

PRELIMINARY  
UNEDITED  
TRANSCRIPT

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY  
FOR THE PERIOD:  
2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 1978

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

PRESENTING PETITIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. S. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, before I present my petition I wonder if Your Honor would allow to extend sincere congratulations to Premier Campbell of Prince Edward Island in winning the election last night. It just goes to prove, Sir, that Liberalism is alive and well.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, Hear!

MR. DOODY: They are having a recount. Hang her down for a winner.

MR. S. NEARY: Well the problems of winning, Sir, are much easier to handle than the problems of defeat, as the hon. gentleman will find in the next election.

Now, Sir, this is a petition from eighty-one residents in the Gander area in Central Newfoundland and the petition has to do, Mr. Speaker, with the controversial matter of summer cabins. I suppose you could call them summer cabins, Sir. I have never been able to get a proper description of the kind of cabins that the people are talking about. Some of the cabins, I understand, are merely used for hunting. The people who go hunting, some of the cabins, Mr. Speaker, have a substantial investment in them, \$4,000 and \$5,000, and they could be considered as summer cabins, the same as the hon. Minister of Consumer Affairs has a summer cabin up in Topsail Pond and I believe several other ministers have summer cabins. These cabins are the equivalent of some of the cabins that are involved in this controversy that is raging in Central Newfoundland and some of them are -

MR. DOODY: Cabins like they have at Hogans Pond.

MR. S. NEARY: Hogans Pond would be included, the one Mr. Groom had down there and George G.R. Parsons, summer cabins. Mr. Speaker, some people have cabins who are involved in this controversy that are the equivalent of these cabins, and some are merely used, as I say, for shelter for people who go hunting, and some may be just fish stores or fish shacks, I do not know what you would want to call them.

MR. S. NEARY:

And so there has been a controversy raging now, Sir, for some time. The Minister of Forestry and Agriculture apparently issued an ultimatum to his wardens to prosecute all those people who were on Crown land and had not made an application for the Crown land that they occupied. And I understand, Sir, that under the new regulations and the new legislation that was passed in this House that they had one year to make application and anybody who occupied the land prior to 1957 would be given a deed to the property. Well, what the minister did not say in his statement, Sir, was that after the one year was up what the consequences were. And the consequences were, of course, an ultimatum from the government and summons were issued, Mr. Speaker, and a number of people were hauled into court like common criminals and they were fined \$200. Apparently this was the minimum fine. Now I do not know, perhaps the Minister of Justice can clarify that, \$200 or a jail term. But anyway it started a savage controversy, Sir, and the people are very unhappy about this situation. And as I understand it, there have been no directions gone out to lay off these people or give them a chance to get their application in, which would, incidentally, cost them \$25 and if the application is not approved they have to sacrifice the \$25.

So eighty-one people, Sir, have sent this petition to me. "We the undersigned are very displeased with the recent announcement regarding cabins and Crown land fees and fines. Where is the government going to stop?" they ask in their petition "Every year something from our natural habitat is taken away from us. One would think that the next step by the government is to take away or tax the air we breathe around us, and we ask that this latest situation—we ask that the latest release on cabins and Crown lands and fees be withdrawn and abolished." So Mr. Speaker, I have no hesitation in supporting the prayer of this petition and ask that it be laid upon the table of the House, Sir, and referred to the Committee to which it relates. I meant to mention it to the hon. gentleman before the House met. I met the hon. gentleman, I was talking to the Minister of Justice at the time, and it slipped my mind. Otherwise I would have advised the hon. gentleman

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MR. S. NEARY:

In advance as a matter of common courtesy that I was going to lay this petition upon the table of the House. But I believe the people who signed the petition have already been in touch with the hon. gentleman, and did not get any satisfaction, as well as the hon. gentleman's colleague, the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture. They did not get any satisfaction and now they have come to the court of last resort, the court of

MR. NEARY:

last appeal, myself and the Opposition, and I do hope, Sir, that other members on both sides of the House will support the prayer of this petition and stop harassing these people who own cabins in Central Newfoundland.

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

MR. PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the prayer of the petition as presented by the hon. the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary). I have, as one member of the House, received a fair number of representations by individuals, both in the district that I represent in the House and many other districts in the Province, and as I understand, in the absence of the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture, that whole system of summer cabins and temporary cabins and so on is now being reviewed by the Department of Forestry and Agriculture and that a statement concerning it is imminent.

It is a complex set of circumstances. As I understand it, Mr. Speaker, what the people who signed that petition are most upset about, at least the representations that have come to me, concern the fact that many temporary structures and dwellings that individuals have are also coming under the ambit of this regulation. For example, Mr. Speaker, an individual in rural Newfoundland who has almost only a bough house, a shack, a small structure, if you can call it a structure, thirty or forty miles in the interior, in the wilderness or even ten miles or five miles, for that matter - who uses that structure three or four times in the year to snare rabbits or to go hunting for a moose or caribou or whatever, or trapping, that that structure is coming under the regulations in the same way as a full-fledged, permanent

MR. PECKFORD: summer cottage dwelling would of, you know, thirty by forty or twenty by thirty or whatever, which many people, of course, are doing these days. That is number one, and that is, I am sure, an issue of great concern to a lot of individuals who are outdoorsmen and who wish to continue to prosecute what they have been doing for hundreds of years. And secondly, another group of people who are being injuriously affected by the regulations as they are now being applied deals with the individuals who are also outdoorsmen but who reside or have cabins or temporary structures near the seashore and do some jigging or other outdoor activity associated with the ocean. And they have temporary dwellings on the rocks, almost, on the seashore, and they are also coming under the ambit of this regulation, which does seem to be rather unfair. And representations that have been made to the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture by, no doubt, hon. gentlemen on the other side as well as hon. gentlemen on this side, have led the minister, I think, to review the whole policy, and, as I understand it, there is to be a statement concerning same in the next few days.

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

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this petition, having received several complaints from my own district relative to the same thing, people protesting the fees and the fines issued by Crown Lands re two people who are presently apparently contravening the particular pieces of legislation or regulations as they refer to cabins. The hon. the minister informs us that the government will be taking a look at this, and I am delighted to hear this. And I certainly hope that the government will come up with legislation that is less offensive to the people concerned.

MR. LUSH: The hon. the member for LaPoile mentioned he did not know exactly what kind of cabins that the people were referring to or what kind of cabins that the regulations were indeed referring to.

MR. NEARY: There are all kinds.

MR. LUSH: Right, there are all kinds, really, and the hon. minister mentioned the type for logging and by the seashore, and in the last few years there have also been a large number of people building cabins just purely for recreational purposes - going up into the ponds and down by the seashore, and they are not expensive structures, just in out of the weather - where they can take their families and enjoy a little sunshine and get out and wade in the water a little bit.

And there are two things that I am sure that the government is trying to achieve with these regulations, one, mainly to map out the Crown lands of this Province. And I do not object to that: I think that the government need to know, to get a picture of the Crown lands of this Province and get it allocated properly, but I do not think they need to go to the various kinds of steps that they are now following. I think it can be less offensive and more satisfactory to everyone concerned.

MR. LUSH: So I hope that when the government does come up with legislation that they come up with something that is more progressive and more satisfactory to all of the people concerned, and legislation that will not affect or prevent our people from following their traditional lifestyle of hunting, fishing, logging or whatever and more recently for recreational purposes. I have said many times when speaking to these petitions that in a Province where we have so much unoccupied land, and so much available land, I do not think we need to have these regulations that will bleed and be a financial burden on the ordinary people of this Province. So I am glad to hear the minister say that the government is looking at this and I do hope that they will come up with legislation that is satisfactory to the people of this Province.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. member for Bay of Islands followed by the hon. member for Windsor-Buchans.

MR. WOODROW: Mr. Speaker, I am glad, first of all, to support the petition presented by the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary). It is nice to know that he is coming up with something constructive. Now only yesterday I talked with about at least twenty-five or thirty residents who have cabins along the Lark Harbour road on a beach - I just forget what the beach is called now - and they have cabins on the land probably no more than twenty-five or thirty or forty feet, and some of them, for example, are fish shacks, they just go there to spend a Sunday afternoon or the like. And they outlined to me that they will have to pay not only twenty five dollars to hold on to the land for a year, but also the council in York Harbour will be charging them twenty-five dollars as well - or rather twenty dollars, that is what the fee is. Also people from the Benoit's Cove area, they also have to pay to the council in Benoit's Cove as well, so it would be very expensive for them to keep this little shack on the beach or on Lark Harbour road.

However, I am delighted to know, as it has been outlined by the member for Green Bay (Mr. Peckford), that the government



MR. LUSH: are going to come up with some legislation to help those people preserve their tradition. There is not much more I can say because it would be a repetition of what he was saying anyway, what I would say, so I fully support the petition from the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary).

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. member for Windsor-Buchans.

MR. FLIGHT: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this petition and Mr. Speaker, I, too, am happy and we are happy to hear the minister indicate that a statement is forthcoming. But personally I am tired of hearing that, Mr. Speaker, a statement has been forthcoming clarifying this situation since the thing became an issue. Going back three weeks ago the hon. Minister of Forestry and Agriculture was indicating that he intended to clarify the government's position with regards to this, and he indicated that they recognized some injustices here and he would be issuing a statement to clarify this situation and to stop the injustice that we know is going on. Now the statement has not come yet, and personally I am wondering when it is going to come. A lot of people are going through a great deal of anxiety because of the callous and indifferent attitude of the Department of Forestry and Agriculture in this particular situation, Mr. Speaker.

To give some credibility to that statement of callous and indifferent treatment, here is a letter, Mr. Speaker, that was signed by the petitioners that signed the petition my hon. friend just presented and one passage, one line from the letter reads: "We have already sent some four or five hundred names to the hon. Minister of Forestry and Agriculture, Mr. Edward Maynard, but have yet heard nothing on it." Now that is callous and indifferent, Mr. Speaker. The minister is not only getting asked about this situation in the House, he is getting representation from the people and obviously doing nothing about it. Another important issue we should consider here, Mr. Speaker, when we talk about what is going on now with these cabins, the hon. Minister of Forestry and Agriculture, whether the minister or his

MR. FLIGHT: predecessor issued an instruction to the Department of Crown Lands Division to put a freeze, sometime within this past year or year and a half, to put a freeze on the processing of land for cabins. Priority was going to be given to residential and commercial land applications because they were running a year or two years behind. So all the people who wanted to apply, there was a freeze on, Crown Lands Division were told not to bother with Crown land cabin applications. And now we get a situation where they are given a year, and after a certain date hauled into court. How indifferent to people's feelings can you get, Mr. Speaker? Another thing that has to be considered here is that since

Mr. Flight: all the cabins, you know, hunters lodges, rabbit snare cabins, fish cabins comes under this particular regulation. After the people are told, after the applicants are told that their land indeed has been processed or the application has been processed and approved, then it is going to cost them \$400 or \$500 for a survey, as the minister well knows, and some of those surveys could be twenty-five miles removed from any town.

So, Mr. Speaker, it is a ridiculous situation and the minister - furthermore, another point that I keep harping on is that now we are into a position where a Newfoundlander has got to pay \$25 for the right to apply for a piece of land, because if that application is rejected, and it might well be for any reason, that \$25 is not refundable. So as a result of this regulation we are into a situation where it now costs the Newfoundlander \$25 for the right to apply. And, Mr. Speaker, this thing has gone on long enough, and, Sir, I think, it well behooves the minister now to get up and tell us when he is going to clarify this situation and relieve the anxiety that this situation in Crown Lands is causing a lot of Newfoundlanders.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Health.

MR. H. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the petition which was presented by my close friend, the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary). I did speak to him for a couple of minutes just now. He did not mention the petition, but be that as it may, he refers to the petition as coming from the Gander area. And for the information of the House, I would like to say that if one were to take a set of dividers and place one end down in the Town of Gander and establish a circle in a radius of fifty miles, we would take in a population of about 70,000 or 75,000 people. And I am sure that the petition represents the area encompassed within that circle. It is a problem, Mr. Speaker, in the meantime, and one which I have discussed with my colleague here, heart to heart, and chest to chest, as we have heard in this hon. House in the past, and toe to toe in agreeing on

Mr. H. Collins: what has to be done. I am of the opinion, I think of the right opinion, too, in that there are some people who have been a little overzealous in terms of applying what was a pretty good rule in terms of the establishment of Summer cabins, sometimes a total year residential cabin, but the people who are concerned, Mr. Speaker, are the fellows who like to go up in the woods, like myself in the Fall of the year, and put down a few snares, and catch a few rabbits, build what is commonly referred to as a lean-to sometimes. A lot of people in Central Newfoundland have a lot of energy and they go a little bit beyond that. What is required for one night, a lean-to, they put up a fairly substantial little cabin. They use it for fishing in the Summer and so on and so forth. Some people around the coast, Carmanville and Gander Bay and down the Bonavista North Loop area, also use them for lobster fishing, Sir.

But I am sure that the minister has become sensitized to the problem, and he has promised me that within the next few days he is going to be making a Ministerial Statement, and he is going to clear the whole matter up once and for all.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. W. ROWE: Sir, I thought the minister, Sir, was going to rise and tell us whether he agreed or not because on the statements made on his behalf by his colleagues concerning this petition.

MR. NOLAN: He is sensitizing.

MR. W. ROWE: He may be desensitized by the lunch hour.

Sir, I rise to support this petition. In doing so, Sir, I have to say that what has occurred here today is enough to boggle the mind of anybody. We have had two ministers rise and support a petition presented by my hon. friend, which in effect, directly and indirectly and by its accompanying letter, denounced a Minister of the Crown for his insensitive -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. W. ROWE: - and foolish, and silly regulations regarding these cabins and the use of Crown land for these cabins, Mr. Speaker. And we had two ministers rise who have now said that they understand certain

Mr. W. Rowe: regulations - certain changes are going to be made in the regulations, they are not quite sure, they are going to work on the minister and so on. Sir, I have never heard the like of it! A government, Sir, which shows absolutely no solidarity whatsoever!

I am glad, however, that the pressure which has been brought on the government, by my colleagues here and the general public, to repeal these useless and senseless and irritating regulations - a thorn in the side of the public, Sir - that the pressure has now borne some fruit and we are going to see, I hope, these regulations repealed or amended in an appropriate way. I would however, Sir, like, and I ask the minister directly, I would like to see the minister rise in this House and let us know whether in fact what his colleagues have said on his behalf is true, that people who are involved in the toils of the law as a result of these silly regulations are now going to find that the regulations are going to be changed and amended, hopefully retroactively, and that

MR. W. ROWE: nobody in fact is going to suffer as a result of them. Will the minister let the House know if what his colleagues have said is true on the subject?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Before recognizing the hon. minister, I would welcome to the House on behalf of all hon. members from the Rural District Council of Triton, Jim's Cove and Card Harbour, Mayor Winsor and Councillors Sudgeell and Fudge.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR. MAYNARD: Mr. Speaker, I stated in the House in the past week or so that we are reviewing the regulations that were made by Cabinet - not by a minister or two ministers, made by Cabinet. We have realized, as we have in the past in some cases, that there are some problems with the regulations and we are willing to change them, and I will be outlining the changes that we can make within the next two or three days.

Until such time as I have made the changes that are necessary and made my statement in the House, there is really nothing else that I can say about it.

MR. W. ROWE: Some people do not know where they stand.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Trinity - Bay de Verde.

MR. F. DOVE: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a petition on behalf of fifty-nine fishermen of the community of Red Head Cove in the district of Trinity - Bay de Verde, Sir. The prayer of the petition reads as follows:-Sir, it is not strictly in accordance with what Your Honour requested earlier but the news has not gotten up to Red Head Cove yet.

"We, the undersigned residents of Red Head Cove in the electoral district of Trinity - Bay de Verde, do hereby petition the House of Assembly of Newfoundland and Labrador to have repairs made to the slipway in our fishing community.

MR. F. POWE:

"Unless such repairs are made prior to the commencement of this coming fishing season, it would be impossible to prosecute the fishery in our community. We do urgently and sincerely request that some action be taken immediately and that the required repairs to the said slipway be done without delay."

Now, Mr. Chairman, there are 131 voters in Red Head Cove, so these fifty-nine fishermen represent virtually every working man in that particular community, because it is strictly a fishing community as many people would know. And during the Winter there were two severe storms that caused damage in seven communities in the district of Trinity - Bay de Verde and caused damage to wharves and slipways.

Now Red Head Cove is one of the communities where the slipway comes under provincial jurisdiction. In the other communities, most of the fish handling facilities, the slipways and the wharves come under the federal jurisdiction. And I might add, Sir, that work is already underway in these other communities in the repair of these wharves and these slipways in time for the fishing season, which is virtually at this very moment.

Sir, immediately upon learning of the problem, I wrote the Assistant Deputy Minister (Facilities) of the provincial government, this was in January, and I brought this matter to his attention and pointed out to the Assistant Deputy Minister, Sir, that the main problem in Red Head Cove, aside from the fact that the slipway has been buried in rocks and planks need to be replaced, the major problem is the fact that the toe of the slipway, which is approximately thirty feet long, has been completely wiped out and needs to be completely replaced.

Now in a reply, Sir, that I got from the Assistant Deputy Minister of Fisheries (Facilities) that is, I am informed that, "In the case of the Red Head Cove slipway it is doubtful whether we will replace the outer toe section of the structure as it is obviously impossible to keep it in place. However, we will assess this situation after we receive our technician's report."

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MR. F. BOWE:

Now, Sir, I had three fishermen from my district visit my office this morning and it is their understanding now - nothing has been done, by the way, and the fishing season has virtually started; and when I visited Red Head Cove there a couple of months ago I saw a number of boats, Sir, on the shore cleaved open, cleaved wide open, because of the fact that they were coming in with a bit of a sea on and when you have - not the crest of the wave but the trough of the wave, when you are



MR. F.B. ROWE: in the trough, obviously, the boat is coming in with a load of fish, you go straight into the slipway with no toe and your boat is cleaved open. Two or three boats, Sir, with loads of fish were split wide open last year, lost their fish, almost lost the members of the crew. Obviously the boats have been lost and cannot be replaced by any programme under the federal or the provincial jurisdiction at the present time. So, Sir, I would ask if the Minister of Fisheries would take this matter under advisement immediately and if he would be kind enough to get the appropriate officials of his department to investigate immediately the situation in Red Head Cove with a view to completely repairing not just the slipway itself, but the toe of the slipway, which is the major problem there. Because if that toe is not replaced immediately this fishing community is going to lose an awful lot of income.

The community is completely dependent upon the fisheries. There are sixty fishermen there and if the slipway is not repaired the fishermen will not be able to get their boats in and out during the day and thousands and thousands of dollars will be lost to the fishermen.

Also, I might add, Mr. Speaker, there are a number of fishermen whose wives work at the fish plant there in Bay de Verde, who also signed this petition because they were concerned over the same situation. So, Sir, I would ask the minister if he would make a special effort to get the appropriate officials of his department to work so that this small but very important project is completed immediately, because the fishing season is in the process of starting, as the minister well knows. So, Sir, I ask that this petition be placed on the Table of the House and referred to the department to which it relates.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

MR. W. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, I welcome the petition from the hon. member but I should point out to him that - of course, I think he has already stated that in the case of this particular slipway, it is a provincial responsibility. Certainly, I will have my people take a look at it and what can be done will be done. But I should like to inform the hon. member and the House that while the Province obviously is responsible for that particular slipway, the matter of providing and maintaining slipways in the Province is the responsibility of the federal government.

I think a few years ago there were a small number of slipways built by the Province with about, I would estimate, 98 per cent of the slipways in the Province remaining the responsibility of Ottawa. Now, I am not using that as an excuse for the condition of the slipway in Red Head Cove because, obviously, that is our responsibility.

MR. F.B. ROWE: A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A point of order.

MR. F.B. ROWE: I do not like to get in an argument over a petition, but I would like to - it might be more information than a point of order, but I did write both the federal and the provincial authorities on this and both provincial and federal authorities are in agreement that the responsibility for this particular slipway comes under the jurisdiction of the provincial government.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. W. CARTER: There is no point of order. I have admitted, I am taking the hon. member's word for it, that it is our responsibility. But I am pointing out that in 98 per cent of the cases around the Province where there are

MR. W. CARTER: slipways, it is a federal responsibility. But in the case of the Red Head Cove one, of course we will take a look at it and what can be done will be done. But I should like to point out that in so doing, and by the Province assuming responsibility for the provision of a few slipways a few years back, we were, in fact, I suppose, doing something that the federal government should have been doing. In fact, our policy in the future will be that any new slipways will have to be built by the federal government because it is their responsibility. But in the case of this one we will take a look at it and correct it.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Tourism.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, I should like to say a few words in support of the petition from the fishermen from Red Head Cove and say I recall that at the time the facility was built there it was built by the man who is presently my executive assistant, Mr. Brendan Howard.

At the time I recall the frustrations he had in attempting to get some funds from Ottawa allocated for the purpose of building that facility that was much needed by the fishermen of the area, in Red Head Cove. As a result of his pressures on his then colleague, the Minister of Fisheries, funds were allocated for that purpose.

But as my colleague pointed out, it is the responsibility, primarily, of the Federal Department of the Environment, or the Fisheries Marine Services Division,

MR. MORGAN: or the Small Craft Harbours Division and not the provincial government. However, I am hopeful that my colleague will arrange to have engineers sent to the area and the facilities repaired so the fishermen can carry out the fishery this year in a successful way.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Health.

MR. H. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, I have the answer to question number 23 in the name of the hon. the member for LaPoile dated March 30, 1978. It is to ask the minister to provide information (a) How many doctors were recruited outside the Province in 1974, 1975, 1976 and 1977? and (b) In what provinces or countries were these doctors recruited? The total number of doctors recruited were twenty-six; in 1974 there were nine, in 1975 there were nine, in 1976, six and in 1977, two for a total of twenty-six. Those doctors came from England, eleven; Ireland, four; Ontario, four; Alberta, two; Australia, one; New Zealand, one; Nova Scotia, one; Quebec, one; and Jamaica, one for a total of twenty-six.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. W. N. ROWE: I see the Premier has made good his escape again, Mr. Speaker, so I cannot ask him anything. So I will have to size up the array over there and see who I will ask a question of today.

MR. NEARY: Cannot stand the heat!

MR. NOLAN: Could we have a list each day?

MR. W. N. ROWE: He has been in here for a couple

MR. W. N. ROWE: of days, now he is gone again on another little frolic of his own.

I think I will ask a question of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Sir. When can members of the House expect to have circulated a copy of the revised Bill No. 101 dealing with regional government?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

MR. DINN: Mr. Speaker, there is a proposed draft; we are still changing it; we are going to continue to change it until we get it 100 per cent correct. When it is changed, when it is ready, when it is perfect, we will bring it into the House and all hon. members will have a look at it.

MR. NEARY: We will all be in the Hoyles Home by then.

MR. W. N. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary on that, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. W. N. ROWE: Sir, I would like the minister to explain this strange new procedure that he is now involved in. He drafts draft number one, presumably at draft number eighteen or twenty the members of this House will be done the courtesy of seeing what the bill is all about and what it says. The position we are in now is everybody else in St. John's -

MR. NEARY: It is a best seller, is it?

MR. W. N. ROWE: - seems to have access to what is going on in regional government, all except members of this House on both sides, Mr. Speaker - I am not only speaking for us - on both sides of the House outside of the Cabinet, itself.

MR. W. N. ROWE: Does this minister, do other ministers presume to circulate draft legislation far and wide throughout the countryside before bringing it to this House? Are they going to perpetrate contempt on this House, Mr. Speaker, by not permitting us to see the draft legislation first before other people see it? What is the situation on it?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

MR. NEARY: He will make a fool of himself.

MR. DINN: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. the Leader of the Opposition wishes to make recommendations on the Henley report on regional government, if he would like to come down to my office at any time, discuss regional government, Bill No. 101, the proposed draft or any other thing, he is quite welcome to do so. I open my office, my doors, to any hon. member, but it is not a piece of legislation, it is not ready for the House of Assembly, and when it is ready it will be brought in and not before that.

MR. W. N. ROWE: A supplementary, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary, the original questioner.

MR. W. N. ROWE: What is the minister trying to accomplish? Is he admitting that the government is so lacking in intestinal fortitude that they cannot bring in a piece of legislation and put it before the House and debate it and hear submissions from members? And having already, presumably, heard advice from other people, public servants, councillors and so on, elsewhere, is the minister admitting that? Is this what he is trying to do, Mr. Speaker? He is trying to circulate these pieces of legislation around, not

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MR. W. N. ROWE:                    calling them legislation, just  
calling them draft legislation - not even draft legislation,  
proposed draft legislation, Sir - circulated around

Mr. W. Rowe: hoping to curry the political favour of concillors in St. John's; and in getting their favour, of course, then bringing it into the House and having a brilliant political coup on his hands is that what he is trying to do, Sir. If he is, Sir, then I suggest he is going about it the wrong way. He has managed to antagonize, as I understand it and alienate anyone who has looked at the piece of draft legislation. But I would like to know from him does this now mean that this government will no longer bring in something which it has drafted itself which it proposes to stand on, and fall or rise on as the case be, and from now on we will have pieces of legislation submitted to all political interest groups in the vain hope that this government can be shored up by outside forces? Is this what he is trying to do?

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

MR. DINN: Mr. Speaker, this government intends to consult rather than to dictate.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary. Are both gentlemen up on supplementaries? The hon. gentleman for Conception Bay South then the hon. gentleman for LaPoile.

MR. NOLAN: A supplementary on the same point, Mr. Speaker. Is the hon. minister telling us here in the House that he had taken the draft legislation, or whatever it is, and found within his wisdom and jurisdiction as Minister of Municipal Affairs that it is okay to circulate it to members of the Council of the City of St. John's and not members of this House of Assembly? I mean, where do we rank right now in the minister's opinion, the members of this House?

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

MR. DINN: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Conception Bay South (Mr. Nolan) has just been informed by a previous answer that it is not draft legislation.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: What is it?



MR. DINN: It is a document that proposes what government -

AN HON. MEMBER: When will we have a look at it?

MR. DINN: Any time the hon. member would like to come down to my office -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, Oh!

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

A supplementary by the hon. the member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: My understanding of the matter, Sir, is that it was sent to the St. John's City Council in a form of a draft bill, so therefore, Sir, it is wrong to say it is not draft legislation.

MR. W. ROWE: Misleading the House.

MR. NEARY: That is misleading the House, whether deliberately or not, I could not say.

But, Sir, what I want to ask the minister is this; the Mayor of St. John's, Mayor Wyatt, has invited the MHAs representing St. John's districts to come and discuss, I think it is this evening at 6:00 o'clock, to discuss that draft legislation.

MR. W. ROWE: Now postponed until Thursday.

MR. NEARY: Now postponed because there are too many ministers at large, on the loose, and they cannot get them all together. Now that meeting will take place. What I want to know from the minister is, obviously, the Mayor will make this draft legislation known to the St. John's members. Do the St. John's members already have copies of that draft legislation? And if the members do not have it, of course, they will see it when they go down to this meeting with Mayor Wyatt. Now it raises the question again, When will the Opposition get to see this draft legislation so that we can have some input into it? apart from the members who represent St. John's district. Have they seen it? Do they have copies of it? Will they have to wait until they go to City Hall to see this draft legislation?

