

PRELIMINARY
UNEDITED
TRANSCRIPT

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
FOR THE PERIOD:
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
FRIDAY, MAY 20, 1977

The House met at 10:00 A.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

NOTICES OF MOTION.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the hon. Minister of Consumer Affairs and Environment, I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a bill, a bill, "An Act To Amend The Mortgage Brokers Act."

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MR. DINN: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a bill, "An Act To Amend The City Of St. John's Act."

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Social Services.

MR. BRETT: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow introduce a bill, "An Act To Amend The Adoption of Children Act, 1972."

ORAL QUESTIONS:

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Conception Bay South.

MR. NOLAN: Mr. Speaker, if I can get the Minister of Transportation from his genuflecting position before the Premier and back to his seat, I have a question for him, and the question is - perhaps the minister could bring us up to date on the transportation enquiry that is allegedly underway in the Province. We have heard some statements by the Chairman, Dr. Sullivan. Just where are we now on that enquiry - has it started? Where is it? - and particularly in view of reports which have been denied by Dr. Sullivan that they are looking at the possibility of the close down of the CNR?

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

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, the Commission of Enquiry, I am assuming, is down to work. I am not too sure myself exactly what they have been doing over recent weeks, but I am assuming they are analyzing the reports that have already been carried out in the Province on transportation and studies carried out.

Mr. Morgan.

The terms under which the enquiry was set up, both levels of government, the federal and provincial, it was agreed that the commission complete its work by the end of 1977.. So I sincerely hope that they are down to work, and will carry on with their work in the next number of weeks and month so as we can meet that deadline to have their work completed and a report made by the end of 1977. We do not want to see any delay on the report any later than that period.

MR. NOLAN: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. NOLAN: I wonder if the minister is in a position to inform the House of what input the Province will have

Mr. Nolan:

in any public enquiries that will be held. I mean, what is the position of the government at this moment on transportation in the Province? Do you have a brief that you will be presenting, and if so, are you prepared to table it in this House for public discussion?

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

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, we will be submitting what I would consider to be a major position or a brief to that Transportation Commission of Enquiry realizing the importance of the enquiry itself. It encompasses all modes of transport in the Province, not just the operations of CNR, in fact all modes including air, road, rail. So it is very important to us as a Province, and we will be submitting a major brief, what I would consider to be a major brief to that Commission.

Now whether or not we will be tabling or discussing it in the House of Assembly I cannot give assurances on that, based on the fact I am not at all at this time sure of the exact date we will be making a brief to the Commission. But, of course, we will be submitting a brief at a public hearing and we will be realizing that the Commission will be holding public hearings throughout the Province.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. the Premier seems to have gotten himself in hot water with the Status of Women and various other people in the Province in connection with a list that is alleged to have been supplied to the hon. Premier containing the names of over a hundred women who could serve in unofficial capacities on various government agencies and bodies and Crown corporations and so on. And the Premier left the impression that there were no females, no women available for this kind of work. Perhaps the Premier would like to clear that up and straighten the matter out.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: Mr. Speaker, gladly. The situation is yes, the Status of Women, I think, some several months ago sent in a list of women who would be suitable in various capacities to serve on various boards. There have been very few appointments made since that time to any boards as such. And I would very much like to clear up the fact that not just the women who were on that list but I assume a great many others could be capable of serving on boards. I guess traditionally all of us have been negligent in recognizing the fact that women could serve as well, and in some cases probably a great deal more efficiently and beneficially than men.

AN HON. MEMBER: Who was the bank treasurer -

PREMIER MOORES: Yes, I think, Mr. Earle MacLaughlin got into a little trouble over that, misinterpreted remarks, and I suggest, Sir, there are groups that can misinterpret remarks - and I am not just talking about the Status of Women now - very frequently in our society today. But I would say that without any question government and others have a very real obligation to recognize the emergence of the Women's Movement and women playing a full role in society, and a full role is no longer just the housewife's role, but the role that they want to play and that is to create the society they want their children to live in.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. NEARY: I would assume then from the hon. the Premier's answer that it is a part of the conventional wisdom of the administration, part of the policy of the administration to appoint females, to give them equal status with men, in future appointment that will be made by the government.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: The answer is yes, Mr. Speaker. It is the opposite, I suppose, to the lifeboat philosophy that there will be women and men first and children second.

MR. NOLAN: A supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. NOLAN: Mr. Speaker, on the same subject, and again to the hon. the Premier. Has the Premier as the Chief Administrator of this Province and head of the government issued orders to those who are in a position to appoint on boards and so on, not necessarily special treatment for women, but at least equal treatment, I mean, we have got to have something on paper to those in power?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: These appointments are made by the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council, Mr. Speaker. And therefore they are reviewed by all them members who are hearing me now and have heard me before.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Baie Verte-White Bay.

MR. RIDEOUT: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour and Manpower, I guess is the new title, is it? I wonder if the minister could tell us what is happening now with regards to the industrial enquiry that was set up to look into activities at IOCC in Labrador some months ago?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Labour and Manpower.

MR. ROUSSEAU: Mr. Speaker, Judge Rupert Bartlett's enquiry I guess six weeks - a month ago held hearings in Labrador City.

The

MR. ROUSSEAU: hearings are both private and public. I know that he had some hearings here this past week in St. John's and he is returning to Labrador City again, sometime, I think, with the next few days, to again conduct hearings. So hearings are ongoing and I presume that, as I suggested before - and I only have this as a rough estimate, that we would hope that he would be completed by next month and by the mid or the end of the summer we will have a report from him.

MR. RIDEOUT: A supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. RIDEOUT: Could the minister tell the House how many hearings this commission has held in Labrador?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister.

MR. ROUSSEAU: You know, I could not tell the hon. member that. I know there is one, he has been up there for a week, I believe it was and then he came down here. Now I know of one hearing he had - I do not know how many more he had down here. I know he is going back again and appointments are made to appear at the hearings by writing a legal counsel of the commission and it is properly advertised in the newspapers as well. I have asked Judge Bartlett because there are certain people obviously who do not want to appear at public hearings so he is also conducting private hearings; and I do not know which private hearings have been requested and I do not know how many he has held. But I think it was a week he was there holding public hearings. In the meantime, or subsequent to or after that he may have held a number of private hearings as well which is his intention.

MR. RIDEOUT: A supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. RIDEOUT: Is the minister expecting to have any sort of interim report from this commission before they - you know, it could take months to submit the final analysis of what they

MR. RIDEOUT: have. Is the minister expecting or has he requested that there be an interim report in a certain frame presented to himself?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister.

MR. ROUSSEAU: No I have not, Mr. Speaker, mainly because I think the issue is rather a large one and I would want Judge Bartlett, as he suggested, to possibly look into the constitutionality of the work permit system and that may take some time. He may be doing that concurrently or after. I think that in certain respects the announcement of the inquiry and subsequent hearings and that have made things a little different from certain companies' viewpoints up there so it is already significant in that way. But I would not want to hurry Judge Bartlett because I think the problem that arises there in Labrador West, it is not only Labrador West, indeed it is all of Labrador and parts of the Island part of the Province where we have the same type of problem, and I would want him to do a good job, I do not want to bring something in - and I am prepared to take full and complete responsibility since it is my district for the length of it but I think it is that important that I would want a full comprehensive, complete report and I would also want him to look into the constitutionality of the work permit system.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. member for Conception Bay South.

MR. NOLAN: A question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications. I understand that quite a number of telegrams have been forwarded to the minister, I believe, from communities such as Ladle Cove and so on and I believe in reference to paving required they have raised objections apparently because they have stated, I believe, in the press that there has been no response from the minister.

MR. NOLAN:

I would like to ask the minister, one, Is he aware of the requests, did he receive them, and why has there been no response to date to the people concerned?

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister of Transportation and Communications.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, over the past four days telegrams have been coming in to my office in a continuous stream, I notice that it seems to be a different type of protest with regards to road conditions throughout the Province and different type of requesting - a means of requesting pavement because, for example, Burgeo, I have received sixty-six telegrams from Burgeo over the last three or four days with regards to a problem in connection with a grader. And in the Aspen Cove-Ladle Cove I have received fifty telegrams from individual residents, some of them is just one person who has sent in a telegram, other cases two people signing, requesting pavement of the roads in the communities of Ladle Cove- Aspen Cove. And because the telegrams have been coming in, almost every hour there is a telegram coming in, I held back a reply until I felt the telegrams were all in.

Anyway, Mr. Speaker, in reply to the hon. gentleman's question, the reply will be sent today to the Aspen Cove- Ladle Cove people and in fact the people from Burgeo as well indicating the position of the department with regards to their request.

MR. NOLAN: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. NOLAN: I am wondering if the minister is in a position on this paving and so on - we have the budget and most people in

MR. NOLAN: most areas do not know what roads are going to be upgraded, do not know what roads are going to be paved, what roads they are going to use, whatever solution one uses to keep dust down this Summer and so on. I mean, when is the minister going to lay upon the table of the House, and therefore for the press, exactly what the programmes are for this year and what the people can expect from this government?

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

MR. MORGAN: Well, Mr. Speaker, in reply to that question, it was my intention of course when my estimates are called before the House, which I am hoping will be called now upon the completion of my colleague's estimates, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, to outline to the House of Assembly the position with regards to requests received, and petitions, etc. from various points around the Province. These people will be officially informed by the department, shortly after the estimates are approved by the House of Assembly, exactly what their situation is with regards to their requests for upgrading or paving of roads.

A number of the places requesting roads and upgrading and paving, decisions will not be made for maybe until the month of June because in many areas it needs the attention of the engineers from the department to investigate the request and in fact it is my intention to carry on like I did last year, to travel out to these areas and see the Province first-hand and to be able to assess the situation accompanied by the officials with regards to the needs and make a decision based on the needs of the area and to get the projects moving hopefully by the end of June.

MR. NOLAN: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary, the original questioner.

MR. NOLAN: Just one final supplementary, Mr. Speaker, and it is this; the minister is quite aware of the tremendous traffic congestion, particularly

MR. NOLAN: with the slightest bit of snow, on the Trans-Canada, I am thinking about the Kenmount Road area, from the overpass in for example you can see the problem any morning or any afternoon at five o'clock. So there is a real problem. It is obvious it needs to be widened to four lanes, and also the Topsail Highway which was originally built for the horse and buggy age and other than the paving there has been no substantial amount of work done on it to take the heavy load that it is carrying now. What plans does the minister have for the areas referred to?

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

MR. MORGAN: Well, Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, the members of the House of Assembly from St. John's has brought this to my attention on a number of occasions, and particularly the Kenmount Road. Of course the Kenmount Road is really part of the Trans-Canada Highway and it is included in the programme we now have before the Federal Cabinet. The Topsail Road has been brought to my attention a number of time by my colleague from the Mount Pearl area, regarding the need for improvements there.

MR. NOLAN: And the member for Conception Bay South.

MR. MORGAN: Conception Bay South as well—the hon. gentleman who asked the question as well has brought this to my attention.

The situation there, Mr. Speaker, is the same as many other parts of the Province. The people concerned will be informed shortly after the estimates are approved to the House of Assembly what they can expect to get done this year.

MR. SIMMONS: A supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary, the hon. member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir.

MR. SIMMONS: The minister made reference to the number of telegrams he is getting from Burgeo. In the case of Burgeo of course it is a fairly simple request, namely that the grader be left there. I would not think it would require much decision in terms of involving the estimates. It is a straight decision to leave it there or not. I wonder, first of all, would the minister indicate if he has made a

MR. SIMMONS: decision on that and what the decision is. And also if he could indicate, and this is related, why he needs a full-time foreman in Burgeo to supervise the activities of one grader operator? There is a fair amount of local talk about the obvious waste of money, that one guy sits in the shed and the other fellow reports to him once a day, and as a suggestion, as part of my question really, the minister might consider leaving the grader operator there even if he worked under the supervision of the local people, even attach him to the town council for example.

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

MR. MORGAN: Well, Mr. Speaker, if the hon. gentleman who represents Burgeo, or who asked the question, if he does not want a foreman in the Burgeo area, Mr. Speaker, I will place him over in LaPoile somewhere or some other part of the Province, gladly to. If the hon. gentleman feels we are wasting money in Burgeo we will gladly remove the gentleman from the area.

But, Mr. Speaker, it is a very simple request and I was sort of surprised that the request came in the form of sixty-six telegrams, sixty-six telegrams on a rather minor request from the one community, requesting that the grader remain in the Town of Burgeo. Whereas what it would have meant, a request from the elected body in the area, the town council, one simple request could have gotten a reply from me. But instead they decided to send sixty-six telegrams from residents in the area.

So, Mr. Speaker, in reply to the hon. gentleman's question, reply to these telegrams will be sent today to the residents but we are not going to waste the taxpayers' money in replying to each individual telegram. We are going to reply by form of letter, which is a more cheaper form of communications and inform the residents that the - Well, Mr. Speaker, first of all because the question and request came from the residents, I do not feel I will be informing the House of Assembly until the residents are informed officially by me.

MR. SPEAKER: I recognize the hon. gentleman for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir for a supplementary, and then the hon. member for LaPoile. Before the hon. gentleman commences his question, I would welcome to the House of Assembly on behalf of hon. members, Judge John Murphy, Supreme Advocate of the Knights of Columbus, from New Haven, Connecticut.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: Mr. Speaker, if I could have permission as well at this time to congratulate the Knights of Columbus on their 59th. State Convention which is being held here in the city this weekend and also - you have already done it for members of the House, and I know members of the Opposition would like to be associated with it - on behalf of the government. I just met Judge Murphy downstairs, Supreme Advocate of the Knights of Columbus, and indeed it is a great pleasure, Sir, and through you to welcome him from the government, from this side of the House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Conception Bay South.

MR. NOLAN: Mr. Speaker, we certainly join with the hon. Premier in welcoming this distinguished gentleman to our shores for the State Convention, and of course we know the contribution of the Knights of Columbus in this Province and in many parts of the world. And it is a real joy for us to see that he is visiting with us, and I hope that in addition to his official duties at the State Convention, where I have no doubt he will be kept very, very busy, that the officials here on the local level will see that he gets a little time off to visit the various parts of the Province, particularly the area in which he may have the time to travel so that he can have an opportunity to meet a lot of the people or as many as possible and get an opportunity to enjoy some of the well-known Newfoundland hospitality. However, I know when he is in the hands of the Knights

Mr. Nolan.

here in the Province, he is going to be the recipient of that in large order so we wish him well and a great welcome.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: I previously recognized the hon. gentleman for Burego - Bay d'Espoir, unless some other hon member is rising in connection with the matter just transpiring.

The hon. member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir, followed by the hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. SIMMONS: I was about to put a further supplementary to the Minister of Transportation. The sixty-six telegrams are perhaps indicative of the fact that the people of Burgeo realize that the minister needs a sledge-hammer approach very often. It is a simple request, as he has indicated himself. I wonder would he indicate whether a decision has been made to leave the grader there and if so, you know, whether it has been made to leave it, or not, to leave it, and if so what the decision is?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, the people who made representations to my department are all residents of the town of Burgeo and because I have received no representation from the hon. gentleman who represents Burgeo, the decision made by the department will be relayed today to the people making representations.

