

PRELIMINARY

UNEDITED

TRANSCRIPT

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

FOR THE PERIOD:

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 27, 1977

The House met at 10:00 A.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

I would like to welcome to the Legislature a number of groups of students, one group of fifteen students from Centennial College in Scarborough, Ontario accompanied by their teachers Mr. Steve Freed and Mr. Chuck Colby. Another group of nine Grade X students from Lake Melville High School in North West River accompanied by Mr. Chesley Cumby. These students are on an exchange visit and are accompanied by their hosts, students and teachers of Pleasantville School in St. John's. Also visiting the House of Assembly are the senior classes from a number of schools in the Burin Peninsula, ten from the John Burke High School in Grand Bank, eight from Fortune Collegiate, and six from Pearce High School at Burin accompanied by their teachers Mr. Alfred Anstey, Mr. Arch Evans, Mr. Vey, Mr. Baker, and Mr. Cluett.

I know all hon. members join me in welcoming the students from Ontario, from Labrador and from different parts of the Province to the House of Assembly.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Forestry and Agriculture.

MR. E. MAYNARD: Mr. Speaker, the government, in 1973, temporarily designated certain lands for agriculture in the St. John's area until the St. John's Urban Region Study was completed. Since 1973 some of the land has been released from the designated area as more information on soil surveys and present land use was evaluated. The St. John's Urban Region Study has been completed and the Henley Commission of Enquiry held extensive public hearings on the subject before submitting a report. The Henley Commission recommended without reservation that the areas with the most productive soil resources be zoned for agriculture.

Consequently, after detailed study of the needs for the St. John's Urban Region and the optimum use of the available

Mr. Maynard:

natural resources, government has decided to zone for agriculture on a permanent basis, the lands recommended for agriculture production in the St. John's Urban Regional Plan. Specifically this includes land in the Goulds-Kilbride area, St. John's East, and Conception Bay South.

Existing farmers in these areas have been patiently waiting for a decision on the use of these lands. Because of the threat and uncertainty of urban encroachment they have been reluctant to make personal capital investments in their farm units and expansion has therefore been curtailed. The situation has been even more difficult for the younger people - sons of existing farmers and new farmers - because they were not encouraged to commit their future to farming if the necessary soil resource was going to disappear. With the decision now made by government to preserve these lands, people can plan their future livelihoods with more certainty.

It is well established that the Province has a limited supply of suitable agriculture land and that a major portion of the land currently in production is located in the St. John's Urban Region. Approximately 65 per cent of our agricultural production including fresh milk, pork, broilers, eggs, and vegetables are produced in the St. John's-Conception Bay area.

Fertile, productive soils are a natural, non-renewable resource and if not preserved they can quickly be lost forever. This has already happened to much of the land in the St. John's area.

The Province can and should be more self-sufficient with respect to its production of fresh goods. We are capable of producing three times the volume that is presently produced. Many industries and their employees, now existant in the St. John's area, are dependent directly or indirectly on the agricultural industry. The soil resources therefore must be protected if the agriculture industry is to remain and expand.

Further, the major market for fresh produce is in the St. John's area and therefore the decision to use the nearby soils for agricultural production is economically sound because of

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the high costs and the perishability of the products if they were brought in from somewhere else.

It is understandable that there will be some opposition to zoning _____

Mr. Maynard.

lands for agriculture because the same area is suitable for many other uses. However, numerous public hearings were held and both government and public positions were heard. In making its final decision government chose the alternative that will provide the most benefits in the long-term for the whole area. There is still ample area for urban and industrial development for St. John's and the surrounding communities. I am sure that everyone is aware of the need, when considering the long-term, for restricting some of our more suitable land for agricultural purposes. I am confident that many years in the future people of Newfoundland and especially those in the St. John's urban region will be able to reflect back to the decision made here and confirm that it was for their benefit. The agriculture industry is vitally important, not just for farmers, but also for consumers and preservation of the soil resources is essential for survival and expansion. Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR. NOLAN: Mr. Speaker, we listened with great interest to the outline by the minister concerning farmland, proposed farmland in the St. John's area. Now no one is going to challenge the outline of the very definite need to retain farmland. What we do object to and have objected in the past, and I do again now is: one, that land that has been zoned agricultural - well the minister knows as well as I do that you would grow more vegetables, potatoes and so on on that glass table top there than some of the stuff that they have zoned as agriculture. It is absolute nonsense and any farmer who has been in the business at all will tell you so, and in fact has told the minister. Secondly, the member for Kilbride (Mr. Wells) and I and others over the years have stated, and we state again, that the government arbitrarily have frozen land and have, as a result of doing so, caused people to suffer unnecessarily. The

Mr. Nolan.

government is obliged, where they have frozen land, to buy that land from the people concerned.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

I must point out to the hon. gentleman that his remarks are going beyond the permitted area of explanation - asking for explanation and comment - and are getting into the area of debate.

MR. NOLAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Anyway the remarks that I have made still stand obviously, And on the record of the House. This is not in any way questioning the Chair in spite of the hon. arrogant gentleman opposite. And the fact is that we would like to study the report as tabled by the hon. minister. And the points that I have raised I hope he will address himself to before this session concludes.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

NOTICES OF MOTION:

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister.

MR. ROUSSEAU: Finally, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a bill, "An Act Respecting Labour Relations In The Province."

ORAL QUESTIONS:

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

MR. NOLAN: Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture. In view of the fact that the Cabinet of British Columbia have now rejected the minister's approach on spraying for the spruce budworm, I am wondering if the minister has had any second thoughts on this matter in view of what has happened in B. C. since they decided to cancel the spraying this year?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Forestry and Agriculture.

MR. MAYNARD: Mr. Speaker, I have not received any reports from British Columbia. It is my understanding that it is very simple for British Columbia to reject any spraying for the spruce budworm simply because they do not have the problem. If they have the problem, it is in very, very small areas of the Province, because of the other species they have. The spruce budworm is predominately disastrous in the fir trees, which are very scarce in British Columbia. In any case, Mr. Speaker, we do not have to reassess our position on spraying, because we are doing it as a spraying programme, and we are doing a very small experimental field test in case we may have to go into a spraying programme

MR. MAYNARD: in 1978 there is no reason for us to reaccess our programme in any way because of any action that was taken by any other province.

MR. NOLAN: A supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. NOLAN: Has the minister received any complaints from the West Coast, specifically the Corner Brook area, that the water supply in that area may be endangered as a result of the plans outlined by the minister earlier in this House?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister.

MR. MAYNARD: I have received complaints from one group, Mr. Speaker, a group called Eco-Watch on the West Coast. I have answered Eco-Watch questions and I have indicated to them that there is no possible possibility of any contamination of the water supply either in the Curling water supply or in the Corner Brook water supply, that we are taking the necessary precautions and we - the test spray blocks are far enough away from the water supply to insure that there is no possibility of any contamination by accident or otherwise.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. member for Eagle River followed by the hon. gentleman for Trinity-Bay de Verde.

MR. ROWE: A supplementary -

MR. SPEAKER: I did not hear the hon gentleman say supplementary. If the other hon member wishes to yield?

MR. STRACHAN: Yes, I will yield to a supplementary.

MR. ROWE: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture, two supplementaries really, I will state them the same time.

AN HON MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. ROWE: Well okay. Is there any truth to the fact, it has been publically stated by some individuals, that the minister and

MR. ROWE: the administration is thinking of reverting -

MR. MAYNARD: I cannot hear the question.

MR. ROWE: - to a massive spraying programme within the very near future without the experimental programme before hand, Is there any truth to that rumour? I guess it is about what it is at the present time.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. minister.

MR. WHITE: There are a lot of rumours on the go.

MR. MAYNARD: Let me clarify this reverting to - let me clarify reverting to a massive spraying programme in 1977.

AN HON. MEMBER: Yes.

MR. MAYNARD: No, even if we intended to there is no possibility of it being done because a spraying programme has to be geared up at least six months before in order to get the equipment, the planes, the chemicals and this sort of thing. For instance, even for the test spray blocks that we are doing now the orders had to be put in in December or otherwise there was no possibility of delivery. So the possibility of anything more than the 200,000 acres - out of nine million, I might point out - the total forested area in 1977 is just out of the question.

MR. ROWE: A further supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. ROWE: I wonder if the minister could indicate, Sir, whether his department has investigated other methods of controlling this spruce budworm. We are talking about, obviously, chemical spraying now, Has the minister gathered together any research with respect to biological control and this type of thing. In other words, has there been an attempt by the administration to collect all the research data possible to find out the various kinds of control, whether it is chemical, physical, biological, what have you, from various other parts of the world and see what the results on the environment would be if these other methods were used other than just chemical spraying?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister.

MR. MAYNARD: Well that is a very important part of this years programme, Mr. Speaker, I have indicated before I asked the president of Memorial University, Mr. Morgan, to put together a team of people, none of whom would be involved with government or the companies, that it would be a totally unbiased group to do a complete analysis of all of the research that has been done to date on the spruce budworm control, that is biological or chemical or whatever, and to present us with a report sometime around the latter part of September or early October indicating to us the various alternatives we might have available to us in controlling. That is either by biological or chemical methods.

As well we have an ongoing forest management group in the Province made up of the Canadian Forestry Service, our own department and the two large paper companies that are investigating long-term management techniques for the forestry. This would include different species mix. For instance, it is well known that certain species are not susceptible to budworm attack or at least not damaged by it, but that is a long-term thing; they are stepping up their investigations this year as to what can be done in

MR. MAYNARD: actual management, fertilization, cutting techniques and this sort of thing to combat the budworm or any other insect farther down the road.

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

MR. STRACHAN: Mr. Speaker, on the general subject of transportation in Labrador, seeing the minister got through so easy with his estimates, could the minister tell us whether he has any plans or what the plans are now if there is any money to be spent on the Freedom Road, first of all; and secondly, would he consider sending engineers in to cost out a road from Paradise River to Cartwright and Mauds Bay to Marys Harbour.

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

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, next weekend, in fact next Friday, I will be travelling to Labrador and first of all meeting with the council at North West River with regards to a problem there in connection with construction of a bridge across the river to North West river. On Monday, the following Monday, which is I think June 6th., I plan to leave Goose to travel hopefully by road all the way across Labrador, the road known as the Freedom Road, across to Esker and to take the railway as well from Esker into Wabush, Labrador City.

I have invited the Chairman of the Transport Committee in Labrador, Mr. Herb Brett, their former mayor of Happy Valley-Goose Bay, and of course the MHA for the area, my friend from Naskaupi (Mr. Goudie) will be travelling with me as well, accompanied by senior staff from the department.

First of all we plan to scout the area on Sunday by helicopter from Churchill Falls to Goose Bay, to determine if we can get over it by vehicle, and Monday morning we plan to leave

MR. MORGAN: to drive all the way across the Labrador part of our Province and then we will be in a position, after assessing the situation, to determine approximate estimate of cost we will have to spend this Summer to keep the road open. And the cost will be a major factor in determining what we will be able to do this Summer. But if at all possible we will be making attempts anyway to keep that road in a passable condition to enable the people to at least leave Wabush Mines and Labrador City to come to the Island part of the Province on their vacations, by means of travelling down that road to Goose Bay and take the William Carson ferry into the Island part of the Province.

I am hoping that my suggestion I made last year will be followed, that the people would travel in convoy if at all possible, because there are no service stations, there are no conveniences at all on that road. Three hundred and twenty-odd miles of road, mainly through wilderness, in fact through wilderness, and I am hoping they will accept my suggestion that they travel in convoy rather than travel as individual passenger vehicles over that road.

So next week I will be assessing the situation and with regards to the matter pertaining to the hon. member's own district, Eagle River, I will be in a position, approximately two weeks time to indicate to him then what the situation is there so the question is under advisement.

MR. STRACHAN: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. STRACHAN: In the same general area, supplementary in transportation, and the minister, could the minister tell us whether there is any indications for this \$24 million that has come here for airport construction. Whether Nain, and Makkovik and Marys Harbour and Cartwright will be committed, funds will be committed to that project to get them started this year?

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

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, irrespective of what funds come forward from the federal government, we intend to go ahead and complete if at all possible, if the funds we have approved in the Budget as of yesterday in the estimates to complete the airstrip at Cartwright. However, we will be commencing discussions in the immediate future. I am hoping next week to discuss with the federal minister the statement made recently with regards to \$21 million for airport development in the Atlantic region, and I am hoping that part of that \$21 million can be allocated for Labrador for development of airstrips and of course if so we will be pressing forward our priorities, irrespective of their master plan. And our priorities so far have been established as being Nain, and Makkovik and Marys Harbour and of course Rigolet is now under construction and so is Cartwright.

MR. SIMMONS: A supplementary.

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

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, the minister made reference to the bridge across North West river. The agreement on that matter was signed

Mr. Simmons.

January or February, or about January, I believe. Is it true, or would the minister confirm, that the bridge construction has been delayed at least a year because of the lack of design of the bridge or the delay in getting the design completed?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister.

MR. MORGAN: No, Mr. Speaker, there is no delay in the actual design of the bridge, but there is a delay at the present with regards to finalizing the actual site location of the bridge, and that is the main reason I am travelling to North West River myself next Friday evening to meet with the council of that community, accompanied by the MHA from Naskaupi. The engineers from the department, in fact the senior staff, have already been in there, but to date the problem has not been resolved. The design for the bridge is now being carried out. That work is being done. There is no delay there. And even if the location site was now finalized it still would not be in a position to call tenders because the design work has not been finalized or completed to date. But I am hoping that next Friday we can resolve the matter with regards to the location. I assured the residents of North West River that the location of the bridge would be built to their satisfaction if at all possible. And we have assured them that we will consult them on all matters with regard to construction of that bridge.

MR. SIMMONS: A supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary by the hon. member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir, followed by the hon. gentleman from Lewisporte.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, the fact that the design is only now going forward, does this indicate that the government here, the provincial government, had no proposals, plans or designs for their bridge before the federal people put it in the DREE sub-agreement for Labrador? It strikes me that it is a bit late to be doing the

Mr. Simmons.

design now. Is there some technical reason why it is so far along in time well after the signing of the actual financial agreement?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, the procedure or the present situation with regards to the bridge in North West River is basically the procedure followed in all cases. The engineering work was carried out sufficient to determine a cost estimate to negotiate with the federal government, but the actual structural design of that bridge can only take place after the agreement is signed and the funds allocated. And as soon as the agreement was signed a consulting firm was engaged by the department, and they commenced work immediately after the agreement was signed on the actual structural design of that bridge to enable the calling of tenders. But there was engineering work carried out prior to the negotiations and this has to be done to enable the federal government to agree with us on building that bridge.

MR. WHITE: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Lewisporte for a supplementary.

