elections out of the public treasury.

MR. MORGAN: You are stealing Joey's platform! Come on now, do not do that now.

MR. NEARY: Sir, I do not care whose platform I am stealing. And Mr. Speaker, all these outmoded boards that we have around that are now cluttering up the various offices in the various buildings that are rented by the government, and owned by the government and all these outmoded boards and commissions will either be reorganized or they will be dumped, And will be a great revolution, a great revolution, Mr. Speaker, in our administration of justice in this Province that is in a ridiculous mess at the present time. And Mr. Speaker, above all, every door in Confederation Building an

every other office, Sir, that is occupied by a government department, will be opened up once again to the taxpayers of this Province.

MR. EVANS: What about the bank?

MR. NEARY: However, Mr. Speaker, visitors and lobbyists with big spending notions that are sweeping the Tory Administration off their feet, and those looking for handouts, Sir, and who think that ministers of the Tory Administration are modern day Santa Clauses, that kind of visitor will not be welcome.

Mr. Speaker, instead of creating huge bureaucracies that the administration has done over the last three years under their restructuring programme, and instead of lashing out millions of dollars and extravagance and waste and building up a gigantic administrative monster in the unlimited hiring in the Civil Service and on Crown Corporations and on other boards, a new government, Sir, will trim the big spending and the waste of the past and we will use the savings, Mr. Speaker, we will use the savings to provide benefits, to provide tax relief, to provide housing grants, to provide drugs to the old aged and the handicapped and to remove altogether, Sir, any sales taxes on food and other essential items in this Province.

Savings, Mr. Speaker, savings from the extravagance and the waste and the sale of the Churchill Falls jet and the Premier's airplane and all the other luxuries that we can ill afford in this Province, some of that savings will be used -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: - will be used to take off some of the tax off gasoline

and to cut the tax off food and other essential items that are needed by the ordinary people.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: - taxes on food.

MR. NEARY: I will tell the member where we will get the money. If I have my way some of it will come in countervailing savings, the rest of it will come from the big corporations. If I had my way corporate taxes will pay for some of these things that I have mentioned that the ordinary people of this Province can ill afford at the moment. Now mining taxes, despite the fact that the, was it the Hollander magazine, what was the name of that magazine?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Northern Miner.

MR. NEARY: Northern Miner. Despite the fact, Sir, that they have put up the red light, sent up the signal and mining companies across the Province are against any reforms in mining taxes in this Province. I would not hesitate one second to implement new mining taxes. I would do it just as they did out in the Province of Saskatchewan where we have had the Government and they did with the potash people. They bought into that company. They were complaining and griping and the Government of Saskatchewan bought into that company so they could reap the benefits and then to pass on to the ordinary people of that Province.

There are all kinds of ways and means, Mr. Speaker. Gasoline will be one way that we can get that money but it is going to take the minister said, five or six years. I would say ten years, it is that long away. Immaterial, Mr. Speaker, and I hate to be repeating myself of what government is in power. Getting your gas and oil on the shelf anywhere from six to ten years away.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member has three minutes.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, we have, we have to find new money for our young people and we have to find additional money for our school boards today, I heard on radio and television, are so frightened that they are almost ready to throw in the towel. They cannot do it. We need extra money for education and we need extra money



and welfare. So, Mr. Speaker, what we have to do is to get Newfoundland back on the rails. We have to get away from the grandiose ideas that the present administration have in their wine and roses budget. Government must not be the expensive creature that it is today feeding off the taxpayers and getting more expensive all the time. We must, Sir, create employment for our people and we must start that great march forward in Newfoundland that was started under the previous Liberal administration that somehow or other, Sir, got stalled in 1972 on January 18.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member has disappeared. I assume he has taken his seat. His time has expired. His time has expired. I think most people here have almost expired listening to him because, Mr. Speaker, you know, he started off his speech complaining about the fact that the news media were not covering the proceedings of this House. If we have ever been treated to a good, logical reason why for the past forty-five minutes, we have, you know, we have it. Because this was a speech on the budget, supposed to be an Address in Reply to the Budget Speech, supposed to be dealing with the budget and we got off, although there is a wide ranging debate allowed in the Budget Speech itself, we got off into all peripheral areas not in the most remotest way connected in any way with the budget speech, I would say for about ninety per cent of the honourable member's time.

Mr. Speaker, this relates, this is the Committee of Ways and Means which is traditionally, of course, the Budget Speech and I would like to address myself to the items in the budget. The first thing, this budget

has been billed at the \$1 billion budget which is a matter of, certainly, note by a government, that a government in this Province can bring in a \$1 billion budget of expenditure. But I would prefer, I think we should concentrate mainly and concern ourselves mainly with two items, the expenditures and, of course, the revenue that make up this particular budget that enable us to spend this gigantic amount of \$1 billion.

Now with respect to expenditures, that is dealt with, Mr. Speaker, in the Committee of Supply in which seventy-five hours was allotted and which we saw today or yesterday or during the session the most abysmal inept performance by an Opposition that I suggest you could have anywhere. Because the Committee of Supply, Mr. Speaker, is here for the purpose of us examining every expenditure that is made by this government. It is a matter of concern not just to the members of the Opposition but to every member in the House and certainly the general public with respect to just about every item of expenditure that was made. After all we are spending \$1 billion this year. But, of course, it is for the Opposition really to take the lead in this area and to determine and to plan its time to determine how and how thoroughly these expenditures are to be examined. And what do we see? We see for the second year in a row major departments not even considered. We see the Department of Tourism for two years in a row, the Department of Public Works for two years in a row, a very important department that I, myself, would like to have seen considered, Provincial Affairs. Last year, not this year, but last year the gigantic Department of Education was not even considered. Why? Because of, I contend, the complete ineptitude of an Opposition, and that is all they can be styled as, an Opposition certainly not as an alternative government, because if the party forming the official Opposition cannot plan its time in any better how can they ever aspire to forming a government?

Now they may turn around and say that a seventy-five hour limitation has been placed on debate, and true it was last year. But I want to point out that that seventy-five hours is quite ample time. In the past thirteen years on only one occasion, and that was an exceptional occasion, was there more than seventy-five hours used. According to my calculations in 1963 they disposed of, even though they had unlimited time, the Opposition thoroughly discussed the estimates in forty-eight hours. The record will show in 1964 that it took fifty-four hours to do all departments; in 1965, fifty-five hours; in 1966, sixty hours; in 1967, only thirty-six hours; in 1968, fifty-four; in 1969, sixty-three. In 1970 there was a little bit more than seventy-five but then, as we know, we had a situation with the then Premier, with defections from his cabinet, and there were clashes in between, but seventy-five hours, I would submit, was substantial even then to discuss the estimates and the rest of the time was spent in peripheral considerations. In 1971, the time of the election, unlimited time, less than seventy-five hours. When we came in 1972 there were less than seventy-five hours to consider all departments, and again in 1973. In those two years we had to sit all night in order to bring the estimates to a close, and we all remember that. So we sat together in this House, in a joint committee, to examine the rules to determine what could be done. And we looked over all of these areas and various papers were presented.

Now the Opposition, when this came in, were not for the restriction of the time because they did not feel, as an Opposition, they could. As such they were being inconsistent with the position that they took in the committee itself. But there is no doubt, Mr. Speaker, that seventy-five hours is quite adequate and quite ample. It has been in twelve out of thirteen years, I suggest thirteen out of thirteen years previously, for the fullest type of examination of the expenditures of this government.

Now when we bring it down to a reasonable time, because of the way the Opposition was conducting itself, to seventy-five hours, we brought it in line with other provinces. It is not a dictatorship. It was not the first time it was done. It is done in Alberta. In Alberta their provision is that they have the budget debate for five days and then another six days is allotted for supply. They do it

in Ontario. They have limitation on supply, a much huger budget every year than ours. The federal government has limitation on its supply debate. Just about every other Province including Newfoundland. So, what we did, we have brought down the time for seventy-five hours and the ineptitude of this Opposition has been shown on two separate years. They have deprived the people of this House, the people of this Province of a most necessary and an urgent need to discuss, examine and question the items of expenditure as presented by the government.

In that I think that they deserve the condemnation that they are getting around the Province, and in that I think the people of the Province can well reflect on the fact that they are an Opposition and being an Opposition and conducting themselves that way, they have no right even to aspire to the mantle of government if they cannot conduct themselves in a different manner.

Now, as a result of this, we brought in these rules, the government, that is, brought in these rules last year and they were reasonable changes. We did other changes besides this on the democratization of this House, do not forget, Mr. Speaker. We brought in a question period where there was none before. We were not allowed to ask oral questions in this House before, or certainly from Confederation up until 1971. There was no provision for it in the Order Paper. If you got up and you tried to ask an oral question, you were shouted down. You were told that you were not allowed to ask unless it was urgent, and nothing happened to be urgent in those days. It all had to go on the Order Paper. We provided a question period which really to a large extent can be supplementary, if properly used, to the estimates itself. We made other beneficial changes.

But, as a result of what the Opposition has done, perhaps the Government ought to take a look now again at the Committee of Supply, not that it should be necessary but because of the ineptness of the Opposition, and it looks like they are going to be an Opposition for years to come. So, we have got to order their time if they cannot do it. Perhaps we should make some provision - I do not know - in the



rules to the effect that a certain amount of time must as a result of the rules or constitution of this House, be spent upon each department of the government because I think it is disgraceful, Mr. Speaker, and it is a disgrace and this is, as I say, a condemnation of the Opposition. The departments have not been discussed in the ample period of time.

So, perhaps we can get some system like that. But certainly perhaps if this is not acceptable, perhaps another suggestion that might be put forth for consideration might be considered. The estimates, whatever time is spent on examining them, they are not meant to be there for long-winded speeches by Opposition or anybody else for that matter, but for the government. They are meant to be there for the purpose of the examination of each item of the estimates, for the asking of questions as to why an expenditure is being made, and for the answers being given by the government as to why the expenditure has been made.

So, I do not know whether we should consider - maybe we should consider it to limit the time that each speaker may speak in the Committee. To give wider powers to the Chairman of Committees so that he could have instead of statements being made, questions and answers. If an answer is not satisfactory, perhaps we can have a limitation of a five minute period of time such as we have on the Late Show that is supposed to come up later this afternoon where a member of the Opposition who is dissatisfied with the answer received from the government can go up and make a five minute speech as to why he is dissatisfied and then the five minutes can go to the government minister to show why it is all right. But, certainly something needs to be done.

I think it ought not to have to be done, Mr. Speaker, because it is not necessary for it to be done in any other Province. It is not necessary for it to be done in the Parliament of Canada, which has a huge and gigantic budget. But, it is quite apparent that the Opposition in this House is incapable of discharging its duties in a proper manner and it is incapable of ordering its affairs. So, we have got to see what the rules, it looks, in order to do it.

So, I say it is a matter of some, to me, some concern.

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stage of the game after seventy-five hours that the expenditure part of this budget has not been examined in the way that it ought to be examined and the way that is in the interests of this Province that it be examined. I think we are going to have to look - no blame on the government, but castigations and great blame on an inept and incompetent Opposition that we get to the stage which we are now after seventy-five hours with expenditures not being looked into because

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MR. MARSHALL: the budget debate should be confined because we have forty-five minutes to examinations with respect to general observations of overall expenditure of the revenue and of the budget. So I will not dwell anymore about lost opportunities on expenditures but I will go into the aspects on the budget debate. I like to make certain observations with respect to the revenue in my initial remarks.

The source of the funds that is going to provide this budget, Mr. Speaker, has to be a matter of some concern to me. And I would note first of all that there is a large amount of money this year, the sum of \$201 million, from the Government of Canada.

Now this has shown a substantial increase of some \$25 million or \$26 million from the previous year.

AN HON. MEMBER: \$226 million.

MR. MARSHALL: Yes, \$226 million now and it was \$201 million so it shows a substantial increase of \$25 million or \$26 million from the honourable member - from the federal government this year. If you go over, if one goes over the balance sheets and the budgets of previous budgets of previous years, in the past two or three years you will find a dramatic increase in the amount of money that has been provided by the federal government to this Province. I feel that in 1971 and I remember the days of 1971 when we were all concerned, people were genuinely concerned, as to whether this Province was going to be taken over or not, because there was the impression around, and I think that the federal government, even though it was a Liberal government dealing with a Provincial Liberal Government, was at that time very leery about advancing funds to the then government of this Province. I think that there with the madcap schemes in industrial development and the lack of planning and what have you, that these fears were justified. And I think it speaks well for this present government that in the last two or three years the amount of money that has come in from the federal government has come in, has increased dramatically and this is a good sign to indicate a large measure of confidence by the central government in the plans that this government has with respect to the development of the Province.

Province.

Now I say this quite frankly, I do not believe as I heard, I think I did hear, I hope my ears were mistaken, a member on the government side eulogizing Mr. Jamieson particularly and the federal government. I do not eulogize the federal government for it because I think we have got to realize that the money that we get we are entitled to. After all it is a little bit misunderstood from time to time and around this time of year when people are filing tax returns it need not be - that people ought to realize that Newfoundlanders pay taxes too, and a lot of the money that we are getting back is money that we deserve. And indeed the federal government gets it back many times because as a result of Confederation one of the things that the federal government got, the rest of Canada got, was a great free market in which to dump its goods from the bread basket of Southern Ontario onto a larger place in Eastern Canada.

But I say, I say it is no need to look at it from the point of view of the attitude like a beggar on horseback thanking Ottawa for its great largesses, at the same time I think we can take confidence in the record that is shown, is the way that the Central Government has obviously confidence in this present administration.

The main part of the revenue, I think, Mr. Speaker, that I think we should concern ourselves with, is the amount that is being provided, has to be provided this year by way of borrowings. It is the borrowings of this Province, not a matter of alarm to people, but certainly they have to be a matter of great concern to every man, woman and child in this Province.

Now I heard with disbelieving ears what the Member for Bell Island said in his speech, that we are borrowing as much as the Liberals and he puts forth such, you know, he puts forth such arguments as, you know, we have borrowed double, we have doubled the borrowing and I am



afraid that statements like that that go unchallenged would be put  
Mr. Speaker, and will gain credence, and I do not think that that is  
the type of statement that should be allowed to be made and go un-  
challenged. It is almost a continuation, really, of a nightmare to  
hear a member - and we are not supposed to talk about this - to hear  
about a member of the previous administration, which borrowed so  
much, and when we came into power an examination of the public accounts  
would show that the debt, both direct and contingent of this Province  
at the end of 1971-1972 was one billion thirty five million nine hundred  
and thirty thousand odd dollars, so over \$1 billion. It is almost  
disbelief that I hear a member like the Member for Bell Island get up  
and say we have doubled the debt. We have not doubled the debt.  
The debt of this Province is not \$2 billion at this present time. And  
monies that have been borrowed, he asked where did it all go? Well,  
we are not supposed to say it but we could not come in and wipe the  
slate clean. We could not come in and pass a bill and say that no  
would any obligations of this government be recognized. We were  
with this \$1 billion and even at a nominal eight per cent interest  
you have got to look at and you know we have got eighty millions of  
dollars each year that we have had to borrow has been towards the  
payment and repayment of interest on the debt that we inherited.

So this is where I say, you know, with an aura of disbelief  
I do not think that a statement like that is responsible, but I do  
think that it is necessary for us to examine. As I say we are borrowing  
this year \$160 million, new borrowings, 160 millions of dollars in  
new borrowings. Last year we borrowed \$132 million of new borrowings.  
Take eighty millions of dollars of that alone off each year, that  
\$160 millions and you got what to pay to retire to even pay the interest  
on the previous debt. That is the problem we face.

The fact that we do have to borrow, and we are faced with it  
has to be a matter of grave and deep concern for the people of the  
Province. The public accounts at the end of March 31, 1974 show



direct debt of \$919 million. The contingent debt, this is our amounts that we have guaranteed, are \$337 million and that amounts to \$1.2 billion. Then in the past couple of years, as I say, we add to that \$132 million and \$160 million and we get \$1.2 billion direct debt, add to that the contingent. So, contingent and direct debt were, you divide by 500,000 people, we are getting in the realm of \$2,500 per person - man, woman and child - and whether we like it or not, whether we like to talk about it or not, this debt is just as real as the debt on John Jones and John Smith's house or his car or what have you because the government is not some amorphous superpower, super being that is separate and distinct from us. But every man, woman and child -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Joey used to think that.

MR. MARSHALL: That is what Joey used to think. Yes, that is what he used to think and say and that is why it mounted, mounted, mounted up because he used to get, he used to con the people with the help of the honourable Member for Bell Island into thinking that the government was one debt, and the people were the other, and the people did not know it. But the people owe this money and it is mounting.

MR. NEARY: \$1,600,000.

MR. MARSHALL: And not double the debt as the honourable the member attempted to say. There was a twelve per cent increase one year and a thirteen per cent increase the next year. This is in this year, last year and this year, last year was twelve per cent and this year there is a thirteen per cent increase. Against that, of course, there are increased revenues, provincial revenues that have been raised. The fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, that this year we are paying out in our debt service fund, consolidated services, some eighty-two millions of dollars and this is mounting yearly. It is going up at a pretty fast rate. As I say, our revenues are going up at a pretty fast rate too, but it is certainly something about which we should be very, I think, extremely concerned about. They are going to go up even farther as we go on because if you look at the list of bond redemptions in the next few years you can see there are quite a number of them because we are

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coming up to year twenty-five now which is the normal period of financing of a lot of these long term indebtedness. We are coming up to a lot of bonds that bear three per cent, four per cent, five per cent interest rates. Within the next two or three years they are going to have to be refinanced at the now current rates which are either eight or nine per cent.

So, all of

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these figures then show that there is need to be an awareness and a great deal of concern. In as far as I am concerned, the fiscal objective of this government is now and must continue to be either to increase revenue substantially or to curtail expenditure. It is just pure and simple as that. The people of this Province, I think, have to accept that particular situation, that hard fact of life, as it were.

As I say, we are going to have to increase revenue substantially. Hopefully most of the former, the increased revenue, but there is going to have to, I would suspect, to be a mixture of each because we cannot -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. MARSHALL: - because, you know, we have to as I say, Mr. Speaker, we just - it is absolutely imperative that every man, woman and child accept this in this Province today. We cannot be driving around in Cadillacs if we can only afford Volkswagens.

MR. THOMS: The millionaires cannot do that.

MR. MARSHALL: Only the millionaires, but that is the whole point, Mr. Speaker, the the honourable Member for Bonavista North does not see, that we may be living in this Province as millionaires and we cannot afford to be.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. MARSHALL: We must be aware - see look, this is the psychology - I do not want to engage in a debate with the honourable Member for Bonavista North - but this is the psychology and he reflects the psychology of this party. (You may be but I am not.) This is the way his relationship between himself and the people and the public debt that they have been taught to implant upon the people of this Province and that is one of the reasons why we are really, as far as I am concerned, in the situation we are in now.

So, we must be aware then and I think the awareness - I will say this again because I want to get this point in and really hammer it home - but I think the awareness apart from a realization and the necessity, dire necessity of realizing this business of revenues increase or expenditures have to go down, the acceptance of it. We also have to be - we cannot expect people to be aware of the borrowings of this Province unless they are really brought forcefully to their attention.

I would like to again mention the matter that I brought up before in the previous debate on the loan bill - I stand on the record on that - that I do not believe that it is good either for budgetary purposes - there is no point having a real budget if you cannot present to control your budget properly nor can you make people aware of what is being borrowed nor can you get the fullest type of fiscal responsibility that is required unless all borrowings are approved by this House of Assembly and here publicly, and the people who are in charge of the administration of justice have to come in - or administrators of the government have to come in and explain why they are spending money and explain it in full and complete details.

I do not myself accept and I do not feel that there ought to be any borrowings other than what is approved by this legislature under the strict application of the Financial Administration Act. In this case this government restored to the legislature the power of borrowing. I would hope in the years to come to see no government coming in again and asking for more money to borrow than it has set forth in its budget. But enough said on that. That has already been pointed out.

But, as I say, Mr. Speaker, I hope that one of these days somewhere along the line we are going to have to see the daylight with respect to the financial affairs of this Province. I am very thankful myself. I think it is a good - it is very fortunate for the people of this Province that the government I support is in power because they are obviously able to manage the affairs of this Province in such a manner that -

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, a point of order. I suppose it is a point of order. Does Your Honour have to announce the topics for the Late Show before five o'clock on Thursdays, Sir? I just want to draw it to Your Honour's attention.

MR. MARSHALL: There is only one, I believe, Your Honour, anyway.

MR. NEARY: Yes, but Your Honour has to announce it. So, I just want to draw it to Your Honour's -

MR. MARSHALL: You do not like what I say. You want a couple of s

off.

MR. NEARY: No, no, no, no, no, no.

MR. MARSHALL: Does Your Honour wish me to yield.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for St. John's East. I am aware of the thing, making an announcement by five o'clock. There is one item, a question raised yesterday by the honourable Member for Bell Island to the honourable Minister of Provincial Affairs and the Environment. I note that the honourable minister is not in his place. However, the honourable Member for Bell Island may use his five minutes at the appropriate time.