MR. SIMMONS: A supplementary.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Transportation and Communications, Sir, on a very serious matter indeed, Sir. I wonder if the minister could clear up the confusion that has arisen in connection with Dr. Selikoff's report of asbestos dust on the Baie Verte road? Has the minister received

Mr. Neary.

a report as yet? If not, could the minister indicate if he has asked the Leader of the Opposition, who held a press conference yesterday to announce the results of the report, if the minister has asked the Leader of the Opposition for a copy of the report, or have politics crept into this very serious matter?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, it was with astonishment and somewhat shock last night when I turned on the local media, electronic media, and I found the persons of the Leader of the Opposition and his colleague, the member for Baie Verte - White Bay (Mr. Rideout) calling a press conference to announce that they have received the reports from Dr. Selikoff, and that they were demanding that the government take action immediately. So I was of the assumption then that the report had probably arrived at my office in the afternoon while I was sitting in the House, and I was not made aware of it.

MR. MORGAN: And I was further shocked this morning, Mr. Speaker, when I checked the office and all the officials, nothing has arrived from Dr. Selikoff, either by telephone conversation, by telegram, by letter or by report. I was further astonished when I contacted my colleague, the Minister of Health, who I thought maybe would have been the man responsible more directly than I am, and checking with my colleague he has also not received any correspondence. The only correspondence I have seen from Dr. Selikoff is addressed to the member for the House of Assembly from the Baie Verte area, Mr. Tom Rideout, and that was dated May 2nd. from Dr. Selikoff and in that letter he reads, I will quote part of the letter, Mr. Speaker, if I may: "It is clear that a significant amount of (crystal) asbestos contamination of the ambient air is possible," and I repeat, "is possible as a result of the use of asbestos content crushed rock as road surfacing in the area."

Now that is the only part of that letter which indicates there is a possible contamination of the air by means of using the asbestos dust as a road surface dust. And, Mr. Speaker, that is the only piece of correspondence I have seen from Dr. Selikoff.

MR. H. COLLINS: Did you get that from Dr. Selikoff.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, in reply to my colleague, that statement was sent to the member of the Opposition -

MR. SIMMONS: That is in the -

MR. MORGAN: - without even a copy to the Ministers of the Crown.

MR. SIMMONS: That is allowed, is it not?

MR. MORGAN: Without even a copy to the government of the day.

AN HON. MEMBER: It is in the law.

MR. MORGAN: So, Mr. Speaker, in reply to the hon. gentleman's question, it is very annoying to me because if Dr. Selikoff -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, if I could have order.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Order, please! The hon. minister is finding difficulty in speaking and I would ask hon. members not to interrupt him.

MR. MORGAN: Well, Mr. Speaker, maybe I should not make the charge that it seems that somebody is playing politics but I guess it has to be said, because if Dr. Selikoff, and I would say again if, if he is genuinely concerned with the health of the people living in the Bay Verte area, which we are as a government, surely Dr. Selikoff could find time to make an official report to the government of the day, either to my colleague, the Minister of Health, or myself responsible for roads, so as we could get analyze the report from Dr. Selikoff, analyze his recommendations to government and take possible action. But to date nothing official has been sent to government from Dr. Selikoff.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. SIMMONS: There was a need.

MR. MORGAN: It is facts.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, there seems to be an unfortunate breakdown in communications here, Sir, and I do not believe that this matter should be the subject of one-upmanship. Is the minister saying that the minister has no documentation, no results of the study or the research that has been done by Dr. Selikoff, apart from what my hon. friend from Baie Verte has sent to the minister? If so, in view of the seriousness of this situation, and obviously the minister cannot rely on Dr. Selikoff to get the information, for what reason I do not know, would the minister and the Minister of Health undertake to do their own study, because this is a very serious matter, where people's health is involved, where you have a health hazard, to do their own study, independent of the Selikoff thing which seems to have entered into the realm of politics, and clear this matter up at an early a date as possible?

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

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, in reply to that question, this administration's concern was recognized and I think portrayed last Fall when Dr. Selikoff made a statement to the media to the extent that he felt that there was a possible hazard in the area and the Department of Transportation and Communications through the engineering staff, arranged to take samples from two different, well more than two but at least two different roads, on a number of locations on the two roads concerned, samples of dust. We have had these samples of dust analyzed to the best expertise possible in this Province, at the university here in St. John's, by means of a microscan system, scanning the asbestos dust, or road dust, the particles of the dust, etc, and no conclusive evidence was found from these tests to determine the possibility of asbestos dust being in the road dust.

Now that is the best possible expertise we could find in this Province. So we are depending on a renowned and well-known research analyst in this field - Dr. Selikoff, he is noted in this field - we are depending on his advice and his report and his recommendations to government indicating what the problem is in Baie Verte. So I again repeat, I sincerely hope Dr. Selikoff will get the report to government as soon as possible.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Twillingate, supplementary.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if it has occurred to the minister that Dr. Selikoff, who as he says

Mr. Smallwood:

is a distinguished scientist, looks upon any member of the House, and particularly the member for that particular constituency, as one in the same in that he does not draw any particular distinction between government and opposition, and that in handing the report to the member for the district he was not intending any discourtesy to the government, it could be done in good-natured ignorance, a great scientist that he is or though he is. Does the minister feel that this is a deliberate snub by this distinguished scientist? Surely not.

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

MR. MORGAN: No, Mr. Speaker, we did not say it was a deliberate snub on the part of this well renowned researcher or scientist. But again government is of the firm impression that this study was primarily carried out at the request of the unions in the area. And upon checking yesterday the unions have not been given any information or any results of the study carried out by Dr. Selikoff to date. So surely Dr. Selikoff would have referred his recommendations, or referred the results of his studies to the people who originally requested the study to be carried out, in this case the unions in the area.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Might he not feel he was doing that by giving it to the member representing every living soul in the district, including the unions.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary from the hon. member for LaPoile, and then a supplementary from the hon. member for Baie Verte-White Bay.

MR. NEARY: Am I correct in interpreting what the hon. gentleman is saying? The hon. gentleman is he saying that it is rather an unorthodox procedure, an unusual procedure, for the minister to get this information from a press conference called by the Leader of the Opposition, when the Leader of the Opposition could

Mr. Neary:

very easily given the minister the information.

AN HON. MEMBER: It was sent to him.

MR. NEARY: Sent to him one day and then demanding action the next day. The minister had hardly received the correspondence. I mean, this is no time for one-upmanship or playing politics.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: It is time for pretty serious business. Is that what the minister is saying?

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

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, in reply to that question again I say it was with astonishment because I was hoping, and I say hoping, that this kind of a serious problem would have been - the only way to resolve this kind of problem is by sitting down together and discussing any possible evidence received by government. Yesterday afternoon a press conference was convened by the Opposition Leader and his colleagues and a copy of the statements made and a letter to me was passed on to my office at the same time, the same day yesterday, and I was hoping this would not occur. I would prefer to see the Leader of the Opposition, in fact, and his colleagues sit down with even the Minister of Health, my colleague, the Minister of the Environment, my colleague, and myself and the officials and discuss out some possible means of overcoming this very serious problem, if a problem exists.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Baie Verte-White Bay. Before the hon. member asks his question I would like to welcome to the House on behalf of hon. members a number of students from St. Catherine's School in Grand Falls accompanied by their teacher Mrs. Ursula Wall.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Baie Verte-White Bay.

MR. RIDEOUT: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary, please, and I would like to say for the benefit of the House that I had talked with the

Mr. Rideout:

minister and the other ministers concerned on a number of occasions about this. But I just want to ask the minister in the correspondence that we made sure was delivered to him yesterday, was not attached to that a copy of the latest statistical analysis that was sent to me by the Mount Sinai School of Medicine?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Transportation and Communication.

MR. MORGAN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I did say that correspondence was received yesterday afternoon either shortly before or shortly after the press conference was called -

AN HON. MEMBER: Before.

MR. MORGAN: - by the Opposition Leader, and attached to the correspondence received was -

AN HON. MEMBER: Before.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, if I could get that maw-maw from Burgeo to keep quite over there while I am speaking -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! I would direct the hon. gentleman to my right not to interrupt, I do believe that the hon. gentlemen to my left may wish to withdraw his adjective or descriptive there.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, maybe the hon. maw-maw, my hon. friend from Burgeo (Mr. Simmons), Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday afternoon a letter signed by my good friend from Baie Verte area (Mr. Rideout) and attached to his letter was a very brief letter from a William J. Nickelson, Ph.D., Associated Professor of Mount Sinai School of Medicine, dated May 13, 1977, and there was no copy - the letter was written to Mr. Rideout in the Opposition Office, Confederation Building, St. John's, Newfoundland, with no

MR. MORGAN.

copy going to anyone on the government side. And the letter points out that the results of the analysis of air samples adjacent to roads in the vicinity of Baie Verte as follows - and he gives the results, the analysis of two roads, Seal Cove and the Fleur de Lys road, pointing out that the asbestos air concentration is .04 micrograms in one case and .025 micrograms in the other case. Now this information was passed on yesterday afternoon to the public by means of the press conference and the Opposition Leader and my friend. "These samples are each in excess of the highest levels which we have determined in any analysis of 200 samples collected in fifty cities in the USA, the highest concentration in which measured .09 milligrams of air." Now, Mr. Speaker, this is from the associate professor and again I think that this kind of information being passed on would have been better analyzed by maybe the best possible expertise we could find in this Province and get their views on this brief report. And I was hoping that before this information was passed on to anybody in the House of Assembly, in fact anybody in the Province, whether it be union, Opposition or anybody, that this kind of information would have been best analyzed and discussed by the appropriate authorities in power or in office rather than calling a press conference to demand government action.

MR. PECKFORD: It is an insult to the House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

ORDERS OF THE DAY:

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY:

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

1901-01.

The hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

MR. DINN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Now, Mr. Chairman, this morning, as a result of some of the questions asked by hon. members last night and some of the observations made, I would like to address myself to some of the speakers who have spoken in this debate since I spoke last evening. Some hon. members, Mr. Chairman, brought up the question of, Why does it cost so much to install a water and sewer system in incorporated areas when unincorporated areas can get water systems for much less? And, Mr. Chairman, that is a very good question, a very good question. I have looked at it myself, personally. I have gone through the files. I have had a look at what consulting engineers have been charging, what kinds of jobs have been done by these consulting engineers. And, Mr. Chairman, I personally was unable to arrive at why particular consultants charged up to 24 per cent of a job while other consulting engineers get on a job about, say, 7 per cent. You just cannot throw out that kind of a figure without some kind of an explanation. On some of the jobs where we charge 24 per cent, we got an excellent water and sewer system. We got an excellent job. It has worked. It is perfect. The 7 per cent job in some cases did not work. So it was very difficult having gone through all the jobs for the past three or four years to arrive at a conclusion as to what was happening and why was it costing so much. Was it the detailed design? What is the particular problems of a particular water and sewer system? Mr. Chairman, I myself could not arrive at why a consulting engineering firm would do a particular job in a particular area and do an excellent

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job, would charge a high percentage on that job, he would do a job in another area and charge a low percentage and sometimes the high percentage that he would get on the job would be a good job,

MR. DINN: and the low percentage would be a good job, so there was no way to arrive at who were the good guys and who were the bad guys, if there were any bad guys. So, Mr. Chairman, I had to give that up. My engineers in the department went through it and we could not arrive at why the cost of these jobs were so high in some instances and so low in other instances. We have some jobs, Mr. Chairman, some water and sewer systems in this Province that I can only term as a complete disgrace, a complete and utter disgrace.

But we cannot, Mr. Chairman, paint them all with the same brush. I do not know what all the problems are. I am not an engineer myself so until I can get some good, solid evidence that it was negligence or something of that nature, then there is no charge that can be made. If there were charges that could be made I would be the first one making the charges, but there are none.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I was asked also by the hon. the member for Lewisporte (Mr. White) what was happening with the Patterson report and the Whalen Royal Commission report, and the Henley report. Well, Mr. Chairman, the Patterson report refers specifically to Grand Falls - Windsor and that area. That has been referred, Mr. Chairman, to the councils out there so that they can provide input to the government so that government can make a reasonable decision on that report. We have not received that input as of yet, Mr. Chairman, and it is not government's intention at this time to shove any recommendations in that report down their respective throats. That is not the way it operates. If they want it they ask, and if it is a good idea they get.

MR. DINN: Mr. Chairman, the Whalen Royal Commission report: That report, Mr. Chairman, is an excellent, excellent report on Municipal Government in Newfoundland, there is no question about that. I think any hon. gentleman - I have read the report about four times because I wanted to have it fairly clear in my mind as to what the gentleman was really talking about.

MR. SMALLWOOD: How often? Four times?

MR. DINN: About four times, yes.

MR. SMALLWOOD: How often has the hon. minister read the bible? How often?

MR. DINN: That is a good question, Mr. Chairman. I went through -

MR. PECKFORD: That is the bible to the hon. minister right now.

MR. SMALLWOOD: That is what I was afraid of. That is what I was afraid of.

MR. DINN: Mr. Chairman, in answer to the hon. the member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) I read the bible, the Old and New Testament about twice.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Twice?

MR. DINN: Yes, and I have referred to it many times, because there are many -

MR. SMALLWOOD: That does not count.

MR. DINN: - there are many things in the bible, Mr. Chairman, that can be taken one way or another.

But with respect to the Whalen report and the Budget Speech made by the hon. the Minister of Finance on budget day with respect to a new grant structure for municipalities; well, Mr. Chairman, I have received the report of a steering committee that we have set up down in the department - on that steering committee, as the hon. gentleman will know, it is chaired by Mr. Mark Staples of Planning and

MR. DINN: Priorities, also the President of the Newfoundland Federation of Municipalities, Mr. Ron Fagan - the steering committee is doing an excellent job on this report, have made many recommendations ~~and~~ one of the recommendations they have made is that we attempt in the next short while, the next year or so, to bring in a new municipal grant structure.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. DINN: Can you wait until a little later on? I do not have a prepared text or anything like that, and I have a few odd things in my mind that I would just like to get out and I will accept your question a little later on, all right? I do not want to be rude or anything like that to the hon. member, Mr. Chairman, I just want -

MR. FLIGHT: I am not going to be here, I have to take my wife home.

MR. DINN: Mr. Chairman, the formula as put forth by Mr. Whalen for grants to municipalities theoretically is a good formula. But, Mr. Chairman, it is totally, to my way of thinking, inequitable with respect to those small municipalities, especially the municipalities in the hon. member's district. It is totally inequitable right now under that system, under his formula. It works theoretically, but it would not work for the small municipalities.

Now if I were political, if I were a political animal and I did not care about things like that I would just say, Well, Mr. Whalen made his report, he has a good formula, the formula arithmetically and theoretically works and so I should implement it. But in looking at the formula, in drawing it out and applying it to all the municipalities in Newfoundland, we would have a hundred municipalities that just could not survive. They would die next year if it were implemented. So we

MR. DINN: in having a look at these things and, Mr. Chairman; we have to come up with a formula that is equitable, that will not destroy the municipalities that we have in Newfoundland today. We just cannot ignore, we just cannot look at it, see a problem and ignore that problem and just go on with it because the formula worked arithmetically or theoretically or what have you.