MR. WHITE: Mr. Speaker, my supplementary comes out of the minister's estimates yesterday, but because of the amount of detail we had to go into in the minister's estimates yesterday we did not get a lot of information on the point that I wanted to ask him about relative to transportation in Labrador. I wonder if the minister could tell us in view of the fact that he announced yesterday that a tender had been awarded to Sealand Helicopters, a company owned by Mr. Dobbin - they were the lowest tender and got the contract, \$103,000 for a helicopter to operate in Labrador - could he give us a few more details on this? Were those the only two companies asked to submit bids or was it a public tender placed in the newspapers and what will this particular machine be doing in Labrador? What will be its role in Labrador?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, as in reply to a question yesterday during the estimates the answer is that tenders were called. We did not ask for bids from a specific company. In fact tenders were even advertised in the mainland papers, which sometimes I am opposed to. I feel that all Newfoundland firms should be given first preference in all cases. But we did advertise in mainland papers as well as the local papers and so any company who could supply that kind of machine that we wanted - in this case a certain type of helicopter - could bid. The fact is that we received two bids, and the lowest of the two bids was Sealand Helicopters, a locally, Newfoundland based firm. The helicopter will be used primarily, if not strictly, for the use of the Department of Forestry and Agriculture. And it will be based in Goose Bay-or Happy Valley - Goose Bay, Labrador, and will be used, like I say, almost strictly for the Department of Forestry and Agriculture with regards to forestry, fire-fighting, forestry protection. And I am assuming that my hon. friend and colleague

Mr. Morgan: can reconfirm this, but also in connection with the budworm spraying activity, he can verify that.

MR. WHITE: A further supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A final supplementary.

MR. WHITE: I said, "Further," if it "final," well that is fine.

MR. SPEAKER: I realize the hon. gentleman said further.

MR. WHITE: Okay.

MR. SPEAKER: It does not preclude hon. members from coming back

MR. WHITE: Mr. Speaker, I just want to ask the minister when this contract with Sea-Land Helicopters comes into effect, and whether or not while the helicopter is stationed in Labrador whether it is a firm contract that it is only to be used by the Department of Forestry and Agriculture. Whether or not since the helicopter is in Labrador anyway it will be available for other government services such as, you know, activities by ministers and so on?

MR. SIMMONS: Fishing trips and so on.

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

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, yesterday I outlined that we have seven helicopters under charter from Universal, and the functions or use of these helicopters - I mentioned, if I recall that one of these helicopters out of the seven was stationed in Goose Bay for the purpose or the use of ministers, all of the ministers, in fact, all government departments in Labrador. Therefore this helicopter now will not be used for that purpose; we already have one there.

MR. WHITE: I will put it differently.

MR. MORGAN: So it will be used by the Department of Forestry and Agriculture, yes.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Fogo, followed by the hon. gentleman from Terra Nova.

CAPT. WINSOR: A question for the Minister of Fisheries. Has the minister gotten any word back from the people he sent to the Mainland to ascertain the differences in prices of lobster paid by the Mainland firms in Nova Scotia, and that paid to fishermen

Capt. Winsor:

here in Newfoundland?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Fisheries.

MR. W. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, auditors on instructions from the Industry Advisory Board are now in the process of checking the records of the four Mainland fish companies that are responsible for buying lobsters in the Province to report back to me, and that report has been promised for June 15.

MR. WHITE: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary, the hon. member for Lewisporte.

MR. WHITE: A supplementary to the Minister of Fisheries.

Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the minister could indicate to us, it is well along now in the lobster season, and we really have not had a report on the lobster fishery, and I wonder if he could tell us how the lobster industry is doing this year?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Fisheries.

MR. W. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, all indications point to a reasonably good lobster fishery. And I am rather pleased to learn the other evening that, I think, fishermen in my hon. friend's district are now organizing themselves into a co-operative effort and are undertaking the marketing of their own lobster. And they are now obtaining prices far in excess of that paid by the four Atlantic Canadian companies that were previously buying the lobsters.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. W. CARTER: But to answer your question, it appears to be a good year. I am not satisfied that the prices being paid are satisfactory. Certainly we are going to do all we can to bring about what we think are necessary changes in the system, especially in the marketing area of the lobster fishery. And again I am proud to know that certain people are taking certain initiatives on their own as to that end.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Terra Nova.

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that our unemployment rate - the question is for the Minister of Manpower and Industrial

Mr. Lush:

Relations - in view of the fact that our unemployment rate as of mid-May we had 35,000 Newfoundlanders unemployed, and I keep hearing statements by the hon. Minister of Industrial Development that we can look forward to a high unemployment rate for the next little while. I wonder if the minister has any idea by what amount the numbers of unemployed will be reduced as a result of government programmes this Summer? And I realize that there are some factors that make it a little difficult, but certainly the government must have some idea what numbers out of this 35,000 they expect to employ this Summer?

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

MR. ROUSSEAU: It is a very difficult question to answer, Mr Speaker, as I am sure the hon. member knows. First of all, you know, I do not accept the figure of 35,000. I would like to know where the figures are, as I suggested once before in the House here, that we asked who were the people and where were they? You know, when I had - what was it, 200-and-some-odd fish cannery in my hon. friend's district in Gander (Mr. H. Collins), at that time-remember the report we had a few years ago on the unemployed in the Province and there were -

MR. H. COLLINS: Ninety-eight fish cannery out of work in Gander.

MR. ROUSSEAU: Ninety-eight fish cannery out of work in Gander. You know, I would like to know the breakdown of the figures, and I cannot give them. But I am not saying that the rate of unemployment is not high, I am just saying I would like to have an accurate account of it.

Right now, you know, for the various departments of government, and I am speaking as the Minister of Manpower, of course, that

MR. ROUSSEAU: the initial call of tenders by my colleague, the Minister of Transportation and Communications of course will create some employment. The highways programme, now that the Budget is down, will hopefully create more employment. My colleague, the hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, of course, now that his programmes hopefully will be underway in the next few weeks, that will create some employment.

We have a number of things here in the capital budget in the Department of Public Works and Services which when that budget is out will have some work done. There are a number of other possibilities. Now when you say possibilities I would certainly hope there would be a reduction in the unemployment rate. However, to be honest and fair about it too in talking to the industry as I do in my role as Minister of Public Works, of course they are concerned. They are concerned because of the dependence on government work and because of the lack of private investment; of course they have to depend on government work. And they are not happy now with the volume of work in the Province, private and government work, although they are aware of the fact that there will be some government in of course as each department's estimates who would be involved in work activity is passed.

So you know obviously we have to look for some decrease in these number of \$30,000 plus or whatever the figure may be. And hopefully, as I say, with the passage of the estimates of several of the departments who were involved in this, the creation of jobs through government expenditure that we will see some reduction and hopefully by May or June or July we will see a significant reduction in this Province.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary, the hon. member for Lewisporte.

MR. WHITE: Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is to the Minister of Manpower and I wonder if the minister could tell us when he had his last meeting with the federal Minister of Manpower, his counterpart in Ottawa, to discuss the serious unemployment problem in Newfoundland, when he had his last meeting?

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

MR. ROUSSEAU: I was in touch with him, I have been talking to them and, as I mentioned before, we have an agenda for a meeting here and one of the items was that and we would like to have some input, for example, into their works programme of provincial input. Unfortunately Mr. Cullen could not make it because of weather. I have written him since and he has agreed to meet. I asked for a meeting, he has agreed to meet. The only problem is now that the House of Assembly is open and I have not had the opportunity. But he has been most gracious and has agreed to meet and as soon as the House is closed, at the first possible opportunity after that I will be talking to Mr. Cullen on not only the unemployment but also the question of priorities in work projects in resource based areas and where they go so that we would have some co-ordination between federal and provincial governments with the people involved of course in the various areas in respect to that. So hopefully I would say within a week or two after the House closes.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Bellevue, followed by the hon. member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir, and Eagle River.

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transportation and Communications. Yesterday here in this House, and also through the media the minister mentioned three what we consider bad areas of the Trans-Canada to be upgraded, and he mentioned the area around Glovertown there, the St. Georges area on the West Coast, and also the Kenmount Road area, and I think we all agree that these are bad areas.

MR. CALLAN: But I am wondering, is not the area the general in the Rantem area, that is the general area between say Chance Cove and Arnold's Cove, that general area, is not that considered to be one of the bad areas, and if it is will anything be done with that area this year, is it on the priority list? And perhaps would the minister table any studies that have been done regarding the bad areas of the Trans-Canada or are they decided arbitrarily?

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

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, the upcoming meetings in fact which will be commencing on Wednesday in Halifax, first of all with the ministers in the region and then hopefully from there on we plan to move to Ottawa for further meetings with the federal minister and his officials. Of course, we have to have with us at these meetings the outline of what we determine as priorities on the Trans-Canada Highway in Newfoundland and yesterday I mentioned a couple or three places on the Trans-Canada Highway which were bad and needed improvements. The Rantem area that I think the hon. gentleman is referring to, is also one of these priorities so what I intend to do as soon as the agreement is finalized and I will be tabling it in the House of Assembly, if the House is in session and hopefully it will be at that time, hopefully we will get an agreement signed as soon as possible, tabling in the House the work we plan to commence this year and outlining also our priorities on the TCH for the remaining two years of the three year agreement.

MR. CALLAN: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker, I know there is some concern on behalf of service station operators and so on who are located along the Trans-Canada Highway. They are afraid of a divided highway that will put them out of business and so on. Would the minister take a minute to explain? Are there plans for a divided highway across this Province? Or as we see it now, is it just upgrading the present two lanes and expand it, say, to four without having a divided highway as we have on the outskirts of St. John's?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, I wish I could say that we could find enough money from Ottawa or from some source to build a second highway across the Province. But what we are talking about now in our summation application made is along the lines of widening out and making four lanes in some sections of the TCH. And the rest of the bad sections, like the Rantem area, as mentioned, widening out and paving of shoulders and, of course, in some sections tearing up and reconstructing these sections. I do not think the concerns of the service stations as mentioned are justified. The engineering division, of course, will be only too pleased to discuss with any of the service station operators or commercial operators on the highway the plans we have for the TCH and can outline to them if they will be affected or not.

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

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Mines and Energy, if I can get his attention. Yes,

I want to refer him to the deposit just East of Grey River on the Southwest Coast, the deposit. I believe the rights for it are held by either ASARCO directly or by arrangement with Price. He might be able to indicate

Mr. Simmons.

just what is the case? I believe it is with Price. A senior official of Price recently indicated that they had been looking at this with a view to determining whether it was a commercially mineable deposit. I wonder would the minister indicate whether his department has had any particular input or any discussions on this particular issue and generally bring us up to date on the subject?

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

MR. PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, there are a number - about two or three months ago I asked the geologists, the senior staff in the geology section of the Mineral Resource Division of the Department of Mines and Energy to assess all the known ore bodies that have been discovered recently in the last three or four years to see whether in fact we could pursue a more active policy to bringing some of those ore bodies on stream in a commercial way through companies who now have the mineral rights or the concessions or whatever, to sit down and talk to them. And one of them, of course, was the tungston deposit, the barite one that Price are now involved in in Buchans to try to extend the life of the mine which would only amount to a small few jobs in relation to how many are there now, but at least there would be some to do some work, additional work on limestone deposits on the West Coast and some additional work on silica deposits in the LaScie area and so on, and tungston was amongst them.

Up until this point in time the companies and the people in the Department of Mines and Energy say that at the present moment it is not viable to put a mine in production based on the cost of extracting the ore, the markets, the whole bit and piece. However, we are reviewing it all right this present last few weeks to get a firsthand knowledge on all these kinds of deposits and the tungston one included. I am aware that Price

Mr. Peckford.

and ASARCO have been involved in the tungston deposit and Price is interested again in it. The one great asset that Price brings to the mineral industry in Newfoundland is its newness and its desire to get on with getting a mine in production whilst you get the Noranda or the other big companies who are still interested.

MR. STRACHAN: You still did not answer the question.

MR. PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, I -

ORDERS OF THE DAY:

MR. PECKFORD: Good idea.

MR. SIMMONS: Saved by the bell.

MR. PECKFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY:

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! Heading 1801.

The hon. Minister of Labour and Manpower.

MR. ROUSSEAU: Just a few minutes, Mr. Chairman. Last night I indicated that I would table these policies of the Newfoundland Information Service. I have also directed my Assistant Deputy Minister of Administration to review these and a review is now in process and hopefully we will have them very soon.

I have to apologize to my colleague, the member for Naskaupi (Mr. Goudie). This information has to be compiled because of the sale of some of the properties and I will be in a position to table it hopefully some time next week.

I might mention by the way, Mr. Chairman, just before I sit down, last night we did not talk too much about the Public Service Commission and I think that when somebody does something of an exemplary nature I think they should be commended on it. Recently the Civil Service Commission went down to help with career days in various schools in the area, and one of the schools they visited was the School for the Deaf and in talking with the people down there they had the feeling that these people were of the opinion, "Well you know, career days-so what? What are we going to do with it?" And the Public Service Commission on its own initiated a co-op programme with government departments, the Department of Public Works, the Department of Finance, a number of other government departments have taken in fifteen students from the School for the Deaf on a co-operative programme for a few weeks and the Public Service Commission will endeavour to place these people permanently and I think they should be commended for their own initiative. I think it is an exemplary thing and it is one of the little human interest stories that sometimes does not reach the levels of the department, but certainly it is worthy of comment and I would like to compliment the Public Service Commission on this act.

MR. ROUSSEAU: I think, Mr. Chairman, that I answered all the questions last night that I had, maybe not sufficiently and satisfactorily but I do not have any questions on my book now and I think we have about an hour left and I will try and answer any questions that the hon. members bring up from here on in.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. SIMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, first of all it being Friday morning, all of us wanting to get off to a good start for the weekend, we should seriously compliment the minister on his fairly direct answers, or his direct answers to questions. He is one of the ministers that we have no difficulty whatsoever getting information from, one of several over there. And there are several others over there who could well take a page out of the minister's book, and be as forthright in answering questions.

Mr. Chairman, I would like this morning if we had the time, I understand we have what - about an hour, Mr. Chairman?

MR. CHAIRMAN: An hour and two or three minutes. Yes.

MR. SIMMONS: An hour and -

MR. CHAIRMAN: A couple of minutes.

MR. SIMMONS: Just over an hour on this particular head, on this particular department. So I realize other of my colleagues want to speak and I will therefore make my remarks very brief.

One could spend a long time today talking about Newfoundland Information Services and I hope some of my colleagues will pick up the theme. Because that particular body, that particular monstrosity must be notorious, must have a certain historical infamy attached to it already for its ability to use the taxpayers' money, one quarter of one million dollars, \$212,000 actually, on sending out what in

MR. SIMMONS: essence, in fact, in reality, in blunt reality is the political mutterings of a political party and we the taxpayers are paying for it and it is supposed to be called Newfoundland Information Services. I have been struggling all night to get a more apt term that would fit those three initials, NIS, I cannot find it. But someone can help me I am sure because it is shocking, disgraceful, dispicable that such a nefarious scheme should be financed by me and you and the rest of the taxpayers of this Province.

As I say there are so many things I would like to say on that, but I would like to move on in the interest of saving some time to another subject and that of the Department of Public Works generally.

