

PRELIMINARY

UNEDITED

TRANSCRIPT

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

FOR THE PERIOD:

8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 26, 1977

The House resumed at 8:00 P.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! The hon. member for Windsor-Buchans.

MR. G. FLIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Minister of Transportation is not in his seat, so I will go to another subject. The subject I was on - I intended to use the last ten minutes or whatever I have left, eight minutes, pointing out what I consider, Mr. Speaker, -

AN HON. MEMBER: You can go back now.

MR. FLIGHT: -the indifference, the unconcern, the incompetence of this administration, incompetence proven this past year and a half, Mr. Speaker, not going back twenty-three years, this last year and a half. The Minister of Transportation, as I pointed out, one full year - the Ministry of Transportation - one full year to reconstruct two miles of highroad on the Trans-Canada Highway. One full year! Mr. Speaker, can you imagine what would happen had that by-pass not been there, had that washout occurred anywhere there was no by-pass? The link, the main traffic route of this Province would have been cut!

MR. MORGAN: Nobody had a washout.

MR. FLIGHT: So, Mr. Speaker, that is one example.

Now very quickly, when I left I was talking about five miles of road built to government standards, government built roads, one of the best gravel roads in this Province today, and there are very few people, including the members of this House, who even know it exists, and it is located forty miles up on the end of Price woods roads up in Lloyds Lake area. Four years ago, to give you an example of priority and planning by this government - five years ago - about four years ago I was a part of a delegation that came in representing the Local Improvement District of Buchans, pointing out that the mine future was in question, and that were things needed to be done to guarantee the operation, the viability of the mines. The Minister of Transportation at the time, who is the present Minister of Tourism, we had

MR. FLIGHT:

requested the Buchans Howley Road, and they had decided that was not the route they had intended to go, but they were going to put all priority on the Buchans-Burgeo Road. And at the time, Mr. Speaker, the minister indicated, and his deputy minister, that they were declaring Buchans a special area; they were going to take an inventory of all of the potential development in the area, and that there were men going in the field that Summer. That never happened, Mr. Speaker, but here is what happened; The Department of Transportation called a contract for five miles of road built by Eastern Road Builders forty miles removed from any means of getting to it presently, You cannot get to that five miles of road. There has not been one inch of road built since. It is in there, Price (Nfld.) is using it to pull their logs and their logging operation over it. Mr. Speaker, the people of Buchans would be - I stand here and say it would have been better if the Ministry of Transportation at the time would have put that five miles on the Burgeo road. It is there, five, six, seven hundred thousand dollars sitting in there - now that is an example of planning and priority by this administration.

Like I said, I hope the press is listening, because maybe they might want to check into it. Maybe they would want to go in and find five miles of road built by this administration, with all the financial restraint that is on the go today, we have five miles of road in there that nobody but nobody can use. You have to drive over forty miles of Price (Nfld.) road to get to it, and this past four years not one inch.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Forestry and Environment, last year I stood in this House, Mr. Speaker, and I pointed out -

AN HON. MEMBER: Forestry and Agriculture.

MR. FLIGHT: - we got into a great debate about the waste that is going on in our forest management. I pointed out about the wood floating free on Red Indian Lake, the hundreds of thousands of cords of wood that over the years have floated free up there. And

MR. FLIGHT: I would say to the Minister of Environment now to contact Price and find out how many cords of wood they lost at one shot last Fall out of Lloyds River, how many thousands of cords - one flush overnight, floating free in Red Indian Lake, a mistake. It would stagger the minister, just one bang came out by mistake and it is floating free. It is all around Red Indian Lake and that is added to the thousands of cords that was there in the first place.

MR. MURPHY: Wood owned by Price.

MR. FLIGHT: Wood owned by Price and stockpiled by Price.

MR. MURPHY: Paid for and cut by Price.

MR. FLIGHT: Paid and cut by Price, but that does not excuse it, not in my opinion, I do not know if it does in the minister's.

MR. MURPHY: In your evidence there, I mean they were paid for cutting it and everything else, they is no doubt about it.

MR. FLIGHT: The loggers were paid, but it was a waste of the economy of this Province. It could have helped kept the Limerboard mill going for another year or two maybe.

MR. MURPHY: Well, it could use it.

MR. FLIGHT: Yes.

MR. MURPHY: I agree with you there.

MR. FLIGHT: Mr. Speaker, four years ago, five years ago, the people of Grand Falls made representations to the Minister of Health for additions to the Grand Falls Hospital. Five years and there is no commitment yet, Mr. Speaker, and they do not know if there is going to be a commitment in this budget. The costs have escalated almost twice-the estimated cost of that extension right now is almost twice what it was when the original estimate was presented.

That hospital has been promised, the extension has been promised, and it has been needed - no extension to the Grand Falls hospital.

MR. FLIGHT: Consumer Affairs, Mr. Speaker. I raised the insurance issue in this House a few days ago, and the minister in answer to a question indicated that if I could find, or any hon. member could find some person who was getting ripped off by insurance companies to bring it to his attention, and I suggest to the minister that that is not satisfactory. The fact is, Mr. Speaker, all of Newfoundland is getting gouged by insurance companies, and I would see it as the responsibility of the Department of Consumer Affairs to take it on themselves to investigate what is happening in the insurance business in this Province. Well the question at the time was automobile insurance, I raised the question on fire insurance. But the people of this Province should not have to bring it individually; it is important enough what is happening in this Province for the minister to accept the responsibility and let the Department of Consumer Affairs do a survey and find out what is going on and stop the rip-off and gouging that the insurance companies are doing.

MR. MURPHY: We had 3,360 -
enquiries last year, to give you some idea.

MR. FLIGHT: Mr. Speaker, I am out of time. I only have seven minutes.

AN HON. MEMBER: By leave.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No, no!

MR. FLIGHT: No leave. I would not expect to get any leave, Mr. Speaker. I had some other points to make and I will make them before this session closes.

AN HON. MEMBER: By leave, by leave.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Five minutes.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! In order that we know whether the hon. gentleman has leave or not, does he have leave to continue?

AN HON. MEMBER: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not heard any negative comments so the hon. gentleman may continue.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. FLIGHT: Mr. Speaker, I will clue it up. There is another point I want to make here, and it is with the unbelievable approach to tourism in this Province that this administration has taken. There are people in this Province, Mr. Speaker, who believe that somewhere down the road - ten, fifteen, twenty years from now - the tourist industry in this Province, the recreational facilities, the recreational and tourist potential, development potential, may be the backbone of the economy of this Province. It is not hard to visualize, Mr. Speaker, when we see what is happening in Mainland Canada and the United States.

And, Mr. Speaker, the approach to tourism in this Province is wiping out, guaranteeing, that twenty years from now if we continue to go the rate we are going we will have nothing else to develop. The present Minister of Tourism gets into a situation last year where our provincial parks are overcrowded, and what is his solution? He increases the rate in the parks by \$1.50 per day and makes a statement saying that that is done to keep out the mainland tourists. That is developing the tourist potential of this Province, that is attracting the tourists that we want to come in and leave and spend their dollars. Mr. Speaker, in face of all the criticism, in face of all the conservationists in this Province, in the face of all the Rod and Gun Clubs and anybody who knows anything about our big game population, the minister this year allowed his biologists, accented the advise that saw an increase in big game licences by 1400 people, 1400

MR. THOMAS:

big game license. In other words, the allotted bill can be increased by 1400. Mr. Speaker, if we ever get to the day that tourist potential in this Province is indeed the backbone, or even if it is a contributor to the economy, the big game of this Province will be an asset. And if we keep going the way we are going - it does not sound much, it sounds petty when you compare it to Come By Chance, or when you compare it to the Limerboard mill or Upper Churchill - but it is going to play a very important role in the way of life of a lot of people of this Province, Mr. Speaker. Rural Newfoundland could well depend on the tourist potential. And I would suggest that a goose standing on the side of the Trans-Canada ten years from now will be more valuable to the economy of this Province than one shot by a non-resident hunter coming in here, or for that matter one shot by a resident.

Mr. Speaker, if we do not watch what is happening to our environment, if the Minister of Tourism and the Minister of Environment do not get together and stop the rape of this Province, the rape of the rivers, our environment being wiped out, we will have nothing left and their legacy to Newfoundland will be, "We destroyed any heritage you had. We destroyed any possibility of you existing in this Province by right of developing your tourist potential." What a legacy it will be! Mr. Speaker, that is it. I am going to wrap it up.

Everybody else ended their speech, Mr. Speaker, on a note of a poet today and I am going to end mine. The only thing is the hon. member for Trillingate (Mr. Smallwood) beat me to it. He used the lines to the Minister of Finance, that if the Minister of Finance - he said something about the budget for you to bring down - if you brought down a budget he did not agree with, he would go down unwept, unrepented and unsure. And I suggest to this administration, if you continue to go the way you have gone this past two years or this past three years, if you continue to ignore the problems of this Province, ignore every community, everything that we could possibly develop, if you continue to ignore the wishes of the people of this Province, you will return ^{to} the dust from which you sprang/Unwept

MR. FLIGHT:

unhonoured and unsung." And the crime is this - I will add a line - the crime is that in your mad haste to prove your incompetence, in your mad haste to self destruct, the crying shame is that in taking yourselves down, in going down where you belong, you will take the Province with you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Stephenville.

AN HON. MEMBER: You only have a few moments.

MR. MCNEIL: Mr. Speaker, as the House Leader mentioned I only have a few moments.

AN HON. MEMBER: Three quarters of an hour.

MR. MCNEIL: Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to take my full time allotment but I do want to make a few comments. Mr. Speaker, the biggest concern in my district today is without a doubt the future of the Labrador Linerboard operation. Will the operation continue to operate? And most importantly, will Linerboard be a viable operation in the foreseeable future? Mr. Speaker, I think that the Stephenville Linerboard mill can be a viable operation. And if it is not, I suspect that we will see a chain reaction of failures in Newfoundland. We will see with the closure of Labrador Linerboard, shortly after that, the closure of Bowaters and then maybe even Price.

In the task force of 1973, which was done by the Newfoundland Federal and Provincial Task Force on Forestry, the section dealing with the futures of our Newfoundland paper mills is deleted. And the reason given is that it was not in the best interests of the Province. Now, Mr. Speaker, what was in that report and why should it be concealed from the people? Are we going to see enactment of the linerboard bills over again, that the people in that area will be notified of its closure just a few days prior to closing it down? Will this happen in Corner Brook and maybe in Grand Falls? The warning is in the task force of 1973. It is there.

MR. MCNEIL:

Mr. Speaker, the linerboard mill can be a viable operation as reports in the last six months have been proving. All indications that I have been getting myself are pointing towards success in the foreseeable future. But it will not happen tomorrow. It is a couple of years down the line. But it is a gamble worth taking by this administration, and it must be taken.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MCNEIL: Mr. Speaker, the problem that was mentioned over the last few years has been the high cost of wood. We have seen that cost of wood coming down from \$100 to an average I am told of about \$60 today.

I am also told that we can import from Nova Scotia and P.E.I. about 200,000 cords of wood landed in Stephenville for about \$65 a cord. I am also told that if we could keep our wood costs down to about \$50 a cord, and with the anticipated increase in the marketplace, we can make the Linerboard a successful operation. Possibly within three years it will not only covering its operating expenses, it will be servicing its debt.

Mr. Speaker, in the Task Force, the Federal - Provincial Task Force in 1973, it pointed out, it recommended to the government that the forest must be rationalized, that timber concessions have to be realigned to suit the three mills. It stated then that if this did not happen the success of Labrador Linerboard would be in doubt.

Mr. Speaker, if Labrador Linerboard closes this year, less than five years down the road I say the cry will come out from the established companies, our good corporate citizens, they will say that we do not have an economic wood supply. Why? The budworm has destroyed it! But they knew the budworm was around here going back a few years when there was only about ten or twenty per cent in our forests. Why did they not get together and use this wood immediately and use it and curtail the spread of the spruce budworm? Not wait until it is out of proportion, until it is now at a very academic standard, or epidemic standard.

MR. ROY: Educated spruce budworms.

MR. MCNEIL: We have in our Province today

MR. MCNEIL: a very educated spruce budworm, there is no doubt about that.

Mr. Speaker, reference had been presented to the Cabinet - I do not know how many years ago - for the establishing of a wood harvesting corporation which would supply wood at an economical rate to the Stephenville Linerboard mill and possibly to the other two mills as well. It also would deal with wood harvesting in Labrador. We cannot forget Labrador. The major problem cited was the high cost of transportation. Well, if transportation is that big a problem, why do we not use Marystown, our ship building yard, build our own ships? We need them for the fishery. We could control these shipping contracts.

I am told that the shipping contracts have cost our Province so much money we could have bought the ships.

MR. NEARY: That is true.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MCNEIL: Mr. Speaker, in the light of that we could have our own ships and you could name them the A.E. Hickman -

AN HON. MEMBER: T.A.

MR. MCNEIL: - or the T.A. Hickman.

MR. SIMMONS: I like A.E.

MR. MCNEIL: All the minister could have a ship and name them themselves.

MR. ROBERTS: The James Morgan would never leave dock.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. ROBERTS: The Walter Cartor and Son would be permanently overseas.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. ROBERTS: And the Harold Collins would not say anything.

MR. MCNEIL: Mr. Speaker, the high cost of wood has contributed to the operating expenses being very high, very costly. We are told that we are not competitive with the U.S. mills, with the Southern mills. According to market forecasts the demand for linerboard is presently on the increase. They are saying that Canada by 1978 will have problems supplying its own domestic supply.

MR. MCNEIL: The point I must point out here is that Labrador Linerboard up until this year never did supply the Canadian market. We have a box plant here in St. John's operated by GIP, they do not buy one single scrap of Linerboard, a disgrace.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. MCNEIL: Other reports go on to say that by 1979 there could be a real shortage of linerboard in the world market. Now if there is a real shortage of any product you will see an increase in cost, or I should say in price. The experts are going as far as to say that there is going to be such a shortage of newsboard and newspaper products that it is going to have a direct cause of slowing down our economy. You will not be able to get linerboard. You will not be able to make cardboard boxes because you will not be able to get the linerboard. It will slow down our economy. But we here in this Province, our administration, is taking a copping out attitude. They are going to close it up and they will say hopefully in three years we will open it up again. Forget it. In three years the rats will have it, or the spruce budworm.