We have to be cognizant always of the needs of the communities in Newfoundland. Now, Mr. Chairman, if of course this grant structure were brought in for municipalities, also the special grants would be discontinued. So in defence of the special grants, and I say this advisedly that in defence of the special grants - and I went through this last night with respect to 1976 - these grants have to be, there has to be in Newfoundland some flexibility with respect to those special grants.

If we do not have that flexibility in a small municipality where a machine breaks down and they need assistance, we would have no mechanism, none at all, to assist that municipality to get the machine fixed to allow them to clear their roads in the Wintertime. So, Mr. Chairman, we just cannot take a report, look at the recommendations and then implement it because it works out theoretically. The special grants last year, as I went through it last night, Mr. Chairman, were done by the finance committee of Municipal Affairs and Housing and it is one of the things that the previous minister has to be complimented on because we got a group of officials who know what is going on in all these municipalities, chaired by the Assistant Deputy Minister of Local Government who is well aware of all the problems of these municipalities, and they go through each individual request, in some cases have them investigated, and then apply a grant to the municipality that has the greatest need.

And, Mr. Chairman, as I said of the \$535,408 that was given

MR. DINN: out in 1976 in special grants, \$259,512 went to districts in municipalities of hon. members on this side of the House and \$275,896 went to hon. members districts in municipalities on the other side of the House. And, Mr. Chairman, it has to be done that way, I know fifty-one per cent goes to the hon. members opposite and their municipalities and only forty-eight over here, but it has to be done that way, Mr. Chairman, we cannot allow municipalities to die simply because a machine breaks down or they cannot afford to fix it, and they cannot afford to clear their roads in the Wintertime.

So with all due respects to Mr. Whelan, Mr. Chairman, we just cannot take these kinds of things, look at the theoretical formula, the arithmetic formula, see that it works out well, divide by two and say this is the way it should go. We have to look at the real facts as they exist in Newfoundland today and we have to apply it with some responsibility. It is okay to be theoretical but when you have the responsibility for applying that theory then you have to do it and you have to do it this way and this way works right now, it works, and it works right now better than the way Mr. Whelan recommended.

Now if there is something that we can do to that formula, if there is a way that we can apply something to that formula so that it will work and it will be more equitable and communities can survive, then that is the way we will do it and we have people working on that. I have hired a university student for this year to have a look at that, to assist down in the Finance Division of my

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to make sure that we get a formula that works. Mr. Chairman, there also have been many recommendations sent to me by the Steering Committee with respect to the Whalen report, and they will be implemented on an ongoing basis in the coming year, and years to follow.

Now, Mr. Chairman, the Henley Commission of Enquiry, the St. John's Urban Region was also presented to me this year. It was presented to me in January. And, Mr. Chairman, it was an excellent document, very easy to read, very easy to understand. It has fifty-three recommendations. The Steering Committee have gone through twenty-two of those recommendations, and I want hon. members to keep in mind who is on this Steering Committee. It is very important that we have input from the Federation of Municipalities. On the Steering Committee we have the president of the Federation, and we also have the secretary, Mr. Titford.

Now, Mr. Chairman, it is one thing to take a report, look at it, go through it and say it is a good idea and implement it. It is another thing to take a report and go through each recommendation, one by one, and see if it works, see if it is possible to make it work. It is a good report. There are excellent ideas. They have gone through right now twenty-two recommendations, the first twenty-two recommendations. They have informed me that of the twenty-two recommendations right now it is possible to implement something like nineteen of those twenty-two recommendations. And the people will accept these things as being right, being equitable and being reasonable. Recommendation No. 1, I believe, No. 2. and No. 5 with respect to the expanded city and that kind of setup, Mr. Chairman, at this particular time would be wrong to attempt to implement, and I am in 100 per cent agreement with the Steering Committee's recommendations.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. DINN: They have given me many reasons for and against, the against on these three particular recommendations far outweigh the recommendations to implement these three. So, Mr. Chairman, I am ~~not~~ taking their recommendations. I am going to go through them myself. I will make my recommendations to government, and they will or will not in their wisdom implement recommendations that I report to them. And, of course, Mr. Chairman, the Steering Committee will be ongoing.

Now, Mr. Chairman, one of the other problems that we have - or that I have as Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing - is attempting to decide, attempting to make recommendations to government as to what water and sewer systems should or should not be installed in Newfoundland in the coming year. So, Mr. Chairman, this year we have a Capital Projects Committee that will attempt to make that decision a little bit easier. On that committee we have representatives of Health, Environment, Transportation and Communications, chaired by a gentleman in my department, the assistant deputy minister of local government, and they go through all of the recommendations that come in. They go through about sixteen criteria that I could list off, Mr. Chairman, as - Is there a health problem? We cannot afford not to cure a health problem if it is at all humanly possible. So is it a health problem? Are the municipalities willing to participate themselves? Are they willing to pay the minimum water and sewer rate when the system is installed? Are the municipalities willing to hook up from a property line when it is installed? Mr. Chairman, if there are 250 houses in a community - and they want water and sewer, the council rightfully come in and demand water and sewer. They send in the requests; we sent out consultants; we get an estimate of cost. And, Mr. Chairman, in this day and age everybody in Newfoundland - I mean there is no hon. member in this House would say that a person should ~~not~~ have water.

Mr. Dinn:

Surely God, everybody in Newfoundland today in this year, 1977 should have water, but it is impossible, Hon. members know that it is impossible to put water and sewer, or even water, in all communities in Newfoundland. It is simply impossible financially.

So they go through these criteria and they attempt to find out if there are 250 houses, what percentage of those 250 will hookup from the property line when it is installed? Will we spend \$2 million or \$1 million and then nobody hookup? The hon. member for Burin-Placentia West (Mr. Canning) last night mentioned several cases, I was down there last year I took a recommendation from the hon. Minister of Tourism and spent my nine day holiday last year down, as the hon. gentleman knows, in his district and in Grand Bank and on the Burin Peninsula in general, I travelled around the Peninsula - many years since I have been there - and I was quite surprised at the viability that exists on the Burin Peninsula. It is one of the bright spots -

MR. CANNING: (Inaudible).

MR. DINN: It is one of the bright spots in Newfoundland today, and whoever brought it about, Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) has to be complimented on some of the things that he has done in Newfoundland. There is no question about that. I will be the first to stand up, I listened to the hon. member, he is not aware of it, but I listened to the hon. member in the 1950s. On the way home from St. Pat's School I always went into the - when I had an opportunity - went into the Legislature and listened to the hon. member, The hon. member laughs about it, chastizes me, and rightly so, because my voice - sometimes I get carried away and my voice is a little bit loud. And he complained -

MR. SMALLWOOD: I did last night.

MR. DINN: - and he complained bitterly about it last night. But as the hon. member knows, he sat very close, the hon. gentleman for Twillingate, and he sometimes raises his voice in debate.

MR. SMALLWOOD: I have been known the odd time.

MR. DINN: It has been known the odd time.

So, Mr. Chairman, we have to be responsible, we have to apply these and put in these water and sewer system where it is economically feasible and so on. And the people have to hookup when the system goes in. The hon. member mentioned several places that I visited last year: Lewin's Cove, he mentioned the sewerage is running down the side of a little valley and right into a children's playground. It is an absolute disgrace in this day and age. I would be the first to say it. I also went down to Collins Cove and I know the history as to what happened in Collins Cove when the water and sewer system went in to Burin, that the people in Collins Cove at the time did not want it. That is what I have been informed, at the time, did not want it, did not want to pay the services and the fees and so on, and knew it was coming about. I spoke to the council at length about it, and now, Mr. Chairman, these people have indicated that they do - and they do, it is a definite need, and they are not so much interested in sewerage disposal, because most of the houses along the Collins Cove area and going out towards that little point there are on the seaside, Mr. Chairman, if you will, on the seaside of the road or close thereby and could have there own little sewerage outlets all the way along there. So they are not so much interested in that as they are interested in getting water supplied to them. I believe the estimated cost for that is something like \$200,000 or \$300,000 -

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

MR. DINN: Well, my time is gone.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for Windsor-Buchans.

MR. DINN: Twenty minutes goes so fast.

MR. FLIGHT: Mr. Chairman -

MR. SMALLWOOD: Twenty minute is not enough.

MR. FLIGHT: - I just have a few words to say with regards to this particular minister's salary. First, I want to compliment him on his approach this morning as compared to his display last night when he made his original presentation. I suppose we will have to write off his performance last night to over exuberance, or maybe it was a guilt complex, maybe it was the fact that he felt that he had to exonerate the government, Maybe it was a guilt complex for what has really been happening in spending this past two years.

But anyway, Mr. Chairman, again I say I compliment him on his presentation this morning as he appears to be intending to address himself to the issues in his department and that is good.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. FLIGHT: The one issue I want to say something about, Mr. Chairman, and he referred to the Patterson Report, and the facts do not bear out what the minister said here this morning, Mr. Chairman. This administration commissioned the Patterson

MR. FLIGHT: enquiry, and the Patterson Report, the purpose was to determine whether or not amalgamation between Grand Falls - Windsor was proper.

The report recommended - a complete, unanimous recommendation-that the way to go in Grand Falls - Windsor would be amalgamation. Now, Mr. Speaker, the previous minister -
AN HON. MEMBER: Mr. Chairman.

MR. FLIGHT: Mr. Chairman, the previous minister in Answers to Questions, my questions at the last sitting of this House, indicated this is the course that Municipal Affairs is going to take; that first they would allow the two towns, the two town councils to peruse the report, to study it and make their recommendations. Both councils did that, both councils went public as to how they felt the Patterson Report should be - the recommendations should be implemented. Both councils made their feelings very clear on amalgamation, on all the aspects of the Patterson Report.

The Minister of Municipal Affairs then, the now present Minister of Mines and Energy, said in this House, Mr. Speaker, and Hansard will show, that once this had been done -and let me say both councils went public through the local media with regards to their position, the implementation of the Patterson Report - the minister indicated in this House, and Hansard will show that his intention and the Department of Municipal Affairs intention was after both councils had addressed themselves to the report, had understood what the report was saying, and made their recommendations and became fully aware of what the report meant to both towns, that the Department of Municipal Affairs would then institute seminars in Grand Falls - Windsor. They would find ways to enlighten the people of Grand Falls - Windsor as to just what incorporation would mean, the pros and the cons, and having done this they would then bring about a plebiscite or a referendum in Grand Falls - Windsor.

MR. FLIGHT: Now, Mr. Chairman, the hon. minister, if he is not aware of that he should be aware of it as minister. He indicated that there has been no input, That is not so, Mr. Chairman. The next move with regard to the Patterson Report is up to the Department of Municipal Affairs. If he intends to wait again it is a cop-out on this administration in my opinion. If he has got to wait until those two councils get together -

MR. RIDEOUT: Like Morgan.

MR. FLIGHT: - and comes up with the apparatus to bring about amalgamation it will never happen. You will run into the same type of thing as they have run into with the Henley Report, with the type of opposition we have gotten from the outlying municipalities with regards to complete amalgamation or being absorbed by St. John's.

And, Mr. Speaker, I believe the minister, in fairness to this House and in fairness to the people of Grand Falls - Windsor, or to the Province, should recognize that both towns have contributed all they can towards amalgamation or non-amalgamation. I am not saying that they should amalgamate. But I am saying that the government of this Province and this administration has got an obligation to the people of Windsor-Grand Falls to give them the ability to decide whether they want to amalgamate or not. And the only way they can have that ability is for the administration and the present minister to do what indeed the previous minister indicated they would do, and that is after both towns had had their say, had studied the report, was aware of the pros, the cons, the advantages and disadvantages, set in motion the machinery that will permit them to have a plebiscite in those two towns. And if the plebiscite is affirmative then, Mr. Speaker, the government should immediately set in motion the wheels that would bring about amalgamation.

MR. FLIGHT: That might well mean the government having to go in and put a time limit on and say, This is it, it is going to happen. If it is negative, if they reject amalgamation, then fine, let us bury it. Because what is happening now is that this administration, and quite possibly the administration that follows it, is using amalgamation, using it by way of turning down or slowing down the growth of Windsor. I have heard requests made by the town of Windsor to this administration suggesting that certain things be done in the town of Windsor. And although it is not official doctrine or an official approach, people have said, "Oh no, maybe it is a good thing but we had better wait, maybe amalgamation will come about and then this development we are talking about will not be in the better interest of the development of the third city."

So, Mr. Speaker, I doubt if I will be here. I have to leave the Chamber shortly, but when the minister speaks again, I hope he is listening, I hope he addresses himself to the Patterson Report in light of what I have just said.

Mr. Flight.

Now, Mr. Chairman, another word on Windsor. I would hope that the minister would recognize the discrepancies between those two towns, Grand Falls, Windsor. I would hope, Mr. Chairman - I know he does. I have had private meetings with the minister. I have sat in on meetings between the minister and the delegations from the Windsor Town Council. And after an hour or after a few hours looking at the problems of Windsor nobody can be unaware of exactly the situation out there. We have a situation, as the hon. member for Lewisporte (Mr. White), says, Mr. Chairman - we have one affluent town right here with a great tax base, with a great economic future and on the other side of the track - and that is all that separates us now is a track - on the other side of the track we have a town that is practically devoid of any possible future growth, devoid of any revenue, of any source of revenue that would enable them to continue their growth or to even service the facilities they have. Mr. Chairman, maybe the way we are going to have to go in Windsor - if amalgamation is not brought about - maybe the way we are going to have to go is the minister is going to have to use his influence and work out some federal/provincial agreements or something. The funding has got to be found to give Windsor the ability to create -

MR. DINN: Would the hon. member permit ?

MR. FLIGHT: Yes.

MR. DINN: Mr. Chairman, the hon. members knows, I have talked to him many times about the problems in Windsor and Grand Falls as to what should happen with the Patterson report, or what government should do to attempt to bring Windsor on an equitable basis so they do not go in as a poor cousin. I think that is probably the most important issue in Windsor today. If they do amalgamate, or if they do not amalgamate, they want to amalgamate as equal partners, and they should. Mr. Chairman, Windsor has been a problem for many, many years. The hon. member knows. One of the first incorporated towns in Newfoundland.

MR. SMALLWOOD. The first.

MR. DINN: The first is right.

MR. SMALLWOOD: After St. John's.

MR. DINN: That is right, yes. One of the first and that is why I said one of the first to the hon. member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood), because St. John's was.

Mr. Chairman, I was out to Windsor twice since I came into Municipal Affairs. I went through the town. I saw many of the problems they have in Windsor. They have some recommendations in to me with respect to an industrial park, and a road network, etc. Mr. Chairman, those two items are not the answer to Windsor. The hon. member and I have discussed many times the problems in Windsor, and just that approach is not the total answer to Windsor. Across the way they have all the facilities for industrial parks and residential units and so on. They have that. So that is not the problem. One of the problems the hon. member mentioned to me, Mr. Chairman, was with respect to rental units, and we are attempting to get that done. I spoke to Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation, and we are going to go ahead with fifteen units. The reason I cut in on the hon. gentleman was because I know he is leaving the House shortly to go home, and I do not want to take his time, but I just want to inform him.

The other thing that we have to do is that we have to get something going there - if the hon. member will permit, you know - we have to get something going there in Windsor, because of the problem with respect to neighbourhood improvement and thus housing improvement and infrastructure and road paving and so on so that the town stands on a more equitable basis when and if they ever amalgamate with Grand Falls. Thank you very much, the hon. member.