The Department of Public Works is the service department of government, of course, and does capital works and maintenance work for all departments of government.

Mr. Simmons:

And because of its rather pivotal position, it is in a position to be the slush fund department of government, it is in a position to be the slush fund, the political pay-off slush fund department of government. Now whether it becomes that or not of course depends on the kind of stewardship which the minister exercises, and depends on the competence and the basic integrity of the officials involved in that department.

Mr. Chairman, I have no doubt at all about the confidence of the stewardship of the present minister. He is a gentleman I long admired for his integrity and for his basic competence. The minister concerned, of course, has only been heading up that department very briefly.

The Appendix attached to the Budget, the Appendix No. IV attached to the Budget on page 142, the right column gives a total on repairs and maintenance, rentals, heat and light, capital, renovations, printing, aircraft, and so on those items that are - those items of service that are performed by the Department of Public Works on behalf of other departments of government, these total \$39 million, \$39 million.

Now, Mr. Chairman, that is a lot of money, \$39 million. Now let us look at what happened during the year 1975-1976 in respect of this particular item, the Appendix IV details. The Auditor General reports that appropriations for certain general service charges, the one to which I have just referred to in Appendix IV appropriation for certain general services charges, are voted by the legislature as we are doing here today, voted by the Legislature on the basis of the estimates of the Department of Public Works and Services, and of course Appendix IV gives details of that.

Then he goes on to say, "The total amount voted for general service charges includes provision for expenditures which though made initially through this department will be transferred as heads of expenditure to other departments." And he goes on to say, "In my opinion the amounts allocated to each department set the limit of expenditures with the Department of Public Works and Services may

Mr. Simmons:

properly incur for subsequent transfer to these departments."

And then he says, Mr. Chairman, here is the punch line, then he says, "However my audit disclose that the Department of Public Works and Services considers that transfers between allocations as shown in Appendix IV or even new allocations can be affected"- and here is the important part of his sentence - "Can be affected at the discretion of the department." Now what that says in so many words, Mr. Chairman, is this, that that \$39 million, which I just made reference to, while it neatly laid out so much for health, so much for municipal affairs etc. etc. in effect what has been happening is that it has been juggled around at the discretion of the department concerned. In other words, the minister points out that some of these, indeed a large portion of these are fairly fixed costs that would relate to the service, the ongoing expenditures, but it certainly would not be in the case of construction and renovation, for example. And on that subject alone, on that item alone there is \$14 million this year. And that is an item that has been moved around, as the Auditor General has documented in his previous report.

So let us, you know, to concede to the minister's point, let us get away from the \$39 million for a moment, and let us talk about the \$14 million. There is \$14 million there voted for construction and alteration, and there is no hard and firm guideline, Mr. Chairman, that that has to be spent in accordance with the way that we are voting; that is to say, the department says there is no hard and firm guideline. I say there is a very hard and firm guideline. I say that as soon as the department takes the liberty of lifting an amount say out of Health, which is voted for Health, and puts it it as a construction item in another department, the Department of Public Works is thereby going against, they are violating, thereby acting in contravention or contradiction of the instruction of the House, of the Committee of Supply right here. And that has gone on wholesale in past years, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Simmons: And the net effect of that is that you have a slush fund. You have a \$14 million or if you like altogether a \$39 million, but certainly at least in the case of the construction

MR. SIMMON: item a \$14 million slush fund. Now how do I mean that? well, for example, this year under grants to hospitals there is an amount of \$4,952,000, that is for the Health Sciences Complex - a good part of it is, \$4,952,000. Suppose for some reason - and this is perhaps not a good example but it will serve the point - suppose for some reason that money could not be incurred in the present year because of a delay in the construction completion schedule. What has been happening in practice in the past is that the department said "Well, we do not need it up at the Health Sciences Complex, let us spend it somewhere else, or let us spend it on highway bridges," for example. So as a result of the practice that the department has adopted in the past three or four years at least of using discretion in moving that item, millions of dollars of it from one department to another, the result is that if, for example, you have a delay in the Health Sciences Complex or more overtly more directly if government decided to delay the Health Sciences Complex - and again this, I say to the minister, is just an example because it is a large amount of money, I do not want him to come back and assure us it is not going to be delayed and that kind of thing, that is not the essence of what I am saying here - and suppose for a political reason the government said "Well look, Health Sciences Complex is not a high priority, let us shelve it, let us slow it down for a year or so and we can take the \$4,900,000 and put it into highway bridges which have a lot more political currency." People can see bridges and road construction a lot more than they see the Health Sciences Complex in St. John's.

The possibility is there, No. 1, Mr. Chairman, and No. 2, the possibility has been exercised, it has been exercised. The Auditor General himself has said so in his report of last year and here we have, Mr. Chairman, this year \$14 million at least, perhaps as much as \$39 million total, which in affect is a

MR. SIMMONS: discretionary slush fund that can be moved around to suit the political reality of the moment.

Now, the minister of course is going to shake his head and say it does not happen. Well I remind the minister, and I wanted to get into this yesterday but I never got a chance under transportation,

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. SIMMONS: No, I remind the minister that we have heard for years from this government about the five year road plan, the transportation plan. Well, there was a plan I am told, it was actually in existence on paper and people have seen it, all right, and one of the things they were going to do on that particular road plan was pave twelve miles of road down in the Roddickton area. Well it has not been paved, although it is in the government's five year plan, it has not been paved and I suggest the reason that it has not been paved is because there was neither by-election in Roddickton last year, and the paving that was supposed to be in Roddickton wound up in Glovers Harbour because we were tripping over paving machines down in Glovers Harbour on election day last year, June 30th, and I suppose we will be doing the same thing up in St. John's West if they can find anything that does not move up there they will pave it -

AN HON. MEMBER: And in Ferryland.

MR. SIMMONS: And in Ferryland, Well, they have started the stadium up in Ferryland for the seventh time, is it -

AN HON. MEMBER: Seventh time.

MR. SIMMONS: The stadium with the most starts in Newfoundland, six starts and five stops so far, or six starts and six stops as the case may be, and now we are going in for start number seven. Well I am telling you this, Mr. Chairman, while I am on that subject this government is in for a start this time, a real start like it never had before. Another subject - and I am afraid I am going to get ruled out of order any minute so I had better get back on this particular subject here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 18 -

MR. SIMMONS: Sorry!

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1801

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, is in a good mood this morning, that is always nice to see. Look, I got off my chest basically what I wanted to say this morning, this discretionary power, or what the department thinks the discretionary authority is in the matter of moving around appendix IV items, It is something that has got to be copper-fastened, I do not think it should be there, If the government has some reason to reallocate a major expenditure it either should be done by special warrant, by other procedures: which are provided for in the Financial Administration Act, or should be done through supplementary supply here in the House. It should not be done by some official in the Department of Public Works saying, "We do not need it up at the university; let us give it to highways to spend on bridges!" It should not be done in that particular way.

Now, Mr. Chairman, this may well be the last opportunity I will have in committee on this subject to speak, so just let me say how pleased I am that the department has appointed a new Deputy Minister, Mr. Tom Whelan, The initial indications is that he has gotten a handle on the department and if I am any judge of character and personality at all it seems like he is the kind of guy you were looking for and he has a good grasp of what is going on and I must say I am extremely impressed with his concern with the department and his

Mr. Simmons.

anxiety to get on with the job. It was that that the department needed an outside person who had a yen for administration. The department is suffering from the same kind of problem that everybody suffers with -

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would the hon. member yield for a moment, please?

MR. SIMMONS: Sure, sure.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would like to welcome to the public galleries on behalf of all the members, nineteen students from Cape John Collegiate, LaScie, Grade X, nineteen students, accompanied by their teachers, Mr. John MacMullen and Mr. Rod Thoms.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Also in Mr. Speaker's gallery, there is a Mrs. Brigadier General Rhea, Director of Reserves and Cadets, National Defence Headquarters, Ottawa. The Brigadier General is in Newfoundland to inspect the CLB Army Cadets. We welcome you to the galleries.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I certainly join you in welcoming those people, particularly the group from the school at LaScie which used to be in my educational jurisdiction during my earlier days as a school superintendent. It is very good to see them all and say hello to them on behalf of their member, Mr. Rideout, the member for Baie Verte - White Bay who is on his way back into Baie Verte to a speaking engagement this afternoon and so could not be here at this time.

Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to say in concluding that it seems to me that the Department of Public Works, with its emphasis on technical services and engineering capability suffers in the same way that any organization does, where there is a preponderance of engineers. And I have nothing at all against engineers

Mr. Simmons.

but I remember my days at university where every faculty save one had a very smooth administrative organization. The engineer faculty, one, never had it and, two, prided itself in not having it.

AN HON. MEMBER: Just one?

MR. SIMMONS: Well, the group. They only did not have a smoothly run organization, but it prided itself in not having it. It is the nature of the beast, as they say. And there is room in Public Works for a lot of engineers. But the nature of the Department of Public Works is such, where they have to spend public money and report on the spending of public money, that it is not enough to know that the job is well done, you better have an administrator around who can tell you it is well done, and who can see that it is - can demonstrate, can document that it is well done.

And one of the problems we have been finding on the Public Accounts Committee, one of the problems that we have been finding is that too much was done in a very offhand way, not necessarily for any reason of wrongdoing, but we had, one example, for instance, where an amount of \$33,000 was approved in a telephone call, and we have documented that this was the way it was done. It was approved strictly on the basis of a telephone call. We can tell you the two individuals involved, one in the department, and one on the company end, and it was approved just over the telephone, and the fellow on the department end just scribbled down the figure and we have his telephone scribble to that effect, as a matter of fact.

Now in that particular instance, I do not believe there is any wrongdoing involved, but I believe it was the case of an engineer who has no time for this routine administration at all in case of him trying to get on with the job. And I say to the minister, he has done a very good thing when he has got at once an engineer in Mr. Whelan and at the same time a person who has

Mr. Simmons.

quite a good reputation as an administrator, a person who sees the need to not only do the job but to see that it is documented properly, because he is answerable obviously to this House and to the minister in particular.

Mr. Chairman, I hope the minister will respond to some of the things we have said particularly on the NIS. I do not think he has really - I was going to say he has not come clean, but that would be unfair; I do not mean he has not come clean - he has not really admitted to himself, let alone to the House, he has not at all admitted the unwieldiness of the animal he is dealing with in NIS.

It is a dangerous thing and it is not only going to be something that we are going to stand here and attack, but he is going to live to see the day when he is going to rue sitting on this one if that is what he is doing, because NIS is going to embarrass him beyond degree. He has got a reputation for being a competent minister who comes clean, but if he tries on this one, on this nefarious, this despicable NIS to do anything but call it the animal of his and do something to clean it up, then he is going to live to regret that day. It is a shocking piece of business, Mr. Chairman. It is a quarter of a million of dollars of my money and your money, and it is being spent in the most blatantly political way that I could ever dream of or anybody could dream of, and it should stop. And I would hope that the - you know, if the minister is really in character today he will stand in the next few minutes, and he will tell us that he has either fired Mr. Butler this morning or he is waiting for the Committee to end so he can fire him at twelve o'clock, because that would be the first step. I have nothing against Mr. Butler personally. I am disappointed

MR. ROWE: is being misused. I think the whole concept of the Newfoundland Information Services should be destroyed outright.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I want to use a specific example to demonstrate the abuse or the way that Newfoundland Informaiton Services can be, misused. Unfortunately I am going to have to relate to a release put out through Newfoundland Services by the Minister of Fisheries. Now I would like for the Minister of Fisheries to listen to this for one clear reason, because it involves a subject that we are both working on. We have had some controversy about it over the last year and-a-half - this is the Old Perlican fish plant - and it is not the subject of the Old Perlican fish plant that I wish to relate to, but unfortunately this is the subject, in particular, Newfoundland Information Services press release relates to. It has nothing to do, Sir, whatsoever with Old Perlican fish plant, it has nothing to do with the minister, because, in fact, if I were the Minister of Fisheries at that time, when we were getting into some pretty heated arguments over the airwaves, if I had had Newfoundland Information Services at my disposal I would probably have made exactly the same release. So it is not the minister that I am say is at fault, it is the institution of Newfoundland Information Services.

But I want to make that clear right at the beginning. I am not criticizing the minister, nor stand for or against or what have you, I am not criticizing his release or anything relative to the Old Perlican fish plant. What I am trying to point out is the way that Newfoundland Information Services can be used and is being used. It should not be used in that way by any member of the House of Assembly

MR. ROWE: be he or she a minister of a backbencher. I would say that if I had Newfoundland Information Services at my disposal I would probably would have put exactly the same release. I will admit that.

Obviously I am not going to read through the whole four page release, Mr. Chairman, but I will read a few sentences or phrases that should show how this Newfoundland Information Services is being abused. It is probably not being abused, it is abusing the ministers

MR. ROWE: and the government at the cost of the taxpayers, \$212,000, almost a quarter of a million dollars.

Now, Sir, this release was put out on April 20th., 1976, the very same day that I put out a press release relating to the Old Perlican Fish Plant in which I had to ring up, dial up all the stations and get typed up a press release and mail out to the various newspapers. The minister, obviously all he had to do was make the one release, send it down to Information Services, and this release was carried at the same time as my release was carried. You know, if it was reversed I would be lucky to be able to reply in two or three days.

But, Sir, the minister, as a result of my release, was both shocked and angered by broadcast reports that the Government of Newfoundland was being blamed for the refusal of the Federal Department of Regional Expansion to provide assistance in rebuilding the Old Perlican Fish Plant. I am not going to say whether that is incorrect, accurate or not. But that is just a statement.

"One of the charges brought against the provincial government on Monday was that we had somehow caused the federal refusal of funds. Not only was this a lie but it is proved to be in a letter which Mr. R.H. McGee, DREE's Director General of Newfoundland informed me of his department's decision." So the minister is able to accuse an hon. member of the House in another press release of telling a lie through Newfoundland Information Services and I say that they should not be allowed to go through Newfoundland Information Services.

The minister can say it publicly if he wishes, on his own initiative. He could say it in the House of Assembly, but using a government agency to put out this sort of a thing, and I do

MR. ROWE: not fault the minister, I fault the agency for allowing this type of thing to go through when in fact we have said much less in strength and the releases - before we decided not to use Information Services - the releases were being sent back to us.

Another example, "I can state without any shame or regret that if I am criticized it will be on the side of trying to help Newfoundlanders and not being a cold blooded impersonal businessman such as Ottawa has turned out to be."

AN HON. MEMBER:

MR. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, it is excellent stuff. I would do it myself, Mr. Chairman. But allowing Newfoundland Information Services at the cost of \$212,000 a year of the taxpayers money to put out this, which is in essence a political argument between two hon. members, and I am not talking about the rightness or wrongness of the minister or my release, I am talking about the fact that Newfoundland Information Services should not be allowed to do this sort of thing at the cost of the taxpayers.

MR. W. CARTER: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: A point of order.

MR. W. CARTER: It is a matter of clarification pointed out that that release was not, I repeat, not written by Information Services.