The honourable Member for St. John's East.

MR. MARSHALL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Anyway,



have covered, I think, that aspect of the matter that I talked about. I think that I have been speaking about, I think there has to be, again I repeat, an awareness. And the public debt has to be a matter of concern, although not a matter of alarm, and not a matter of alarm because there are a group of people who have demonstrated that they have the confidence of the federal government as evidenced by the increased money that is coming in, they have the confidence and justifiably so, of the financial community. They have the confidence certainly of the people of this Province. I think we are fortunate that we have such a group of people in charge of the affairs of the Province, but at the same time we have to be very, very careful, and very, very aware of the amount the debt that is growing up because it cannot continue no matter what kind of an administrative you have, no matter how efficient it is, it cannot continue at the rate it is going now, Mr. Speaker, They have to see the daylight as far as I am concerned.

By the way, when we are talking about daylight, if I may just divert just a little bit, so that I can make one little point - if you - with respect to daylight and with respect to the Board of Trade -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. MARSHALL: This is disconnected, but you are allowed to speak of anything you want on the budget speech.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. MARSHALL: Look the members of the Board of Trade, I understand have come up with a statement that we should put ourselves in the same time zone as the Mainland, the same time zone as Nova Scotia, and I think the rationale is because this is more convenient for commerce, because it is more convenient for CBC programming, or CTV programming or what have you in all conveniences. And I would like - the effect of this, Mr. Speaker, is as my poor unattuned mind sees it, is that we are going to lose in effect an hour of daylight in this Province and I do not see for the sake of conformity, the conformists of this world - look if the CBC are operating down there and businesses are operating down here let them operate on our terms. And I do not believe I would like to go on record myself as being against this grandiose

proposal for again to conform with the people of Canada for the purpose of having our time at the same time so that we will lose an hour daylight. I do not think it is good. And I would certainly hope that the government would not go along with it. Because after all, I mean, if you want to use the same argument why do we not have the same time zone all throughout Canada, the same as in British Columbia - British Columbia have the same, and maybe we would have twelve o'clock in the day at eleven or twelve o'clock in the night and what have you or something like that. I do not really think that it was a sensible suggestion. And it is certainly one that - the people of this Province get very few fine days comparatively speaking, and I think we should be allowed to enjoy them as we have in the past without interference.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. MARSHALL: I am glad to see that the Opposition agrees with me.

MR. MARSHALL: Now on the borrowing - back to the borrowing again.

MR. NEARY: Back to the bond market.

MR. MARSHALL: Back to the bond market. Back to the money lenders. We are going to be - we have got to remember that it is even more critical now that, you know, our borrowings, when you consider what services have to be provided, you are going to have to borrow some any way. But you have also got the added obligations of this government, dramatic obligations that are going to be incurred as a result of the development of the Lower Churchill. I might say that I am delighted that the government decided and agreed, they have always agreed that before any monies are borrowed on this project that there is going to be a bill brought in for the purpose of authorizing the loan - I was myself - and this shows the, you know, really, honestly, this shows the psychology of the Opposition when the Leader of the Opposition said when he heard the bill was going to go through or he was advocating it, I do not know which, but it is in the records of this House, that he expected the legislation to go through without extensive debate. You know this shows the attitude of the Liberal Party, the attitude of

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the Opposition towards these things, and their lack of appreciation of the importance of it.

I certainly hope that this matter will be fully debated, because the obligations that are going to be incurred are going to be very, very heavy obligations, and certainly the matters that are to be raised often - the matters concerning it, the reasons, the feasibility and the whole works have to be very thoroughly debated before this House so the people of Newfoundland can see where we are going, because

the cost has escalated and escalated dramatically from the Teshmont Feasibility Survey that was already tabled in this House. And the fullest type of information is very necessary to the people of this Province and the fullest debate before any substantial monies are spent, and I am glad that the government agrees and concurs with this position. I pointed out in this context in this debate though to show, Mr. Speaker, that in addition to the ever mounting direct debt of this Province and the normal contingent debt, we are going to have placed on us also a huge debt for the development of the Lower Churchill, because the future of ourselves and indeed our children's children are going to be bound up in this. It must be debated to the fullest extent possible, and I would hope that the Leader of the Opposition will see it that way, and will treat it a little bit more seriously than he indicated that he was prepared to consider it when the matter was brought up before the House.

Now the hopes for revenue, I think, in this Province are tied to a large degree to the provision of revenue from the offshore resources. And I would like to have just a few words with respect to this matter now. Obviously, and it needs hardly be said that every member of this House wants every possible cent that can be gained for the people of this Province and for this Province itself from our offshore resources. But in order to come to grips with the present situation, the jurisdictional dispute between here and Ottawa has to be settled. And great strides and great work has been done with respect to this certainly from the provincial government's point of view. A lot of work, a lot of research, a lot of knowledge has been put together and eventually we hope that some satisfactory settlement will be arrived at to the lasting benefit of Newfoundlanders.

We have to contemplate, Mr. Speaker, we have to contemplate the possibility, and it is becoming even more possible now, I think, more probably now of no settlement being reached by agreement and the matter having to be settled by litigation. And I would like to make a few comments with respect to this in the



House. I made them before while I was a member of cabinet. But now not being in the cabinet I have a certain amount more latitude than I had at that time, and I intend to use it.

MR. NEARY: What happened -

MR. MARSHALL: What happened to what?

MR. NEARY: What happened to -

MR. MARSHALL: If the honourable member does not know I will not bother to explain it to him again.

MR. THOMS: We always like to hear a good story. Go ahead, boy.

MR. MARSHALL: The point with respect to this, Mr. Speaker, that I want to talk about is the fact, as I indicated before, that myself, I have grave reservations, serious reservations about this matter being referred to the Supreme Court of Canada. Now that statement may raise some quizzical eyebrows certainly amongst the traditionalists around us and certainly amongst members of the Law Fraternity who tend to look at the institutions probably, well obviously much more, regard them in a much more serious light, although they are to be regarded in a serious light, than the general populous. They do not particularly like to look at the systems that adjudicate their disputes in any critical manner. But with respect to the Supreme Court of Canada deciding whether or not the federal government or the provincial government own these offshore rights, I feel myself, as my own opinion, that this Province ought not to agree or certainly ought to expend every possible effort, and indeed I do not think they should agree, to ever have this matter referred to the Supreme Court of Canada. People look at you and they say, well, what are you going to do? This is the Constitution of Canada. This is the way it is. This is our system. But that is not the situation, Mr. Speaker. Changes are wrought. This is a matter of urgent concern to the people of this Province, of vital concern to the people of this Province,



and we have to look at every possible avenue to assure not only that the matter is adjudicated properly, as I am sure that it will be in a sense adjudicated properly by the Supreme Court of Canada, but also that, if you like, that justice not only is done, that it might seem to be done. Because, Mr. Speaker, I am not saying that, as I said before, all of the Judges of the Supreme Court of Canada are federally appointed judges and as such, I am not saying that they would be biased but I would say their emotions, emotionally they would have to be tied to the central power, it is only natural. They are federally appointed. They reside in Ottawa and their emotions would tend towards the central power. And there is nothing wrong of course with a judge having emotions. As a matter of fact if a judge did not have emotions and was not guided from one degree to another by emotions as well as reasons he is not fit really to be a judge. Every judge has to have certain emotions otherwise we should submit everything to computers for decision.

So we would not - here is a dispute, a possible dispute between, as I said before, between the federal and the provincial government and we are having the federal government, one party appoint the judges, or having the judges who decide it reside in the national capital, and I myself do not feel that this is a good situation. I think the facts show it. Because - it has already been decided in the British Columbia case what the Supreme Court of Canada's real attitude on it is. Anyone who reads that case will come to the obvious conclusion that the Supreme Court of Canada has relied very heavily on a section of the constitution giving the federal government the power to legislate in matters relative to peace, order and good government and on the basis of peace, order and good government this is one of the main reasons for that decision.

I do not want to go into a long description of what that involves except to say simply my understanding of it is that it was put in the constitution, the British North America Act in 1867 by the then framers of Confederation with an idea of giving the residual powers to the federal government. But it was never intended to be used as a catchall for the

Government of Canada to suck up every bit of jurisdiction that required between Vancouver and St. John's. And I am afraid during the war this particular power was used and used rationally for the purpose of diverting a lot of powers to the Central Government and they have not been since World War II unhatched. But certainly in this particular context, the Supreme Court of Canada, anyone who is reading it - I was talking to someone the other day whose opinion I very much respect in this and I had discussions with him before respect to my concern about the Supreme Court of Canada adjudicating it and his comment was, after reading the case himself, he had come to the conclusion that regardless what the reasons may be the Supreme Court of Canada were going to come up with a decision for the federal government. This is the impression he got when he read it.

So, you know, I feel - there was, by the way, a case, a New Brunswick case touched on in that particular British Columbia case and I think that the legal advisers to the provincial government could well, if they probably have, could well assess that particular case and the opinion of the Supreme Court to the effect that it only related to within a few miles of Conception Bay - this is the Western Union case, I think I decided some years ago - and I think the advisers to the provincial government

will look at that case and assess it from the viewpoint of, you know, the ultimate result of a reference to the Supreme Court of Canada in favour of it in view of the British Columbia case and in view of, you know, what has transpired since.

Now I do not see myself - the Prime Minister of this Province, or the Prime Minister of Canada, when he came to power recognizing the limitations of the Supreme Court of Canada and I think we should remember that. At the time when he was talking about his justifications and at the time when he was partially between being a Quebec nationalist as it were, and a federalist, he was talking about the necessity of having a constitutional court in Canada, and we all remember this, a constitutional court in Canada, a constitutional court from the Supreme Court of Canada itself.

So I mean if the Prime Minister of the Country

saw this need to have a separate constitution court rather than the Supreme Court of Canada, the question is perhaps we ought to take a look ourselves and question the Supreme Court of Canada now. But, instead of creating a separate federal constitutional court the federal government apparently has accepted the Supreme Court of Canada because indeed right now there is a plan - that is, the Supreme Court, all the Supreme Court is going to consider, and this has been talked about, are constitutional issues and not issues relating to private rights between citizens.

Indeed the present chief justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, a man by the name of Mr. Bora Laskin, is a committed federalist. His writings prior - not that he is not an eminent man, a respected man, an objective man and what have you - but his writings are all relative to the theory that the natural evolution of a Confederation such as Canada is to bring it into a federal state. He is what is known as a federalist. Indeed there was a lot of talk at the time when he was appointed that one of the reasons why he was appointed was to assure a complexion on the Supreme Court of Canada, to the court itself and the members of the court, of federalism in the federal government's desire to deal with its increasing problems in Quebec.

Now, I have a press clipping - of course it does not matter what an individual says, but it is another person aside from myself with that point of view where a member of the Alberta bar at the time of Chief Justice Laskin's appointment - I have it here in my pocket. I have not got the filing system such as the Member for Bell Island has. I am afraid the clipping is rather moth-eared because I have had it for a period of time - Mr. Field says that the appointment of Mr. Bora Laskin as justice of the Supreme Court of Canada was a political move probably designed to strengthen the federal government in its confrontation with the provinces. I think the move was politically orientated, he said, in a telephone interview from Edmonton Wednesday.

I think he was a local president at the time, although I am not sure of the Alberta bar. That is fine. It does not mean the man is any less intelligent or any less competent in various areas. But it

certainly shows there is a possibility as far as I am concerned of the Supreme Court of Canada not being the best forum for us. I do not think that we as a government should be satisfied with an adjudication by the Supreme Court of Canada. I know the people will look at me quizzically and say, well, this is a - what are we going to do - this is the constitution. This is where disputes of this nature are settled. These are airy, fairy ideas and what have you. When we are dealing with the future of this Province I see no problem whatsoever in insisting that this matter be submitted to adjudication by a body, a court or a board or what have you which is satisfactory to both parties.

After all, when we joined Confederation - this is a part as far as I am concerned of the unfinished, unnegotiated terms of Confederation itself - when we entered into Confederation at that particular time the recourse was still to the Privy Council. I do not suggest that we go to the Privy Council because we are part of Canada now and the sensitivities of Quebec have to be complied with. But, there must be - have to be recognized - but there must be some other means of doing it.

I mean, if the Prime Minister of this country recognized at the time when he was appointed that the Supreme Court of Canada was perhaps not the best forum in which to have constitutional disputes settled, there is no reason why this Province cannot take the same tack and ask that the matter be presented to an independent board if you want, independent board of international jurists. Maybe by way of suggestion, if they want judges on it, judges of various provinces who are located in other provinces. Certainly there are other men. I do not feel myself, really, that with the future at stake, when you review the budget of this Province, and when you see the large amount of monies that have been spent, and the amount of borrowings that have and will continue - I will not be one moment, Mr. Speaker - that have and will continue in the future, and how much our future of this Province is tied up in its increased revenue, and the revenue of this Province must come from the exploration of our natural resources off our shelves. I think that this government really ought to take a stand and say this

if it is going to be adjudicated - hopefully there will be a settlement - but if it is going to be adjudicated it is not going to be by the Supreme Court of Canada and this government in Newfoundland will not recognize any such adjudication by the Supreme Court of Canada unless it is only adjudication. It might recognize one by what the Province considers to be a completely independent board.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Hear! Hear!



MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Bonavista North.

MP. P. THOMS: Mr. Speaker, I must say I have heard certainly much better speeches, especially budget speeches from the honourable members across the way than we have just heard.

MR. NEARY: The Member for Burgeo could do a better job.

MP. THOMS: I believe, I believe the ousting of the member from the Cabinet must have done something with his vocal cords, certainly with his vocabulary because he certainly is capable of making a much better speech than he has just presented to this House. I was quite interested in the revelations which the member uttered when he sarcastically assailed the members of the Opposition in stating that we were indeed a very poor Opposition. Then, I was rather relieved when, I believe, he unknowingly admitted that we were indeed the best Opposition that this honourable House has ever had and therefore, of course, we are the number one candidates to take over the administration of this Province in the next provincial election.

The member spoke about the previous Opposition of this honourable House when it at one time took only something like sixty hours to go through the estimates of the budget of the day. He said that only at one time, I believe, did the estimates take over seventy-five hours. This was very interesting indeed, Mr. Speaker, because this proves that if it did not take seventy-five hours to go through the estimates, to run down through the various headings and items and to examine them as an Opposition should examine them, then I say this House has experienced in the past a very incompetent Opposition. What were they doing - sleeping, daydreaming? And the Member for St. John's East was a member of that Opposition.

Mr. Speaker, there is no Opposition that can go through the estimates of the various departments of this government or any government of this Province in seventy-five hours. It is impossible to do it and to do a good job and therefore I say the previous Opposition did a very poor, sloppy and incompetent job. Maybe that is why a certain member was ousted from the Cabinet, because he was incompetent. It is a self confession of being incompetent, Mr. Speaker. Then he said this present Opposition

used up seventy-five hours and did not get through all the estimates. Well, naturally we used it up because there was not enough time to go through all the estimates. Many of the questions that we have asked in this honourable House during the estimates were not answered and are not answered today.

MR. NEARY: They took up twenty hours and they still did not answer the questions.

MR. THOMS: Mr. Speaker, our job on this side of the House is to examine every item within the budget in the time allotted and we did our best and it was this administration who put the seventy-five hour time limit on the estimates, not the previous one. What is this administration afraid of? What are they trying to hide in the budget? They have been hiding something most definitely because, Mr. Speaker, we have failed to find the necessary time to properly examine the items in this budget and even, Mr. Speaker, if you consider that the present administration is boasting of a \$1 billion budget,

\$1 billion belonging to the taxpayers of this Province.

MR. BARRY: You should not even mention that. It is going to cost you the next election.

MR. THOMS: No, it is not going to cost us the next election, because the \$1 billion budget is a fraud. It is not a \$1 billion budget. Members may like to think it is, but it is not.

MR. NEARY: The budget is a fraud, not the minister.

MR. THOMS: Not the minister, no. I certainly would not say that the minister is a fraud even though sometimes I may believe so, but I would not say it. The budget is a fraud.

MR. BARRY: Be careful now, I will have to toss you out.

MR. THOMS: Never. Not while we are on this side of the House, we would not allow it.

MR. NEARY: Well, I would be glad to -

MR. THOMS: We want nothing to do with the minister.

MR. NEARY: I must say I would like to have the honourable minister myself.

MR. THOMS: Well we need an extra water boy, I agree with you.

MR. NEARY: Although he is intelligent enough.

MR. BARRY: The same cannot be said.

MR. THOMS: Mr. Speaker, we on this side of the House during the budget estimates have been trying to do the right and proper job in trying to pry information from this administration. But for an administration who do not want to talk, Mr. Speaker, it is a very difficult job indeed.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. THOMS: An administration who wants to put time limits on the estimates, how can you do a right and proper job? Here we have, I believe, it is six departments that have not come to the floor of this House and six departments which we do not know what is going on in them. And even in the other departme

Mr. Speaker, we did not get complete satisfaction from neither one of them.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. THOMS: Not one of them. We tried, we tried our best but most of the times when you asked a question the minister would either shrug his shoulders or not say anything, especially the Minister of Justice.

MR. NEARY: Oh, he is a Baptist. He rubs his hands and gazes heavenward all the time.

AN HON. MEMBER: And then they filibuster.

MR. THOMS: Mr. Speaker,

MR. HICKMAN: What is it a Liberal once said, it is easier to talk your way out of the House than it is to talk your way in.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: Where are we, down in the Bowery somewhere?

MR. THOMS: Mr. Speaker, it was indeed a delight to hear the member for St. John's East confess that the previous Opposition was a poor and incompetent one and that the present Opposition is the best Opposition that this House has ever had.

MR. NEARY: The best in Canada.

MR. THOMS: It was indeed a delight to hear it. This maybe is the reason why we have one minister missing from the present administration. Mr. Speaker, the member touched on some interesting items, budgetary items. He spoke about the Provincial Debt. He even cited the Provincial Debt of January, 1972 as being \$1,045,000,000. And, Mr. Speaker, he claims that the Provincial Debt has not doubled in three years. It is not exactly a true statement Mr. Speaker.

MR. NEARY: Sixty per cent.

MR. THOMS: Many people will argue vigorously with that statement.

MR. NEARY: Increased to sixty per cent.

MR. THOMS: An increase of over one hundred per cent, Mr. Speaker, in three years. And, Mr. Speaker, let us examine the borrowings

of this administration. The previous administration in twenty-three years, after twenty-three years of good Liberal Administration, under Premier Smallwood -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. THOMS: - we found ourselves in debt of \$1,045,000,000. Yes, Mr. Speaker, many of the people on the government side should stand, because if it were not for Joey they would not be here today.

MR. NEARY: A two minute silence.

AN HON. MEMBER .: A two minute silence.

MR. THOMS: Mr. Speaker, we have borrowed more this last three years than the previous administration borrowed in the past. In the year 1972-1973 the Minister of Finance, when he brought in his budget, obtained permission to borrow \$188 million, the biggest single borrowing of this government or any other Newfoundland government. In



1973-1974, Mr. Speaker, this administration, the Finance Minister of that day received permission to borrow \$177 million, another major borrowing expenditure. And, Mr. Speaker, last year, 1974-1975, this government borrowed \$166 million. And, Mr. Speaker, in this session of this honourable House, this House has given this administration authorization to borrow \$225 million, not as much as they wanted, they wanted an extra \$50 million, but we knocked them down \$50 million. They wanted \$275 million. But somehow we persuaded to knock them down \$225 million for the coming fiscal year.

And now, Mr. Speaker, if we examine the other borrowings of this administration we find that when we took over the Linerboard Mill we borrowed \$161,000,500, and on top of that, Mr. Speaker, in the budget of 1974-1975 we spent out of the provincial treasury \$27,500,000 for the Linerboard Mill. And now, Mr. Speaker, in the present estimates before this House we find that the administration wants to invest another \$24,704,000. And this, Mr. Speaker, brings the Linerboard project to something like \$213 million. And, Mr. Speaker, on top of that, last year when we nationalized Churchill Falls we borrowed \$160 million. And in the estimates for last year we spent on the Upper Churchill out of the provincial treasury another \$17 million. And, Mr. Speaker, if you add it all together you will find out that this administration have put this Province in debt in three years to the tune of \$1,146,000 -

AN HON. MEMBER: \$1 billion.

MR. THOMS: \$1,146,000,000, double, Mr. Speaker, what the previous administration had put this Province in debt in the previous twenty-three years. And now, Mr. Speaker, they are talking about borrowing another \$1,600,000,000. And by the time the Lower Churchill gets off the ground it will be closer to \$2 billion. Mr. Speaker, believe it or not that is possible during this Tory Administration which we have today. A Province which they took over in 1972 with only approximately \$1 billion, it is possible when they leave it in the Fall of 1975 or the Spring of 1976 that this Province will be in

the hole to the tune of some \$4 billion - \$4 billion.

MR. NEARY: Nine thousand dollars a person.