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

MR. DINN: Mr. Speaker, Bill 101 was put on the table of the House last year. We have been discussing that. My colleagues from St. John's and the St. John's region have been making recommendations, I

Mr. Dinn: have yet to receive one recommendation from any member opposite.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. DINN: If they would like to make some recommendations they are quite capable of doing it, I am sure. They have Bill 101, as every hon. member has a copy of it. They can look at that bill and if there is something in it they do not like they can make recommendations, and that is basically what we are doing; we are taking the old Bill 101 and we are making changes, and we will continue to make changes until, as I have said before, it is perfect to our satisfaction.

MR. SPEAKER: I will recognize the hon. member for LaPoile, a final supplementary; then the hon. member for Windsor-Buchans, and then Port au Port.

MR. NEARY: We have already made recommendations to the hon. gentleman, Sir, that the hon. gentleman follow the Toronto Metro system. We have already made this suggestion inside and outside of the House. Now we have not seen the draft legislation, Sir. We would like to make some recommendations. Now the St. John's members -

AN HON. MEMBER: Our Bill 101.

MR. NEARY: I beg your pardon?

AN HON. MEMBER: Like Quebec's.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, Quebec has their Bill 101, and now Newfoundland is having the equivalent of the Quebec Bill 101. And we would like to have a look at it, so we can have some input into it. We want to make some recommendations that may save the minister a lot of trouble in the future of setting up another level of bureaucracy. So we have already made suggestions. But can we have the bill, will the minister give us the bill so that we can make some recommendations to the hon. gentleman?

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

MR. DINN: Mr. Speaker, I am sure Bill 101 can be provided to any hon. member opposite.

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

MR. FLIGHT: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Education, and it is with regard to the application by the Town of Badger last year through a petition that was supported by 85 per cent of the town, 90 per cent of all of the students, and unanimously supported in this House that the minister or the government would discontinue the busing of children from Badger to Grand Falls and provide public schools in the Town of Badger. Would the minister indicate to the House

MR. FLIGHT: what is the status now of that particular request from the Town of Badger?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Education.

MR. HOUSE: Mr. Speaker, I recall the petition, and of course I mentioned at the time of the petition that this House - or this government has no responsibility for providing public schools. It was sent and talked to to the denominational committees and we said at that time that there are a number of precedents for the various denominations, denominational school committees, to get together and one of them agree to build a school which the other people could go to, but we could not direct that from the department. It is not permitted in our legislation or in the Terms of Union that governs the denominational rights of schools. So that is where it lies.

The only thing we do do in that respect is to encourage joint services, which I understand has been done in a number of places in the Province. But that initiative must be taken be taken from the denominational committees and not government.

MR. FLIGHT: A supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. FLIGHT: Mr. Speaker, would the minister tell the House that in view of the gross injustice and frustration that the people of Badger and the students of Badger have been subjected to, has he taken the liberty to suggest to the DEC's that some of the money that is turned over to the DEC's for capital works in this Province would be diverted to Badger, that he would recommend that the DEC's look at building those schools in Badger? Has he taken that stand and directed and suggested to the DEC's that that is a reasonable request and that it should be done?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Education.

MR. HOUSE: Mr. Speaker, I have not made that recommendation. I have suggested that joint services, we support it. I have not said that we can divert money because it is not in our mandate to divert monies for schools in any particular community. And the DEC's, if they get together and, as I mentioned just now, and they decide to build a joint school, we would be delighted to see that kind of thing happen. But under the present arrangement we just cannot do it. We have no mandate to direct the Denominational Education Committees where they build schools and when they build them.

MR. FLIGHT: One more supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A final supplementary, then the hon. gentleman for Port au Port.

MR. FLIGHT: Is the minister telling the House that considering the fact that he controls almost one third of the budget of this Province, that he does not, as a minister of this Crown who turns over that kind of money to DEC's to be spent, that he does not feel that he has the liberty to suggest to them that the town of Badger is being done an injustice, that a school should be built there and he would suggest that they look very seriously at it, that he does not feel, as a minister of the Crown, that he has the liberty to even make that suggestion? How powerful are the DEC's getting, Mr. Speaker, with determining where and how our money will be spent?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Education.

MR. HOUSE: Mr. Speaker, not only do I feel I do not have the liberty, I know I do not have the liberty to do it.

MR. FLIGHT: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to serve notice that I am not happy with the minister's answer and I would respectfully request the right to debate this issue on the Late Show this coming Thursday.

MR. SPEAKER: I had indicated I would recognize the hon. member for Port au Port (Mr. Hodder) next and following him the hon. member for Terra Nova (Mr. Lush).

MR. HODDER:

Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Fisheries. On Friday the minister assured me that he would be taking some leadership in the problem with the prices of lobster across the Province. We now have a situation where in one small area of the Province we are finding that one buyer is paying \$1.50, another one \$1.80; that is just in my own district, the area of Port au Port. I asked that question of the minister on Friday morning, I wonder now if the minister could let me know just what is happening? I am quite aware that the Fishermen's Union had negotiated with this particular company, but now the expectations of the fishermen are up, They expect \$1.80 a pound and some of them are not getting it. Some of them are not selling them, What is the minister doing to straighten out this mess?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Minister of Fisheries.

MR. W. CARTER:

Mr. Speaker, I have had discussions with the Fishermen's Union and it is obviously a matter that is, I suppose, between the union and the fishermen, and the Nova Scotian lobster buyer, I think Harbour Fisheries it is called. And the story is that the Fishermen's Union, in behalf of their membership, did in fact

MR. W. CARTER: negotiate a price of \$1.80 per pound with the Nova Scotian company headed by a chap, Mr. Dennis Snow, I think his name is. I know that in certain parts of the Province it is working very well, the price is being paid, lobsters are being collected and shipped to the Mainland. I had a discussion with the Fishermen's Union Vice President early this morning at which time he informed me that the operator, the buyer, was having problems with respect to working capital and there will probably be some proposals made. In fact, I am sure there has been a proposal made to the federal government for financial assistance and I have a feeling that maybe they will be making similar representation to the Province. I am told that the other buyers are offering as high as \$1.50 per pound and probably in some cases as low as \$1.25 per pound. But certainly it is a matter, Mr. Speaker, that, while we are all concerned, it is something that will have, I suppose, to follow the course of the collective bargaining process that occurs between Fishermen's Union on behalf of the fishermen and the fish buyers. I do not know what else I can add to it except to say that some of the fishermen appear to be pretty happy with the \$1.80 per pound and in certain parts of the Province it seems to be working. In certain other parts of the Province it is not working for the reason that I have stated.

MR. HODDER: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. HODDER: Is the minister saying that this company does not have enough working capital? Is this a sound company? Has the minister done an investigation of this company just to see what sort of a company they are and whether they are sound or not? Because they sure have caused a mess here with the lobster fishermen.

MR. W. CARTER: We have undertaken an investigation, if you want to call it that, into the company, taken a look at its financial position and we are not overly impressed with the financial state of that company. But surely when the union, which is the legal representative, I suppose, of

MR. W. CARTER: pretty well all of the fishermen, especially lobster fishermen, when they negotiate a price with a company, a price that is negotiated in good faith, certainly, as far as the union is concerned, well then I do not think it is government's place to go out and to discredit that company. We have a lot of faith in the Fishermen's Union and if they say that that company is willing to pay \$1.80 per pound, and if they assure that the company is acting in good faith and able to meet its commitments, well, to be perfectly honest I would be pretty reluctant and hesitant to do or say anything that would have the effect of casting doubt on the company. In fact, we have no reason until now to question the integrity of that company or its credibility and it is only in the past few days that matters have come to my attention that would in fact certainly raise some doubts in my mind as to the credibility of the company or its financial ability to undertake the commitment made to the Fishermen's Union. And like I said, in certain parts of the Province, in the Port aux Basques area, there has been a lot of lobster shipped out by this company and the \$1.80 per pound price has been paid.

MR. SPEAKER: As I indicated, I will recognize the hon. member for Terra Nova next and after that LaPoile, St. John's East and Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir.

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Tourism. With reference to the \$13.2 million that the minister recently received from Ottawa, I wonder whether the minister can inform the House as to what flexibility the government have in spending this money, whether the federal government determines what areas will be sponsored or whether it is purely the decision of the minister and the government?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, the funds to be spent, of course, emphasize two areas of the Province with special emphasis, one being the Bonavista Peninsula, Clarenville, Eastport Peninsula area including also the Burin Peninsula as one area, and the second area is the Great



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MR. MORGAN: Northern Peninsula. All the projects that will be approved for these areas with regards to development of attractions, historic sites, etc. have to be approved by the Joint Management Committee, the federal-provincial representation on that committee. We have not got the

MR. MORGAN: sole authority to make decisions, for example, on locations to be developed, or sites to be developed. We do not even have the authority to make decisions, for example, on the locations for tourist chalets. That also has to be co-ordinated between us and the federal government.

So all decisions in connection with the spending of the money, except for the overall general promotion of tourism outside the Province, are made in a joint way between the two levels of government.

MR. LUSH: A supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. LUSH: Can the minister indicate whether the Terra Nova district itself will be included in the expenditures of these funds and, if so, what areas?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Tourism.

MR. MORGAN: Well, as mentioned, Mr. Speaker, part of the Terra Nova district will be included and that part is the Eastport Peninsula. That takes in the National Park area, not the Goose Bay area, the Musgravetown area, but the Eastport Peninsula and the Terra Nova National Park and of course it takes in the Bonavista Pensinsula - Clarenville area as well.

MR. LUSH: A supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: The final supplementary.

MR. LUSH: Having to do with the tourist development of the area, it is my understanding, Mr. Speaker, that a decision has been reached with respect to the location of the proposed golf course for the Terra Nova National Park. I wonder if the minister can indicate to the House why the decision is not made public yet? I am sure that the hon. minister is not waiting for me to make that announcement.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Tourism.

MR. MORGAN: Well, Mr. Speaker, I am sure the hon. gentleman would love to make the announcement, but as the hon. gentleman is aware of, the location that was initially chosen, the Sandringham area, there were some problems there in connection with - the residents were not satisfied with the land acquisition question. Then there were two sites being looked at by both levels of government whereby a consulting firm was appointed to analyze both sites, one being in the community of Terra Nova, the other at the Northwest River area and Port Blandford. As a result of the discussions between the two levels of government, the federal and provincial, with the people in respective areas, and as a result of a report now made and filed by the consulting firm which did the report and the analysis of the two sites,

MR. W. ROWE: (Inaudible).

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. Opposition Leader, who acts in some cases for his colleague, I will not answer the question, if he does not want the question answered.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Finance, the Acting Premier, I presume the Deputy - I am not sure if the Minister of Industrial Development or the Minister of Finance is the Deputy Premier. The Minister of Industrial Development is not the Deputy Premier. Who is the Deputy Premier?

MR. W. ROWE: Buddy over there, look.

MR. NEARY: Well whoever it is, Sir, whether it be the Minister of Industrial Development or the Minister of Justice, would the minister indicate, now that the member for Grand Falls, the former Minister of Rural Development is no longer a minister, would the Minister of Justice tell us what has happened to the minister's executive assistant?

MR. W. ROWE: He does not know.

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

MR. NEARY: A supplementary question, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: A point of order has come up.

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

For clarification of the House of Assembly and for myself, when questions are asked by hon. members in the Opposition, respecting their own districts in many cases, if ministers are attempting to give information to the hon. gentlemen, is it proper for some other colleague of his to be demanding the hon. minister to sit down and not be answering the question?

MR. W. ROWE: Oh, sit down!

MR. MORGAN: No, it is not. You embarrassed your own colleague.

MR. NEARY: Sit down, boy. Do not be making a fool of yourself.

MR. SPEAKER: I think I will reserve ruling on that.

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

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, would the Acting Premier indicate to the House, Sir, if the member for Grand Falls is still entitled to an executive assistant now that he is not a minister? And if so, would the minister indicate what has been done about this executive assistant? Because I understand they are political appointments made by the minister. The minister picks his own executive assistant. Now that the gentleman is no longer a minister, is he entitled to an executive assistant or what is the future status of that particular gentleman or position?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I do not know who the particular gentleman is. The position with respect to executive assistants is very simple, that an executive assistant obviously is chosen by the minister, recommended to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council for appointment, and he is so appointed. The hon. gentleman from Grand Falls, no longer being a member of government, as I understand it no longer has an executive

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MR. HICKMAN: assistant. Where that executive assistant is right now I do not know.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary question then.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. NEARY: Does the hon. gentleman care enough to find out for the House if there is still an executive assistant, a redundant executive assistant floating around or has he been placed in some other position? Would the hon. gentleman

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MR. NEARY: undertake to get that information or is he - what has happened?

MR. HICKMAN: I will take it as notice.

MR. NEARY: Okay, Sir.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question.

MR. SPEAKER: I will hear one supplementary.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Thank you, Your Honour, for your generosity, Sir.

I would like to ask the hon. the House Leader, I wonder can he confirm whether the Opposition has ten secretaries compared with something like three by the backbenchers in the government; whether the executive assistant by the former leader is still retained on staff; and whether he can have a look into the fact that the Opposition, as I understand it, are spending perhaps upwards of \$300,000 on the total benefits and total services that they have, and the official government opposition - or government support group or your backbenchers here have a pittance of something like three secretaries and practically no fund awarded? Then, in view of the fact that that exceeds what I understand Joe Clark gets in the House of Commons, can he have a look into it, Sir?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN: That question is noticed because obviously I cannot answer it in detail. I do know that when the Moores administration came into office there was a major change in policy with respect to Opposition.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. HICKMAN: And in fact, I heard the former Leader of the Opposition and, indeed, the hon. the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) commend the Moores administration for

MR. HICKMAN: their change in policy and turn the other cheek, and provide adequate staff to the Opposition which was not practiced in the past, but how many are over there I do not know, but I certainly would take it as notice and I think that we probably could find out, if it is not already in the estimates, the exact number of employees that are over there, and also whether or not there is an executive assistant and -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. HICKMAN: - I am having tremendous difficulty answering that question, Mr. Speaker. But in any event, I will take it as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the member for St. John's East.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. the Minister of Finance, one that he will want to take notice of, I believe, and probably table the answer, but one which I think requires early attention. I wonder could he inform the House the total borrowings payable in United States currency and European funds of the Province, and the increase in cost to the government of these borrowings as a result of the devaluation of the Canadian dollar or the costs applicable at the time of such borrowings? And at the same time he might inform what, if any - if there are increased costs - what effect these will have upon the budgetary projections for the coming year.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I will have to wait until Hansard comes out so I can read very carefully the question that is so ably put by the hon. the member for St. John's East.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir I have indicated I would recognize next.

MR. SIMMONS: Yes, he read it just like he wrote it, 'Alec', boy.

Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Justice. This relates to an item we were asking about a couple of weeks ago, namely, the report of the police investigation into certain goings on in the Department of Public Works a couple of years ago. The minister indicated last week to the House in response to questions from this side that, I gather the public prosecutor and/or the minister had requested some additional information. Would the minister indicate whether that information has been forthcoming at this moment in time?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, firstly, may I repeat there is no police investigation going on into the practices in the Department of Public Works or aspects of the Department of Public Works and Services. There is an investigation going on, which became public knowledge as a result of a request from the Auditor-General, and it came on the floor of this House. And I can only repeat what I said before; the results of that investigation I am not aware of, nor do I propose becoming aware of it. It would be highly improper for me to become aware of it. What I did do, as any responsible Attorney General should, after the question was asked in the House last week as to the status of this investigation, I checked with the Director of Public Prosecutions



Mr. Hickman:

who informed me that he had received a report from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, who were conducting the investigation - and the other police force there is also involved - that having perused it, whoever the Crown Prosecutor is who will be dealing with it, he has asked for some additional information. And unless and until he receives that information he will not be in a position to reach a firm conclusion as to what further action, if any, should be taken. Whether the Director of Public Prosecutions has received that additional evidence I do not know. He is under no obligation to tell me. I would be surprised if he did. And he, in the discharge of his responsibility as Director of Public Prosecutions, will take whatever action is deemed appropriate based solely on the evidence which is available to him.

MR. SIMMONS: A supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, the minister, you know, makes a fine speech, but I think he misses the essential point. Now our information over here is that the original report on this investigation has been sitting on a desk in his department for two to three months.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMONS: Now we understand the need for additional information, but will the minister tell us if he has given any instruction - I am not asking whether he has seen the report - but I am asking if he has given any instruction that no action be taken on that report, or that action be delayed?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I find that statement offensive -

MR. SIMMONS: It should be.

SOME HON. MEMBER: Oh, oh!

MR. HICKMAN: The minister has not seen the report. The minister does not see the report. This minister has never since he was sworn in as Attorney-General in 1966 issued instructions to anyone on his staff to withhold, to accelerate or to delay a charge, and I do not

Mr. Hickman: intend doing it now.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HICKMAN: And you would have to have a mind the size of a pea to think like that.

MR. SPEAKER: ORDERS OF THE DAY:

MR. SIMMONS: A supplementary?

MR. HICKMAN: Supply.

MR. SIMMONS: Or you would have to know the minister well.

MR. W. ROWE: On Order of the Day, Sir, if I may have the leave of the House, I thought the House should recognize, Sir, that this Volunteer Week, and that the House should go on record as paying tribute to all those people in society who do give up their time voluntarily, and we should recognize that this week is in fact Volunteer Week. Somebody, Sir, one time computed the addition to the Gross National Product of people who give free time, if it was computed in terms of, say, minimum wage, and it came out to be many hundreds of millions of dollars across Canada, Sir. And I would like to go on record, and I am sure other members of the House would like to go on record of paying a tribute to those people who are involved in volunteer work and recognizing officially that this is in fact Volunteer Week.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw the -

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: - attention to the hon. members of the House that this is also National Secretaries Week, and I hope that hon. gentlemen especially will be very kind to their secretaries during the week. And I want to pay tribute to all the secretaries, Sir, especially the ones who work here in Confederation Building and throughout the Province in various offices and in various capacities. I would like to pay a tribute to them on this being National Secretaries Week.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HICKMAN: Committee of Surviv.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is that I leave the Chair.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Perhaps before doing that, when statements are made like the former ones, the hon. member usually starts off and assumes the leave of the House, and the Chair does not intervene unless the Chair is informed an hon. member does not have leave.

MR. W. ROWE: That is right, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: At least that appears to me to be the way to operate it.

MR. W. ROWE: That is right, Sir.

MR. NEARY: It is very much appreciated.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLYMR. CHAIRMAN:

Order, please!

601 - 01. The hon. Minister of Education.

MR. W. HOUSE:

Mr. Chairman, I want to respond to some of the remarks in the past sitting. I want to first of all talk about the government effort in education. First of all, and I think we can document it, that this government has made a tremendous in education in the last six or seven years. The amount of money - and I want to highlight that we are the Province in Canada that is spending the largest proportion of our income on education. It happens to amount to 14 per cent of the gross income of the people of our Province being used in education and, of course, that is about 5 percentage points above the Canadian average.

I want to also point out the tremendous effort in this number of years in providing what we think is one of the best aspects of quality in education, which is of course qualified teachers. Hon. members will recall there has been about 1,500 teachers added since this government came to power, and the amount for teachers salary has gone from \$44 million to \$150 million in that span of time. Now the reason I am saying that is the fact that I think the effort has been good, and I realize that there are across the House five previous Cabinet ministers in the previous government, and I am sure when they were there they thought their effort was good and they would have done more if they could. And I think that is the way we feel about it now, that the increase of 1,500 teachers with less pupils has been one of the factors that certainly should bring about some quality of education. I believe it has brought it about and I think we can document that.

Now in responding to some of the remarks from the Opposition spokesman the other day and the member for St. John's North (Mr. Carter), I just want to make just a quick reference to the Task Force I did mention it when I was speaking the reason why it was set up in the way it was was the fact that we want to do a job as quickly as we can to give us direction to see where we are going with the problem of the declining enrollments - And the whole thing is if you embodied or involved all the interest groups on a Task Force, all the interest groups in education, I think it would be unwieldy. So what we have done there

MR. W. HOUSE: is to try and get a report for the end of June and another report, the final report, by the end of the calendar year. And in the meantime the two people on the Task Force will be contacting all the interest groups and getting input from them. And we think that is more efficient and will reach a larger segment of the population than if we just add a representative from each of the groups.

Some of the other criticisms, of course, the other day was the one about the Newfoundland curriculum and the charge that our curriculum in our schools is archaic, and I do not think, Mr. Chairman, that that is a valid argument. First of all, we are encouraging the utilization of as much Newfoundland materials in the curriculum as we have, and we have now at least twenty or thirty packages, various Newfoundlandia areas, and some of that is ranging from grade five right through to grade ten. And if you would look at the reading lists that we have on our school we try to bring in as much reading material from Newfoundland authors as we can. We would like probably to do more and we will be doing more as the materials become available. However, when we talk about curriculum in total, it is not so easy to say let us go and pick up the Newfoundland material and teach it in our schools, because the total curriculum, basically the skills that we teach in our Newfoundland schools as well we teach in schools all across Canada and North America, are usually universal skills. There are very few companies in the world that have an expertise in developing materials; that is, they have to conform to learning theories, they have to have the materials level for the various levels of abilities, and of course they have to produce it in sufficient quantities. So we do not have that expertise, neither do any of the other individual provinces, but we are using as much material as is available. I must say that except for some of the things in language arts, the literature and some of the social studies, Mr. Chairman, everything else is universal. There is no

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MR. HOUSE:                    such thing, for instance, as Newfoundland  
mathematics, there is no such thing as Newfoundland science, and there is  
no such thing as Newfoundland

MR. HOUSE: and there is no such thing as Newfoundland reading skills, Skills are universal and of course that is what make up basically the curriculum in the elementary level. We are working, for instance, with social studies programmes and we are involving the teachers of the Province. One other thing that I want to point out and I want to emphasize is the fact that in the development of curriculum, whether it is archaic or not- and I happen to believe that it is not- we are involving the teachers of the Province, and every subject area that is being talked about and being promoted is being done in connection and in conjunction with the teachers of the Province. I think they are doing a good job and we have a continuous development in curriculum.

I just want to make reference to the member for Port au Port (Mr. Hodder) when he talked about the teacher layoffs. I believe he was referring at that time to a specific board, and of course a lot of the boards in the Province are sending in as a reaction to what has happened, but this particular board, I want to point out to the House and to the committee, the pupils have gone from 9000 down to 7000. And one of the things you want to bear in mind is that they may have been able to have had programmes last year that they cannot have this year. You can take as an example, Mr Chairman, that in an given area where an industry happens to be closed out, half your school population could go but you could still retain your number of teachers for a year. And obviously in that particular one year, with perhaps seven or eight surplus teachers, a board is bound to put on new programmes, and consequently this is what may have happened in some of these cases, but you could not expect us to perpetuate that because we would have had, of course, an iniquitous distribution of teachers.

I want to reiterate also that in the teacher layoff that we have not, and I want to emphasize that, we have not lessened the number of specialist teachers, we have not lessened the number of special education teachers. So to say that those people who are handicapped

MR. HOUSE: are being discriminated against I do not think that is the case because we have not laid off any of these teachers.

Now there was some reference made there also to the students at the university, the increasing of the level of funds that the students would have to borrow. Mr. Chairman, there is nobody on this side of the House-or any side of the House,I would imagine-who want to invoke that kind of measure. We cannot afford in this Province where we are spending a sizeable portion of our total budget on education and where we are spending much more as a percentage of our per capita income on education, we cannot afford more luxury or more effort in programmes than the more wealthier provinces. Right now we still,at this point in time and next Fall,have one of the best programmes to aid students in Canada. It is also untrue to say that the university is becoming an elitist institution,because the design of the Student Aid programme of course insures that students who really want an education may get the assistance when they enter. The fact that some may not attend- and I think it was referred to the other day that some people are not attending university now because of student aid costs-I do not think that is the basic reason why students are not attending university, I think it is because of job opportunities. And one of the faculties that did swell the university enrolment in the years gone by was the teacher education.And young people know now that the opportunity for getting employment as a teacher is not like it was a few years ago,so we do not get as many people entering that faculty. But I think if you went and checked the university you would find there are still just as many or more in the other faculties as there were there before. So I do not think that students are not going to university because of the costs,I think it is more because there are not so many job opportunities in education.

Now, Mr. Chairman, the cost to government to run the university is in excess of \$5,000 per year per student and,secondly, student aid is in conjunction to that. The federal government gives the loan and the Province gives the grant to the student, We assume,just like the rest of Canada,that the responsibility



MR. HOUSE: for student aid rests with the student and the parent. We will give help when the student has problems of not having enough wherewithal. This is an example of the government's input into it: Let us say a student comes into the university and has no wherewithal, no money from his own resources, he is totally a dependent student; he borrows \$700 per semester to pay back with interest beginning after he has found employment, six months after he has found employment - and this could be five years later, of course - that is the federal input. Then, if he qualifies, and he qualifies for a \$1000 grant from the our department, that is \$1000 per semester and there is no payback, there is no payback. And if this person - that is if he is single he gets \$1000; if he is married and is totally dependent he get \$1250 - so at the end of ten semesters he winds up with a federal loan of \$7000 and a free, no-strings-attached grant of \$10,000 over that period of time, if he is totally dependent.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we think it is pretty rough on a student coming out and having to owe \$7000, and we have made representation to the federal government to cost-share the students' loans. Last year we put a proposition to them, not only Newfoundland, but the total of Canada, saying that if a student is totally dependent and he has to have something like \$17,000 or \$18,000 for a university career, there should be a shared forgiveness. That was put up but it was rejected.

So I think we want to bear in mind that the Provinces are still doing a fairly good programme in assisting students in getting into an education programme.

Now, some mention was made about education standards and the cost of insurance. It was just three years ago, and I think the hon. member for St. John's

MR. HOUSE:

North (Mr. J. Carter)

suggested that perhaps we go to taking away insurance completely and putting the money that we are putting in insurance in a kitty to take care of any losses that school boards would incur.

Two years ago we initiated a new programme where we paid the total insurance. That was a great boon to school boards and, I believe, we are doing it now more cheaply than we could do it, because that insurance company has all the school boards in the Province and they are doing rigid inspections in seeing that claims are justified and, also, they are checking on the safety in schools. So I believe with these costs of \$2 million, that it would cost us more at the present time if we changed it. I do not know what it will be like, say, in the next round of negotiations for a new contract; perhaps we will have to consider something like that.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to have gotten back to the hon. member for Terra Nova (Mr. Lush) who talked about quality education and standards. I think it was the kind of a speech that we could all be proud to hear, the kind of speech that a lot of us give sometimes at prize-givings because it does not enunciate motherhood and that sort of thing.

One of the things that I think we have to bear in mind is the fact that we are spending a lot of money in education, the big is not always good. I react to quality education. I do not equate quality with variety. I do not equate quality with size. I believe the trend now, in some school boards in the Province, is they are going to revert back to the smaller schools and I can give documented evidence of that of one board in the Province. I think when you get two grades in a classroom, as it was years ago when you had no qualified teachers to go to these

MR. HOUSE: areas, it may have been some basis for the argument. But I think right now, where we have well qualified teachers in all parts of the Province, at all kinds of schools, it seems to us and to a lot of school boards that two grades in a classroom is not such a great detriment to quality education.