AN HON. MEMBER: Oh yes.

MR. W. CARTER: It might have been sent out by them to the news media, but I can take some credit for having written that release and I hate to see my handiwork being taken away from me and giving credit to somebody else.

MR. ROWE: No. It is not a point of order but it is a point of clarification of course. It is NIS - one, - it is quite obvious, it is axiomatic, you know, that the words, the words of the Minister of Fisheries, I am not suggesting that NIS wrote the

MR. ROWE: press release, what I am saying is that these words went through NIS and they are very partisan, political statements if you do not mind my saying, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! Order, please! I wish to thank the hon. member for helping me make that ruling.

The hon. member for Trinity - Bay de Verde.

MR. ROWE: Oh I am sorry. I forgot about the point of order. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Another one, Mr. Chairman, "I do not profess to understand the motives of those who would tear down the Province"-

MR. W. CARTER: I am not making any partisan -

MR. ROWE: No, but it just happened to be coincident, that release followed my release. Now who else were you referring to? "I do not profess to understand the motives of those who would tear down the Province" an obvious reference to the member for Trinity - Bay de Verde- "or their own constituents in a wild scramble to tear down the government." Well the last thing I am interested in doing, Sir, in trying to get a fish plant up in Old Perlican is tearing down the government, although that might help. "While I do not feel that the government will be harmed by such obviously partisan criticism, I do call on all concerned to make positive efforts to settle the matter so that life can be returned to normal as soon as possible in Old Perlican."

Now I will repeat, Mr. Chairman, that I am not making any accusation or throwing any accusations towards the minister. I will restate that if I was the minister and Newfoundland Information Services were at my disposal I would probably make

Mr. Rowe: just as harsh a statement, probably even harsher, I do not know, but that is not the point. The point is is that the government is able - members of the government are able to avail themselves of that service at the taxpayers' expense whereas members of the Opposition are not allowed to get away with any statement even close to this.

Now there are two ways of rectifying the problem. Sir, it really makes me sick in terms of what the hon. members opposite had to say about the Newfoundland Bulletin. They were going to wipe that out. So they did. And they brought in something a little more subtle in an electronic Newfoundland Bulletin. But, Sir, there are two ways of approaching NIS; one, it is all or none situation. We have Newfoundland Information Services for all hon. members of this House of Assembly. That is one approach; Newfoundland Information Services can be used by all members of the House of Assembly and they do not discriminate, send back or change any wordings. Let the newspapers, let the media exercise their editorial judgment, and let it be taken care of that way. But let us be fair about it. Let us just not have Newfoundland Information Services for government propaganda. It should be available to all members of the House of Assembly. That is one alternative, but I do not agree with it.

AN HON. MEMBER: Who uses it now?

MR. ROWE: Well the only people who use it now are the hon. members opposite. We gave up - we were offered the use of it until they were editorializing our press release to the point that we just gave up.

Now one alternative is to open it up for all members of the House of Assembly. They can use PC, Liberal, they can be partisan, punch it out, and let the media exercise editorial judgment as to what they will use because I understand that certainly this stuff is just rolling off the telex machine right into the garbage pail in one media here in Newfoundland, I will not mention the particular media in question. It just comes right out of the telex, not into anybody's desk right into the wastepaper basket

Mr. Rowe:

because they know what it is worth.

The other alternative, Sir, is to eliminate Newfoundland Information Services altogether. Or as some of my colleagues suggested, establish certain guidelines that are followed by the personnel of Newfoundland Information Services. Now I have not seen, and my hon. friend from Lewisporte (Mr. White) can correct me, he made some very positive suggestions as to a policy or guidelines that can be used by the personnel of Newfoundland Information Services. The minister has suggested that Newfoundland Information Services have been given these guidelines or a policy. My friends from Lewisporte (Mr. White) and Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simmons) I think have proven undoubtedly that Newfoundland Information Services have not been following those guidelines, is that correct?

MR. WHITE: Right. Right.

MR. ROWE: Have not been following those guidelines. Now, Sir, until such time as these guidelines are followed, and if the government intends to keep Newfoundland Information Services, and until such time - okay, if the government intends to keep Newfoundland Information Services I would recommend that until such time as the policy set down by the minister and the guidelines set down by the minister are strictly followed by the personnel of Newfoundland Information Services, and until the members of the Opposition have exactly the same rights to the use of Newfoundland Information Services, until such time I would suggest that Newfoundland Information Services be completely banned, dismantled, thrown out.

AN HON. MEMBER: Cut the wires.

MR. ROWE: It is not under a heading.

AN HON. MEMBER: Cut the wires.

MR. ROWE: Cut the wires completely.

Now, Sir, there is no heading here, Mr. Chairman, for Newfoundland Information Services. So I cannot reduce the

Mr. Rowe.

vote for that particular division or heading. There is no heading for it. But I would give notice, Mr. Chairman -

AN HON. MEMBER:

vote.

MR. ROWE:

No.

- that when we come to the appropriate heading, General Administration -

MR. ROUSSEAU:

I do not get paid as Minister of Public Works.

MR. ROWE:

No.

- when we come to 1802 heading, Sir, which is the heading under which I understand NIS is hidden or in, I give notice, Sir, that I will move the reduction of that vote, the salary vote, or the total vote for that General Administration, reduce it by \$212,000, which I understand is the vote for the Newfoundland Information Services, and that would mean that the total subhead then would be \$480,200. So I give notice, Sir, that when we get to that particular heading that we reduce the subhead for General Administration by \$212,000 thereby making it \$480,200, thereby eliminating Newfoundland Information Services unless the minister can give a guarantee before the Committee, which should be interpreted the same as a legal document or sworn statement, unless he will give the undertaking that the guidelines set down by the minister will be strictly followed by the administration, by the Newfoundland Information Services, and unless he will indicate to the Committee, Mr. Chairman, that all hon. members of the House of Assembly will have exactly the same access to Newfoundland Information Services as do the various ministers of the Crown and possibly hon. members sitting on the opposite side.

MR. MARSHALL: May I ask the hon. member a question before he sits down?

MR. ROWE: Yes.

MR. MARSHALL: Who would want information, access to Newfoundland Information Services anyway?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. ROWE: I beg your pardon?

MR. MARSHALL: I just asked the question, Who would really want access to it?

MR. ROWE: That is an excellent question. The question, Mr. Chairman - since I was going to sit down - it is an interesting question, because I was mulling it over in my mind. You know, if you did eliminate an electronic service that just makes it easier for any member of the House of Assembly to get out a press release or some information, I cannot see anything wrong - for example, let us put it this way: You have a choice as a member; you can get on the phone and start dialing the various radio stations; you can send out one release and hope that it gets carried by a number of other stations and the printed media or you can have your own little recording apparatus in your office and send it out. I do not think that something of the magnitude of Newfoundland Information Services is necessary at all. And that is why I move the reduction of that subhead vote by the amount of \$212,000, thereby making it \$480,200. In other words, get rid of Newfoundland Information Services until you can come up with something that is efficient for the purposes of getting information, public information, out to the people of Newfoundland, the constituents whom we represent. And that is not the way that Newfoundland Information Services is operating now. I do not know how it is meant to operate, but it is an interesting question that the member for St. John's East raised, Who wants it anyway? When I think

Mr. Rowe.

about it, it is a darn good question, because I do not know who wants it- Who wants it? The only reason, the only possible defence that I can see for something equivalent -

MR. WHITE: A job for Butler.

MR. ROWE: Well, I mean that is so despicable that situation. I mean we all know how the present Director for Newfoundland Information Services got where he got, and it has been repeated in this House, and there is no need whatsoever for me to repeat it.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. ROWE: Well he is a strange Liberal, a very strange Liberal, Mr. Chairman, a very strange Liberal.

MR. PECKFORD: Quite a few of them around too.

MR. ROWE: Yes. There are even stranger Progressive Conservatives, Mr. Chairman.

MR. H. COLLINS: - all the time.

MR. ROWE: But anyway, the hon. Minister of Health is contributing his usual effort here to the debate, Mr. Chairman. But unless we can find an efficient method of getting legitimate information to the people of this Province without the partisan political statements that we see coming out of Newfoundland Information Services, and as long as we got a very partisan Director of Newfoundland Information Services, he is nothing more than a propaganda general, he is General -

MR. ROBERTS: General Goebbels.

MR. ROWE: - General Goebbels, or General Butler for the PC Party. He is not even General Butler Goebbels for the administration.

Half of the press releases coming out of there, Sir, sound more like PC election brochures. The one that my friend from Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simmons) read out last night, I was sure it came out of NIS but I could have sworn he was reading from a PC campaign brochure, that is what it sounded like. And that is despicable when you consider the cost to the taxpayers.

So, Sir, I give notice once again that we do not want that animal down there. We do not want that monster down there and accordingly I would move the reduction of the subhead under general administration by the amount of \$212,000 in order to wipe off the face of Newfoundland and Labrador's map Newfoundland Information Services.

MR. LUSH: Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for Terra Nova.

MR. LUSH: Mr. Chairman, it is rather strange the two points that I want to elaborate on. Actually just one point, but my hon. colleague who just finished certainly prompted me to say a few words about the Newfoundland Information Services, but I was about to say that it is rather strange that I wanted to talk about public tendering and these two points, the Newfoundland Information Services and public tendering were two matters that I thought that this government was going to straighten out, to make very, very effective. And I am not going to spend a long time on the Newfoundland Information Services other than to say that I concur one hundred per cent with my colleague who just spoke and I was not a member of this House when the NIS was instituted or established but I distinctly remember the circumstances. It was to replace another brochure, I believe, that the -

MR. WHITE: The Newfoundland Bulletin, yes.

MR. LUSH: - yes, The Newfoundland Bulletin that was supposed to be really a piece of Liberal propoganda, I believe, and so this government replaced it with The Newfoundland Information Services and when my hon. colleague suggested that he was going to suggest that the vote under which this expenditure was coming be reduced by \$212,000 I certainly agree with it, because I must say that I hardly knew that the NIS was in existence or certainly did not know what it was in existence for. I have not used it and I have not heard any one who - I have not gotten any advice from anybody to tell me to use it. If I can gather from the consensus that I hear around that it is certainly not performing a function that is useful to members of this House.

But I wanted to direct a few remarks about public tendering and this again was a matter that I thought that this government was going to straighten out. This was something that

MR. LUSH: this administration that criticized the previous administration for was the matter of public tendering and again I never dreamt that as a member of this House that I would have to raise that matter because I thought everything here was going to be A-1, everything was going to be right and proper, everything was going to be done right according to the letter of the law.

Now in raising a few questions on it last evening the minister passed this book which explains a little bit about public tendering and I just wonder how widespread this booklet is. I have never seen it before. Maybe that is because of my negligence. But I have never received a copy. Are they mailed out or does a person have to send for them to get them?

MR. ROUSSEAU: On request.

MR. LUSH: On request. Right. That is probably why I did not get them. But here on paper it is explained but, Mr. Chairman, it is not much point in having things on paper, procedures and law and legislation unless they are enforced and I think I was not here last evening when my hon. colleagues were speaking about public tendering, so I may

MR. LUSH: just repeat a few things that they have said and that is because I was not here but I raised the question last night to the minister, just what does the minister, or just what does the government consider to be public tendering? It is my distinct impression that public tendering is just what it says, that the information is made available to the public on whatever job that is being called, that is put in the public press and when I asked the minister last night-

MR. ROUSSEAU: - tendering, you know, we do not send out to the general public but everybody who is involved in the purchasing and tendering of - or purchases all know these rules and regulations.

MR. LUSH: Okay.

MR. ROUSSEAU: But the normal person across the Province unless they request it - it would not be sent out provincially.

MR. LUSH: But last night the question that I was trying to get to the minister is, Are there two types of public tendering, and are there two types of public tendering that are recognized by the government? In other words, one where the tender is made available, is publicized in the press to that extent, and then is

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. LUSH: That is not the point at all, Mr. Chairman, that is not the point and the hon. member knows it is not the point. The point is that this government was going to straighten out public tendering and what was in the past is in the past and we are now looking to the present and to the future and there is no point in living in the past. If we are going to tackle the problems of this Province, to govern this Province right, we do not look at the past only in so much as we can benefit from it, only in so much as we can take things from the past and learn from what happened in the past.

But the point I was trying to make is; is it an official policy

MR. LUSH: of the government to recognize two forms of tendering, one that is made public through the press and the media, through the newspapers, and is there another where you just send off a tender to three or four contractors? I have heard of that, Mr. Chairman, and I can produce information where this was done with contracts upwards to \$100,000, where the tender was just sent off to three or four. Now maybe the government considers it legitimate, the minister did say last evening, again in response to a question that I asked, that if there was a job requiring some particular expertise, some particular skill that rather than make it a public tender they just sent off the tender and the specks to the people who normally did the job.

Well that I suppose makes a little sense, But in the ones that I am talking about, in the tenders that were brought to my attention, this was not the case. They were just general construction jobs, just general construction jobs and just - I do not know how many people, how many contractors received the information, were told about the tenders but there were not that many, three or four. So, Mr. Chairman, that certainly suggests that the government is not living up to what they said they would do and I believe the - what is the minimum amount? I think it is \$15,000, is it, a job by government, \$15,000 and they have made it; they have made the regulations themselves, this government, that for any job \$15,000 and over that public tenders would be called.

Now, and I have illustrated an example of maybe of a form of public tendering, I do not know, the minister did say as I have suggested earlier that in the case of some jobs requiring special skills, special -

MR. ROUSSEAU: Or emergencies.

MR. LUSH: Right, that maybe just the three or four companies

MR. LUSH:

who are normally doing that were informed and as I said that probably makes a little sense.

MR. ROUSSEAU: The hon member must remember that he is talking about two different things. That item I gave him is the purchasing, which is 1973, the public tender act is 1974. And that is construction. And one is the tendering for purchases, supplies, the other is the public tender act, 1973 was the purchasing, 1974 was the public tender act, you are talking about two different things.

MR. LUSH: Well I am talking about the public tendering act. All right, this is what I am getting at. Now again I am confused as to what extent the minister's department is involved in the public tendering. I thought I understood last evening again, that his department had a hand in or was responsible for all the tendering excepting transportation and municipal affairs, was that correct?

Mr. Rousseau: No, not - yes, generally you are, but not always specifically. Normally we do all the tendering of supplies for the Department of Transportation and Municipal Affairs. They do all their capital work.

MR. LUSH: Okay so -

MR. ROUSSEAU: And we do all of the supplies for all the departments of government and we do the construction for most of the departments. Highways do their own road work, Municipal Affairs do their own water and sewerage, and that sort of thing.

MR. LUSH: Okay so - and does this apply for, let us say, Tourism, for example, do they do their own tendering for capital works?

MR. ROUSSEAU: No. Through us.

MR. LUSH: Okay. All right. So is there some that the department does take care off and there are others that they do not. All right.

The point remains, Mr. Chairman, and I - the ones that I am referring to, The Public Tendering Act - and the ones that I am referring to are ones that come directly under the responsibility of the minister's department. There is no question about that. They come directly under his responsibility.