MR. MURPHY: I would like for the hon. member to have been down in the Cabinet when we were told how much assistance this was going to take, about ten or eleven years ago.

MR. ROVE: Was the hon. minister down there?

MR. MURPHY: The whole House was down there and told the whole story.

MR. MCNEIL: I do not have the answers to it all, and neither does the hon. member, but if we would all work in the same direction maybe we could find the answers.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. MCNEIL: Of any one project in this Province today, Labrador Linerboard is probably the turning point because if we do not turn it now it is going to be failure after failure and we will never attract outside investment money. We need a success in this Province, and not blueberry picking either.

MR. MORGAN: We do not want John Doyle running around either.

MR. BIRCHOUT: Is that why you want to close it up?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Order, please! There are too many interruptions. The hon. gentleman should continue without this kind of interruption.

MR. ROBERTS: Hear! Hear! Good ruling.

MR. MCNEIL: Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt Labrador Linerboard has been a sore point for the administration. It is no doubt that the people in Stephenville, and I am a resident of Stephenville, and you can go back to day one, we did not ask for Labrador Linerboard, We asked the government of that day and the government of today to utilize the vast property that was left by Uncle Sam for the benefit of the people and the Province. That is all the people in that area asked; they asked the establishment of a community college, or shall we say a regional college, but what we got was a community college, a watered-down version -

MR. NEARY: In a very small building.

MR. MCNEIL: And a very small building And if our industrial life in Stephenville, our Labrador Linerboard, fails so does the community college concept. We will probably be all weaving baskets and doing odd little things of that nature.

My hon. colleague from Port au Port (Mr. J. Toddar) stated that possibly the community college could come to be known in Stephenville as what the Fisheries College is known in St. John's, to the logging industry. And all indications are now that its chance of success is very, very slim indeed.

MR. MCNEIL: Mr. Speaker, I do not want to go on and point out time and time again the abuses of Labrador Timberboard. I could bring up some of the past track record in that area and it is not very good.

MR. MORGAN: It is an improvement, is it not?

MR. ROBERTS: That was a project for the Tories;

MR. ROBERTS: now we want a project for the people,

MR. MCNEIL: Mr. Speaker, the administration has a challenge indeed to try to make Labrador Linerboard a successful operation. The people in the Bay St. George area feel that the operation can be successful.

MR. ROBERTS: Hear, hear!

MR. MCNEIL: In the last six months if you look at it very closely you will see that they have turned things around, and that is mainly because of a real solid, positive direction from its president and general manager. I must say that the Advisory Board has been working very hard, and has contributed to a sense of positive direction in the community.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. MCNEIL: And now the people in that area feel that we are moving in a direction, now the administration wants to pull the rug from underneath. That rug has been pulled so many times that the people stay up in the air because they feel it is no use to come down.

Mr. Speaker, all the people in that area want is to be given a chance, with direction. They have seen failure after failure and no direction, no direction.

The Linerboard situation right now, if this administration went back to the people, and to the workers, lay all cards on the table, not a game of showdown, all they want is the facts, they want the truth.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MCNEIL: They want to know where they stand, and the administration may be a little surprised. They might in their simple-minded way, so I am told, in that area, the people, namely we Jackatars, may be able to just give a little bit of common sense, and a little bit of direction, and it may prove to be successful. It has been done in other parts of Canada, where the workers the people themselves, the community people, got involved, we

Mr. McNeil:

saw it in the mining industry, where the people got involved, a mine was going to close, the people got involved, brought shares into it, and now they own the mine, and now it is being a very successful operation.

Mr. Speaker, Labrador Linerboard can be successful. Our government must commit themselves to go out to the Bay St. George area, or let the fact be known in the Province, find out the abuse that is in the past, the present, and what do you have for the future? Give us some direction for the future, your plan for the future, not a day to day operation. Five years down the road we should be looking at. And you can tell the people, as you are moving from year to year, if we achieve this, we will continue to do this, etc. etc. And you will find the people very co-operative and they will not let you down.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MCNEIL: Mr. Speaker, I am told that the bottom is out of the market. There is no doubt that the bottom has been out of the market. April 1, we saw the big companies, some of the bigger U.S. companies who control market, put up their linerboard \$20 a ton, Now it is still down around \$250, \$225, Granted it is still too low for us yet at our high operating cost, but I am told that within eighteen months that price will go up to about over \$300 a ton. So that means that we are at a breaking point.

AN HON. MEMBER: A break even point.

MR. MCNEIL: A break even point, somewhere around \$300 a ton. If we go back and try to modernize our plant, for example, the bark that is being used in that area is trucked to the dump yard. What about if we had a press installed and used that bark to supplement our fuel? Would not there be a saving there? What about all of the steam that is going up the spout into the air? Could not that be converted and bring down our electrical bill a small bit?

MR. MCNEILL:

Could it not be the jackladder or the dry land system that is there now, it has to be modified a little bit. Could that not save thousands or millions of dollars of storage of wood on the land rather than storing it in the pond. I am told that any wood that is stored in a pond from an industry standard you lose anywhere from five to ten per cent wood that is stored in a pond. And you could take 200,000 cords stored in a pond, you lose five per cent of that at \$100 a cord. They lost a lot of money over the last few years.

AN HON. MEMBER: That per cent?

MR. MCNEILL: Well, I will just take a low of five.

Mr. Speaker, the plant by all standards in industry is supposed to be one of the best in Canada, maybe in the world, I do not know. But according to people whom I have talked to across Canada it is one of the best. People in industry do not want to touch it because they figure it is infested with political problems. And how true!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

AN HON. MEMBER: Political budworm.

MR. MCNEILL: Political budworm, yes.

Mr. Speaker, in the marketplace Labrador Linerboard has a very poor reputation and it is mainly due because of political interference. We have seen in the marketplace people are saving - and I have gotten little telegrams from Germany and other places in the world who state, "We do not know if you are going to be open in a year's time. Why should we buy from you? We are worried about 1978, 1979, 1980. That is what we are worried about. And we are going to go to the established firms where we know they will supply us. We are not going to go with you people. You do not even know if you are going to be open a few months from now. Let alone a few years."

Mr. Speaker, right from day one report after report has been done, recommendations, but they were never implemented. That is where most of the problems lie. The place has been probably studied to death and nothing done about it, lack of action.

MR. NEARY: They have enough equipment down there to keep half the mills in the world going, stored, put in storage, mothballed.

MR. MCNEIL: For example, the Task Force on Forestry, I will just quote you a little piece here, "The company cannot afford any more trial and error in its harvesting and wood transportation operations. It is recommended that a full scale investigation be launched into the system for moving wood from Goose Bay and other Coastal points to Stephenville with a view to achieving sufficient reduction in wood delivery costs." That was in 1973.

The problems of Labrador Lumberboard, as have been told us many times, is too well aware of by the ministers. They know it. But, Mr. Speaker, they will not take a forceful hand and try to find a successful, or build a successful operation. If it means cutting a few corners, you cut. If it means spending more dollars to improve the system, you spend them. But at five years down the line or whatever the case may be you should get the results that you demand, and you demand them.

Mr. Speaker, the shipping, I am told, is a nightmare.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Crosbie got one of the ships now that is supposed to be hauling the wood down in Labrador.

MR. MCNEIL: And if we were thinking in terms of our Province and our people, we would probably have given the Marystown shipyard a contract to build a vessel of some type for the Stephenville operation seeing this is the money of the taxpayers. We could have kept that money circulated within the Province without giving it to some shipping firm from outside. We would have ships at our disposal whenever we needed them. But what have we got right now? All we have is a handful of bills, IOU's or whatever the case may be.

I am told that if Labrador Lumberboard closes it will cost the provincial government the first year of closure over \$62 million.

MR. MCNEIL: According to research people of all different types and shares -

MR. DEARY: Good figure.

MR. MCNEIL: -they are stating that it is going to cost in excess of over \$62 million to close it down year one, and then it gradually comes down.

MR. ROBERTS: That is a real figure, not just a bookkeeping figure.

MR. MCNEIL: Now what are the figures to keep it operating? We have been told that it has been losing - what? - \$35 million is the figure most used.

MR. ROBERTS: Nobody knows. They will not give us financial statements.

MR. MCNEIL: So even if you take \$50 million, is it not more sensible to keep it open and try to bring it down. One of the terms of reference to the Advisory Board, from the government to the Advisory Board, is try to bring down the cost so that it can be bearable to the Province. When you see a wood cost coming down from \$108 now to, say, \$60 there is a vast improvement there. But if you are looking at it from a year to year financial statement, you are not going to see it in this year's financial statement it is only going to show up next year. And now I am told that within the next week a decision will be made for the continuing operation of Labrador Linerboard or closing it down.

I am also told that the Advisory Board does not have its final report in. Now I can see their making a decision in favour of keeping the mill open at this point in time. But I cannot see the administration, in their wisdom, closing it down at this time without having the last final report of the Advisory Board in, the last bit of information saying that it is not feasible and that the only choice you have is closing it down.

MR. MCNEIL: But this final report has not come in, and I am told that it probably will not be in for probably - well according to the terms of reference of the Advisory Board they do not have to submit it until the end of June.

Mr. Speaker, I hope and I pray that this administration will not in their haste make a decision regarding Labrador Linerboard, its future, on pure political grounds.

MR. NEARY: And you know what they will say now. They will get up and say, "Well you fellows over there started it and here we are suffering."

SOME HON. MEMBER: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: Well I would like to hear the comments, especially from the member for St. John's North. Hugh started it so -

MR. MURPHY: When?

MR. NEARY: Hugh Cole.

MR. MCNEIL: Mr. Speaker, we have the mill there, it is one of Canada's top linerboard mills. We can make it viable and we should make it viable, and this administration should commit themselves to it rather than waffling on the point.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: Never mind trying to blame it on somebody else. We have heard enough of that malarkey.

MR. MCNEIL: Mr. Speaker, the whole question, the financial question, we have not seen a financial statement for Labrador Linerboard since -

MR. ROBERTS: We are doing March 1975, two years ago.

MR. NEARY: And they cannot blame that on you.

MR. ROBERTS: They are hiding it.

MR. MCNEIL: There is very little information coming out.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. MCNEIL: I think the people of this Province deserve the right to know all the facts of Labrador Linerboard, its past as well as its present and its future.

MR. ROBERTS: Hear! Hear!

MR. MCNEIL: The most important thing I think in this Province right now is that our future right now in this Province to be given a little direction. If Linerboard closes, the Western part of the Province is pretty well sunk. And at the Board of Trade they wanted their newsletters to mention this a while ago, that if Labrador Linerboard is not successful it will have a substantial economic effect on the future of St. John's.

I am very glad that the board of trade are starting to recognize the outside part of our Province because without the outside part of our Province, outside the Avalon Peninsula there is no St. John's.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. NEARY: The next thing they will be closing down will be Marvstown, then they will close down the cement mills, then they will close down the hardwood plant, close down everything that the former liberal administration set up. Blame it all on 'Joev.' That will be the counter-argument.

MR. McNEIL: It is unfortunate that the PC administration go down in the history books as an administration who were gifted in the art of closing down and destroying industry.

AN HON. MEMBER: 'Close her down Frank'

MR. McNEIL: Mr. Speaker, I hope that the pages of history can be changed, I hope that the PC administration will change history, will make the Labrador Linerboard a successful operation whereby it can contribute to the economy of our Province. And with a little bit of effort, and within the last few months I must say there has been a lot of effort gone into the Linerboard operation, and there is no administration at any point in time had so much co-operation, so much backing behind trying to find a solution to that industry.

AN HON. MEMBER: The right administration -

MR. McNEIL: The Premier has all the people in the Province - I do not know about all, but the majority of them in the palm of his hand if he would give a little bit of direction with regards to the Linerboard operation.

AN HON. MEMBER: He got the whole world in his hands.

MR. McNEIL: The administration cannot say to date that we on this side of the House have overly criticized the government on the handling of Linerboard in the past few months.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. McNEIL: Since the Advisory Board has been set up we have seen -

MR. NEARY: Well the hon. Premier has invited me into his Cabinet three or four times.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER MOORES: If I invite the hon. member in it will be in the back porch of the House. I will tell you right now.

MR. NEARY: It must be since Scrivener came up.

PREMIER MOORES: Only since you did.

MR. NEARY: Very sensitive again tonight.

PREMIER MOORES: Not at all.

MR. NEARY: Tell us about parks now.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please! The hon. member for Stephenville is still in the midst of his remarks and should not be interrupted.

MR. McNEIL: Mr. Speaker, I think that the Moores P.C. administration, if they so desire - they got the will, the determination - I think that with the co-operation of this side of the House - and they have been getting it -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. McNEIL: - with regards to Linerboard.

SOME HON MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. McNEIL: The good member over there, if you would like for me to throw some mud I have all kinds that I could dig up and throw around.

AN HON. MEMBER: We are trying to do our best now.

Starting with him.

MR. NEARY: We did not start it, we tried to stop it. Blame it on Joey. The fact that we cannot get a financial report, you cannot blame that on Joey. You spent \$300 million on it. You cannot blame that on 'Joey.'

AN HON. MEMBER: Mismanagement.

MR. McNEIL: Mr. Speaker, I will try to refrain myself and my colleagues on this side of the House from being negative. We have been accused of being negative from time to time.

MR. ROWE: It is hard enough to be negative with this crowd.

MR. McNEIL: But, Mr. Speaker, we will try to be - and as we have in the past - to be a source of maybe inspiration or encouragement to the administration to continue the hard drive forward. We know it is difficult and we want you to continue it, because at the end, and not too long from now we will probably see a little bit of light.

AN HON. MEMBER: Impossible.

MR. McNEIL: Well, you have got to live in hope and pray, and dear God, the last few months my knees are wore out -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. McNEIL: because I think it is only a miracle that we are going to get this administration moving. Well unless a general election will do it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. McNEIL: Mr. Speaker, I will hold the wager, I will hold the wager.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

The hon. member for Stephenville is speaking.

MR. MCNEIL: Mr. Speaker, regarding the Labrador Lingerboard, I will close my remarks -

MR. ROWE: You have about twenty minutes left.