The other thing, and I do not like to talk about frills in Newfoundland schools because I do not think we have any, but one of the things about variety across the United States, for instance, and into some parts of Canada is that the fact it has tended to lessen quality

MR. HOUSE: because pupils are opting for the lesser kind of subject, the easier kinds of subjects. So I do not believe that the fact that a pupil is in a class with two grades is going to have a really major effect on his ability to get a good quality education.

I want to carry on with that and mention about the fact some argument was made that some principals may have to do some teaching. Now, Mr. Speaker, again, as a former administrator and a former principal, I do not think that is such a bad thing. As a matter of fact, I am one of the persons who insisted at the district level that every principal do some teaching. And I did that for two particular reasons; one was the fact that the principal can certainly have more input into curriculum while he is teaching and being knowledgeable of what is happening in the school, and the other thing is the fact that he sort of has more credibility among his teachers because he is actually working shoulder to shoulder with them.

And I want to point out, Mr. Chairman, that I happened to visit England in the last calendar year and I visited a boys' school of 750 pupils, which was one of these comprehensive schools where the principal was teaching ten hours out of the twenty-five. And I questioned him about this and he said, 'You know, I believe I can serve this school better and the staff better by working with them and by being a teacher for one-third of the time' or whatever the time was - it was ten hours out of twenty-five. He said, 'First of all, if I am not teaching I am not kept aware of what is going on among the pupils and secondly - and this was a

MR. HOUSE: real answer I had not expected - he said, 'If I am not teaching I am going to be in the office and I am going to be thinking up things for teachers to do that is going to prevent them from doing their work.' And I thought it was a good bit of wisdom. Now I am not justifying principals having to teach, but the point I am saying is that I do not think it is going to be harmful to education if a principal in a fairly large school has to do some teaching.

With respect to administration, the hon. member mentioned that, and I think I have the same kinds of feelings he has about it. We have 134 supervisors throughout the Province and we have 32 superintendents, and I do not think that is excessive when we see the number of programmes that we have in our schools and the number of pupils that are taking advantage of these programmes.

The thing though, perhaps, that we should be zeroing in on here is the fact that school boards have taken a lot of these people, got some supervisors that they have taken from regular classrooms, and as a result of that, this is why we are hearing today in some cases that there are overcrowded classrooms, because we are giving, Mr. Chairman, one teacher for every twenty-six pupils, and in addition to that we are giving plus 355 specialists, 707 special education teachers and 134 supervisors. So the only objection I have to the administration and utilizing people as supervisors who were supposed to be regular teachers is it may be having an effect on quality by virtue of the fact that there are some schools that have inordinately large classes.

Mr. Chairman, I think my time is just about up, so thank you.

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MR. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. W. N. ROWE:

Thank you, Sir. I hope the minister is not going to follow the practice of getting up after everyone speaks, Mr. Chairman, otherwise we are going to have a position where members on this side of the House -

AN HON. MEMBER:

He was responding to -

MR. W. N. ROWE:

Oh, I see, he was responding to the speech of the member for Terra Nova (Mr. Lush) which explains everything, Sir. So many points raised -

MR. PECKFORD:

Do not leave out the member for Port au Port (Mr. Hodder).

MR. W. N. ROWE:

Well, the member for Port au Port opened it for us, Sir. He is our spokesman who made an exceptionally good speech.

MR. HODDER:

I read it out of the Evening Telegram.

MR. W. N. ROWE:

Did you?

MR. W.N. ROWE: Well, the polls shows however, Sir, that more than 17 per cent of the population thinks he is doing a good job especially in his own district.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. W.N. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, this is a government, Sir, which either deliberately or not, as the case may be—one assumes it was not deliberately is a government which is giving the impression throughout the Province that it is out to undermine, belittle and destroy the educational process that the Province has been building up over the last number of years. Sir, education should be the very last thing, Mr. Chairman, that a government will cut back on if it has to, through no fault of its own—and of course this does not apply to this government—but if it has through no fault of its own to cut back on expenditure, then education should be the very last thing to be cut back. I say that, Sir, because whatever chance for development a province has, both as a province and for each individual young person coming up, whatever chance it has, Sir, it has no chance unless it improves its educational standards and makes sure that people are educated and trained adequately to develop our own Province or to find good, high paying, satisfactory employment elsewhere in Canada, or in North America for that matter if need be. But this is a government, Sir, which has seized upon education as one of the first things rather than the last, one of the first things to cut back on in order to pay for its other extravagances such as the Action Group and so on.

Everybody knows, Sir, what the government has done so far. It has decided to lay off teachers, it has decided to give school boards the additional responsibility of paying 5 per cent more than the cost of operating school buses and, Sir, it has decided to increase the cost to students of getting an education at the university and, Sir, it has cut its grants to the university to such an extent that that institution is jeopardized as a viable institution of higher education. The fact Sir, that a Province may be poorer off than other provinces of Canada is no excuse for cutting back on education expenditure; as a matter of fact, Sir, the fact that a province is poor the fact that a province does not have the same amount of money as some of the other provinces of Canada

MR. W.N. ROWE: is the very reason why a province like Newfoundland and Labrador should be spending a disproportionately large amount of money on education in this Province at all levels - schools, Sir, trades schools and at university. But this government has decided that the education side of government expenditure will be among the first to suffer. Take this teacher lay-off, for example, a lay-off which is announced long before any inquiry is made into whether it is going to diminish or hurt the standard of education in our Province. Finally under pressure, the Minister of Education bows to the demand that a Task Force be set up in order to inquire into the quality and standards of education in our Province, but first the teacher lay-off takes place. Now, Sir, I hold no brief for the teachers, they are well able to look after themselves, and every member of this House of Assembly will agree, I believe, with me on that. They have a highly organized association, well funded; they are, I suppose, the most single most articulate group in society, having perhaps the most pervasive influence in society. They do not need politicians to be holding a brief for them or arguing their case as teachers. But, Sir -

MR. J. CARTER: (Inaudible)

MR. W.N. ROWE: What is the -

MR. NEARY: He sounds like a moose.

MR. W.N. ROWE: A moose or a buffoon or a bassoon.

MR. NEARY: Is this the mating season or what?

MR. W.N. ROWE: So seldom we hear from the member for St. John's North, Sir, that one is a bit startled to hear his dulcet tones described by friend as the mating call of a bull moose.



MR. NOLAN: No wonder the Russians would not buy savoury off him.

MR. W. ROWE: Yes.

AN HON. MEMBER: The former Minister of Education.

MR. W. ROWE: Yes, that is a former Minister of Education, Sir. Perhaps I am just talking about the periphery of things here when I am talking about the various aspects of education. Perhaps the nub of our education problems may stem from the year or two of tenure by that hon. gentleman as Minister of Education, when he was afterwards unceremoniously taken by the nape of the neck and flung out through the Cabinet door, Sir, by the Premier of the Province, unceremoniously and without apology, Sir, I might add, to anybody, including the hon. member. That was when the Premier had some control over his Cabinet and over the House, Sir. Since that time, of course, he has lost control completely and he has not got the nerve to fling anybody out of the Cabinet anymore now. They are leaving or threatening to leave in droves, Mr. Chairman, but the Premier himself does not have the gumption to in fact do what he did sometime ago with that hon. member for St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter).

Mr. Speaker, I understand that this teacher lay-off will have the effect of diminishing the quality of education in our schools, not so much as far as the three r's or the basics of education are concerned. I understand, Sir, that the likelihood is that those things which go to add something to our educational system, whether it be guidance counsellors, music teachers, things which raise education above the very basics of life as important as those basics of education are, something that raises it above that, Sir, is going to be adversely affected and that young boys and girls in this Province are simply not going to have anything near the opportunities which young boys and girls have in other Provinces across Canada, because this hon. minister and the government has decided to cut the expenditures to be paid on teacher salaries, forcing therefore layoffs of teachers.

MR. W. ROWE: It was a very surprising move for a former teacher himself, Sir, a former principal, I understand, and a former superintendent of education. He must have bowed to the terrific pressure brought to bear on him by his colleagues in the government, the Premier and those who were trying to get enough money laid to one side, \$2 million, to pay the Action Group and their friends, the advertising agency based in Montreal, for political advertising and advertising designed to shore up the sagging foundations of this government. But he caved in, Mr. Chairman. As Minister of Education he did cave in and he has to answer for it. And we see this teacher layoff taking place announced, Sir, as I mentioned earlier in an earlier speech, announced like an execution even before the trial itself had taken place. We only had the trial announced on Friday by way of a Task Force.

Now, Sir, take the school buses, perhaps a mundane sort of issue to be arguing about in this House. But in fact, Mr. Chairman, it is going to have the effect of seriously upsetting the balance in education between rural Newfoundland and urban Newfoundland, I am advised by people who know the situation here. School buses, of course, are used most in rural Newfoundland, and school boards, Mr. Speaker, who have to undertake a larger part of that burden of paying for these school buses are going to have less money for other things which their city counterparts may be able to have.

The effect also, Sir, is going to be the inequitable and unfair one of forcing certain school tax authorities to raise school taxes throughout this Province, with again the effect that rural Newfoundland will suffer far greater than urban Newfoundland.

Mr. Speaker, the university situation, where the minister has now forced students to borrow more money before they can qualify for student grants. Mr. Speaker, we produce on the average in this Province one half of the university students produced per capita across Canada and the same figure, I understand, applies to trade school students and graduates, one half of the average across Canada. We produce one quarter, Mr. Chairman, one quarter on the

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MR. W. ROWE:                      average per capita, one quarter of  
the university students which are produced by the Provinces of  
Alberta

MR. W. ROWE:

and Ontario, one-quarter. And what this hon. minister and this government have done now for their own misguided, perhaps political, selfish purposes, what they have done, Sir, has made it more difficult for young boys and girls, again particularly in rural Newfoundland, to get a university education. If they had their way in the trade school system, which thankfully is financed largely by the federal government through its various grants and so on, although we do not have enough by far, we do not have enough trade schools which is a Provincial responsibility, but thanks to the Department of Manpower Federally, Sir, they cannot get at the trade schools as they have the university so well, but they would do the same thing there I am sure. But in the field of university education where we are less than half or around half the national average in production of students, and one-quarter of that produced in Alberta and Ontario.

We now have a situation where a minister is making it more difficult for students to go to university, particularly again, Mr. Chairman, students from remote areas of this Province in rural Newfoundland. And what a callous, hypocritical situation it was to see the other night members, ministers on that side of the House rise and try to pretend some interest and concern for the people living in remoter areas of this Province in rural Newfoundland, Mr. Chairman. They are the students who are going to suffer. They already have a difficulty enough time getting in here to University, or starting it over in Corner Brook, as a result of financial problems. Now, Sir, this is going to succeed in making it a difficult job of getting a university education all the more difficult, and I have been told already by several perspective university students, some already at University and some perspective ones, that there is no way they can afford to incur the debt themselves or their families to come to university as a result of this increase in the cost and the borrowing that they are going to have to do in the coming year.

Mr. W. Rowe: Now, Mr. Chairman, the government's answer to all of this belatedly bowing under pressure from this side of the House and by people, teachers, and students, and people all over the Province, the government's answer is to appoint a Task Force to enquire into the situation. Finally, after the fact that the damage has been done, appoint a Task Force, Sir, and appoint, as we mentioned on Friday, two university professors to head it up. And I mentioned at that time, Mr. Chairman, that these gentlemen for all I know are well qualified, excellent gentlemen, university educators, university professors, but, Sir, I could not help wondering then why the sum total of all knowledge respecting education is thought to repose in two university professors. And why did not the minister cast his net a little wider and broader and bring into that Task Force some people with other legitimate concerns, people on school boards, parents, for example, concerned parents, trade school people, teachers, for example, who might look at it, as well, right out of the school system, a civil servant or two, I do not see why it had to be restricted to two people.

And I was appalled to hear in the news, and the minister can correct me if I am wrong, that one of the reasons why we have these two university professors and nobody else on this Task Force is that the government in a very hasty, quick, fast, swift manner, it had to be thrown together quickly, Sir, so we could get our results quickly. So I say to the minister, what is the good of hasty and quick and fast results if they do not in fact do the job which is vitally required in this field of enquiry and examination? It is much better to wait until the Fall of the year to get a report, Sir, and make sure we get a half decent report—and I am not saying these gentlemen will not bring in a half decent report. What I am saying is that the input and the thought processes that will be brought to bear will not be broad or wide enough to convince me, for example, as a concerned parent and as a member of this House, convince me that the job was properly done. It is much better for this government to put a freeze, as has been asked by us and by people throughout the Province, to put a freeze on the cuts in educational expenditure, increase the expenditure,

MR. W. ROWE: have no teacher layoff, do not impose an additional burden on the school boards with regard to school buses thereby forcing school tax increases, do not raise the amount to be borrowed by the university, and increase in a reasonable, rational fashion the amount to go to the university for the running of the day to day activities, its current account operation and so on, leave all that alone, increase it in a normal manner. Do not cut back until such time as a Task Force report or an enquiry of some sort brought into this House through the minister by a wide ranging, intelligent, concerned group can in fact be brought in, Sir, and then make the decision, the vital decision affecting education in this Province. To do otherwise, Mr. Chairman, is to put the cart before the horse or, as I said, to pass sentence and then have the trial afterwards. And that is something which should not be done, and this is something which should not be done. And this government through the minister, which I cannot understand from a man so concerned or ostensibly concerned with education before he got into the government, I cannot understand why he would take this kind of an attitude which can only be characterized as incompetent.

How much time do I have left, Mr. Chairman?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Four minutes.

MR. W. ROWE: Four minutes. And, Sir, I wanted to make those points, There are a number of other points that I want to make as well which are perhaps just as important as these, which we will probably get into as the debate continues but I will mention it to the minister now. Mr. Chairman, what I want to talk about is what is in fact taught in our schools today. Now we talked in fact about the basics of education and so on, but I am amazed that in this day and age the government is taking no leadership, showing no leadership in two or three areas of curriculum, changes of curriculum in this Province, One is the change in curriculum which would have more to do with what goes on in this Province and what we all do as Newfoundlanders. I would say, Sir, there is very little aside from a little Newfoundland history

MR. W. ROWE: which goes anywhere near trying to inculcate, trying to put into children's minds a sense of identity with Newfoundland and Labrador as a Province, in a sense, Sir, that this place is a valuable place, a place well worth living in, a place to be proud of. I am not talking about misguided patriotism, I am talking about a sense of identity among children as they are growing up in school throughout this Province.

Now, Sir, one or two other things. I am amazed, for example, that schools do not deal with things which seem to have some practical use for people who graduate out of high school, some teaching on consumer credit or in government programmes or even some idea as to duties and rights of citizens under the law. There is no mention made of this in school anymore. I understand the old civics programme is even thrown out the door.

Very little, very little, Sir, in the way of curriculum changes or curriculum development which would help students when they get out into the world of working and so on. Nothing, Sir, as I understand it, on drugs and alcohol, and work opportunities and so on except what is provided by guidance counsellors, perhaps, who, I understand, again are going to be one of the first to suffer perhaps from these changes and these layoffs of teachers in school.

Mr. Chairman, I would commend a number of these things to the minister. I may have a few more words to say particularly on this area of curriculum changes and curriculum development as time goes on. But, Sir, it seems to me that education in this Province has stagnated. It has not stagnated because teachers are not interested. They certainly are interested. It has not stagnated because the school boards are uninterested because they are interested, or the DEC's. I think, Sir, that education in this Province has stagnated and is in fact now in grave danger of going behind because there is no leadership shown by this government. This minister, he may be a capable man but he seems to be a little out of his depth in the

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MR. W.N. ROWE: portfolio of Minister of Education. But, Sir, there is no leadership being shown in the field of education. Nothing



MR. W. N. ROWE: to change things for the better. As a matter of fact, we have a minister, Sir, who has, in fact, caved in, has collapsed under the demands of his colleagues, was not able to get for education in this Province a fair share of the government pie, and expenditure on education has been allowed to go down. And once that starts to happen, Sir, quality in education is going to be adversely affected and we are going to see our children - my children and yours - and students throughout this Province who are not going to have an equal opportunity in education to students found throughout Canada. And if Canada as a nation means anything, Sir, it has to mean that there must be a basic floor foundation level below which these basics of life cannot sink, and education is one of the prime basics of life. It should be the last thing to be cut as far as spending is concerned, because without a developing education system, without our students having the same opportunities for a good education as people throughout the rest of Canada, Sir, then we are going to find that Newfoundland and Labrador will fall further behind the rest of Canada as far as our economy is concerned. It is penny-wise, Sir, and pound-foolish to cut expenditures on education, and I commend to the minister sincerely and wholeheartedly this suggestion that he revise, review what he is doing, put a freeze on cutbacks and make sure that a good task force is set up and that a good report comes in and then a sense of direction taken on education and the proper, rational and sensible decisions on the development of education in this Province take place in the Fall of the year and next year, Mr. Chairman.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. the member for Grand Falls.

MR. LUNDRIGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, this is maybe one of the most important debates that has taken place in the Legislature and I certainly welcome the opportunity to participate. I envy the Minister of Education and I also have a great deal of feeling for the position that he finds himself in today because he is involved in a debate which is significant and, at the same time, an area which is a very difficult area because of the fact of money in the Province and the fact that we do not seem to have the financial resources sometimes to do what we recognize must be done.

But I would like to start off by putting a couple of facts on the table to see if I can point out a conclusion which I believe to be a fundamental and realistic one about education that is being overlooked, and I believe that we are to a considerable extent missing the boat and missing the point in the whole debate on education here in this assembly. Because like most people when they get involved in a complicated field they look at one particular point or one particular thing to hang your argument on and away you go and you might not look at the thing from the broadest perspective. Now, I have the greatest respect for everybody participating, and I have a greater respect for the people who have a background in education like the member for Terra Nova (Mr. Lush) and the minister himself when they speak, because I do believe they can speak from a professional authority.

I would like to pay compliments to and respect to Dr. Llew Parsons before I make any more comments, because much of what I have to say can be traced to his research. Dr. Llew Parsons is a South Coast man

MR. LUNDRIGAN: and a person who is eminent in his field at the university and one of the people who, I believe, has a great deal of soul and feeling for education in our Province aside from the fact that he is a professional educator. I have had many discussions with Dr. Parsons. I shared an office with him for some time when I was at the university doing a little bit of teaching myself there and I would like to make sure that anything I say can be traced to him, because much of what has been done in research is his work.

I just would like to lay a couple of facts on the table. Number one is a table from Dr. Parsons' recent presentation in March on Unemployment and Education in our Province. And he presented a table from his speech which indicated the growth in the labour force in our Province today and the employment rate. And what he looked at was in 1966 we had 131,000 people in the labour force; we had 192,000 people in the labour force in 1977 - 131,000 people in 1966 and 192,000 people in 1977 with an increase of 46.6 per cent in the labour force - that is, the people between the ages of fifteen and up who are looking actively, pursuing employment. He indicates the employment rate - that is the number of people who are actually employed, during that period, compared with those who could be employed has not varied hardly at all. We have had 42 per cent of the people employed of the

MR. LUNDRIGAN: total population in 1966, we had 42.5 per cent in 1977. We have had a very substantial increase in the labour force, we have had a relatively stagnant situation in the employment opportunities, the number of people employed. I could go on and elaborate on that table because it has a wealth of information. I commend it to hon. members.

What it does point out is that new people coming into the labour force, relatively speaking, generally speaking, are not finding employment. Statistics Canada points out that of the 30,000 people unemployed in our Province, 16,000 of these people are between the ages of 15 years and 24 years. They also conclude that the chances of getting a job in Newfoundland, if you are between the ages of 15 years and 24 years, without a high school education is about half as great, or 50 per cent as great as if you had a high school education. So let us look at it again: Between 15 and 24 years of age 50 per cent of the people, roughly, that are unemployed in the Province fall into that category. Another fact is, that roughly 50 per cent of the people between these ages are unemployed. It is a different statistic, if you get the point that I am making. And more importantly, people between 15 and 24 years of age who do not finish high school have roughly half the opportunity of getting a job as those that are, in fact, finishing high school. So if you look at somebody dropping out of school between 15 and 24 years of age, their chances are very meagre, twenty-odd per cent of an opportunity to get a job in our Province today. Twenty-odd per cent are the chances of getting a job.

Go a little step further. Let us look at the Province recognizing that we have a greater labour force than we have job opportunities, recognizing as well that even if we had the best education

MR. LUNDRIGAN: system in the world, if everybody had five doctors degrees, you are still not going to solve the unemployment problem. But let us go another step further and recognize that the opportunities we have are not available to a lot of Newfoundlanders. The Government House Leader, the Leader of the Opposition and other members will be the first to point out that in our Province today many jobs are going begging because Newfoundlanders do not seem to be able to have the background or the training to grasp them.

The minister right here to my right, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing tells me off and on when we make jobs available, when there are opportunities becoming available, when it comes to the Public Service Commission's decision, very frequently they look outside our Province. Because it does not seem that in certain areas and certain fields we have the background or the training, whatever the case might be, a matter of great concern in a Province that has 30,000 people unemployed.

Dr. Parsons went on to look at, in our Province, areas of demand for employment, and he looked at construction superintendents - there is a moderate demand. Accountants, auditors, other financial officers, a slight demand. Minerologists - or however you would pronounce that thing - slight demand; forestry technicians, slight demand; architectural engineers, slight demand; draftsmen, slight demand; computer programme people, moderate demand; nursing superintendents or supervisors, moderate demand; physiotherapists - and I know this for a fact - occupational therapists, extreme demand; pharmacists, moderate demand; medical laboratory technologists, moderate demand; electrical power linesmen, extreme demand; linesmen, extreme demand and it goes on like this. Bricklayers, moderate demand.

Then he looks at where there

MR. LUNDRIGAN: is an oversupply or a moderate supply or an extreme supply. Nursing assistants, moderate supply; tellers, cashiers, clerks, extreme supply of people who can fill these positions; guardsmen and watchmen, extreme supply; sheet metal workers, small supply; painting and decorating, extreme supply; excavating, gravelling, shovelling, extreme supply; rough carpenters, extreme supply; pipefitters and plumbers, extreme supply; deck crews, extreme supply; truck drivers - light, extreme supply and he goes on. What he really tells us in his documentation gotten from Manpower is that in our Province today the opportunities - where the opportunities are, or where they really could be. If we had a discovery of oil and gas or an explosion in the fisheries in the technology field or the research field and so on, when these opportunities arrive or are there our people are not going to be able to take advantage of them. That is a matter of grave, grave concern.

I threw out those couple of statistics,

MR. LUNDRIGAN: throw out those couple of facts and I will get back to what I consider the core of the problem in our Province today in respect to education. And when I finish those couple of statistics I hope that members can draw the conclusion that if we attack the problem from the right level we would not be talking about a declining enrolment, we would not be talking about 180 teachers laid off, we would be talking about an expanding enrolment and we would be talking about 200 or 300 new jobs for teachers this year with the same school system that we have today.

I am going to quote from statistics which were prepared by Dr. Art Sullivan, a study investigating the extent to which the decisions to continue education through high school and attend university is influenced by certain factors. And he went on and he pointed out what we have in respect to student retention in our schools today. Student retention - how many students who start school, finish school - one of the most dramatic and startling statistics that any Newfoundlander would want to hear about. But when you present them like Dr. Sullivan does or Dr. Parsons, people do not pick them up because they do not sound controversial enough. I want to put them on the record. In 1971, of the 14,700 students who started Grade II nine years earlier, 4,300 of them successfully completed Grade XI - 29 per cent of the students who started Grade II successfully completed Grade XI. In 1972, 14,900 students who started Grade II nine years earlier - that would have been 1963 - 4,800 completed Grade XI, 33 per cent. In 1973, 15,195 started nine years earlier, Grade II - 30 per cent finished. Away we go, down to 1977 - 15,100 started,

MR. LUNDRIGAN:

5,800 finished - 38 per cent.

In those two, four, six, seven years that I presented the statistics on, 35 per cent on the average of the students who started school in Grade II went through to successful complete Grade XI. Why are we talking about a declining birth rate? The declining birth rate is not the reason why we have a problem in our Province. It is the reason in Ontario. And let me just go on to tell you why in Ontario, of the students who start school in Grade II - or start going in Grade I, 95 per cent of them reached Grade XI - not Grade XII, they have Grade XII - 95 per cent of them reached Grade XI; Alberta, 95 per cent of them reached Grade XI; British Columbia, 95 per cent of them reached Grade XI. And by the way, approximately twice the number successfully complete Grade XI as we do have in our Province today. Now, in their schools declining enrolment is a real problem, because if 10 per cent less students start chances are 10 per cent less students finish. But in our Province 34 per cent of the students who start finish Grade XI. Now that is a tragedy - that is a real tragedy! And if we had the ways and means and objectives and programmes and the like to retain our students in school today, which is the minimum that a student should have - to be able to carry on a good conversation, to be able to carry on the communications that have to go on today, to be able to just live a normal social life today you almost have to have at least Grade XI. There is where your problem is - your declining enrolment. And I would like to say to the NTA and to the minister and to other people, let us get off the simplistic kick that we are on -

AN HON. MEMBER:

Hear, hear!



MR. LUNDRIGAN: - with respect to the problem that we have today.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Let us get on to the nub of the problem. Now let me boil it down a little further. What have we done in our schools, what have we done in Newfoundland because of the declining enrolment? What have we done because of the fact that we do not have Grade XII? We have gone over to Memorial and we have introduced what they call the Junior Division. How many people know about the Junior Division at Memorial? The Junior Division at Memorial is an excuse for not having as good an educational programme at the secondary level as we should have, but it only caters to the small little group of people that get to the university. That is all it caters to. It does not cater to the whole population of our Province. And I raise the question - I will not make the accusation, I will not make the recommendation - but I will raise the question as to whether it would not be better for our school system today, using the same books that we have if we were to question the Junior Division at Memorial and look at reinforcing the

MR. LUNDRIGAN:

secondary school system that we have in our Province today. That is the kind of question that people have to get at. You are not going to get the University administration to agree with that because they will say that you need a junior division plus another junior division plus Grade XII and the like. Maybe we cannot afford all of the things that we would like to have but I question if we would not be better off taking the several million dollars that are going into trying to upgrade, that is what it is doing, upgrade the few students who eventually get to Memorial.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I will go on to say that we have to question why our retention rate is so low. One of the reasons is that people are - and Dr. Parsons did a survey on this, and the number one thing that came out is they said, 'We are going out to earn more money, to earn a bit of money'. The fact is, do they know that by going out into the economy the chances are almost negligible that if you leave school in Grade VIII or Grade IX that you are going to earn any money, unless you get your eight weeks. The students have a better opportunity to leave school if they are in Ontario and not finish their schooling than they have in our Province. So their expectations - somebody has to tell them a few facts or there have to be ways and means to get that message across.

Maybe more importantly is the fact that - I am concerned and I have talked to the minister quite frequently about this, about the type of program that we are offering our students today in Newfoundland schools. How many students today are doing chemistry? An absolutely essential type of course to get involved in. I do not say that we have enough chemistry teachers. I would say that we have to go to England or to India or some other country to get chemistry teachers to teach our students today. How many students are doing physics in our Province today? How many students are doing biology, especially as it relates to marine environment? How many students are doing handicraft

MR. LUNDRIGAN: work? How many students are doing industrial art program? How many students are doing courses that relate to fish-processing which is becoming the thing that - some schools are, a lot of schools are on their own initiative, taking up the cudgel like the school in Harbour Grace, like St. George's that I spoke at the other day, the St. George's High in Trinity South - some of the schools are but I am concerned that it is not a fundamental part of our program enough. I am suggesting that our program has to be adapted much more fundamentally to tailor the needs of our Province. Even by doing that over a period of years we are still going to have problems with unemployment and problems with lack of opportunity. I am a little concerned that we are educating two types of students:- One who goes into university; and one who does not know what to do. When he finishes his Grade XI he is no better off than if he left in Grade VII or Grade VIII or if he never went to school at all. All are doing a wishy-washy, watered-down program so that they do not make the University they do not make it anywhere.