And I talked about one type of tendering that was used where it involved two jobs, and I unfortunately do not remember the specifics of these jobs now other than they were in the vicinity of \$100,000, it could have been \$90,000, \$95,000, but both were in the vicinity of \$100,000, and they were types of job that general construction people could do, general contractors, and in this particular instance that the tender was not public other than made available to three or four companies that did that kind of work. I am just wondering, and the question I am making, is that a type of tendering that the government - is that a policy?

MR. ROUSSEAU: Could I just, you know, because of time I am not going to be able to answer the questions that were raised this morning because some other members might want to - just let me

Mr. Rousseau:

straighten the hon. member out. Over \$15,000 must be tendered, \$15,000 and less do not have to be tendered when the public work is one of pressing emergency. For example, to use the one that plucks on the heartstrings, if a boiler blew down in Exon House I would not call public tenders -

MR. LUSH: Right that is -

MR. ROUSSEAU: - I would go ahead and do it. If it was \$100,000 I would not by the way or something. Other ones no, you could maybe take a day or two. Okay.

MR. LUSH: Right.

MR. ROUSSEAU: Now if it is over \$15,000 and if it was not called on public tender, one or two things would have happened; either it would be something highly technical like my colleagues Health Sciences Complex where maybe one or two or three people only supply highly technical equipment, or it should be tabled on the table of this House, and if it is over \$15,000 without tender. So it is one or the other. But it could have been where only two or three companies in a highly technical supply area were invited to tender. But if the hon. member has any specifics on it then I stand accused if that happened because if it is over \$15,000 it should be tendered.

MR. LUSH: Right.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! Would hon. members just permit me before we follow on?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Surely.

MR. CHAIRMAN: On behalf of members of the Committee I would like to welcome to the public galleries nine students from Grade VII and IX at Assumption Junior High in Avalondale who are here in the charge of Sister Lee and Helen Doyle. I am sure all hon. members of the Committee, which are the same as the members of the House, wish to welcome these students.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for Terra Nova!

MR. LUSH: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate what the hon. minister just said, and I can understand that kind of situation. But the circumstances in which I am talking now, as I said, these circumstances were not in existence. And I would mention them but there are certain circumstances at the moment that prevent me from doing that, and I certainly will do it in due course as soon as I can I will bring it to the minister as soon as I have gotten the information.

And then the last one that I want to mention, because I do want to give the minister some time, I mentioned one form of tendering—this was the last instance, right—whether the tenders were sent out to three or four people, but maybe four or five. And the last one is that I also have information which tells me that there is a job in St. John's with a government building that was done—and again I do not know the figures, all I know is that it is far in excess of \$15,000. It does not look to be an emergency situation, although probably the government could classify it as such, but I am looking into it, but it does not look to be an emergency situation—and again no tenders were called, nobody was informed of this only one company, a well known company, and I shall name that company when I have found out the facts, but I am presently going through it, and I just want to

MR. LUSH: bring this to the minister's attention too - and this certainly suggests that the government is not following the Public Tendering Act. So I brought up two cases - one, where tenders were sent out to a few people, and this last case where tenders were sent out to nobody -

MR. ROUSSEAU: But in fairness, how many more can you - you know I mean, there are a couple short, there is always going to be goofs.

MR. LUSH: Well I am just asking the minister to clarify that situation, that is all. I am just asking whether that is a policy of the government. I just used that, but in the last case there were no tenders called at all. I do not know the exact dollars only to know that it is far in excess - I will be getting the facts and they are pretty factual. It is just that there are certain circumstances at the moment and the amount is far in excess of \$15,000, probably tripling and quadrupling.

MR. ROUSSEAU: Let me assure the hon. member of something, that the hon. member does not have to look for the facts because if the hon. member wants to come down into my office and name the circumstances I will give the hon. member the facts, instead of wasting his time I am sure which he - I will give him the facts. I mean he does not have to go out and bring them in to me. I will give them to him.

MR. LUSH: Okay. I thank the minister for that and I will do that. I will certainly do it. And with that, Mr. Chairman, I am finished. I just wanted again to say that these two points that I mentioned, the Newfoundland Information Services, this was something that I thought the government was setting up to be a very efficient system to the benefit of all MHA's, and public tendering, I thought that was ironed out. I thought that patronage was going to be removed from politics in Newfoundland and everything was going to be again clean and lily white, but it looks like that is not the situation, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for Placentia.

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to speak very briefly on the estimates of the Department of Public Works. I would like to congratulate the minister -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. PATTERSON: - in getting his estimates across. I should also like to congratulate him on having obtained the services of a very competent man in the person of Mr. Tom Whelan, Deputy Minister.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. PATTERSON: And the minister finds himself in a very peculiar, awkward position in that many of the things that he is being accused of in his department did not happen on his watch. So I think we should -

MR. WHITE: We said that.

MR. PATTERSON: Well I am reaffirming what you said so now I wish to jibe with the member for Lewisporte (Mr. White), that is right, in saying that the minister should not be accused, he cannot be asked to bear one hundred per cent responsibility for something that did not happen on his watch.

The Department of Public Works is a very difficult department for a minister to administer. The Department of Transportation you can budget, you can budget in Municipal Affairs, you can budget in Tourism, but it is just about virtually impossible for the minister to budget because things are going to happen. They are unforeseen and there are contracts that have to be let. Now I am not defending the system of letting contracts without tender, but there are times when you will get an overrun on a job.

I have been involved in construction work myself and there are times you bid on something and then you get into the electric and you go from the electric to the masonry and you go

MR. PATTERSON: from the masonry where you find out you need a tube in a boiler. So there is really no way that you can budget for such things in it.

Now during the past year the Government of Newfoundland and the Federal Government of Canada has been negotiating with the American authorities for the properties on the North side of Argentia. And one year ago the Department of Public Works decided that in order to safeguard the properties out there that they would put in security guards, which they did and I congratulate them for that. They certainly went a long ways in preventing further vandalism to the very valuable properties that are out there. But I would like to ask the minister, you know, what his intentions are with regard to that security, Is he going to continue along the same form, same pattern as has been the past year or is he going to make changes?

I think that changes are absolutely necessary there not only from the point of security but from the point that the men working there are being paid very, very low wages and I do not like to see that happen, and I do not think we should condone or support any groups, contractors or agencies that are paying a starvation wage.

Now I do not say that they should get out of business because they cannot pay it because

Mr. Patterson:

sometimes if the money is not in, it is something you have to try and juggle it to meet the payroll, but we should not support that type of tactic.

Insofar as public buildings are concerned in the district of Placentia, we have a courthouse there, it is used as a courthouse, it is a jail, and Social Services. It is in an old building that was built in 1909, I believe, a very historic building, and I certainly would not want to see that building destroyed. I would like to see it renovated, and possibly a realignment of the building so that the Department of Social Services could have more room, and the jail, there are two cells there, and sometimes there are four and five in a cell, You know that is something that we should not tolerate. And I am quite sure that the minister as soon as he, you know, can get down to business on that he will certainly make the necessary renovations.

Again I wish to congratulate him; he has a rough boat to row. But I am sure that hon. gentlemen opposite will bear in mind, as I stated here and as they have stated also, that the department is one that is very difficult to budget for.

MR. CHAIRMAN (MR. YOUNG): The hon. Minister of Public Works and Services.

MR. ROUSSEAU: I have four minutes, I think, is it, Mr. Chairman?

AN HON. MEMBER: I will give you five seconds.

MR. CHAIRMAN (MR. YOUNG): Six minutes.

MR. ROUSSEAU: Number one.

MR. CHAIRMAN (MR. YOUNG): The hon. minister has four minutes, yes.

MR. ROUSSEAU: Quickly from the bottom, yes, Sir. The hon. member for Placentia (Mr. Patterson): we are going to change the system and we are going to hire these people who are on the security watch on our open vote so that the wages will be paid in accordance with government regulations. I can assure the hon. member of that, and the deputy minister who is from the area is keeping a very close on that building, and hopefully we will be able to do something there as well. I join in all the suggestions this morning of our new

Mr. Rousseau:

Deputy Minister, Mr. Whelan and the other staff in the department as well. We have a job to do. And the Auditor General's report might have helped in convincing government that it is not the junior non-line department that has no affect on other departments of government, and hopefully it will grow in strength and numbers as a result of that.

The hon. member for Terra Nova (Mr. Lush) mentioned the public tendering. All I can say is that everything is tendered publicly, for purchases, always except in an emergency situation where it is solicited by telephone. In public tendering up to \$15,000 except where the public work is of pressing emergency and in which the delay would be injurious to the public interest it should be tendered. And if it is not tendered then I should table it, which I have been doing. So there has to be some set of circumstances.

Now obviously when a person goes in a pulls out a wall and the electrician cannot work on it because the union says that it is a masonry job or something of that nature, which is, you know, not a tiny matter, it is a very big matter, and there are a lot of jurisdictional disputes, we have had the Health Sciences Complex closed down for weeks because of jurisdictional dispute so there is that problem, but like I say I invite the hon. member to come down to my office; he does not have to search out the facts for that outside this building. We will certainly be prepared to give him the facts at any instance like that.

The exchange of dollars, and I have to do this quickly, for the hon. member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simmons), yes, that the Auditor General does not agree with that. That is done with the approval of Treasury Board and with the approval to the departments. We do not see anything wrong in it. But obviously the Auditor General does not like it. We are going to take a look at it. It is not an attempt, as the hon. member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir suggested, it is not an attempt to get around anything or to create any illegalities, just that the system is not condoned by the Auditor General. It is approved by Treasury Board, as I say, in consultation

Mr. Rousseau:

with both departments. And we will certainly take a look at it, as we will of all aspects of the Auditor General's report.

On the question of Newfoundland Information Services, I have passed out a memo this morning, I tabled it, which I suggested I would do last night. I will look at the whole situation down there. I am not going to fire Dave Butler, which is what the people asked here this morning. But we will keep an eye on it. You know, the rules are there. I will tell you what the rules are. Now obviously every press release that goes out cannot be looked at, You know, some of them may get through, but let me tell the hon. members of the House something they may not know, that the issuing of press releases is about 10 per cent and I use that figure of a couple of years ago, of the work of the Newfoundland Information Services. They are constantly mailing out information on government to all parts of this Province, to the schools, to out-of-the-province, all the inquiries are

MR. ROUSSEAU: — routed through them so the service that they provide is not only one of putting out the TWX machines across this Province for press releases. It is also—any other body in the Province that is partially or wholly funded by government may also use it, there is the question — and I am prepared, by the way, and I will do this, Mr. Chairman, I will do it, is to have Newfoundland Information Services Department through them to prepare a report on just what they do and I will table it in the House, and members will find that only a small aspect of their work is the issuing of press releases.

I am sorry I do not have enough time — I am not saying to defend themselves—just to let the hon members of the House know what services they are providing, in what relative percentage relationship, and I am sorry I did not have more time. I would like to go in more depth to the questions that were raised but it is eleven forty-nine and my time is up and I wish to thank all hon. members for the courtesy they have extended me in the last four hours.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please! The remaining items under Head 18 — Public Works and Services, carried with that amendment —

MR. ROWE: No, Mr. Chairman, with amendment to 1802, sub-amendment 1802 General Administration. I move that the vote be reduced by \$212,000 thereby making it \$480,200 for the purposes of eliminating NIS, seconded by my colleague and friend from Fogo.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please! Unfortunately time is expired on that reading and it should have been done at —

MR. ROWE: But why, could I ask the — I am not challenging the Chair, Mr. Chairman, obviously, but the Chair did ask, shall the remaining headings carry without amendment. That was the

MR. ROWE: question and I simply responded by saying no.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please! With the agreement item (2) said "With the exception of the Estimates of the Department of Mines and Energy and the Department of Fisheries, at the conclusion of the time allocated under Standing Order 117(1) for each department, or at an earlier time if no member indicates he wishes to speak, the Chairman of the Committee of Supply shall put all questions necessary to carry the estimates for that department and such questions are not debatable.

MR. RIDEOUT: Shall put, right.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Carried.

MR. PECKFORD: Heading 20 Page 125 Department of Consumer Affairs and Environment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Heading 20 Consumer Affairs and Environment 2001-01.

The hon. minister.

MR. MURPHY: Mr. Chairman, I take great pleasure and great pride at this time to bring before the House for their approval the estimates of the Department of Consumer Affairs and Environment. I think most members are aware that during 1976 a bill was introduced into this House to change the name of the old Department of Provincial Affairs and Environment to Consumer Affairs and Environment. I think the main thrust of this was to place more emphasis on consumerism than had been previously done because of the great demands from people, people all over the Province, with reference to the high increase in the cost of living and the great rate of inflation.

We also started, Sir, last year a decentralization programme, we opened regional offices in Corner Brook and Grand Falls with the thought in mind of eventually getting into the Labrador area, particularly Happy Valley-Goose Bay. I may say that the Department of Consumer Affairs and Environment, as far as outside St. John's is concerned, created a record, not only in Newfoundland but all over Canada. We opened our offices in

MR. MURPHY:

November and within a month we had doubled the staff of these departments. We started with one in Corner Brook and Grand Falls and within a month we had each with two, so that is doubling and whatever the numbers are we did double our staff.

The demands and the requests, Sir, from all over the Province for information and for education was tremendous, in the Department of Consumer Affairs particularly, and perhaps to give you some idea, Mr. Chairman, and to give the House some idea and the committee, during 1976 the department received 3,928 written and telephone complaints. Just to repeat that again, Sir, and to show the importance of the programme that we had launched, we received 3,928 written and telephone complaints.

The regional offices at Corner Brook and Grand Falls were open during November, as I said,

MR. MURPHY: and in December a total of 815 written and telephoned complaints were received. So these received a total of 4,743 requests for information and knowledge of what was happening in Consumer Affairs. So we are very happy indeed that we fill that need and in our department we find that the more we put into education, the more work we create for ourselves because we have people thinking and curious and I think, Sir, that is the main thrust of Consumer Affairs.

The complaints received were in very many categories, such as loans and finance, collection agencies, automobile repairs, car service repairs, real estate, mobile homes, food, drugs and I could go on and on and elaborate on that but I think generally the number of requests that were received gives some idea of the interest that was created in Consumer Affairs.

Now in the Department of Consumer Affairs itself there are many sections that my department come under. We have the landlord - tenant area, and that division is constantly on the move. They schedule hearings and complaints in both the Island part of our Province and on the Mainland part in Labrador. During 1976 they received 385 written applications. We heard 281 cases and there were 807 inspections made of premises following representations from individuals.

The Co-op Division, which is just a registry unfortunately, and I may add here, Mr. Chairman, that my ambition is that one day again the Co-op Division will be a full fledged department of this government and we will be in a position to put some money in it to stimulate and assist co-operatives and credit unions as we knew them many years ago.

As an old co-operator back forty-odd years ago,

MR. MURPHY: as an old member of the Credit Union on Water Street, old Royso Co-op, or Credit Union, I am very, very keen, Mr. Chairman, on having co-op become a vital, very vital part of the lives of our people, here in the Province of Newfoundland.