MR. MCNEIL: Yes, but I said I was not going to use all my time.

AN HON. MEMBER: Plenty of time.

MR. MCNEIL: Plenty of time? Mr. Speaker, the points that I mentioned with regards to Labrador Lingerboard, the biggest point was the wood operations, and in that area we have seen vast improvements and I think we shall continue to see more. There are a few grey areas, like, for example, what destructive force will the spruce budworm have on the future of our forests, and whoever has to make the decision of spraying or not to spray, I am glad it is not I making the decision, because I know it is going to be a very painful decision.

But the agony that I have when I see these things now coming to light, when we are told by people who are supposed to be in the know that the forest is now infested to the degree of eighty to ninety per cent, why did we wait so long? Why do we always wait so long? And the same with Lingerboard. We knew, or the administration knew when they took it over that it had major problems. They knew every step of the way that there were major problems. But somewhere along the line they gave up and that is why we are in such a mess today.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the administration will work towards the continuation of Labrador Lingerboard, and most of all I hope that they will work towards trying to make it a viable operation. And when it reaches that point, Mr. Speaker, I will possibly maybe even do an aerial flip right on the floor, because it is so unlikely that they will continue their -

AN HON. MEMBER: A what?

MR. MCNEIL: An aerial flip.

AN HON. MEMBER: An aerial flip?

MR. MCNEIL: An aerial flip, yes.

AN HON. MEMBER: With your kilt?

MR. MCNEIL: No, without my kilt.

AN HON. MEMBER: Without your kilt, oh!

MR. ROBT: I have heard of topless, but bottomless it going to hell with it.

MR. MCNEIL: Mr. Speaker, I will leave Labrador Linerboard just for a moment. There are two areas in my district, Coal Brook and Noels Pond. One area is in the little community of Coal Brook. The people in that community were year after year, since the last maybe two or three years, applying for assistance from the administration to install a water system. They finally gave up and they started the work themselves. They dug the lines themselves and finally at the end I spoke personally with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and he did come through at the very end with a couple of thousand dollars, which were very nicely received. But this is the thing that kind of frightens me, the fact that how far do the local people have to go before this government will come to their rescue?

Any other programme in any other community will in all likelihood receive the full benefit, but not in the district of Stephenville. In this little community where they asked for a water system, they did not receive it, that kind of treatment. But the people did not give up. They said, "Well if our government cannot do it, we will do it ourselves," and they did and then the government came in and assisted which was very nicely seen. I think this type of initiative is typical of the people in and around the Bay St. George area and that same principle can be applied to the Labrador Linerboard situation.

With regards to recreation in the community - and mostly my district is made up of Stephenville - when you consider the age of its population, it is very young; you must without doubt say that recreation has to play a very important part. And when you see reports about the problems of the youth, and if you compare it against any other part of the Province or a community

Mr. McNeil:

on a population basis you will see that maybe the community is not all that bad, the people are not bad, except the fact that they have such a large growing part of their population, the young people, and they need direction, a sense of belonging, not only to the community but to a province in which they can build a future on, because they would like to contribute back to the Province of Newfoundland. And at this point, once they leave high school, they have to make plans to leave the Province altogether. It is very sad.

Mr. Speaker, I will close my remarks, and I do hope and I do pray that the administration will make a decision regarding the future of Labrador Linerboard for the benefit of the people in the Bay St. George area, and for the people in the Province as a whole, And I think if the people are asked to help they will help, and if we all work together we can achieve success in that industry.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: (Dr. Collins): The hon. member for Port au Port.

AN HON. MEMBER: You are not suppose to speak.

AN HON. MEMBER: You are not allowed to speak.

MR. J. HODDER: Mr. Speaker,

AN HON. MEMBER: As soon as the hon. House Leader stepped out he popped up.

MR. J. HODDER: If I could start, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker, I just have a few words to say. I had intended to say a few words about the fishery in my district, and the mining and agriculture and one thing and the other, but at the present time in my district, as in all of Bay St. George, I do not think anybody wants to hear about anything else other than the Labrador Linerboard Limited. For the past six months it has been uncomfortable to live in my district or to live in Stephenville, because the cloud that has hung over the town, the cloud that has hung over the area and the whole of Bay St. George is such that actually the people in the area changed. I guess, perhaps my hon. friend from Naskaupi (Mr. Goudie) would be able to realize the feeling

Mr. Hodder:

that is in a town when the axe is dangling over its head, and then when finally it falls. And we have been waiting at least the blow was clean in that area but we have been waiting for quite a long time now wondering what is going to happen in the area. And one of the frustrating things about the area, one of the frustrating things the people of Bay St. George have found, is that there has been no information. I worked with an impact committee in that area, I have been working with them for some time, and they have gone to the Advisory Board, they have gone to government, they have gone to various areas trying to get information, trying to find out, get a few facts and figures, and they ended up going throughout the Province themselves and having to glean whatever information they could about the woodlands, about the mill and whatever on their own, because there was no information forthcoming.

The financial statements are two years old. We keep hearing figures. We do not know whether they are valid or not. We keep hearing statements made by the government, but there are very few hard facts in those statements. And living in this vacuum for the past six months has been unbearable for me, and unbearable for the people of Bay St. George.

Now in my district of Port au Port you can almost divide the district into areas which might be called woodlands area, and linerboard mill area. The community of Kippen's, the community of Port au Port East, part of the community of Port au Port West, in that particular area many of the people work in the mill itself. In the other areas of the Cape St. George and to the Lourdes area, and down in the Point au Mal area, and down the Black Duck Brook area to a lesser extent, many of the men worked in the woods industry. Now in the outer part of the district to all intents and purposes the mill has closed, because the woods industry was shut down last year, and we have been suffering the blows and the trials from that closedown,

Mr. J. Hodder: the economic deprivation that has pervaded that area, the unemployment and everything else. We have suffered that already in that particular part of the district. But at the present time the areas of the district from where the people work in the mill itself are now hanging under a cloud.

Now I heard a figure from the Stephenville Manpower Office that there was something like 5,000 people in the area who had their names down looking for work. I do not know how accurate that figure is but I think it must be pretty close because there are people in the Bay St. George area, as you know, and I guess we all know the history of the area, the American Base was there, the American Base closed down and many people moved away. They came back when Labrador Linerboard opened and at the present time they find - they have said to me - and they have given up hope - they said, "Regardless of what happens now I am leaving and I am not coming back."

Now Labrador Linerboard Limited affects the economy of the district, it is crucial to the district. Not only is it crucial to the district of Port au Port, the district of Stephenville and the district of St. Georges, but it is crucial to all of Newfoundland. I think that might be well indicated by the number of telegrams which have come from rural development associations from across the Province and the amount of support that the district has received or the area has received and the amount of support the Linerboard mill has received from St. John's, from the Board of Trade, and from all of the associations across the Island, from the priests in the Island - there have been prayers said in Stephenville, in the churches in Stephenville for the last six months. It is something that goes right to the heart of everybody in the area. Because Stephenville came together,

MR. J. HODDER: It had been destroyed once. The fabric of society had been destroyed and suddenly the mill was put there. People came in from outside. They gelled with the people that were there. Young men from the community took part in the mill. They got jobs in the mill and I am told, and this is on very good authority, as a matter of fact, the president and general manager of Labrador Linerboard at the moment says that the quality of the young people who work in that mill are of as high a calibre as anywhere that he has ever been, and he has been in quite a few mills.

The problem that faces the area now is that we will lose our young people. I do not believe for a moment that that mill will go down forever. I do not believe for a moment that the future of Stephenville is gone, that it will become a ghost area or anything of that nature. I do see that we will lose many of our young trained men, people from Bay St. George who went in there and worked hard in the mill and now can get a job anywhere in this world. These are the people that the future of our area depends on and they will disappear. They will be gone. They cannot wait any kind of a shut-down. Now I do not know if the government is going to shut down the mill or not. I know there are some funny things going on over there. I know there are some conflicting statements. I know that there is something in the wind. There is some sort of a plan. I do not know what it is but I do say this that whatever is happening that it is very, very destructive to the social fabric of Bay St. George. It has torn the guts out of the area and for this government if they did decide to close the mill, for this government to close the mill it would be a criminal act. It would be a stain on the administration which they could never overcome.

And I do hope, and I do beseech and beg that the government, in whatever deliberations it has to go through,

MR. J. HODDER: that the government looks at the thing in a serious light because there is more at stake here than just a few million dollars. Now I believe as my colleague from Port au Port said earlier that that mill can be turned around. As a matter of fact, the Board of Directors, I believe, are cautiously optimistic and I certainly know that the president and general manager of Labrador Linerboard Limited has put in everything he has. He is working day and night to turn that mill around and he says he can do it. He says he can make that mill go.

Now one of the things that we must look at if we are going to talk about the Linerboard mill, if there is a decision to be made, and perhaps that decision is already made, I do not know, is to look at the markets. Now the markets - I have not been

MR. HODDER:

able to read anything that shows that the markets are going to go downward. Everything that I have been able to read - and I have been reading a lot of it - everything that I have been able to read, every forecast - I have not been able to see a forecast which does not say that the markets for Labrador Linerboard Limited will go up and up and up. As a matter of fact I read one report that said that in the 1980's that the lack of linerboard in the world may actually decrease world trade. It may be a factor which works against world trade.

As well, Mr. Speaker, the mill was built in Stephenville. It serves Bay St. George and after the mill was built and under this administration facilities were built there through DPEF. I would assume that this administration had something to do with, or when they negotiated with Ottawa, had something to do with the facilities that were built in the area. New schools were built there, \$7 million, \$20 million. There were three DPEF schools placed there. The community college is there. We have a heavy equipment school. We have vocational schools. We have been turning people out in Bay St. George and basically many of the people who have come out in Bay St. George are people trained and equipped to work in the linerboard industry, in the wood industry. Have we taken these people to do nothing else but to travel to the mainland? Have we educated them, have we spent our money to educate them to send them away somewhere else?

Now I am told as far as the wood operation is concerned that there is no problem with wood. Some of the reports that I have been receiving show that Nova Scotia wood can be landed in Stephenville, as odd as it may seem but this is so, much cheaper than Labrador wood. We are talking about somewhere around fifty-five, sixty, sixty-five dollars a cord for wood. I am also told that wood inventories done recently in this Province, and in the area, show that the mill can operate on the wood in the area which the mill has been getting very cheaply much cheaper than some

MR. HODDER: of the wood they got but that the mill can continue to go on for quite a long time on the wood in the area and that there are millions of cords of wood yet to be cut. I also mention as my hon. colleague did, the spruce budworm. One of the problems with the spruce budworm - and I think that the minister responsible will agree with this - that one of the problems with the spruce budworm is where the forests are not properly managed, then the budworm is more likely to infest. This has implications in the long run for Labrador Timberboard Limited because we must combat the budworm and one of the ways we can combat it is by cutting the wood that is available. I believe that there is wood available in this province. There is wood available in this province for four mills. This administration - I have heard press release after press release - this administration has made releases and said that they would rationalize the wood situation. I, as a matter of fact believe that the wood situation can be rationalized. I do not think that either Price or Bowaters are going to be as hard-nosed as some people think they are. As a matter of fact, I think possibly people on the government side may realize that.

Now the other thing I wanted to get to was the markets. Now, I remember sitting in this gallery just up there about four years ago when the Opposition at that time were quizzing the government, this government which I am facing right now, talking about International Forest Products asking who they were what they were why they got the contract. The government with much hand thumping on the other side were saying, and I remember the minister responsible standing up and saying, International Forest Products is a wonderful company. It is one of the greatest companies in the world, and the boys on the other side were pounding their desks.

MR. MORGAN: Hon. gentleman on the other side.

MR. HODDER: The hon. gentlemen on the other side were bounding their desks.

MR. STRACHAN: Hon. crowd.

MR. HODDER: Hon. crowd, yes. But anyhow they were bounding their desks all in support of International Forest Products. Now we find out that International Forest Products were not what they were supposed to be, that they were not the type of organization, another organization has been formed. A few weeks ago, a few months ago we were getting wood for sixty, seventy, eighty dollars a cord up to a hundred and four dollars a cord. Now we get

Mr. J. Hodder:

a group of people come in - and this went on for five years - and now we get a group coming in telling us that we can get wood for \$60 a cord? So what was this administration doing for the past five years? That is what I would like to know, because what has happened now is a blot on the administration, and not only that but it has caused great anxiety in the Bay St. George area.

Now we also talk about bad markets. Now there is one thing I have got to bring up here, it may be negative, but I suppose it is another instance of mismanagement, and mismanagement is mismanagement either way it is looked at, but we do not have the capability in Europe that we used to have. We do not have the markets in Europe that we used to have. We do not even have the markets that we had several months ago.

Now I made a charge sometime ago which was denied and then admitted to, and I think that it goes to the roots of many of the problems that we have at the present time with our markets in Europe. This government, the first move that they decided to make was that they would hire a couple of consultants from Woods Gordon who was going to go in to Stephenville and solve all of our problems,

In the midst of their deliberations they went to a trade circulation company in the States, they asked for a market forecast, and while doing so they said that the government were thinking about closing down the Labrador Linerboard Limited. And then the trade circulation company sent mailgrams throughout Europe, to every market that we had in Europe saying that Labrador Linerboard was going to close down. And then suddenly angry telegrams started to come back to the mill in Stephenville. They came back saying "What is going on? You have orders with us, you have long-term orders with us, and you are closing down the mill." And the markets have never recovered since. It was the most colossal and stupid blunder that has ever been made by any administration in the history of Newfoundland.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. NEARY: That is right.

MR. HODDER: Another thing, just before the St. John's West election, two months before, you know, talk about planning and strategy and a government that knows where it is at, we had the then Chairman of the Board of Directors, and the then President of the Board of Directors take a little jaunt over to Europe, over to Norway, and they hired three or four ships for bringing wood from Goose Bay to Stephenville. Of course these ships were chartered, and three months later, or two months later the government decides that they are going to close out Goose Bay and they are not going to use Goose Bay wood any more. The question I would like to ask, Mr. Speaker, I do not know what has happened to those charters, I understand it is in litigation right now, and I suppose that is another \$5 million or \$6 million that the government is going to have to pay out but, you know, what happened to them? Are we sub-chartering now? Is the government sub-chartering ships at the present time? But what planning that was.