I am a little concerned about that. I have seen examples of it. I did a little survey for the Federal Government one time in a little country in one part of the world that I spent a couple of weeks in, where a lot of foreign aid went, and they were educating their students to leave their country, educating them for the North American environment, for the U.S. environment. Maybe that is what we are doing in part here in our Province today as well.

I would also like to raise the question - I have mentioned the program, I have mentioned the junior division at Memorial - I would also like to raise the question about administrative costs. Shortly, I hope, there will be tabled in the Province, an analysis that was done by Dr. Parsons and Dr. Warren on behalf of the Denominational Educational Committee about the administrative costs of education. I am concerned that if we look very closely from the business of the school board, superintendent, supervisors, who are becoming almost like the original comptroller, the inspector, rather than just a program developer, your curriculum specialists, your department heads, your principals, your

MR. LUNDRIGAN: vice-principals, if you look at all that cost I am a little concerned it is out of whack with the value of the dollar that ends up directly relating to the curriculum, to the classroom, to the students. I am a little concerned about it.

I am also concerned about the lack of uniformity of educational opportunity in our Province. The Minister of Education has information available which will indicate the difference in the amount of money that certain school boards have compared with certain others. On the West Coast of the Province there is an area that has a tremendous disadvantage, something like \$400 per pupil that actually the school board has at its disposal. In other parts you have more than double that. I do not have the statistics right in front of me and I do not want to quote from the document in case I have to table the document, and I do not want to do that because it is not yet ready to be presented, and it is not my document and it is not the minister's document. But in any event, I am concerned about the lack of unanimity, the lack of

MR. LUNDRIGAN:

homogeneous or homogenous distribution of monies in our Province in education. And partly that relates to school taxes, the inability of certain areas to raise monies. And I hope that when we start to talk about it we will not get bogged down on the argument about school taxes, whether we should or should not have them. But I have got my big doubts as to whether the cost of collecting and the unevenness of the monies that are being collected, therefore the money that can be put into the system is not a reason for us to have a second look at it. I would like to see us open that up a little bit. I would like to see the minister lay on the table information as to how much money the various school boards have at their disposal, if certain areas are getting gypped because of the inability to pay, or one reason or another, or if other areas are getting gypped because they have the ability to pay like Gander, as an example. Then I wonder if that should not be looked at more closely. The School Board Authorities will not go along with it. Not the School Board Tax Authorities -

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member has about half a minute.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Mr. Chairman, I have had my say and I appreciate the opportunity.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, I might say there was a lot of merit in what the hon. gentleman had to say. The hon. member for Grand Falls (Mr. Lundrigan) made some very interesting and valid points. But the hon. gentleman in making these points, Sir, was merely parroting what we had been saying on this side of the House for the last three or four or five years. Now that the hon. gentleman has no Cabinet responsibility and thinks he can be a little freewheeling in his debate the hon. gentleman has just parroted some of the points that we have been making on this side of the House for the last couple of years, especially with regards to the School Tax Authority, Sir. The hon. gentleman did not go so far as to say that he was opposed to the School Tax Authority but we have stated it publicly as our position.

MR. NEARY:

the Liberal position. The Liberal Party's position, Sir, is that we will do away with school taxes and School Taxes Authority as soon as we have the opportunity to form the government of this Province.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible) Why did you bring them in?

MR. NEARY: Why do they bring the hon. gentleman in? That is what I would like to know.

Mr. Chairman, the School Tax Authority, Sir, has to go. And as soon as the people of this Province get an opportunity to go to the polls again and turf out this government, then the sooner they will get rid of the school taxes and the School Tax Authorities. And the revenue, the money to run the schools, the educational system of this Province will come directly from the public treasury.

Now, Mr. Chairman, the hon. Minister of Education (Mr. House), Sir, was a gentleman that I had a little bit of faith in a couple of years ago. Well I must confess, Sir, that my faith in the hon. gentleman has been shattered over the last couple of years. The hon. Minister of Education (Mr. House) has turned out to be a weak-kneed minister, a real powder puff, Sir, a real yes man. And the hon. gentleman had a chance to make his mark in the field of education in this Province.

I remember once I was having a coffee with the present Minister of Education (Mr. House) shortly after he was appointed to that portfolio and I indicated to the gentleman that I had great faith in him. I thought that he had a golden opportunity, a great opportunity to make his mark in the field of education in this Province. And apparently, Sir, he has blown it. The hon. gentleman some how or other, Sir, has himself convinced that all is well in our educational system. And somehow or other the hon. gentleman feels that by making concessions now and by setting up a full-fledged inquiry into our educational system, somehow or other the hon. gentleman feels that that would be political, that somebody would score political brownie

MR. NEARY:

points on it. That is not so, Sir. The fact of the matter is, Mr. Chairman, that our whole educational system at the moment is in turmoil, in chaos. You have confrontations going on between the NTA, between the School Boards, between the students in the University, between the University and the minister, between the students and the government, between the parents and the school boards, between the parents and the government. And the hon. minister cannot deny that.

Never before, Sir, in my experience in public life in this Province have I seen so much controversy. And it is undermining, Sir, our educational system. It is

MR. NEARY: destroying the credibility of the various groups that are involved in these confrontations and it is detrimental to the system and the minister should be doing something about it. The thing that the minister should be doing about it, Mr. Chairman, is instead of appointing - having the Premier announcing a two-man task force to report on the specific matter of class sizes, the government should have appointed a committee, a representative committee, a representative group to do a fact-finding thorough audit of our whole educational system to see if we are getting the best value for our educational dollar, to see if we are, as the hon. gentleman who just spoke from Grand Falls said, to see if we are headed in the right direction. Most important, Sir. Are we getting the best value for our educational dollar? Are we headed in the right direction in education in this Province? Does the curriculum need to be changed? That is a matter of grave concern, Sir, to a lot of people in this Province. One thing that the hon. gentleman for Grand Falls said that I resent very much, Sir, and that is the fact that the hon. gentleman said he would welcome comments from the professionals in the House. Well what about the parents in this Province who do not have - the professionals have a vested interest well what about the parents. Do not the parents have the right to decide the kind of education that their children should have? Mr. Chairman, under the United Nations Bill of Human Rights, under the constitution, Sir, of human rights it clearly states that the parents have the right to decide the type of education they wish their children to have. The parents not the educators, not the bureaucrats, not the professors over at Memorial University, not those who have a vested interest in furthering their own ends feeding at the public trough, it is the parents that have the prior right to decide the education of their children and they are always ignored. And in this matter of setting up a two man Task Force Sir, to report on the sizes of the classes in our school system the government chose to ignore the parents who are very concerned about the educational system. What we need, Sir, and what this party stands for and what we will do when we form the government of this



MR. NEARY: Province we will set up a fullfledged investigation into our educational system. I do not know if we can - we will have to wait, I guess, because obviously the minister and the government are not going to do it. It should be done now. It should have been done years ago. It is overdue, Mr. Chairman. And, Sir, that committee, when we do set it up, when the Liberal Party forms the administration of this Province, the committee will comprise of representatives of business, of the community, of taxpayers, of parents and others, Sir, who are in a position to do a thorough indepth audit of our educational system to see if we are getting the best value for our costly educational dollar. Mr. Chairman, as I said this inquiry, this fact-finding inquiry cannot be conducted by those who are part and parcel of the system as the hon. gentleman indicated.

MR. J. LUNDRIGAN: On a point of clarification I certainly did not do what the hon. member is suggesting I did I carefully pointed out that I would welcome comments from all the members and I would appreciate comments from all the members. I was particularly interested I said to seek comments from some of the professional people because one time we had no teachers in the Legislature, now we have eight or ten teachers in the Legislature. I think the member is being a little bit unfair and I am particularly sensitive on that point because I would not want anybody to get the impression, as learned gentleman are supposedly the experts - to get the impression that any of my remarks were tending to undermine or belittle the presentation of the people who are not professional educators.

MR. NEARY: I accept the hon. gentleman's explanation, Sir, I am beginning to realize that we may have an ally, a friend in trying to get this independent fact-finding committee that I am talking about, we may have indeed have found a friend in the gentleman on that side of the House. But the fact remains, Sir, that no matter how well intentioned this

MR. NEARY: two-man task force maybe, their objectivity, Mr. Chairman, will always be suspect since they are living by the present system.

Now, Mr. Chairman, the hon. gentleman made some other interesting comments about the university and about the high school system, about grade twelve. Mr. Chairman, I do not have to tell this House my own personal views on grade twelve. I believe my colleague, the member for St. John's West, the former Minister of Education announced a grade twelve when he was Minister of Education. The only thing is the gentleman did not get a chance to implement it. Ever since then, Sir, I have advocated inside and outside of this House, and I argued it when I was in Cabinet, that we should have grade twelve, that it should be a part of our high school educational system in this Province. And the hon. gentleman rightly so pointed out that they have this foundation programme or this junior college programme at the university which is very expensive and all it does is upgrade students who could not make it in grade eleven, whose marks were not good enough to qualify for entry into the university. So they brought in a glorified upgrading programme the same as they had out in the regional college in Corner Brook. For the first year that college operated, and it probably still is pretty well the same, and they tried to camouflage it under the disguise of their running a first year university programme which is not so, Mr. Chairman, it is mainly a glorified upgrading programme, this costly institution out on the West Coast is running. I know, Sir. I know students who are going there. Students are going there -

MR. W. HOUSE: First and second year university.

MR. NEARY: First and second year my eyeball. Mr. Chairman, I personally have talked to students in that college who are doing upgrading in math, upgrading in English so that they can qualify to go in and take courses as nursing assistants in the hospitals. So, Mr. Chairman, the hon. Minister of Education better do a little more checking into that institution, Sir. And you know, Mr. Chairman, with all due respect to the university, the hon. gentleman was saying, well it would qualify them

MR. NEARY: for going into the university and so on. Well we could go through the argument again, Sir, that we have a surplus of PHD's, we have a surplus of BA's and BSC's and we now have a surplus of teachers. One of my suggestions would be, Sir, to the hon. Minister of Education is that they shut down the Department of Education at Memorial for three years until they see where they are going instead of not doing what they are doing in the vocational school, running all kinds of courses for apprentice electricians, welding courses, fourteen and fifteen courses going on all over the Province and all kinds of people unemployed in these trades. The minister will get up and argue with us in a few minutes, well you have to keep educating them, you have to keep training them. The hon. minister should listen to what his colleague behind him just said, that we have jobs going begging in this Province because the minister has not researched the employment market to see where the jobs are and then teach some of the trades and skills and professions that the hon. gentleman just mentioned in that little piece of paper he had in front of him.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to see a fact-finding investigation into our educational system especially the post-secondary educational system just to see what is going on in that university. Are they teaching the right things over there? Are they training our people so they can go out in the world and find jobs or are they just broadening their education, just going through this intellectual procedure to broaden their education so when they go out in the world they will be able to sit down and have little intellectual discussions at two and three and four o'clock in the morning in somebody's kitchen? Well, if that is what they are doing well and good, or are they training young men and young women in this Province to go out and find jobs? I am told, Sir, and I do not know if it is correct or not but I am told that there are professors at that university who do not take their holidays when they are supposed to, they find some excuse to get out of the Province when the weather gets bad and they tape their lectures and then they play the tapes in the classroom. Did the hon. gentleman ever hear that before,

MR. NEARY: play their tapes to their students on a tape recorder.

Mr. Chairman, I do not know if that is correct or not, Sir. I have been told by students that it is, that they report in for their classes and somebody turns on a tape recorder and here you have a high-paid professor gallivanting around the world, nobody there, no instructor, just a fellow to operate a machine.

MR. R. MOORES: Audio visual.

MR. NEARY: Audio visual, my hon. friend behind me says. Can you imagine, Mr. Chairman, the high salaries and the fringe benefits that these people get and at the drop of a hat, any excuse at all and they are gone out of the Province.

AN HON. MEMBER: Gone to a conference.

MR. NEARY: Gone to a conference somewhere and just turn on their tape recorder -

MR. RIDEOUT: A conference that would take a couple of weeks.

MR. NEARY: - and have the lectures taped and the students come in and they cannot ask questions, they cannot talk back to the tape record. They cannot ask any questions.

MR. W. ROWE: They will have to tape the question too.

MR. NEARY: That is right. That will be the next thing that will happen. They will have to tape the questions. And this is not good enough, Sir.

And so, Mr. Chairman, this whole matter of controversy, confrontation in our educational system, is going to continue, it is going to get worse. The minister is going to get clobbered - look, I have a letter here in front of me, it was sent to me today, I received it in the mail today, and it is in an envelope addressed to "Mr. Steve Neary, member for Bell Island, Government House, St. John's."

AN HON. MEMBER: Behind the times. That must have been

MR. NEARY: It says, "Dear Mr. Neary," -

MR. NOLAN: Yes, Your Honour.

MR. NEARY: "The Bell Island branch of the Newfoundland Teachers Association deplores any cutbacks in educational spending in Newfoundland. This Province is already spending far below the national average and we feel that any further reduction will have a detrimental effect upon the meager programmes at present offered in our schools. A forced curtailment, or elimination of any programme, especially of the specialist field, will force our children to settle for less than what they as young Canadian citizens have a right. Therefore we ask you to speak and vote in the House of Assembly against any cutbacks in education. Help secure Newfoundland's future."

Mr. Chairman, the hon. gentleman will argue that this is a promotion by the Newfoundland Teachers' Association well-orchestrated, I have heard the hon. gentleman say, well-orchestrated and it is a lobby. Well sobeit, Sir, but not only is the NTA carrying on a lobby and raising matters and doubts with regard to our whole educational system, the parents are doing it, the business community is doing it, the school boards are doing it, members of the House of Assembly are doing it, the taxpayers are doing it. And yet the minister stands up, brazenly, weak-kneed, powder-puffish and says, "No, we are not going to grant you a full-fledged independent enquiry into our educational system. We do not care whether 2,000 students come up and demonstrate in front of Confederation Building, we will just laugh it off. We could not care less if these young Newfoundlanders are concerned about their future. We could not care less how much they are in debt when they leave that university. We could not care less how much we discourage these young people from getting a good education so they can go out in the world and find themselves a job and earn a living for themselves and their families. Laugh it off. It is just all orchestrated by the NTA."

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Chairman, that is not so.

And the minister should not be insulting the teachers and the NTA and the people of this Province by saying that it is well orchestrated and the hon. gentleman says, "Oh, I can take it." The hon. gentleman has no intention of ever running in politics again. The hon. gentleman will retire from public life after his term of office is over. But the hon. gentleman thinks he can brazen it out. He is under tremendous pressure right now but the hon. gentleman says, "Well, we will just shrug it off by saying that it is a big lobby."

But, Mr. Chairman, two more years may go by before we, on this side of the House, get a chance to form the government of this Province, and that is two years -

MR. HOUSE:

Do such a good job in Education as

you did before.

MR. F. ROWE:

There were no layoffs.

MR. NEARY:

The hon. gentleman has brought our whole educational system, brought it into turmoil and chaos.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Do not lose control now, 'Wally'.

MR. NEARY:

Did that happen before? The foundation was laid for the hon. gentleman, and the hon. Minister of Education has made a mess of it, a complete mess. And now the only way the situation can be remedied, Sir, that the air

MR. NEARY: can be cleared is to set up this independent committee, independent fact-finding committee. The minister shrugs and laughs that off. Mr. Chairman, everybody but everybody, but the minister wants to see an independent study made of our educational system. Everybody but the minister! Everybody is out of step except the minister. The minister, as I say, Sir, is going to retire from public life whenever the election is called and he is going to out, Sir, instead of making his mark in education as I thought the hon. gentleman would, he is going to leave the whole educational system in this Province in a mess, and the Task Force which was announced the other day, Sir, will do nothing but multiply the number of deskbound bureaucrats that we now find in the Department of Education. It will do nothing, Sir, this two-man Task Force to halt the deterioration of the system as already admitted there last year by the hon. Minister of Education.

So let us have a real committee, Mr. Chairman, to investigate and report on the state of education in Newfoundland and Labrador, Sir, and if the Government wants to go with this two-man Task Force then let them make their report to the independent committee that I am referring to.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for Mount Scio.

DR. R. WINSOR: Mr. Chairman, it has been a very enjoyable, informative debate this afternoon until the last speaker who now has become an expert on education with his usual -

MR. NEARY: Go on, you big political ignoramous.

AN HON. MEMBER: Withdraw that.

DR. R. WINSOR: That is typical, Mr. Chairman, of what we expect from that hon. member. The more we ignore him, the better.

MR. J. CARTER: Withdraw that.

MR. COLLINS: And then withdraw yourself.

AN HON. MEMBER: Withdraw it.

DR. R. WINSOR: Everything all right, Sir?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

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

The hon. gentleman who last spoke was walking from his seat to the door and shouting that somebody on this side was an ignoramous. I think he was referring to the hon. gentleman now going to speak. I think that remark should be withdrawn.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would ask the hon. member to withdraw that remark made as you are leaving the Chamber, please.

MR. NEARY: I presume Your Honour is saying a 'political ignoramous' is not parliamentary, is that correct?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is what I am saying. I ask you to withdraw it, please.

MR. NEARY: Well, I want to know what it is I am withdrawing.

AN HON. MEMBER: You are withdrawing -

MR. CHAIRMAN: Referring to the hon. member as a political ignoramus.

MR. NEARY: 'Political ignoramous' is not parliamentary, is it, Sir? Well if it is not, if Your Honour says it is not parliamentary language - but I thought it was then I withdraw it, if Your Honour says it is not parliamentary.

MR. MORGAN: Go out and have your coffee and keep quiet.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for Mount Scio.

DR. R. WINSOR: Continuing my remarks, many of the members in this hon. House are parents and I guess, as all parents, we are very concerned about the quality of education. I think every parent wants the best that he can possibly provide for his children. But, Mr. Chairman, have we proved in Newfoundland that we as parents do enough to involve ourselves in the educational system to improve the quality of education for our children? Our parent-teachers associations are, with a notable few exceptions, usually very weak in most communities and most of the



DR. R. WINSOR: teachers I have talked to have made a point of mentioning the fact of lack of interest of many parents in becoming involved in the educational system. Discipline by parents today in many cases is non-existent and the teacher in the schoolroom is left with the problem of controlling some children who have obviously never had any discipline in their homes. I wonder would the minister give his opinion on what we can do to give the teacher a little more authority in the classroom because in most cases they are rather helpless and you get one or two people disrupting the educational process, just as in this House one or two people tend to upset the proceedings.

In one case, last night I was talking to the principal of one of the schools here in St. John's, and I was rather amazed when she told me that fifteen students in their kindergarten class were not even toilet-trained. Now how far does the education system have to pick up for lack of parental responsibility?

DR. WINSOR: When we talk about the quality of education we mean to develop every child to its fullest potential. On the practical level, what effort are we making to prepare children for a world which now has high unemployment, for better use of their leisure time where now, in some cases, unions are asking for a thirty-five hour week? What does the individual do with this leisure time to make it productive and enjoyable, for full spiritual and mental and emotional and physical development? Or are we content to produce a nation of people who on their weekends sit in front of television sets and just guzzle beer? These are the questions that have to be asked and answered when we are talking about the quality of education. Now we have realized now that the problem of declining enrollment has gone on for the past five years. But lack of leadership on the part of government, Memorial University, the Teachers' Association, the School Boards - They are not recognizing this trend and researching ways to use that decline in student enrollment in a positive way. In the last five years our student enrollment has decreased by 6,600 pupils yet the number of our teachers has increased by over 1,200 to now, and the latest figure I have is 7,875. This is 1,600 more teachers than were present in 1971 when this government took office.

MR. MORGAN: Repeat the facts again.

DR. WINSOR: The student enrollment in the last five years has decreased by 6,600 pupils and yet we have increased our teachers by 1,200 to now we have 7,875 teachers in the Province. This is 1,600 more teachers than were present in the last year of the Liberal dictatorship. At the time the salaries for teachers, the last year of the Liberal regime, was \$44 million and now it is \$150 million. So you can see that this government certainly cannot be accused of neglecting education in the monetary sense. Declining enrollment is causing a reduction in the number of regular teaching positions this year by approximately 127. Most of these will be by natural attrition of retirement and so forth so that really about twelve to fourteen, possibly, will lose their positions. There will be absolutely no change in the

DR. COLLINS: number of specialist teachers provided to school boards and no change in the number of teachers for slow learners and handicapped children.

Mr. Chairman, an interesting statistic again - a recent survey conducted by the Newfoundland Teachers' Association and the Department of Education involving three Newfoundland school boards indicates that there is a large number of non-teaching periods in our high schools and junior high schools. In some instances the non-teaching or free periods represent over twenty per cent of the teachers twenty-five hours in structure a week. So certainly here is a case that probably greater efficiency could be considered, greater efficiency in the utilization of manpower. Last year our government spent \$271,884,000, which was 23.1 per cent of the current account expenditure. This year we have increased it by \$14 million up to \$285,447,500 which is now this year 26.5 per cent of the total current account expenditure. The answer, Mr. Chairman, has to be in better utilization of our manpower in education.

There are certain things that should be looked into and I would ask the minister to again give his views. Are supervisors necessary in our present educational set-up? Can we afford the shortest school year in Canada, 187 days? Can we afford the shortest school day in Canada? These are things that I would hope the Task Force which the minister has set up will certainly resolve this Task Force will receive briefs by all interested people concerned with education and that these questions possibly will be answered without bias. Under the circumstances of financial consideration, I feel the government did not have much choice

DR. WINSOR:

except to make the decision that it made even though it was a very difficult one. I agree that the third phase of the proposed pupil-teacher formula should be implemented when we can afford it. But first I would want to study the results of the Task Force and consider the efficiency of our system before committing large increases in expenditure. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. We did have a few minutes where we could speak without interruption. I am sorry to see that that gentleman is now back.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

I recognize the hon. member for Baie Verte-White Bay.

MR. RIDDEOUT: Mr. Chairman, before this head passes there are a few words I want to say. I think there have been a number of good discussions on Friday and again today with regards to the direction of education in this Province. But I want to express a few concerns, as a member representing predominantly a rural district, with regards to the effect that the proposed cutbacks are going to have on education in the part of the Province that I represent. I want the minister - I am not going to shoot any rhetorical questions at him - but I want the minister to get his pen ready and to give us some real answers when he gets up to speak next because I am very concerned, Mr. Chairman, about what is going to happen not to schools in St. John's or schools in Gander or Corner Brook, but what is going to happen to schools in Woodstock or Englee or Pacquet or Nipper's Harbour and those places. That is where the crunch of the government policy is going to be felt, Mr. Chairman, in rural Newfoundland. And that is what we have, the rural versus the urban centers in this particular policy.

It is not going to affect the quality of education very much at Brother Rice High School in St. John's if they lose a teacher. It may mean that there will be two periods of physical education per week instead of three, or two of industrial

MR. RIDEOUT:

arts instead of three, something of that nature. But the quality of education will not be affected very much in Brother Rice or Holy Heart or Prince of Wales Collegiate if they lose a teacher or maybe even two teachers. But, Mr. Chairman, if the elementary school in Woodstock loses a teacher, their kindergarten programme is shot right down the drain. If the high school in Englee, which has three teachers there at the moment teaching three grades, IX, X and XI, loses a teacher, which they are going to lose this year, it means that IX and X must be put in the one classroom. And is the minister going to tell me that the quality of education is not going to suffer in those particular circumstances? So it is the rural Newfoundland that this government so proudly, and I must say rightly so, wants to talk about that is going to suffer with this type of policy. And to get up and talk about teacher cutbacks in the urban centers and in the larger schools and in the larger boards and to frill it off with that kind of argument, Mr. Chairman, I would submit is not treating the situation with the dignity and the courtesy that the problem warrants. It is rural Newfoundland versus urban Newfoundland when it comes to education.

The fisherman's son who goes to the school in LaScie deserves the same quality of education as a doctor's or lawyer's son who goes to the school in St. John's. And if they are going to cut back on teachers and the number of teachers to the rural boards in this Province, and if you are going to increase the financial burden on those rural boards, which you have done by increasing the amounts that they must pay for school bus transportation, if you are going to do all that, Mr. Chairman, does the minister have the gumption as a former educator to stand in this House and say that that is not going to affect the quality of education in this Province? It is not going to affect the quality of education in St. John's or Corner Brook - I know that. That is not the argument - but it is going to affect the quality of education in La Scie and Englee and other rural communities in this Province, rural communities and districts represented by gentlemen

MR. RIDEOUT:

on the other side just the same as gentlemen on this side. That is the argument that we must get at, Mr. Chairman, and that is the fact that must be placed on the table.

We know there has been a decline in student population in this Province, nobody is going to argue with that, but the results of that decline must be spread evenly across the educational system and not forcing the rural areas of the Province to suffer at the expense of other areas.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I want to speak

MR. RIDEOUT: specifically about school bus transportation. The government in its wisdom has decided to increase the amount that boards must contribute to 10 per cent - up 5 per cent. There was a time in this Province, I believe, when the government paid 100 per cent of school bus transportation. Then they let it go down to 95 per cent and now it is gone down to 90 per cent.

Since some people have been quoting statistics here today and figures, I want to refer to a few statistics and I want to talk about rural school boards in Newfoundland versus the school boards in the populated centres, in the urban centres of the Province. Take, for example, the Notre Dame Integrated School Board which has an enrolment of 4,329 students and which pays out \$550,000 for school bus transportation. The board's share of that rate under the old 5 per cent formula was \$6.35 per pupil - the board's share. Under the new 10 per cent formula that they must work under this coming year, it is \$12.70 - it is double. Now are the government going to give that board more money to make up that difference? Is that the policy, Mr. Chairman? That certainly is not the policy. And the same goes for all the rest of the rural boards in this Province. Take an urban board, for example, to balance out the argument. Take the Avalon Integrated Board which has 13,000 students and their cost for transportation is \$590,000. Just notice the difference. The Notre Dame Integrated had 4,300 students - \$550,000; the Avalon Integrated Board, 13,000 and they only spent \$590,000 on transportation. The cost per pupil at the 5 per cent ratio was \$2.27 and under the new formula it will be \$4.53 - an increase, but certainly not in the same boat as the rural boards will have to cope with.