MR. FLIGHT: Mr. Chairman, I want to reinforce absolutely and completely what the minister just said with regards to the eventual amalgamation -

Mr. Flight.

if indeed it comes about. The theory in Windsor today, and I buy this theory completely, is that they are not interested in amalgamating - if there is any opposition to amalgamation it is on this basis - they are not interested in amalgamating and coming in as a partner with Grand Falls as a poor cousin or with so low a level of service as exists in Windsor today compared to those that exist in Grand Falls. They are suggesting that, look, we need to upgrade our facilities and our services to a point but maybe not to the point that Grand Falls has reached, but at least to a level that when we come in, we do not come in as the poor cousin or what might be termed as the dormitory part of Grand Falls or the ghetto part, to use a very distasteful word.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Would the hon. member allow me to ask him whether in Grand Falls now as distinct from Windsor the council gets anything, any financial help or any kind of help from the company? Or are the two places treated exactly alike so far as the company is concerned?

MR. FLIGHT: That is an interesting point, Mr. Chairman. No, Sir; as I understand it the town council of Grand Falls get \$100,000 a year in lieu of taxes from Price (Nfld.). Windsor does not get one cent. Price (Nfld.) have

MR. FLIGHT: never recognized its responsibility to Windsor. Windsor existed as a result of the attitude of Price (Nfld) back in the early days when they started the mill. As soon as Windsor started, Windsor became, suddenly, the housing area for employees of Price (Nfld.) Grand Falls had built its town, brought in the necessary people they needed to get the operation off the ground, gave them housing in Grand Falls, provided all the basic services - not basic services either, provided the luxurious services we see in Grand Falls. When Windsor started anyone looking for a job in Windsor whom Price (Nfld.) chose not to give a house, established in Windsor. Today 30 per cent of the mill's work force lives in the town of Windsor, and Price (Nfld.) to date has decided to ignore Windsor absolutely and completely. Again, this in itself is a discrepancy, this in itself amalgamation would change. This is one of the injustices that were amalgamation to come about the wealth would be more easily spread. Because Windsor deserves - the town of Windsor has contributed as much to the success of Price (Nfld.) as the town of Grand Falls, if not more.

MR. WHITE: Would the hon. member permit?

MR. FLIGHT: Sure.

MR. WHITE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to know from the hon. member - you know, I have been checking around to find out whether or not it is so, but I have been told that the Price (Nfld.) mill in Grand Falls - I know they pay the town of Grand Falls itself a grant in lieu of taxes to the tune of about \$100,000 a year. I also understand that they pay a grant in lieu of taxes to Bishops Falls and also to Badger and Millertwon, but nothing to Windsor. Is that so?

MR. FLIGHT: That is a fact, Mr. Chairman.

MR. FLIGHT: In some of the cases - in Millertown the grant is very insignificant, I am not sure what it is to Badger, and these grants are based on the fact that the company has facilities of some kind in those towns. But, Mr. Chairman, and fair-minded person would see the injustice here with a company like Price (Nfld.) paying to the town of Grand Falls \$100,000, a town that has been well endowed, a town that also the government over the years - Mr. Chairman, there is not one government office in Windsor today, not one except the post office, federal or provincial. Everything as it comes in goes into Grand Falls and the gap gets wider, Mr. Chairman.

I could go on but I am going to run out of time here. I just want to point out to the minister that I believe that one of the things he would be noted for, one of the things that he would become a great minister for, if nothing else, would be if he could change that situation of Grand Falls - Windsor. That area has the potential.

Mr. Chairman, I have said this before, that if it were to be declared the third city today, two years down the road it could very well be the second city. The growth potential of Central Newfoundland is phenomenal compared to the West Coast. And, Mr. Chairman, when one looks at the injustices, when one looks at the improvements that would come about to a town with a population the size of Windsor, when one looks at the benefits for all Central Newfoundland, to have that situation that exists in Grand Falls - Windsor rectified, then I would suggest that if the minister accomplished nothing else in his tenure as Minister of Municipal Affairs, he would go down in history, certainly in Central Newfoundland, for having corrected the problem as we know it.

MR. FLIGHT: Although I may not be here to hear the hon. minister when he addresses himself to it - in a sense he already has - then I believe that one of the uppermost priorities in his mind, and in the mind of his officials, would be to look at the situation as it exists, recognize the fact that there has been injustice there for years, and do what has to be done to bring about an equitable situation in Grand Falls - Windsor. He would not only be improving the way of life of the people of Windsor, he would be improving the way of life of the whole Central Newfoundland area.

Mr. Chairman, if I have a minute - do I have another minute left?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have until eighteen past twelve.

MR. FLIGHT: Then for a second I want to just mention the Buchans situation, Mr. Chairman. As the hon. House knows, the minister incorporated Buchans approximately three months ago and set up a board of trustees. I sympathize with the minister. I am aware of the type of problems he is running into. I would tell him that the board of trustees that he has appointed have become disillusioned, there is nothing but nothing. In the first instance there is some disillusionment, so to speak, in Buchans with regard to the way incorporation was brought about, no plebiscite, no referendum. The people are absolutely and totally in the dark as to what incorporation will mean to them by way of benefits or what it will cost them. I am aware of why we have seen no more action than we have seen with regard to the actual incorporation or with regard to the board of trustees fulfilling the

Mr. Flight.

various responsibilities they were appointed to fulfill. But there is an attitude of apathy growing in Buchans, there is an attitude of disillusionment even amongst the Board of Trustees. And I would ask that the minister, when he does speak - as a matter of fact I will yield my next minute to him - to point out to the House exactly what is happening in that situation in Buchans right now.

AN HON. MEMBER: Mr. Chairman -

MR. FLIGHT: I have got a minute that I have yielded to the minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. minister.

MR. DINN: It is just sixty seconds, because it is a very serious problem with respect to Buchans and, of course, I am aware of it. I have talked to the hon. gentleman many times about it. I am a little disappointed that the hon. member did not make it clear as to whether he was for or against incorporation, because essentially, Mr. Chairman, he represents the people in Buchans. And he seems to be standing squarely on both sides of the issue. But with respect with Buchans, Mr. Chairman, in the brief thirty seconds I have, we are working very hard on trying to solve some of the problems with respect to the incorporation of Buchans, with respect to the housing, and many other problems. I have, for example, in my department alone, Mr. Chairman, three gentlemen totally dedicated to trying to solve some of the problems of Buchans with respect to that municipality. And I know it is moving very slowly. The hon. member knows what the problems are in dealing with Price (Nfld.) and ASARCO and other people, and he has been made aware of just about everything that has gone on with respect to Buchans, and I will continue to keep him informed as to anything that happens. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister of Tourism.

MR. HICKEY: Mr. Chairman, I am not going to delay the Committee very long. There are couple of issues that I feel obligated to bring to the attention of the Committee, and to the minister. I have

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discussed them with him, and I appreciate the problems in sorting them out. But on behalf of the people that I represent I think it is necessary that I express publicly the concerns of those people, and this is the place, of course, to do it.

One, Mr. Chairman, is the Henley report with regard to incorporation of areas outside the city that are not now incorporated. And in this connection there is a very unusual situation existing in the communities of Logy Bay, Outer Cove and Middle Cove, who have circulated a petition and by something like eighty per cent indicated their desire for incorporation. To think, Mr. Chairman; just five years ago to go in that area and suggest incorporation would certainly be political suicide for anyone! But because of the situation which has developed over the past five to ten years, and the encroachment by St. John's on this area, this very scenic, rural area, the initiative came from the people themselves which is, I think, and I think my colleague, the minister, will agree, is the healthiest way that incorporation can come about. And this is the situation in those three communities prompted by no one except themselves and realizing very clearly the threat of encroachment and also realizing the drawbacks of being governed - I suppose one could use that word - or at least controlled by people who live outside the area, by people who have not always a complete knowledge of the area - And I refer, of course to the Metropolitan Area Board. I do not wish, Mr. Chairman, to be overly critical of the St. John's Metropolitan Area Board, because they had a very difficult job to do and little or no money to do it with - I simply say that it was this kind of situation which has developed over the past ten years which has created the environment or the atmosphere where the peoples of those

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communities have taken the initiative on their own. And one of the real issues, Mr. Chairman, with those people, and one of the things, and probably the most significant fact which brought them to take this initiative was the

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encroachment by St. John's into that area. I refer to the boundary question which is before my colleague at the moment. The community of Logy Bay, Mr. Chairman, has been traditionally known to have its boundary at Hardings Road, which is exactly bordering Virginia Park. And the same applies across the road a little further out towards the city, the Virginia Waters, Virginia Bridge and Virginia Waters, which is even closer to St. John's on the opposite side of the road. But now, Mr. Chairman, East Meadows is built or just about built up. The Cook property is residential. That will be built up. And those people, Mr. Chairman, can readily see what is happening. They can readily see the city moving into the area, and they are very determined and very adamant that this is not their wish, and they certainly are not prepared to sit by and see this happen, because they want to preserve the rural concept, the rural way of life, and the rural atmosphere that they have been used to. And so this is a very big issue with them, and I know that my colleague will address himself to it as he is at the present time, and I am sure that a decision will be reached without delay or at least as soon as it is practically possible, because the people are anxious and are waiting, and I am sure my colleague is quite well aware of it. He has already met with the committee.

Mr. Chairman, the other problems of course, the old perennial problem of waste disposal, is not without comment those days. It raises its ugly head at particular times during the year and, of course, this is the time that it always raises its ugly head, because the warm weather is upon us and coming on, and the people again remember last year and the year before and they find it difficult to look forward to another year of smell and smoke and all that goes with a waste disposal area. It is not earth-shattering, Mr. Chairman, for me to say that the solution to that problem is not easy. My colleague is quite well aware of that. It is almost like the situation that we talked about the other day, Mr. Chairman, in relation to the Battery by way of providing services. The city of St. John's has direct responsibility for its waste disposal.

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And right now and for the past couple of years the buck has been passed by the city of St. John's onto the Province. Mr. Chairman, I want to go on record to say that the people of my area are not too interested in whether or not the city wishes to abdicate its responsibility and place it in the hands of the provincial government. The provincial government has the whole Province to look after. Surely the initiative must come from St. John's to find an alternate site or to dispose of its garbage in a proper way and certainly in a way which is going to do the least amount of damage to the environment and more especially the least amount of damage to people. So I would look to a solution soon realizing that it cannot come over night, but at least, Mr. Chairman, a decision as to what is going to happen and when, because that waste disposal area cannot be phased out overnight, and we, in my area, fully realize that, and are responsible enough to accept that. But as long, Mr. Chairman, as no decision is made - and I repeat, it cannot be made by the minister; it is not the minister's responsibility. It cannot be made in isolation of the city and those towns that are using that area. There must be a coming together of those people and they must accept the responsibility and face up to the issue. And that issue, Mr. Chairman, is to get that despicable site corrected. For anyone to suggest, Mr. Chairman, twenty years ago that Robin Hood Bay would be the site of a waste disposal area, I suppose somebody would probably come to the conclusion that they were listening to a mental case. The scenic drive of Marine Drive, which is so well-known, which has so much potential for tourist development, for which I have some responsibility

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myself, an area where we are presently negotiating with the federal government to sign an APK agreement for tourist development, and to have right smack into that scenic area a waste disposal site! But not only that, Mr. Chairman, the last straw was last year when the city of St. John's boldly announced, for all who wished to listen, that they were going to allow Bay Bulls to dump in that area. What are we going to hear next, Mr. Chairman? Are they going to arrange for Gander or Grand Falls, maybe, to truck it in by rail to dump it there? You know, just how ridiculous is the whole situation. So something, Mr. Chairman, must be done and must be done quickly. I believe that I would not be a responsible representative of the people if I did not bring those issues to the attention of the Committee. I have done all I can to sort this problem out. It is not an easy one, as I have said. But action must be taken and taken right away.

Mr. Chairman, the other thing I want to go on the record of this debate is to correct what at least appears to be either a complete misunderstanding or a deliberate attempt to ignore the facts by some of my friends opposite. I sat here last night, Mr. Chairman, and I heard some hon. gentlemen opposite tell the Committee about all the money that is spent in Tory districts. I heard suggestions that the minister, my colleague and his predecessors, either by inference or by innuendo, would give quicker or faster approval to a request from a Tory district than from a district which is represented by the Opposition, be it the Independent member for LaPoile or any member of the Liberal party. Mr. Chairman, you know, hon. members who have been here for the last few years might not have too much difficulty in sitting and listening to that, but as one who has been here since 1966, Mr. Chairman, I have great difficulty in sitting and listening to that. I am not prepared to. It is wrong. It is completely erroneous. It is an

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unfounded charge, Mr. Chairman, for the facts are there for anyone to see. Facts do not lie. The facts are, Mr. Chairman, that there has never been an administration.- I say to my colleague, and he is not one that can be buttered up so he will take this as it should be taken, one of nature's gentlemen, not a partisan individual, Mr. Chairman, and I have known him a long time before he ever came into the House, not a partisan minister, not a partisan bone in his body, a fair man who would give a hearing to anyone. Well his decisions, Mr. Chairman, some of his decisions with regards to my area I do not like.

MR. WHITE: What about Portugal Cove?

MR. HICKEY: Well Portugal Cove is another issue.

MR. WHITE: What about Indian Meal Line?

MR. HICKEY: My hon. friend has got a vested interest in Indian Meal Line, because he lives there.

MR. WHITE: Only for one more week.

MR. HICKEY: But, you know, Mr. Chairman, it is very wrong, and it is very unfair for anyone to suggest that there is partisan politics played, especially by gentlemen who are members of the party who had been in power for twenty-three years. You know, Mr. Chairman, if there is ever a living example of partisanship politics -

MR. WHITE: Sure, they had all the districts.

MR. HICKEY: - I am it, and that is why, Mr. Chairman, I cannot sit idly by and see this debate go on without placing on the record for posterity the corrected situation.

MR. CANNING: Would the hon. minister allow me?

MR. HICKEY: Yes, certainly.

MR. CANNING: He just referred to the hon. members who have been here twenty-three years. There are only two of us here. I wonder which one is he referring to in his remarks, because I am pretty well

Mr. Canning.

certain there are none, neither one nor the other have been playing any partisan politics in this House. Just name which one it is. It is either one or the other and I am not the one.

MR. HICKEY: Mr. Chairman, my hon. friend has taken my remarks completely out of context. I am not referring to the hon. gentlemen opposite who were accusing the government of being partisan in relation to the member for Burin - Placentia West (Mr. Canning) or the former member for St. John's East Extern, the hon. W. J. Browne. I am talking about the administration that was in for twenty-three years. I am talking about hon. members last night who were saying that all the money was being spent in the Tory districts. And I am saying that I am a living example who knows the difference than that, because I represent a district since 1966, Mr. Chairman, that got nothing for twenty-three years because it voted Tory. Do not sit here and talk to me and tell me about partisanship politics! I can give you some lessons in it! So you gentlemen who are a little more newer to the game than I -

MR. ROBERTS: They still think they are getting nothing.

MR. HICKEY: You still think you are getting nothing.

MR. ROBERTS: No, they still think.