By anyhow, Mr. Speaker, these are things, I suppose, that are in the past, and now what faces the government is the decision to try to do something about the problems that they have created since they took over the management of that mill. And I say, Mr. Speaker, that Ottawa has done its share. Ottawa had put much of the heavy equipment into the mill, Almost all of the equipment, I am told, in Goose Bay was bought by the Federal Government through DREE into the Newfoundland Development Corporation, I believe. The federal government has put all sorts of woods roads, they built woods roads and particularly earmarked for Labrador Linerboard Limited. They have done their share. I understand that in Ottawa that there has been no real request from this government to pump money in there. At least that was the case not so very long ago. But I will say this that they have shown their interest, When you look at the amount of equipment that has been bought and the number of woods roads that have been put through, they have shown their interest in the millions and millions of dollars worth.

Mr. Hodder: Now I know, and I will say, that the gentlemen on the other side are interested. The gentlemen on the other side would like to keep the mill going. The gentlemen on the other side in their own way, I suppose, would like to see this Province as prosperous, and as healthy as it possibly can be. But I like my colleagues from St. George's (Mrs. MacIsaac) and from Stephenville (Mr. McNeil), we see it firsthand, we see what is happening. I would have liked for the government to have a little closer look at Stephenville.

MR. HODDER: Three ministers went out there on a couple of occasions with great promises of co-operation and everything like that, but when the regional impact studies were going on they did not really give us much information.

But I will say this, that the feeling across the Province, the feelings in the area are that the mill should not be closed down. I believe that if this government were to attempt, and I cannot really believe that they will, I believe that you must come up with some sort of a solution, you must, but if you do decide to close that down you are wrong, totally wrong, you will have made another blunder, and please do not make any more blunders on that mill because the mill can turn around, it can turn around in a very short time. If this mill closes then the whole one-third of the forest industry in Newfoundland is gone and the Province is on a downward trend that we may not be able to stop.

I do not know what new dollars mean to the economy, Mr. Speaker, I am not an economist but I do know that the dollars coming in from that mill are dollars that are dollars brought into this Province through primary production of which there is very little in this Province.

I know at the moment that things are not as profitable as the government would like, that we are going in the hole somewhat but they are new dollars. I wonder, Mr. Speaker, what the multiplier effect is? Because since that mill has been built there we have mills where people are hired. There are people from my district working down at Woolworth's and down in all these stores. There are people from outside the district and inside the district working at various things. There are businesses that have come in to service Linerboard, there

MR. HODDER: are people who are paying their income tax there, there is money circulated in the town. I understand from my relative inexperience in economics that there is a multiplier effect something like seven times with money, and I think that new dollars would probably multiply a little longer.

Those dollars are coming into the Province and the government takes back in their income tax, they take back in their sales tax, they take back in everything else. They take back a tremendous amount of money.

I wonder if a study has ever been done on what the real impact of the closure of that mill would be on Newfoundland, on the dollars that the woods contractors are making in Roddickton, and the dollars that the wood contractors are making in Lewisporte, and the dollars that the woods contractors are making in Green Bay? Has anybody stopped to think what that does contribute to the economy?

MR. STRACIAR: We already know what it has done to Labrador.

MR. HODDER: Yes, as my hon. friend says, we know what has happened in Labrador. We know what has happened in Goose Bay. That is one major area of the Province that has been wiped out. Are you going to wipe out another?

Mr. Speaker, all I can say is that I feel at the moment that the people who are, or at least the man who is in charge of Labrador Linerboard Limited at the present time, the people who are working that mill are determined and capable of turning the mill around. I know that and I believe that they will do it. One of the problems we have heard through it is the woods industry. Well the woods industry is no longer a problem. I am told that we can get the wood.

MR. HODDER: The markets are a problem and all indications show that the upward turn will be in the better interest of Labrador Linerboard Limited. And just to state what I said before, there are no indications from any of the trade papers that there will be any downturn of the market and there is nothing but optimism.

So in closing I would just ask the government to deliberate whatever decision that they make and please, do not close the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the member for Bonaville North.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CROSS: Like the hon. member for Stephenville, Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to use all the time at my disposal. But before I get into what I have to say, I would like to pass along to the House that the Blue Caps were leading, the last score I got, Brantford Alexanders by a score of one to nothing.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MURPHY: A St. John's crowd?

MR. CROSS: That St. John's crowd.

MR. RIDGOUT: They are not a St. John's crowd.

MR. SIMONS: Quit while you are ahead now, now.

MR. CROSS: Never mind 'Roger', there is more to come.

AN HON. MEMBER: Who did they beat?

MR. FLIGHT: We have been with them all the way.

MR. CROSS: Before getting into the few remarks I want to make this evening, there are a few hon. members in the House that I certainly want to congratulate on the speeches that they have made.

MR. CROSS: Although he is not sitting in his seat tonight, the hon. member for Fogo, (Capt. Winsor) somehow ago to one of the amendments spoke and I enjoyed very much what he had to say. Certainly if I did not agree with all he had to say I did enjoy what he said. And perhaps it is because years, years, years ago, long years ago we had something in common. For example, as a boy I can remember picking the mail from the Winnifred Lee on the Labrador and asking Capt. Winsor what it was like up and down the shore, whether there was ice, whether there were fish and so on and so forth. And certainly meeting him here in the House has been a great experience for me - meeting an old friend.

Also to the hon. member for Exploits, again I want to congratulate him on the speech that he made. There was only one thing wrong with it, I could have listened to his fluent words and flowery language much longer. To the member for Naskaoui certainly he did give us an enlightened and educational address on his district. The member for Baie Verte-White Bay did a good job, and again as I did not agree with all that he said I certainly liked his delivery. My old seat mate here to my left, 'Bill Patterson', the hon. member for Placentia, certainly a man of concern. And then I go back to the member for Harbour Grace, a very short address and one of the phrases that he used - and having been accused on one or two occasions of being partisan - I do not want to be partisan here tonight but the hon. member for Harbour Grace did mention a phrase that I know was used by the former Premier. Although I am not very old neither was I very old when I heard these words uttered, but they were true. I want to congratulate him for reminding us again that they were said because tonight the few remarks that I have to say will be on our fishery. 'Roger' or I am sorry the hon.

MR. CROSS: member from Burgeo-Bay D'Espoir -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CROSS: Sorry, I know I was. Yes you are asking what is the phrase, you cannot recall the words, I know you cannot. But certainly I am going to put a different flavour on them tonight if I am forced to. I can remember as a boy of fifteen hearing our former Premier - not say "burn your boats" I will agree, I have never heard him say that but I did hear him say "burn your flakes and pull up your boats and make hens houses out of them and pigs houses out of them and this is what an old tarred-bottom punt came to.

AN HON. MEMBER: Premier Moores said that.

MR. CROSS: No the former Premier.

MR. J. CARTER: The only living millstone.

MR. CROSS: Be as it may, in an earlier address in this hon House when I spoke for a short time on the amendment, I believe it was - or sub-amendment put by the hon. member for LaPoile. I spoke of the great progress that has been made in the services of the people of Bonavista North over the years since Confederation and in particular the last five years under the Progressive Conservative government.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CROSS: I do not want, I certainly do not want to repeat myself, I am sure it would be boring to the hon. members of this House and a waste of time on my part. Although much has been done much remains to be done in my district. Certainly we all realize that "Rome was not built in a day" but I look forward to planned and consistent progress until the many needs of my district are met. But this evening I want to speak for a few minutes about what is now and always has been the most important single industry in our Province, and that is the fishing industry. When I became a member of the work force back in 1945 it was as a fisherman that I began work, and at that time the Labrador fishery was at its peak.

MR. CROSS: Every Summer between four and five hundred
schooners ranging from forty to 150 tons would prosecute
the Labrador fishery carrying from six to twenty men in crew.

MR. CROSS:

They would leave for the fishing grounds in June, returning sometime in September, most of them with bumper voyages. As the old fisherman would say, "Flood gates in the water, four sheet as well not four sheep, but four sheet iron as well. Five short years passed, from 1945 to 1950, and the great Labrador fishery as it was known was all but over. At that time it was not that the fish were not there to be caught, it was because the price of fish dropped. In the Summer of 1950, the last year that I fished with my father, we brought home a bumper trip. Again as the old fisherman would say, "the print of the hatches was in the fish". We brought home a bumper trip only to find that over that Summer the price of fish had fallen to \$12.23 a quintal down to \$7.00. And I want to reiterate that it was fish prices and not the lack of fish that caused that decline in the Labrador fishery in 1950. Then for the period from 1950 to 1960 very few floaters went North to fish. But after 1960 the prices improved and some schooners again prosecuted the Labrador fishery. And from 1960 to 1965 there was an increase in the vessels taking part and bumper trips again were brought and good prices were received. In 1965 which was the last good year for the Labrador fishery my father fished on the Labrador and he brought the heaviest voyage ever and the crew made the biggest bill ever. That year every vessel that sailed North to fish returned heavily laden with salted cod and the crews made good money for the time that they spent fishing. After 1965 the Labrador fishery again declined, and it was not because prices were low but because the fish was not there to be caught. Schooners went North to fish in 1966 and 1967 and returned almost with clean keelsons, the same boats, skippered by the same captains, manned by the same crews returned with nothing. And it was in these same years, 1965, 1966, 1967 and onwards, the foreign druggers were fishing the icy waters of the Hamilton Banks, the breeding grounds for Labrador and the Northeast Coast. I can remember when as a small boy I would watch the inshore fishing boats in the Summer as they came from the fishing grounds after tending their traps, literally flat

MR. CROSS:

in the water, loaded down with cod. Now in the same area the only true boat load of fish that you can see is the collector from Greenwood that collects and carries the fish caught by many fishermen. At that time the inshore fishery depended solely on cod. The fishermen depended solely on cod for a living. It is true, Mr. Speaker, and it is a fact that our fish stocks have been depleted. If it were not for the variety of species caught now, a little of each, the inshore fishery in many of our communities on the Northeast Coast, in particular, would be gone.

Mr. Cross:

It is the species that was thrown back into the sea years ago that fishermen are making most of their money on today. I fished out of Valleyfield with my father in 1967, although a teacher, call me a moonlighter too if you like, but nevertheless in 1967 for one month I fished with my father out of Valleyfield. We fished three gill nets. I fished also for one month again in 1974 with eighteen gill nets. In 1967 -

MR. NEARY: You are not allowed to use them on the Labrador.

MR. CROSS: In 1967 we landed more fish from three gill nets than we did from eighteen in 1974. Meaning what happened in 1967, that one little spot of ground, one little shoal we set our nets, there for a month, we did not remove them, we might have tightened out a mooring now and again, but we kept them there for one month, we took more fish from one little spot of ground out of three gill nets in one month in 1964 than we did from many spots of ground, moving our nets back and forth to try and trap the fish, from eighteen gill nets. This certainly tells us again the story that the fish cannot be there.

AN HON. MEMBER: oh, oh!

MR. CROSS: And you shift your nets everyday.

Ten years ago all of what I am saying here perhaps has been said before, but not by me in this hon. House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CROSS: Ten years ago longliners were catching as much fish in sixty nets or even forty as they are today in one hundred and sixty. If that is not the case then the fishermen are liars and I do not believe they are, not for one minute. Nets have to be left two nights to fish before they are hauled, to make it worth-while. Where two cod traps were used, ten to twelve years ago, today five and six traps have to be used. The fish are not there in the same numbers. As already stated, Mr. Speaker, it is the fish species that was thrown back into the sea years ago that is keeping the inshore fishery alive today. The lumps that were a curse to the fishermen, today the roe

Mr. Cross:

is used, the flounder and any other species of groundfish. Certainly we could say that our fishermen have been experimenting for years. We may talk of our scientists, but I look upon our fishermen as being scientists within their own rights, because for years they have been carrying on an experiment, and each succeeding year they are finding that certain species, especially the cod are becoming scarcer and scarcer. If we ask the fishermen why the decline, we get two answers. Number one, the over fishing of the Hamilton Bank during the spawning season. They will tell us that it is not the fish taken, but the fish destroyed before it gets a chance to come to maturity that counts. If you destroy the egg you get no young birds, if you destroy the spawn on the spawning ground you get no young fish. It is just that simple.

Another answer they will give for the scarcity of fish is that, and fishermen are honest, although the gillnet have brought them a good living, many fishermen look upon the gillnet as a curse, because they will tell us that they have caught in the deep water the big mother fish, that would otherwise be left to spawn. And certainly we know too that gillnets that are lost at sea become what we call ghost nets, especially the monofilament nets that can last for eight to ten years in the small boat, not the longliner, but in small boat before they are worn out, certainly they can fish for many, many years, ghost nets after they have been lost.

I only fear one thing, I am very much afraid that the pleas of some of our fishermen will go unheeded.

MR. G. CROSS: May I say at this point and time I have every good faith in our present Minister of Fisheries. I feel quite sure that possibly they will not go unheeded but should they the day could conceivably come when we will be able to say that and have to agree with the fishermen in listening to what they say ten years hence when they say, "I told you so." We certainly know that the fishery is important to our economy. I know to a part of my district it is its lifeblood. I know what a fish plant working in full capacity and possibly on shifts can mean, not only to the Northern part of my district but also to the centre and perhaps reaching into the South especially with what is happening in the district at present with our present transportation system being upgraded and the route shortened. No longer after this summer, no longer will it be twenty-five miles from Valleyfield to Indian Bay like it is now but twenty-five miles when paved will reach from Indian Bay, through Bonavista North into Lumsden which is in the Fogo District.

MR. NEARY: Thanks to Uncle Ottawa.

MR. CROSS: So certainly - Thanks to Uncle Ottawa, perhaps so, but also looking back to years and years perhaps to a change of heart -

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear! And Uncle Ottawa.

MR. CROSS: There was a time - Uncle Ottawa was there long before the Progressive Conservative Government came to power in Newfoundland so I would say now if Uncle Ottawa is footing most of the bill certainly there had to be a change of heart on the part of some provincial government.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CROSS: Planning has been the thing.

MR. FLIGHT: All for paving five miles of road there.