MR. RIDEOUT:

So what we are saying, Mr. Chairman, and what is blatantly obvious to anybody who will stop for a minute or two and look at the statistics - and this applies to every rural board in this Province - that the government with one slash in the Budget has doubled the amount that school boards across this Province must pay for school bus transportation. And where are they going to get that money? There are two sources: they can get it from local taxation, and I will have a few words to say about that in a minute, they can get it from local taxation, and I am not going to argue one way or the other at this moment for school taxes or against them, that is beside the point, but one of the sources will be local taxation; the other source, Mr. Chairman, they only have one other source left, and that is the operating grant that the governments give to the school boards to operate their schools. Now, if the amount of money that must be spent on school bus transportation is doubled and if the school boards cannot get it from local taxation, which they cannot, I will prove to you in a second, where else are they going to get it? They must take it from the operating grant given to them by the Department of Education to operate the boards and what does that mean. That means that the few measley dollars that they have per pupil to operate and maintain the schools is slashed even further, because they have to have enough money to pay the school bus contract. And that is plain as the eye in your head. And if they cannot get it from local taxation sources then the only other source open to them is the maintenance grant given to them by the Department of Education. So they have to take that money and use that money to make up the



MR. RIDEOUT: difference in the school bus contract. And of course, that means that they are suffering even further, that they do not have the money to maintain their school systems as they should, they do not have the money to put into instructional equipment as they should, they do not have the money to buy instructional aids as they should - they have to take that money to find enough dollars to pay the bus contract. And the Minister of Education says that the boards are not going to suffer. He says the quality of education is not going to suffer. Mr. Chairman, it is the most foolish argument ever you could imagine.

Now let us look at some of the local tax sources open to school boards in this Province and what the amount is per pupil. I have used two boards in the previous argument and I will use the same two again now, that is, the Notre Dame Integrated board as an example of a rural Newfoundland school board and the Avalon Integrated as an example of an urban school board. The Notre Dame Integrated School Board, for example, they have a \$50 poll tax - there is no mil rate on property, but just a straight \$50 poll tax, and the income per pupil to that board from

MR. T. RIDEOUT: that tax, Mr. Chairman, is \$28.50. The Avalon Intergrated Board, which is the example I am using of an urban school board, have a \$75 poll tax. Again there is no mil rate in the jurisdiction of this particular board. But that amounts to \$100 income per pupil. Now you know what that means, Mr. Chairman; it means again that the local tax source, the only the source that the boards have to make up the difference, the local tax source again is loaded from the beginning against the rural board. So the quality of education again has got to suffer in the rural areas on those two accounts. So the conclusion is obvious: the boards which are most severely penalized through the distribution of government funds are the same boards that have the weakest tax base from which to obtain the difference locally. Now that is exactly what this policy has done, Mr. Chairman. This policy has continued, instead of there should be - almost anybody will get up and say there should be a reasonable chance at the same education level anywhere in the Province that you chose to live. You cannot have that with the policy that has been enunciated by this minister in this particular Budget. It is loaded, front end loaded against the quality of education in rural Newfoundland, and it is loaded because of the doubling of the amount that the boards must pay towards the cost of pupil transportation, that is one reason; and then the second reason is that the boards will suffer further if they are rural boards because they have not got the ability to raise locally the difference that they must make up in the bus contracts, and the only other source they can go for that money is from the operating grant. Therefore the operating grant will be used to pay bus contracts at the expense of education in the schools. Now that is it in a nutshell, that is what this government has done. - You can get up - and you can through figures around about the great increases in teachers salaries, you can do all that kind of thing, Mr. Chairman, And I am not going to even mention teacher layoffs because as far as I am concerned that is not the issue. The issue is the quality of education and the quality of education that must be maintained in rural Newfoundland, because my son who goes to school in Fleur de Lys should have the same reasonable chance of being educated as anybody else's son who

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MR. T. RIDEOUT: goes to school in Grand Falls or Gander or St. John's. And it is not going to happen, it cannot happen under the particular formula that this Minister of Education has allowed to be perpetrated on education in this Province. Now I was really interested in some of the comments, Mr. Chairman, made by the member for Grand Falls. I think he made a number of excellent points in his speech and I hope they will be taken into consideration by the minister. But the member got a great kick out of saying, 'Are we offering chemistry to our students? Are we offering physics to our students? If not, we should be,' is what he was saying. Well, Mr. Chairman, if we are going to - let me use the case of a small school, about 200 students, in Baie Verte, for example, where we could offer those students chemistry and physics and biology and a general science course these students and offer seven and eight students chemistry. But that school this year is losing two teachers. They will not get chemistry this year. Where we could offer -

MR. HOUSE: Where is this?

MR. T. RIDEOUT: In Baie Verte. Where we could offer seven and eight students chemistry, they are not going to be able to be offering this year when there is two teachers less on the staff. We are not going to be able to offer them biology, Mr. Chairman. They will be lucky if they can be offered one science because you just will not have the bodies to do it. The Minister of Education knows that as well as I do.

MR. HOUSE: The two boards in that area, the Green Bay Intergrated Board and the RC School Board are only losing a total of eight teachers. Two of them going from one school?

MR. T. RIDEOUT: One of them will be lost in Baie Verte.

AN HON. MEMBER: One of them.

MR. T. RIDEOUT: One from the RC Board. There will be a teacher taken out of St. Pius the Tenth High School, so that means - and I want to get back to something else. The gentleman for Mount Scio (Dr. Winsor) while he may be right and I would assume again he is using St. John's statistics, I would assume again he is using urban statistic where he talks about free periods 20 per cent of the time to the teachers. Well I can tell you it is not 20 per cent of the time of the teachers in St. Pius the Tenth High School where I happened

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MR. T. RIDEOUT:                   to have my experience, where you take  
a teacher for four or five students and offer them chemistry, and you  
take a teacher for four or five more and offer them physics and you  
take a

MR. RIDEOUT: physics, and you take a teacher for a half dozen others and offer them economics, and once you take a teacher out of that situation, Mr. Chairman, then some of those courses obviously have to be dropped, you just do not have the body to do it. So the layoff of teachers is not the issue and I am not concerned about that. What I am concerned about is the effect that it is going to have on education in the rural parts of this Province, and what effect the government policy on transportation of students is going to have in the rural parts of this Province, because those are the areas that are going to suffer, Mr. Chairman, and I hope that the minister has made some notes to tell me what he is going to do about this doubling of the share that the boards must pay for school bus contracts. What is he going to do about it? Because the boards are going to have no choice only to take it from their operating grant, which means that -

AN HON. MEMBER: Which is increased.

MR. RIDEOUT: - they cannot raise it locally. So what is he going to do about that? And what is he going to do about the effect of teacher cutbacks in rural boards - not in the urban boards, I am not concerned about it, they can cut back maybe a half dozen or so and not affect the quality of education to the same degree that they are going to be affected in the rural parts of the Province. And the other thing, Mr. Chairman, that blanks the mind is that the minister, a former educator, a former principal, a former superintendent who must have been making the same arguments to previous governments that we are making to him now - if he were worth his salt at all I would say he was doing it - how the minister can

MR. RIDEOUT: allow this to happen before the potential impact on education in this Province has been assessed. How can the minister allow it to happen? I hope the minister will give us some reasonable explanation -

AN HON. MEMBER: He is getting out.

MR. RIDEOUT: Well, maybe he is getting out. Maybe the minister is getting out, but he is going to leave behind a legacy that he need not be very proud of, because you are not going to be able to tell what effect those policies are going to have - the minister is going to implement them and then turn around and assess what the effect is. We are not dealing with a piece of birch wood that you are going to make snowshoes out of! You are dealing with lives, you are forming the lives of people right now, and the minister has the gumption to do that and then assess it after. I hope, Mr. Chairman, that the minister is going to give us some real answers before this debate is over.

MR. GOUDIE: Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. the member for Naskaupi.

MR. GOUDIE: Mr. Chairman, I will just take a couple of minutes of the Committee's time to offer a couple of comments. I am obviously not qualified in any way to speak with any education, shall we say, on the topic, but -

AN HON. MEMBER: Are you not a parent?

MR. GOUDIE: I certainly am a parent, a concerned parent, and I want to try to illustrate my concern if I can in the couple of comments I have to offer.

One thing was brought to my attention just last week, one glaring problem I think we

MR. GOUDIE: have in the education field in this Province, and I will read a couple of paragraphs from a paper I was given which asks the question, Is there an adult illiteracy problem? Did you know that according to the 1971 Canada census, 49 per cent of the adult population of Newfoundland or approximately 115,000 people have not achieved a Grade VIII education? A more recent survey tends to indicate that five million adults in Canada and 100,000 in Newfoundland either cannot read and write at all or at least have serious reading difficulties. We may argue with the accuracy of these figures, but they are reliable enough to demonstrate that a serious problem exists. This problem would be serious enough if it applied to old people who did not have a chance to go to school in their youth or the people who do not have the ability to acquire the necessary skills. Unfortunately, we know that large numbers of capable young adults are included. Many adults who might be classed as illiterates seem to function well in society, but it must be admitted that to be unable to read and write or to be able to do so with great difficulty is a serious handicap. Can you imagine not being able to sign a cheque , fill out an application form , locate a street address , consult a telephone book , read a newspaper ad , order a meal from a menu? There are scores of thousands of such adults in this Province today, and I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, that probably every hon. member of the House has run into a situation where someone has had problems with unemployment insurance forms, not being able to read them or being able to fill them out. They know they qualify for

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MR. GOUDIE: unemployment insurance, but how do they cope with the forms? And there are so many other examples as well, I suppose, that hon. members could give.

But I can only base my comments in relation to illiteracy in adults to some figures on Labrador in the adult education scheme there and obviously all over the Province as well, but these



MR. GOUDIE:

figures are effective, or cover the period from September 1977 to the present and, rather than go through the whole list, some totals for courses taught and so on.

In that time period there were 226 courses taught involving 162 instructors, a total of 11,950 hours being spent and 29,055 students involved. Now the courses range from high school courses to woodworking, to automobile repairs, to small engine repairs, right on down through the line, and I think that is the very important aspect of education in this Province that some people might overlook. I think, before I forget it, as I said at the beginning of my remarks, I am not qualified in any way to speak on this topic, and there have been many interesting points made but I think we might have an even more interesting discussion if the pages, for instance, were allowed to offer their comments on the education system and the effects of cutbacks and everything else which is taking place. I am sure they have some thoughts and some points to make on the whole thing.

Last year there was some discussion in the House on community colleges and I believe there is one now set up on the West Coast of the Province, a community college. Is it operating?

AN HON. MEMBER:

Yes.

MR. GOUDIE:

Yes. But it is my contention, Mr. Chairman, that if this is the concept of education we are going to be getting into that fairly soon this sort of a concept should be instituted in Labrador. Everyone realizes the size of the country up there and the population. We have gone through that so many times before that it is not necessary to repeat it. But if the facilities of a community college can be introduced to that part of our Province and the facilities of the college itself brought to the communities, instructions in two or three-week courses in whatever field, then I think that would be an extremely valuable contribution to our education system. You have communities in

MR. GOUDIE: Coastal Labrador where you run into problems with the language, and that again is another point I would like the hon. Minister, if he would, to comment on, and that is the practicality or validity, if you will, of offering instruction in high school and other levels of education in the native languages of Indian and Inuit. There is an effort, or at least was over the last three or four years, an effort on the part of quite a number of high school students, particularly at Northwest River, who are concerned with that very problem and they were doing something about it at that time in terms of lobbying and recommending and trying to bring about this sort of a benefit to the school system, of offering instruction for a certain period of time during the day in the native tongues, not only, obviously, to accommodate students who may have problems with the English language but also as one means of preserving the native cultures of our Province. I would like to hear the Minister, if he would, comment on the practicality of the community college concept for Labrador where instructors can be brought to communities, especially in Coastal Labrador where only in the last two or three years, I think, students out there were able to get a high school education without having to travel either to Northwest River or to Wabush or to St. John's.

Prior to schools being built and teachers brought in to instruct high school classes, I know, for instance, one person, Bart Jack, who is obviously well-known, his name is well-known all over the Province, I believe was a student in St. John's here for something like three years in order to complete his high school. That was a problem all along the Labrador Coast over the years except for the last one or two. I do not think facilities play so much a role, or should play so much a role in our education system as the instructors themselves and a few little tools they may have to take along with them to communities and offer courses in all kinds of things like woodworking and the other topics I mentioned here just a few moments ago. But I did want to make a couple of these points in relation to illiteracy in

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MR. GOUDIE: adults in our Province, to the adult education programs that exist and the community college idea, and perhaps the Minister might address himself to one or more of these remarks when he gets up

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for Carbonear.

MR. R. MOORES: I would like just to make a few comments on the estimates of the Minister's department albeit we have not gotten to the various Heads and Sub-heads.

Before I decided to get up to speak, Mr. Chairman, I jotted down a few notes with regard to two particular topics that we have been discussing at length today and on Friday, teacher cutbacks and student aid as it relates to Memorial University.

When I was thinking of my notes for teacher cutbacks, I wrote down three specific headings that I thought would present on behalf of the teachers in my district and the teachers in this Province why teacher cutbacks should not be undertaken. There were the drop-out rates in this Province, the quality of programs offered, and the attitude and inclination of Government as they relate to the distribution of educational equality in this Province. And lo and behold, would you not know that the hon. member for Grand Falls (Mr. Lundrigan) got up in a twenty-minute speech and gave exactly the same arguments. When I shouted across the House to him, "Are you in favour or not in favour of cutbacks?", he did not answer. He evaded the question altogether. He spoke at length that the drop-out rate in this Province was the highest in Canada, exceeded by no other Province except Alberta and Saskatchewan in areas where the Indian population is high. No other province, no other group of people, group of students in this nation, the drop-out rate is not exceeded, only in Newfoundland.

The quality of the programs offered, the hon. member for Grand Falls spoke of industrial arts, he spoke of greater technical education in our schools, he spoke of the need for physics students, chemistry students, marine biology, and he went on to a host, a tirade of the need for curriculum expansion in our schools, the need for quality education as it relates to course content. And then he spoke of the need for Government, specifically this Government, to make the system in Newfoundland more homogeneous, to make urban and rural more equal, to give the people in LaScie my friend from Baie Verte-

MR. R. MOORES: White Bay (Mr. Rideout) talked of, a better chance at a decent education and then, almost shamefully, he refused to answer my question, 'Are you or are you not in favour of teacher cutbacks?'

The obvious answer to that question had to be that he was not in favour of teacher cutbacks because he gave all the logical, rational reasons why teacher cutbacks in this Province are an embarrassment to this Government and to the very basic fundamental goals of education in this Province.

Mr. Chairman, as for student aid, as usual the minister or any minister - perhaps it is the indigenous right of a minister not to give all the facts when he is referring to or presenting facts to the House. The minister said that each Memorial University student provided that he goes ten terms, which is the normal number of terms necessary to complete one under-graduate degree, nine or ten depending upon the ability of the student, that that student will use \$17,000, directly or indirectly,

MR. R. MOORES:

of which \$7,000 would be Canada Student Loan, and the remainder would be provided by the Province.

MR. HOUSE:

If the student is totally dependent,

I think I clarified that.

MR. R. MOORES:

Making of course, yes, the obvious

assumption that the student is totally dependent as, I might add, most rural students are. Very few rural students are not totally dependent. My experience, and I have been out of Memorial University only three and a half years now, my experience, and I believe at the time that I was in university there were 127 of us from Carbonear, from all the denominational systems in Carbonear there were 127 of us, and I think there were only three or four who were not totally dependent upon the government for financing.

What the minister failed to say, however, is that \$3,000 of that \$10,000 that the government is going to provide the student is for tuition. The student never sees it. It is a gift to the university, to the clique at the university, not to the students, the student never sees it. And what we are talking about here is what contribution the government gives directly to the student to enable him to live decently and like a human being while he is incurring an education that will promote directly the economic advantage of this Province and this nation. It is folly for any person in politics to stand and argue that education in itself is not a promotion of the industrial and economic growth of a country not to mention of course its social fibre.

Therefore student aid is an investment, not, as the minister would imply, a burden on the taxpayer of this Province. It is an investment long-term in the industrial growth and the economic well being of the Province. Why then does the minister want at this time, when it is so critical that this Province have educated and skilled students, that he wants to place a further obstruction in the way of the

MR. R. MOORES: rural student, the student who most needs the education and in the long run, in my opinion, will contribute more to the economy than the urban student? Why at this time does the minister promote a policy whereby he increases the dependency on repayable loans of that students by almost forty per cent?

The other half of my argument on student aid, Mr. Chairman; the hon. member for Grand Falls (Mr. Lundrigan) got up and most eloquently, most sincerely, and I thought most ably, presented the argument that upon graduation from high school the student in this Province has only a meagre possibility of obtaining a job. Job opportunity in this Province is perhaps at one of the lowest, if not the lowest in the Country. Now how can a student repay a Canada Student Loan if he does not get a job?

The other part of the argument is that if there is a high degree of competition in both the professional and technical fields, then the likelihood of that student acquiring a position that pays below the projected income, the projected income when he started university, the likelihood of him receiving a job with that income is far greater in this economically depressed Province. No job opportunity, and if he does get a job it will probably be at a lower salary than he first was "promised" by the government advertising programmes in the mid and late 1960s, and continued on under the Crosbie era in 1972 in this Province.

So the minister is not being completely truthful in that he is trying to do what he can for the university students and that this raising of the student loan level will not affect the number of students who go to university. Of course it will, because the Parsons

MR. R. MOORES:

report of Memorial University clearly stated that education students, there was a very evident decrease once the teachers' allowance in 1970, I believe, or 1969 was withdrawn. So if you follow the consistency of that argument, which the minister, by the way, last year in this House used as supportive data for one of his arguments, if you use the consistency of that argument and now you withdraw the availability of non-repayable funds to the students, then naturally there is going to be a decrease in students which we desperately need in this Province.

The argument that education for education's sake is a good thing still stands. People, as the hon. member for Grand Falls (Mr. Lundrigan) said, people in this day and age, and twenty-five years from now when this society becomes so computerized, so IBM technologized that you will require a Grade XI just to sit down and watch television, to operate the television. So I do not think - and this is a very touchy situation with me because I went to University totally dependant, Mr. Chairman, on the education grant. I was the youngest son in a family of eleven. My father was a fisherman and a carpenter and had no income to talk about and by some unknown blessing I managed to get into University and became totally dependant upon the system -

MR. NEARY: Thanks to Joey Smallwood and the former administration.

MR. R. MOORES: Thanks to Joey Smallwood and the former administration. And when I went to University, the first year that I was there my total Canada Student Loan - this is for two terms - was \$400. The year that I left University, under the Crosbie whimpering, the devastation that was piled onto us by the man who thousands of us at University had supported and along with me - I was one of the chief organizers on campus for this Tory government in 1971, and I make no bones about it and I take back nothing. And within eighteen months of this government coming to power my Canada Student Loan for a year rose to \$1,100, up from \$200 to \$1,100. Now mind you, there were a couple of years in



MR. R. MOORES:

between but there was the increase.

So, Mr. Chairman, this is a touchy situation with me and I can tell the minister on the other side as much about student aid as he knows because I was the Director of Student Affairs at Memorial University. I sat on the Student Loan Appeal Board for two years, and I held almost every conceivable position in students politics at Memorial. And I know the programme inside out. I went on two trips to Ottawa to discuss the matter along with Dean Eaton and others at the University. So you cannot tell me anything about it except that I can tell you that since this government has taken office you have been nothing but bad news for students, rural students totally dependant upon the Student Loan Programme.

In conclusion on the student aid thing, I might warn you that you are going to get it, as the old fellow says, in the back of the neck at the polls in the next election. And the evidence was down in front of this building a few weeks ago. The Memorial University students swung seven districts in 1971, seven, and those seven very clearly gave the present government the edge that it carried

MR. R. MOORES: into the 1972 election.

MR. NEARY: (Inaudible) over at the university.

MR. R. MOORES: You watch! Fair warning, Mr. Minister, fair warning to the government that the tide at Memorial University with the last straw that the minister brought in in this Budget, the last straw, the tide is definitely out for this government.

Mr. Chairman, in conclusion I would like to speak about the attitude, the inclination of this government. The minister will agree that he and I on a number of occasions discussed educational topics, albeit somewhat briefly, and he can recall first when I came to this House that I met him in the corridor and I said, like the hon. the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary), that this whole Province, inasmuch as teachers are concerned and the education profession, know you and are looking to you for the changes that are absolutely essential to bring about a quiet revolution in Newfoundland education. And we discussed some very sensitive issues - the minister can remember, I know he can - very sensitive issues. Myself, I am a trained teacher. I have taught at a number of schools in this Province including two of the largest, Holy Heart of Mary and Prince of Wales Collegiate, and I, myself, along with many others in the profession - I do not call it my profession, because I have never liked teaching for my own reasons - but the educators, the profession in this Province, look to him for guidance because he was one of the most highly appraised educators in this Province. He came with all the credentials that any Minister of Education - none before him could even come close to it, with the possible exception of the member for St. John's West (Dr. Kitchen) who had a very brief

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MR. R. MOORES: term of office.

AN HON. MEMBER: What about Dr. Rowe?

MR. R. MOORES: Well, Dr. Rowe was an enigma. He was something above an education minister; he was many, many things all combined into one man. But I am talking strictly now about a person being capable of dealing with education inasmuch as the hon. minister opposite is.

AN HON. MEMBER: Like you are comparing him with the member for St. John's West (Dr. Kitchen) -

MR. NEARY: You had better be careful -

MR. R. MOORES: Yes, sure, you know -

MR. NEARY: The hon. gentleman had better be careful that the Speaker (Inaudible)

MR. R. MOORES: What has happened since the minister has come to office? And when my hon. colleague from LaPoile (Mr. Neary) says that he has become weak-kneed and powder puffed, now that is somewhat Nearyism, if I could use that word.

AN HON. MEMBER: That is an understatement, if anything.

MR. R. MOORES: But at the same time it is true that the minister has bowed almost inexorably to the pressures of the Cabinet, some of them who have education on the mind all right, but it certainly is not to the benefit of the people of this Province.

MR. NEARY: Some of it would not want our kids learn.

MR. R. MOORES: And the minister with all his credentials, all his professional ability and all of his good intentions when he came to that portfolio, certainly

MR. R. MOORES:                    has lost my respect in the past year; <sup>P</sup> has done exactly what he should not have done and has bowed to those people whose salient argument is economics. And that argument, Mr. Chairman, if I might diverge for a second, is true all over the world, all over the North American continent, at least, where there is a de-emphasis of social programmes and an emphasis on industrial and economic problems to the detriment of the poor people, because once you emphasize economics as versus social programmes, then you are only whipping the backs of the poor and you always do that.

So I suggest to the Minister of Education that he make an about-face, come to grips with his own conscience and promote the advantages of our education system and not the disadvantages as other people in his Cabinet would like to do.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. NEARY: You are only a junior down there in Bay of Islands, a junior.

MR. PECKFORD: Mr. Chairman, I would like to have a few words on this item before it passes. I understand there is only another hour or so left and I do not want to be too long as no doubt the hon. the minister would like to respond now to quite a few speakers who have spoken on this very important matter.

Mr. Chairman, the thing I guess, a lot of members have gotten up in the House today have attempted to express, some of the better speeches that have been heard today in the debate, trying to express some of their real particular specific concerns as it relates to education and the announced cutbacks by the government in the budget and I am sure a lot of them are very real, especially, for example, some of the comments by the hon. member for Baie Verte - White Bay (Mr. Rideout) as he talks about transportation in rural parts of Newfoundland and teacher cutbacks as they apply to smaller school units and hence the larger repercussions that they have as opposed to larger schools in more urban centres, and I think these are real problems that the government has to address as we move on toward the Fall of '78 and on into the new school year. We have got to be careful and we have to have some experts in the field to really take a hard look at that, to see what cutbacks are done are ones that will, in a minimum way, affect education.

Now one of my main concerns over the ongoing debate that is taking place both inside this House and more particularly outside, around the Province, is bandying around the whole question of quality of education. It is a wonderful catch phrase, Mr. Chairman, it covers a multitude of sins very often, I am afraid, and that is what concerns me; that a lot of people

MR. PECKFORD: have very quickly jumped on the wagon of quality of education, very seldom becoming specific about it, to detail exact areas where the quality of education will be impaired. I think the hon. member for Baie Verte - White Bay (Mr. Rideout) attempted to some degree to give it some kind of focus and I think he was being somewhat accurate in some of his comments as he related them to rural parts of the Province. And when you start to see a reduction in teachers as it relates to classroom size, as it relates to the number of grades in a classroom, this kind of thing, I think it is quite possible to make a good argument along those lines. Of course theoretically one could argue that the quality of education is not impaired with nine and ten in one classroom. Theoretically you could, and you could bring a fair amount of weight to bear on both sides of that argument.

I, myself as a former teacher, have seen arguments by educational philosophers and psychologists who argued - one group argued for one grade in a classroom, and there are others who will support evidence that they did at some university, or at a number of high schools in the United States or across Canada, to argue just the opposite. So you can have a great argument, a number of teachers can, on this whole question this quality of education. And I am a bit concerned that a lot of people are just using it as a political football, it sounds good, it gets the parents all excited that their child, that their boy, that their daughter is now suddenly not going to have the golden opportunity to be a doctor or a lawyer or a teacher or a dentist or whatever, or a fish plant worker, or whatever it happens to be, have the same chance of getting there as they did before. Of course this worries mother and this worries father to think that now this is going to happen and the cruel government has imposed upon them such a strict financial controls as to make this impossible. And I think we have carried that a tiny bit to the extreme.

MR. PECKFORD:

I think it is fair to say that we all should be concerned in a general way about the quality of education, about what our students are learning in the classroom, not only in the way of particular subjects like Physics or Biology, or English or History, but also the kinds of attitudes that are coming out. And that is one of my major concerns when we talk about the quality of education; it is not necessarily the particular subjects that are being taught by the teacher in the school environment, but more importantly

MR. PECKFORD: the attitude that the student acquires from their experience in the classroom, and I am a tiny bit skeptical about some of the attitudes that I see young people having today as it relates to their attitude, for example, towards work, their attitude towards a number of different occupations, their attitude towards their Province, their attitude towards their community, this kind of thing. I think that is something that teachers and the educational system have to be careful of; that if we, as we tend to do, provide our students, our children, with all the material amenities of life and send them off to good schools and they are in school for four or five hours of the day - I have noticed that the overall attitude towards work, towards their Province, towards the community, is not what it should be. It is not what it should be, and somebody mentioned, I think it was outside the House that it came up, the whole question of civics and its place in the curriculum or some kind of program like that.

I think, as the member for Grand Falls (Mr. Lundrigan) has mentioned, we have, perhaps, got to get a tiny bit more practical in the development of our curriculum and tune it more towards, and reflect more, the aspirations that the Province has for its own future; that we must orientate some of our programs towards the fishing industry, either through our geography courses or through whatever, but they should be in the curriculum early on and continue in the curriculum right on through the high school up to Grade XI or Grade XII if it is necessary. That has to be in there.

The age-old argument that always comes up when one talks generally about education that people like Alfred North Whitehead and others early in the 1900's put forward, that there is a great argument to be made for the classical education, that you must train in the liberal arts, that they must have this kind of training and that everything else comes after, I am not sure



MR. PECKFORD: I just do not know how valid that is. I do not know how far we should go down that road.

Now Newfoundland is fairly typical, I suppose, of places in the English-speaking world which have taken unto itself that kind of idea that we must have the basic mathematics and we must have the history and we must learn about the Greeks and we must learn about the Romans and all the rest of it, and come right up through to Napoleon and all the rest of them in our history books, and we must have that classical, basic foundation. On top of it must come the more practical things dealing with the province or dealing with the country in which you live.