MR. HICKEY: In my area? My hon. friend should take off his glasses, remove his goggles and drive around. The largest city, the largest town, Mr. Chairman, one of the last largest towns in this Province, of over 3,500 people, Torbay, had to wait for twenty-seven years before they even got a start on a water and sewer project. Granted there are problems, but at least the project was approved. The town of Pouch Cove, the second largest in the Province, twenty-seven years. Let me tell you something about Pouch Cove, Mr. Chairman, that might be of interest to the hon. gentlemen across the way. A town that supported the Liberal Party, year after year, election after election, never had a Tory member until the last four years. The first time it has been in my district. Bauline, that has never

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been won by a Tory candidate. As a matter of fact there was a Tory candidate, a federal Member of Parliament who ran there who had a committee of seven and ended up with three votes.

MR. NEARY: One vote.

MR. HICKEY: One, was it?

MR. NEARY: They spent the rest of the year trying to find out who the Tory candidate was.

MR. HICKEY: Mr. Chairman, God bless those people! They are fine people. Who has the right to criticize them, because of how they vote? Who has the right to penalize them because of how they vote? No one, Mr. Chairman.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HICKEY: No one at all.

But, Mr. Chairman, the community of Bauline has changed. It is in the Tory camp. It has got the first drop of water, the first drop of water, Mr. Chairman, since Confederation, running through a pipe. My hon. friend talked about the community of Portugal Cove. Yes, again, another community about to become a town. Always since Confederation represented by a Liberal. The town of Pouch Cove, always represented by a Liberal. If hon. gentlemen want to start talking about partisan politics, give me a call. I will give them a few samples, Mr. Chairman. And the hon. gentleman and senior member of the House from Twillingate will recall the couple of things that I was able to do in five years sitting on that side of the House were done, Mr. Chairman, through a personal appeal to the former Premier of this Province. And except for that, they would not have been done. When he heard and listened to the record that was put before him, he ordered some action be taken.

MR. NEARY: That is reducing your argument as a result of partisan politics.

MR. HICKEY: That does not reduce my argument at all. I am

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giving credit where it is due.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HICKEY: That the senior member of this House, or one of the senior members, the same time as the member for Burin - Placentia West (Mr. Canning) -

MR. NEARY: You mean he was not doing his job?

MR. HICKEY: Was I expected to run to the Premier of the Province every day even if I could get to see him. The man was too busy.

MR. NEARY: Exactly.

MR. HICKEY: I went to minister after minister after minister. I know they were very nice. "Come in, Tom." And then said under their breath when I left, "Go to hell, Tom, with the rest of the Tories you represent and suffer, eat your heart out."

MR. NEARY: I never had one phone call, I do not believe, or one letter from the hon. minister.

MR. HICKEY: I do not represent a district which is on welfare, Mr. Chairman.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: No, but we were building senior citizens' homes.

MR. HICKEY: I represent a district of producers, of taxpayers -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HICKEY: - that should have had services, water and sewer, years and years ago, Pay as you go, Mr. Chairman.

MR. NEARY: But they were not incorporated.

MR. HICKEY: Pay as you go.

MR. NEARY: They were not incorporated.

MR. HICKEY: They were not incorporated. They would have been incorporated though.

MR. NEARY: Did the hon. gentleman try to get them incorporated?

MR. HICKEY: Yes, I tried to get them incorporated.

I was not dumb enough to go down and tell them they should, because I liked my seat, the same as the hon. gentleman.

MR. NEARY: Herein lies -

MR. HICKEY: At least I am truthful about it.

MR. NEARY: Herein lies the problem.

MR. HICKEY: At least I am truthful about it.

I do not represent a constituency,

Mr. Chairman, wherein I go down and dictate to my people and tell what they must do. I go down to my constituency and I advise my people. And if they ask me about municipal government in 1967 they were told, in my view, it was a good thing. But they were also told that I am only an advisor, only there to provide whatever leadership I could and only there to be governed by the wishes of the majority, not to dictate.

MR. NEARY: But how could they get water and sewerage if they did not have a town council?

MR. HICKEY: They would not have gotten the water and sewerage, Mr. Chairman, if they had five town councils -

MR. NEARY: How do you know that?

MR. HICKEY: - unless somebody again went to the Premier of the Province and appealed. For as long as there was a minister around, they would have gotten nothing.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Went to the dictator.

MR. HICKEY: Well, even went to the dictator, as you were sometimes referred to.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I am prepared - and my hon. friend from Twillingate cannot deny this - I never failed to give credit where it was due, I do not care who it is. I could not care less. We may disagree every day, but if there is an issue on which credit is due, then that individual must get it, and I am simply saying that my efforts

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failed completely, 100 per cent, to get one dollar from the former Liberal Government of this Province for the five years that I represented my constituency except and on two occasions -

MR. NEARY: Give us a list. What did you ask for?

MR. HICKEY: - that I approached the hon. gentleman who was then Premier of the Province.

MR. NEARY: What did you ask for? Tell us what the hon. member asked for.

MR. HICKEY: Hansard - as they say, the woods are full of them - well Hansard is full of them.

MR. NEARY: I do not remember. What did the hon. gentleman ask for?

MR. HICKEY: Good God, Mr. Chairman! I got up here, I suppose, and I talked about the St. John's Metropolitan Area Board and the pollution of Torbay and the pollution of Flat Rock and the pollution of Pouch Cove and the pollution of Bauline, and I reported to them repeatedly day after day, year after year, about who the people supported. I even gave you a vote count on how many people in Bauline supported the Liberal Party.

MR. NEARY: All of them except one.

MR. HICKEY: It was not even in my constituency. But that did not mean that the people should not have had a drink of water. The people of Pouch Cove - and for someone to go down to those places ten years ago as a Tory, he would be taking his life in his own hands. The hon. gentleman was firmly entrenched, and his minister, Mr. Chairman, cut the legs out from under him through their partisan politics by giving the people nothing and refusing them everything, the Geoff Carnells, the Nat Noels, Judge Noel. Ask Judge Noel. My hon. friend from Lewisporte (Mr. White) wanted to know

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about Portugal Cove and Indian Meal Line. Why do you not ask Judge Noel, a former Liberal member of this House?

MR. NEARY: What about the late George Nightingale.

He did a good job.

MR. HICKEY: The late George Nightingale -

MR. NEARY: He did a good job.

MR. HICKEY: - who used to go down and say, "Hello, how are you?" twice a year.

MR. NEARY: He built them a wharf down in Portugal Cove.

MR. HICKEY: The late George Nightingale, may the Lord rest his soul.

MR. NEARY: By-roads.

MR. HICKEY: I hope he is in the right place.

MR. NEARY: Roads to the graveyards.

MR. HICKEY: Again one of nature's gentlemen. I am sure my hon. friend -

MR. SMALLWOOD: If he is in Heaven he would be in the Liberal side of Heaven.

MR. HICKEY: If he is in Heaven he is not going to have too many friends -

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

MR. HICKEY: He is rather lonely.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to remind the hon. minister that his time as lapsed.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman -

MR. HICKEY: Can I have one minute to wind up, Mr. Chairman?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Does the hon. minister have leave?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: One minutes.

MR. HICKEY: You know, time -

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the hon. minister would allow me to interrupt for just a moment. I am sure hon. members of the Committee would

Mr. Chairman

wish to extend a warm welcome to nine students from Notre Dame Academy, Labrador City, in Grades VII and VIII, accompanied by their teacher, Lloyd Snook. I might point out to the students that the Committee, as it is a Committee of the Whole, is the House of Assembly in another guise, and therefore they are being welcomed by the members of the House of Assembly.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister of Tourism.

MR. HICKEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I thank my hon. friend from Lapoile for yielding.

One can so easily get carried away on the issues which mean so much to people, Mr. Chairman, not necessarily - it is not for self-glorification, it is a job for a member of this House to properly represent the people. And I am simply stating that this should be the order of the day, and not partisan politics, and not alluding to partisan politics, because our job here is to come together for the common good of the people we represent. And if we cannot do that, Mr. Chairman, if we cannot do that,

MR. HICKEY: if there were a single man here who cannot bring himself to do that, then we should get the hell out of here, because we should not be here, anyway. Thank you very much.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, first of all, Sir, I want to say how disappointed the House was last night at the performance of the hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Well, the performance of the hon. gentleman, Sir, was very unbecoming.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

(inaudible)

MR. NEARY: Well, I am going to have a dart at Torbay and Pouch Cove, so, I would like for the hon. gentleman to -

AN HON. MEMBER: Could you wait until I come back?

MR. NEARY: Well, I cannot, because I have to go and pick up the kids over at school, in another ten or fifteen minutes.

Mr. Chairman, the performance of the hon. gentleman was not becoming of a minister of the government, a minister of the Crown. As a matter of fact, it was most unbecoming, Sir. It was the grossest political - partisan political speech that I have heard by any minister since I have been in this House in introducing departmental estimates. It was a partisan political speech. The hon. gentleman appeared as if he were paranoid - completely on the defensive. There was no need for it, Sir. It was obnoxious and distasteful, and unacceptable in this House in this day and age in our democratic society. The hon. gentleman was very political, Sir, and I would submit, Mr. Chairman, that the hon. gentleman will live to regret his performance in this House last night - ranting and raving and shouting and bawling, and trying to play politics, playing with figures. Like the old saying, Mr. Speaker, figures do not lie, but liars can figure. Mr. Chairman, I would have preferred to hear the hon. gentleman come into the House and to give us a statement of policy of the hon. gentleman's department. Never mind trying to defend the Administration against accusations and statements made outside of the House, or I do not know if they were made inside or outside of the House, that somebody is getting more than somebody else. That is not the way it should work at all, Sir. Mr. Chairman, if the government is going pork-barrelling with the taxpayers' money, then they deserve to be banished out of

MR. NEARY: power. That is not the way it should work at all. Water and sewerage, road paving, every other service of government should be based on need, not on whether you are a Liberal, or a Tory, or an N.D.P., or a Communist, or a P.C. That should not make any difference, ~~SIR~~!

I would have liked to hear the -

MR. WOODROW: Now you are talking common sense.

MR. NEARY: Well, I always talk common sense, Sir. At least, Mr. Hughie Shea thinks so. One morning, I was on an Open Line programme, and the gentleman called me up and said, 'My God, everything the man says is common sense.' It is indefensible, Mr. Chairman. I should not have to say it. It should just come naturally. Now, I agree, if you run into a tight situation and it means that the member will be the one who will tip the scales, well, it may be tipped in favour, if it is a tight situation. But, generally speaking, Sir, it should not work that way, that these decisions are based on our political decisions. Because, Mr. Chairman, I did a survey - sent around a questionnaire to all mayors, members of town councils, local improvement districts, and so forth, almost a year ago, and one of the big complaints, one of the major complaints of the members of local government, of town councils, municipalities, local improvement districts, one of their big complaints was that there was too much political interference in the running of the municipality, that the politician, the M.H.A., would try to take credit for good news, and he would let the local town council, or the local municipality, take the rap for the bad news. And that was one of the big reasons, Sir, why we were seeing so many resignations throughout this Province of members of town councils, local improvement boards and community councils.

Mr. Chairman, I would have liked for the minister to have told us, last night, instead of getting on the way that he did in a disgraceful manner. I would have liked to hear the minister tell us what is going to

MR. NEARY: - happen in Labrador West. We have a group of students here today in the House, sitting in the Public Gallery, from Labrador City. When is that community going to be incorporated into a town council and be allowed to elect their own members to the town council by secret ballot? When is that going to be done? Or is it going to be done? Or -

AN HON. MEMBER: Free up the land.

MR. NEARY: Beg your pardon?

AN HON. MEMBER: Free up the land.

MR. NEARY: And free up the land in Labrador City. That is right. Free up the land, sir, instead of having it run as a company town as it is at the present time. Why not let the people of Labrador City elect their own representatives in a democratic way. I would also like to hear the - I have a number of questions I am putting to the Minister. The Minister was praising the Henley report. I think it is one of the most obnoxious, undemocratic documents that I have ever seen. Super Government, another layer of Government, another layer of bureaucracy, what foolish nonsense! Anybody with any common sense could have made a half decent, sensible recommendation in five minutes and write out one or two paragraphs, and that is follow the system they have in the City of Toronto and use the metropolitan form of government instead of regional government and super cities and all this foolish nonsense that we are talking about. Then the man has the gall to suggest that it be shoved down the throats of the people, that there be no vote - that they be not allowed - they be not allowed to vote, there would be no referendum to let the people in Torbay, that my hon. friend is concerned about, in Pouch Cove and Conception Bay South and Mount Pearl and Wedgewood Park and all the other areas. No, do not let them vote. He says, "No, do not give them a vote. Do not let them decide it in a democratic way. Push it down their throats." I hope the Minister does not fall into that trap. The Minister has come out a couple of times recently and said, "Well, the Minister is not sure whether the members will be appointed, whether the chairman

MR. NEARY: will be appointed, whether any of the members will be appointed, or whether the people will be allowed to vote or the town council will appoint one of their own members who has already been elected by secret ballot to the board." Well, sir, that is good thinking, but the Minister has not said which course of action the Minister is going to follow, and I hope, during this debate, that the Minister will tell us that the people in the greater St. John's area, before any decision is made, that there will be a referendum, that the people will be given an opportunity to vote by secret ballot and have them decide the kind of government that they want - the local government they want - for this area, whether it be the metropolitan form of government, regional government, the super-city that Mr. Henley is talking about. At least give them a chance to have some say in it. Otherwise the Minister is going to start the Third World War. Mr. Chairman, the Minister may have to appoint a chairman for three, or four, or five years.

AN HON. MEMBER: That is what happened in Toronto.

MR. NEARY: That is what happened in Toronto, Sir. It is a model for the whole world, the Metropolitan Toronto system. What happened was that for the first, I believe, fifteen or twenty years, they had a chairman appointed, but all councils in the area - in the greater Toronto and Metropolitan Toronto - appointed one of their members to the Metropolitan Board and the chairman was appointed. Well, we should follow that system here.

AN HON. MEMBER: (inaudible)

MR. NEARY: That is right.

AN HON. MEMBER: (inaudible)

MR. NEARY: That is right, sir, and it is a very, very wise course of action for the Minister to follow rather than to cram something down the people's throats. Because, if it is forced on the people, then it will just not work. I know the dilemma the Minister is in right now about the Regional Water Supply; something has to be done rather quickly. But, whatever the Minister does, I hope it will be done in a democratic

MR. NEARY: fashion, and not - not this - not - this snob saying, 'Oh, push it down their throats'. Not in this House. The snob is not in this House.

Mr. Chairman, as I indicated, sir, about a year or so ago, I carried out a survey - I did a research project among town councils in Newfoundland to find out what was behind this turnover in members of town councils, and so forth. The report was -

AN HON. MEMBER: What was the turnover last year?

MR. NEARY: Well, I do not know, but there has been a number of councillors resigned or in the process of resigning. Maybe the Minister can tell us

MR. NEARY: what action has been taken. There are a fair number threatened to resign. The one out in my hon. friend's district, the one that got in the hassle over Crown lands, the quarry. Hampden? But anyway it does not make any difference. But, Sir, I was looking over my little booklet that I published as the result of the tabulation of the responses that are received of this questionnaire. I would just like to, for the benefit of hon. members of the House, just throw out a few of the top recommendations of members of the town councils (A) they wanted the government to set up a programme for training MHA's in their service responsibilities to the communities within their districts. Can you imagine, Town Councils, MHA's should take note of it, should take note of it. Set up a programme for training MHA's in their service responsibilities to the communities within their districts. That was a top priority in the minds of the people that were polled.