MR. CROSS: Certainly as I said the fishery is important. The

MR. CROSS: hon. member from LaPoile knows that. Last year in excess of 18,000 fishermen earned a livelihood from the sea sailing and fishing in all winds and weathers to make jobs for in excess of 10,000 other people working in our 105 fish plants around our Province. We know too that fish is a resource that we have that other countries will not. We have now a two hundred mile limit and it is up to our nation, our national government, the federal government, as well as the provincial government, going hand in hand to see to it that our fishing effort is increased so that more and more of the quota is taken at home. It is up to us as a Province to continue to press the federal government, as we are doing, to see that the right policies are enacted in order for our fishery to continue to improve and give prosperity to our Province.

Before I sit down there is one other little remark that I would like to make.

MR. NEARY: Take your time. Do not be afraid.

MR. CROSS: Oh, I am not afraid Mr. LaPoile. Certainly I want to speak for a moment regarding our licencing policy. Our fishery is very important. We must have fishermen to catch the fish and certainly one of the phrases that we hear so often is that when the middle-aged and the old fishermen have gone where are the fishermen going to come from? Well certainly over the last year and-a-half to two years I think the answer is there. There are many, many young men who are going back into the fishing boats and becoming fishermen. There are very, very, many young men who want to go back in the fishing boats but are not going. Certainly, as I said earlier, the inshore fishery in particular today is viable because of the many species. A fisherman,

MR. CROSS:

I think, to make a go of it, wants a license to fish every species. And I do not think for one minute that any bona fide fisherman should be deprived of the license. It does not make sense to me to see a young fisherman entering the fishery, he cannot get a salmon license, not even to fish a fish to put on his table, when he has to pay \$1.75 or \$1.80 a pound for salmon to feed his own children and himself, it does not seem to make sense. Certainly there are many old, retired people who still do get a salmon license, whether they have been a fisherman all their lives, a carpenter or a construction worker. Ten years ago, eight years ago, five years ago any person who retired could get a license. And many of our licenses that have been distributed have gone to retired people. I am not opposed to that, providing the old fellow that fished until he was sixty-five who was a fisherman. But certainly to give licenses to all and sundry when they retired a few years ago and then the number of fish nets that were given. Certainly I know it is not a provincial jurisdiction, but certainly there is something that can be done about that situation. There are, and I know this for a fact, retired people who get a salmon license in their name who have not stepped into a boat for years. I know this for a fact too, there are fishermen who have gotten a license to fish as high as forty nets and have not put over ten into the water. I feel that there is something wrong with the policy, that there is something wrong with the controls when that is allowed to happen. I think, Mr. Speaker, with these few remarks I will sit down and thank the House for giving me the opportunity to say hello.

SOME HON. MEMBERS. Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for St. George.

MRS. H. MACISAAC: Mr. Speaker, I too would like to make a few short remarks like my colleagues from the Bay St. George area. The first item on my agenda is the Stephenville - Labrador Linerboard. It is the

MRS. MACISAAC:

main concern now in the entire area, the people of the district are wondering whether or not the Labrador Linerboard will continue to operate. The uncertainty in the area affects not only the people who are living in Stephenville or who are directly employed with the mill but it reaches much further than that, and I believe that the implications are felt right throughout the Province. The importance of the Labrador Linerboard operation to my district cannot be over-emphasized. The entire West Coast and I guess the whole Province would be disrupted, both economically and socially. From my own district there is the Codroy Valley area, the Robinson's area and the St. Georges area supplying wood to the Labrador Linerboard and certainly those people will feel the effects of it. It has got to cause a very real hardship on them and increase the already high rate of unemployment in the area. Closing down the Labrador Linerboard mill, in my estimation, is not the answer and it is also not in keeping with the so-called policy of support for resource based industry.

MRS. McISSAC: Labrador Linerboard I feel can be a viable operation and it should be given a chance. The people of that area must be considered and must be kept fully aware of what is in the future for Labrador Linerboard. Probably, there are, I know there are problems with Labrador Linerboard but I do not feel that the problems are the high cost of operating the mill, is total operating cost. I would say that Labrador Linerboard is probably one of the greatest examples of mismanagement in the entire province. I do not think that that possibility should be ignored. I think all the facts should come out and determine whether or not Labrador Linerboard is operating at a loss. I believe that it is gross mismanagement and the people of the area feel that it is. I think if there was an investigation done into it, if it was looked into, completely looked into and all the facts brought out and all the figures totalled up I believe that you would find that the operating expenses would be very low compared with the figure that is being pushed around now. I think that most of it is mismanagement expenses. I think the blame should go where it belongs and I do not think the people of Bay St. George area should have to suffer on account of the mismanagement that went on there in the last couple of years.

I think we have to bring all that out in the open and I do not think that that should be used as an opportunity or a reason for closing down the Labrador Linerboard Mill. The people in the Stephenville area, when the word first got around that Labrador Linerboard may be closing out were very concerned. In fact, they got together and they set up some committees, to give you an idea just how concerned they are the effort they put into it. When the announcement came they decided they would form a joint council committee with representation from the Bay St. George area. Memorial University was asked by the committee to undertake a social, economic, impact

Mrs. McISSAC: study in the province relating to the provincial effect of the closure of Labrador Linnerboard Mill. The committee then decided to write to the Chairman of the Board of Directors and the points that they were most concerned about was, to ask that all available financial statements covering Labrador Linnerboard operation be forwarded to the committee; to make preliminary enquiry relating to have a Royal Commission appointed to investigate the operation to date; to ask for a progress report on the possibility of a joint woodlands operation by Price and Dowaters that would also supply wood to Labrador Linnerboard; to ask for an established report on negotiations to redistribute woodlands ownership on the island; request information regarding any contact with or interest from MacMillan Bloedel, Price Bros. or any other private concern re purchase of the operation; to provide the best information available on future marketing prospects for Linnerboard. to provide a breakdown of pulpwood costs for the island and Labrador wood. To ask if consideration had been given to the abandonment of all wood operations and to buy wood completely from the private sector.

Any information available relating to the diversification of the product; conversion to newsprint and the cost involved; has any consideration been given to expanding the Board of Directors in bringing in expertise for the industry to serve in that capacity. The committee also decided to set up research groups or sub-committees to undertake the following actions:

Contingency plan committee: to prepare a master development plan for alternate employment should Labrador Linnerboard close or drastically curtail operations; and a mill take-over committee to study the possibility of a take-over of the mill by local interests. Bay St. George action committee to be asked to reactivate and continue with their intended work in Bay St. George; a committee on regional impact and a financial analysis committee to research all financial data on the Labrador Linnerboard operation as is made available.

WPS. McISSAC: Well they did not get the information that they needed on financial data so that was not necessary. I mean those are all, you know this is work that those committees did. All those people got together, formed those committees to see what they could do to help in the event that Labrador Linerboard should close down.

MRS MacISAAC: an awful lot of work, an awful lot of concern has gone into it. I think we have to consider the effect that it is going to have on the area, if it should happen. I saw Stephenville turned into a ghost town once already when the US Air Force Base closed out there, shutters were on all the windows, people practically gave their houses away - in fact I had one there, we had one there, we had to sell it and we got, I believe, \$2,900 for it and this is going to happen again. There are an awful lot of people invested in property in Stephenville and have put their life savings into it and it is not too promising, it could end up where people will have to do the same thing. And I think certainly if there is anything in the air on the closure of Labrador Linerboard that the people should be made aware of it and made aware of it as soon as possible.

The employment situation in the entire Bay St. George area is something that everybody up there is concerned about right now. We have a large percentage of our people on unemployment and a large percentage on social assistance. We have a group of young people who are not eligible for social assistance, they are not eligible or they cannot draw unemployment for the simple reason that they have never worked. Our young people are getting out of school, they are completing their education and they are finding it impossible, not only in the Bay St. George area, of course. I know this is Provincewide and probably the same thing applies right throughout, right across the country. But in the meantime something has to be done to help our young people, they are the real victims. They do not qualify for any assistance, they are walking around with their hands in their pockets, educated young men and women who do not know where to turn, certainly cannot find a job. And the job creation programmes are not geared to accommodate them.

MRS MacISAAC: Most of the job creation, or the government job creation programme was geared mostly to the people who are on social assistance. And the Canada Works is being - most of the job opportunities there are filled by people who have families. And then the Young Canada Works is employing the young students who are still in school, grade ten and eleven, and this leaves the young people who have completed their education out in the cold, there is no programme for them. And I certainly think that somebody is going to have to do something - either the federal or the provincial level of government is going to have to take a look at what is happening with our young people today.

I would like to have a few words to say on the forestry programme. The reforestation is what mainly concerns me. We have the spruce budworm problem and we do not know how or if it is ever going to be controlled, we do not know if spraying is going to be the answer. We do not have the forest access roads to be able to harvest the infested timber. I do not believe, or I do not think the paper companies, Bowaters or Price, are being asked by government to harvest the infested timber. Maybe they are, I hope they are because I believe what they are doing right now is they are taking the wood that happens to be closest and the best wood, and the infested wood is left in the woods. The over-mature and the infested wood is not being cut. And until this is done all we are doing is destroying what we have left of the forest industry. A couple of years ago, I believe it was in the 1975 Speech from the Throne there was an article

MRS. MACISAAC:

on building forest access roads so that the infested timber could be harvested. I know that there has been some progress in this way but not all that much. The management, the forest management, I think, leaves a lot to be desired. I have gone into areas where wood is being harvested. What I am mainly concerned about is this big heavy equipment that is being used today for wood harvesting, Mr. Speaker. I have noticed that in harvesting the mature timber these big harvesters are, I would say, almost destroying just about everything in their path in order to get the mature timber. And you walk in over the cut-over areas and you would think that it was a big land clearing programme. It almost looks like the carpet on the floor here. And the topsoil, everything is getting torn up completely. It looks to me as though nothing will ever grow there again. I do not believe that is being properly managed and I do not believe that there is enough effort being put into a reforestation station, if any. I know that there were talks about a couple of years ago and they have got the nurseries in different areas of the Province, but I do not believe that it is working out very well. I am told that they have experimented with it and it has not proved satisfactory. They have not been able to produce the seedlings that they need to continue the programme. But my concern is that if something is not done, and if it is not done fairly soon, that it will be too late to do it. I know that our forest is supposed to be a renewable resource. But the way it is being destroyed today, I do not know. I would hate to think that in thirty, forty years from now we will not have a forest industry. Unless something is done in the way of reforestation and cleaning up the forest after the trees are harvested, and then a systematic effort made with respect to the reforestation programme then we just will not have a forest industry twenty years from now.

I am told that with the reforestation programme that there are programmes that could and should be carried out. The areas, the cut-over areas should be cleaned up and new trees planted. I am also

MRS. MACISAAC:

told that this programme of planting trees can be speeded up a little or assisted a little by using fertilizer. I am also told that we could be in this Province experimenting with other varieties of trees other than what we have here, that there are other varieties that will grow in this Province and that it is something that should be given some consideration. As I said I believe that the wood that is infested must be harvested first and the overmatured timber must be harvested. I think that all this infested wood should be cut first, should be cut for Labrador Linerboard or the companies to use, build the forest access roads and get at the infested areas first. And if we cannot

MRS. MACISAAC: use it or maybe some consideration should be given to exporting it. But the clean-up campaign should be started, in fact it should have been started long ago, but it is never too late and I certainly think that we cannot afford to wait any longer to get something going with the forest management programme to get those areas cleaned up and get started on the reforestation programmes, get the infested wood out of the woods. If it means building forest access roads well then that is what we have to do.

MR. NEARY: Hear, hear!

MRS. MACISAAC: Clean up the infested areas and follow it with a good effective systematic reforestation programme. I am concerned about it because quite a few of the people in my area, it is a big employment factor in the area. Labrador Linerboard has been taking quite a bit of wood from the residents of the Codroy Valley, Robinsons and St. George's area. They have been hauling an awful lot of wood to Labrador Linerboard. I am concerned about Labrador Linerboard. I am concerned about what is going on in the forest because of the fact that I have a lot of woodsmen in my area.

And another concern, Mr. Speaker, is the fishery in the area. Fishermen in my area are having a difficult time, especially in the spring of the year. We only have I suppose about three what you would call longliners in the Bay St. George area, three or four at the most. Most of the fishermen in my district are fishermen who are working cross-handed or maybe two fishermen in a boat, in small boats. They are having difficult enough time, but in the spring of the year the seiners are in the bay and it is posing quite a problem for the fishermen. They put their gear out and those seiners are coming in - I know that they are within their rights to do it. They are given quotas and licence to fish in specific areas and of course they can come right in on the rocks if they want to and what is happening is the inshore fisherman

MRS. MACISAAC: is placing his gear in the water and those seiners are on the go all hours of the day and night and tearing up and destroying the gear that is placed in the water by the inshore fishermen. I am not saying that they are doing it deliberately but it is happening, and the small fisherman is not financially able to replace the gear that is being lost.

Just yesterday I had a call from another fisherman in my area who lost a brand new net and I think that this is something that has to be looked at. If we want to keep the inshore fishery going, and I believe that the inshore fishery is a very important part of the fishery in the Province of Newfoundland, I believe that there are thousands of fishermen, small fishermen along the shoreline of Newfoundland and I think that they should be given just as much consideration as the fishermen who are out in the longliners, the deep-sea fishermen or offshore fishermen. I know that the 200 mile limit is a good thing and maybe the joint venture effort was a good thing, but I do not think that we should lose sight of what is going on with the inshore fishery because I believe that the inshore fishery will be around a long, long while and possibly longer than the joint ventures. I think the most of our fishermen from around this coast is the smaller type fisherman anyway and whether or not they are the majority they certainly have to be protected.

I hope that something will be done. Furthermore the activities of those seiners I believe may be creating problems for the fishery in general. I certainly do not think that it is doing anything to help the spawning grounds.

Mrs. MacIsaac:

They are out there very early in the Spring, and long before, from what I am told by the fishermen, long before the spawning season they are just scooping up just about everything that is out there. And I would say that there is not all that many fish left to spawn by the time they move on elsewhere. So along with destroying the spawning grounds they are depleting the stocks. And I think that the fishermen in the area, the fishermen who have been at it for years and years probably know what they are talking about. I know that the Department of Fisheries gets most of their information, or takes most of their advice from scientists. Well maybe the scientists are better informed, but I am inclined to go along with the fisherman who has been at it all his life.