The night before last, I attended a dinner in Sydney, Nova Scotia, of the credit unions, The Halifax Credit Union League. There were represented there some sixty-eight credit unions, with some 204 delegates attending, from all over the Province of Nova Scotia, and bringing to that meeting, varied and many phases of the way people live. And they are very much similar to our existence here in Newfoundland, such as fisheries, farming, logging - that type of thing. And I certainly hope that, when the time arrives, and the time is arrived, actually, when monies are available, that we can create more field men to take part in the Co-op area.

The Metric and Standards Division is another area of my department, Mr. Chairman and the Committee, and this is something that we sort of are taking very easy in our stride at the present time. But, in a few short years, what we knew of measurements and distances all our lives will have changed drastically, because instead of talking about miles and feet and inches, we will be talking about metres and litres and kilometres - what have you. So, there is a very strong educational programme going on. Mr. Gus Corcoran, Jr., is director of that division of my department, and he works very closely with the Department of Education, who have an educational programme going on for the schools.

One of our problem areas, and one area that we would like to get into with Consumers - and many other areas, of course - is Labrador, because this government is very, very aware of the problems experienced in Labrador. And we are doing everything in our power, and we hope, when their office is open in Happy Valley - Goose Bay, and I say this to my hon. colleague here on this side, that we hope to have a full-time man in there, in Consumerism, and perhaps, Co-operatives, and perhaps every other area of the Province that can be there. Because,

MR. MURPHY: Mr. Chairman, there is nothing that can replace the face-to-face confrontation between person and the government. And I say this, when they came, they said, "We are going to bring the government to the people." And I think we have done that in very, very many areas, because we have offices established in Grand Falls and Corner Brook, and I hope, and I might add here, Mr. Chairman, that now that we have become fairly well established, even though the workload is tremendous, I hope that the people on the West Coast, out of the Corner Brook office, can set up an office, perhaps once a month, in areas such as, perhaps, St. Anthony, in the Port Saunders area, the Stephenville area, Channel - Port-aux-Basques area, where

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a consumer agent will go there. We will make the publicity known, and the people can come in there and chat with their problems. The hon. member for Lewisporte (Mr. White) yesterday - I was very much impressed with his suggestion of perhaps establishing offices for the MHA's in their own particular districts. I think I can go along with that in the sense, I think, in every area such as, - it might be Lewisporte or St. Anthony or Springdale, all these areas - there should be some kind of a little building we call the public building, whether it is owned by council or a private person, where councillors could sit in there to meet people, where all the government departments, even though we do not have anybody full-time, could go in there and have an office there where they can go in and sit down and also have it for the use of the MHA, no matter what political stripe or anything else, to have it there for him so that he can bring his clients in. And as the hon. member said, instead of having him come up and perhaps sit on your bed or sit in the kitchen - I was going to remark jokingly at the time that it must cost him plenty, because if there was a meal on the stove, and a constituent comes in to see him, the inclination is to ask him would he stay for dinner, you know.

But I think it is excellent in all areas of this Province, and there is no reason - because, you know, who knows what the next government will be in the next thirty or forty years. Lord only knows, the Liberals may be in the government, and so we would be looking for the same thing. But it applies, I think - we have got to come face to face. So no matter what we are, we represent people, whether it is St. John's or whether it is Port au Port or whether whatever area it is. We will represent the people no matter what our political stripe is. And the aim of all of

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us should be to bring to the people all the information and all the satisfaction that we can give them. So I hope that everything going, and if conditions improve, and we do get a few extra dollars that I will be able to move the department - I should not use the word 'I' - that we will be able to move some of our consumer agents out and be on call where they can travel around in different areas, but this is a game subject to what monies are available.

We also have a very, very important division under Consumer Affairs, Mr. Chairman, and that is the office of the Superintendent of Insurance. Now I may say here that last year was a very, very active year in the insurance field, and I think the main highlight, of course, was the creation of the Automobile Insurance Board and we dealt basically - that Committee did - with automobile insurance. When we tried to establish rates, people were frightened to death at some of the rates that are being charged for automobile insurance, and it is not only in Newfoundland, but I think pretty well all across the North American continent. But we did set up that Committee, they held hearings and established rates. Thirty-two per cent, I think, was the rate of an increase looked for at the time; they established a rate of eight per cent.

That Committee thought they would just have to sit down and spend a few days listening to people and hold hearings, but they had some seventy-odd, I think, meetings. There are seventy-odd insurance companies in the Province and everybody wanted to go and see them. So, for that reason, we felt, to fulfill the bill and give everybody the satisfaction they feel they deserve - and everybody has a right to feel they deserve complete satisfaction - that legislation is now on the books to

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transfer that group to the Public Utilities Board where it will come in, where they will have the proper facilities to assess and estimate, and everything else.

Another matter, of course, of insurance - and I look at the hon. member for Stephenville (Mr. McNeil) and the Western area particularly - is mobile home insurance, which we found it was very difficult to get insurance. Insurance generally, I might add, before I go off the automobile insurance - what an industry it is, and what money it creates! In 1975, Mr. Chairman, there was \$30 million paid in automobile insurance premiums, and in 1976 it was estimated that it would be \$36 million, and that is a lot of money to turn over in a little Province like Newfoundland. I understand that the greater majority of that - some seventy per cent - goes to some big, Mainland firm that sort of re-insures, I believe - re-insurers that carry the bulk of the great risk. They tell me that this is very lucrative for these people, but the local person, perhaps, is not making the same money. In my own opinion, I do not think there are any of them starving to death and they are all doing very well.

But we are looking at the whole question, and one problem that I experienced myself as a member for an older part of St. John's is people who had their homes insured for sixty or seventy years. The crunch came when they were refused insurance or found it almost impossible to get it because of the fact they did not have electric heat or a sophisticated oil furnace in their home. I think many people have found that. I was, as I said, in Sydney the night before last, and one of the problems brought up in the discussion was that people there - and we talk about the energy crisis here, and the power - when I chatted with some of the people in Nova Scotia - and some of the power rates they are paying. A lot of them have gone back to the old wood stove and coal stove, and they have been refused insurance completely in some of these homes because of that reason. So these are some of the

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problems we are experiencing. Life insurance, of course, is not a big problem with us because it is in many cases self-regulatory, so we do not have that problem. In view of all of the representations that the department had received from automobile and home insurance, Sir, I asked the Cabinet for permission to set up an investigating committee to look into the whole question of insurance, and I understand now there is a preliminary report just about ready to come to me, looking at the whole question of insurance, of coverage, of rates, and many other things. And particularly at this time we have gone right into the whole question of automobile insurance, not only public liability but comprehensive and collision, all the other areas that are covered by insurance generally. So these are all matters that have been handled, and as I say they are a part of The Department of Consumer Affairs.

Perhaps real estate is another one. And as people know we have received an awful lot of complaints from people that they were been taken for monies, for real estate transactions and this type of thing. We licence real estate agents and we have an exam now set up and we work with the Real Estate Board to regulate the licencing of agents because they are just as anxious as we are to have a good name established for real estate or any other line of work. And we did have some prosecutions under the Act for people who had strayed somewhat from the straight and narrow, and these actions were taken, licences suspended. But I might say now in justice that some of these people had perhaps broken the law, and were subject to fines and this type of thing. We get appeals back for people to have their licences renewed, and I think every man, the old saying is, is entitled to fall three times, I do not know if we can go that far, but I have with

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the help of Cabinet set up an Advisory Board of independent people that will review these people who did lose their licences and see if they are condemned forever to be out of the business or should we give them another chance to come in, and I think this is a bit human to do because we have got to do that.

Now the other big part of my department, Sir, and I do not want to spend too long at this, but I would just like to give a rundown, is the Department of the Environment, which was formerly known by another name CAWSA but it is now the Department of the Environment, and we try to adopt as much as we can the uniform regulations dealing with environment right across North America.

One of our big problems, of course, in this Province is — we call them dumps, but the nice way is the waste disposal sites. And I know many, many members of this House who represent smaller areas must have an awful lot of problems with people worrying about their waste disposal sites. And we have constructed more than fifty in the past few years at a cost of over \$1 million. Now waste disposal sites as such fill a need in many areas of the Province to dump your garbage and this type of thing. But the greatest handicap we have is the finding of sufficient fill to cover these waste disposal sites. On the coastal areas particularly, and I think my hon. friend from down the Cape, I think, had a bit of a problem but I hope it is getting straightened away now, where we will get people on the thing. It does not require millions of dollars but even to scrounge \$3,000 or \$4,000 out of a small department like mine where my total budget is something like \$2 million, and two-thirds of that is salary so you see I do not have any millions to play around with in any area. And if you look at priorities, of course, everybody talks about the fishery, and education and all the great resource departments and the Department of the Environment and Consumer Affairs is just another also ran.

Mr. Murphy:

We are hoping now, and I just say this for the enlightenment of the House, to try to get into some type of incinerator for areas and, I think, St. John's is one area that should look at it. That Robin Hood Bay is a disgrace, I would say, to any city the size of St. John's and its environment. We have a plan going in Conception Bay Centre where there were a group of areas from Cupids to Carbonear that covered something like 22,000 people, I believe, were there are something like twenty-four or twenty-five waste disposal sites. So we are trying to work on a pilot project there to get a new type of incinerator, not the burner type like is in the hon. member for Conception Bay South's district (Mr. Nolan) up in Foxtrap, but this one is a pit type, and it is all done with forced air and air across the top, and the consumable matter is consumed, there is no smell, no smoke or anything else from it, but you have the pure ash that is left that you just go through with a bulldozer and scoop out. But these things cost money. But I think Mr. Chairman, I will say this, that we have got to look at priorities in this area of providing

MR. MURPHY: -- this type of money, otherwise we are going to poison ourselves to death, one way or another, either with stench or with rodents or whatever is happening. I say again, and I have visited a great many, anybody that has a waste disposal sight on their doorstep in their areas to compete with must know what the problem is. So, Mr. Chairman, perhaps another one I might mention now is the water management programme. This has to be a big thing because here is this province of ours, you fly over it and they say it is two-thirds water. The scarcity of pure water in this province is just frightening. We are all aware of the game. We hear people come in here looking for pure water, looking for water and sewerage and everything else. We are going into a programme now of waste management. We have an Act now ready to go on the books of well-drilling where we hope to establish a group that can get out and use the deep wells to bring water up, because gradually we are destroying ourselves because of pollution to our lakes and ponds and all other things.

We do a lot of environment assessments and actually I would like to have a full list of what this department does. I think the biggest one they have done is in Labrador on the Michelin uranium thing where Dr. Barnes did a tremendous job on the assessments. Before any big project can go ahead near water or anything else our department is called in.

Mr. Chairman, I am sure there are questions people would like to ask and that I would like to answer. But before I sit down I would like to thank very sincerely, Sir, the staff that we have in both departments. We are limited in numbers, a very small staff of people, as I said, with a very small budget and special thanks to the Daily News. I do not know if anybody reads that article that we have in three times a week, or twice a week, Mondays and Fridays, Box 999. But it is amazing the number of enquiries, the number of responses we get to that, It is done absolutely free by the Daily News. I would like to thank the publisher, Mr. Callahan, the editor, Mr. Jim Thoms,

MR. MURPHY: for their cooperation in this because this is the only way, Sir, that we can pass along information is to get people worried or furious about it. So, again, Sir, I am prepared here, I have any answers that people want. So I would just like again to say how happy I am to propose to bring to the House the estimates of the new department.

MR. MARSHALL: Just two or three minutes, that is all. I want to speak on the environmental aspect of this particular department, and to point out again what appears to be a perennial and chronic situation in this province which is the dirt and the waste and the filth that is strewn from one end of the province to the other, around the highroads and in the countryside itself.

The shoulders of our highroads are disgraceful. They have been for quite a period of time and in my opinion they appear to be getting even worse. You cannot go anywhere in the province, in the country, you can go miles in the country and you will continue to see beer bottles in the ponds, lakes, along the countryside, beer cans, rusty cans, refuse, you name it.

Now I do not mean to go into a dialogue of what we all think of the countryside in this province. It is one of our greatest assets. The pity of it is that the situation occurs is still present now despite the efforts made by the department and various concerns, when we have Canada Summer Games and we have so many people visiting the province this year. But more importantly it interferes with the enjoyment of everybody in this province with the outdoors, the recreation and what have you.

I understand the fine for littering in this province is \$100 if somebody is caught. That is the maximum -

AN. HON. MEMBER: \$1,000 and up to \$2,000.

MR. MARSHALL: The problem is we have the fine and the fines are there, but for some reason or another it must obviously be difficult to enforce because the fines are there and the problems still exist. I would just ask the minister to consider because I suppose it comes mainly under his

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MR. MARSHALL: department to initiate a intensive attempt to bring in a procedure whereby these laws that are there, these anti-litter laws are enforced, to see that the R.C.M.P. and the police are suitably instructed. They are not enough in itself. I think they have to give the power to game wardens to all sorts of various public officials to be able to summons people who are caught in the position of littering. I think that people who

MR. MARSHALL: are littering from cars, throwing bottles out of cars, and there is a lot of this going on, we have seen it, and refuse thrown from cars that go along the highways, something should be done there from the point of view of even going to the stage of suspending the license of any vehicle for a certain period of time which is caught littering. But certainly, you know, something has to be done with respect to it. There is also a period of - There also needs to be an intensive campaign of education through the television media and what have you with respect to this.

I notice that for instance during the Summer Games here in St. John's that some \$90,000 has been spent on cleaning up the city of St. John's by the city council, an expenditure that was necessary and what have you but really it was necessary because of the attitude of persons around, and that \$90,000 perhaps could more effectively bring returns year after year if it were spent on education in this area. We all know what results that this bought with respect to the smoking. Those of us who have children and have been nagged about smoking problems and what have you know just how effective these programmes were. And I think that they can get through to the children, that is number one, through education. But I think as far as the adults go that the people of the Province - the Province has suffered long enough by irresponsible and indiscriminate, inconsiderate, littering up of the highways and the byways of this Province and I would strongly recommend to the minister that he take as a matter of top priority the savage, if you like, and intensive and indepth enforcement of the anti-litter laws and where necessary to raise the fine. Perhaps the minimum fine should be brought up - You know the very minimum fine - It is all right to talk about a maximum but the fines usually assessed are minimums and the maximum fine perhaps should be brought up to \$300.00 or \$400.00 because I think it is a matter, as I say, of high priority and that is the one point that I would like to draw to the minister's attention and to the committee.

MR. NOLAN: Mr. Chairman, first of all I can certainly agree wholeheartedly, as I have spoken on the matters referred to by my hon. friend from St. John's East publicly on various radio shows and so on for years and years, and when you mentioned the littering and so on in this Province you have to ask yourself as a Newfoundlander a very difficult question and it is this: If you have visited countries where they have massive populations compared to ours, I mean we have thousands and thousands and thousands of square miles, hundreds of thousands with a minimum population - We have very little population. My God, if we had the population such as the Chinese or India we would have to move out for the dirt.