I do not know if we can afford that kind of perhaps educational luxury in this Province. It could be said when one tries to put a value judgment on it that you do have a 'better person' because you have gone the other route that all the great educational philosophers have warned us to go, and now he has his classics down cold and he has his basic math down cold and he can write a beautiful essay and he can read about the metaphysical poets in the 1700's, and so on, and so that therefore he is an educated person in the context of the way the classical education mode is supposed to be.

Whether we can as a province in Newfoundland, knowing all about the practical things around us, about trying to borrow money and about trying to develop a resource and trying to be less of a dependency upon the Canadian Confederation than we are - put it in that context and I do not know if we can afford the kind of luxury of 'educating' our students in that kind of mode. Surely we are going to have to build into the curriculum something a tiny bit more applicable to the economy of the Province, a tiny bit more applicable to the Government of the Province and the country than we have in the past.

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MR. PECKFORD:

I am a product of the Newfoundland educational system and, Mr. Chairman, I can tell you I can stand up here for about the next hour and give you a chronological dissertation on Greek history from 494 B.C. down to about 130 B.C. without even changing strides, no trouble at all. I cannot do, Mr. Chairman, the same thing as it relates to the history of Canada from 1800 up to 1900, or from 1900 to 1960, whatever you want to take. I do not know what that says for our educational

MR. PECKFORD: system, if anything. I know I can do that with Greek history and I can give you a lot of good lessons and a lot of good information as it relates to how the Romans structured their government situation. I can do all those. I am a product of the Newfoundland educational system. I do not know if therefore one wanted to try to judge what I know on the basis that I would be a better Newfoundlander if I had it the other way around and knew more about Canadian history and Newfoundland history than I do about Greek history or whether I am better off because I do it this way. But I think there is something to be said to - I do not know if it is obligatory. It should be. I guess it has to go between the school boards and the NTA and the government and so on, but we must revamp our curriculum system to more - You still teach the same principles but have the application of those principles as something more immediate and more local. The same principles might apply, because what was the educational system trying to teach me when we talked about Greece and Rome? Was it just to know about the Persians? Was it just to know about the Greeks or the Athenians or the Spartans or the Thebans? Or was I supposed to learn some lesson from the way these people behaved so that I could be a better person and use those mistakes or successes that they had in how I perform as an individual in society? Therefore if it is the latter, which it is, then the examples that should be used should be examples relating to our own history and examples relating to our own economy and hence we need - and here, Mr. Chairman, is where not only government has leadership to play but more importantly in my view because the whole system has been decentralized and where it is breaking down, the full democratization of education in this Province to the degree it has financially, curriculum, building-wise and every other wise, lends itself to a degree of complacency that does not push and motivate educators and teachers in the school system to generate new kinds of programmes which they have the flexibility to do. And that on the board level with your supervisors, with your special education people in those fields, with your groups of English teachers, with

MR. PECKFORD: your groups of history teachers, with your groups of science teachers, they should be able to develop on the local level examples in their own local region - forget the Province, even. There should be a group of teachers who are into the science field in the St. Barbe Coast who can develop a curriculum, a bunch of principles which apply universally as it relates to physics, or biology more importantly if you are talking about marine, and use examples from the coast and use their local areas as the laboratory. The lab happens to be the harbour in wherever - Daniel's Harbour or Bellburns or River of Ponds or somewhere up on that coast or into Bonne Bay or somewhere, that we are not because of the decentralization process we have become as teachers have become in my view complacent that they are not being motivated, for some reason or another, to develop local colour in their curriculum and all that local colour in the context that I am talking about it means that they have not done it. And it is always a danger when you decentralize things which are done in the name of freedom, which are done in the name of the individual having a chance to do his own thing, which are done in the name of democracy, that these things get played over and lost and teachers become complacent because there is so much flexibility now for high school teachers and elementary, all teachers in all levels of education, to develop their own curriculum almost in every subject in the school.

Somebody said earlier we have 7,800 teachers in this Province who have been fairly well trained or educated, or whatever you want to call it, through the university and all the rest of it.

MR. PECKFORD:

We should have more examples. There are good examples now, I know. There are some schools that are doing some excellent work in social studies, for example, and relating it to the local environment and the local habitation of the settlement and so on. There is some excellent work going on. But in my view the degree is not there. It could be more. It should be more. There should be more imaginative curriculum development, not from the Department of Education, stimulated by the Department of Education but coming from the local areas and getting a lot of play locally both in the community as well as in the region and in the Province. And we are not getting that. We are not getting enough of that. We should have a lot more of it.

I do not know how many students in - there is a fish plant, I guess, right in this city, a large fish plant on the Southside. I would like to throw out the question, how many students in this city have ever visited the fish plant in St. John's which is a large employer? No doubt they have visited the Confederation Building or the University, but how many of them have visited the fish plant? I remember in the school that the hon. member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simmons) and myself were involved in for a number of years, how we tried pretty hard, he did and I did and all the staff at the school did for a number of years to get the students out of the physical plant which becomes almost as this building does - who knows better than the hon. members who work and move and have their being in this lousy building, in this building, the heat, the light, it just saps every bit of energy out of you this building does. I had two or three gentlemen in here today who are outdoorsmen from my district and the first comment that the young man made to me when he sat down was, how can you work in this building. This is impossible.

But to get back to my point. What we used to do at that time - I do not know if it is still done in the school there now - we did on a regular basis take the students lock, stock and barrel into the lumber camps and into the mills in Grand Falls or

MR. PECKFORD:

Corner Brook. It is being done now to some degree. But I do not see and perhaps it is because I am too far away from it, I do not see or it is not visible enough if it is there of what we are doing, what the teachers, what the school, what they are doing to develop curriculum based on local examples, using all the laboratory of the Province there for biology, for geography, for history, for social studies, even for your mathematics. We are not doing it enough and we are not generating or cultivating in our students an awareness of where we are as a people.

One of the greatest examples of that you see always in the Americans. Anybody who goes to the United States and comes back are always impressed with this gluing together that they have been able to achieve. I know through their history too because of their revolutions. Perhaps one of our faults is we never had one. We should have had a revolution back 100 years ago. That is partly where our problem lies, that people must have one. But in any case we do not seem to have been able to do it through our system with your so good mediators and the rest of it, to develop a sense of wanting to as a people do something. You know, and if any group of people in Canada has right ground for that it should be Newfoundland because there is isolation and all the rest of it. We have not been able to do it through all the money that has been spent on education, through all the money that is now being spent on education. There is still a lack of direction and a lack of applicability after the fact, after Grade XI, an applicability and a desire to want to make the Province, to be a part of the Province.

A lot of students are neither Newfoundlanders or Canadians. We are almost just North Americans floating around waiting for something to happen. There is no commitment. There is no local commitment to being a Newfoundlander anymore it seems to me. We have lost something in that. We have lost a lot in that and we have got to get back either through the Department of Education or sponsored by it as well as the NTA and the teachers, we need to rethink

MR. PECKFORD:

our direction and put it more in line with the Province and to be not so intent on taking the more classical mode and that hoping that through this classical mode someday all these students will see that this was really worthwhile, the practical mode. And now what we are supposed to do is go on and make it locally applicable because it is too far-fetched and too idealistic and we must be far more applicable in our approach and we must get at attitudes. It is there that we will make some strides. All the other things are more practical, the school bussing and the student aid, our problems that we have to review now to ensure that we are not hurting anybody.

But the overall riding problem is developing students and people who are going to be committed to the ongoing system and trying to make it better rather than an attitude which seems to be, and very often, apathetic and complacent and lackadaisical and they are willing to leave the country and go somewhere else instead of trying to make a commitment to make this place a bit better.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for St. George's.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MRS. McISAAC: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to make a few brief comments as applied to my own particular district. I am quite concerned about what I believe to be a backward step in the field of education in this Province.

The entire Province may not be as seriously affected as schools in the smaller districts, for instance, in my district. These cutbacks may not merely eliminate the so-called frills from the school program but also its essentials. Small schools, for instance, in my district are already having considerable trouble in providing a full program. Presently there are such important subjects as chemistry and physical education that are not available in the area. The subjects of industrial arts, music and art, these subjects do not exist in some of the small schools, and when I say some of the small schools, I would like to point out that the schools I am concerned about in my area are, for instance, Gallants which is a small school; we have the schools in the Robinsons area which cannot offer a full program; and, again, there are schools in the Codroy area, not in the Codroy Valley, but the integrated school in Codroy is having a problem in trying to offer a full program.

Physical education, I believe, is a subject that is required by the Education Act to be included in the island's high school program, if I am not badly mistaken. This subject cannot be provided in some of the schools, for instance, again I say Gallants and Codroy, and in the Robinsons area the high school students are bussed to Jeffreys area to the recreation centre, and in St. Jude's High School in St. Fintan's it is not available. I believe that these schools should have the same opportunity as the larger schools and this is one of my concerns.



MRS. MCISAAC: Presently the elementary school grades are being combined in some areas into single classrooms. In one such class there are twenty-nine kindergartens and Grade I students placed under the responsibility of one teacher which I certainly do not think is fair to the students or to the teacher.

In the Gallants area, I stand to be corrected on this one on the number of teachers, but I believe we have two teachers in the Gallants area to handle from Grade I to Grade VIII which is quite a bit of responsibility for two teachers and certainly not fair to the students considering the number of subjects in each class. From Grade I to Grade VIII, I fail to see how two teachers can handle it. Even if there are only two students in each grade it is still a handful for anybody.

For instance, again, in Heatherton we have one teacher in the R.C. school in Heatherton who is handling from kindergarten to Grade III, so I think that is more than a handful for that one particular teacher to handle, four grades. I believe it may only amount to maybe about twenty students in all but it is still four grades, and the student/teacher ratio of twenty-six to one, this is where it is going to have an effect on this school. For instance where there are only twenty students and this one particular teacher takes from Grade Kindergarten to Grade III, I cannot see for the life of me how the quality of education can be anywhere near the required standard. I do not think we find that in the larger schools; in fact, I know we do not.

I am concerned about what cutbacks will bring to our area, to those schools that I just outlined. It may bring more hardships for rural students

MRS. McISAAC: who already have an unequal opportunity to be exposed to as broad an education as those from the larger centres. And what about the possibility of elimination of programmes for the needs of the slower children? There are children - I am not telling the educators anything when I say that you have the slower children, you have average and then you have the more brilliant ones, and I think that as a result of this new concept that the slower children are the ones who are really going to suffer. That is the way I see it. I am wondering if we can expect further drop-outs because of this. An increase in the drop-out rate may very well come about as a result of further elimination of programmes for the needs of slower children.

MR. HODDER: It will.

MRS. McISAAC: I think it will. I believe in some of the rural areas the number of teachers should be increased rather than decreased.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MRS. McISAAC: Our children, I feel, should have the same opportunity and be exposed to the same subjects as the children in the larger centres, for instance, in the larger towns and cities. And because you live in a rural area I see no reason why you should be prevented from taking those subjects that you will need when you get to university. The only thing that I can see happening there in high school is that the first year that students from the smaller schools or rural areas, the first year that they spend in university is probably just trying to get the basic subjects that they should have been receiving in high school and that

MRS. McISAAC: other children in the larger centres are receiving in high school. So we not only have to send our children away from home and send them to Corner Brook or St. John's to university, but we have to send them in there actually to complete their high school, because the first year they spend in university is a dead loss. It is just to catch up on a couple of subjects that are offered in the other areas.

MR. W. ROWE: That is right.

MRS. McISAAC: And I feel that we should be looking certainly to the smaller schools and giving those children equal opportunities with the children in the larger centres. I cannot see why my child who may live in Robinsons or Gallants or some of the areas where the subjects are not offered, why they should have to waste the first year in university getting the basic subjects. And I hope that the Minister of Education will look at this, because this does not seem like a real problem for people in St. John's or Corner Brook or like I said, the larger centres, but it certainly is a problem in the rural areas and certainly in the small towns where you have, as I pointed out - and I would like for the minister to remember this, that we have schools which have from kindergarten to Grade III with one teacher; we have kindergarten and Grade I with one teacher; we have from Grade I to Grade VIII with two teachers and all the subjects that go with it. So I certainly do not see anything fair about it. Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. the Minister of Education

MR. HOUSE: Mr. Chairman, in the five or six minutes before we break, I want to zero in on a few

MR. HOUSE: things, and I hope I get a chance right at the end to be able to answer all the questions.

First of all, we have been talking about the curriculum and about the Newfoundland materials and an antiquated curriculum. And I want to reiterate that a lot of the things we do in our schools are universal in nature, and I mentioned the basic skills that we teach in our primary and elementary schools are just that. But I want to point out that we are not - and as the member for Green Bay (Mr. Peckford) was saying, there is latitude for school boards to do a lot of the work and I believe if you went around this Province you would see a lot of work going on at the local level that is being, of course,

MR. HOUSE:

of course, promoted by the department. I just want to point out a few things, for instance, about the kind of things he is referring to. Well, of course, the Leader of the Opposition referred to it also when he spoke today. For instance, we have thirty programmes going on on Newfoundland geology to do with mining and that sort of thing which is a nucleus for the teachers to develop a programme. We have about thirty programmes on the natural history of the Province and I am thinking of the plants and animals. Again that is being sponsored by the department. We have seventy programmes going for instance, on communications Newfoundland style - I am just using this as some examples of the things that teachers are using and some of the things that are available for them - communications Newfoundland style in which we talk about the Newfoundland culture and the way we talk and so on, seventy programmes which is to provide, of course, a nucleus for that kind of discussion.

We have sixty programmes on the history and geography of Newfoundland besides the regular programmes that we have at the Grade V, VI and VII levels. We have you and Society, thirty programmes that can and will provide a good nucleus for the civics programme. Now the same thing with Newfoundland traditions, thirty programmes. Government Law and the Citizen, fifteen programmes. All of these kinds of materials are made available from the department. Now the fact that we do not get around to every school and inspect the school and see if these kinds of programmes are being carried out is because we have expertise in the fields, the supervisory staff, the 134 supervisors I mentioned, the thirty-two superintendents and the assistant superintendents that go with them, another seven, are the people who we rely on for the professional expertise and the operation of school boards.

I am quite convinced and, of course, a lot of this work is going on. I mentioned the other day about, for instance, consumer education. I picked up the copy of an exam that the students were given. I picked up also as somebody mentioned some of the programmes that are going on about the fishery. In addition to that I just want to

MR. HOUSE:

point out that we have got programmes developed now in the Newfoundland fishery which is for the primary and elementary grades, a three part introduction to the fishery and that, of course, is continuing to be developed. We have such things as dairy farming in Newfoundland, the seal fishery kit, all of these things. These are programmes that have been developed locally and are being used in schools.

Now, in addition to that we have regular programmes. In the reading programmes there are stories and the way of life of Newfoundland communities is being taught. So I think there is a lot of latitude to allow teachers the initiative to develop programmes that are going to promote our way of life. But I expect more of that to be done in the succeeding years. And as our teachers are getting better qualified they are getting away from the textbook approach to education.

Now I just want to make a comment about something that the member for Grand Falls (Mr. Lundrigan) mentioned. There seems to be some kind of a differentiation between what is being promoted about statistics from Memorial University research and the research that I have here. We talk about student retention in our schools and say there is a lot of room to keep more people in our schools. I think if you will look at the statistics of the past you will see that all enrollment has been declining at the primary level in the last, perhaps, ten years. But the thing that has been promoting our school enrollment up to this point in time is the fact that a lot of students are staying in school longer. When we say there is only 38 per cent of the pupils, say, getting Grade XI again I have got to argue with the statistics because the research that we have done showed that 59 per cent three years ago and it is up to 61 per cent in the last year. And that does not tell half the story. Because if you go back and take the statistics of those entered at Grade II and then those that finish Grade XI you are not taking into consideration in that time the outward migration or the inward migration, you are not taking into

MR. HOUSE:

consideration people who have to repeat a grade somewhere along the line, you are not taking into consideration - and the other thing, of course, I want to bear in mind here is that 59 per cent or 60 per cent actually finishing Grade XI is the highest in the Maritimes incidentally, better off than the other three provinces.

The other thing I want to point out is that we have in our system a vocational school programme whereby we have entrance to trades training at the Grade IX and X level and we get a lot of students who drop out, for instance, at Grade IX and go to vocational school. We get students who drop out at Grade X and go to vocational school. And, Mr. Chairman, I do not consider these people to be dropouts, I consider them going on, furthering their education.

The other thing we have to bear in mind is the fact that it has been very attractive in the last three years for students to drop out in Grade X and go a year in the work force and then go back to upgrading where they can get their Grade XI on a Manpower training grant. And there are a large number of these students. So the drop out rate in this Province is not so high as the statistics have been showing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is now six o'clock. I leave the Chair until eight.

I N D E X

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS  
TABLED  
APRIL 25, 1978



25/4/78

QUESTION #23

Mr. Neary (LaPoile) - to ask the Honourable the Minister of Health to lay upon the Table of the House the following information:

- (a) How many Doctors were recruited outside the province in 1974, 1975, 1976 and 1977?
- (b) In what provinces or countries were these Doctors recruited?

ANSWER

Excluding holiday relief and other short term locums, the number of doctors recruited from outside the province are as follows:

(a)	1974	9
	1975	9
	1976	6
	1977	<u>2</u>
		<u>26</u>
(b)	England	11
	Ireland	4
	Ontario	4
	Alberta	2
	Australia	1
	New Zealand	1
	Nova Scotia	1
	Quebec	1
	Jamaica	<u>1</u>
		<u>26</u>

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PRELIMINARY  
UNEDITED  
TRANSCRIPT

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY  
FOR THE PERIOD  
8:00 P.M. - 11:00 P.M.  
TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 1978

The Committee resumed at 8:00 P.M.

Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (Dr. Collins) Order, please!

Head 1601-01.

The hon. the member for St. John's North.

MR. J. CARTER: Am I recognized, Mr. Chairman?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, you are recognized.

MR. J. CARTER: Thank you.

Mr. Chairman, a few words more on Education

since I see some people across the way that seem badly in need of it.

I am surprised, Mr. Chairman, that the Opposition would favour any improvement in education. In fact, I would more expect them to favour the abolition of education because an educated populace are not going to vote for Liberals. This is what the former Premier found out. He spent a great deal of money on education, or it was spent during his time of office, and, of course, it defeated him. That was precisely what defeated him. And the hon. the Leader of the Opposition's father can take a full measure of credit for that.

I do not know, Mr. Chairman, if the other members of the committee are receiving a lot of letters, but lately I have been getting a lot of letters describing to me the antics of and discussing the hon. gentlemen across the way. I got a letter just the other day saying that - this person said, and excuse me for mentioning an actual name, he said, 'I would no more vote for the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) than I would fly to the moon.' He said, 'I could not even consider giving him a vote.' I would table the letter, Mr. Chairman, but I do not happen to have it with me and, of course, I am not required to table private communication.

Anyway, to get on to the more serious aspect of the estimates that concern the committee, and of course, this is directed towards the minister, I would like at this point to say that I am very much in favour, and I think a lot of people are very much in favour of increasing the number of scholarships. And by that I do not mean just \$100 scholarships but something of the order of \$500 or perhaps greater. The scholarship

MR. J. CARTER: does two things, it supplies a certain amount of money for the student for a particular purpose, but even more importantly, in my view, it gives the student tremendous confidence and it encourages him to go further than he ordinarily would perhaps. I could quote a number of instances of acquaintances of mine who won scholarships and it has done them a tremendous amount of good. They have gone a lot further probably than they otherwise would have. So it is not only the money, it is the honour and the encouragement that it gives them, and I would like the minister when he stands later on this evening to discuss that.

I would like to see, and I think a lot of us would like to see more control of the classes by the teacher. The teacher does feel himself in a very vulnerable position, and I think members of the committee who are teachers would be able to give first hand evidence of that, that the teacher feels most vulnerable and he is always afraid that the board or the authorities will not back him or her up when the time comes to deal with a difficult classroom situation.

There is also an excessive amount of pressure on teachers to raise standards and to raise marks artificially. Now I know this has something to do with the gobbledygook that they call the normal curve, but in spite of that teachers find a great deal of pressure to raise marks artificially. And it would be very interesting, I think, to bring back the Grade IX, Grade X and Grade XI Public Exams and just see what difference that would have on students' efforts, because the examiner in the Public Exams does not know the student; he does not particularly care whether that student passes or fails. The marks he gives mean nothing to him. He marks them as he sees them. And I think perhaps that is the best way to do it when you are looking at promotions.

Again we hear the Opposition talking about school taxes. And I would like to remind the committee that it was the former administration that brought in those hypocritical school assessments. The former Premier was saying, 'Oh no, school is free, completely free,' and then he turned around and charged \$10 a month assessment. So my question to the committee, Mr. Chairman, is this: If free schooling costs \$10

MR. J. CARTER: a month how much would it be if you had to pay for it? At least the authorities who raise school taxes are pretty direct. They are not being hypocritical about it. I think school taxes are unfortunate. To some extent they are regressive and they are certainly unpleasant to have to pay, but at least we are being honest about it. We are saying we cannot afford to spend all this money on education and we have to put in some kind of school tax. Unfortunately I think the figures are that it costs about 12 per cent of the school tax to collect it and then they only collect about 75 per cent

MR. J. CARTER: of the assessment or of the tax. I would like the minister to discuss that because I would have this suggestion and I would like the Committee to consider this suggestion, how would it be if the schools were to charge fees once again? But if the fees, say, amounted to more than 1 per cent of a person's taxable income, upon presentation of a valid receipt they could get that back from the department. That might be a better way to handle it.

I discussed the last time I spoke a little about block funding. The federal government forces block funding on us, why cannot we put the agencies that depend upon this government in the same position?

Another thing I would like to question the minister about is the qualifications for entrance to school, and by this I mean the very, very strict adherence to a particular date for admitting a child when he first goes to school. A child has to be, I think - is it six years on August 31st?

AN HON. MEMBER: Five.

MR. J. CARTER: I am sorry, his fifth birthday by August 31st.

AN HON. MEMBER: By the end of the year.

MR. J. CARTER: By the end of December. But they are very strict about that, about to almost the hour of the their birth. So, if you are born around that time you should be well aware, or have some proof not only of your date of birth, but of your hour of birth.

MR. SIMMONS: If you are the mother of the wrong baby you are in trouble then.

MR. J. CARTER: Yes.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. J. CARTER: Mr. Chairman, I realize that the Opposition are not obliged to listen to me, but I wonder if I could be heard in silence? I know it is rather a lot to

MR. J. CARTER: ask, because the hour is late and possibly the supper was good. Nevertheless, I would request it.

One other point I would like to make: There has been a lot of fuss about the school bus. It might be worth the Committee's while to consider the possibility of making the money that is now paid for school buses available to the school boards themselves to disburse as they see fit. A great deal of discussion has gone on about how different school boards face different problems, but perhaps it would be better to give the money to the school boards to spend on transportation the best way they see fit. I would like the minister to comment on that, if he would.

I do not know if there is much more, that I have many more points at the moment, but I would ask the minister to - I see he has been taking notes - comment on these points when he does get a chance to stand up. I will let it go at that because I have already spoken once to the Committee. Thank you.

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

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, since the pattern is clearly established now that this is to be the budget debate, I shall have a few remarks that I would normally rather give in the budget debate. It does not look as if the government are going to call that debate.

MR. J. CARTER: So the member for LaPoile could talk forever?

MR. SIMMONS: No, no! The member for St. John's North has his own emotional feelings about my colleague but, that notwithstanding, his Government House Leader ought to call the budget debate so we can -

MR. J. CARTER: He cannot call the Speech from the Throne debate (inaudible).

MR. SIMMONS: Of course we can.

MR. HICKMAN: If we call it you will talk for five and-a-half days, again.

MR. SIMMONS: At least we know now why the debates have not been called.

MR. W.N. ROWE: They are frightened.

MR. SIMMONS: Yes.

MR. PECKFORD: If we knew we were going to get a chance to speak we would have called it a long time ago.

MR. SIMMONS: Oh, I am going to have a chance to speak, Mr. Chairman. I might even say more than the Minister of Energy said this afternoon, as a matter of fact.

MR. PECKFORD: That will take all your time.

MR. SIMMONS: It will not take very much of my time at all, Mr. Chairman. As a matter of fact, I was about to tell him this afternoon if he was not exposed to Canadian History - perhaps he flunked his grade on history, I do not know. There was lots of it in the Canadian History course in Grade IX certainly. Perhaps he was too busy learning Greek at the time, but there was certainly a full-fledged course there when he was taking Grade IX.

MR. PECKFORD: That is where you are wrong. That is how much you know about the curriculum back when I was going to school.

MR. SIMMONS: Ah, ha!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SIMMONS: Here we go! Here we go again.  
Mr. Chairman, I was saying to the  
Government House Leader -

MR. NEARY: He tried to insult my -

MR. POWER: You insulted the Minister of Education today.

MR. NEARY: Yes. I called the Minister of Education a coward once, I called him weak-kneed.

MR. SIMMONS: Can you desist for a minute?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

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



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MR. SIMMONS: It is all right, Mr. Chairman,  
they are taking their frustrations out. I can understand  
the Government House Leader.

MR. SIMMONS: What are they calling him in the streets now? The Herlock Shomes, the Ace Defective they call him now. Herlock Shomes, the Ace Defective. Well, Mr. Chairman, I can understand that he is a little chagrined that he has messed up the House to the point that he has not called the Throne Speech debate and he has not called the Budget debate, and so we are forced in this estimate period, which really should be a series of questions and answers, we are forced to get involved in a Budget debate. So if that is the way they want it, that is the way they will have it. The senior civil servants out there, who have been sitting around hoping to be able to answer some questions for the minister, are having a soft time and I advised them today they should go downstairs because they are not going to get around to answering any questions anyway at the rate things are going here.

Mr. Chairman, is it possible to restrain the Minister of Justice? Does he babble all the time like that or is it some new disease in addition to the ones he had all the time that has now come upon him? If the Premier leaves the Province for a few days on another great job hunt - The last time he went to Norway he brought back thousands of jobs remember, Mr. Chairman, overflowing with jobs for a while we were. Remember that great trip where they all went to Norway and the Premier stayed in London and operated it by remote control and he even told the people he was in Norway? Well we found him out in that one. He was wining and dining in London and orchestrating his ministers, his puppet ministers, up in Norway and Sweden. So this time he goes himself and my prediction, Mr. Chairman, is that the hotel he is staying in while he is in Norway is in London, if you can figure that one out.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. SIMMONS: He probably got as far as London again this time.

MR. NEARY: Claridges is \$150 a day.

MR. SIMMONS: There he goes again, Mr. Chairman. The Premier leaves the country for a few days and the Deputy Premier's title goes right to

MR. SIMMONS: His head, completely to head, goes right clean off his rocker issuing memos, calling special Cabinet meetings for an early hour in the morning. You would get the impression he was energetic sometimes.

Mr. Chairman, let us talk about education for a few minutes, if we can. And first of all I was hoping, Mr. Chairman, that we could clarify the air on two or three things because after listening to the debate from certain hon. members this afternoon I wondered really what it is we were doing here, whether we were a great big curriculum committee trying to revamp the curriculum. I got that impression there once this afternoon. Let us get it straight, Mr. Chairman, we are not here to devise a curriculum. One, we are not capable and, two, it is not our role at all.

AN HON. MEMBER: Speak for yourself.