MR. THOMS: That, Mr. Speaker, is a staggering record for any administration, even a Tory Administration. Is that what they are so proud of? Is that what they are so up in arms about, and so proud of? They should be - it is a disgrace, Mr. Speaker, to think that an administration could put this Province down in the hole so deep as this present administration has. Everyone should bow his head in shame.

MR. NEARY: No wonder the Member for St. John's East is so perturbed about about the debt, the provincial debt. No wonder ...

MR. THOMS: The Member for St. John's East, Mr. Speaker, was dragging a big red whale, not a herring, a whale -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! I wonder would the honourable member like to adjourn the debate so we can proceed with the late show.

MR. THOMS: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would like to adjourn this debate.

MR. SPEAKER: It being 5:30 I recognize the honourable Member for Bell Island.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, way back in 1974, Sir, the Food Prices Review Board submitted a report on the high cost of food in this Province. This report, Mr. Speaker, that I have here on my desk discounted the old traditional excuse that high food prices in Newfoundland and Labrador result from transportation costs. It pointed out that Western provinces, approximately the same distance from Montreal and Toronto as Newfoundland, had much higher transportation costs than Newfoundland and it was pointed out that the across the counter prices of food were much lower out West than they were here in Newfoundland. The chief factor, Sir, we were told by the Food Prices Review Board Report, was inefficiency and multiplicity of mark-ups because of individual items and brands passing through unnecessary middle men.

Sir, as the only member of the House of Assembly who attended the news conference at which this report was tabled, I immediately called on the government, especially on the minister responsible for consumer affairs for action on all these matters which were pinpointed in the report and all of them falling within provincial jurisdiction. Mr. Speaker, you know, the whole of Newfoundland knows the reception that was given to that request. Absolutely nothing was done, Mr. Speaker. Only this week, Sir, as a matter of fact Tuesday past, Ottawa went to all the trouble of sending here to Newfoundland a Mr. Maxwell W. Mackenzie to conduct hearings into the price of beef in Newfoundland and Labrador, a matter, Sir, about which Newfoundlanders have been complaining now for years and years.

So, Mr. Speaker, what happened? The Provincial Affairs Minister admitted publicly that he could give no reason for the government's failure to appear at these hearings. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately the Minister of Provincial Affairs is not in his seat today but I demand, Sir, as an elected representative of the people of this Province that the Minister of Provincial Affairs immediately set in motion a departmental investigation into this ridiculous affair and present to the

House of Assembly no later than Monday coming, Monday of next week, the real reason, Sir, for this dereliction of duty. The people of Newfoundland and Labrador, Sir, want to know why they were not represented at this hearing. Was it an internal breakdown in communications within the minister's department, Sir, or was it simply laziness on the part of the minister, or was it that the minister had not finished his morning coffee, or had not time to finish reading the morning paper, the stock markets in the morning paper, to get down to attend this hearing that was held by Mr. Mackenzie?

Mr. Speaker, this, Sir, is a typical example of the kind of treatment that this matter of the high cost of living in this Province has been getting over the past three years. The lack of interest, Sir, should show the people of this Province the sorry mess that that department is in that is headed up by this minister. This weird ignoring of an important federal hearing, Sir, must be explained to the House of Assembly and explained fully to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador. To let this golden opportunity, Sir, pass by without the minister or his officials going down and appearing before this hearing, Sir, in my opinion, is one of the worst examples of dereliction of duty that I have ever seen on behalf of a minister of any government in this Province.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, if I may have a word or two in defense of the honourable the Minister of Provincial Affairs. The facts surrounding this brief visit of a gentleman who was supposed to look at the price of beef in Newfoundland were set forth very clearly yesterday by the honourable the Minister of Provincial Affairs. He knew they were coming. He arranged to have two of his officials in the department go and appear before them, before this gentleman. He was told and he knew that there were two other briefs to supercede the one that was, the appearance of these two representatives. They went there

MR. HICKMAN: thirty minutes, I think it was thirty minutes he said, after the hearing had started and when the thing happened it happened the friend of the honourable gentleman from Bell Island who had come down here. He followed the route of so many of our visitors from Ottawa, he made a token visit to Newfoundland, he spent a half an hour in our Province and he beat it back to the Newfoundland Hotel to make reservations to get out of here as fast as he could.

MR. NEARY: I am going to wire him tomorrow to find out.

MR. HICKMAN: And I think that the honourable the Member for Bell Island should wire him and should enquire as to why he spent his entire time, his entire thirty minutes sitting in the capital City of St. John's. Surely he does not subscribe to the view that Newfoundland begins and ends at Rawlins Cross. Surely someone in Ottawa, there must be someone in Ottawa told him that the people who live on the Burin Peninsula are suffering from rapid escalation in the cost of living, that they too are concerned because the Government of Canada has not taken effective measures as only they can to try and curtail or lessen the escalation. Surely he must have been told that there are people in Bonavista North and on the West Coast of Newfoundland and in Labrador, Labrador in particular, where the cost of living is getting beyond all reach of the people living in that area, but for some strange reason he did not do that. He made a little trip to St. John's, sits down for half an hour and says, I have now been in Newfoundland I must get home out of this place as fast as I can and it will look great when the report comes in, number of provinces visited, ten. But unfortunately they never give any indication as to how long they spend here and if these enquiries are going to be more than tokenism on the part of the Government of Canada, Mr. Speaker, then anyone coming down to look at the situation in Newfoundland or in Eastern Canada has got to get out and scurry around, talk to the man in the street, go down on Water Street, go out to the Mall, go and do a little bit of sample shopping. Go out to Corner Brook and go down to Grand Bank and up to St. Anthony and make some enquiries. See whether or not there indeed has been a markup that is not sustainable by the traders of this Province. Because we have had at least two enquiries.



We had the Adams Enquiry, the former Mayor of St. John's, was a Royal Commission of one to look into the cost of drugs and he found that whatever the reason was, it was not because of the activities of those in business in Newfoundland. Long before that we had an enquiry headed by the gentleman who is now the Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals of Nova Scotia, Chief Justice Ian McKeegan and he too made the same findings. But they all pointed up one thing that regardless of what Mrs. Plumptre might think, the transportation costs are indeed a factor, a very substantial factor in the cost of goods in Newfoundland.

MR. NEARY: Inaudible.

MR. HICKMAN: Productivity is another that, as the honourable the Member for Twillingate pointed out in one of his ablest speeches, and he is the spokesman for industrial development from the Opposition, he pointed out very, very effectively last week his concern and the concern of his party over the productivity in Newfoundland and suggested very clearly that unless we can improve the productivity, the cost of living and the cost of services in Newfoundland are going to escalate beyond the reach of Newfoundlanders and I commend the Opposition through their spokesman, the Member for Twillingate for the position they take on these matters.

MR. SPEAKER: It now being six o'clock I leave the Chair until eight o'clock tonight.

The House resumed at 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! The honourable Member for Bonavista North adjourned the debate at five thirty.

MR. THOMS: Mr. Speaker, when we adjourned the debate at five thirty this afternoon, I was really just responding to a few comments made by the Member for St. John's East which I would like to rapidly run over again. The member in his remarks criticized viciously the members of the Opposition because in his opinion he thought they had done a very poor job on the estimates that have just passed through the House. He said, Mr. Speaker, that the previous Opposition of this honourable House went through the estimates much faster and that even in one case the estimates passed through this House in something like sixty hours. Then, Mr. Speaker, he turned around and he said the present Opposition was doing a poor job, that it took seventy-five hours to get the estimates through this House and then even this year there are six departments which did not come before this House whatsoever.

Now, Mr. Speaker, to me that was an admission of incompetency. The Member for St. John's East, who was a member of that Opposition, previous Opposition, indirectly admitted that the Opposition of the day was incompetent and that they rushed through the estimates of this House. They did not properly scrutinize the government of the day. They did not properly investigate down through the estimates, point out the inequities of the departments at that time, where we in the present Opposition, Mr. Speaker, it takes time where the government are boasting about a \$1 billion budget and it takes time to run down through the estimates, to ask the different ministers the proper questions, the questions that have to be answered. It is unfortunate we did not get all the answers. It is unfortunate that many of the ministers saw fit not to answer, not to present to this House the various lists that have been asked for. It is unfortunate, Mr. Speaker, and with such an administration as we have today who is rather shy in presenting

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the facts to the people of Newfoundland so that they can be examined, so that we on behalf of the people of Newfoundland can find out exactly how the present government is spending the taxpayers money. Mr. Speaker, it is very unfortunate. But, Mr. Speaker, in order to do a right and proper job,

MR. THOMS: in order to dig into the nitty gritty of this administration it takes time and it is unfortunate that this administration has seen fit to limit the time to examine the estimates to seventy-five hours. This was never known before in this honourable House. When this administration was in office, time was unlimited. They did not penalize the people of Newfoundland by setting time limits. They gave the Opposition plenty of time and even when they had unlimited time they would rush through the estimates in sixty hours. Now this proves to me that the previous Opposition of this honourable House was an incompetent Opposition. It also proves to me that the present Opposition is doing a damn fine job.

AN HON. MEMBER: That is unparliamentary.

MR. NEARY: Who told you that?

MR. THOMS: Now, Mr. Speaker, this present government may laugh and sneer and giggle and wiggle over in their seats, but I note, Mr. Speaker, that they are so fast to jump up on their feet and speak in this debate. We have only had one member on the government side speak so far in this debate and the rest of these have been told to sit down, stay quiet, and let this pass through, get over it as fast as we possibly can, we do not want it discussed.

Mr. Speaker, we on the Opposition believe that it should be discussed in full. There should be a wide ranging discussion on the estimates. After all, this is the money that is being spent on behalf of the taxpayers of this land of ours and it should be thoroughly examined and all ministers, Sir, should get up and say their two bits worth in this debate and it is the responsibility of every member of this honourable House to pass his opinion on these estimates..

I also pointed out to the members of this House, Mr. Speaker, that while the previous administration was in power it had borrowed \$1,045,000,000 on behalf of the people of Newfoundland, and in just three short years this administration had borrowed \$1,146,000,000, more than doubling the debt of this Province in three short years and if they continue on their

present spending spree there is a possibility that even the present provincial debt could well be doubled in the next year or year and a half.

This is not inflation, Mr. Speaker, this is irresponsibility as far as the present administration is concerned. Inflation is a nice word, nice word when you are in trouble, something to blame your faults and sins on and, Mr. Speaker, the faults and sins of this administration can never be covered by inflation.

Mr. Speaker, we are here this evening discussing one of the largest budgets that our Province has ever produced in its history. The expenditures over last year, Mr. Speaker, is something like thirty-five per cent. And surely, Mr. Speaker, with such a large percentage as this, such a large expenditure, surely some of the answers to our people should be answered in this budget.



We should be able to overcome many of the problems that face our people today. And, Mr. Speaker, if there is one problem that stands out in Newfoundland today, if one were to pick the greatest problem that we have in Newfoundland today, one would have to say that it is the problem of unemployment, the problem of the availability of jobs for our people. We here in Newfoundland today, Mr. Speaker, have the highest unemployment rate anywhere in Canada, as a matter of fact anywhere in North America. We have the highest unemployment rate in our past history. Nowhere in our past history have we had such a high unemployment rate, that is, since official records have been kept. In the month of January we had 43,000 people unemployed, in the month of February we had 44,000 people unemployed, and it was climbing. Mr. Speaker, this budget, this present budget we are discussing does nothing to alleviate the unemployment problem that we have in Newfoundland today.

It was only two years ago the Premier of this Province, the present Premier, boasted of creating 40,000 jobs in one year. The big problem is, Mr. Speaker, Newfoundlanders are still trying to find these 40,000 jobs. Not one of them has turned up yet. But we are still looking. We do not believe the Premier of this Province lied to the people. We do not believe that. But we are still looking for the jobs, Mr. Speaker. I hope that when the Premier speaks in this debate that he will tell us where we can find the jobs. It will save us a lot of searching.

Well, Mr. Speaker -

MR. MOORES: Well, the next election -

MR. THOMS: Well now, Mr. Speaker, if we can only get to that election I can assure you will find some people who will be unemployed the next morning.

HON. MEMBERS: Inaudible.

MR. THOMS: And that will be a happy day for the people of Newfoundland.

MR. EVANS: When you get those polka dot blueberries going.

MR. THOMS: Any time at all the Premier wants to go down -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. THOMS: - to the Lieutenant-Governor and dissolve this honourable House - and remember there is no time like the present. I saw one young girl wearing a sign on her bosom, she said "Why not do it now?" I say to the Premier, why not do it now. Now is the time. Now is the hour. Everything is right. He got the results of his survey the other day.

MR. MOORES: That is right.

MR. THOMS: Everyone says it was a good report, he will win in all three seats. The other fifty-eight he is not so sure about.

AN HON. MEMBER: Forty-eight.

MR. THOMS: Forty-eight.

MR. EVANS: Inaudible.

MR. THOMS: But, Mr. Speaker, if the Premier thinks it is something to laugh about it is not. It is not at all a laughing matter. Our people are looking desperately for employment. We have at the present time 44 - or I am quoting the February figures - 44,000 people unemployed. Let us say, for example, 4,000 of these are married women that would give us approximately 40,000 people unemployed. If you multiply that by the average Canadian family of five, you will come up with 200,000 people unemployed,

AN HON. MEMBER: Where? In Newfoundland?

MR. THOMS: In Newfoundland - 200,000 people depending on unemployment insurance.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. THOMS: And, Mr. Speaker, this percentage, these huge numbers places us in a very dangerous position indeed.

AN HON. MEMBER: What is the population -

MR. THOMS: Almost half of our population is totally dependent on the unemployment insurance benefits that are received by the federal government. And, Mr. Speaker, this is after only three years of Tory rule, only three years. Supposing if we were to have another misfortune in Newfoundland like we had in March of 1972, and have them returned to office, we would go over the fifty per cent mark for sure.

But I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that this will never happen. You can fool the Newfoundland people once but you cannot fool them twice. Mr. Speaker, unless this present government takes a very serious look at the unemployment problem which we have in Newfoundland today, unless they come up with some sound proposals to alleviate the unemployment, some sound proposals to create jobs, to get our people back working then, Mr. Speaker, we are going to be in a very rough indeed, because once a person is unemployed for a number of months and he gets settled away in his home with his slippers on, his feet up on a chair, watching television for ten or twelve months, it is going to be very difficult to get him out of that comfortable spot and to get him working again. Mr. Speaker, a person who is unemployed is a burden to the taxpayer of this land of ours. He is a very heavy burden. We, Mr. Speaker, should do all within our power to try to get every Newfoundlander that we possibly can to become a member of our provincial work force.

Mr. Speaker, this is where this administration has fallen down, not only in this budget but in previous budgets. They have not come forward with any sound proposals in a job creating programme. They have not encouraged any of our industry that produces jobs, no encouragement whatsoever so that our people could find employment so we could knock down this high figure of unemployment people in our land. It is a very, very serious situation indeed, Mr. Speaker, and it is too bad the Premier and his Cabinet ministers do not take it more seriously. It is not at all a joking matter. The Premier may laugh if he like but to the people of this land it is a very serious matter indeed.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard many people say that Newfoundlanders just simply will not work. This, Mr. Speaker, is not so. Newfoundlanders will work and if they are given the opportunity they will indeed become members of the working force of this land. I say to this, and I say -

MR. NEARY: Is that someone in the galleries?

MR. THOMS: Yes, it is someone in the galleries.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Order, please! I remind visitors in

the galleries that they are entitled to come in and sit and listen in silence and not to participate in any way in the proceedings of this legislature.

The honourable Member for Bonavista North.

MR. THOMS: And, Mr. Speaker, unless this administration comes up with some good, sound proposals, some make-work proposals so that our people can get back to work, Mr. Speaker, we are going to be in a very sad condition, a very sad condition indeed.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as I earlier stated, because of the time limit placed on this Legislature so that the estimates have to be examined within seventy-five hours, we, in the Opposition, certainly have not had the time to comb through them as we should have and even when we did ask the questions, the answers were not forthcoming. This administration, Mr. Speaker, seems to be afraid to have the public of Newfoundland examine its record. They seem to be afraid to have the Opposition examine the estimates, and therefore the estimates had to be hurriedly gone through. It is not like it was even six or seven or eight or ten years ago when you were only dealing with \$300 million or \$400 million. Today we are supposed to be dealing with over \$1 billion. This just simply takes time, Mr. Speaker, and it is a sad day indeed when

the present administration placed a time limit on the estimates. Now, Mr. Speaker, in the estimates today there are many things which one would pinpoint, many deficiencies in it, but I stated earlier, the greatest deficiency is the failure of the administration to provide jobs for our people. The road programme, Mr. Speaker, is a good one. The estimates point out that it is a good one. But, Mr. Speaker, if one were to examine more closely the estimates, and if one were to ask the Minister of Transportation and Communications some questions, we would soon find out that a large expenditure of the estimates that we have before us today, a large portion of this expenditure is DREE money, both DREE money that had been previously signed and the upcoming roads agreement with DREE which is not to date signed. And here, Mr. Speaker, we run into a very complex situation. Why this has not been signed to date, Mr. Speaker, I am not quite sure.

There is, I understand, an upcoming agreement for trunk roads. And, Mr. Speaker, previous to this administration's taking office, the provincial government had an agreement with the federal government on the Trans-Canada Highway. It was a ninety/ten agreement. And we have had three budgets now, Mr. Speaker, and there has been no mention of any new agreement with the federal government as it pertains to financing the Trans-Canada Highway. This, Mr. Speaker, is another failure of this present administration. And all down through, Mr. Speaker, you can point out the deficiencies in this budget. It is a fine budget, a fine document, written on fine paper -

AN HON. MEMBER: Written with a poor Opposition.

MR. THOMS: And it looks like a picture of Bell Island on the front page. That is as close as the Tory Party will get to Bell Island.

MR. EVANS: (Inaudible).



MR. THOMS: And, Mr. Speaker, unless this present administration really settles down to some hard work, some serious work, and comes up with some good, sound, concrete policies to overcome the problems that our people face, then, Mr. Speaker, it is too bad that we do not get an election sooner than it should be.

AN HON. MEMBER: Let us hear your policies.

MR. THOMS: Oh do not worry. You will hear our policies. At least -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. THOMS: - we have some.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

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

MR. THOMS: The present administration has none. Our policies will be stated early enough.

MR. EVANS: We will bury them with you.

MR. THOMS: Well, it is impossible for us to bury you people because we do not have an undertaker on this side, You have and that is what you will need after the next election, a good undertaker.

Mr. Speaker, we have so many problems in Newfoundland today that really forty-five minutes do not give me time enough to go through them all, and I can only vaguely touch on some of them.

AN HON. MEMBER: You had seventy-five hours.

MR. THOMS: Sure, we had seventy-five hours, and we used them to the best of our advantage.

MR. THOMS: Mr. Speaker, the members on the government side are rather jumpy when it comes to really examining their performance in the last three years.

AN HON. MEMBER: Two.

MR. THOMS: The biggest problem we have, Mr. Speaker, on this side of the House is finding or pinpointing their performance.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. THOMS: Mr. Speaker, we have huge problems in the educational field in this Province.

MR. EVANS: So I noticed.

MR. THOMS: This government have failed to come up with the answers as far as school construction is concerned, the same as they have failed to come up with the answers in other aspects of our social life of Newfoundland. We are told that there is no money in the budget, and there is not, for construction of new schools this year. The only thing that will be carried out is to keep the ongoing projects going and to complete the schools we have going at the present time, but there is no increase in the present budget for school construction.

And, Mr. Speaker, this is one of the biggest problems which we have in Newfoundland today other than unemployment. We need \$60 million or \$70 million or \$80 million today in Newfoundland to spend this year in school construction and even with the DREE grants that we are receiving from Ottawa, and they are substantial and huge, we still need \$60 million or \$70 million or \$80 million to even meet the present needs that we have today.

MR. EVANS: Inaudible.

MR. THOMS: Simply because, Mr. Speaker, we have had a lackadaisical programme for three years, this administration has not responded to the needs of our people and therefore we have fallen behind and once we get behind it is pretty hard to catch up.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! I just remind the honourable Member he has approximately three minutes left, except by leave.

MR. THOMS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and maybe with leave the members

will allow me to carry on.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Inaudible.

MR. THOMS: Mr. Speaker, one very serious problem that we have, especially among our youth today, and this of course stems from the fact that we have a lot of idleness in our Province, among our grown-ups and among our young people and because of the fact they cannot find jobs, either in Winter or Summer, that vandalism is rampant in Newfoundland.

This is a very serious problem that eats at the whole core of our society today. And Mr. Speaker, the present administration and especially the present Minister of Justice, does not really seem to take the problem seriously. They have done nothing about it. They have done nothing to discourage it. And from questions answered in the House they have no plans, and do not intend to do anything about it. If this continues to grow, this wart that is growing in our society today, our whole social structure will crumble within a very short period of time and any member of this honourable House who does not take this problem seriously, then Mr. Speaker, it is proving that he is indeed a very incompetent politician. It is up to the administration and particularly to the Minister of Justice, to look very seriously into this problem, to come up with solutions, to present the answers and to implement programmes that can offset this rash of vandalism which we have throughout this Province today and, Mr. Speaker, I believe every person in Newfoundland would be very happy to see, either the Minister of Justice or this administration, implement a programme that would offset the vandalism that we are experiencing in Newfoundland today.