(B) Improving communications and personal relationships between ministers and employees of government departments especially Municipal Affairs on the one hand and members of the municipal governing bodies on the other. It is a pretty fair recommendation.

(C) an updating of acts and regulations governing relationships between the municipal and provincial levels of government and a cataloguing of municipalities of the services and benefits available to them from the province along with a directory of the personnel responsible for such benefits and services. If the minister has not taken note of that recommendation I would submit Sir, that that is a fair recommendation.

(D) establishing a continuing programme of regional workshops aimed at training members of municipal governing bodies in their duties. It started, the former minister started, and then for some reason or other ran a

MR. NEARY: couple and dropped it and I think that was a shame.

MR. DINN: (inaudible)

MR. NEARY: (E) Sir, they suggested planning a better use of Municipal Affairs staff through grouping communities for servicing by regionally responsible officials. "If you were to sell half the desks in the Confederation Building this is one - I am quoting directly from one of the questionnaires - you might not only solve part of our problem of overcrowding in Confederation Building but through decentralization and the simple expedient of keeping half the Municipal Affairs staff constantly in the field achieve a much higher level of productive service.

(F) encouraging the minister of municipal affairs to develop a master plan establishing priorities in improving relationships with and services to municipal governing bodies and to tee up a critical path for achieving the successive objectives that would be part and parcel of the plan.

Here are some other. These are the major recommendations Sir, but here are some comments made and some suggestions for improving relationships between the provincial government and council and boards of trustees, submitted by a large number the ones that I am going to read now.

"In the interest of improved communications the minister of municipal affairs and his officials should be accessible to councillors and trustees, readily, personally, speedily and helpfully with special attention paid to answering phone calls and correspondence promptly." Apparently that was a problem in the past. I do not know if it still is, perhaps the minister can tell us.

"The minister of municipal affairs and his staff and personnel of other government departments should personally meet with municipal councils and boards. There should be more communication and personal meetings of the MHA's

MR. NEARY: with municipal governments. The department of Municipal Affairs should decentralize setting up regional representatives for better liaison with municipalities. The department of Municipal Affairs could provide regional workshops and seminars for members of community councils and boards. Cut down the red tape, the evasiveness and tendency to pass the buck that erodes good municipal-provincial relations very sound suggestion. Eliminate party politics and pork barrel awards from provincial-municipal relationship, just what hon. members have been talking about for the last day or so. Revamp the local government act to upgrade municipal politicians from their present undignified or by undignified way they are made scapegoats out of the local

MR. NEARY: municipal governing bodies and place them in a baby sitter role. This was the way they felt about their provincial politicians - Give more attention to communities of 2,000 or less population. Obviously the smaller communities were not getting the attention that they felt they deserve. They were being sort of pushed into the background by the larger communities. Funding should be available in the following year to complete projects half finished in their first year. Open a planning and engineering service to serve the West Coast and other regions of the Province. The Department of Municipal Affairs should change its attitude to municipal bodies, drop its arrogance and respect the sincerity of councillors and trustees who give dedicated service without pay. These are all taken directly, by the way - these are not edited at all - taken directly from the questionnaires. These are suggestions and comments that were on the questionnaires themselves.

The tax collecting ability of municipalities needs a lot of bolstering. The government should conduct its discussions directly with sitting council rather than with former mayors and former councillors or private citizens. In a number of cases the discussions concerning the community were going on with the former mayor, obviously for political reasons or for some other reasons that were unknown to these people. And the former mayor was taking great pride in calling up members of the council and said, Oh, I got the news. You know, how would MHA's feel if the government, if ministers conducted business with former MHA's?

MR. DINN: (Inaudible).

MR. NEARY: Well, this is a comment - as a matter of fact submitted by a large number. The Department of Municipal Affairs should be organized so as to assist, advise and supervise the affairs of municipalities. When the Provincial Government - just listen to this - when the Provincial Government who are paid says yes, they claim full credit for a project; when they say no, they leave the

MP. NEARY: municipal body, who are volunteers, to face the blame. And this is so true, Mr. Chairman, so true and it is still happening as far as I know. The Department of Municipal Affairs should change their attitude to one of positive helpfulness. Government should provide more input into councils and boards. I wonder is there anybody fighting, Mr. Chairman?

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. NEARY: Oh, I see. But anyway, Mr. Chairman, there was a lot of work and a lot of effort went into this report and I do not know if the hon. gentleman still has his copy. The hon. gentleman does not, so I would like for the page to take this copy, take my copy over to the hon. gentleman. There is some valuable information in this report, Sir, and these are not my suggestions or my ideas. These come directly from members of town councils, community councils, local improvement boards and so on. Mr. Chairman, I am afraid that I have to leave and go down to the school - I am late now, Sir - and pick up the kids. So with these few remarks, I am sorry I will not be here to hear the hon. gentleman if he responds but

MR. DINN: You get Hansard, do you not?

MR. NEARY: Okay. Fine, Sir, I will read it in Hansard.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for Burin-Placentia West.

MR. CANNING: Seeing that there is some time left, Mr. Chairman, that we have to speak here, so I thought I would spend a few more minutes telling the minister about my district, about the needs there, about what I think is wrong, and what has gone wrong, and what I hope he will correct. I say telling the minister because we are speaking to almost an empty House, practically empty on this side. We have no Leader of the Opposition around. We have no Premier of the Province around, and I do not believe either one of the previous Ministers of Municipal Affairs are around. So I think there are a few things I skipped over pretty fast last night that I would like to go back over

MR. CANNING: and explain to the House and for the benefit of the minister.

Mr. Chairman, I do not like to boast of my experience or time I have spent here, but there is a bit of advice I think I could give a young minister starting off in regard to my particular district or that particular area. The first thing I am going to tell him is that the people of Collins Cove and Kirby's Cove want the water and sewer. It is not true that they have ever said - that is the people, the majority of people - have ever said that they could not pay for it or would not pay for it.

MR. CANNING: And thirdly I can assure the minister that if he decides to come to their aid so that they will not have to go off in their trucks and cars looking for water this year, if he does put it in there I can assure him that the amount that they agree to pay for it-which I agree with, you should always get sort of plebiscite or get the signatures of the people before you go into a place like that where it is so expensive - If there is anybody paying in Newfoundland, the people of Kirby's Cove and Collins Cove will be paying their bills, I can assure you.

Mr. Speaker, I think he gave the figure, but I have heard figures that they are going to cost to go in there. Those figures I do not agree with. I think in fact there is a rake-off, a big rip-off by contractors in this Province that has gone on since 1949, I suppose before that. Well since I have been connected with it. Those projects, well you name it - roads, water and sewer, recreation facilities and what not, if I have ever seen any contractor come into my district, if he has not gone out of it, when he gets it, say, like the \$3 million plus was spent in Burin, Mr. Speaker, if the five companies went in there and the two sets, I call them, companies of engineers, consultants, Mr. Speaker, if they did not make \$1 million or \$1.5 million off the town of Burin - and I mean off the town of Burin, because they are saddled with the debt forever, and if that last episode there, if that is charged to the people, I contend it should not be - but if they did not come out of that with \$1 million or \$1.5 million they should not be in there. They do not know how to do the work, and I can assure you, the minister, I believe he gave me the understanding that he is trying to have his officials, trying to find out why certain engineers work costs - or the difference between one and the other, seventeen or fourteen per cent or some such figure such as that, an awful gap, he is trying to decide why one lot of engineers do a job and then another in similar circumstances, similar jobs, and one is seven per cent and the other is fourteen. Well, anyway the difference in the cost.

MR. CANNING: Mr. Chairman, I have complained as a member of this House, inside the House and outside the House at those things, and I do not mind keeping on complaining about them, I do not know if they fall on deaf ears but I just do not agree with them. Last night I emphasized a couple of times, five lots of contractors up in Burin. That is what was there just before I went campaigning to come back here, to try to get back here.

Mr. Chairman, you do not want to be an engineer, you do not want to be a financial expert, you do not want to have foreman abilities over water and sewer or anything like that to realize that that project was going to cost a tremendous lot more than it should cost. Mr. Chairman, there are a couple of miles of land that did not even have any blasting. I do not know what was involved, two miles I guess, two and a half or something like that. These figures might be out, it could be three, but anyway - and here is land, there is water on top of the hill with the gravity that you have got to put a main ditch through, lay a main pipe through, then you have to connect up to houses along the way, just branch off and connect up to houses. It is a simple operation. You really would not - I do not think you would even need an engineer because the principle thing there is to make sure of the grade, the water flows from the houses into the main line and the main line goes on into the ocean or wherever it is going.

Now, Mr. Chairman, to put this out on five contracts

MR. CANNING: different contracts and sent five different companies from Grand Falls, I think some of them came, from Harbour Grace perhaps, I do not know where their headquarters are, and the rest of them from St. John's and sent them up to the Burin Peninsula to give those people water and sewer. Why you wanted that army to go up there anyway? I mean I know why. I know why they were up there. The people know why they were there. We know who they are. We know who they were supporting. We know why they were there at that particular time. Mr. Chairman, that is what I am criticizing, the ridiculousness of it!

Mr. Chairman, I think that the hon. member who is just strolling into the House from Grand Bank, the Minister of Justice I think that - I did not mean anything by just strolling in, that was only a way of pointing him out. And, Mr. Chairman, this is not partisan, what I am going to say now, but I think myself that the Minister of Justice, the hon. member for Grand Bank, is going to agree with every word I am going to say about contractors and about the project that I am speaking on now. The minister knows, the hon. member knows that I know that the people of Burin, the town of Burin, approximately 3,000 people, he knows that they cannot afford to take on, he knew and I knew they could not afford to take on a \$3 million project. They could not afford to pay for it. We know that but I think that the hon. member will agree with me when I say this, that there should not have been five lots of contractors, five armies of contractors go in there. It should have been better supervised. Imagine, two years after the job was finished the part that that hon. minister who should be there now listening to me, he is not there, He should be listening because I tell you I can tell him a thing or two.

MR. WHITE: He is listening.

MR. CANNING: We know that they should not have been sent in. The hon. member would agree with me now that if the - I think he will - say if McNamara's, a good efficient, well-established with plenty of

MR. CANNING: money behind them, plenty of expertise, if they went into Burin, if they bid properly—and I do not know if they would or not—or if they figured out properly, and if they agreed to a reasonable profit they would have gone into Burin and would have done that for \$1.5 million. Now, Mr. Chairman, the first thing they will say is he is not an engineer, what does he know about water and sewer, you know he is a politician. Well I can assure you that some good company like that, you know, rather than pick up a bunch who get together after an election and form a company, then start coming into the departments down here looking for contracts to get paid off for supporting a government. Now that is nothing new since the Tories went in. That happened when the Liberals were here. That is why I am here twenty-three years. That is why I am here as a private member today. I would not be here if I had gone into Cabinet. I probably would have to toe the line with the Cabinet, I would have to toe the line with them, and I would have lasted perhaps two or three terms. Perhaps I would get to the third term with the coming of Confederation and Smallwood was their God and they had a right to look upon him as something great for what he did, and I would not take a thing from him. Well, Sir, I would not be here. But the reason I am here is because I have fought that kind of a thing. I had the guts to fight it when I was over there, and the guts to tell the ministers and the guts to tell the Premier that I did not agree when things like that happened to our people. I do not agree with that now.

Now, Mr. Chairman, for the next three years, and the Premier told us the other day he is going to stay here for three years. I wish he would not, but he is. I mean if he is going to stay here I wish he would come into the House and take part with us when we are discussing things. But I assure you that I will not throw any insults across at him. I will not put him on the spot. I am going to get up here and talk what I consider common sense, and I hope it is, and I am going to do what I am here for. That is why I am here. I heard from the news media that the Premier was leaving—the former

MR. CANNING: Premier was leaving this House two or three days before the Assembly closes, I think he will resign, I think so, but I do not know. But if he does, the next day I am going to be - I have the record for a politician staying in one district, in the same district for twenty-three years. Perhaps I say I am wrong in the things I am saying in this House; perhaps the way I am acting in the House, perhaps because I am not causing fights across the House, perhaps that is wrong. Perhaps that is the politics I should be taking part in today, but I am not going to. But the only thing is in it, the reason I do not think it is right to do that, and the only reason I think that I speak common sense when I get up here in the House is because I will be here the longest person ever was in the House of Assembly in Newfoundland. So the people must agree with me. I have the same district with the addition of the great historical part of the hon. member's district that he must have been proud to have represented and I cannot understand why he let it go. I cannot understand when they started manoeuvring him around because with my differences with the government, I do not have too much differences with the hon. member, he comes from up in Grand Bank, he comes from an outpost. The best thing ever happened to him before he came in here to live was that he was out there because he knows - When :

MR. CANNING: I hear that a few minutes ago I heard a speech here, sometimes I hear some other members from in here some people who do not know very much about what is going beyond the Overpass. When I hear them talking I just sit here. I am bored stiff because they do not know what they are talking about.

Now, Mr. Chairman, this is the situation again in my district, this is what was left by the Tories. I believe it, I know it, the hon. minister knows it. Last night when I got in the very first thing I said was I did not blame him. Up until now he is not responsible for one single item that I am going to say is left in that district. He was not fair. He was not fair to the people. They were stupid to do it, absolutely stupid! what they have left there. There will not be a Tory member go back to the Liberal District of Burin - Placentia West in the next ten years because you never saw anything like it. I named it here last night. Somebody repeated it this morning. They promised Lewin's Cove \$1 million over a period of years, \$250,000 this year. That was the year of elections 1975-76.

When they promised it to them, it was the member who promised it to them or the government promised it. If they knew there was sewerage running down in the playgrounds where the children have to play that they did nothing about it, when they promised that there was not a mark on a pencil, a pencil mark on a paper, I should say. Promise and fooling them.

Mr. Chairman, what I am trying to get at the House for at the government for and the member in particular for is to try to correct it as soon as he can before we have an epidemic there. He has to go in to Marystown and he has to get around there I will give him a little bit of advice: When he goes to Marystown and sees the council, or when he sees the joint town councils, that is not enough. That is not enough to see them. I do not go up to

MR.CANNING: Marystown to a \$12.00 plate party and just go into that party among the long dresses and the people who are well off and can afford to pay that and take their advice. I would like to get around and go down to Beau Bois. That is a place where they came they are talking about partisan politics. This is a good one. In Beau Bois they are mostly dragger fishermen. There is nobody there earning under \$12,000. There is one skipper there who paid \$17,000 income tax last year. I do not know what his politics are. All I know he is one of the finest skippers in the North Atlantic, among the top, who paid \$17,000 income tax. What bracket he is in, any fellow who deals in insurance here can figure that out pretty good, he made a pretty good wage.

But Mr. Chairman, it was a completely liberal area. He used to give the liberal member a 100 per cent vote, every one of them. The Tories went up and they went in three-quarters of a mile of that and they slashed off a bit of pavement to put in. I do not regard it too much because the pavement was poor quality and it is now flying up in their faces anyway.