MR. SIMMONS: I am speaking for myself, Mr. Chairman. We are not capable, Mr. Chairman, and we should not even try to devise a curriculum. That is not a role for the House of Assembly or for the government of this Province. It would be a frightening day indeed when we get into that particular area.

AN HON. MEMBER: His blood pressure is up there now.

MR. SIMMONS: He is really high tonight, Mr. Chairman. The minister, Herlock Shomes over there, Herlock Shomes, the Ace Defective is really up tonight.

AN HON. MEMBER: Ah, that is shocking.

AN HON. MEMBER: It is no wonder you were fired.

MR. SIMMONS: Dickless Tracey they call him. Dickless Tracey. Old Herlock Shomes is really up tonight, Mr. Chairman, really up tonight. No! Fearless Fosdick, that is right, the bumbling cop. He is going to get an Emmy for the best performance in a lead role as the bumbling cop, Fearless Fosdick.

Here he goes, Mr. Chairman, he is mumbling off again, old Fearless Fosdick, the mumbling, bumbling lead cop. Perhaps he would tell us, Mr. Chairman, if he wants to talk, Mr. Chairman, perhaps he will

MR. SIMMONS: tell us what he is doing with the report of the police investigation that he has been sitting on for two months down there, two or three months in his office.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. WHITE: Public Works. Hear! Hear! Come on now.

MR. SIMMONS: Perhaps he would like to tell us about that - would he? if he wants to talk.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Chairman, a point of order. A point of order, Mr. Chairman.

MR. SIMMONS: If he wants to talk I will let him talk. He can have all the time he wants if he will tell us about that police investigation and why he is sitting on it, why he is sitting on the report.

MR. HICKMAN: A point of order, Mr. Chairman. A point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! I have to hear a point of order.

MR. HICKMAN: The hon. gentleman has just made an accusation that is totally and absolutely untrue, absolutely untrue, without foundation. I will now make an offer to the hon. member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir. If I have ever seen this report or sat on this report one of us will have to go. Is he prepared to go on that?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. HICKMAN: You can go down tomorrow morning, tomorrow morning you can go down and see, you have my authority to go down to see the Director of Public Prosecutions and ask the Director of Public Prosecutions is he sitting on the report on my instructions? Have I ever seen the report? Have I ever ordered him to desist? If he says yes I will go back to practise law. If he says no, the hon. gentleman will be unemployed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. HICKMAN: There is a challenge. There is a challenge.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. W. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, to that point of order. It is a shameful episode, Sir, when the government House leader will rise and abuse the orders of this House by raising specious points of order. That, as Your Honour knows, is a mere difference of opinion. No wonder the public has the impression that this House is falling apart when the Premier is never in the Province to lead his government, to lead his members, and the acting Premier, the Deputy Premier, Sir, stands up and abuses himself - the government House Leader - abuses the privileges and orders of this House by getting up on specious points of order. It is terrible, Sir, terrible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

I believe I can rule on this point. I think the expression used was 'sitting on a report'. I think this is too embracing a term to rule on with any great decision. And I would have to rule that this is an area that is just a difference of opinion. I would ask the hon. member if he would continue.

MR. SIMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All I know, Mr. Chairman, is the report, as I have it from one of the minister's senior officials, has been in the office, has been in the Department of Justice for about three months, Mr. Chairman.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The hon. gentleman has just made a statement that he has it from one of my senior officials that there has been a report that I have been sitting on it for three months.

MR. SIMMONS: No, no, no! You did not let me finish. You did not let me finish.

MR. HICKMAN: Now, let me say two things. One is that I would seriously doubt if any senior official ever communicated that to the hon. gentleman for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simmons) because the Public Accounts Committee has absolutely nothing or any jurisdiction over investigations by the police. None! And secondly, any solicitor-and the only senior officials in my department who are involved with investigations are solicitors. There could not be anyone else. And these gentlemen, because of the very nature of their employment, have to

MR. HICKMAN:

keep whatever information they get strictly and absolutely confidential.

MR. SIMMONS: Would the minister hear my statement again because he might understand it this time? I will say it again.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

I do feel I could rule on the point of order. I think the hon. member will permit me. As far as I am aware a statement was made and one hon. member made the statement and another hon. member took exception to the accuracy of the statement. But this is not a point of order that the Chair can rule on.

The hon. member.

MR. SIMMONS: When the minister interrupted me for the second time on one of his many specious points of order, I was about to make a statement, and it began like this - and I shall begin it again and then finish it - I said in part at the time, I understand from one of his senior officials-all right?- Now I did not say, Mr. Chairman, how I understand, whether he phoned me up at night and told me, whether I got him dead drunk and he admitted it, whether he was talking in his sleep. I did not say how it came to me. I said, 'I understand.' And I understand clearly, Mr. Chairman, in unmistakable terms, I understand from a senior official in the Department of the Minister of Justice (Mr. Hickman) that the report has been in the Department of Justice for at least three months. I defy him to contradict me on that one, Mr. Chairman.

AN HON. MEMBER: Resign! Resign!

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

Before continuing any further I should point out to the Committee that we are actually dealing with 1601-01, which is salaries in the minister's office in the Department of Education, and there are certain points brought up which are at best peripheral to the issue and I would expect the Committee to adhere to the rules that apply in Committee; that is, that the remarks must be pertinent to the heading under discussion. And I would also point out that we have approximately twenty-five minutes left for this heading.

The hon. member.

MR. SIMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I fell into the trap of trying to educate the Minister of Justice (Mr. Hickman). It is a useless exercise but I thought it fell under the general purview of education. Mr. Chairman, if now we can keep the Minister of Justice (Mr. Hickman) silent, now that he has been shown up for what he is, for a man who administers a department that will not take action on a report that action should have been taken on -

MR. HICKMAN: On a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: A point of order.

MR. HICKMAN: This is an accusation I am not prepared to accept. Number one, what the hon. gentleman says is totally and absolutely untrue and secondly -

MR. NEARY: It is a matter of opinion.

MR. HICKMAN: It is not a matter of opinion. The hon. gentleman for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simmons) made an accusation. It is totally untrue. I ask the Chair to ask him to withdraw and I can assure him that as soon as I get Hansard I will find out if there has been any senior official, and if there has not, he is going to be sorry that he ever made that accusation.

MR. SIMMONS: Oh! Oh! Threats!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Justice (Mr. Hickman) just made a statement, Sir, that the comments made by my hon. friend were untrue.

MR. HICKMAN: They are.

MR. NEARY: And the Minister of Justice (Mr. Hickman) gave no evidence at all to the Committee to prove what my hon. friend said was untrue. Not because the Minister of Justice (Mr. Hickman) says it is untrue, Mr. Chairman, that it is untrue. It is a matter of opinion between two members and it is not a point of order, Your Honour.

MR. HICKMAN: To that point of order, Mr. Chairman. I am not the accuser. It is the accuser who has to furnish the proof to even the simplest organization, let alone this Committee. And I say that what the hon. gentleman said is totally, 100 per cent untrue. Any time that

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IB-4

MR. HICKMAN:

he is prepared to come before this Committee, table it -

MR. NEARY: It is a matter of opinion.

MR. HICKMAN: It is not a question of opinion -

MR. NEARY: Yes, it is.



MR. HICKMAN: fact, table the slightest fact to show that there is even a scintilla of truth in what he says, then it is a difference of opinion. As of now it is an accusation that is totally unfounded, totally irrelevant to the Education estimates, and I can assure the hon. gentleman that I am not going to let it pass unnoticed.

MR. NEARY: You are not supposed to challenge my colleague. That is a threat.

MR. SIMMONS: A point of order, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: A point of order.

MR. SIMMONS: The minister, not in his latest exchange but in raising the point of order, he gave another reason why I would never give information to the Committee on this particular subject. He has now given notice that he is going to go on a witch hunt of all the members of his department to see who did this and he is going to tell them where to go. He said that a few minutes ago, Mr. Chairman, and would I expose a person like that by bringing his name before this Committee? I will hold it for his protection because the minister is out to get him in some kind of a witch hunt now.

MR. HICKMAN: For your protection, for the hon. gentleman's protection.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! Order, please! The issue before the Chair I think clearly is whether a certain statement was true or untrue. Now if the issue before the Chair was whether some one had told an untruth, or had lied, this would put it in a different complexion, but as far as I understand it, the issue was whether a statement was true or untrue. It is not unparliamentary to say a statement is untrue. But it is unparliamentary to say that an hon. member has deliberately passed inaccurate or untrue information to the Committee. But there is a difference there. This is not just semantics. One is in the area of debate; one is in the area of a personal attack. I would have to judge that the remark made was in the area of

MR. CHAIRMAN: debate, that is that a statement was made that a certain matter was untrue and I am afraid the Chair is in a position of just having to judge on that statement alone and I would have to rule that the Chair is not in an order situation, a judgement of an order situation.

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

MR. SIMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. HICKMAN: His time is up.

MR. NEARY: Just a minute now, the hon. minister was saying something.

MR. SIMMONS: Now, Mr. Chairman, if the Minister of Justice will just stay quiet a few minutes. I can keep repeating a statement if he likes to hear it, but I would rather talk about the Minister of Education because he is the subject everybody else is talking about these days, Mr. Chairman. The whole education fraternity, all the parents are talking about him, all the teachers are talking about him, all his former colleagues, the superintendents and supervisors, are talking about him, the board members are talking about him, and I will tell him something else, too; they are not talking about him in as kind a terms as they were talking about him when he took the portfolio a while ago. They had fair hope for him because they, like me, sat around with him at various conferences and over cups of tea and other things we drink, lemonade and coffee and so on, and we talked, he and I talked before we got into elected politics about some of the things he would like to see changed for the better. So when I heard that he had become Minister of Education I was among the first to congratulate him because I was very happy that a person who had seen the business of education, the education enterprise from the vantage point that he had, would now come to a position of influence where he could do something about it. And there were many other thousands of people, like myself, teachers, parents and so on, board members, who held out great hope for the minister and as a result he had an unusually long honeymoon in the period. Normally you give a minister a little while to get his feet wet before

MR. SIMMONS:                    you begin asking him tough questions, before you begin expecting too much of him. In the case of this minister he came with such good credentials, in terms of his track record and so on, that he was given an unusually long honeymoon period. Indeed he was given the benefit of the doubt on a number of occasions, perhaps more often than he should have been, but I was party to that too. A number of people gave him the benefit of the doubt and they waited to see. And I guess if it had not been for a fairly dramatic set of events involved in this particular budget, he might still be on the honeymoon. They might be still standing back and saying, "Well, you know, that fellow his track record is such that it does not look like him but we will give him a little extra time." They were prepared to do that. But then came the budget and then we saw the minister - I was going to say for what he is. - no, for what he has become. Because the minister we see today is not the man we knew when he was a superintendent of education, when he was an educator in the field. He is a different person.

MR. SIMMONS: So we are not seeing him for what he is so much as for what he has become, what he has become. When he went into the Cabinet we saw him as a man who felt very deeply about education, who had deep convictions about education, who was not afraid to state these convictions, who was not afraid to stand up for them. And we said, "Great, there is a man who will give education a voice, a voice that it has lacked in this Province. He will give education that voice." And now we see what he has become. He has become the great compromiser, the person who was willing to do anything. Perhaps it is because he sits to the right of the Minister of Tourism. Perhaps it is rubbing off, the hang-on-by-your-nails approach. The Minister of Education, Mr. Chairman, is a disappointment to every person involved in education in this Province.

MR. NEARY: The hon. gentleman is pathetic.

MR. SIMMONS: No, he is not pathetic because he knows the difference. I apply the pathetic term to people who do not know any better and they deserve to be more pitied than blamed. But the minister knows the difference. The minister has been known for years as one of the more forward thinking educators in this Province, and that is what makes the contradiction all the greater. That is what makes the tragedy all the greater, that a man with such promise, with such command of the problems involved in elementary and secondary education in particular, would have so completely let us down.

Now I was a little surprised when the member for Grand Falls (Mr. Lundrigan) resigned from the Cabinet on the matters of principle that he raised, but hearing his story since I can accept it. But if there was one person over there who could have been expected to resign on principle it was the Minister of Education and his timing for it was the day that the Cabinet shoved

MR. SIMMONS: down his throat these cutbacks involving education. That is the day he should have walked out on principle. He would have held on not only to the respect he has in the education field, but he would have held on to his own self respect.

But, Mr. Chairman, the disappointment, the tragedy is all the deeper because that gentleman, Mr. Chairman, that gentleman, the member for Humber Valley (Mr. House), the Minister of Education, has such a grasp of the education problems in this Province and yet he has allowed, in the interest of compromise, I hinted just now and I believe strongly, in the interest of some kind of bargaining off, and perhaps he will tell us what it is all about, he has allowed the people in the Cabinet, with obviously a lot more influence than he has, to arm-twist him into a position that he cannot really live with, he has been increasingly uncomfortable since this thing got to be discussed here with petitions and so on, he is going to be more uncomfortable before we are finished with the subject, not that we want to make him uncomfortable but that we feel the issue is sufficiently urgent that something has to be done about it and perhaps we can prevail upon the minister, a man of principle, we can prevail upon him to return to his first principles. I ask him to return to his first principles and go back to Cabinet and tell them what to do with their crazy decisions affecting the cutback in education.

I wish I had a little more time to develop the subject but I think the minister should have the message.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. Minister of Education.

MR. HOUSE:

Mr. Chairman, I want to go through some of the comments that were made but first of all today we got talking about - I talked so much on the student-aid programme and I gave an outline as to what our student-aid programme is and I did an outline that for the students who were in direst need, the students who were totally dependent we did have a fairly good programme, and the students who were less dependent still had to borrow the same amount of money as those who were totally dependent.

We are not quite happy with that. You know there is nobody, no politician, and there is nobody that I know who wants to see students coming out with a heavy financial burden. But we have tried our best to keep the loan portion of it down and we have been doing that in the face of others putting it up in the rest of Canada, and we are on a par now with the rest of the Maritimes. Now people have been saying, "Well, you know because of our

Mr. House:

situation our students should have a better programme."

Mr. Chairman, the fact that this Province is perhaps the poorest Province is an indication why we cannot give students what we think perhaps they should have. Now we talked about this with the federal government, I mentioned that on the way through and we suggested a forgiveness programme. And the federal government said while they believe, as we do, that first and foremost the university education of students is the students' and parents' responsibility; if they cannot provide it, we - the provinces and the federal government - will provide grants and loans. And the word that they said, you know, is very simply. Can we expect the ordinary taxpayer of the Province, the ordinary person who is on minimum wage or the MOS rates of \$4 or \$5 an hour, for their taxes to be paying for people's education who, when they come out will be in four or five years making doubt what these people are making? And he said, from the federal point of view, "No. But," he said, "one thing; we will make money available to these students and when they get working they will have the capacity to pay it back." And that is the way it is working. And, as I said, we are giving a substantial amount of money on grants.

The other thing that the Leader of the Opposition was talking about in his presentation about the lack of the number of students going to university. We are expecting an increase of 100 next year, this is according to some of the inquiries that so far have been made at the university. The trade schools; again he said there is a need for more trade schools. We think there is a need for more manpower training, more people to be trained in the fisheries and that kind of thing, but we still have some vacant seats I think in our trade schools now. But I want to point out there too that students do not have to stay away from there because of a lack of funding because we do pay students who are living away from the trade schools \$100 a month, and if they are married, of course, \$120. And besides now next year student aid will be available to these in the form of loans. And I would submit that perhaps a lot of young students who may be just

Mr. House: Leaving high school may have to take advantage of that.

I think it was talked about that there was an oversupply of certain kinds of trades and an undersupply of other kinds of workers. I want to point out, Mr. Chairman, that the Manpower Needs Committee and I am not going to slough off any blame here; it is a Provincial and a Federal Committee - determines the kind of programmes, the kinds of seats that Manpower buy. And most of all our trades, our conventional trades like electrical, welding and that sort of thing, most of these are filled up by Manpower Training grants, people who are getting these, and they will only purchase the fifty-two week programmes.

I want to make this clear; they help purchase also for the fishery, for instance, we have got \$3 million just about for manpower training for the fisheries, but that is only in the short-term and the one year courses. There is no such thing as any manpower grants for the diploma courses, the mate certificate and that sort of thing. And that is out of a total of \$15 million for the trades and the fishery. We tried to get the Federal Manpower to support the diploma programmes because, we said, we have different needs in Newfoundland, for instance, than they may have in the rest of the provinces because we do have perhaps a surplus of construction workers, and what we wanted to do was to get manpower support for programmes that are more than one year duration and, of course, this is not forthcoming.

We have, you know, been responding to the needs. It is very difficult for any school, be it a trade school or a fisheries college or a trades college or a university, to respond immediately to manpower needs. But we have discussed, for instance, offshore oil and gas. As my colleague, the Minister of



MR. HOUSE: Mines and Energy knows, we have talked to the people involved in that and said, 'Well, what kind of training do you need for that particular industry?' - whether it is the preliminary things they are doing when they are drilling - or, 'What is going to happen in the future?' And the best we can get from them is they are saying, 'We want well educated young men, perhaps university training. We want a lot of people with the conventional trades, whether it is welding, whether it is deep-sea diving, and we can soon put together these combinations on on-the-job training, and even if we want somebody in a month we can request and you can put on the programmes for us.' So we can respond. And we have the facilities and the ability to respond to that kind of thing. And the only thing, of course, is in these kinds of industries there is a lot of on-the-job training and, of course, they are going to be responsible for that on-the-job training by their own oil and gas regulations and the educational aspects of it. So the same thing applies; you know, we may need linesmen so we are able to put on a course in a year that will take care of that. Already this year we have put on three courses by virtue of the fact that there may be some opportunity on the Lower Churchill. So we can see that there may be an oversupply of certain trades, but when Manpower purchased the seats for these trades it is very attractive for the people who can get on the trade to go into it regardless of where they are going to get employment, And that is a point; I believe that the student has the right to get a trade regardless of job opportunity. And the hon. the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) today talked about closing down the school of education. I think the maximum we can do as a government is to say to the students of this Province who are prospective teachers and want to be prospective teachers that the job opportunity in Newfoundland for teachers is not going to be as good in the next ten years as has been in the past ten - you know, if we can give them that kind of information - but I do not think I have any right or anybody else has any right to say to a certain student who was born in 1960, 'By virtue of the fact you were born in 1960 you cannot make yourself competitive for the teacher market.' I think they have that opportunity. But I agree they should be made aware of the fact

MR. HOUSE: that there is not so much opportunity for teaching jobs as there was.

There was some mention made of our expansion into getting better programmes in our high schools. I think right now if you go and look at the programme offerings in the high schools today that you will find that there are very few high schools in the Province where you cannot get the basic sciences that will take you into practically any training at the University. One of the things we do concede is that there are some small high schools left in the Province and there are some all-graded schools where at the request of the parents we have gone back into communities and said, 'You can have your Grade XI in this community,' but that is why, I guess, the junior division of the University is still in operation. And incidentally, that division has diminished tremendously in the last few years and I would suspect that it does not have very long life expectancy because I think our high schools are training people quite adequately now.

We have a study going on now to look at the possibility of Grade XII. This was mentioned today. Somebody mentioned that the hon. the member for St. John's West (Dr. Kitchen) when he was minister was talking about putting in a Grade XII. I think at that particular point in time there was a total reaction from the Province because they said, the boards and the teachers, that we were not prepared at that particular time. We only had 6,200 teachers in the field for 160,000 people. 'Give us more teachers first to do the job that we are doing now and let us try to do that well.' And, of course, when this government came to power they responded in that way. Now we are looking at it again and we should have a study completed on that by the early Fall. And I do not think it is going to be the kind of thing that

MR. HOUSE: people have been thinking about. I do not think it is going to replace anything at the University. And I am not presupposing exactly what is going to come in there because I think we do need an expanded high school programme to be able to take care of the specific needs of our high school students. Perhaps a three year programme is not long enough. If we have to get all the things that were talked about into the programmes I think, perhaps, Grade XII would just be a junior matriculation.

Now, Mr. Chairman, there was some talk there earlier about my poor showing and so on and the fact that there is a large number of people who are up in arms about various things such as the teacher cut-backs. I contend that the teacher cut-backs we are experiencing this year are a result, basically, of a declining enrollment and I do not think that the issue is going to have any effect. I will say it again, and I will continue to say it; I cannot understand for the life of me why a one to twenty-six ratio is pretty good when you are on the upswing, when you have a rising population and it is terrible when you have a falling population. I know that most of this, a lot of this, is a little shock to teachers, that there are teachers getting laid off.

Now, the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) talked about an orchestration that I was talking about. I would expect parents to be concerned. The teachers have put on a good campaign. They have gone to the parents, sent letters home to practically every parent and, of course, this is the kind of thing that can arouse the public. I do not worry too much about that because I like to see the parents get interested in quality education, I like to see the teachers get interested in quality education. I have no quarrel with that and this is one of the reasons, I guess, why we appointed a task force to look at it and see exactly

MR. HOUSE: what effects this will have on quality. Perhaps this will cause parents and teachers and the general public in general to look at quality education in relation to other things, other than the few teachers that are going to be laid off as a result of the declining enrollment. So perhaps it will serve a great purpose.

I want to zero in for a moment on the school board operation and the costs there. A few years ago, two years ago, we set up a committee in this Province to discuss with school boards their operational costs. We had made some recommendations that perhaps the costs to school boards should be paid directly by the department on the basis of their specific needs, the basis of the problems they have, the basis of their fixed costs which would take into consideration the size of the schools, bus transportation and just about everything else concerned. We set up that committee, it ran for two years and the boards came to the consensus, or as far as we could gather, that they would sooner have the per pupil grant as it is now.

Of course, we did mention that we were going to have a meeting with the school boards on this and that first meeting will be taking place next week.

I just want to make one more comment. I believe my time has just about run out. The evaluation, it was alluded to by the hon. member for St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter) on the two occasions that he spoke. We had an evaluation project going last year, we have had a fifty/fifty evaluation going for a number of years and we had accreditation last year. That accreditation project that ran in four schools in Newfoundland last year is finished and all schools in the Province will either revert back to a fifty/fifty evaluation or a total evaluation from the department. So we are going to assess

MR. HOUSE:                   this year the pilot that has been done in the last two years and we are going to, of course, also assess the fifty/fifty evaluation. Hopefully, sometime during that time, we will come to some kind of a decision and conclusion which will be brought, of course, into the House next year.

                                  There is one other thing somebody did mention to me the other day, that perhaps one of the best things we could do to improve quality education would be to bring back the Grades IX, X and XI exams. I do not agree with them because I think there were too many inequities there, but, certainly, these people felt that they had a lot of merit.

                                  Mr. Chairman, I never got all the questions answered because there are a number left, but I will sit down now.

On motion, 601-01, carried.

On motion, 601-02 through

618-04, carried.

On motion, Heading VI,

Education, all items without amendment, carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Health. Item X, page 61. 1001.

The hon. the minister.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. H. COLLINS:

Mr. Chairman, I should first of

all express the Committee's thanks to the hon. the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary). He thought he was the minister for awhile because he was on his feet pretty early in the game. I am sure he will get his opportunity when the time comes.

MR. SIMMONS:

Tell us about the golf course.

MR. H. COLLINS:

The golf course is good for

health, it is a form of recreation and fitness. I am quite willing and capable of talking about golf courses for my twenty minutes if the hon. member for Lewisporte wants to continue in that vein.

MR. WHITE:

I never said golf courses.

MR. H. COLLINS:

Mr. Chairman, one of the greatest

needs in the town of Gander today is the completion of the golf course.

MR. WHITE:

And a Liberal member.

MR. H. COLLINS:

We went through that years ago.

We went through that years ago, and the hon. member must be feeling pretty uncomfortable in Lewisporte because he knows, Mr. Chairman, that I have a lot of relatives in Lewisporte and a lot of supporters in Lewisporte.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. COLLINS:

I do not go down there often

MR. H. COLLINS:

enough, but I am going to be down there more often because I am in demand down there. And it is just a matter of time now when the nice Spring weather comes that I am going to be going to Lewisporte and Brown's Arm where the hon. member for Grand Falls (Mr. Lundrigan) and I have a lot of friends, -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. H. COLLINS: - and over in Newstead, and Little Burnt Bay and Comfort Cove and Boyd's Cove and Birchy Bay, Loon Bay and Campbellton, I know all of the people down there. And to get back to the golf course, one of the greatest needs we have in Gander today is a golf course.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. H. COLLINS: The Gander Development Corporation and the TOPS organization- TOPS being a federal organization, meaning not to take off pounds sensibly, but Trans Oceanic Plane Stops - they have been promoting the airport to the extent that we have just about everything we need out there. We have planes coming in, and in July and August they told me that there are going to be more planes coming than we can handle. And one of the major selling points has been that that we have the recreational facilities, but we need a golf course.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. H. COLLINS: And I am convinced that all of my colleagues here will be with me when I look for funds for the golf course.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. H. COLLINS: We are not going to fool the people in Gander, Mr. Chairman, like the federal government did in making a symbolic offer to the people of Gander of \$500,000 for a golf course provided that the Province would relinquish all of its rights in terms of timber cutting in the Terra Nova National Park. And there is no doubt in my mind, there is no doubt in anybody's mind -

MR. H. COLLINS: - that the federal government did not have any intention at all in the world of providing \$500,000 to the people of Gander for the provision of the golf course.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. H. COLLINS: And if there is one thing which the past administration did, if there is one thing that we can give them credit for— and the past Premier, whom I sat opposite for a few years — if there is one thing which he did was right that was that he insisted, over the objections of the hon. J. W. Pickersgill and some other members in the Federal Cabinet, he insisted that the timber rights in the Terra Nova National Park would remain in the hands of the Province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. H. COLLINS: So all we are doing today, Mr. Chairman, is carrying on with the great tradition of what the previous Premier alluded to and that enshrined, you might say, in the Constitution, and we are defending that right and we have no intention of giving away that timber.

In the meantime, the great federal government, in that conniving way of which they are capable, says to the people of Gander, 'We will give you \$500,000 to build your golf course but we want the timber rights in the Terra Nova National Park.' And we said, 'No.' So, Mr. Chairman, I am sure that when I go to my colleagues on this side of the House looking for funds to complete the golf course in Gander, which we already have a substantial interest in, that not only will I get the support of those hon. members but also all of the hon. members opposite.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. H. COLLINS: I am sure the member for Lewisporte (Mr. White) will be behind me, you know, tight to my coat tail, because we have a lot in common in Gander and Lewisporte; that is, we try to look after the hon. member's interest, as Gander grows and we get more planes coming in we need more fuel, we get more tankers coming in to Lewisporte, we are going to need more farms, more tank farms, and the taxes which they can apply to those, and rightly so, mean that the



Mr. H. Collins: Town Council of Lewisporte, Mr. Chairman, is going to be probably one of the richest municipalities in Newfoundland, mainly because of the tremendous growth which is taking place in the Town of Gander.

MR. WHITE: Thanks to the federal government.

MR. H. COLLINS: Thanks to the federal government, thanks to the Provincial Government. Again it is a federal town, and we always like to get all of the help we can from the federal government, and rightly so; Gander is a federal town. It is beginning to have a Provincial awareness now. But after all of those years when the federal government passed us by in Moncton and passed us by in Halifax and passed us by in Mirabel, today, thanks to my good friend in Intergovernmental Affairs and the great representation which we have been making to the federal government, plus the fact we have a member - I would be the first to admit and the last not to admit - that we have a federal member in Gander today who is doing a pretty good job -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. H. COLLINS: - with a lot of help from here and a lot of help from this Provincial Government.