MR. SPEAKER: I do now recognize the Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, since nobody on the other side is allowed to speak -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: You will find that out later.

MR. ROBERTS: Well, Mr. Speaker, if the honourable gentlemen opposite -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. ROBERTS: - wish to listen to what I want to say they will have learned a great deal more than they have shown in the last three years in office. I certainly, Mr. Speaker, would like to say a few words on one or two aspects of the budget debate. We have debated it extensively at the estimates committee stage on heading after heading and, of course, at the end the government majority ramrodded through \$275 million or \$280 million worth of expenditures, about -

MR. DUNPHY: (Inaudible)... going on.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, if the Hon. Member for St. George's is sober, let him contain himself.

MR. DUNPHY: (Inaudible).

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. ROBERTS: If he is not sober, let him leave the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

I would remind honourable members that when a member is speaking, he does have the right to be heard in silence.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, I thank you and one would have thought that an honourable gentleman, who has been honoured by all of us in the House by being selected to be a presiding officer, would at least have courtesy if he could not show competence.

Mr. Speaker, as I was saying, about twenty-five per cent of the expenditures, about twenty-five of the expenditures went through the committee on estimates without any discussion at all,

because of this ruling which the government have used their majority to enforce. That is a sad day. It is a reflection upon the government and as my friend and colleague from Bonavista North said, it is a reflection of their unwillingness to have their actions and their policies exposed to public scrutiny.

Now, Sir, I would like to touch upon a few matters only. There is a great deal I would like to say, but I think I will confine myself, because I have no doubt that we will probably be doing the Address in Reply about eleven o'clock tomorrow night. The government have a powerful urge to wind up this session. It will go down in history, I would think, Sir, as one of the emptiest sessions in any legislative sense either in the number of bills passed, which the Hon. Member for St. John's East, who briefly but gloriously a member of the government, he used to boast about the number of bills we had passed as if somehow amending a comma, and indeed, Sir, in this session, I think, we have amended a comma - we have certainly changed one minister to another in an entire bill given over to changing the name of the Minister of Provincial Affairs, I think, to the Minister of Health, a very major thing. But even by that standard, Sir, that silly standard, this has been an empty session by the far more important standard of measuring accomplishment or of doing anything which will help the people of Newfoundland, Sir, this session has been a complete water haul. It has just been completely empty.

I would like to touch on a few things, Sir. I was asked this morning in Hopedale in Labrador at a conference which the government did not see fit to have any of their ministers attend, a conference of the combined councils of the coast of Labrador the Minister Responsible for Northern Labrador Affairs was too busy to attend. The Minister Responsible for Native Affairs was too busy to attend. Either that or they did not consider it important enough.



MR. ROSSEAU: I did not know about it.

MR. ROBERTS: Well, the gentleman from Labrador West tells me that he did not know of it. It is the fourth annual meeting of the combined councils of Rigolet, Makkovik, Postville, Hopedale, Davids Inlet and Nain. There is present also a representative of the InnuIt, the InnuIt Association and a representative of the Indian Brotherhood.

AN HON. MEMBER: Native Association.

MR. ROBERTS: I am sorry, the Native Association, Mr. Bart Jack, representing the Native Association and Mr. Bill Edmunds representing the InnuIt. It is a most impressive conference. Mr. Speaker, there is so much going on in this Province that really none of us knows about, I was very surprised that the government were not there at this conference. I had thought that they might have had some minister go. When we look at all the miles that are put on aircraft and all the dollars that are put on expense accounts by these gentlemen opposite, Sir, you would think they could spare a few dollars and a few hours to go to the conference. The senior man there, Sir, as of

11:00 o'clock this morning, when the gentleman for Labrador North and I left Hopedale to return south, the senior gentleman there was Mr. Pike, who is the Director of the Northern Labrador Services Division, and I would think that is about two levels below an assistant deputy minister level in the structure of the Department of Recreation and Rehabilitation. Mr. Pike is a fine gentleman, and an able public servant. I believe he was regional supervisor of the Welfare Department at Corner Brook for many years before he was promoted into this present job, but, Sir, he is hardly in a position to make policy or to enunciate policy, and certainly not in a position to influence policy in the public sense. And people at this meeting, Sir, a very impressive meeting, men and women representing these councils had come from Rigolet in the South to Nain in the North, most of them travelling by air, some by ski-doo. They are going to spend three days, Sir. It might be far more relevant than much of what the government has told us - it is certainly far more relevant than an Act to have a Provincial anthem - just to see the sort of thing that these people, the 3,000 or 4,000 people who live along that Northern Coast of Labrador, what they are talking about.

The agenda for their conference - at 9:00 o'clock this morning, Sir, they met with the Member for Labrador North who represents them in this House, and with myself. At 10:00 o'clock, Sir, Dr. Tony Paddon of the I.G.A. spoke, and when we left he was appealing to that association for help in trying to get some understanding from the government. He says the Minister of Health understands it, but the government apparently have not moved, and that is to get an extension to the nursing station at Nain. Dr. Paddon a man who has spent his entire life in Labrador, and has spent all of his adult life a doctor serving the people of Labrador -

AN HON. MEMBER: Born in Labrador.

MR. ROBERTS: Born in Labrador, of course. All his brothers, you know, his father came to Labrador about what, 1900? Harry Paddon. The hospital in Happy Valley is named after Tony Paddon's father. And Tony Paddon was all but pleading for support to try to get

\$200,000 - that is less than the cost of the Norma and Gladys, the Norma and Gladys whatever she is called \$200,000 to put an extension on the nursing station in Nain. Apparently it had been agreed last year and the year before, the government said they would do it. They indicated it. This is what Dr. Paddon said at this meeting - fifty, a hundred people there, a very public meeting, the CBC were there. I think they were the only news media present - and appealing for a resolution, which I have no doubt he will get. He should get it. He should get the support. The people there feel that his case is a just one.

At 11:00 o'clock the Power Commission were going to be involved, Mr. Harry Baikie and some gentleman from Bishops Falls. (What was his name, 'Mel'?) Some Scottish gentleman from Bishops Falls with the Power Commission, Mr. Harry Baikie of North West River, the man in charge. Then they were going to have dinner this afternoon. They talked about wildlife, fish camps. I would think it is too bad the Minister of Recreation could not have been there to get the true story on that expensive luxury, the Voisey Bay Camp, that, of all the great blunders, the Voisey Bay blunder. Mr. Garfield Flowers, who was the man who raised the complaint last year, was at the meeting. He is the chairman of the Community Council of Hopedale. This afternoon - Then after that the CBC were going to be there. They have some plans to improve their services, and well they might. And then 4:00 o'clock Dr. Cam Little, who was involved in a project to bring community radio to Makkovik, a very interesting project, a very interesting man. This evening it was going to be the Newfoundland Telephone, Mr. Fahey was there, Bren Fahey, originally from St. John's but now living in Goose Bay, and tonight, the Minister of Mines and Energy will be interested in this, the Oil and Gas Committee were to meet. Of course, these are the people who will be most directly and most intimately affected by whatever development may come along the Labrador Coast. There was nobody there from Cartwright. Although I spent a number of hours in Cartwright yesterday and met with the Chairman of the Community Council there Mr. Albert Byrd, and he has

some very real reservations about the -

AN HON. MEMBER He is a good man.

MR. ROBERTS: He is a good man. He is a very good man, and again a Labradorian.

AN HON. MEMBER: A fine man.

MR. ROBERTS: Sir, Mr. Byrd's ancestors I think came with -

AN HON. MEMBER: Do not utter those words .

MR. ROBERTS: - Cartwright. The family have been in Labrador that long.

AN HON. MEMBER: A man as good as Albert Byrd.

AN HON. MEMBER: He is a good man -

MR. ROBERTS: Of course he is, for once he is on the right track.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: And Mr. Albert Byrd not the least of his claims to fame is that he has been an ardent and staunch supporter of a political party. A very good man. But anyway he used to

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: Oh! Of course he did and then he worked on the Tom Cod for many years.

MR. WOODWARD: Mate on the Tana last Summer.

MR. ROBERTS: Mater of the Tana Woodward. My colleague who operates the Tana Woodward among his other benefices to the people of the North, but Albert Byrd is as fine as man as ever trod shoe leather in this Province and he has some very real reservations, I might add, perhaps the Minister of Energy might do worse and send somebody to talk to Mr. Byrd and -

MR. BARRY: We have talked with Mr, Byrd.

MR. ROBERTS: Well, I spoke with him yesterday for a couple of hours. We had a - it has been two or three years since I have had a talk with Albert in Cartwright - and very real reservations about what oil and gas might mean and some very strong feelings, shared by everybody I spoke to in the community, that the most necessary thing in Cartwright now is a water and sewer system and not this insanity of a crown corporation and some more high-priced, out-of-touch civil servants probably living in a compound unto themselves. We have seen that too often in this Province.

Tomorrow morning, Sir, Friday morning, the conference at Hopedale will begin by a session with Mr. Pike, the Director of the Northern Labrador Services and I guess it is noteworthy that that is a two hour session. All other sessions are one hour. This one is two hours and I would think Mr. Pike will have a very lively discussion. One of the points that will be discussed is the fact that last year this government, Sir, by Order-in-Council stopped all housing construction programmes in Northern Labrador. They are back now this year, \$1 million budgeted, but last year all programmes were stopped by Order-in-Council of the Tory Government.

They will also probably want to talk about the fact that the programme approved by the Government of Canada for expenditure, for carrying out this



year in Northern Labrador, which was funded under the agreement and I am told that about eighty per cent of the funds available under that agreement or spent under that agreement come from Ottawa which means we spend one dollar out of every five, this government, Sir, at some point between the approval by the official committee of Ottawa and of Newfoundland late in December, early in January, at some point between then and the day when the Minister of Finance presented his budget, about one-half million dollars was cut out and the result is that one community less on the Northern Coast of Labrador will get water and sewer this year because of a government decision to save \$100,000. That is all it would have cost. The money was available from Ottawa.

Anyway, Mr. Pike will be there for a couple of hours and then Mr. Keeping, Municipal Affairs, I assume that is the Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs, I assume he will be there in the morning and that is a good thing. I assume he will be in Hopedale in the morning. He is scheduled to be there at eleven o'clock tomorrow morning. The minister is not in the House tonight.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: He is gone -

MR. ROBERTS: Well, the minister is gone. The difference is I hope Mr. Keeping comes back and as for the minister I do not wish him on Hopedale but certainly whether or not he comes back is of no concern to me. Tomorrow afternoon, Mr. Speaker, we will have fisheries and Labrador services. We will be on tomorrow afternoon, after that as well, Labrador Airways, the people who provide transportation to the North and then the Royal Canadian Mounted Police will be present tomorrow night as well as the CNR. Then on Saturday the resolutions will be drawn up and voted upon.

I thought, Mr. Speaker, that was a very impressive agenda. I was very taken by the two or three hours I was able to spend at the meeting this morning, before we had to come on, as well as by the discussion we had yesterday and last evening in Hopedale and in Makkovik, very impressed by the desire of these people to obtain better services or in some cases, any services, and very impressed by the way in which set about it. I do not think I have run across anybody of man and

women in this Province who are more mature in their approach or more responsible or more determined. I hope the government will pay some heed to them. I hope the fact that no minister could see fit, we have got is it eighteen or nineteen minister?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Nineteen.

MR. ROBERTS: Nineteen ministers. Well, the gentleman from Humber East is ill and I would think is effectively out of the Cabinet. I mean he is not able, through no fault of his own he is not able to carry on his duties. But now we have eighteen ministers and it is too bad that one man could not be spared from the busy round of day to day events and get himself North to Hopedale. It is not a difficult trip, a jet to Goose Bay and I suppose an hour, an hour or a half in a small aircraft and you are there in Hopedale, a lot colder than St. John's, a lot more snow around but a lot more pleasant at about seven o'clock this morning.

These people, Sir, need our help and they deserve our help and one of the great problems they have, one of the themes which underlies all their problems is the fact that the decisions are taken so far away from where they are and they feel,

and I do not blame this on the Tory Government, or on the Liberal Administration which preceded them, or on the Commission of Government which preceded that, or on the Responsible Government that preceded that, or on the Representative Government that preceded that or on the rule by governors that preceded that, or I suppose even the rule by fishing admirals, our first form of government.

But, Sir, these people on the Northern Coast of Labrador and the people on the Southern Coast of Labrador, people on this Island as well in many places, feel that the decisions that are being taken by government are being taken in isolation, they are being taken without consideration of the needs of these people as they themselves see them, they are being taken without any involvement.

The people in Boxey and on the West side of Fortune Bay sent a telegram to put in the newspapers the other day demanding the resignation of the Minister of Transportation, the gentleman from Labrador West. Their real point was that certain arrangements had been made that five or six miles of road was to be paved and that there had been no consultation with them.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: "Mel" if you are going to carry on a conversation can you do it outside, Hard enough from the guys on the other side!

MR. WOODWARD: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: The honourable gentleman from beyond the grave has once again honoured us. (Could I have a glass of water, Mr. Speaker, please?) The point is a very important one. The people are there in Hopedale today and this evening and tomorrow. They have come at great cost to themselves maybe not a lot of dollars but they are their own dollars and nobody on that Coast has a great deal of money, not a wealthy, not a community of wealthy people. They are there. They have come at their own cost and their own time and some of them with great difficulty.

The government have ignored them. No minister - there are civil servants there, but they are not in the position to do anything more than

to listen and to report back to their political masters, to explain, not to explain policy, they can only enunciate it and do their best to defend the indefensible. I would hope that the government will pay heed. It is not too late even now. Why does not the gentleman from Labrador West or the gentleman from Ferryland go out to the airport at eight o'clock tomorrow morning, the second flight out of St. John's and go to Goose Bay and have the government aircraft - BPV, BPV at Goose now, which is there? GFS?

AN HON. MEMBER: She is sold now.

MR. ROBERTS: Well, she is owned by Bill Bennett, I mean, it is the same as the government airplane, they made a sweetheart deal on it.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: No the Queen Air, for the benefit of -

AN HON. MEMBER: Air Canada.

MR. ROBERTS: For the benefit of honourable gentlemen who do not know their way beyond the Crossroads, the Queen Air will have some difficulty landing in Hopedale. She will get in there okay but she will never get out.

MR. EVANS: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, I am serious, One of the ministers could do a lot worse than get out and on the airplane and go up to Goose Bay and the Grenfell Mission have an aircraft there, GFS is based at North West, and the government one that was given away to Mr. Bennett, BPV is at - was on the tarmac at Goose Bay when we came in at twelve thirty this afternoon, and take her out to Hopedale and spend the day there, receive a courteous hearing, probably learn a great deal and certainly show the people in that area that their views were of interest and that some people in St. John's and the government did feel some concern for them.

There were two or three points that came up today that people at the Conference asked me to pass on and this is a good opportunity to do it, Sir. I would imagine many of these things will be reflected in the resolutions but I have no way to know what resolutions the Conference will adopt. But these were some of the points that came up just while the

gentleman from Labrador North and I were there this morning for a couple of hours. I touched upon the extension to the nursing station in Nain.

Dr. Paddon, and he was not speaking privately, this was a public meeting, the press were there and the people of the community were there, representatives of the councils were there, Dr. Paddon said that the project has been on and off. It is desperately needed, agreed by all concerned. The Minister of Health is supporting it, Dr. Paddon made that quite clear. I do not know if I could quote him word for word but he paid the minister a high compliment, that he felt the minister was genuinely concerned and anxious, and I am not quoting Dr. Paddon at this point, Mr. Speaker, it just seems the minister is unable to deliver, to have his wishes and his thoughts and his beliefs transformed into policy. Because as of today, there had been no approval given, even though Dr. Paddon had been assured as recently as a month or six weeks ago that it would be done. It is important that it be done early, Sir, because as Dr. Paddon did say, there is nothing more frustrating for people in the North than to be told about the middle of July that a project is going ahead. That is what happened at Davis Inlet last year and it cost the government twice what it should have cost,



what it should have cost because the Health Department and the Public Works Department between them did not get word approving it to the I.G.A., or to whoever built it, until late in the summer. The construction season in the North is short beyond belief. There is great difficulty in getting materials and equipment in. Plans must be made well in advance. I think the housing programme is underway now. The purchases and the arrangements for shipment are being worked out. So if it is going to be done, word must go quickly. If it is not going to be done, well and good. That will be a shame, it will be a backward step but at least the people will know where they are. We were asked to mention that.

I was to bring up a somewhat curious anomaly and one which, I think, goes back some way. It is not a matter of sin by the present administration of the Province. The budget has in it, Sir, a provision of about \$1 million for the Power Commission for expenditure in Northern Labrador. My colleague had a breakdown of it. It was a little over \$1 million was it not? It was a little over \$1 million in six communities, all of them very good projects, very worthwhile projects. But this money is almost all coming from Ottawa and two or three of the councillors, the chairman at the meeting, asked why Northern Labrador was singled out in this way? Why the money coming from Ottawa was not put to other purposes which Northern Labrador needed rather than being used to provide a service which elsewhere in the Province is being provided by the government out of their own revenues? If the government need another generator, another diesel generator, say, in Burgeo or in Ramea or in Croque in White Bay North, they do not get Ottawa to pay for it under an agreement. It comes out of our own money, our own provincial revenues, which may in turn have come from Ottawa but not as shared cost grants. Yet in Northern Labrador, where a certain amount of money is available from Ottawa under an agreement which was negotiated about fifteen years ago, a

large portion of it is diverted to serving an entirely provincial purpose. It can be justified.

MR. BARRY: (Inaudible)... a factor that on this year the Commis

MR. ROBERTS: No. I can remind the minister that when we were the administration apparently the same - the initial power was done that way. All of the money spent, I do not know about all, but certainly much of the money spent in Northern Labrador for power came under the Federal-Provincial Agreement. The only difference is that this year it is carried in the budget of the R.E.A. or whatever that is now called in a corporate sense, whereas formerly it was carried in the budget of Northern Labrador Services. And everybody in Labrador, I can tell the minister, is delighted that the Power Commission have taken over the responsibility for operating and maintaining the power units on the Northern Coast. It was an anomaly not to have them there. The Northern Labrador Services depot managers wanted no part of it. You know whatever skills and abilities they have are not aimed at operating power units. I think the Power Commission are - Mr. Baikie, you know, he felt confident that the commission could do a good job. It is just that the money is coming out of the Federal-Provincial Agreement. and the feeling among the people there is that the money is being diverted from something else. More money could be used in housing. There are only going to be forty houses built this year under that agreement, thirty-two on the Labrador and eight on the Island, eight at Conne River and thirty-two, you know, throughout Labrador. That is not nearly enough. It should be, I suppose, 132 which might scratch the surface. If that \$1 million from the federal money had not gone into the power it could have possibly gone into housing or into the main health services. But it is not something that has happened only since the present government have been in office, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BARRY: How many people were into Hopedale -

MR. ROBERTS: Well, there were fifty or sixty people there, and I would think that every bed in Hopedale was filled last night by at least its usual quota of occupants. People stayed in with neighbours, with friends or relatives, and they were billeted all around the community. Hopedale only has about fifty homes. It is not a large community.

MR. BARRY: They really only got Garfield Flowers' place there, I believe, that operates this sort of a -

MR. ROBERTS: My colleague exercised his patronage at Gar Flowers' place which was filled up, and I mooched a bed at the nursing station along with a number of other people and then, I think, throughout the community, I guess every home had two or three visitors in it. As the minister knows, the

people on that coast are related one to the other pretty generally, and, you know, this is the way they travel. But there are no conference facilities as yet in Hopedale. My friend from Fogo tells me it is an old tradition. I do not know just what old tradition he had in mind, Mr. Speaker, but apparently it is an old tradition. But everybody was settled away quite happily and it was a most impressive meeting. It really - what I saw of it this morning I do not think I have been more impressed at any meeting I have seen anywhere from First Ministers' Conferences in Ottawa on down. A bunch of men and women who, you know, were quietly determined but were going about it the right way, and I would commend the minister to the resolutions. Many of them may not affect his ministerial responsibilities, Mr. Speaker, but if they are anything like the last three years, and I assume they will be, they will be well thought out and well presented and amply justified.

One point that did come up at the conference that does affect the minister particularly, and it grew out of the discussion of, you know, the million dollars being taken from the Federal-Provincial Agreement and put into power, the only part of Newfoundland and Labrador to my knowledge where, you know, that sort of Agreement applies for power, it could be said. The defence is that, of course, the agreement is to provide services to the Inuit and to the Native Peoples generally and, you know, power is certainly a service, and that is the rationalization behind it. It may or may not be sound but certainly people at the Conference questioned it on that basis.