Now you know there comes a point in a politician's life when he has to, I would think, take a good hard look at the situation and we are the first ones to get our respective political or patriotic backs up if anyone outside the Province takes a crack at us. You know, how dare this fellow from up along in Ontario or wherever he is from, you know, say this about us. Well that is fine. That is grand. Are we going to blame the people from Ontario, from the United States, from Russia, from Mars or from wherever for the filthy, rotten mess we have in this Province, the tin cans? I know streams where you cannot go, many of them, you cannot go and you cannot send the children out wading as they used to on beaches, in ponds. I have seen them coming in with their foot cut open from tin cans, bottles and so on. Are we going to be sufficiently political hypocritical to say that it is the tourists who are coming in here from Ontario or from New York State or from anywhere else? Because if we go on like maw-mouths continuing this sort of thing we are only kidding ourselves. There is no-one to blame but us. If we have this problem it is our problem.

Now I notice that the member for St. John's East

MR. NOLAN: indicated that we have fines and litter laws and so on but it is not being enforced. You are darn right it is not being enforced. But by golly if you look at the fines and the enforcement in other areas of the world in North America that is being enforced. Now why is it not being enforced? Is there a political reason and if so, what is it and why? No one can tell me that some of these things are not being seen and witnessed by those in law enforcement agencies. They are being seen. Apparently no one has enough guts to haul them in. There is only one way to cure this situation, one is education but I mean I will probably be dead before that is accomplished. Now the other thing is to hit them in the pocketbook. Is there any other language they understand for throwing bottles and Kentucky Fried Chicken wrappers out through the window? I mean, if there is tell me. I do not know what it is. But there is something rotten and I think we have to look at ourselves first before we start blaming anyone else. It is just a shame what we do.

My God, I am constantly amazed where places I have been, and I know hon. members opposite, with populations huge very dense population and you can, as they used to say in the old days, practically eat off the floor it is so clean. So there is something sadly lacking here in this Province and it is time we faced up to it. We are ruining and we are destroying as we go. Every time I think that we open up a new road or a new pond or access to a new stream you can be sure that it is not going to be too long before it is littered. Now who is doing it? It is not the tourists, or if a few tourists do do it we have to stop trying to pass the buck and take the responsibility ourselves, because the blame and the buck rests right here with Newfoundlanders and we have to give up this foolish business of trying to pass things on to someone else.

Now that is item one. The minister is involved in allegedly curing car wrecks. I do not know whether to attack him on this or not. I do not know. I do not know if he knows what he is doing. I do not know

MR. NOLAN: if the companies involved know what they are doing. I do not know if the Department of Transportation know what they are doing but there is something I do know that we as taxpayers have been stuck with an extra buck on our license fees. Now we were stuck with that extra dollar in order to clean up the Province of car wrecks. Now I say this has not been done. It has not been done. We have the Summer Games coming up and never mind whether it is the Summer Games or not the fact is either we honour this committment or we remove that dollar we are charging those people extra. We are not doing the job. Now I am not saying it is the minister's fault but it is someone's fault and it is time it was cleared up. It is a disgrace.

Now in some ways I sort of sympathize with the Minister of Consumer Affairs because he has a big job on his hands. People are complaining about insurance, automobile insurance, insurance on mobile homes, they are complaining about merchandise of one kind or another that is shoddy and you know this is something that is driving people crazy. Some of it is in the preview perhaps of responsibility provincially. In other areas it is under the Federal responsibility. But the minister should not stand in the House, or anyone else, and say this is a Federal responsibility. If you are going to have a very meaningful Consumer Affairs Department you have to bring things together, to work in close co-operation with the Federal representatives. Now I believe that is being done but it is not enough any more. You see, what is happening is the minister is guilty of this, I am guilty of it, we are all guilty of it in this House, because people feel, Ah, ha, how come that there is only five or six people, big shots in the insurance business, say, in this Province? How come they can stifle the minister? How come they can stifle the members of the House of Assembly? How come they have more power than all of us? That is what people ask themselves. Therefore the only conclusion they can come to is that we are the lobbyists, we are the mouthpieces, we are the fronts for the people with the money.

Now what is going on in this Province and in many places

MR. NOLAN: in Canada is enough to turn your guts. All you have to do is if you buy Christmas presents, and you all do, or you buy almost anything today, how long does it last? I mean there is some reason I know perhaps for planned obsolescence but what you have now is absolute crookery and roguery. It is as simple as that. Let me give you an example. A few months ago rather than wearing the boots you wear in here in the morning, and I am usually here all day long, I decided to

Mr. Nolan:

go into one of the local shoppies and bought myself a pair of sneakers or scuffs or whatever you call them to wear around the house. Okay. Fine. Nothing revolutionary about that. So I had them down here in the office on the fifth floor, I wore them three times from the fifth floor onto the elevator up to the ninth floor into the House of Assembly, three times, okay. Here it is after three trips, Mr. Chairman, from the fifth floor to this, here is what I got, look! look! Now what rights do I have?

AN HON. MEMBER: Get some crazy glue.

MR. NOLAN: I will get some crazy glue, I agree I am going to get some crazy glue. But why the hell should I?

MR. CHAIRMAN (MR. YOUNG): Order, please! Is the hon. member going to table them?

MR. NOLAN: I will table it, if you can stand the smell.

No, but seriously I mean, it is all right, now you can say, why do you not bring it back? I mean the number of things that I buy that fall apart is frightening. I do not know if there is a plot against me or what, you know, and there really is not because it happens to everyone. What is happening is you are all beginning to accept it. You accept it. This is the kind of business we are running today. No wonder free enterprise is being questioned as in trouble. No wonder. It is just scandalous what is going on.

I remember I bought a radio, a small little tiny radio for a lady one time at Christmas - I did not, my wife did, I think - and anyway the darn thing did not work, So by the time we got it back and did all the fighting and got it cleared, the poor woman had died, she never got it first nor last. You know, I mean this is the kind of thing, there is nothing seems to work any more. But they are quick enough to the cash register, the bloody cash registers work in this Province. That is one thing that is not out of order. It is just shocking what is happening. No wonder people do not trust the minister and his officials. No wonder.

Now rather than merely heap all the burden onto the minister, may I say, that almost anyone else was in the same position

Mr. Nolan:

in this House, in the minister's position, they would be aiming the same suspicion and fire at them too. What you have to - look at the rust in the cars and the vehicles, just endless beyond belief. Rotten. Rotten. No one will convince me, no one will convince me that there has not been some kind of an involvement between the car companies on the one hand, and also the companies who makes the parts and so on, and even the oil manufacturers and distributors. No one will convince me otherwise. No one will convince me that a car is made and designed to rust and fall apart sometimes within one year. That just does not happen by accident. It does not. And someone should be in jail. But we bring in our little laws, our little foolish laws, but we do not enforce them. We nail the poor little guy who cannot defend himself and cannot afford expensive lawyers and so on. Some other big shot can get away with murder, literal grubby murder.

Now on the real estate business that our friend the minister mentioned: I must say that I am not sure that I can disagree with him on the business of - apparently he made reference to some ladies or gentlemen, or both, who may have caused or some have been caused and even charged and maybe even convicted of certain indiscretions within the real estate business. Now there are two unfortunate points about that; one is, there are many people in real estate business who have been carrying on, working in the real estate business for years and years and years and years, some of whom I have known all of my life, and so have other members opposite. I believe one of the sad things that happened in the real estate business because two or three people got convicted, a lot of people were saying, Ha, he or she is in real estate, you know, they are all crooks. I mean this is scandalous. This is just shocking. A terrible attitude.

Now the other thing is on the appeals, I am not sure

Mr. Nolan:

I could object to it, because I mean under the system we allegedly have if a man or woman is charged and convicted in court of a certain offense, and he is find or whatever, he has therefore paid his debt to society. We have no right as politicians, as citizens or as Christians to crucify them for the rest of his life. We have no right to do that. As a matter of fact we are supposed to be, whether we be Liberal or Tories or whatever we are, it is our duty to defend that man. Once he pays the fine or the jail sentence or whatever is involved that man is free. He is no different than you or me. He may have a record. And if you want to beat the devil out of him for the rest of his life on the basis of the record, I mean, it is very cruel what you are doing. Very cruel indeed.

So I believe that a man should have some right of appeal. Now to what extent is another matter. I am

MR. NOLAN:

not going to get into the legal niceties of the whole situation. But I feel very strongly, I have very strong feelings about literally persecuting a person after he has paid his debt. If the courts say, You pay five dollars or you spend two days in jail, that is it. The court does not, or this House does not grant me the authority to persecute that man or woman for the rest of their lives. And I should not be permitted to do it, subtly or otherwise. Someone should stop me. It is wrong.

Now, I have maintained for a long while that citizens' groups are very effective and can be very effective. However, there is no point in attempting to have citizens' groups, small groups particularly trying to defend themselves against, say, the Light and Power Company, the Telephone Company or Newfoundland Hydro. Citizens' groups have to be properly financed. Now you do not have to be an economic wizard to see what is happening in this regard. How could you expect two or three women with a little brief from Foxtrap to go down and appear before the Public Utilities Commission against the lawyers and the accountants and all the rest of it, the back-up that the great public utility companies have. It is cruel to expect this. And you are conning people if you try to say, oh, you have certain rights to appear and so on. Sure you have certain rights, but how effective can you be? Citizens' groups have to be properly financed. They must be properly financed in order to do a creditable job. I mean, these big utilities are too darn powerful for any citizen or even small groups of citizens to take on on their own. It just will not work. It cannot work. And anyone who maintains that it is going to work is bluffing. Now I cannot let this day go by either without having a dart at my hon. friend opposite. He is Minister of Consumer Affairs and maybe rightly he should be. But he is the man who will go down in the records of this Province as the one who fought for the poor man's champagne and he was going to lower the price of beer. I mean he was sort of a boozy Camelot. He was

MR. NOLAN:

going to lower the price of beer. Now I know it is a very tender spot with him. But as long as he lives he is going to have to remember - Pardon?

MR. MURPHY: (Inaudible.)

MR. NOLAN: Yes, we heard a lot of things twenty times. That is right. I am sorry you can defend it.

MR. MURPHY: I will tell the hon. member where he can get beer twenty-five or thirty cents cheaper. I will tell the lot of you.

MR. NOLAN: You can buy it twenty-five or thirty cents cheaper?

MR. MURPHY: Sure, unless you want soft lights and soft music you can buy it cheaper.

MR. NOLAN: Well I do not know where they are going to get it thirty cents cheaper unless we are all going bootlegging.

MR. MURPHY: Give me a ring and I will give you the list.

MR. NOLAN: Yes, but the fact is the minister again is skirting the issue. He is the one who said that it is going to be cheaper in the taverns. Now it is not cheaper in the taverns or at the retail store or anywhere else. And he knows it. But I mean that was a part of his personal platform. I do not say it was the personal platform of -

MR. MURPHY: Did I get elected to St. John's Centre five times because I -

MR. NOLAN: Well I mean that is -

MR. MURPHY: Does the hon. member believe that?

MR. NOLAN: Well I mean that is something the people in St. John's -

MR. MURPHY: St. John's Centre elected me to get cheap beer.

MR. NOLAN: Mr. Chairman, am I going to be permitted to continue.

MR. MURPHY: Am I going to be permitted to defend myself?

MR. NOLAN: Well I am going to continue, if I may.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

MR. MURPHY: You may not.

MR. NOLAN: Now the poor man's champagne has not come about.

MR. NOLAN:

The minister can try to wash it over and ignore it and all the rest. But the fact is it is something he must continue to live with. And it is something he has not honoured and that is something he is not going to get off the hook on. Now that is that. And he does not need his officials to consult on that matter.

Now the other matter is the mobile homes and particularly the insurance. There are many people who live in mobile homes in this Province and it is because either they want to or they have to. But whatever the case is, many of these people feel that they have not gotten a square deal from the insurance companies. Now I notice that the minister recently set up an insurance group, I believe, on which there were two insurance people allegedly from the insurance industry or formerly from the insurance industry. I mean, there again these people might be the finest people in the world. I am not saying they are not. But where the voters are they look upon it with some suspicion. They feel that these people are representing the insurance industry, so they are hardly going to investigate their own crowd. Now I am not saying that is right. But I am sure the minister has had it suggested to him privately from time to time.

MR. MURPHY: Not once.

MR. NOLAN: Not once.

MR. MURPHY: Only from that side of the House.

MR. NOLAN: Only from this side of the House.

MR. MURPHY: Like you.

MR. NOLAN: Well I guess maybe only over here people talk to you. The minister maybe is isolated. He always talks to his officials. But anyway the fact is that on the insurance the minister has said that none of them were straving to death, none of these fellows. On that I perfectly agree with him.

MR. MURPHY: (Inaudible.)

MR. NOLAN: No, no, no, I did not say that now.

MR. MURPHY: Well I want to get that explained on that.

You said someone out there said -

MR. NOLAN: I repeated what you said. Now what did the minister -

MR. MURPHY: Under the insurance companies.

MR. NOLAN: Well that is what I am talking about.

MR. MURPHY: Well that is good. I want to get that clear.

MR. NOLAN: Yes. So, therefore, I am afraid that a lot of the

MR. NOLAN: so-called investigations, committees and so on that are set up in this House are not looked forward to by the public of this Province with any degree of eagerness as though at last something is going to be done to help them, because there have been too many reports, too many committees, too many bodies set up and people do not feel that the return from that has been in their best interests.

Let me give you an example. We had - what is her name? - Mrs. Plumptre and her Food Prices Review Board. What has happened to that? How many of the recommendations -

MR. MURPHY: Every one as far as we were concerned.

MR. NOLAN: Every one? All the provincial recommendations were recommended.

MR. MURPHY: Every one.

MR. NOLAN: Well, I think the minister better look again.

MR. MURPHY: And a few extras. Name one we did not do.

MR. NOLAN: I do not have a copy of it in ^{front} in front of me, but if the minister -

MR. MURPHY: No, I know you do not, but it sounds good, you know.

MR. NOLAN: Well is the minister now saying -

MR. MURPHY: Every one was implemented and a few extra, yes.

MR. NOLAN: - right here in this House - the minister is now saying that every recommendation in that committee has been implemented.

MR. MURPHY: Pertaining to my department.

MR. NOLAN: To the Province. Never mind federal, that is not his responsibility. But if he is saying that, well fine! We certainly rejoice.

MR. MURPHY: Yes.

MR. NOLAN: And we compliment him on it, and we are going to be taking a good, close look at it to see that this has been done.

MR. MURPHY: Yes.

MR. NOLAN: Now the other matter that we could go into, of course, is the matter of the environment that we touched on earlier. I do not know where we are going on the business of the car wrecks, the litter and so on. The Province in many areas is a disgrace. You cannot expect the minister to have enough officials to go out parading up and down around every pond, stream and so on, but something has to be done. It is not getting any better; in fact, it is getting worse.