AN. HON.MEMBER: _ Tory pavement.

MR.CANNING: Mr. Chairman,

MR.HICKMAN: 1971 it was done. It is a tourist attraction now.

MR.CANNING: What is that?

MR.HICKMAN: Paved bridge

MR.CANNING: Well, no, I tell you what would have been a tourist attraction and they should have left it there, but I succeeded, I think, in persuading the hon. minister of transportation to change it. The tourist attraction was this on the Burin Peninsula for the last four years, five years, I do not know, perhaps the hon. member knows. Somewhere along the way they got an idea that they

MR. CANNING: were going to build a bridge in the south-west of Marystown. So they built it, it is of German design, perfect, one of the nicest bridges you could look at, but for four years now I think--I do not want to exaggerate, I will say it is four--I think it is standing in the middle of the river. In the middle of Tide's Brook, Tide's River, let us call it a river. We have rivers, smaller places called rivers, Tide's Brook. The old bridge is there. It has been built since 1932 by hand and wheelbarrow, by good, hard-working people. They left it there. There is a fairly good road, the rough road going to it, they looked after it fairly well. But anyway there is no pavement. I am hoping to get it paved this year. I do not think I will but I am hoping to. But anyway it was decided to join up this year with the two ends. But it is standing there in the middle of the river.

When I went up in the election I was in a certain place one night, having a

MR. CANNING: nice meeting with some nice people, things going fairly well for me and I had not seen the bridge, because during the three years I was out I had not driven that way. I had gone up to Grand Bank, I think, on one side and I had gone to Burin on the other and I had not come across this Loop. So they asked me during the meeting, or after the meeting, publicly, I was in the crowd, Did I see the bridge that goes nowhere? And no, I told them I had not seen it. Well they said, it is worth your while to go out to Tide's Brook and see it. Well I went out and I saw it, well there it lay and there it still lies, a bridge that must have cost a tremendous cost, I mean for the size of the bridge, but it is a good bridge, German design I think, German design. Yes, I think it is, I think it is a German bridge as they designed that type bridge. They were the first to have brought it in the Province and I think it is the same bridge.

But anyway it lay there for four years. Perhaps it should have been left there and put up you know some kind of a good Tory sign, a memory to the Tory days or something like that, only they did not finish jobs. Because there are a lot of unfinished jobs in my district but today I am on water and sewer.

Yes, I hope the minister, when he goes to Marystown area will go up to the different coves where they are polluted. I hope that he asks the council will they kindly connect the sewer line that is going out from the houses, from at least one, if not two houses going into bog was never connected, now whose fault that is, well he will know where to lay the blame. If it is the council's fault I hope he gets after it, because they have got plenty of people there, they have got one of the biggest councils per capita in numbers of men and women than there is anywhere in - I guess in per capita than anywhere in the Eastern Provinces. I checked one day with Prince Edward Island to compare, and I found out they had 19,000

MR. CANNING: people and their council did not have the number of people that you are going to find, Mr. Chairman, that the hon. minister is going to find hired on at Marystown. For his benefit I will tell him they are working, they have nothing to do, there is too many of them there and it is costing the time too much.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! The hon. gentleman's time has expired.

MR. CANNING: Mr. Chairman, I want to ask the indulgence of the House just to give one other example of water and sewer, to give me three minutes.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: By leave.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Three minutes by leave.

MR. CANNING: Mr. Chairman, I am going to be charitable. I am going to jump out of my district into another one to give a good example of some Tory work done as far as water and sewer is concerned, because perhaps the member for the district will not tell it when he gets up. I think he is going to be ashamed to tell it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CANNING: But I hope he has the guts to tell it because if I was over there and I had it I would tell it. I will tell it.

Mr. Chairman, at Placentia there is a sewer under the ground, a sewer line right the length of Placentia. It was put there three or four - my interest is that I have some good people from the Bay who went in the wrong direction; instead of going to Marystown they bought up over in Placentia when they freely, willingly, particularly left Merasheen, where they had as much modern convenience as you could put for people, where they had a nice fish plant, they had everything to their finger tips, when they freely and willingly, without being urged or encouraged, left it, left Merasheen, Mr. Chairman, when they left Merasheen they went in the wrong direction.

MR. CANNING: If they had gone to Grand Bank, if they had gone to Fortune, if they had gone to Burin, if they had gone to Marystown they would not have had to go on relief. Everyone who went up there, there is none of them who had to go on relief after they went there. They are working ever since they went there, happy there. But they went in the wrong direction unfortunately. It is just too bad. But anyway there is a water line there for three years, Talk about the bridge! There is a sewer line, rather, under that beautiful beach there in that old historical town of Placentia for three or four years, the biggest mess you ever saw went on for about two or three years, hoses over the ground, water falling all over the places, traffic diverted; anyway it was laid - can you imagine how it was laid? - electric pumps put on, electric pumps pumped away, I think they pumped the Atlantic water from one end of town out through the other or something like that, but pumps burnt out, nobody is connected up to it and it is there until this day.

But anyway, to make a little bit of reparation, to give the Tories their due, to give them their due, they did do something else for the people of Placentia. Last Fall, when the federal election was called, the member for St. John's West (Mr. J. Crosbie), who is now the member in Ottawa, accompanied by the Minister of Fisheries no less, so I am told, went out to Placentia, I think they raised a sod and they approved -

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! The three minutes are up.

MR. CANNING: - they approved \$600,000 to give them water in the Southeast.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman.

MR. CANNING: If you ask me to sit down I will.

MR. SIMMONS: Well, I understood the Chairman -

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

MR. SIMMONS: The Chairman, I am - Do you want to continue, Pat?

MR. CANNING: No. ~~Pat?~~

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN: I recognize the hon. member from Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir.
Does he want to speak?

MR. CANNING: (Inaudible).

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I believe what I ought to do is talk for five minutes and let my colleague from Burin - Placentia West recharge his batteries and then get up and have another twenty minute go, "Pat," because you have stories that need to be told, need to be entered into the public record, and I would like to hear you tell them. So, why do you not have another go at it now, in about five or ten minutes, as soon as I am through?

Now, Mr. Chairman, this has been a most fascinating process, the estimates of the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing. I think it has been, by far, the most interesting process I have seen in this House.

The minister had a bit of a false start, last night, but I believe he was in his glory, and we rather admired the way he went at it last night, and after that rather theatrical start, he really came down to earth and I believe, if I might say so at the very beginning of these few remarks, I believe the minister, listening to him this morning on the P.A. and also, here in the House, the minister has given some answers. And I want to be one of those - perhaps not the first, but one of those who would want to congratulate him for the way he is handling the estimates. What is going wrong with the estimates is not particularly his fault. I still feel that we should have the Budget debate first, because we are getting into some generalities that are best said in the Budget debate. I understand the strategy for calling the estimates first is going to leave us very little to say in the Budget debate, and perhaps, that is just as well, because I sense a number of people have fairly itchy feet to get out of here, and get some other things done. But apart from the almost needless generality that we are forced into by the sequence of events, that the estimates are coming

MR. SIMMONS: before the Budget debate. Otherwise, I believe, the process that we have been undergoing this morning and last night is a fairly good one. We are getting some answers. They could be more specific, if we could only get on to the various heads of expenditure. I know I, as a member, have some questions I would like to put to the minister, and we probably will not get a full opportunity. And again, I say, that is no particular fault of his. So, surprised as he is, to hear it, I just wanted to congratulate him on the way he has been handling things this morning.

I just have a couple of comments. My colleagues have covered most of the concerns that we have on this side, as they relate to the overall generality of municipal government and the provincial government's role in it.

I would like to come to a specific which may not have been mentioned in Committee, yet, and that is the department's role in a small community. And again, for example's sake, I quote the cases of communities in my district which fall in this category - Francois, McCallum, Grey River, in particular. These are three communities which do not have any form of municipal government. I am hoping now, with the relaxation or the lift of the freeze on incorporation, that these communities can take the necessary steps over the next few months to get incorporated. I understood from the minister some months ago, in answer to some questions I put to him, that these will be considered on an individual basis. I think that is a fair interpretation of what he said. And so I will be talking to the representatives of the communities concerned, about the possibilities of seeking incorporation.

These communities, like so many others in their population category, have a number of problems which relate to their smallness, to their very size itself. And I am a bit concerned, and this is not laid on as a criticism, so much of the department as it is a comment on the direction of the department's emphasis. I am getting concerned that perhaps the small community is not getting the fair hearing, or the fair break that it was getting years ago - and I am not talking about during the former Administration, particularly, but even in the early years of this Administration.

The Water Services Division is an instrument which has a lot of potential, when it comes to its ability to help the small

MR. SIMMONS: community, and even a couple of years ago it seemed to be in high gear, and I get the impression that for some reason or another it does not enjoy the same - status is not the word - but the same priority within the department's plans, it does not enjoy the same status or priority that it did, say, even a couple of years ago. It may be a victim of the financial restraint of the times. But I submit that the Water Services Division for relatively small amounts of money was doing a lot of good in the small communities.

MR. DINN: The vote is bigger.

MR. SIMMONS: The vote has increased, and I had not particularly noticed. But it is an area of Rural Development, really, and while it is not specifically under the department of my friend from Grand Falls (Mr. Lundrigan) it nevertheless can be a very real instrument of rural development. In one of the less glamorous, mind you, but a way that has impact immediately. If you have carried a slop bucket or a night pail or whatever you call it all your life, or you have to get aboard a boat to go out and get your water, your drinking water, on a regular basis, and then suddenly you can have that entire pattern changed by the availability of water either in the house or down at some central well, it makes a big difference to the entire pattern of the families concerned, the pressures that are lifted off the families. It is quite a different situation when you no longer have to orient your day around getting enough barrels of water to wash the clothes on a Monday morning. That is the context in which the families in those communities still have to operate, and it is not unchanged from two or three centuries ago, in that you have to plan your whole day around having enough water.

Before you can go out in the

MR. SIMMONS: boat in the morning to go fishing you have to see that the missus has three or four barrels of water on the bridge so that she can do her washing. You have to make sure that there ~~is~~ sufficient quantities of drinking water. The woman of the house has to make sure that the slop pail is taken care of. It has all kinds of implications for hygiene, for health and even for daily planning, as I have indicated.

So I feel pretty firmly, pretty strongly, about the need to give the Water Services Division even an increased emphasis. I would like to hear the minister's comments on that particular subject.

I have a couple of specifics that I am concerned about and they are not new concerns to the minister; we have corresponded on them. The case of Francois: It is probably not the time, so late on a Friday morning to give a rousing, partisan, political speech on the subject, but the facts of the case are that there is in Francois, a partly completed water system. The taxpayers of this Province have put in a substantial amount of money and there is no return on it at all. As it sits now, it is useless. I believe for the sake of about three to four thousand dollars, the latest estimate, that system could be made operational. The system was installed late in the year and it was not really copperfastened and it got smashed up by frost conditions. And blame aside, whether it is the government, or the committees, blame aside, the fact -

MR. DINN: It was one of those local things where it would freeze up. It was not buried deep enough and that kind of thing happened, as I recall it.

MR. SIMMONS: Partly, but not quite.

MR. SIMMONS: Remember it is an above-ground system.

MR. DINN: Yes, right.

MR. SIMMONS: Right? It is one of ~~those~~ systems that they use in the North where they have a box system and insulation above ground.

MR. DINN: That is right.

MR. STRACHAN: (Inaudible).

MR. SIMMONS: Yes. Yes, yes. My version of what happened, very simply, is that the contractor who was in there just did not take the care that was necessary to insulate the system properly. I think that was the beginning of the troubles, really. It was a kind of a rush job, the fellow had some personal problems including insobriety on the job, Okay? - the fellow who in there from the contracting firm - and the consequence was that a very sloppy job was done. It was done late in the year, the frost set in and the entire thing got smashed up. Because the force of water coming out of the pond above the brook, once she got one crack, as you can imagine, she just forced her way through and once she froze up at the end - he did not put his outflow down into the water - she was freezing up around the outflow and eventually got all stopped up; then the whole thing busted.

Now the minister's department has had people in there and I think your Mr. -

MR. DINN: I forget what his name was, was down.

MR. SIMMONS: Yes, he has been in there, but Philpott - your Mr. Philpott - is also quite familiar. It is a crime really, because the people are literally tripping over this system, because it is an above ground system, and there is - if you can visualize - there is a little series of steps to get you from one side of the system down - you physically walk over the system as you walk through the Community. There are no roads in the Community as such, but there are footpaths. So, it is a very ever present reminder, and you know people come to simple conclusions about who to blame, and they usually just blame the Government. It is just that simple. It could be cured fairly simply and fairly inexpensively at this moment in time. The sad part about it is that if it is not cured, it is going to deteriorate; youngsters are going to start tearing off boards for their own purposes and that kind of thing, and the whole system is going to be lost. A fair amount of money has been invested in it: Initially, \$35,000, and then another \$15,000. So the Government, the Provincial taxpayers, invested of the order of \$50,000. It is complete except that it does not work, but it is complete in the sense that all the lines are laid out. It requires some insulation at some points. It requires some adjustments in the outflow, but otherwise it is a complete system, and I think the estimates of the Department say \$3,500 to \$4,000 would complete the system. The last time I talked to Mr. Philpott, he was not in a position to tell me obviously whether it was in the estimates or not, except that it had been requested. But, the Minister's Department would be well advised to look at that one in particular. You know, there is a low cost, and the value to the people concerned would be substantial.

The other one that I - the other two that I want to raise very quickly is the case of McCallum, again where there are commitments - and again it is not the time, the Minister is familiar with the history of this - there have been commitments made, but apart from the politics of it altogether, there is a very real need in McCallum because, as members in Committee have heard me say several times, the people there have to go about two, two and a half miles by boat during

MR. SIMMONS: seven months of the year to get their water. The other five months, from about now until October, they drink essentially surface water. Luckily, there have been no serious health problems there yet. They built a new school in McCallum two or three years ago. They experimented with a different kind of well - different in my experience. I always visualize a well as being three or four feet square and then going down a distance. They did it the other way. They made it about twenty feet square and went down just a few feet. It is really a - it is a collection point for surface water; that is all it is. But, they chlorinated it, and it works, serving the school. Perhaps, the idea - it is an idea that I have not injected in the discussion of this problem before, but it is probably again an alternative.

AN HON. MEMBER: (inaudible)

MR. SIMMONS: Is that right?

MR. DINN: - where there is no surface water, they just -

MR. SIMMONS: Yes. There is a term for it, yes. It has worked in the school, and that might be a possibility. It would be certainly better than they have right now. The other one which has been mentioned in the report that the Minister has from Frank Nolan Associates is a diamond drill where they drill at an angle and thereby interrupt the - not interrupt, but intersect with the rock pattern. But, anyway, these are technical points. The two suggestions, though, that I just reiterate -

MR. DINN: And on that, by the way, they say the drill method, if we were to go in and drill, would cost about \$20,000 to find out if there was water there or not.

MR. SIMMONS: Yes, I noted the letter -

MR. DINN: They have two surface systems, too, but they are a little bit -

MR. SIMMONS: Sorry, sorry.

MR. DINN: They have two surface systems - not systems, but potential that are quite a distance from the town.