A point they did make though, Mr. Speaker, is that there is a need for bulk storage tanks along the coast. The Power Commission are going to get them this year. The budget, that million dollars to which I referred, has roughly \$200,000 in it that will be used to provide tanks, I think, in every community of about 20,000 barrels capacity. (Barrels or gallons,

"Mel"?)

MR. WOODWARD: Barrels.

MR. ROBERTS: Barrels capacity. So, you know, forty-five times that in gallons -

MR. WOODWARD: Thirty-five.

MR. ROBERTS: Thirty-five times that in gallons, imperial gallons, forty-two U.S., and then the Power Commission will have adequate bulk storage on hand. And that is essential, Mr. Speaker. These are not the issues that the Priorities and Planning Secretariat dreams up and cogitates about, but they are issues that affect people because of course, Sir, in Labrador all one's fuel has to move in in the Fall before the freeze-up and the winter supply must be laid on. At present there is no way to store that fuel or to move it except in drums. Drums are expensive, they are cumbersome, they are hard to handle. A fully loaded drum would weight, I suppose, five, six, seven hundred pounds.

MR. GILLETT: Five hundred.

MR. ROBERTS: Five hundred, my friend from Twillingate - I am surrounded by expertise on the strangest things over here, Sir, but I have no doubt the gentleman from Twillingate knows full well how much a drum of fuel oil weighs. It is very difficult to handle, Sir. Last year -

AN HON. MEMBER: Ten pounds to the gallon.

MR. ROBERTS: No, that is water. Ten pounds to the gallon is water, oil is lighter. My colleague from Labrador North told me, Sir, in a dramatic denouement - I cannot repeat his words because they were not parliamentary - but at eleven o'clock this morning standing on the ice at Hopedale while the airplane was getting ready to carry us off, I innocently enquired about the weight and I knew that a gallon of water weighs ten pounds and I said, does oil weight more or less? And the withering scorn Sir, which came from my colleague who said, that of course oil weighs less than water and that is why oil floats upon water. And Your Honour, if Your Honour wants to know how to become rich,



wealthy and wise I commend you to the gentleman from Labrador North on that point, because he certainly knows.

But to come back to the point, Mr. Speaker, there is a real problem, there is a need for large bulk storage tanks along the coast. There are several communities on the Island of Newfoundland where the same thing -

AN HON. MEMBER: The same -

MR. ROBERTS: -- St. Brendan's, Croque, Harbour Deep, Fichot.

Change Islands, any place where the oil moves in drums. And the drums are becoming hard to come by. They cost a great deal of money. (A deposit of what? Eight or nine dollars a drum now?)

MR. WOODWARD: They are going up by -

MR. ROBERTS: Everything in the oil world is going up

including the profits.

MR. WOODWARD: Eventually a lined drum will cost twenty-two dollars.

MR. ROBERTS: So a drum shortly will cost twenty - is that when the Moores Administration policy of 'Stick it to the Consumers' comes into effect? It will be twenty-two dollars for a lined drum.

Well, Sir, not only are drums expensive they are difficult to move. And my colleague has now acquired as part of his extra parliamentary duties a very fine fleet vessel, it is called the M.V. Tana Woodward. He now ranks with the late Aristotle Onassis and with Niarcos and with the other great oil tanking tycoons of the Western World. But, Sir, that ship can move that fuel at considerably less cost, and does provide it at less cost to the people. But until those people have access to bulk storage tanks they cannot take advantage of it. We did some rough arithmetic this morning at the conference, and I am told for less than half a million dollars - I know half a million dollars is a lot of dollars. Its about what George McLean rips off in any given year out of this administration - but for less than that sort of money all of the communities along the Coast of Northern Labrador could be provided with adequate bulk storage facilities. I suppose it reduced the cost of fuel by what, three, four, five, six, ten cents a gallon?

MR. BARRY: Seven.

MR. ROBERTS: Seven cents a gallon. And for a family that burns \$1,000 or \$2,000 gallons of fuel over a Winter, Mr. Speaker, that is a substantial saving. It may be said, why should the government do it? Well, Sir, if Imperial Oil do it or Golden Eagle or anybody else they will have to pass the cost on. They are not running a charity. Anybody who thinks they are need only look at their annual reports, those carefully edited exercises in diplomacy that are issued once a year under protest by the oil companies, telling us how little they made last year, a mere 300 or 400 per cent increase over the year before and how reluctant they are to have to take this money but they feel it is necessary for the safety of our world that they do. They will have to pass it on, Sir. Life is expensive enough now on the Northern Coast of Labrador. I would like to see the government step in. Let us perhaps instead of taking the Norma and Gladys out so she will sink and maybe loss of life or something horrible will result, instead of that foolishness, instead of being uptight over provincial anthems - and I would say to the Minister of Justice, of course, we will vote for his foolish little Act, because an Act will not make the Ode To Newfoundland the

anthem, Sir. The people of Newfoundland made the Ode To Newfoundland our anthem forty or fifty years ago. We do not need an Act of this House. The people of Newfoundland have already made it their anthem. All we will be do is ratifying and confirming the decision of the people of this Province over the last half century to make that stirring Ode our own, our own Ode.

But instead of spending their time on that this government could come to grips with some of the problems affecting our people, something as simple to state, something as simple to do, as to provide bulk storage tanks to Northern Labrador. That would be worth one Devil of a lot more than all of the position papers that have been churned out by our overworked and underpaid public servants and our overpaid and underworked ministers.

The Labrador Development Corporation is another half-baked idea that is headed for a disaster. There today, Sir, at that conference the question was asked, not by myself or by my friend from Labrador North, by people there, what has been done on it? We told them truthfully that we have read the Budget Speech, indeed we left a copy of the Budget Speech - that marvelously glossy document that has not been circulated to anybody who might be interested - we left a copy of that, and then we referred to my colleague asking some questions in the House and getting no answers, no information. The people of Labrador have not been consulted as yet on that Corporation, Sir. It will affect each of their lives. It may operate the stores from which they must buy their food, the depots to which they must sell their fish. But have they been consulted? No, Sir. Not a word. Not a dribble from Confederation Building.

MR. WOODWARD: Not a jot nor a tittle.

MR. ROBERTS: Not a jittle nor a tot. Aw when you are on your way to Japan it is not a jot and a tittle, it is a jittle and a tot for our absent Minister of Fisheries. No consultation! And this was the crowd of men, Sir, who came into office saying we will bring government to the people. Of all the rank deceptions ever perpetrated upon the people of this Province, Sir, that particular canard ranks high on the list. But it is not too late. And I say to the Minister

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of Rehabilitation and Recreation. Who has this responsibility even if he chooses not to exercise it, that it is not too late to consult with the people in Labrador, to ask them what they think, and to get their advice and their views. And if there has been any consultation, Sir, the Community Councils do not know about it. The Native

Association does not know about it. The Innuit Association does not know about it. The Member for Labrador North does not know about it. The people who provide health services do not know about it. The people who provide power services do not know about it. The people who operate the stores do not know about it. The people who run the fish plants do not know about it. Nobody knows anything about it. And I suspect nobody beyond two or three, the favourite few in St. John's know anything about it. I am not even sure the civil service knows about it.

But, it is not too late. So, I say to the government and to the ministers that there is a need to consult these people. The government in Northern Labrador, Mr. Speaker, plays a far greater role in the lives of people in the everyday, day to day business of living than it does in any other part of this Province. The Member for Labrador West is familiar with the companies because, of course, in Labrador West the companies have a great influence. Sir, the influence of a company in Labrador West is but a pale shadow to the bright sun of the influence of the government along the North Shore, the Northern Coast of Labrador from Rigolet down to Nain, and decisions are being taken affecting those people, affecting every element of their lives. The first they hear about it, the very first they hear about it is in the Budget Speech which of course they do not really get to hear because the radio is bad and the television is nonexistent. The government have done nothing about that.

No word is sent to them. Their member asks questions in the House and either through lack of knowledge on the part of the ministers concerned or through lack of desire to impart what knowledge they have, he gets no information. You know, it would be unbelievable if it were not true. It would be laughable if it were not so important. These are problems today. Tonight they are sitting down in Hopedale talking about it. We were there. Why were the ministers not there? Will one of them go in the morning? I will pay the way if they are that hard up for cash. I will get them a ticket to Goose Bay on EPA. Will one of the ministers go, go to that conference tomorrow? It is great



unhappiness that nobody was there from the government. A failure to understand - people said things to me in private conversations such as, but we thought this was the government that said they were going to bring government to the people.

There has never been a - when my friend from Bell Island was responsible, he got to the coast. People still remember him with affection and with friendliness. The gentleman from St. John's Center who was the same disaster as the minister responsible for Labrador Affairs as he has been in every other portfolio to which he placed his hand, has not been there. The present minister responsible, the gentleman from Ferryland has not been near the coast. I am not sure that the minister responsible for Native Affairs - he has been there. I will give him full marks for that. The Minister of Mines and Energy made a progress much like Elizabeth I and her courtiers going on progress through the West of England in the mid sixteenth century. The Minister of Mines and Energy made a progress along the coast. The people were grateful.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: A Pilgrim's Progress.

MR. ROBERTS: Well, I do not know if it was a Pilgrim's Progress or not, but a progress exactly the same, Sir, as Elizabeth and Essex and Leicester and Burley and Cecil and all of them, Sir, setting out from London on a fine Spring day to ride to the West Country and to exhibit the Queen's Majesty to the people. The Minister of Mines and Energy made exactly that sort of progress and exhibited himself to the people and the people were duly impressed.

MR. BARRY: You have got it all wrong.

MR. ROBERTS: The honourable gentleman may think I have it all wrong. I am only reflecting what everybody down there is saying, Sir.

MR. BARRY: That is not true.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, the honourable gentleman can say it is not true and he can hope it is not true, but it is true.

MR. BARRY: Are they saying we did not have dealings with them?

MR. ROBERTS: No, I did not say that at all. The honourable gentleman is not even listening. I am saying he made a progress. I am twitting him. I am not tweedling him, I am twitting him.

MR. BARRY: You are a twitter.

MR. ROBERTS: I am a twitter and he, Sir, is a twit, and I am twitting him. I do not know if the clerk has got a new list of unparliamentary expressions called Mariam and Webster's Dictionary - the ultimate, Sir, in the Speaker's arsenal of unparliamentary words, the dictionary, every word one uses as unparliamentary. I would not be surprised,

Sir, if we get that ruling one of these days around here. But seriously, I wish one of the ministers would go in the morning. There is time to get there and be there and to take part in the Conference, or even Saturday if the honourable gentleman do not wish to take the day off tomorrow from the office, they have got so much to do that they cannot get away. If there are so many committee meetings and we have so many committee meetings the gentleman from, the senior Member from Harbour Main told us so many committee meetings on he was so busy, he was so overworked, the poor fellow, that he could not even get down and get a brief put into the Royal Commission on beef prices that met - was it yesterday in St. John's, Mr. Mackenzie, Max Mackenzie? The honourable gentleman, I think we should give him at least one parliamentary assistant, maybe two or three. He is carrying such a terrific work load, straining himself night and day in the service of the people, representing our consumers and protecting their interests. When a Royal Commission is set up to look into beef prices, he is so busy, Sir, with committees and Treasury Boards and this and that, buying land and selling land and all the things he does, that he could not even get down, and he has got so few officials and they are so overworked that he could not even say to one of them, now, look old man, how about slipping down to the hotel and hearing what Mr. Mackenzie has to say and letting him know what our story is here in Newfoundland. Well, if the ministers are that busy, Sir, let them go on Saturday and let them talk about the Labrador Development Corporation and let them talk about the half million dollars that the Tory Government took away from the people of Labrador this year, a serious charge but a true one.

The minutes of the Federal-Provincial Committee and eight or nine Deputy Ministers or their representatives in Newfoundland on the one hand and three or four senior officials from Ottawa on the other hand, that Committee meets late in the year or early in

January each year and it prepares a programme for expenditure under the Federal-Provincial Shared Cost Agreement for Indian and Eskimo Peoples for the coming summer. I am told by reliable sources - and I say to the minister all he has to do is to produce the minutes. They are not a private document, nothing secret about them - that the minutes as approved by the Committee included about \$450,000 more, one water and sewer system or one water or sewer system more than was contained in the budget and the estimates presented by the Minister of Finance.

So at some point between the meeting of the Committee and the final decisions on the budget, a half million was chopped and of that on the average \$100,000 or applying the average figure of twenty per cent, \$100,000 would be from the taxpayers of this Province. So, for want of \$100,000 people of another community on the North are to be deprived of water and sewer for at least another year. That is what I am told, Sir. I do not have the minutes but that is what I am told by those who do have the minutes. If I am wrong I hope the minister will contradict me and if I am not wrong I hope he will go out immediately and get that money put back in the budget. People of that Coast, Sir, have been tricked once too often by this government.

Let me just close the few words I wanted to say on this Northern Conference, Mr. Speaker, by expressing the hope once again that some minister will go. It is not difficult. It is not hard to get to. I hope they will pay some attention to the Nain problem. I hope they will pay some attention to the problem of the bulk storage tanks. I hope they will pay some attention to the problems of the Labrador Development Corporation.

Now, Sir, let me just touch on two or three other points because we will have the Throne Speech debate tonight or tomorrow morning or tomorrow afternoon or Sunday afternoon or at some such convenient point. The government must have scheduled their holidays early this year. We are going to break - has the Premier a holiday scheduled?

PREMIER MOORES: I hope so.

MR. ROBERTS: Well, I hope so too and in that he and I share a wish expressed by all the people of Newfoundland. If he has difficulty financing it, Sir, the people will chuck in their pennies to send the Premier wherever he would like to go. Getting back, he is on his own. Now, Sir, -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: Gone where?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: Oh! On the American Government, We underdeveloped citizens.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Why do you not ask him -

MR. ROBERTS: I was supposed to have been in Washington tonight, yes. You are going on the fourteenth of May, am I correct?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.



MR. ROBERTS:

Thirty days so we poor colonials can be exposed to the beneficent mightiness of the -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: I do not know. I would rather have an election. I think that would be great. How about that? Could we have that? Three weeks -

MR. MOORES: We will have that.

MR. ROBERTS: Let us have it soon.

MR. BARRY: Halfway through his holiday.

MR. ROBERTS: I can think of no better news I would rather get on a holiday, Mr. Speaker, than the news that the Premier has dropped by Government House, has had a sherry with His Honour and the result of that it is an appeal to the people.

Let me just touch on a few other things, Sir, very briefly. The Norma and Gladys, I find it hard not to break into laughter with the performance of the Minister of Tourism -

MR. BARRY: Is the Coast of Labrador interested?

MR. ROBERTS: No. The Coast of Labrador knows the Norma and Gladys only too well. She is a marvellous coasting vessel. Has she ever been outside of sight of land do you think, "Earl"?

MR. WINSOR: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: Where did she go fishing? On the banks?

MR. WINSOR: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: I doubt if the Norma and Gladys ever passed a night outside the sight of land.

MR. WINSOR: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: Yes, but I understand she did not spend much time at the Banks. She coasted the last twenty years of her life, she coasted down through my district.

AN HON. MEMBER: Where was she built?

MR. ROBERTS: Built in Monroe was she not? Captain Stone built here in Monroe.

MR. HICKMAN: Yes, but she -

MR. ROBERTS: I think she was built in Trinity Bay in Harcourt or Monroe or that part of Trinity Bay. Well I agree with the minister, I do not

think she ever fished the Banks, but this insane -

AN HON. MEMBER: - Labrador.

MR. ROBERTS: She fished on Labrador, but she would still be within site of land if it were not for the fog. This insane idea! Now the only merit I can find, when the idea came to the Premier, not to the Premier, but it was brought to the Premier, I do not blame - the Premier may have produced some odd ideas in his time, Mr. Speaker, but I do not wish to lay that particular bundle of joy at his feet.

No, Sir, I think Mr. Joe Browne dreamed this one up, the Minister of Tourism's roommate or apartment mate who has recently branched into the business of a public relations firm and lo and behold, where does his contracts come from? Like manna from Heaven, they come from the Minister of Tourism, all above board, all completely straightforward and everything else, a Cabot Group 4 I think the company is called, some completely apolitical shareholders, Mr. Frazer Lush, a teacher in Fogo District, I think, is he not teaching in Gander Bay or somewhere now? who served briefly but ingloriously as Executive Assistant to I believe, the Member for Gander, the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture at present, some other well known people and of course Mr. Joseph Browne who is sort of like George McLean, Jr., an understudy to Mr. McLean, following in - what was H.P. Morton's great book, In The Footsteps Of The Master, Well, Mr. Browne is toddling along behind Mr. McLean.

MR. EVANS: What Joey did -

MR. ROBERTS: In any event - the gentleman from Burgeo should realize that he is only allowed to speak at certain times when the Premier gives the nod and he did not get the nod this time.

MR. EVANS: I had the nod -

MR. ROBERTS: But now to come back to the Norma and Gladys, the only way I can conceive that the Premier approved this particular scheme, whether it was brought to him outside Cabinet or inside Cabinet, it was on the condition that three or four of his colleagues go on the trip, not quite as able-bodied seamen -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: Well, the Premier can add as many as he wants, I suspect sixteen

or seventeen he would like to send, but I was going to suggest only the Minister of Tourism, whom I am glad to see has dropped back in his seat, the Member for St. John's Centre who is the Minister of Social Services and then -

AN HON. MEMBER: He could be second mate.

MR. ROBERTS: He could not even be second mate, you know, he could only be a second mate if there was only a first mate. Ordinary seamen are very ordinary seamen indeed, Sir, and several other colleagues, because Sir, of all the - and the cabin boy, the little nipper, would be the gentleman from Burgeo and LaPoile, Sir.

MR. EVANS: Take care of yourself or we will keelhaul you.

MR. ROBERTS: I could recite a limerick about the cabin boy, the cabin boy, the dirty little nipper - the rest of it, Sir, it is not even vaguely - Your Honour, now you need not look puzzled. I concede it is not parliamentary. If Your Honour wishes to know the other two lines to that quatrain we could step outside when the House is over, I would be happy - it is quite witty -

MR. EVANS: He knew that before you were born.

MR. MOORES: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: I hope that remark of the Premier does not get in Hansard because it would shock the young ladies who have to type the priceless words that all of us utter. On the other hand if the press got it, the yellow dog of journalism of The Evening Telegram will doubtless - I heard a very funny joke today which I thought was quite good, It flatters the Premier so maybe I would be allowed to tell it. The Daily News will not print this one.

The story is told, Sir, to show how impartial The Daily News is as a result of the government's decision first to rescind advertising and now to restore it, that they had a staff picnic down by Quidi Vidi and the Premier was invited to come, to be the guest of honour. He did come, and at one point, one of the editors of The Daily News advanced the opinion that the Premier should in fact walk across the lake. They believed he could. And the Premier rose to the challenge and did in fact walk from the boat house

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across to the band shell, across Quidi Vidi Lake, and The Daily News  
in their impartial way when they reported it, big headline across  
the page the next day was, "Premier Cannot Swim." So

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I would, you know, leave the Premier's wit at that point.

But, Sir, the Norma and Gladys has to be -

MR. BARRY: The Premier used that joke in Marystown, by the way.

MR. ROBERTS: Did he? I did not hear it in Marystown. Did Gerry Korbai write it? It is better than most of the stuff Gerry Korbai writes for the Premier.

MR. BARRY: It is not bad.

MR. ROBERTS: It is not bad at all.

But the Minister of Tourism - Sir, you know, of all the ludicrous spectacles that we have ever seen in this Province, and we have seen our share over the years in all parties, this spectacle of this ship, a representative of a very great part of our heritage and an authentic representative, not a reconstruction, not a replica, but a genuine coasting vessel, a sort of which there were a thousand coasting and fishing vessels, there were a thousand twenty or thirty years ago, They are now going to send her off to Japan, Some public relations man's dream, send her to Japan. The man who skippered her for twenty years has expressed dubious opinions, although some unnamed official is quoted as saying that Captain Kean applied for a job as her skipper. I do not know whether that is correct or not. The newspaper has some unnamed official saying that he did.

The Newfoundland Sailing Club, a group of private citizens as far as I know, the only name that I read was Mr. Inkpen, a gentleman who works down at Bowrings, I think he is a comptroller, and a well-known amateur and ardent sailor, a very good sailor, expressed the opinion that, you know, she will just never make it. There is a letter in the paper yesterday, a letter to the editor from somebody who presumably knows what he is saying, he sounds knowledgeable, as saying that the season they have chosen to sail her across the Pacific in is the worst possible season for weather in the



great Pacific Ocean. You know, of all the insanities! And now what has happened is the minister's pride is offended, his nose has been snubbed, and we are going to have to carry through with this charade, lashing out a great quantity of money possibly to make Mr. Joseph Brown a little richer, to make his company a little better, a little better off. There were no requirements for public tenders on that proposal, Sir. There were no requests to the various companies around town to put in some thoughts on -

MR. EVANS: (Inaudible.)

MR. ROBERTS: I am sorry?

MR. EVANS: The minister -

MR. ROBERTS: Who engaged them? I have not the least idea who engaged them. The minister might tell me. I have not the least idea who engaged them. I know it was not me.