Mr. Speaker, another problem or another thing that I would like to bring up is the farming in my area. There are quite a few farmers in the district of St. Georges. There are dairy farmers, sheep, beef cattle, and, of course, the mixed farming. And they seem to be having a rough time right now. The farmers seem to feel that they are subject to some unfair competition, and by this I mean the competition from the mainland, in the way of marketing. I believe that the farmers from PEI and New Brunswick are getting probably a better deal from government than the farmers here in Newfoundland are getting, or I am led to believe this anyway. I am told that they are getting quite a few subsidies, they are getting subsidies on early potatoes, their fertilizer is being subsidized, seed potatoes. And they are able to ship potatoes in here and put them on the market at a much lower prices than our local farmers can do. And I certainly believe that they must be receiving those subsidies because the vegetables are coming in from the mainland and definitely are on the market here at much lower prices than our local potatoes.

So I think this is something in order to give the farmer a chance to survive; I think this is something that definitely has to be looked at. If indeed they are getting the subsidies on the mainland

Mrs. MacIsaac:

there must be something that can be done to assist the farmer here in Newfoundland in order to make it possible for him to compete market-wise with those people who are shipping vegetables in here from the mainland. They have a freight charge no doubt to pay over and above what our farmers have to pay and yet they still can market their vegetables at much lower rates than our farmers can.

AN HON. MEMBER: Oh,oh!

MRS. MacISAAC: And I was going to suggest that maybe if this is the case maybe there can be something done to assist the farmer in Newfoundland in the way of a subsidy on fertilizer or something. I certainly think that is going to have to be looked at, otherwise we are going to have very few people who are interested in it, if they cannot compete, if they cannot sell their vegetables, there is not much point putting in a crop in the Spring of the year and having to dump it in the Fall, and this is what is happening.

For the past few years now farmers in my area have been forced—or I will not say 'forced to dump it', but they did have to dump it because they could not sell, and had to get rid of their potatoes. Thousands of bags of potatoes had to be dumped because there was no sale for them, and no storage. I am told that there was a

MRS. MACISAAC:

crop failure last year, and I know there was a crop failure last year. And I am told that our farmers were paid or given \$1.80 a hundred weight, and Nova Scotia and P.E.I. farmers who had the same problem got \$3.60 a hundred weight. So I think that we are going to have to level it off and try and make it possible for them to compete with outside markets. Nova Scotia also has a subsidy on land. I am told that new farmers getting into business in the beef cattle business they are in, sheep, whatever, are given so many head of cattle to put in with his stock. And I do not think that our farmers are encouraged. They are certainly not encouraged in any of these ways or any way to get into business. They are having financial difficulty. There is an awful lot of young people, I believe, who would go into this kind of business, into dairy cattle or beef cattle or farming of any nature if they could get the assistance from government that they need. They cannot walk up to a bank and get the assistance that they need to get started in business. And I am told that they are having difficulty getting any assistance whatsoever from government. In the Robinsons area quite a few farmers, they have quite a few good facilities there, I must say, a lot of them have been built through LIP grants - well, a lot of hard work and effort on the part of the farmers. And I am not saying that the Provincial Government has not helped. But there is still a lot that they need. In the Robinsons area, for instance, they have a problem with chilling their meat. The meat turns black after about a week and farmers have told me that they have been in contact with the Department of Agriculture now for the past few years and they have talked to three different Ministers of Agriculture. Each has told them in turn that they would do something to assist them, that they would take care of the problem for them. And it still has not been taken care of and they still have the problem. They are still operating. They are

MR. MACISAAC:

determined not to give up. But they are certainly working under very, very adverse conditions. They have no facility out there. There are a lot of farmers there who grow pigs and they have no facilities out there for killing pigs. They do not have a freezer. They need a freezer in the Robinsons area. And they have been after this for years and just cannot get the freezer. As I said, they have a lot of beautiful facilities. They have the vegetable storage and all this. But they do not have enough facilities, they do not have proper facilities to take care of their meat. There are quite a few beef cattle farmers in that area. They cannot expand their operation because they cannot take care of the business they have right now.

In the Codroy Valley area we have the same, much the same problem. We have people out there, farmers who are working very, very hard and they have been trying to improve their facilities, their slaughtering facilities. Right now they are improving it. They are putting an extension on their facility through a LIP grant. They have been trying to get some additional money from the Provincial Government to put in an overhead track which they are told is necessary. LIP grants and the farmers themselves are doing a very good job but not too much input from the government. As I said, they have been trying to get the money for the overhead track, which is only about \$5,000 they are looking for. And they have not been able to get it or

MRS. MACISAAC: were not able to get it from the Department of Agriculture, and this is the department that I believe should be helping the farmers, doing whatever possible to help them, to assist them. I have to say that they did not have much success this time. However, the Department of Rural Development - and I am very grateful to the Minister of Rural Development, he came through - they met him in the valley only last week after contacting the Department of Agriculture several times and having no success. Last week they met with the Minister of Rural Development out in the valley. He was out there to open a facility and they explained their situation to him and I am very grateful to him that he has made the money available to them to complete their slaughtering facility.

So much for the farming, Mr. Speaker. I have to touch on water services in my district. We have few towns which have complete systems or almost complete systems. We have Stephenville Crossing which is well along the way with their water and sewer programme and hoping maybe to be able to complete it this year. St. George's is not too badly off. They have the central area of the town done or just about completed, but they have the Seal Rocks in Shallop Cove area and that has not been touched and I believe that the problem there is - I certainly think that they could have had water if it were not for the way that the funds for the water and sewerage project was squandered there last year, not by the town council but I think that the project was not handled properly. Maybe it was the engineers and I will not say too much more on that now because I know there is sort of an investigation going on into it. But I certainly hope that out of that investigation will come funds enough to complete at least the water for the East and West ends of the town.

We have throughout the district quite a few artesian wells. In fact I was not able to count them. I know that in some communities there are six and seven artesian wells drilled.

MRS. MACISAAC: and this was all done prior to elections. And I am not saying that it was done by this administration. Most of them, I have to admit, were drilled during the previous administration. But regardless of who drilled them they are still not of any benefit to anyone in the communities. We had a couple completed last year, for which I am very grateful to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, but we still have quite a few that are mere holes in the ground and this would not concern me if it was not such a hardship on the people. But everywhere I go in my district, from one end of it to the other, I meet people going with buckets and pots and barrels and anything that they can find to drag a drop of water in. I certainly think that this is one of the services that should be - As far as I am concerned it is the main service, because to most of us who do not have to carry water or who do not have any problem except turn on the tap and the water flows, we do not have a full appreciation of the problems that people have. They have to carry water, people with eight and nine children in family carrying water to do the weekly wash along with for every other household need. I certainly feel that this is something that any government should look at and it should be probably if not the top priority certainly one of the top priorities, to get water to every community in the Province.

The roads in my district I cannot complain about. I must say they are in fair - well they are not in fair shape, because I do not think there are any roads in the Province that are in good condition this year. But they are as good as they are anywhere else in the Province, I am sure, and with the exception of a few miles most of it is paved.

MRS. MACISAAC:

I hope that maybe we may get another little bit of pavement this year, and I am very happy that the Trans-Canada Highway-or that the section of Trans-Canada Highway in my district will be given some priority because I do believe it is the worst area in the Province.

I must have a few more things that I could mention but I cannot think of any right now. So thank you kindly.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Is the House ready for the question?

The hon. member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker -

AN HON. MEMBER: You cannot speak. You are not on the list.

MR. SIMMONS: What is this about list?

AN HON. MEMBER: You are not supposed to speak.

MR. SIMMONS: The impact was kind of sixfold but I only spoke once, on an amendment actually, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, after being away from the hallowed Chambers for a few days one needs to get some things off one's chest. What better time than this evening? I heard something about a list. I have not seen any list, and I am glad I have not, and I am glad my name was not on it because I intend to stand in this House whenever I feel that I can serve some purpose by doing so. I feel that I can serve that kind of purpose tonight.

MR. MORGAN: Regardless of any agreement between the parties.

MR. SIMMONS: Well, let me say this, Mr. Speaker; if there are such agreements someone should tell me about them or tell my colleague from Trinity-Bay de Verde (Mr. Rowe) about them, for example. My agreement is to speak in accordance with the rules of the House. There was an agreement that went by the board earlier tonight when the member for Bonavista North (Mr. Cross) stood up, Mr. Speaker. There was an agreement that, as I understood it, we were going to get this thing over with fairly quickly provided the Government House Leader could control his members. It was obvious tonight when the member for Bonavista North (Mr. Cross) spoke that could not be done by the Government

MR. SIMONS:

House Leader. So, Mr. Speaker, just a -

AN HON. MEMBER: You are not on the list.

MR. SIMONS: What are we operating under here? A list or Standing Orders? I thought we were operating under the Standing Orders. I understood I had forty-five minutes on the main motion, and then if I moved my amendment another two or three hours on that, and so on. That was my understanding. Whether or not of course I will move my amendment depends on the mood of the occasion and whether I can get all the things I need said without moving it.

I am told, Mr. Speaker, that the critically ill patient finally kicks the bucket, as we say in our vernacular, very soon after he gives up the will to survive. One would apply the analogy and very quickly come to the conclusion that this government is about to kick the bucket. This government is about to kick the bucket, and indeed may have done so already so feebly that we did not hear the sound. The case has all the evidence of rigor mortis, all the evidence of the after death.

AN HON. MEMBER: Especially the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young).

MR. SIMONS: Did he ever. Death is the one subject he understands. Death is the one subject he has a vested interest in, the business of the underground. Well I would suggest that he has on his hands a big whopping corpse.

The member is talking himself into quite a trap. The more he talks, the more he illustrates that he is not sure what a corpse is. I would suggest he wait until they lie down before he puts the cover on. At least I can appreciate his haste but he should be governed by some responsibility in the matter unless he is using the upright coffin now.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. SIMONS: My friend from Mount Scio (Dr. Winsor) and I were in the House of Commons when that now famous Cabinet minister, Mr. Horner,

MR. SIMONS:

crossed the House. Sir, or just after he crossed the House. And I rather liked - somebody just used the word 'grave' and I could not help but recall the words of Mr. Diefenbaker on the occasion in somewhat paraphrasing, altering the wording of some poet whose name I do not know. Mr. Diefenbaker

Mr. Simmons:

asked the Prime Minister if it was true that, or asked Mr. Horner, I believe, is it true that the paths of glory lead but to the grave? And it is the nearest thing I can make by way of a response to the term 'grave' which I heard a moment ago

'But back to my analogy, Mr. Speaker, which was interjected into debate in all seriousness, I would suggest to the member for St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter), and he and I should have a chat because I have taken rather lately to a tremendous interest in fish farming, and I understand he has a similar interest, and I would like to tell him about a salmon farming operation I had the privilege of visiting a couple of weeks ago out in the Western Provinces. But that is another subject.

I do want to get back to my analogy, and as it applies to the government, because I, like most taxpayers in this Province, notice all the evidence, all the telltale signs of rigor mortis. I could go through them. One could start with the odor.

AN HON. MEMBER: Stench

MR. SIMMONS: But I believe in the interest of being kind tonight, Mr. Speaker, I shall just leave the thought with hon. members that we are at a frightful period in our parliamentary history. There is obviously a lack of will, Mr. Speaker, a lack of will on the part of government. Now that is acceptable, if it could be dealt with, and if there were an election, and we could do what has to be done as a people, make our selection and then begin from square one.

Mr. Speaker, the real concern, of course, is the effect it is having on the average person around this Province, and there is developing, and there is growing up in this Province very, very quickly a what-is-the-use attitude? What is the use? And that attitude, Mr. Speaker, is being permeated by the government, by the part-time Premier we have, by the sometimes Cabinet we have, by the lack of policy in almost every area of government, I suppose nowhere, Mr. Speaker, nowhere is the lack of policy more blatantly obvious than in

Mr. Simmons:

the fisheries.

Now I know the Minister of Fisheries has some very decidedly different views on this particular subject, because somewhere along the line he has got the impression, or attempts to convey the impression at least, that a lot of talk, a lot of wind, a lot of meetings, a lot of make shift programmes constitute a policy.

AN HON. MEMBER: Press release it is.

MR. SIMMONS: Yes. The press release approach to policy.

Now I do not believe the minister is guilty of any insincerity at all, but I will tell you what he is guilty of it, if he is guilty of anything - and guilty is not the appropriate word here, because I have a fair amount of admiration for the energy with which he approaches the job but if he has any guilt to share here, it is the guilt of association, the guilt of association with the government and with the Premier that will not even stoop, will not deign at all to be associated with one iota of policy. One could ask the question, Why was not the minister in Ottawa this week, if the Premier was up there talking about fisheries policy? Of course, there is no need to ask the question, because we know the answer. The answer now - the answer is clearly that there is such a rift between these two gentlemen that one will not take the other with him anywhere.

And that is the kind of situation we have on our hands, Mr. Speaker, not only in the fisheries, but we can take almost any area of government, and the personality situation is such in government now that I wonder how they can get anything done. Is there a case anywhere, Mr. Speaker, is there a case anywhere in parliamentary history where we have been so far into the fiscal year without a budget? And it has been blamed on linerboard, and it has been blamed on a lot of other things.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: In 1972.

MR. SIMMONS: Well 1972, of course, was quite a different situation because of the election in March of that year, and the government had literally just taken over - they had taken over in January, it is true - but,

Mr. Simmons:

you know, there are certainly extenuating circumstances there in view of the election in March of that particular year.

But, Mr. Speaker, is there a case anywhere, except that kind of a case which is so recently preceded by an election, a general election, and a change of government, and therefore a requirement to get familiar with the financial accounts before rushing into a full year budget?

MR. SIMONS: These are particular circumstances. But otherwise, Mr. Speaker, is there a case at all where we have had a government who just refused, or lacked the will, or lacked the courage to bring in a budget? We know it is not going to be any piece of cake when it comes, Mr. Speaker. You would be a fool to think in this particular year of restraint, generally, of inflationary tendencies, of very high unemployment, and in particular in our case of Newfoundland, in an instance where, I suppose - I strike I suppose - where we have, Mr. Speaker, clearly the most incompetent government that ever occupied the seats of power in any parliamentary democracy, clearly the most incompetent bunch that ever, ever anywhere in this country, in this nation, in the free world, ever occupied the seats of power. The most incompetent, the most lacking in will of any group of men who ever had the nerve to call themselves an administration.