There are few streams, beaches and so on that you can think about today where you can go with any safety, or you can send your children to go wading or whatever. The blame can lie at only one door, and that is our own door right here. Let us not for one minute start trying to blame someone else. We are not kidding anyone.

So these are a number of things - now the timing on this, I believe is about two hours, for Consumer Affairs.

MR. MURPHY: Two hours, altogether, yes.

MR. NOLAN: We can probably go through some of the estimates in detail. I do not know what members want to speak. They are perfectly free to do so.

MR. MURPHY: Yes, I would like to get into some of the specific items later, when you are ready. Whenever the boys want to go.

MR. NOLAN: Right. So I am not going to delay the Committee any further on this.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. the member for

Mount Pearl.

MR. N. WINDSOR:

Sir, I am just going to take a couple of moments. There are a couple of points I want to make to the minister.

First of all, on the comments made by the hon. the member for St. John's (Mr. Marshall) and Conception Bay South (Mr. Nolan), I certainly agree with their comments on the litter that is around this Province. It is a well known fact, anybody who is a fisherman, if you go off in the wilderness you can judge the number of trout that are in a stream by the amount of garbage that is littered around it, very easily. It is always a good indicator of how many trout are available there because you can tell by the garbage how many people have fished there and for how long. So I would certainly like to add my second to the motion - not the motion - but my comments to the comments made by the hon. members.

Not only in our wilderness areas or in the country, but also in the city you often see people and children, particularly, walking about dropping ice cream wrappers and chocolate bar wrappers and gum wrappers. I have noticed clearly in other cities in Canada, and around the world, in fact, that you do not see it nearly as much as you do here. I think the education programme the minister has mentioned is certainly a valid one and I certainly support him on that, and in any efforts he would make in that direction.

I would just like the minister to address himself, if he would, when he speaks to the problem of solid waste disposal, particularly in the St. John's area. We had a very major study done on this a number of years ago, about three years ago. In fact, I was at that time a member of the technical committee

MR. WINDSOR: that has sort of been shelved and we have not heard too much about it. So I would like the minister to address himself to that; is he looking now at a solid waste disposal site or maybe two or three in the area; is he looking at incinerators as he mentioned a moment ago? But certainly Robin Hood Bay cannot last forever, It is being operated now much more satisfactorily than it was for a number of years. The city has now made a very determined effort to clean it up, they have a gentleman down there in charge of it who in fact is a resident of my district and a close personal friend of mine, and I know first hand that he is going an excellent job on it. But he has very limited resources down there to work with, It is very expensive to truck proper soil and cover in to Robin Hood Bay, the amount that is left there is extremely limited, so the city is spending a tremendous amount of money now bringing cover material in from outside.

Of course that affects the town of Mount Pearl, as the minister knows very well the town of Mount Pearl brings its solid waste to Robin Hood Bay; we have been now been now, I think, for three years. Previously Mount Pearl operated a dump - that is what it was, no resemblance to a proper solid waste disposal site, it was a dump, the western end of Mount Pearl. We moved out of there to accommodate basically the New Town development which was coming very close to it, so we were asked by the New Town Development Corporation and the Department of Municipal Affairs to phase it out and to try and find an alternate site. And this all happened about the same time as the solid waste disposal study in the Ruby Line was in progress and we had indications at that time that perhaps within a year or two years we would have a regional

MR. WINDSOR: disposal site. So the town of Mount Pearl agreed that for an interim period we would move to Robin Hood Bay, for which we are paying the city. I think it is approximately ten per cent of the operating cost of Robin Hood Bay, so we are paying our way, we are not parasites as some hon. gentlemen would care to indicate.

But at any rate that was only a temporary situation, at least we thought so at the time, but now it has gone on for three years and certainly the town of Mount Pearl is most anxious to know what is proposed, do we have any definite commitment or what, maybe not even a commitment, an indication of when some regional disposal site will be made available for use by Mount Pearl and other surrounding communities? So I would appreciate it if the minister could address himself to that in his remarks.

MR. LUSH: Mr. Chairman, I just want to say - what is the time, by the way, on this in this department?

AN HON. MEMBER: Two hours.

MR. LUSH: I just want to say a few words under this particular department. I noticed in the beginning the statement of responsibility or the aims and objectives, if you will, that says the department is responsible for insuring a fair and equitable market place, that is the first point. And I want to say, Mr. Chairman, that I believe that the people of this Province with respect to the market place are being ripped off. I realize the minister's task and I realize the tremendous responsibility but certainly there must be somebody, there must be some group that the people of this Province can go to. And we got our Better Business Bureau and people can contact the minister, but I do not think information is available enough and I suppose it comes down to what the hon. member from St. John's East was talking about, is education. I am sure that our people do not know who they can go to or what group they

MR. LUSH: can go to in the event that they suspect that they are being exploited, in the event that they suspect they are being overcharged for certain products and about this, Mr. Chairman, there can be no doubt. And the hon. member for Conception Bay South illustrates inferior products and demonstrated it here today quite vividly.

With respect to prices, over the - not too long ago a rather simple matter, but not too long ago I recall being told by somebody - and I checked it out that a package of cigarette papers, Now most people do not buy packages of cigarette papers, they buy the carton or whatever. I am not experienced in it because I never do it but -

AN HON MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. LUSH: Yes, right. Well this person brought to my attention the cost of cigarette papers and he told me that in one store you could buy them for seven cents a package - this is just a small package of cigarette papers; in the other store they cost fifteen

MR. LUSH: cents, you know, more than double the cost, and the reason given, of course, was transportation, and both stores were in the same community. You know, I think this is a fallacy. I think Newfoundlanders - this is why we have been complacent for so long about prices. We accept this excuse of transportation all the time, and we are complacent about it. I can again use another point to the Minister. I remember two years ago having a necessity - not a necessity, but my wife thought it was a necessity, anyway - to buy some crab meat, as some people came in on us unexpected. The store that I normally went to was closed, and it was after six, so I went to the - crab meat at that time was \$1.12 a tin in the major supermarkets - and I went to this particular store and paid \$1.85 for - this was two years ago, I do not know what crab meat is now - but at that time it was \$1.12 in the major supermarkets, and in the particular place that I went I paid \$1.85. Now, you know, you are too rushed, you are always in too much a hurry to be able to question this sort of thing, but that is an exorbitant difference, an excessive difference in the two cases that I have mentioned, from \$1.12 to \$1.85, and in the first case of a package of cigarette papers from seven cents to fifteen cents.

These are just minor cases but they illustrate, I think, the kind of instability with respect to prices around this Province, and confirms again the views put forward by so many people that the only thing we are doing is controlling wages and not controlling prices. Now, I realize that what the Minister can do is limited, but I think we have to be able to do something. Here we are with the highest unemployment rate in Canada and with the highest cost of living. Certainly, and I would put forward to Mr. Chairman that I think that Newfoundlanders have become tremendously complacent, and we have been brainwashed by the transportation. Everything is blamed on transportation.

AN HON. MEMBER: (inaudible)

MR. LUSH: Right. Everything, and I do not believe

MR. LUSH: that the differences in everything that we buy - the differences in prices that we pay here than what they pay in other Provinces - can be all attributed to transportation costs. I do not buy that. And then we have so many differences within the Province, community to community, and I think we have to put more stringent controls on prices at the marketplace. Many of our people are ripped off innocently, and they do not know whom they can go to because I do not think that we come out with an education program to advise these people to whom they can go for protection, to whom they can go in the event that they feel they have been overcharged, or in the event that they buy an inferior product. Of course, sometimes it is just the circumstances of the situation, we cannot do anything about it. You know, it is bad enough to stand in a line-up to buy goods, but when you have to carry them back, it is absolutely frustrating. I am just using this - there is nothing the Minister can do about that - but these are circumstances that militate against people going back and telling the various stores the way they feel.

I was in a store the other day, just about two weeks ago, where a man brought back a package of chocolates that were - he called them - filled with maggots. If this were an ordinary individual, I am sure nothing would have been done, but this was a man who was an educated man, an aggressive man. First of all, he went to wherever you have to return those things - one of the larger stores - and was dealt with in a very unmannerly way. He asked to see the manager; the manager was busy. First of all, they asked what he wanted, and he said he was bringing back a box of chocolates or something that was infested with insects or whatever. The manager said, "Wait fifteen minutes", and the man was in a hurry. Anyway, eventually he saw the manager and he gave him quite a blasting, I can assure you. But there are other people who would have - and his kids had eaten a couple of those chocolates before they found it out.

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Tape 3385

RT-3

MR. LUSH:

These are some of the things that are going on, and a lot of our people do not know, as I say, to whom they should go in the event that they are buying inferior products, in the event that they are _____

MR.LUSH: being exploited with respect to price and cost. I think there must be a massive educational programme, and there must, to inform the people just what their rights are. Also I think that we have to make some determined effort to look into cost in Newfoundland.

A matter, just the other day, again I want to raise to the minister's attention the matter of increases of eggs. I am not at all suggesting that the farmers of this province are ripping the people off. But I think we have to look into the matter, every time an increase, every time there is an increase in feed that we get money put on the cost of eggs to the consumer.

For example, are the cost justified? I do not know anything about hens or eggs for that matter. All I do is eat both. But when it comes to cost, for example, the food cost is gone up ten dollars a ton.

AN.HON.MEMBER: - (Inaudible).

MR.LUSH: Right. But that is one part of it. The real point is if feed is going to go up ten dollars a ton, you know, does that justify putting eggs up two and a half cents a dozen? That is all I am asking. Who is monitoring this? I know that in some cases that the prices put on are not justified, that the profits are built in sufficiently in the first place. I think we have them, As I have said, again I am not undermining the farmers. The farmers have to make a living. But we have to also think about the consumers. I am just wondering whether those prices put on, let us say, be it fertilizer with farmers or be it feed that is an excuse to jack it up a few more cents. Nobody looks into this to find out whether or not that extra cost in the feed or in the case of fertilizer justifies giving an increase to the consumer. Something that has to be looked into. As I have said, most people are not familiar enough to know that because food is gone up ten dollars a ton, well it seems obvious that the farmers have to put up the cost of eggs. That seems rather obvious. But how much, how much? A ton is a lot of food. I do not know how much hens, or how much feed,

MR.LUSH: how much of a 1,000 tons can feed how many hens. I do not know. But you know somebody should know, and whether that two and a half cents is justifiable.

AN.HON.MEMBER: -

MR.LUSH: That is right. That is right. I think somebody should be monitoring this sort of thing. It is a very justifiable argument that the cost of food is gone up ten dollars, then people expect the cost of eggs to go up and there is nothing you can do about it. But how much? That is the question. How much? There should be some provincial body, somebody that monitors the increases in the cost of products to the people of this province. As I said before, I think we are being ripped off, ripped off more than any other province in Canada. We are complacent about it. We are complacent because we are always told it is transportation cost. Nothing we can do about it. We have to get the food from, we have to bring the stuff in and we just accept it. I do not believe, as I said before, that transportation is the major reason for these continual escalations in cost to the people of this province to the consumers.

On the matter of protection of the environment, Mr. Chairman, just a few words I want to say on that. Again I agree with the hon. member from St. John's East that we have to put on a massive educational programme. For a long time we have been rather careless about litter. It is just a way, I suppose, a way of living. We were not in communities that were congested and we had lots of open space. We just did not become aware of littering the environment. Now all of a sudden we have done that. But I think it is not a matter of having laws and enforcing the laws. I think we have (1) to try and prevent it. We have to work with this in our schools. There is very little information today, Mr. Chairman, I am talking under the broad terms of education. I believe that the first place we have to start is in the schools. I can remember when I was going to school there was an awful lot of things in the curriculum about civic responsibility. I think a lot of these things are removed today.

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LB-3.

MR. LUSH: They are removed in terms of studying history and geography and studying about other countries. We are leaving out the vital information, the vital things concerning civic responsibilities.

MR. LUSH: If we are to improve our environment, if we are to instill in our people an attitude of concern for the environment, we have to start it with our young people, because attitudes perpetuate attitudes. And if in a particular community we are living the attitude is to litter the place, that is what the children learn. The only place we can attack that is in the schools, and then with the broader aspect of it, to get to the whole population, I think we have to carry on a massive educational programme with the general public through the media. We have to do this, and I think we would avoid a lot of trouble.

I think the minister is aware that in my own district now there are quite a few prosecutions with the Waste Disposal Committees - is that what we call them? - that they have charged a fee to collect garbage and the people have not paid it. Now, Mr. Chairman, I would not suggest for one moment that the people should not have to pay for their garbage collection, but the point is that our people have not become accustomed to that and I do not think we have gone about it in the right way.

I have gotten letters from people this week - and I expect some of them are honest - they never ever knew there was a garbage collection in their community and now they get a bill for fifty dollars, a bill for sixty dollars.

AN HON. MEMBER: Where is that?

MR. LUSH: This is in parts of my district, Lethbridge, and these places, and you know, we have not gone about it the right way. These local committees should have called meetings and told the people what is going on and written letters, sent out information,

MR. LUSH: tried to point out the importance of keeping property clean, the proper disposal of garbage, but it looks like they did not do this. Now we have to go about it through the highhanded way of the law; and I am not sure, as I have said, that this is the proper way. There has to be proper communications. We have to work with the people to get them to see the necessity for keeping the environment clean. God knows we need it. We need to clean up our environment, to clean up the rivers, we need to do it. But I am not sure we are going about it in the right way. We have to work at it through this educational programme and Local Waste Committees have to be directed as to how they should go about doing this.

 The idea is not to ruffle people, the idea is to get people with you and for them to see the necessity of keeping the environment clean. I think, Mr. Chairman, that that is one. We have just made a suggestion of this educational programme, a broad one at the school level, and then some directions to the Waste Disposal Committees so that they can do their work properly and they can work with the people properly and that they will have the support of the people, I think, if the thing is done properly.

 Just one other point, Mr. Chairman, about litter, for example, along our highways. I notice that as you drive you have the signs up that if people litter the highways they will be prosecuted. Now as a driver myself I have gone around with my car loaded and wondered where I can dump it. There does not seem to be enough waste disposal trash cans along the highway. If you are driving through the mainland, Nova Scotia and those places every so many miles there

MR. LUSH: is a trash can, a sign before you get to it, with a broom and you can go and empty your car into these trash cans. Now along this highway I never see it. There are places where there are lookoffs, I think you have them but there are no signs tell you. You are right upon it and you are past it. I think there should be signs. If you have trash cans there should be signs a couple of hundred feet before saying, you know, with the symbol, there is a trash can or whatever and you can empty out your garbage.

I do not think we are doing enough in this respect along the Trans-Canada Highway, not enough trash cans or whatever we call them so that people can properly dispose of their garbage. Of course when your car gets so loaded out goes a drink bottle, out goes a cigarette package, and this is what is going on. With that I will finish, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply have considered the matters to them referred and have directed me to report having passed items under Head XVIII, Public Works and Services, all without amendment, have made further progress and ask leave to sit again.

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

On motion the House at its rising adjourned until tomorrow Monday, May 30, 1977 at 10:00 a.m.