MR. HICKEY: I know it was not me.

MR. ROBERTS: Well who was it then?

MR. HICKEY: You would like to know.

MR. ROBERTS: I would like to. I asked the minister.

MR. HICKEY: (Inaudible).

MR. ROBERTS: Well that is fine. Until then I say that the minister engaged them whether or not he signed the contract.

MR. HICKEY: Who is paying them?

MR. ROBERTS: Whether or not the minister signed the contract, Sir, he engaged them. It is that simple. He and Mr. Brown are friends. Mr. Brown wants -

MR. HICKEY: So what!

MR. ROBERTS: So what nothing. The minister has to have some friends. I do not begrudge him a friend or two.

MR. HICKEY: Do you think I am not -

MR. ROBERTS: Then Mr. Brown goes out -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. ROBERTS: - then Mr. Brown goes out, Sir, and starts up a public relations firm. And that is a legitimate and a proper ambition and a proper way to go into business. And, lo and behold }

he gets a client, the government, again legitimate and proper. And the department concerned is the minister's department. And the presentation is of the minister. There was a great flossy, glossy brochure put out last week or two weeks ago whenever it was, very interesting. It will make great stuff for the Public Accounts Committee when the times comes.

MR. HICKEY: Mr. Speaker, I do not mind the honourable gentleman carrying on with his charade about Cabot Group 4, Mr. Brown and when my turns comes we will gladly have a debate on that subject. But I am not going to sit here, Your Honour, and have the honourable gentleman say that there was a brochure printed when there was no brochure. He is talking about a cover for a press release, a very simple little cover. Maybe we will tell him sometime how much that cost.

MR. ROBERTS: I say simply a brochure by any other name is just as sweet. I have it on my desk in my room, and there was a great expense - how much did it cost for the lovely, glossy photographs of the minister? They were gorgeous, Sir, Widespread demand among the ladies of the town for pictures, Sir, little girls are putting them on their bedroom walls next to pictures of David Cassidy. Is he the one in the Partridge Family? "Fred," your kids watch the Partridge Family.

MR. F. ROWE: I do not watch it.

MR. ROBERTS: No, I know. Nobody does except ten year old kids.

MR. F. ROWE: Why are you asking?

MR. ROBERTS: Well, I want to know if your kids watch it?

MR. EVANS: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: It is not me who should be embarrassed in asking you. It is you who should be embarrassed that I am asking you.

But, you know, the minister has got some explaining to do and I will listen to his explanations with care and attention and I will pay whatever merit to them that should be paid.

MR. HICKEY: Why do you not pay it.

MR. ROBERTS: But, I say until I get an explanation, my own researches have revealed an unsavory mess. It is up to the minister either to make it savory to to stand exposed at having somehow allowed, under his feet, to grow an unsavory mess, his ministerial feet, his departmental feet. I am not saying the minister himself was involved. I do not know anything at all about that, and I make absolutely no allegations.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: No. It is true, Sir, that he and Mr. Brown are close friends and that Mr. Brown has shared the minister's apartment at Elizabeth Towers. That is true. That is a fact.

But, to come back to the Norma and Gladys, the subject of this expensive public relations exercise, the subject, Sir, the Norma And Gladys. You know, the minister's stubbornness should not be allowed to substitute for thought when it comes to shaping policy. If the Norma and Gladys should be in Japan I have nothing against her being in Japan. It is a nice country, and I am sure they would want to see what a schooner looks like. She would make quite a center point for the exhibition at Osaka or wherever it is to be. Let them ship it over, Sir, on a vessel because, Mr. Speaker, that is the way to make sure it gets there.

MR. BARRY: Should she have the sails up...

MR. ROBERTS: I have no idea, but it is all very well to joke at it. I am far more serious, when you get men of some substance raising serious doubts about it, a vessel that was never designed to go deep sea. She was not designed for it. She was not built for it.

MR. BARRY: Why have Lloyds passed her?

MR. ROBERTS: I have no idea why. Lloyds passed the Titanic too, and the Lusitania and the Moro Castle and I suppose the Marie Celeste

if they got her. You know. And I have heard the minister saying, I think it was Mr. Richard Harvey has been engaged as a consultant. I would like to see Mr. Harvey's reports tabled. I would like to see -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Does she go through the C.S.I.?

MR. ROBERTS: I do not know whether she goes through the C.S.I. or not. I do not know anything about that end of the business. You guys are the shipowners.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: She had to go through the C.S.I.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. HICKEY: Did she ever fish on the Banks?

AN HON. MEMBER: Yes, she has.

MR. ROBERTS: The Minister of Justice tells me she has not fished on the Banks. The Minister of Justice tells me. I do not know if she has fished on the Banks or not.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: Well, all right. The Minister of Tourism says yes as if somehow that was conclusive. The Titanic nearly sailed across the Grand Banks until she got into a collision with an iceberg and then she did not sail anymore.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: Now, Mr. Speaker, if honourable gentlemen wish the floor they have got to get the floor by legitimate means.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: I do not know anything at all about it. Nobody knows anything about it. All we know is one day like Athena springing full blown from the brow of Pallas the Norma and Gladys sprang full blown from the brow of Joseph Brown aided and abetted by the Minister of Tourism. Now we are locked into this ridiculous situation and one of these days she will sail off. We will have a brass band sailing her off and then we will all be on our knees and praying that she gets there and that if anything happens to her there is no loss of life. It is the most foolish, stupidest thing I have ever heard of.

If they want to send her to Japan, if that is somehow considered

a good thing, and we are to get \$15 million worth of publicity, the minister says. I suppose that means Mr. Brown gets fifteen per cent of that which is \$2,225,000. That is about as logical as the minister's logic there. Then get her over by some other means. She was not designed to sail around the world. I do not know if they will get a crew or not. I mean, all sorts of people sail on all sorts of vessels. Men have sailed across the Atlantic on papyrus rafts. They have sailed across the Pacific on balsa rafts, but, Sir, the Norma and Gladys is not even in that school.

MR. EVANS: We are going to send you over in a ball.

MR. ROBERTS: The honourable Member for Burgeo, Sir, could float on his own anywhere one wanted. I had better warn the honourable gentleman in case he did not hear the news, Sir, there is still time for him to get down to the controllers. They are going on strike in the morning and I would not want to see the honourable gentleman stuck high and dry, Sir.

MR. EVANS: ...drink.

MR. ROBERTS: Now, Mr. Speaker, let me touch on one or two other matters in whatever few minutes I have left. I wish the Minister of Education or some spokesman for the government would tell us the truth about the school boards. The ten school boards in Central - ten integrated school boards - in Central Newfoundland from the Terra Nova Board in the East to the Green Bay Board in the West have scheduled a meeting. I believe Mr. Hudson Davis, a man who has been very involved in politics and has not been involved in supporting this party, Mr. Hudson Davis has



chaired that meeting, or has agreed to chair it. He is arranging it and he has been quoted on the radio as saying that almost every school board of that ten is bankrupt. He said his own board, the Terra Nova Board, which is Gander and the Northern side of Bonavista Bay, is \$400,000 in debt. They will be an extra \$150,000 in debt as well the way this year is going.

Now, will the Minister of Education tell us the truth? We could not get the truth out of the Minister of Health. We could not find out from him the story. And I found four more hospital boards, by the way, I would say to the minister that are in essentially the same position as the I.G.A. As a result of what I said the other day word has been sent to me.

What is the story on the school boards? Government last year had to make an emergency bail-out grant and they did make it late in the year. What is the situation? What are the liabilities of our school boards in Newfoundland today? What is the status of those liabilities? How many of them are being incurred on a current basis and how many are being carried over from previous years? Why have the boards liabilities? Obviously, because they are spending more money than they are taking in. But why are they spending more money? Are they wasting it? Or are they providing a level of services at a reasonable cost? Are they providing too high a level of services? Or, is it because the government will not provide them with adequate funds?

The minister cannot try to evade it. He cannot play his high school debating tricks. Let him just come to grips with it. What is the true story? I did not put Mr. Hudson Davis up to it. I did not get him to call a meeting of the ten school boards and to put it on the radio that he was going to call it and that his board was on the verge of bankruptcy. What is the story? And what is going to be done about it? These boards are public authorities. They have no resources, Sir, other than that of the

public behind them, be it the Government of the Province or be it the School Tax Authorities. What is the truth? What is the financial situation of our school boards? If they do owe money, why do they owe it? The Minister of Education would be less than candid, Sir, if he did not tell us that.

I would like the Minister of Rural Development, who is absent as well, to give us a little insight into the Rural Development Authority which is turning out to be infinitely worse, Sir, than any of the direst cynics predicted. Two or three years ago when it was set up, and I guess it is fair to say it is probably the one significant worthwhile policy innovation of the present administration, there were a number of people who came to me and who said; look, it is a giveaway programme, it is a waste of money. And there are equally a number of people who said; it might be a good idea, let us see what happens on it. It is an effort to try to help and let us see what is done.

Last year the minister produced a list of the grants and loans made under it, and it was shot through with inconsistencies and patronage and abuses of the worse kind. This year he will not produce the list which leads me to suspect, and I will wager a big deal of money on this, that there are worse inconsistencies and worse patronage and worse abuses, and he is trying to hide them and cover them up. What is the story? How much of the money the RDA has put out will ever come back? It was put out as loans. Maybe they should not have been loans, but they were billed as loans. What about such stories as men who were told well look old man, you got \$8,000 how about borrowing an extra \$7,000 so you can pay back your loan? I know of a case where that happened, not far from St. John's.

MR. BARRY: You have emptied the galleries.

MR. ROBERTS: It does not matter if I empty the galleries or not. You know, the minister emptied his mind a long time ago and he is still here. The RDA, Sir, how many jobs has it, in fact, created? How many are permanent? Now it is emerging as one of the great boondoggles. We had the Secondary Industries Programme in the early 1950's and Lord knows, it was not a great success

But by comparison to this Rural Development Authority, it is emerging as a great success, by comparison. I do not mind the minister, he is a decent fellow, means well. It is not his fault that he is not up to the job. He has lost his urge in politics and his interest and his desire to do anything very much. He is scared of the House of Assembly. He is scared to present the facts, he runs away. But we are entitled to the answers. \$10 million or \$12 million has gone out on the RDA, what have we got for it? What, if anything? A lot of grants for Tory candidates.

I am told Mr. Bernard Fitzpatrick, who has carried the colours on Bell Island in a couple of contests, Mr. Bernard Fitzpatrick has apparently got another loan. You know, I could name a

number of others. But the honourable gentleman from Trinity South is hiding the list and I want to know what he is hiding. And I would suspect he is hiding another unsavoury little mess. What is the true story on the second Come By Chance refinery? Nearly two years, more than two years ago, Sir, nearly three or nearer to three, the Premier stood in the House and read a great twenty page statement and he was bursting with pride. Here we are across the House, Sir, we could feel the radiance of his pride across the Chamber as he read out that statement. We were going to have a second refinery. Joey Smallwood had been damned from Trepassey to Chidley for getting the refinery going and damned by the same gentlemen opposite - not by the Premier. I have not found any statement by the Premier on it - but certainly by his political bed fellows, the Minister of Fisheries, the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Tourism, the Minister of Social Services, they damned Joe Smallwood and the Liberal Party from Cape Race to Cape Chidley. Why? For having a refinery, 100,000 barrels a day. And in comes the Premier bursting with pride that he had done something new. He had got a refinery too, 300,000 barrels.

Sir, we were told that construction would start in the Spring of 1973. That was two years ago, Sir. Where does the matter stand now? The Minister of Industrial Development, every now and then, is forced to make an attack on Ottawa. He does it with anything but reluctance and blames it on Ottawa. But is that the true story? What is the story of this fourth mortgage that the Premier and the Minister of Fisheries went down to New York to approve a month or so ago, the debenture charge from the First National Bank of Illinois. It is registered down here in the Registry of Deeds as it must be. It is in effect a fourth mortgage. The first mortgage is held by the Klienwort Syndicate. The second mortgage is held by NIDC, the government of the Province and the first money has come back on that this year. The third mortgage is held by the Government of Canada as part of their security for the wharf contract. And there is now in effect a fourth mortgage.

I just want to know what the story is. I want to know when we will get it. I want to know why, because, Sir, this Tory Government during their three years in office have not created 1,000 jobs. They have not

even created 500 jobs. The figures are absolutely staggering. You know, it is a litany, Mr. Speaker, a litany that comes out every month and it is the mournful dirge that human mind could ever compose. Here are the most recent ones, date, April 22, the day before yesterday. The labour force for March, 1975 in Newfoundland was 187,000 people, 7.5 per cent of an increase over last year when it was 174,000 people. The number employed, Sir, 143,000; 140,000 was the number employed twelve months past. So we have had an employment growth of 3,000 jobs, not twenty of them created by that honourable crowd opposite Sir. The creation of an extra 3,000 jobs in Newfoundland, 2.1 per cent growth in the rate, 2.1 per cent in the number of jobs, number of people employed in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Unemployed, Sir, 45,000 men and women unemployed; 34,000 was the figure twelve months before, an increase of 32.4 per cent. The work force went up seven per cent. The number employed went up two per cent. The number unemployed went up 32 per cent. That is the record of the Tory Government. That is the - those figures, Mr. Speaker, have been steady on that type of scale for the last three years and if there had been thirty-six of these flash sheets produced since the honourable gentleman assumed the seals of office, thirty-five of them will have those figures in them. Of all the disasters, all the great planning and priorities, we heard so much about what was going to be done to revitalize Newfoundland. "We must do best that which we do best" or whatever the phrase was.

Now, three years later, it is a sorry mess, a pile of broken promises, of unkept hopes, unmeant hopes, a pile of disappointments, a trail of empty achievements, thirty-two per cent



increase in unemployment, four times the growth in the labour force. Over that one year, Sir, from March to March we had 13,000 Newfoundlanders enter the labour force, a net gain of 13,000 - 3,000 of them found jobs, 10,000 unemployed. And these, I may add, are not some figures I dreamed up, These are the provincial government's own figures from the Planning and Priorities Secretariat. All the indicators, Sir - it is not fair to talk about fish landings that may or may not be the government's fault, but certainly it is not entirely their fault.

The new residential construction - the Minister of Municipal Affairs likes to boast about his housing programmes. March - I am sorry - February 1975 compared to February 1974 a drop of seventy-seven per cent. January, February, the year 1974 compared to the same period the year past, a drop of twelve per cent. Heads of families and/or single persons in receipt of short term basic social assistance - this is 'Ank's' great drive, to drive them off the welfare roles. Like the man in Englee who was told to go back to work by the Welfare Office. And he said, the doctor says I am not fit to work. And they said go back to work anyway you are cut off. And the result is today his medical condition is aggravated. He is sicker than he was now. Now they have not got the good grace to admit it. But they will put him back on the roles. A man with a skin condition who is driven back to work by the quite inhuman policy, deliberately, callously - can you face up to that? If the minister goes - I can produce the names and the medical certificate. They have all been sent to the man in Corner Brook, Mr. Jennifex who is head of the department out in Corner Brook, the regional administration he is called. That is the great Tory policy.

AN HON. MEMBER: This appeal was -

MR. ROBERTS: This has been appealed all the way up the line.

AN HON. MEMBER: To where?

MR. ROBERTS: To the Appeal Board and to the regional administrator, who the minister tells us has the ultimate authority next only to the legislature.

MR. MOORES: So you are saying the social workers are doing a poor job.

MR. ROBERTS: No, I am not saying that. I am saying there is one man, and I have, you know, made the complaints, the gentleman in Englee he has got great relations with his clients, three of them spaced him out last year, another man is now six months in the penitentiary because he took an axe to the welfare officer's car - it is better that than from the welfare officer. But I do not condone either of it. But that shows the sort of relations that man has with the people he is allegedly serving.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: If the Premier wants the details I will send them to him. A man who was driven off -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: A man who was driven off -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. ROBERTS: - welfare, long term assistance. And in the face of the medical evidence and went back to work in the fish plant or fishing. And the result is now his medical condition is substantially worse. And all the appeals to the bureaucracy in the Welfare Department, and I have a lot of respect for those guys, come to nothing. They are right up against the policy. It is the most jargon-ridden, you know, I have ever seen, and I have been eleven or twelve years at it now. And I have got the medical certificates and everything. And I may say I have them with the man's full permission, and I am quite willing to have them tested anywhere else because the doctor concerned happens to be my brother. It does not make him any less competent a doctor. It does not make him any less angry at the treatment that this man got. As a matter of fact it was my brother who raised it with me simply because the man - the man was told he had to go to work. And he said I am willing to go but the doctor says I should not. The man has been in to town long before my brother got involved in Roddickton, in to see the skin specialists. The government have laid out hundreds of dollars on sending him into town. These are all facts. The Minister

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of Health could get access to the records, or he is entitled to them. But, Sir, even in spite of that policy, that type of thing, and I picked an admittedly dramatic example, but a true one. A number of heads of families and people getting short term assistance has gone up from February 1974 by thirty-seven per cent, there were 8,000 people receiving social assistance in February 1975 there were 5,800 receiving it a year before. It is a sorry, sorry record, Sir, in

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every field, and I could go through department after department of government. We have had unkept promises. We have had shattered dreams, frustrated plans, faded hopes. This is a government, Sir, of tired old men, tired old men, some of them may be youthful chronologically but the spirit has gone out of them, the drive has gone out of them, the ambition has gone out of them, not personal ambitions, Some of them have very real personal ambitions and the jobs will come open shortly, I tell the honourable gentlemen, in due course, But , Sir, a group of men who are at the point now of admitting they have no answers. They admit it by their speeches, by their policies, by a throne speech and a budget speech which had lots of words and lots of dollars but no action. I have been going on open line programmes throughout this Province issuing a challenge to anybody to name me one constructive thing that the Tory Government have done for anybody, except themselves, in their three years in office. And the closest anybody can come to to defending the Tory Party, the closest anybody can come is raising the minimum wage, and that has not even kept pace with the rising cost of living. But that is the closest anybody in Newfoundland has yet been able to come as to one constructive thing.

MR. BARRY: What about the improved welfare scheme?

MR. ROBERTS: What about the improved welfare scheme. With thirty-seven per cent more on the - the improved welfare scheme was a sham, a charade and a fraud.

MR. BARRY: Why?

MR. ROBERTS: It has not done anything for anybody on welfare. It has not done anything more than keep up - is the honourable gentleman talking about the rates being raised?

MR. BARRY: That is right.

MR. ROBERTS: The rates have been raised, you know, a hundred times in the last - they only went down once.

MR. BARRY (Inaudible).

MR. ROBERTS: Doing away with it and the effect of it now is the gentleman in Englee who is sick, who is sicker because of that great policy. The effect of it now, Mr. Speaker, is thirty-seven per cent increase in the heads of families. There is nothing done in health, nothing done in tourism. We got a minister who is a bad joke, not even a joke, a bad joke.

MR. HICKEY: Boy, you are begging for it.

MR. ROBERTS: Nothing done in department after department after department. All I hear is we cannot get answers. We just get put off. The water and sewer system in Cartwright was promised two or three years and nothing has happened, you know, in community after community throughout this Province. Teachers, the school boards are on the verge of bankruptcy we are told. We do not get any answers in case after case, Sir. The Minister of Highways does a great thing for the people of Fortune Bay by paving some of their roads, a little election bait down there. Whether he did it or whether his colleague from Fortune Bay, I do not know. But if he is the minister he has got to carry the can for the crowd on that one. And the people of Fortune Bay speaking through their chairman and three or four of their councils down there issued a public demand for the minister's resignation.

AN HON. MEMBER: A good idea.

MR. ROBERTS: Well, I think, it is a good idea. It is what everybody in Newfoundland is saying, the minister's wife, the minister's constituents, the minister's friends, those who are not his friends, a small but growing group. That shows the feeling of the people, Sir, the fact that in every election since this honourable group of men were elected to office in 1972 their percentage of the vote has slipped and the polls show it is still slipping rapidly. That is what our polls show. That is what the Tory polls show. And I will make ours public if the honourable gentlemen opposite wish to publish theirs, Sir. I will match them, print out by print out.

MR. EVANS: You will be wiped out.



MR. ROBERTS: And if the honourable gentleman from Burgeo-LaPoile thinks we have been wiped out, Sir, I invite him to urge his leader, nay, implore his leader, and I would assure you, Mr. Speaker, to have the honourable gentleman from Burgeo imploring would be an implored sight indeed, Sir, implore his leader to have an immediate dissolution and let the people of Newfoundland decide. Let the people of Burgeo-LaPoile or the new district of LaPoile decide. Let us let them decide, Mr. Speaker, whether they wish the honourable gentleman to carry on his career as their representative. Let them have the voice, and you will hear it, Sir. You will hear a roar that goes up from Port aux Basques. You would hear it in Halifax, without even the benefit of a loud speaker, the roar that will go up about the honourable gentleman and his works mighty as they be and the dearest thing in Isle au Mort, Sir, will be the honourable gentleman from Burgeo-LaPoile. That is if he runs.

MR. EVANS: (Inaudible).