AN NON. MEMBER: A misnomer.

MR. SIMONS: Yes, a misnomer in every sense of the term, Mr. Speaker. But even given those circumstances, Mr. Speaker, how can we justify now that we are coming into the end of April, no budget. And here we are on a Tuesday, and the Minister of Finance is still iffing his time away. It might be Thursday and it might be Friday and then again it might not be.

MR. MURPHY: So what?

MR. SIMONS: So what? Yes -

MR. MURPHY: So what!

MR. SIMONS: So what.

MR. MURPHY: You stunned twillick.

MR. SIMONS: Ha, ha! Ha, ha!

The farmer hauled another load away.

MR. ROYE: How eloquent! Eloquence from

MR. ROWE: the gentleman from St. John's Centre (Mr. Murphy).

MR. SIMMONS: I could, Mr. Speaker, I suppose, if the House would give me leave, take three or four hours to explain to the member for St. John's Centre what a budget is for. I could explain to him why we need a budget.

MR. MURPHY: Go away, I am after reading more budgets than you ever heard of.

MR. MORGAN: Hear, hear! Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMONS: Ah! Ah! The paper shredder from St. John's Centre. The walking paper shredder from St. John's Centre. Now he eats budgets.

MR. MURPHY: Go crawl in some hole and haul it in after you.

MR. SIMMONS: He has some taste, Mr. Speaker. At least he has finally demonstrated some taste in the matter. He likes budgets. He likes budgets.

MR. MURPHY: What a piece of a man to have for a member.

MR. SIMMONS: Perhaps that is the problem, Mr. Speaker, The Minister of Finance is trying to get the right colour ink to suit the diet of the member for St. John's Centre. Perhaps that is the problem.

He asks, What do we need a budget for? Does it not confirm what I said a moment ago, that we have on our hands the most incompetent clique of people to ever occupy the seats of power? Here is a senior minister, here is their bright and shining light, Mr. Speaker, their modern miracle, here he is and he says, What do you need a budget for? Yes I guess that basically is the thinking over there. Perhaps they will come and tell us one of those laws we are not going to have one after all. That is what I am scared of. Perhaps they will find some parliamentary

MR. SIMMONS: trick that we do not need a budget.

 Anyway, Mr. Speaker, it is not the member for St. John's Centre (Mr. Murphy) that I particularly want to talk about. He is a great friend of mine. I lament his lack of understanding as to why we need a budget, but that is his problem rather than the Houses. Where is the Minister of Transportation? He should be in because he and I had a deal. You talk about agreements, if the government House Leader is here, the deal that the Minister of Transportation and I have is that if I speak, he would. So if he would come in now I would sit down so he could get on with his remarks. He wants very much to make them. He is making them with some - it is going to take some courage for him to make the remarks because I understand that he is being muzzled in some ways. I do not know if that is an accusation against the government House Leader or a compliment, really. I cannot make up my mind.

MR. HICKMAN: The government House Leader is a very respectable politician, Mr. Speaker, and I am known to keep my word.

MR. SIMMONS: I see. Well, my House Leader -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMONS: - as I understand it, gave me to believe that any deals there were were on condition that the government House Leader could keep his crowd under control.

MR. NEARY: Going around making deals and I do not know anything about them.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SIMMONS: Shocking! Shocking!

MR. NEARY: The first I heard of it was when my hon. friend mentioned it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, of all the speakers

MR. SIMMONS: in this House. I think even
by leave. I am prepared to stay here a bit late -

MR. NEARY: No, Sir, not without having
a recess.

MR. MORGAN: See your House Leader.

MR. SIMMONS: Oh, Mr. Speaker, I am prepared
to do things things. I will tell you what they are in
a minute.

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

MR. NEARY: I did not get a copy of the -

MR. SPEAKER(Collins): Order, please! The hon. the
member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simmons) requests
silence while making his remarks.

MR. SIMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I
have a lot of things I could say but I will get a chance
to say them on the Budget Speech.

MR. SIMONS: Mr. Speaker, I would yield for the minister.

MR. MORGAN: A point of order, Mr. Speaker. For clarification,

Mr. Speaker, I am confused. Based on the fact that -

MR. SIMONS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): Order, please!

MR. SIMONS: I thought that was the point of order.

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

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): A point of order has come up. The hon. Minister of Transportation and Communications.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, for clarification. The members of the House of Assembly on this side of the House were of the firm impression that - between the two House Leaders today it was agreed, firmly agreed, the Opposition House Leader, and our House Leader, that we would allow the Opposition members to all speak on the other side who wanted to speak and we would close by eleven o'clock tonight on the Throne Speech debate.

MR. SIMONS: Is that right, 'John'?

MR. MORGAN: That was firmly agreed upon, and the Opposition House Leader is nodding his head saying it is right. Today in the House of Assembly I did not speak in the debate because I went along with the agreement. There was only one man from our side who spoke in this debate and there were seven on the opposite side of the House of Assembly.

MR. FLIGHT: Six.

MR. MORGAN: Now the Opposition speaker who is now speaking is saying he did not hear about this agreement?

MR. SIMONS: No. No.

MR. MORGAN: So for a point of clarification, Mr. Speaker, what I am saying is surely the two House Leaders, our House Leader informed us, surely the House Leader of the Opposition informed his hon. members of the same thing.

AN HON. MEMBER: What is the point of order?

MR. MORGAN: A clarification is required. A clarification is required.

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): Order, please! Order, please! If the hon. members will permit me, I do not see any substance to the remarks made by the hon. minister that would classify it as a point of order. There is a difference of opinion clearly between the two sides of the House but I do not think it is a point of order that the Chair certainly can rule upon and I would therefore ask the hon. member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir to continue his remarks.

MR. SIMONS: Mr. Speaker, lest there be any misunderstanding insofar as my colleague from Conception Bay South (Mr. Nolan) is concerned, because I believe the minister has left some false information now, **my** colleague at no time has instructed me not to speak or indeed any member of the House that I could understand. I did hear before Easter that there was some desire on the part of government to clue this up tonight and you know if they want to do that I am prepared to do that whether it is eleven o'clock or four tomorrow morning. I have got all night and I would think most people have.

I have a right also to speak in the debate and I am exercising it. I wanted to exercise it fairly briefly. If the government side want to get involved in what might have been or procedural wrangles, well I can do it slowly just as adequately as I can do it quickly. I have all the time in the world, Mr. Speaker. I intend to clue up fairly soon just in case there are other members or just in case there is some kind of a guillotine rule about eleven o'clock that I am not particularly aware of. My House Leader did take us aware that it was the government's desire to try and clue this up this evening on the understanding that we would not forfeit our opportunity to speak and the government's price for that, I may tell the government's backbenchers, that those fellows would be nudged. Now if the government wants to tussle their people that is their business. I do not think that it is

MR. SIMMONS: very democratic.

MR. HICKMAN: On a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): A point of order.

MR. HICKMAN: The statement just made by the hon. member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simmons) is totally, absolutely untrue without any foundation, without any merit, is not what the hon. member for Conception Bay South (Mr. Nolan) told him, I know that too, and it is totally and absolutely untrue. The simple fact is it is not a guillotine rule, no rule at all. It is the kind of thing that happens in every Parliament where house leaders have an absolute right in the attempt to have the smooth running operation of the House make certain commitments and give an indication as to who will speak from each side. That was done today.

The hon. gentleman from Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simmons) was not on that list and did not indicate to his House Leader that he wanted to speak and he was given the opportunity and he did not give an indication he wanted to speak.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): Order, please!

MR. SIMMONS: To the point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): Order, please! Again the point of order as expressed by the hon. House Leader does not in my view bring the Chair into this question. There have been arrangements alluded to between the two house leaders but this is not something that the Chair in my understanding is a party to so I do not think it is a point of order I can rule upon.

The hon. member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, again it is not eleven o'clock and there is room for another five speakers assuming we only speak for five minutes each. Fairness again.

MR. HEARY: Mr. Speaker, a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): A point of order.

MP. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the government House Leader if there has been a document passed around outlining the new hours under which the House will operate when the Budget is brought down.

MR. NEARY: and a couple of alternatives. I have not seen it but I heard about it.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, that really is not a point of order, as the hon. gentleman knows.

MR. NEARY: Well a point of information. Call it what you like.

MR. HICKMAN: I am opening discussions with the Opposition and then with the hon. gentleman from LaPoile (Mr. Neary) and there is no point -

MR. NEARY: No, I have not seen it.

MR. HICKMAN: No. No. Because there is no point in talking to the hon. gentleman from LaPoile (Mr. Neary) until I get some consensus from the other side.

MR. NEARY: Well you could do me the courtesy of giving me the documents.

MR. HICKMAN: I will. I have every intention of doing it. We both agree.

MR. NEARY: I will wait until it is all settled.

MR. HICKMAN: No. No.

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): Order, please! Again I do not see there is a point of order to be ruled upon.

The hon. member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, again before just cluing up my remarks very quickly in case there are others who want to speak before eleven o'clock, and in fairness to my colleague from Conception Bay South (Mr. Nolan), I was quite late for our caucus today and I just understood from him that he had determined the list in my absence and therefore I was not able to give the input, and I take as much of the blame for that as he, indeed more than he because I should have been there.

Moreover, I did have two or three things I would like to say and I would like to get quickly on to them. I wanted to talk about a number of matters but I will save my notes for the Budget Speech. I am sure there will be an occasion if the Budget ever does come down. I was looking forward though, Mr. Speaker, and

MR. SIMONS: I did tell the Minister of Transportation and Communications earlier that, you know, I was prepared to yield to hear from him because there is no minister or no member in this House that this House deserves to hear from more than that minister. He certainly has more to speak on, more subjects to speak on. He had a chance today for example. He could speak to us on the fisheries and the plant for Old Perlican. He announced that one. It is not down there yet. He could tell us how Charlie Power's boy got the job as Highways Superintendent, and that is a well-known fact but not a very well explained fact and he bungled it today in Question Period. He could tell us about the overpass west of Grand Falls and whether that is, you know, that is history - but what its implications are for his road and bridge policy in the future.

So many issues that that minister could stand in his place, it would take him days, Mr. Speaker, just to explain, days and weeks.

MR. MORGAN: It would waste the time of the House.

MR. SIMONS: No, it would not be a waste of time. It would be very valuable information to know what his responsibility was on the overpass west of Grand Falls, and to know how he sat by on the Ferryland superintendency, just as he did in Conception Bay South with Metro involving Mr. Greenslade down there, that kind of situation and has been going on ever since he became minister, and it is shameful, it is shocking beyond words. He would not be wasting the time of the House, Mr. Speaker, indeed we would give him unlimited time on this side of the House if he would agree to get up and take a clean breast of the way he has monkey wrenched and mismanaged the Department of Transportation. We would give him absolutely unlimited time, unlimited time for him to finally come clean and give us some kind of a story about how he is mismanaging that department.

MR. MORGAN: A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPFAKER (DR. COLLINS): A point of order.

MR. MORGAN: I would like for the hon. gentleman to clarify a statement by - mismanagement I can understand, but monkey wrenched? Could you clarify that statement?

MR. SIMONS: Mr. Speaker, I think most people understand the term but since he does not we will explain it for him. I will give him an example. When you have three or four qualified applicants for a job, and you take not the first recommended, although he is available, but you take another who is recommended to you by a once and future candidate of your party, that is monkey wrenching, Mr. Speaker.

AN HON. MEMBER: Monkey business.

MR. SIMONS: That is monkey business of the highest order.

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

Mr. Speaker, this afternoon in the House of Assembly in reply to a question from the Leader of the Opposition I stated quite categorically, which is now in Hansard, that I did not consult, received no advice, had no discussion with Mr. Charlie Power or anybody else on the Southern Shore with regards to the appointment down there, and I now call upon the hon. gentleman who is now speaking to retract that statement because in fact he is calling me a liar.

MR. SIMONS: To the point of privilege, Mr. Speaker, the so-called point of privilege, the member of course knows very well he has, one, to establish a prima facie case which he has not done at all, and secondly, Mr. Speaker, he has to accompany his point of privilege by a motion, a substantive motion. He has not done that so I would assume that there is no point of privilege and I would like to continue my remarks unless the Chair wants to rule on the matter.

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): Order, please! The hour is late and I think it is natural that there should be words said that perhaps have an edge to them. In considering the remarks made by the hon. minister, I feel that there is more here, that he thinks that the hon. member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir did not appreciate in the situation.

MR. SPEAKER:

that there was an actual accusation made by the hon. member against the hon. minister. So I would feel that the point of privilege is not one that would fall within the definition as it is understood in Beauchesne and similar authorities, but that it is a difference of opinion between two hon. members. I would hope therefore that the hon. members will allow the evening to continue and in doing so the hon. member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir would have the floor.

MR. MORGAN: On a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: A point of order.

MR. MORGAN: A point of order, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have no intention of sitting in this House of Assembly and being called indirectly a liar. The statements made by the hon. gentleman for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simons) clearly indicate to me after my statement in the House of Assembly in reply to a question - I have clearly put forward the position of the Department of Transportation and Communications and my position as minister. The hon. member is now indirectly calling me a liar and the point of order is the hon. gentleman should be asked to retract that statement and retract any implication of me being a liar in this House of Assembly.

MR. SIMONS: Mr. Speaker, to the point of order. I did not call the member a liar directly or indirectly. I described a set of actions in which he has been involved and which he has not denied. And if he wants to clean up his act, Mr. Speaker, then that is fair. I will not even have to think he is a liar, let alone say it. But, Mr. Speaker, the record is clear both in Conception Bay South and now in Ferryland that people are being hired for positions or awarded contracts on reasons other than competence, to put it bluntly for base political reasons. And I say to the minister if he does not want to be subjected to this kind of thing, he can clean up his act. Let him clean up his act, that is all.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

MR. SIMONS: Let him clean up the act.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

MR. SIMONS: Clean up your act, 'Jim'.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

The hon. Minister of Transportation and Communications.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order and the point of order is this -

MR. SIMONS: Sure there is a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: There is a point of order being discussed.