MR. SIMMONS: Yes, I realize what the Minister is saying really that the dollars are frightening. You know, if you go the technical route the dollars are frightening, and there is no question about that. You have to relate it to the numbers of people you are going to serve and all that. But, I still feel very strongly that some fairly simple solution can be found, even if it is only a part solution. The member for Lewisporte (Mr. White) last night was on to the relative costs of systems, and sometimes the cheaper system in terms of dollars can be just as effective. Engineers, basically, are urban people who apply urban solutions to everything. Well, this is probably an over-generalization, but the tendency - let us be softer on it - the tendency is to apply

MR. SIMMONS: a solution within their realm of experience. And the tendency is to apply for McCallum a water system that is Cadillac by McCallum's standards, where perhaps a system that is an improvement on what they have - and what they have, by the way, is, as I said, getting water via boat for seven months and dipping it out of about a three foot well the other five months. Now if a twelve foot square holding tank would be an improvement on that it might not be acceptable to the engineer who lives in a St. John's situation.

MR. DINN: (Inaudible)

MR. SIMMONS: No. No. The proposal that the minister has in the Frank Nolan Report is diamond drilling. That is correct, is it not?

MR. DINN: If you bring a big drill in there you will not have - (inaudible)

MR. SIMMONS: Or once they get it there they do not have the mobility. They do not have the road to get it up. The sheer weight of the conventional drilling equipment would tear up what road that they do have which is basically a series of wooden bridges and so on.

MR. DINN: - the diamond drilling down there.

MR. SIMMONS: Yes. Yes. I am pleased to see the minister is so conversant with this particular situation. It is a detail in his overall responsibilities but it is an important one to the fifty families who live in McCallum. And I would like him to even have some one from his department have a newer look at it. Perhaps in terms of either this holding tank idea or whatever the idea, something that would somewhat alleviate what is for those fifty families a pretty serious situation.

The third matter relates, and it is a water system for Grey River. Again at the risk of sounding like all our solutions are simple this morning, the one in Grey River is also very simple. Two years ago a new school was erected in Grey River and as part of that project a water supply was brought down from the hill into the school. And I and the local committee liased

MR. SIMMONS: with the contractor and as a result we were able to get an outflow provided near the school. So right now you have a situation where the water is coming down the hill by pipe, it is directed via a "T" into the school, but the main supply of water is running out of a spout, as it were. And so what it requires now to put a water system into that community in terms of a water supply is to hook a two inch line, or a three inch line, whatever the case may be, onto that outflow.

In other words, the supply is there and it is within 1500 feet of the farthest house and it would require running two spur lines through the community. The soil in the community is just about all sand so the excavation first of all would have to be done by hand anyway because there is no room for equipment, even a backhoe, the houses and the fences and everything are such. It would have to be done by hand but it is a very simple proposition from a labour standpoint, particularly when you bear in mind that the minister has, and the Premier has from the community a letter either signed by all the residents or signed on behalf of all the residents saying they are prepared to do the work, free labour. So that the outlay to put a system in Grey River is strictly a matter of providing the material required, which again is within the terms of reference of the Water Services Division.

So I make three points to the minister all about my district and all about the same subject, to do what can be done to complete the water system in Franchois. I have already outlined the details. To have a new look at the very serious problem the people in McCallum face on this subject of water supply and in the case of Grey River to see if the normal programme of the Water Services Division can be made available to that community in this fiscal year. The cost I would not be prepared to guess at, but you are talking

MR. SIMMONS: 1500 or a couple of thousand feet of pipe, plus the connections that are required. The excavation is not a consideration because it will be done free labour anyway.

These are three matters which would do a lot for the three communities concerned, the 150 families represented in those three communities, and as I say, is perhaps an undramatic form of rural development. But a form of rural development that would have very real impact for good on the communities concerned. That is the burden of what I have to say this morning.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for Eagle River.

MR. STRACHAN: Mr. Chairman, it is pretty hard to get going in the last twenty minutes before the long weekend but there are a couple of points I would like to raise and one rather than going ranting and raving to the minister about some of the situations I would like to put in the form of an appeal to him on the case of the two communities he knows well about, Charlottetown and Rigolet and their incorporation.

They have for

MR. STRACHAN: quite some considerable time now wished to be incorporated. In fact the community of Riglot actually has a council elected and has been acting as a council and call themselves a council and issue statements in their Labrador report and in the newspapers in Labrador calling themselves the Riglot Community Council for the last two years. They are not incorporated and they feel that in some ways that all they require is official recognition from St. John's. It is not much to ask for in many ways because most of the funding that they do get and so on comes through the Northern funding, through Labrador Services Division, and they are not really putting the pressure on the department as such. But it seems foolish that they go around calling themselves a council, meet with the joint councils, are recognized by almost every council in Labrador as being a council, and yet they have not received that little bit of paper which gives them incorporation that would give them -

MR. DIMN: Would the hon. member permit me just to clear that up because I may not get around to it with respect to incorporations? The hon. member for Lewisporte, I believe, asked me a question about how many in this Province have requested incorporations and I think it is something in the order of twenty-eight. In about February I sent a letter to those municipalities, the municipalities that would be incorporated, and informed them about what the minimum service fee would be, about whether they felt that the community still wanted to be incorporated and to please inform me. To this date I received a reply from Burnt Islands, which has been incorporated, and I received a reply from Bird Cove which has been incorporated and it is very difficult to - You know, if they do not come back in kind of an affirmative way you cannot really do anything about it. You do not want to force it.

MR. STRACHAN: If I could respond to that: I take what the minister said in good faith. My understanding, and this is from the community council of Riglot, my understanding from them was

MR. STRACHAN: that the letters which came out from Municipal Affairs implied that they would virtually have to go through the whole procedure again of getting a community vote to see whether they wanted a council or not, and they felt that they had already gone through that with over ninety per cent of the community requesting incorporation two years ago, when the Minister of Mines and Energy was the minister at that time, and was encouraging them and they felt that the letter which was put out at that time was asking them to go through the procedure again and go back to the community. But as they felt they are elected they are having regular elections and they are a community. But I will certainly convey that to the council and tell them that if they indicate back to the minister that they intend to receive incorporation and I think they made it fairly well clear to the minister that they do wish to receive incorporation, then I think that they should.

MR. DINN: I am concerned about the residents. They have to be aware that the minimum service fee is \$20.00 and so on.

MR. STRACHAN: There certainly is no problem with the residents because the residents in fact have been paying a certain amount to the council although the council is not incorporated. If you have ever seen people who are enthusiastic and keen about getting a community council as this council here for two years who have been acting as one and collecting money although they are not officially recognized have been able to collect it. You know, it seems to me crazy that they are so crying to have some control over their little community, an isolated area, that it is so simple to give it to them and I cannot see how it will cause any inflation or any problem at all in the financial state of the Province. This is Riglot.

MR. DINN: The explanation that I offered the hon. gentleman was with respect to the \$10,000 in the budget that the member for Lewisporte stated last night. You can only put in the budget basically what you know for sure is going to happen, and I do not know if they are going to come back and say, We do not want incorporation.

MR. STRACHAN: Well, I do not wish to get into any argument but I mean that is -

MR. DINN: No, right.

MR. STRACHAN: I do not wish to get into an argument because I am sure the minister is well aware, and I am sure the member for Naskaupi himself who hears them all the time, they are well aware that the community is very keen to have this official stamp which says, We are a council and that we do not have to go around calling ourselves a council

MR. STRACHAN: we are not really one. And that is all they are requesting in many ways, because their funding does come from Labrador Services Division. And I think this can be done.

The other point that I want to get into a little bit, in discussing our government, and local governments, and community councils and municipal councils, municipal governments, is a situation in which we are involved in Labrador, in which there is a great deal of misunderstanding. And I would like to just put it on record - some of the things that have been done, or going on, and is an ongoing process - and that is the process of trying to form a regional government within Labrador. Because I think the words which throw people is the government part, the regional government in Labrador. And it throws people because what is occurring in Labrador, among all the communities, whether it be Labrador West, or Wabush, or Happy Valley, or North West River, or communities on the coast, there is a vortex of isolation, and the politics of isolation may rise itself up in the head, in the form, of a New Labrador Party, or a Separatist group, in various times, and dies again. But the real root, the real underlying principle, is the fact that it just does not feel part of anything. And it has nothing to do with any Separatist motion. That might be a catch-phrase that people may jump on to, or it may be some other thing. But what it really is, is the politics of isolation does not feel part of a province, or part of a region, or part of anything. And, in this vacuum; then, any catch-phrase, be it a Separatist catch-phrase or anything else, will catch on. And what we have attempted to do is to discuss the whole process of regional government, and I think it is just as applicable to the Northern Peninsula, for instance, of the Province, or the Bay St. George area, or the South Coast of Newfoundland, as it is to Labrador.

Just geographically, Labrador has been a unit. It makes it, therefore, much easier to work with, as a geographic unit, than it does some of the other areas. But I think the Northern Peninsula, for instance, is an excellent area for a unit, and the Bay St. George area. And, what we are looking at, in the process of this, is that we are trying to get some involvement from the local levels, so that the political districts are represented, be it Naskaupi, Minihek and Eagle River, and possibly, Straits. They are represented in a body which has some control over how monies are spent there,

MR. STRACHAN: and some control over the priorities and the needs for that area. And it is, in a way, participated democracy, it is participation by people, and it is often regarded by M.H.A.s and politicians, and so on, as though this was a dilution of their power. And I do not see there is a dilution, at all. In fact, I see it the very opposite way - that because we are giving local people the right to make decisions over some of the things that are going to occur to them. Then, I do not see there is a dilution, at all, if there is a system built in, in which the M.H.A.s of the area are part of it.

Now, what we have discussed, and this has been discussed now with the Labrador West Chamber of Commerce and the Labrador North Chamber of Commerce, is being discussed by the Liberal Associations and executives and groups in Labrador. And we just finished a meeting a week and a half ago - two weeks ago, in Labrador City, and we will be having another one in September, and we intend to have another one in the next two years. And this came out of the Gander Policy Convention of our Party - and I am not putting this in a partisan way - we are talking totally above that. We are looking at some kind of system of government. And what we are trying to do, is assess how we can get some of the decision-making power out of central government, if you want to call it that in St. John's, out into the regions - and how we can get people of the regions involved in decision-making, so that they become part of the process, rather than just trust to rely on St. John's making decisions for them. And this is a whole process, is a lengthy process, and I can tell you that most people in Labrador, who talk of a regional government do not really know what they are talking about. You know, it was fine - it was a catch-phrase that they caught on to, that we wanted regional government. And I know that at Gander, for instance, where the group from Labrador pushed the idea of regional government, when we sat in the back rooms and talked about regional government everyone had different ideas about what regional government was. And what is occurring now is that understanding that, they realize that they have to do their homework. So, what they are doing now, is trying to put together a process, in which, over the next period of time, they can evaluate all the things that are happening elsewhere in the country, in other political systems, and also try to come up with a firm proposal, acceptable, hopefully, all over the board, so that we have

MR. STRACHAN: some form of control over what is happening in the region. All throughout this scenario - and this is only a scenario of what possibly could happen, and I am not saying it is my idea or anybody's idea, this is just a possibility - But what we are saying is that in the field of Highways, in the field of Municipal Affairs, or in the field of anything else, that the House would be requested to give a block vote, and that block vote would be transferred to, let us say, the Regional Government Centre, or whatever centre it was, or whatever you wanted to call it - I do not like the name Regional Government, myself. But if that block vote was then transferred to, say, Happy Valley-Goose Bay as a centre, that there is a bureaucracy there and - we want - and this is another complaint we have that we are trying to work at - is a small bureaucracy, a small Civil Service. Bureaucracy is the wrong word, but a small Civil Service in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, whose job then is to apply the funds. But, the decisions for where these funds are spent is made by representation from the areas, and this type of Regional Government which meets maybe once or twice a year with representation of the M.H.A.'s on it plus people from the various districts, so that they meet once or twice a year, and they will sit down and make the decisions. They will sit and debate the decisions. So, whether the money is going to go into the Freedom Road on the Churchill Falls, or whether the money is going to be spent on airstrips on the Labrador Coast, depends on how they debate it and how they work it and whether they vote. If they decide that all the money is going to go into the Freedom Road this year, instead of bits and pieces here and there, which is decided by us here in St. John's essentially, and are often despite the Minister's claims to the opposite and we would probably do exactly the same - are decided very much on political bias. I am not inferring that there is a tremendous willingness to do these kinds of things, but you do it automatically, you do it out of self-survival for yourself, but you are doing it through a political bias. What we are saying is, that those decisions then

MR. STRACHAN: are placed with that Regional Government body - we have called it a Labrador Assembly - and we meet twice a year in this Labrador Assembly. We sit down and you have representation, possibly five, from Labrador West-Menihek area; you have five from the Naskaupi area; you have five from the Eagle River area, and the Straits of Belle Isle is accommodated some way. This body sits down with the M.H.A.'s of the areas. It can be across a board; it does not have to be - we are not talking about one party or one politics; the member, for instance, would sit there, another would sit there, myself would sit there, and so on, along with these people, and we should then make the decision on how that money for that region is to be spent and where the priorities are. We feel that kind of participation makes far more sense. And if the people of the area are put to work, the people of the area are now participating. And the decision making - there is a lot of bugbears to it, as well - The decisions are then put on them, and then they will understand also how difficult it is to make decisions, but at the same time they will also participate in a form of government and feel, therefore, stronger towards the Province. I do not think you will fashionize any area in trying to work out some kind of system like that. Now, that is the kind of scenario I am putting forward. There are a number of other proposals for different ones. Some people say that these people representing them, five from Menihek, five from Naskaupie, or ten and ten and ten, they would be elected. Some people say they should be appointed. Some people say different kinds of things. But that kind of thing to me removes this whole bugbear that we have in Labrador in which they always feel neglected, and I think it also gets off the poor mouth kind of situation in which you are always down at the mouth saying you are neglected. It gives a focus to them. It gives them an opportunity to participate and make decision affecting their own lives and therefore removes a great deal of decision making power from St. John's.

Now I realize that automatically the first thing that is going to happen is that people in St. John's who make the decisions and have the power are going to say, You are chipping away at my power,

MR. STRACHAN: you are taking the feet out from underneath me, and there is going to be battle on that level. But I think at some time or other you are going to have a battle at one level or the other. And surely it should be at this kind of thing in which the civil service or the bureaucracy or whatever it is, or ourselves, should realize that in order to get participation in local government and this kind of government, that this has to occur sometime down the road, and it had better occur on a positive note being worked out than it does waiting five, or six, or seven or eight years time before we come after you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would the hon. gentleman permit?

MR. STRACHAN: Yes, sure.

MR. HICKMAN: Rise the Committee?

I just learned a new word, Mr. Chairman, 'fashionalize'. I must remember that.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply have considered the matter to them referred and have directed me to report progress and ask leave to sit again.

MR. SPEAKER: The Chairman of Committee reports that they have considered the matter to them referred, have made some progress and ask leave to sit again.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. minister.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I move that the remaining orders of the day do stand deferred and that this House at its rising do adjourn until tomorrow Tuesday, May 24, 1977 at ten of the clock.

On motion that the House at its rising adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, May 24th., at 10 A.M.