MR. ROBERTS: I might say to the honourable gentleman -

MR. EVANS: (Inaudible).

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. ROBERTS: I might say to the honourable gentleman, Mr. Speaker, that the word out in his district among his friends, a very small group, among his friends, is that he will not be running again. That is the word, Sir, that he will not be running again. The only question being speculated upon is whether he will get an adequate job, and there are a number of schools of thought. There are some who maintain that the honourable gentleman should be sent down to Robin Hood Bay to guard Robin Hood Bay.

MR. EVANS: (Inaudible).

MR. ROBERTS: There are others, Sir, who feel that that is too good for him that he -

MR. EVANS: (Inaudible).

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. ROBERTS: - that he should be sent to Robin Hood Bay not to guard it, Sir, but to be part of it. Mr. Speaker -

MR. EVANS: (Inaudible).

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, the honourable gentleman - I hope you make a speech.

MR. EVANS: (Inaudible).

MR. ROBERTS: I hope so. If somebody has it written out for him and somebody reads it for him, it will be a good speech.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. EVANS: Only a fool like you needs that.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

On several occasions in the past two or three minutes the Chair has had to call for order. The Hon. Member for Burgeo-LaPoile has insisted on interrupting the Hon. Leader of the Opposition. At the same time the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, I think, was been irrelevant to the budget speech in talking specifically about a member and a district of this Province.

MR. ROBERTS: I am

sorry if I was irrelevant, Sir, and I am quite grateful to your ruling and I would agree that the honourable gentleman from Burgeo and LaPoile is quite irrelevant to this district, this Province and this House. Sir, I have just about finished my few remarks, brief and uncontentious as they are. I have only touched on the merest fraction of the points which should be made and which will be made in the days and weeks ahead. You know, it is not hard to draw up an indictment of this government. As a matter of fact, one does not even need to do that, Sir. The people of this Province have done that. They have passed judgment. All they wait now is the opportunity to execute their sentence, and they will, when the election comes, as it must.

Sir, what is difficult is to try to list everything that should be in that indictment. I think the epitome of the failure of this administration, and that is what we are talking about, Sir, we are talking about a group of men, most of them, I believe, men of honour, men of motive, men with good intent, men who genuinely desire to serve the people of this Province and sought election to carry out their desire, a group of men who came into office a little more than three years ago. During that three years, Sir, some of them have tried, some have not. I do not need to name them. This whole House knows which minister has held his brief and which have not, and the ministers know it. They know it themselves. They know it about their colleagues. The press knows it. The people of Newfoundland know it. There are some ministers who as individual men have won respect of their officials, respect of the people with whom they have dealt, respect of the people of this Province. There are others, Sir, who are sorry jokes, sorry tales. But these men came into office and set to work. The men they replaced had been in office, some of them, some of them for twenty-one or twenty-two years, some for far less. My friend from Labrador North held his first ministerial commission for a period of about what? - seven months, eight months.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Six months.

MR. ROBERTS: His second one will be considerably longer than that, Sir.

But an administration that was tired out and worn out, had run out of steam, needed to be replaced, needed to be put on the sidelines, needed to be sent out while a new team came onto the field. They did come on the field and some of them looked to be possible stars. Others were dragged. I mean any team has members like the man from Burgeo and others. Any team -

MR. EVANS: Inaudible.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. ROBERTS: Any team, Mr. Speaker, has men like that. Any team has men like that. Our Saviour had twelve and one of them let him down. Mr. Speaker, the government set out, I believe, to try to set straight some of the problems of this Province, try to make better some of the matters that needed to be made better. Now, Sir, in three years we have seen them engaged in dealings every bit as shady as anything which the previous administration was ever accused of.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: (Inaudible) No way.

MR. ROBERTS: Of course we have. The Trizec deal and the deal that had been consummated, had been made if not consummated for the land, the building out here in Wedgewood Park; the Harnett deal in Corner Brook, the dealings of George McLean, the dealings of Joe Brown, the list goes on and on. What about the dealings with Burns Brothers and Denton? It would make a marvellous subject for a royal commission. What about them? I will say what about them. The honourable gentleman will be invited to read the report of the royal commission which will investigate them. We will need Fabian O'Dea then, Sir.

What I am saying is that in three years - the dealings with Bill Saunders is another one - the government unwilling to put any of them to the test, Sir. Not one of them will they put to the test. Not one will they put to the test, not one -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. ROBERTS: Ah!. The honourable gentleman with his tricky little

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legal mind. I will put them to the test, Sir. I will put them to the test, Mr. - I will put them to the test, Sir. The reason we are given immunity in this House, not we the Opposition or the government and is not new and has gone on forever, as long as there have been parliaments.

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So we can say, and I say it to the government, if they have nothing to fear let them be investigated. But I say, Mr. Speaker, that in three years this administration have been guilty of infinitely more shady practice than anything that might have gone on in all the years before. And I say that all their high hopes have been shattered and blasted and now the men over there who have got energy are putting it elsewhere and the men who have got ambition find it stultified and muted and directed elsewhere and those who still have the desire to serve this Province find it frustrated. They have not brought in any plans. We still hear talk of plans coming. Three years they have been at it. Was it Cromwell who said to the British Parliament, you have sat too long here get thee hence.

These men, Sir, in three years have achieved nothing and dared less. They have done nothing for this Province. The figures are absolutely - and taxes have gone up. There has never been a period of four years in our history, four budgets, when taxes have risen as greatly as they have under this administration, and more to come. They are forcing the municipalities to put up their taxes. They are forcing the school boards to go to school taxes and if we do not have an election, if we have an election next year and if the Tories scraped in by some unlucky chance, taxes would go up again. And we hear cries of gloom and doom. The Minister of Fisheries made a speech over here at the university in which he said the country had no future. He despaired. His businesslike mind, the mind of a man who would close her down in month eight if that was when the money ran out, the bankers' mind, and bankers are useful people, useful people only as bankers.

There has not been a major new development started in this Province. The mine at Daniels Harbour started under a concession given out many years ago by the Smallwood Administration, and because the price of the zinc has now come - up and that is why we may get one in behind Hare Bay, Cominco are in there and doing all the investigation work. Hospital after hospital - the gentleman from Labrador West should look into the situation in his hospital down there and what has gone on there in the last

month or two, the budgetary problems they are experiencing, and I could name others, Communities throughout the Province that feel they have been deceived, commitments have been made to them in good faith and not been kept. The fishermen, the only thing that has been done for the fishermen of this Province is what Ottawa has done. What has the Government of this Province done for the fishermen of this Province? Can anybody name me one constructive thing that the Government of this Province has done for the fishermen since they have been in office, one constructive thing, one programme or policy that has made any fishermen better off than he was before it started?

The Select Committee have been going about the Province and everywhere they have gone they heard that. They have heard criticism of Ottawa too and I am the first to say that. But in field after - education, the university does not have enough to operate this year, they must be given more money, have enough money to operate their facilities.

Labour relations, we are told there is going to be a new Labour Relations Act, no sign of that. We may get it next month. We have heard that before. We have heard that about seven times before. We were told by the gentleman from St. Barbe South on the first or second time he went through that portfolio, the amendments to the Fishing Industry Collective Bargaining Act. The present Minister of Transportation told us that while he was in industrial relations, No sign of them! And what do we get? What do we get? An Act - that is not on the Order Papers as yet an act for a provincial anthem. That is their priority. And the Norma and Gladys, rotten, a ship that served her time and should be either in a museum ashore or given an honourable burial at sea, not sent off to Japan to boost our tourist industry, the tourist industry where nothing has been done. Nothing has been done to improve the tourist industry in this Province. All of the studies that have been done, all of the proposals have come to naught.

Sir, that is the story of this government. A group of people who three years ago set out to fool the people of this Province, whether knowingly or no. And they did

fool them. The people of Newfoundland believed them. They trusted them. They gave them their votes to get on with the job. But, Sir, that was last time. The day will come, it will come within two years of this night, must come by law, within two years of this night, when the people of Newfoundland will pass judgement because, Sir, the government - it is all very well for the Gentleman from Burgeo-LaPoile to say the people settled it. Sir, a government are put into office on probation. The government are put into office, Sir -

MR. EVANS: But you did not.

MR. ROBERTS: - in a trust. The people say to them, we will put you in and we will see what you can do and then we shall judge. My

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

I would like to inform the honourable Leader of the Opposition that his ninety minutes are up.

MR. ROBERTS: Thank you. My parting words, Mr. Speaker, if I might, are that the entire story of this government, Sir, is told in one phrase, a phrase that is very common to the people of this Province, one that is part of our literary heritage, our cultural heritage, "Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me." The people of Newfoundland, Sir, have been fooled once by this Tory Government. They will not be fooled the second time.

MR. EVANS: You fooled them more than that in your time.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

The honourable Minister of Mines and Energy.

MR. BARRY: Mr. Speaker -

MR. EVANS: He is going to run now.

MR. BARRY: Yes, I notice that is a technique the honourable Leader of the Opposition has. He will get up and speak and then -

MR. EVANS: Run away.

MR. ROBERTS: I am not like the honourable gentleman. I will be close by. I have not been in the office all day.

MR. EVANS: Inaudible.

MR. BARRY: (I wonder if I could have that. You will have to tell him to call back. Get the number and I will call.) It is from Geneva.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: You had better take it.

MR. BARRY: Eh!

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. BARRY: Okay. One second.

Mr. Speaker, if I might have leave. Do we have another speaker here.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

The Chair is not prepared to sit here while the honourable member makes a phone call if nobody else wants to speak.

MR. BARRY: Now, it is a call from Geneva, Mr. Speaker. I do not know if there is any late breaking developments but I imagine it can wait until -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: A five minute recess.

MR. BARRY: That is all right.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

The Chair is not prepared to take a recess so any honourable member can take a phone call.

MR. BARRY: Mr. Speaker, there are one or two things of some interest to the Province that are happening in Geneva, but I can understand your position. I apologize for having taken the thirty seconds of your time.

Mr. Speaker, after hearing the honourable Leader of the Opposition and the negative, misleading statements that he made, I felt I had to get up and just point out from the perspective of one district, one district in this Province, and I think the picture is true of most other districts, put the misleading statements of the Leader of the Opposition in true perspective by showing just what benefits have come about in the District of Placentia West since this administration took office, since we had the policies as represented in this year's budget and previous budgets applied to improve the lot of I would submit, Mr. Speaker, every resident in every community in my district. As I say the same would apply for the residents of most other districts and probably all.

The list is long, Mr. Speaker. You look at the expansion

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to the Marystown Shipyard. You look at, Mr. Speaker, an additional 150 jobs in this one enterprise directly attributable to the policies of this government, Mr. Speaker. You look at the recreational policies of this government.



You look at the fact that we have the first stadium being constructed this year, the steel went up, started last week, the first stadium on the Burin Peninsula to serve not just the community of Marystown, where it is located, but to serve the entire Burin Peninsula, some 30,000, 35,000 people. You have the money that has been supplied to finish the swimming pool in Marystown, the recreation grant that was supplied to the honourable Minister of Justice's district to put in a swimming pool in Grand Bank, the money that has been supplied for soccer pitches all around the Peninsula, the money that has been supplied for playgrounds in just about every community in my district and around the Burin Peninsula.

Mr. Chairman, in this area of recreation we see where the policies of this government have benefited the ordinary individual in this Province. The honourable the Leader of the Opposition asked, what have the policies of this government done to improve the lot of our Newfoundland people? I will point to the recreational programme alone, Mr. Speaker, as showing how misleading the Leader of the Opposition's comments were in this respect. Let us look at water and sewer facilities. Mr. Speaker, we have for again numerous districts, many communities that had no water and sewer facilities, Marystown, for example, a community and this is something that should be noted - a community that is rapidly getting to the stage of your Grand Falls, your Windsor, your Bishops Falls. It is larger than Bishops Falls, sorry. A community that still does not have a complete water and sewer system but that when this administration came in had water and sewer facilities only in the housing area and none of the older part of the community had water and sewer facilities. Since this government came into office we have seen close to \$2 million go into water and sewer facilities for the district of Placentia West. We have seen most of Marystown now being served. It was not all provincial money. No, it was not all provincial money. Most of it was. There was some arranged by this government with DREE. We do not apologize -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. BARRY: We do not apologize for arranging to obtain funds. We have a member who has a tendency to look after his district on the federal level. I hope that he continues to do what is expected of him. But, Mr. Speaker, we do not apologize for attracting federal funds into the district of Placentia West or into any other district but I just point out that since this administration came into office there have been water and sewer facilities, in some cases, just water, other cases both, go into communities from one end of my district to the other, communities, Baine Harbour, Creston North, Creston South, Garden Cove, John the Bay, Marystown North, Marystown South, Mooring Cove, North Harbour, Parkers Cove, Rock Harbour, Shoal Point, Swift Current, all of these areas have had money provided for either water facilities or water and sewer facilities.

The honourable member asked what I am referring to here. I would refer him to a very authoratative source, the Placentia West MHA report, Mr. Speaker, that was distributed

to constituents in the District of Placentia West in December, 1974. It is outdated even now, but even with this list, Mr. Speaker, you can see -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. BARRY: That was the free mailing I took advantage of although the printing cost me a couple of hundred dollars. So, it is not exactly free.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. BARRY: Pardon?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. BARRY: I made the point, Mr. Speaker, in this message of extending greetings to residents in the Burin area who will be joining us in the new district of Burin-Placentia West.

Well, Mr. Speaker, again we have an area the responsibility of the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing where with respect to water and sewer facilities, ordinary residents of this Province, the taxpayers in this Province who should be benefited are being benefited. The honourable the Leader of the Opposition says, oh, there is nothing done for the people of the Province, no benefits go to them from the policies of our government. That is not correct.

With respect to housing, Mr. Speaker, we have seen - thank you - we have seen, I think in the past year there were 150 new starts, the town councils said, of housing in Marystown, in Marystown alone. The previous year there was something like seventy-five, eighty housing starts, a boom. Mr. Speaker, again a point that should not be overlooked, that when housing starts were down in every other Province in Canada, significantly down, last year they were up in Newfoundland. Mr. Speaker, I submit that the housing policies of this government are policies that are benefiting the ordinary Newfoundlander, as well they should be. I submit, Mr. Speaker, that this government's policy of making second mortgage and first mortgage loans available through the Newfoundland and Labrador Corporation is not something that the honourable Leader of the Opposition might be aware of as benefiting people since he comes from St. John's and happens to spend a lot of his time in St. John's.

But I can tell him if he wanted to get out in the rural areas he would find that until these funds became available, it was darn hard, Mr. Speaker, if you will pardon the expression, it was very difficult for people to get funds to construct homes outside of the metropolitan areas, outside of the cities and the towns, the larger towns, because, Mr. Speaker, it is an unfortunate. I would submit, criticism of our banking system that our banks have not shown the confidence that I believe they should have shown in our viable, smaller communities.

They have not been prepared to lay their money on the line, Mr. Speaker, in these areas, even a community the size of Marystown. There is very little in the way of mortgage funds from private banks. I submit on a national scale the same thing is true, that the banks that hold charters from the federal government, from the taxpayers of Canada, that when they are allocating their dollars they take a very conservative attitude and they say, well, we can get our money put out in Central Canada, in the golden triangle between Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa and we will put a few dollars in the larger cities such as Vancouver and a few other larger cities. We do not have to go down East in that shaky economy where we do not know but it is all going to be crumbling down and they are all going to be moving to Toronto tomorrow. We are not going to put our money in those high risk areas. That is what is happening on the national scale and on the local scale the same thing is true. The banks are afraid to put their money in our smaller, viable communities. They are saying that we do not trust this community or that community to continue to be viable.

I am not talking about your tiny little coves and your one or two family communities.

I am talking about communities the size of Marystown or Burin or Grand Bank or St. Lawrence. That situation, Mr. Speaker, is shameful. That situation was changed when this administration took office, not as far as the banks were concerned. We are still putting the pressure on them, and I think they are loosening the purse strings a bit, very slowly. But this government decided that we, the government, had to make funds available for housing to the rural areas. We did that. We did that, Mr. Speaker. And the people of this Province have benefited. And I think the result of that policy is shown by the fact that as I said when housing starts were down in every other province across Canada they were up in Newfoundland.

In Marystown alone, Mr. Speaker, we see government, Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation preparing to construct a new 120 lot subdivision in the Shoal Point area of Marystown. This of course will mean that there will be serviced building lots available, and should see even greater housing construction in Marystown over the next few years.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. BARRY: These, Mr. Speaker, are policies that benefit all Newfoundlanders. These are policies that benefit the ordinary Newfoundlanders, the taxpayer. These are policies that show how misleading the statements of the Leader of the Opposition are in this case.

With respect to highways, Mr. Speaker, to road work, we have seen over \$2 million go into the district of Placentia West alone. We have seen paving in Creston, the Baine Harbour access, the Boat Harbour Brook access, in Fox Cove, Mortier, in John the Bay, in Marystown, in Mooring Cove, in Parkers Cove access, Red Harbour, in the Rushoon access, in Winterland, virtually every community, Mr. Speaker, has either benefited from paving or from road reconstruction which is taking place in Brookside, Garden Cove, North Harbour, Rock Harbour, Spanish Room, South East Bight. And, Mr. Speaker, this government, contrary to the policy of that honourable crowd opposite, showed that it was not proposed to force people to relocate, to resettle from areas where



they could make an honest living. It showed that the resettlement programme in my opinion had been carried too far as far as Placentia Bay is concerned, where now we have instead of fishermen being able to benefit from a central location where they can service their fishing efforts in the Summertime they go out to the islands and they live in the most primitive conditions. Well, we saw this government take one step to remove some of the isolation in Placentia Bay by commencing construction on the road to Monkstown -

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. BARRY: - and again committing funds this year to have this road continue. It is not an easy decision to make, Mr. Speaker. It is not an easy decision to make. But when you work it out in terms of human values, in terms of asking an entire, viable community to relocate, in terms of then having to provide serviced building lots at phenomenal cost to each family, probably housing, employment, Mr. Speaker, you can not say that it was the wrong decision. That is the type of policy, the policy in the Department of Transportation and Communications that has benefited all Newfoundlanders, all residents in my district, and I submit the same is true for every other district.

AN HON. MEMBER: Right! Right! Hear! Hear!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. BARRY: With respect to hospital facilities, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition said, nothing done in the field of health, nothing done in the field of health. After the Hon. Minister of Health got up the other day, and I thought it was Christmas all over again -

MR. MOORES: There was more money spent on hospitals in three years than in the previous twenty-three combined.

MR. BARRY: More in the last three years than in the previous twenty-three combined. Where is the press? Where are you? Are you listening? There was more money spent on hospital facilities in the last three years than in the previous twenty-three years combined and still we have not done anything to benefit the ordinary Newfoundlanders. What is going on?

AN HON. MEMBER: They are not listening. They do not want to hear.

MR. BARRY: I mean is that how the Leader of the Opposition hopes to achieve credibility by making that sort of sweeping statement.

AN HON. MEMBER: What did you expect?

MR. BARRY: Oh, Mr. Speaker.

In the field of health, I will not list all the decisions that have been made, Mr. Speaker. We know, and they have been listed here. The statement of the Premier just then says much more than I could ever say. But I would point out that this government, when it came into office, looked at the existing policy and saw that the Liberal Government had, as their policy, that the Burin Peninsula did not need a regional hospital. No? Let us build one in Clarenville and the Burin Peninsula can be served from Clarenville. They obviously looked at a map, Mr. Speaker, and got their scale wrong. They must have thought that it was twelve miles

to Clarendville from Marystown instead of 120 miles. We are going to put a hospital in Clarendville to serve the needs of the Burin Peninsula - that was the policy of the Liberal Administration.

MR. MOORES: Right.

MR. BARRY: Now, Mr. Speaker, this government came in and this government said we better take a look at this. It was reviewed, not by politicians for political purposes but reviewed by a joint Federal-Provincial Committee on Health, and they said that a regional hospital is necessary on the Burin Peninsula. As a matter of fact you need more beds in that hospital than you are going to need in the Clarendville one.

MR. MOORES: Right.

MR. BARRY: A few more, about the same, about the same size hospital in any event. Well, they said that it was madness. You cannot serve the health needs of the people on the Burin Peninsula by putting a single hospital in Clarendville so this government said -

MR. MOORES: Hear! Hear!

MR. BARRY: - we agree. Our policy is that there will be a regional hospital on the Burin Peninsula.

MR. MOORES: And there was.

MR. BARRY: And it is coming.

MR. MOORES: Right.