MR. MORGAN: To the point of order, Mr. Speaker, to that point of order. Mr. Speaker, again I reiterate that clarification was given today in the House of Assembly by me as minister that there was no partisan involvement -

AN HON. MEMBER: 'Jim', we do not believe you. We do not believe you.

MR. MORGAN: - there was no partisan connection with any appointment to the position of foreman on the Southern Shore. Again I am calling upon the hon. gentleman to refrain from making a statement which is totally untrue and is indirectly calling me a liar.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, to that point of order. It is a fundamental rule that any statement made by an hon. gentleman of this House has to be accepted. It cannot be questioned. The hon. gentleman, the hon. Minister of Transportation and Communications, said today clearly and categorically that he did not have any discussions or consult with a gentleman named Charles Power who allegedly lives on the Southern Shore of this Province. He, having said that, this House must under the rules accept that statement without equivocation and there can be no debate on it. That is it.

MR. SIMONS: Mr. Speaker, to the point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir.

MR. SIMONS: Of course applying the minister's own principle that a member who makes a statement in this House, that statement should be accepted. I made a statement a moment ago that the minister is tampering with the appointments, and will you not accept that one? I make that statement. Does the minister want to apply his own rule, that a member's statement - I am a member and I have made a statement.

MR. SIMONS:

And if the statement happens to be not within the parliamentary niceties I will withdraw it, but I will go on believing it, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

I understand the point of order arises out of the fact that the hon. minister made a statement in the House today saying that a certain appointment was not made in discussion with a former member of this House. He takes the view, I believe, that the hon. member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir in speaking just a short time ago cast doubt upon that statement. As far as I can recall what the hon. member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir did say did not in my view cast doubt upon that statement by the hon. minister. What he did say was, as far as I can recall it, that he felt that there was some political input into the hon. minister's decision. He did not, as far as I can recall, say that the hon. minister had consulted with the former member of Ferryland. If I am incorrect in that I would be quite willing to adjourn for a short while and see if we can consult the records.

But if the hon. members would enlighten me on that point,

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): I think it would help. Would the hon. minister, for instance, allow the hon. member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir to state whether this is what he stated or not?

MR. SIMONS: Let me say this, Mr. Speaker. I will not rise by leave of the minister. I will rise to continue my address or on a point of order, but I am not going to seek the permission of any minister of this House to speak. I have a right in this House.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think I can clarify for Mr. Speaker, not with the minister's permission though, that the difference here, and it is a difference of opinion, the minister feels I cast aspersions on his statement today about not having been consulted. At no time did I imply or say he was consulted. What I did say in almost those words in my example was to say that a follower or a hack or a protegee or an associate of Charlie Power was appointed to the position. I did not say, nor did I infer that it was done in any verbal or written consultation which did take place between the minister and Mr. Power. I did not say that. The minister thought I said that, but as on so many other occasions the minister has jumped to the wrong conclusion.

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): Order, please! I would rule therefore that this being my understanding of the remarks that did pass, and of course one can only go by memory and this point could be brought up later as a point of personal privilege if the record shows that one's memory is incorrect. But that being the case I would not take the view that the word or the remarks of the hon. minister have in any way been questioned and I would therefore ask the hon. member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir to continue his remarks.

MR. SIMONS: Mr. Speaker, I believe both the minister and the Minister of Justice have served their purpose. They have stolen ten or fifteen minutes of my valuable time in which I wanted to talk about the lack of fisheries policy, the bumping act

MR. SIMMONS: which we have seen on Lab Liner which my colleagues have well described but I wanted to have some input on. I will get a chance during the Budget Speech. I wanted to talk about the unemployment situation which must rank as our number one problem in this Province right now. It is victimizing a lot of people. But I did give an undertaking a few moments ago that there may be another speaker or two, one of whom I am aware who may want to speak and so for that reason I intend to finish here and save my remarks for a later opportunity.

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): The hon. member for Eagle River.

MR. SIMMONS: Go ahead, 'Ian', you have got the floor 'Ian', you have got the floor.

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): The hon. House Leader.

MR. HICKMAN: I thank the hon. gentleman from Eagle River for his courtesy and I understand that he is now unable to complete his address within the ten minutes remaining. I therefore move that this House do not adjourn at eleven o'clock.

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): It is moved that the House do not adjourn at eleven o'clock, Those in favour "Aye", those against "Nay", in my view the "Ayes" have it.

The hon. member for Eagle River.

MR. STRACRAN: Mr. Speaker, I thank the government House Leader for giving me that extra time.

Mr. Speaker, the Throne Speech is traditionally a speech in which one deals with one's district. In my case here I put some considerable time in doing some work on some things which I thought were important, fairly important. I had intended doing much earlier in debate, presenting some of these points much earlier on but for various reasons and so on it is now ended up at ten minutes

MR. STPACHAN: to eleven on a Tuesday night and the Throne Speech being concluded and I am just getting on to discussing the topics that I wish to discuss.

Mr. Speaker, I understand the desire at eleven o'clock at night to leave and get home and watch the hockey matches and do whatever members variously want to do. However, I feel very strongly about some of the things that I have here that I wish to present and talk about. I also feel that since it is very difficult for me on weekends to take off and go home and I spend most of the weekends

MR. STRACHAN:

trying to do a bit of work, but what I have to say then is of some kind of value regardless of how many people wish to listen to it.

The district of Eagle River I could describe is a very varied district. I could talk about the various problems from both the Inuit in the North and the Indian down to the settlers and down into Labrador South. The fact that the district is longer from Port aux Basques to St. John's, in fact almost right out to the 200 mile limit is the length of the district. The fact that the district has two time zones. And many other facts about the district that I could enunciate, I could discuss many things about the district that it needs, or we feel it needs, the airstrips, the fisheries and so on.

However I am concerned about the people of the district and the people in Labrador generally, because it always ends up where they always get together are very much concerned with, as well as these small things which affect their communities, and I will be the first to agree that they do not see eye to eye from the various communities, but there is often a great deal of dispute between communities, and some of them very difficult to size up exactly what the need, in a material sense, and it is also very difficult to be able to give them the material things.

But there is one thing that is very common and very clear and it is that they are all very much concerned with their environment, very much concerned with what is occurring or what will occur, and they are going through, in the last few years, and will for the next five to ten years go through a soul searching experience of trying to find their identity and try to find where they are heading and who they are and what they are. I do not intend to talk very much on that. But I want to explain a little bit of where they stand on some of the developments which are fast approaching the Labrador Coast and the rest of Labrador.

There are many developments, such as uranium development which has created a great deal of difficulty among them. There are

Mr. Strachan:

various other developments, oil and gas developments, with the hydro power development in Labrador. And I wish to discuss some of this, and at least home in on one particular one on which I have done a fair bit of work, albeit in a kind of vacuum in as much as I do not have the information or much of the information that would be needed or necessary, but nevertheless I have been trying to put together some of the information in trying to present some kind a position or some kind of policy on where we should be heading. It is a policy which I feel is open to much argument, and I certainly would be interested in further enlightenment and debate on the policy. But certainly it is something that I would wish to enunciate and lay out, and I am very deeply concerned about it, I spent considerable time.

I have a little bit of concern in order to do this I realized full well a couple of weeks ago when we made agreements on this, that we would come down to the wire that we would be in a situation which I would not have much time, and of necessity the forty-five minutes would not suffice in order to describe exactly what I was intending to get at, and the whole point and policies I wish to enunciate.

I have had for sometime the wish to discuss this in detail. I do not think that the Budget Speech is exactly the place to discuss it. I certainly was not intending discussing it in the Budget Speech. I was therefore to the Throne Speech that I was looking to discuss these points of view.

I am caught in a difficult position right now, because I wish to get into what I have to say, and describe the whole thing and try to come to some sense of it, but I am concerned that my forty-five minutes is up, then I will not be granted any further time, and that will be the end of it just when I am trying to get through some of the quite complicated positions and situations that I feel we are faced with.

MR. STRACHAN:

I realize also full well that probably the Minister of Mines and Energy would be very much interested in some of the things that I have to say, and some of them he may totally discard and disregard as unnecessary and not true or not factual.

MR. STRACHAN: I can understand his feelings on this. I first of all have supported very clearly his position that he has taken with oil and gas even though some on both sides of the House have felt otherwise. I feel very strongly that in some of the positions that he has taken I think they were the only positions available to this Province, the only positions that can be taken by this Province.

I was looking forward to getting into a debate with him on what I would call substantive issues rather than personality politics. It was for this reason that I had put together some of this work and tried to get him to do some of these things.

The oil and gas regulations I was looking forward to, and I expected that I would get into some of that discussion hopefully before the House closes. I believe, I trust that the oil and gas regulations will be down before the House closes.

At the moment I doubt whether the forty minutes or thirty-five minutes available to me will be sufficient. I have no great desire to keep the House open until all hours of the morning. Members who do not want to listen to it can certainly go home. But I certainly believe what I have here is important. At least to me it is important and therefore I have the right and the desire and the wish to present it.

The fact that the press will not pick it up is immaterial to me. It does not bother me one little bit. It is immaterial what occurs there. But I would like to express some of the feelings that I have on this.

It was with this in mind that I had prepared an amendment on this in order to give

MR. STRACHAN: myself sufficient time. I doubt very much whether others will be prepared to get into it. I doubt very much at this time of night or later on that anybody would be prepared to get into it. But since it is the only way I am assured of getting more than my forty-five minutes, and I do not want to launch into this thing to be cut off just when I am trying to get to some of the points, the end points to which I am trying to head. It is for that reason that, unless I can be assured of leave, and I doubt very much how much leave I would be given, that I would wish to pass amendment on the Throne Speech, discuss this further, and try to get into some of the situations that we are faced with. I think we will get the Throne Speech finished tonight with no problem at all.

MR. ROBERTS: Do you want to move the amendment? I will have 'Fred' second it.

MR. STRACHAN: To that end then,- I certainly do not want to go into the early hours of the morning, I do not want to go on and on and filibuster and so on, but I do wish to move an amendment to the Throne Speech to give me an opportunity to discuss the things that I have in front of me.

The amendment to the Throne
Speech -

MR. J. CARTER: Would the hon. member permit a question?

MR. STRACHAN: Certainly.

MR. J. CARTER: Does the hon. member realize that if he moves an amendment, the amendment may not be allowed and he may have to sit down and could speak no more, whereas if he fulfills his entire forty-five minutes, as he wishes to do so, no doubt he certainly has the assurance of that.

MR. STRACHAN: If I may reply to that. I have my forty-five minutes anyway. But the problem is that the forty-five minutes, if I am going to get into some of the things that I want to get into, may not be sufficient. I do not know, it may be, it depends. Unfortunately then I may not get leave, and of course nobody is going to be prepared to give me unlimited time or leave to let me go on. Once I get into it I want to finish it, most definitely. So with that in mind I feel that I want to pass this just to give me time. I would have done it this afternoon, I would have done it last week or whatever time it was, I would have done it.

The amendment then to the Throne Speech is to delete all the words after "that" and replace them with the following: "That this House regrets the failure of the ministry to develop the natural and physical resources of this Province for the benefit of the people of the Province." I move the amendment to the Throne Speech seconded by my colleague from Trinity - Bay de Verde (Mr. Rowe), and I would then like to discuss some of the things I wish to discuss.

MR. SPEAKER: It is moved by the hon. member for Eagle River (Mr. Strachan), seconded by the hon. member for Trinity-Bay de Verde (Mr. Rowe) that all the words after "that" be deleted and replaced with the following, "This House regrets the failure of the ministry to develop the natural and physical resources of this Province to the benefit of the people of the Province."

The hon. member.

MR. I. STRACHAN: Mr. Speaker, in the world of oil and gas which may not ever come to anything in this Province, but yet again I remember the words of the previous Minister of Mines and Energy, Mr. Leo Barry, who I believe did an excellent job at the time, I had many discussions with him on the Labrador Coast and I believe that he adopted the right attitude that the oil and gas developments, if there is any possibility whatsoever they come and the reckoning now is a seventy/thirty chance of the development occurring, felt that we should be prepared in the best possible way because it would be a major upheaval in this Province. I have been looking at some of the situations elsewhere in the world. I am trying to study as much as possible, in fact as many parts as possible from elsewhere in the world because there is one thing which is very striking. Although the provinces and the countries involved, now involved and producing crude oil to the companies, the multinational corporations have had varied history, a history which is very turbulent. They have changed their forms of government many times. There is one thing that is sure, that ever since 1859 when Edwin Drake first found the oil in Titusville in the States, ever since then the oil companies, apart from the breaking up of the Standard Oil Company the Rockefeller group of companies into Standard Oil in Jersey and Standard California, ever since then the oil companies have its one total continuous history. Their history has been maintained all the way along. Countries have risen and fall. Countries have had revolutions. Countries have changed.

MR. STRACHAN:

This Province has changed many, many times. But all the time these companies have had a continuous history and have built up a -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. MURPHY: Mr. Speaker, could we have a quorum call.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. gentleman is making a quorum call.

A quorum has been called.

MR. SPEAKER: I am informed that the three minutes are up. Hon. members will recall what I said a few days and that is at the time it was somewhat difficult because there were a number of members standing in the Chamber - I am not talking about people standing outside the chamber, obviously they are outside - standing in the Chamber and I raised the point that it was difficult, number one, to know whether they intended to be counted in the quorum and of course another point is whether they may be counted in the quorum. That situation is not at present effective because I do not see any hon. members in the chamber but not seated.

Count the House, please.

We do not have a quorum and this is the first time I have done this procedure, but I believe the Standing Orders are that the names of hon. members here will be entered in the journals and that I then adjourn the House until tomorrow, Wednesday at 3:00 P.M.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! I cannot speak to people who are outside the House but presumably they can hear me, and the precincts of the House are within the jurisdiction of the House and I would caution hon. members against that kind of reaction in the precincts of the House.

I will ask the clerk to note in the journals the members who are present and when he has done that he will signify to me and I will then adjourn the House until 3:00 P.M. tomorrow.

I am informed the clerk has the names of hon. members who were present for the quorum call.

I therefore adjourn the House until tomorrow, Wednesday at 3:00 P.M.

This House stands adjourned until Wednesday at 3:00 P.M.