MR. BARRY: That is a policy, Mr. Speaker, that I submit is leading to the benefit of all the residents of the Burin Peninsula. Now it may be that the Leader of the Opposition has decided that he will ignore these and when he says that the policies of the P. C. Government have not benefited any of our people, maybe he has decided to write off the Burin Peninsula in the next election. I suggest that is probably the best strategy that he could follow - write them off. But this government, Mr. Speaker, will not write them off. We will not write them off like the honourable crowd

opposite did with their health policy. We will not write them off as far as hospital facilities are concerned, and still the Hon. Leader of the Opposition will get up and say that this government is doing nothing for the people. With respect to general services, Mr. Speaker, in the district of Placentia West, we have seen the two communities, the two communities that were left at that time who qualified for assistance for electrification, Petite Forte and Southeast Bight without electrification. For some reason these two communities across the mouth of Paradise Sound from each other in Placentia Bay were left without electricity. I wonder if that had anything to do with the fact that these people had been encouraged to get out of Placentia Bay. I wonder, Mr. Speaker, did the Resettlement Programme have anything to do with that? It is very suspicious. This government

has electrified both of those communities, Mr. Speaker. I asked the honourable Leader of the Opposition to go out there and see whether this has not been of benefit to the people in these communities.

In each community there is just slightly over fifteen customers. Families, I think there are only fourteen families possibly in one place, but there is a church and a school and a store and fifteen - they just barely snuck in under the wire but any honourable member can go out there and count them himself. As a matter of fact, I did my own count. I would not rely on outside counters. I went out and did my own count and in each case I found fifteen customers.

We have also seen new town halls constructed, Mr. Speaker, around the District of Placentia West and around many places in this Province. We have seen a new town hall constructed for Marystown and Winterland, and I would submit, Mr. Speaker, that that in itself will improve municipal government, and that in itself is a contribution to improve municipal government in our Province, that you will get better consideration of municipal issues, you will get better decisions by our mayors and our councillors if they are working in the proper surroundings, if they have the proper facilities for their staff, and this is being provided, a very basic policy of this government that has a direct benefit for the ordinary Newfoundlander.

We have seen new incinerators being installed all over the Province, specifically in Baine Harbour, Fox Cove, Mortier and Winterland, in the good District of Placentia West.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. BARRY: We have seen new fire equipment installed.

AN HON. MEMBER: Right.

MR. BARRY: A very basic service, one in which the Minister of Justice takes a very keen interest. How many fire trucks have gone out and would I be embarrassing the minister if I asked him where they have gone?

MR. HICKMAN: Twenty in Burin District and one hundred and twenty-one outside.

MR. BARRY: There have been twenty fire trucks gone to Burin District and one hundred and twenty-one outside. That is a fair proportion.



AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. BARRY: I hope the insurance rates on the Burin Peninsula reflect this good service that is being provided. But we have had in addition to fire engines, fire trucks, we have had in communities such as Red Harbour, we have had proper pumping facilities to be hooked into their water systems provided.

In Winterland we have recently had money provided to install additional wells in that community, not only to provide drinking water but to provide better fire protection. I have already referred to Monkstown, the honourable minister - pardon?

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. BARRY: Well we are working on an improved telephone system right now for Placentia Bay. We have an area here where CNT has put in mobile telephones in I think one in each community with a backup phone and these telephones are out of order more than they are working.

MR. ROBERTS: Inaudible.

MR. BARRY: It is your over and out - my signals training from the Army helps a bit.

MR. ROBERTS: Over and out.

AN HON. MEMBER: Are you there?

MR. BARRY: Over and out, roger, wilco, but there are improved services. Is the honourable minister's department -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. BARRY: With who?

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. BARRY: With CNT, and we are going to see improved telephone services for the Placentia Bay area. Mr. Speaker, this again is something that probably we take for granted but I can tell you in the dead of winter, in an isolated community, if a person gets sick, suddenly gets sick and a doctor is needed, and the only phone in the community is out of order, it is not

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just a minor inconvenience. It is a very important service that up to now has not been provided. This government is seeing that these very basic services are provided. We have been, I have personally had, I would guess, on twenty occasions been involved in dealings with CNT.

The honourable, the honourable -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. BARRY: There is such a thing as jurisdictional areas here.

MR. ROBERTS: (First part inaudible) I have got a file here that thick called - - letters to CNT.

MR. BARRY: Well, we do not just stop with the letters. We follow up and we ask for reasons and we insist on commitments. I have to confess, Mr. Speaker, that we get commitments. At times, I believe for sometime for reasons beyond their control they are not able to follow through on them but just today, Mr. Speaker, I got a commitment that with respect to Petit Forte that the company will have equipment in in early May that they should be able to install by June that will see, I think it is something like three lines, one of which will be a party line which can take six or seven telephones and two other that will be used as private lines because the people complain about lack of privacy in having to go on a party line which will mean a significant improvement to the telephone service to Petit Forte.

Now, I just today got a letter from Monkstown and they are pointing out that their service is inadequate and they want action taken there and I intend to take such action. I understand the honourable Minister of Transportation and Communications was meeting with Canadian National Telephone today and one of the areas discussed and one of the areas where improved services are going to be provided is in the Placentia Bay area. As I say it is not just a matter of convenience. It is a matter of life and death in some cases in an isolated community if a person has an accident or becomes sick.

Now that the press is back, Mr. Speaker, and without going over the entire things again, I think it is worthwhile -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

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MR. BARRY: It is worthwhile to point out that in the last three years, that in the last three years this P.C. Government has spent more on health facilities than was spent in the previous twenty-three years. The honourable Leader of the Opposition says -

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AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. BARRY: Well, it comes from the highest authority, from the Premier.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Yes, from the Premier.

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MR. BARRY: Right, from the highest authority and that, Mr. Speaker, I would submit is of some benefit to the ordinary Newfoundlander despite the protestations to the contrary of the Leader of the Opposition.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

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MR. BARRY: And as I pointed out to the, Mr. Speaker, when the Leader of the Opposition was opposite and let him deny it -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: In Carbonear?

MR. ROBERTS: Yes.

MR. BARRY: Would you prefer that I sat down?

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

MR. BARRY: Would you prefer that I sat down, Mr. Speaker? And I submit to the Leader of the Opposition and I would ask him to deny it if he would that the position of his government, of his administration when he was, I believe, Minister of Health or at least involved in the administration, the decision was made that a hospital was not necessary for the Burin Peninsula, that the Peninsula could be served by a Clarenville Hospital.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. BARRY: That is not so. That is not so.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. BARRY: But the honourable Leader of the Opposition is not going

to deny that that was the policy when this government took office, the policy of the previous administration that no hospital was needed on the Burin Peninsula.

MR. ROBERTS: To a point of order. Mr. Speaker, to a point of order.

MR. BARRY: This -

MR. ROBERTS: To a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, does Your Honour have any idea - Mr. Speaker, to a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. ROBERTS: The honourable gentleman, Sir - Oh, Lord! Simon Riceman has joined George Weston Limited. Well, the point of order is, Sir, is if the honourable gentleman knowingly or not is fraudulently, deliberately, malevolently and inaccurately representing the position -

MR. BARRY: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ROBERTS: No privilege involved. I am busily making a -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. ROBERTS: To a point of order, Your Honour.

MR. BARRY: To a point of privilege.

MR. ROBERTS: To a point of order, Your Honour.

MR. BARRY: Privilege.

MR. ROBERTS: Order.

MR. BARRY: Privilege.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! It is customary when the Speaker rises for members to take their seats. A point of privilege does take precedence

over a point of order. So, I will recognize the honourable Minister of Mines and Energy on a point of privilege and then we will get back to the Leader of the Opposition on his point of order.

MR. BARRY: To keep it very brief, Mr. Speaker, the use of the words, fraudulently and malevolently are I am sure able to be found in Beauchesne, and I submit that the honourable the Leader of the Opposition is not permitted under the guise of a point of order to engage in unparliamentary debate which he often has a tendency to do.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. ROBERTS: A point of privilege, Mr. Speaker. The words may or may not be found in Beauchesne. They are also found in Websters Dictionary that the law clerk has in front of him. There are ample precedents that they are parliamentary as long as one does not nor did I attribute any motives to the honourable gentleman. I very carefully and deliberately said that he did not deliberately mislead the House and the people but he did mislead the House. He did it fraudulently and he did it without any color of title.

MR. BARRY: Fraudulently, it is not true.

MR. ROBERTS: Fraudulently -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Yes, Sir, it is.

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

The Leader of the Opposition is no doubt aware that these words he used are certainly considered by the Chair to be unparliamentary. He is saying something indirectly because he cannot say it directly. We will recognize the honourable Leader of the Opposition on his point of order.

MR. ROBERTS: I thank Your Honour. The point I am making is that the honourable gentleman is misquoting - I will put in a neutral word - the position. I stated the position quite clearly at a public meeting in Marystown of the hospital committee, a dinner they held in which I said that there would not be a hospital built for five years on the Burin Peninsula. They meeting was held in 1969. It is now 1975, six years later, three years of it having been under the administration



of the honourable gentlemen opposite and no hospital has been built nor has a hospital been started.

MR. MOORES: One hospital was built in twenty-three years.

MR. ROBERTS: One hospital was built in twenty-three years. One hospital was built in twenty-three years.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Which one?

MR. ROBERTS: Oh, which ones were built in twenty-three years?

Well, if the honourable gentlemen would like me to start, I will answer them. Labrador City, Happy Valley -

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

MR. ROBERTS: St. Anthony - well, I am only replying to the Premier.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

The honourable the Premier was not recognized by the Chair.

The honourable Leader of the Opposition has raised on a -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

The honourable Leader of the Opposition is rising on a point of order and he is not permitted to make a speech or ask questions of other honourable members who have not been recognized by the Chair.

MR. ROBERTS: A book here for \$16,000.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. BARRY: I assume, Mr. Speaker, the honourable Leader of the Opposition is not going to carry on with this nonsense.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Mines and Energy.

MR. BARRY: He has a matter of opinion, a difference of opinion, that is all.

Mr. Speaker, I have gone through a list here of areas where the policies of this government directly benefit the ordinary Newfoundlander. They, despite as I say, the protestations to the contrary of the Leader of the Opposition, show how misleading the honourable Leader of the Opposition statements were when he said that the policies of this government have not benefited the people.

In the area of recreation, in the area of municipal services, in the area of highways, road paving and reconstruction, in the area

of health, housing, in just about every area that you can name, Mr. Speaker, the policies of this government have meant very great benefits to the people of our Province.

I have not mentioned the forestry policies of this government that have permitted, Mr. Speaker, the proper utilization of our forestry resources when it was rotting on the stump -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: It still is.

MR. BARRY: - when honourable members opposite were in power. This government has brought proper management to our forest industry. It is not going to be perfect overnight. It is not going to be perfected overnight. But, the policy of construction of forest access roads, I submit, is a good policy. There are times when it will be in conflict with ecological interests.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. BARRY: Right. I think that is the greatest compliment that we have heard come from that side of the House so far, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BARRY: You can not do everything bad all of the time, boy once in a while you have to do something good.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. BARRY: Once in a while you have to do something good. We have a little hint that something good might have been done.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. BARRY: And I will not refer, Mr. Speaker, to the fact that we have repurchased, repatriated the hydro potential of Labrador that was alienated by the previous administration. I will not mention that.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. BARRY: Yes, that was just solely and simply to get the jet.

AN HON. MEMBER: I hope you enjoyed it.

MR. BARRY: It was an awful battle - it was an awful battle for that plane, Mr. Speaker. But it was well executed, a well executed plan of battle.

AN HON. MEMBER: Tell me about it.

MR. BARRY: I will not mention, Mr. Speaker, the oil and gas policies of this government.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. BARRY: I will not mention that even the honourable Member for Bell Island in whose seat you are sitting -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. BARRY: - in whose seat you are sitting confirm, finally confirm that he believes also that there is oil and gas potential off the Coast. We had two gas discoveries -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. BARRY: - last Fall.

MR. ROBERTS: Inaudible.

MR. BARRY: I think that the Leader of the Opposition will find that the people on the Coast of Labrador in the trip that he

made he should have found, although in one day, again I do not see him accomplishing that much in terms of getting to realize the concerns of the people.

MR. ROBERTS: I do not pretend to. I listened to my colleague who spent eighteen years there.

MR. BARRY: That is right. That is right. But again I am not sure if -

MR. ROBERTS: He likes the price - that is not bad.

MR. BARRY: It is not bad. And he has a very keen interest in the oil industry and I know -

MR. ROBERTS: Inaudible.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. BARRY: - his interest will improve and perk up as he sees the work that the companies are doing now along the Coast.

We have had gas discoveries off Labrador.

MR. ROBERTS: Inaudible.

MR. BARRY: We have had - the gas, Sir, just left. The blow out.

Mr. Speaker, this year, this Summer we will have every dynamically positioned drill ship that is operational in the world, in water depths such as we experienced off the Coast of Labrador, will be operating off Labrador and Newfoundland. That, Mr. Speaker, is some indication that the oil industry believes there is good potential off our shores. These are policies, Mr. Speaker, that while they will not immediately benefit the average Newfoundlander will directly benefit every man, woman, and child in the Province in the long term. This is the area that amazed me - the Leader of the Opposition denying that there had been any improvements in social assistance allowances when I suppose we have one of the better programmes in Canada right now.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. BARRY: Well, I believe we were one of the first provinces to tie it in with the minimum wage.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. BARRY: The Minister of National Health and Welfare says we have the best social assistance programme in Canada. Honourable

members opposite will not pay any attention to that.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. BARRY: You have had the doubling of the minimum wage. You have it again, Mr. Speaker, - I think one of the most important aspects of the revision of the social assistance programme was the fact that you no longer had this distinction between short term and long term recipients. Whereas previously people who were on long term would fight tenaciously to stay on long term rather than take the short term job and then possibly have difficulty in getting qualified again for long term assistance, this problem right now is abolished. There is now an incentive to work. People do not mind taking a job which may be temporary, which they may lose, because they know they will not be prejudiced once they lose their job, and if they have to go back on the welfare rolls. They will have opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to go back to the same level of social assistance as they had before. This is a fact, and it is often overlooked.

And, Mr. Speaker, in another area of social policy - one that is going to be very important this Summer, and one that I am sure honourable members opposite will get much mileage out of, but to their detriment - is in the area of labour relations. And here again I have to ask the Hon. Leader of the Opposition if he does not admit that we have improved labour relations legislation in this Province since this government took over. Now -



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

MR. BARRY: He did not deny that, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. BARRY: He did not deny that.

MR. SPEAKER: I would just like to remind the Hon. Minister of Mines and Energy he has approximately one minute left to finish off except by leave.

MR. BARRY: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Even though there will be complaints, Mr. Speaker, that there are too many strikes and too many people on strike I submit to you that the fact that this government had enough faith in the responsibility, in the good sense of our people, had enough faith to grant collective bargaining rights to our teachers, to our hospital workers, to other public employees, Mr. Speaker, that is a step forward. And that is a policy that I submit benefited many Newfoundlanders. Mr. Speaker, I just mention before I sit down the new ambulance service in the field of health, that I overlooked, as something of crucial importance to every Newfoundlander.

MR. ROBERTS: An extension of an old programme.

MR. BARRY: An extension of an old programme, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition says. Well that may be, but what an extension. Mr. Speaker, to conclude, let me just say that these few details from my own district of Placentia West give some indication of how the ordinary Newfoundlander has benefited and will continue to benefit as long as there is a P. C. Government. But God help us if the honourable crowd opposite every get back.

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

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

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, this is the budget procedure which nobody understands, I venture to say. Mr. Curtis lead the House for twenty-three years, and I am told by somebody who checked it that there were nineteen separate budget procedures in the twenty-three years. But my understanding of it has always been that, you know, now that we have moved that the Speaker leave the Chair, and he has in fact left the Chair and that is the motion which the Hon. Minister of Finance moved when he moved the budget or when he read his budget speech he ended with those words or he should have if he did not that we are supposed to actually do some business. We are supposed to report the estimates to the committee.

AN HON. MEMBER: The estimates, the estimates.

MR. ROBERTS: I mean I do not pretend to understand the procedure. It keeps changing. What is the minister's version this year?

MR. HICKMAN: The estimates will be reported with the Supply Bill which comes in tomorrow and looking at the procedures that have been followed in the past invariably every year in the estimates, somewhere along the line, are changed.-

AN HON. MEMBER: Amended.

MR. HICKMAN: Amended.

- as they were again this year. And the procedure that has been given me is that the committee now rises that on tomorrow -

MR. ROBERTS: The committee rises.

MR. HICKMAN: Yes .

- and that on tomorrow -

MR. ROBERTS: While the committee rises.

MR. HICKMAN: Right.

- and that on tomorrow the Minister of Finance or the Acting Minister of Finance brings in a new message from the

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Tape no. 1775

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Governor which sets forth the amended Supply Bill, the  
amended resolution asking for Supply following which there  
is the Supply Bill that is passed

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Tape 1776 (night)

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containing the amounts that were actually voted in the estimates, and that is it.

MR. OTTENHEIMER: Sounds straight forward.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Inaudible.

MR. HICKMAN: Well, I guess that we did it on June 30, 1972 and in 1971.

MR. OTTENHEIMER: Well, it certainly sounds excellent.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: You say that in 1971 was the last time you -

MR. HICKMAN: Right. Well, you know, the -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. HICKMAN: Yes. The next step really is to get the message and the supply bill which implements the final figures that were approved when the estimates went through the committee. That is the name of the game.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, if Your Honour is satisfied, I am not going to -

MR. OTTENHEIMER: Is His Honour satisfied?

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): Fine.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Ways and Means have directed me to report progress and ask leave to sit again.

MR. SPEAKER: The Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means reports that they have considered the matters to them referred and report having made progress and ask leave to sit again.

When shall this report be received?

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, just for the record. May I ask what was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: A hypothetical question.

MR. ROBERTS: It is not a hypothetical question.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: What was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. ROBERTS: I know hypothesis.

MP. SPEAKER: The Chair thought that the Committee of Ways and Means had reported to the Chair, and the Chair has accepted this report.

MR. ROBERTS: Your Honour, I do not quarrel with that. But, Your Honour, and this is a debatable motion, I think, by the way - Your Honour says that the Committee on Ways and Means have considered the matters to them referred. All I want to know is what matters to them were referred.

MR. OTTENHEIMER: The consideration of the Budget Speech I presume.

MR. SPEAKER: The Chair is saying -

MR. ROBERTS: You can presume what you -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

The Chair is saying that the Chairman of Committee of Ways and means has reported they have considered the matters to them referred. The Chair is not saying that.

MR. ROBERTS: No, Sir, with all respect, Your Honour, I heard the report given by the honourable gentleman and if you check the tapes what it said in its entirety was the Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means has met, reports progress and asks leave to sit again. He did not mention any matters to them referred. I mean, I just heard him. We all heard him.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MP. ROBERTS: Obviously, yes the Speaker was used according to the Speaker.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Inaudible.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

The Chairman is reporting that the Committee has risen and asks leave to sit again.

MR. ROBERTS: Well, Your Honour that is fine. That is true. But, Your Honour, that is not the motion Your Honour was about to put.

MR. SPEAKER: The Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means reports that they have considered the matters to them referred and report having made progress and ask leave to sit again.

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



April 24, 1975

Tape 1776 (night)

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MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I move that the remaining Orders of the Day do stand deferred and that this House on its rising do adjourn until tomorrow, Friday, April 25, at eleven of the clock, and that this House do now adjourn.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: How about eight thirty?

MR. HICKMAN: Inaudible.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Inaudible.

MR. SPEAKER: It has been moved and seconded that the House do now adjourn - Order, please!

On motion that the House at its rising do now adjourn until tomorrow, Friday, at eleven of the clock.

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Presenting Petitions

By Mr. Morgan on behalf of 357 voters of the communities of Winter Brook, Brooklyn, Portland and Jamestown asking that 15 miles of road be upgraded and paved. Supported by Mr. Neary, Mr. Rousseau.

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Notice of Motion

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Mr. Earle to move the House into a Committee of the Whole to consider certain resolutions in relation to the advancing or guaranteeing of certain loans.

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Oral Questions

Steps taken to improve road conditions on the Cape Shore. Mr. Aylward, Mr. Rousseau.

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Query as to whether equipment to improve highway at St. Bride's has arrived at the community but that the minister has not given instructions for work to start.

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Query as to whether persons convicted by the courts have to wait for space to become available at the Penitentiary before they can start serving their sentences. Mr. Neary, Mr. Hickman.

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Availability of financing for work to continue on installation of water and sewer systems at Bonavista. Mr. Neary, Mr. Peckford.

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Query as to whether the minister is aware that his department has already ordered the pipe and material for the project. Mr. Neary, Mr. Peckford.

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Whether a petition has been received from Conception Bay North sheep farmers concerning protection of their flocks from dogs. Mr. Thoms, Mr. Collins.

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Origin of the circular. Mr. Thoms, Mr. Peckford.

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Query as to when the half load limit on certain highways will be lifted. Capt. Winsor, Mr. Rousseau.

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Query as to when the Premier anticipates announcing a program of the Newfoundland Government similar to the federal Government's program of \$50 million to help the fisheries. Mr. Thoms, Premier Moores.

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Query concerning plans to expand the Jackman Memorial Hospital at Labrador City. Mr. Neary, Dr. A. Rowe. 5062

Financial aid for the Gander Hospital so staff can be hired and 40 beds made available. Mr. Thoms, Dr. A. Rowe. 5063

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Mr. Neary 5115

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