Well, Mr. Chairman, golfing is, I suppose, recognized as one of the best approaches to fitness, and fitness is what health is all about -

MR. H. COLLINS:

Participaction. Fitness is what

health is all about.

Anyway, Mr. Chairman, after getting an opportunity to allude to the very important golf course, which we have to find funds for, let me say that health still is the second largest spender in terms of the provincial dollar. That is the way it should be, I suppose, because if we have one responsibility in Newfoundland, or any Province for that matter, but we are talking in Newfoundland tonight, one of the major responsibilities which a government has is to look after the health and the well being of its citizens. I am sure that the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) and some other hon. members will say that we are not doing a good job, and that is their right and that is their role, I suppose, but since we are the second largest spender in the provincial government in terms of estimates I think it is incumbent upon us, incumbent upon me as the minister, and incumbent upon the department to make sure that we get the best possible value for the dollars which we spend.

Now that is not an easy task, Mr. Chairman, because there are a lot of people, and rightly so, who figure that their constituents might not be looked after to the extent to which they would like them to be looked after. But I believe and I am convinced that within the financial constraints under which we live that the health care system in Newfoundland today is one of the better systems that we can find anywhere across the Dominion.

I will be talking as we go through the estimates in terms of the doctor population ratio, our beds to population ratio, which are very favourable with the Canadian average. In fact our beds populations ratio is a little bit better than the Canadian average. Our doctor population ratio is approaching the Canadian average and pretty close to it.

MR. H. COLLINS: All in all, Mr. Chairman, I would say that with the dollars we have, with the distribution of population which we have in Newfoundland, that today you will find, any expert would find if he came into the Province, that the delivery of health care in this Province is second to none and it has been improved and will continue to be improved.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, very soon the - as a matter of fact I believe starting today the General Hospital is going to be shifted to the Health Sciences Complex. The minister did not tell us but I believe I heard on radio today where they are in the process of moving the General Hospital into the Health Sciences Complex.

Now, Sir, that brings me to my first point. Mr. Chairman, a few years ago when the - as a matter of fact about six or seven years ago when they started the Health Sciences Complex, for some reason or other the vote for the capital expenditure for the Health Sciences Complex was put under the ministry of Health. It is the first time, to my knowledge, in the history of this Province, that it has ever been done. It used to come under Public Works. I do not know why the capital amount was put under the Department of Health. Perhaps the minister can explain that to me at a later date. My colleague, the member for the Straits of Belle Isle (Mr. Roberts) was minister, I believe, when that was done, and he may look upon the Health Sciences Complex as a monument, as the Roberts Memorial.

But, Sir, for three years now I have been carrying on a crusade to try to get a public enquiry into certain allegations and accusations and innuendoes and charges and rumours -

AN HON. MEMBER: The hon. member was the person who said it.

MR. NEARY: No, Sir, if the hon. gentleman would just give me a chance to lay out my case, you know, then I will answer the hon. gentleman. But I have been trying to get a public enquiry into certain allegations that have been made since 1973-74, in connection with the Health Sciences Complex, with the construction of the Health Sciences Complex. And last year in the House I reported to the House that I had a number of meetings, I had a meeting with Mr. Greene, who was the former bagman for the PC Party. I had a private meeting with the present Minister of Transportation and Communications and the Premier down in the private dining room and I was promised at that time, by the Premier, that an independent enquiry under the Public Enquiries Act would be carried out in due course. That has never happened.

Now last year I tabled certain documentation and certain evidence in connection with some of these allegations that were made in connection with the Health Sciences Complex. I tabled, for instance, a cheque, a donation to the PC Party, Well, there is nothing wrong with that. I tabled a letter,

MR. NEARY: a receipt that was given to Mr. Andrew Davidson in return for income tax that he had to pay as a result of his being charged income tax for making certain donations to the PC party, and it was scoffed at, Mr. Chairman. I did not get my enquiry and the House closed before I got a chance to lay out my case for an enquiry and now, Sir, I have an updating and I am going to call once again upon the government to appoint a commission of enquiry into certain charges and allegations that have been made in connection with the construction of the Health Sciences Complex. I have an updating now, Sir, and I would like to quote from a document that I have in front of me.

MR. H. COLLINS: Well Table it.

MR. NEARY: No, Mr. Chairman, if the hon. gentleman would just restrain himself for a second! This document, by the way, Sir, is dated - let me see where it is dated. It is a recent document and it is dated just a few days ago. It says "I, the undersigned, Andrew Davidson" - now members will remember that Mr. Davidson was the project manager in charge of that complex when it started and this is an updating. This is not the original affidavit that I referred to in the House that the hon. gentleman has a copy of or saw of copy of it. The Premier has a copy of it. "I, the undersigned, Andrew Davidson Sr. of the town of Beaconsfield, province of Quebec, having been duly sworn, do depose and say, one, on the fourth day of April 1974 I signed an affidavit a copy of which is attached to this affidavit as exhibit A, swearing to the truth of the facts which described a series of events which had occurred in relation to individuals and officials of the Government of Newfoundland. I hereby reiterate "- In this latest affidavit Mr. Davidson says, " I hereby reiterate and reaffirm the facts sworn to in my said affidavit dated April 4, 1974 and incorporate what I stated in that affidavit to form a part of the present affidavit as is recited at length herein. Two, early during the electoral campaign which preceded the general provincial election which was held in Newfoundland in September of 1975, a Cabinet minister of the government of the Province of Newfoundland, namely Dr. Thomas Farrell, advised me that the Premier, Frank Moores, was not fit to lead the Province and discussed with me making public the contents of my said affidavit dated April 4, 1974."

April 25, 1978

Tape No. 1427 (Night)

44-1

MR. NEARY: "Three, later during the course of said 1975 electoral campaign, Dr. Farrell advised me in conversation of which I have tapes that his difference with the Premier, Frank Moores, had been patched up and Dr. Farrell proposed to me that I should not make any publication of nor make public any of the facts mentioned in my affidavit dated April 4, 1974." Listen to this, Mr. Chairman! "And that if I would keep silent concerning same, ministers of the Newfoundland government would make certain that I would be paid for services which I had rendered to that government in respect of the Grimsby matter-which the Minister of Transportation says is amateurish- payments which were legally due to me from the government and in addition I would be given " -in addition, Mr. Chairman- " a consulting contract for a bunker oil storage facility to be established on Bell Island, Newfoundland."

AN HON. MEMBER: Will you permit a question?

MP. F. ROWE: Listen, boy, listen to this.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, I could go on and on and quote from this affidavit but I am not going to do it. I laid out in the last session of the House a prima facie case for an enquiry into the -

MP. MORGAN: Table the document.

MR. NEARY: No, I am not going to table the document.

MR. MORGAN: I did not think you would. There is no date.

MR. NEARY: There is a date.

MP. F. ROWE: Keep quite now!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, the document is dated April 21, 1978. How long ago is that?

MR. W. ROWE: Three or four days ago.

MR. MORGAN: What is wrong with tabling it?

MR. NEARY: Two days ago, Sir. Mr. Chairman, I admit that I quoted from the document but I am not going to table it.

MR. MORGAN: Why not?

MR. NEARY: I am not. No, Sir, I am not going to table it. I am not going to table it for the same reason that the Minister of Justice gives in this House, that there may be innocent people's names involved. Why should I?

MR. MORGAN: You quoted Dr. Farrell in it.

MR. NEARY: I certainly did. As far as I am concerned he is not one of the innocent victims.

April 25, 1978

Tape No. 1427 (Night)

AH-3

MR. HICKMAN:

Who is going to be the judge of that?

MR. N. N. POVE:

We will see about that.

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Chairman, I admit I referred to the document that I have in front of me, but I am not going to table it and I am not going to table it for the same reason that the minister always gives in this hon. House.

MR. HICKMAN:

If any hon. gentleman asks that it be tabled then it has to be tabled.

MR. NEARY:

No, Mr. Chairman. There was a ruling in this House I believe a year or two ago that where it is not in the public interest then documents do not have to be tabled.

AN HON. MEMBER: That is right.

MR. NEARY: And I have no intention of laying this document on the table of the House unless, Sir, the Minister of Justice will grant the public inquiry that I have been asking for for three years.

MR. W. ROWE: Here we go!

MR. MORGAN: Is that a deal?

MR. W. ROWE: Do that now.

MR. F. ROWE: Now, put up or shut up.

MR. HICKMAN: Well, first make it public and see whether the libel laws apply or not.

MR. SIMMONS: There is a deal!

MR. HICKMAN: Never mind the protection of the House.

MR. SIMMONS: There is a deal if you want a deal!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, in this document that I am referring to, Sir, there is reference to bribes, there is reference to cover-ups, there is reference to payoffs, there is reference to political patronage, and, Mr. Chairman, some very serious charges are made in this document and made in the last affidavit that I had before this House when I was denied a public inquiry.

AN HON. MEMBER: A cover-up!

MR. J. CARTER: Make those accusations outside the House.

MR. NEARY: I am making the accusations, Sir, in the proper place, in the appropriate place, and if the hon. gentleman wants to take me up on it then I would submit that the hon. gentleman should come and read the document.

MR. MORGAN: Table it so we all can read it.

MR. NEARY: No, I am not going to table it.

MR. MORGAN: Why not table it?

MR. NEARY: Because I am not.

MR. J. CARTER: Will you make it available for members to see?

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, there are all kinds of accusations here about public servants delivering payoffs to Mr. Davidson.

AN HON. MEMBER: Brown envelopes.

MR. W. ROWE: That is right.

MR. NEARY: Brown envelopes. There is a letter attached



MR. NEARY: here, Sir, written by a public servant, the minister's executive assistant, that points up all kinds of examples of skulduggery on behalf of the administration. I will give the hon. gentleman an example. I will quote from the letter.

MR. J. CARTER: Mr. Chairman, a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (Mr. Young) A point of order has been raised.

MR. J. CARTER: Mr. Chairman, this is the most McCarthy-like tactics that this House has ever put up with and I think it is totally out of order. I would like to hear from some others.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! I do not feel this is a point of order. Hon. member.

MR. NEARY: Listen to this, Mr. Chairman. I am quoting from the letter now, and this is the Minister of Industrial Development, quoting, saying, 'First during the 1972 election I personally have had to go to Deer Lake, from Deer Lake to St. John's and return immediately with a cash settlement received from Mr. Dobbin's runner,' - and they are referring to Mr. Craig Dobbin and Mr. Kelly - 'to bring back to Corner Brook to Dr. Farrell \$5,000 to pay off Andy Davidson' - that is stated by Dr. Farrell - 'so that he would not make any trouble during the peak of the election by showing a document-in quotation marks-an affidavit, etc.' Now need I go further, Mr. Chairman?

MR. W. ROWE: It is all there.

MR. WHITE: Now, it is all there.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Chairman, that document has to be tabled.

MR. NEARY: No, it has not to be tabled, Mr. Chairman.

MR. HICKMAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman! No hon. gentleman can get up and make that kind of innuendo and accusation against any hon. member of this House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! A point of order is being made.

MR. HICKMAN: And I ask that the Chairman order that the document and all supporting affidavits referred to there be tabled. One cannot make an accusation against any hon. member by innuendo without

MR. HICKMAN: tabling the document.

MR. NEARY: I am quoting from a document.

MR. W. ROWE: On that point of order, Sir, the point of order being that the hon. member is quoting from a document which should be tabled; Sir, my hon. colleague has already said that he is willing to table the document if, as and when the Minister of Justice will agree to a public inquiry. He is not going to table this document, Sir, and have it bandied about, names, used left, right and center -

MR. NEARY: That is right.

MR. W. ROWE: - unless we are reasonably assured on this side of the House that the government will institute the public inquiry which will either confirm or get rid of allegations of guilt with regard to people named in this document. Why should we, Sir, be responsible for having names bandied about unless we know the government is going to have a public inquiry which will clear up matters of allegations of guilt or establish innocence on behalf of people named in this, Sir; otherwise we would be as guilty as the government has been in the past of that kind of thing.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, may I rise on that point of order?

MR. CHAIRMAN: (Mr. Young) Order, please! Are you speaking to the point of order?

MR. MARSHALL: Yes, speaking to the point of order. Now, Mr. Chairman, this has gone far enough.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

MR. MARSHALL: The members on the other side of the House cannot prescribe the rules and regulations under which they are going to operate. There is a rule, and I quote again from Beauchesne, 159(3) which says, 'It has been admitted that a document which has been cited ought to be laid upon the table of the House, if it can be done without injury to the public interest. The same rule, however, cannot be held to apply to private letters or memoranda.' Now this is not a private letter

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MR. MARSHALL: or memorandum, it is an accusation against public persons so therefore it is a public document. Now the very reason for this rule, Mr.

MR. MARSHALL:

Chairman, is to preclude persons from getting up in the House of Assembly using their legislative immunity and quoting from a document which contains allegations taking the characters of individuals without putting that document on the Table because they are responsible for what they say in the House. They have to stand behind what they say and the House is entitled to that document. Otherwise, Mr. Speaker, what you are going to get, and I fear that this is what is going to happen, is that persons can at any given time get up in the House, read the most scandalous type of allegations against individuals, say it is a private communication or refuse to table it for whatever reason, and get away with it scott free having taken the character of the persons to which it refers.

Now the hon. member for St. John's North (Mr. Carter) referred to McCarthyism and this is exactly McCarthyism. If the hon. gentleman has charges and allegations to be made let him make it, let him make it in the proper manner. I am not insinuating that it is not proper to bring it up in the Committee, but what I am saying is that if the hon. member wishes to get up and read part of an affidavit containing severe and serious allegations against an individual in this House, he is obligated to table that document, Mr. Chairman, otherwise you have complete and absolute chaos that you are going to have and you are going to have this whole institution just fall down around our ears. Now the fact of the matter is I do not dispute the hon. member's rights to say whatever he wants to with respect to allegations, but the rules are here and the Opposition, which is wont from time to time to try to dictate the rules by which this House exists, cannot be allowed to do it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Order, please!

MR. MARSHALL:

It is not the government which dictates it either; it is the rules that are pre-existing rules. So I cannot say too strongly, Mr. Chairman, that it is absolutely imperative that having read the allegations of this nature

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MR. W.N. ROWE:

There is more. There is worse than that.

MR. MARSHALL:

- that the hon. member table the document.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. S. NEARY:

To that point of order, Your Honour.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Hon. member.

MR. S. NEARY:

Mr. Chairman, I am the one who raised this matter and I regret very much as my hon. friend is so adamant that the document be tabled because Your Honour will remember a ruling that was made a year or so ago and it was on the assumption of a precedent of this House, Sir, that I was quoting from the document that where it is not - where the member who introduces the matters deems it necessary to keep the matter confidential, to not lay it on the table of the House then under the rules of the House and Beauchesne then that member can decide, in consultation if necessary with the Chairman or the Speaker, to keep this matter confidential. Immunity, Mr. Chairman, otherwise, I mean, how can a member feel free to lay out certain information if the member cannot keep it private and confidential?

MR. W.N. ROWE:

What you want is an inquiry.

MR. S. NEARY:

What I am asking for - I am merely referring to the document, quoting from it, and I admit, Sir, I quoted from it knowing full well that I am within my rights under this precedent that was established a year or so ago.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Name him.

MR. S. NEARY:

No, I had named him. So, Sir, I think I do not have to table the document, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Order, please!

I think I have heard sufficient argument. Due to the seriousness of the matter I will adjourn for five minutes or a little longer to consider the issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! On the point of order on tabling the documents, I would like to quote from May, page 431.

PREMIER MOORES: Current edition?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Current edition.

"Another rule or principle of debate may be here added. A Minister of the Crown is not at liberty to read or quote from a despatch or other state paper not before the House, unless he be prepared to lay it upon the table. This restraint is similar to the rule of evidence in courts of law, which prevents counsel from citing documents which have not been produced in evidence. The principle is so reasonable that it has not been contested; and when the objection has been made in time, it has been generally acquiesced in. It has also been admitted that a document which has been cited ought to be laid upon the table of the House, if it can be done without injury to the public interests. A Minister who summarizes a correspondence, but does not actually quote from it, is not bound to lay it upon the table. The rule for the laying of cited documents cannot be held to apply to private letters or memoranda.

"Members not connected with the Government have also cited documents in their possession, both public and private, which were not before the House: but though the House is equally unable to form a correct judgement from partial extracts, inconvenient latitude has sometimes been permitted, which it is doubtful whether any rule but that of good taste could have restrained."

The hon. member in his opening remarks said he was quoting from a document and affidavits and he also, in his argument, said that there was a precedent set here some years ago when a minister was not required to table the document. I would therefore ask the hon. member for LaPoile

MR. CHAIRMAN (MR. YOUNG): (Mr. Neary) if he will table the documents.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, I am not disputing Your Honour's ruling but I was -

AN HON. MEMBER: Table it.

MR. CHAIRMAN (MR. YOUNG): Order, please!

MR. NEARY: I was quoting from the document, Sir, under the assumption that the same precedent that was established would apply. I did not want to table the document, Mr. Chairman, I would rather consult with Your Honour and the Government House Leader before I table the document because I do not think it is in the public interest. It could very easily affect individuals and I believe, Sir, before Your Honour forces me to put the document on the table of the House, that I should consult with the Government House Leader and let him read the document and let Your Honour read the document -

MR. W. ROWE: And then have an enquiry.

MR. NEARY: - and then if the hon. gentleman thinks there should be an enquiry to prove guilt or innocence, well then so be it. But I think it is too serious a matter, Sir, to just fling the document on the table of the House and have names bandied around.

MR. CHAIRMAN (MR. YOUNG): Order, please! I feel for the concern of the hon. member, and I am sure it will be dealt with in strict confidence and secrecy, but I will ask the hon. member for LaPoile to table the document.

MR. FLICHT: It is a public document when it is tabled.

MR. W.N. ROWE: It is a private document now.

MR. CHAIRMAN (MR. YOUNG): Order, please!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, again a point of order, Sir. Your Honour is aware that once I put the document on the table it becomes a public document and before I do that, Sir - I mean the hon. gentleman is right, it becomes a public document. And I do not want that, Mr. Chairman, because I subscribe to the philosophy of the Minister of Justice, Sir, that we should not bandy names around, we should not accuse people.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: People are innocent until proven guilty and the Minister of Justice would be the first to uphold that principle and I would ask Your Honour a few moments to discuss the matter with the Government House Leader and Your Honour and look over the document and if you think then it should be tabled well then so be it. But I believe before we do that, Sir, we should take a serious look at it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! The hon. member has quoted from a document. The Chair has ordered that the document be tabled. I ask the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) to table the document.

AN HON. MEMBER: He does not want to.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

MR. ROBERTS: At this stage it is public.

MR. NEARY: A point of information,

Mr. Chairman. Will the document become public if I put it on the table of the House?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I ask the hon. member for LaPoile to lay the document on the table.

MR. FLIGET: He wants the press to have it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: But, Mr. Chairman, I grudgingly, I reluctantly, -

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! If not I will have to raise the Committee. I ask the hon. member to comply with the wishes of the Chair.



MR. NEARY: What does that mean, Your Honour,  
you have to raise the Committee? What does that mean?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! I ask the hon.  
member to lay the document on the table.

MR. W. ROWE: You cannot be in contempt. You will  
have to lay it on them, boy, hoping there will be an enquiry.

MR. NEARY: Well, Mr. Chairman, can I keep the  
document until I am finished making my case?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I ask the hon. member to table  
the document.

MR. ROBERTS: Then get a copy back.

MR. DINN: (Inaudible).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, I am rather reluctant  
to table the document, to be perfectly honest with  
you. I would prefer to consult with the Chair and the

Mr. Neary: Government House Leader and that is a reasonable request, Sir. I am not disobeying the orders of the Chair. It is a very serious matter, Sir, and I -

MR. W. N. ROWE: You will have to table it.

MR. NEARY: I beg your pardon?

MR. W. N. ROWE: You are going to have to table it.

MR. NEARY: And there are going to be names bandied about and the Minister of Justice tells us that down in the Department of Justice the minister will not even tell us if there is an investigation ongoing. And so would the minister not come to my rescue and support my plea to let the minister have a look at it, the Government House Leader?

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Chairman, there has been an order made by the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN (MR. YOUNG): Order, please! Yes, I made the order. I ask the hon. member for LaPoile to lay the document on the Table. I will have no more argument, please.

MR. W. N. ROWE: Go on and table it. That is all you can do.

MR. NEARY: How much more time do I have left, Mr. Chairman?

MR. HICKMAN: Except that the hon. gentleman is responsible for every word contained therein.

MR. CHAIRMAN (MR. YOUNG): Order, please!

MR. NEARY: What is that again?

MR. CHAIRMAN (MR. YOUNG): Order, please!

MR. HICKMAN: If the hon. member tables something he is responsible for what is contained therein.

MR. NEARY: No, Mr. Chairman -

MR. CHAIRMAN (MR. YOUNG): Order, please! I ask the hon. member for Lapoile to lay the document on the Table. It is the last time.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, a point of privilege of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN (MR. YOUNG): Order, please! I am hearing no point of privilege. You must correspond.

MR. MORGAN: Call the Sergeant-at-Arms.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN (MR. YOUNG): Order, please!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, the hon. -

MR. CHAIRMAN (MR. YOUNG): I rise the Committee.

Mr. Speaker returned to the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Chairman of Committees.

MR. CHAIRMAN (MR. YOUNG): Mr. Speaker, the Committee has considered the matters to them referred, and during the debate, Sir, I requested the member for LaPoile to table the document that he had quoted from. I quoted May and asked him to table that document and he is reluctant in doing so.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. Chairman of Committees has reported - a point of privilege, Sir, - the hon. Chairman of the Committees have reported correctly, Sir, that I refused in Committee to table the document because I am trying to protect possibly the innocent victims whose names are mentioned in this document. I do not mind tabling it, Mr. Speaker, if I can consult with Your Honour and the Government House Leader and my own Leader here before I put the document on the Table of the House and it becomes a public document. And if the Government House Leader then feels after reading the document and Your Honour feels that it should be put on the Table of the House, well, I will be very glad to do it. I am not trying to disobey the order of the Chair, Mr. Speaker, I am merely trying to be judicious in this matter. I am subscribing to a philosophy expounded so often in this House by the Minister of Justice. The Minister of Justice just shot across the House that I would be responsible for this document if I put it on the Table. Well, Sir, I do not want to put the document on the Table.

MR. HICKMAN: To that point of privilege, Mr. Speaker, if I may, because the hon. gentleman for LaPoile has been quoting dictum from me with respect to referring to investigations that are presently ongoing. That is quite correct, that if there is an investigation ongoing by the police most definitely it should not be made public because a person is innocent until proven guilty. This is not the issue before this House. The hon. gentleman for LaPoile made some very serious charges against an hon. member of this House.

MR. NEARY: No, I did not make them. I was told -

MR. ROWE (W): It was worse.

MR. HICKMAN: Well, quoting very serious charges from an alleged affidavit and also an alleged letter with respect to the conduct of the hon. Minister of Industrial Development, who is a member of this House. And, Mr. Speaker, it is certainly not for me in my capacity as Government House Leader to rule upon any documentation that the hon. member for LaPoile is referring from. And I do repeat that if any hon. gentlemen tables anything in this House that is sworn to or otherwise, or makes allegations thereon particularly against another hon. member, there is no question about it that the hon. gentleman so making the accusations and so tabling the document, whether he is ordered by the Chair or not, is responsible and must stand behind them. And if it should be proven that the person who swore to the affidavit committed perjury, then the hon. gentleman is in breach of the rules of this House, and in breach of the privileges of this House.

MR. NEARY: Come on! Do not be so stupid!

MR. HICKMAN: Most assuredly!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. W.N. ROWE: That is why you have a public enquiry here.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

I do not consider that there is a matter of privilege as such before the House. The situation is that in Committee of Supply a document was quoted from, a point of order was made that this be tabled, the Deputy Chairman of Committees in the Chair at the Table heard argument, reserved judgement and then gave his ruling, quoted his citation in May and, without quoting the citation again, the essence of his ruling was that the document cited or quoted from, unless it be private letters, must be tabled. The only exception to that referred to in May or Beauchesne, and that is related to a situation that came up last year, refers to a state document which is in the possession of a Minister of the Crown; then there may be the submission that it is not in the public interest.

Now this refers to a state document. It is something analogous, I think, to compare it to something, to a claim of Crown privilege in a court. I think it is something analogous to that. But in the situation now where we are not dealing with a state document, we are dealing with a document referred to by a private member, and the Chair, in the person of the Deputy Chairman of Committees, stated the rule and required that the matter be tabled. This not having been done, he has reported to me the situation as it is up to now.

My area of choice is, for all practical purposes, non-existent. I now, and finally, call upon the hon. gentleman and require him to table the document. I am aware of his concern in so doing, but that, in fact, is the rule and I have no choice but to require that it be tabled. I have no choice.

MR. NEARY: Your Honour, I appreciate the position you find yourself in. I reluctantly, Your Honour, put the document on the table of the House and I hope the Minister of Justice will suffer the consequences of this. When the hon. gentleman reads it, I hope he will give us an enquiry.

MR. FLIGHT: You tried your best, 'Steve'.  
You tried your best, boy.

MR. RIDEOUT: Well done, 'Gerry'! Well done!

MR. ROBERTS: Will Your Honour have copies made for the edification and the delight of members?

MR. W.N. ROWE: Copies made of that, please, and circulated.

MR. FLIGHT: To all the media. On motion that the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole on Supply, Mr. Speaker, left the Chair.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, I do not know how much time I have left.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: (Inaudible) have the copies already made, have they?

MR. NEARY: I resent that remark from the member for Grand Falls.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Young): Order, please! Order, please!

MR. LUNDRIGAN: You already have your copies made. Why do you not give us all a copy? If you did not want it tabled why did you bring it in?

MR. CHAIRMAN (Young): Order, please!

AN HON. MEMBER: The hon. member's time has expired.

MR. NEARY: What are you talking about?

MR. FLIGHT: We are in a new Committee now.

MR. NEARY: The Committee rose, Mr. Chairman, and now we are back again.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Young): Order, please!

I have not recognized the hon. member for LaPoile yet.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN(Young): I want to call the Heading first, please!

MR. NEARY: Yes, Sir.

MR. MORGAN: Sit down! Sit down, boy!

MR. CHAIRMAN(Young): Heading 1001-01.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN(Young): The hon. the member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, having dealt with that matter, Sir, I do hope, Mr. Chairman, that if there is any guilt or innocence, and the only way it can be proven, Sir, is for the Minister of Justice and the government to grant a public enquiry into this matter - sufficient evidence has now been brought before this House to show that there was wrongdoing in connection with the Health Sciences Complex - and I hope, Sir, that the Minister of Justice, in order to protect the innocent, and to take action against the guilty, if necessary, that a public enquiry will be granted.

I have been three years now calling for that public enquiry.

MR. S. NEARY: Now, Mr. Chairman, on a few other matters in connection with health, Sir, I want to have a few words about the Grand Falls hospital. Mr. Chairman, the Premier of this Province, as hon. members know, went to Grand Falls last year and promised the Committee, and indeed wrote the Committee put his promise in writing to the Committee of Concerned Citizens in Grand Falls, that they would this year get an extension to the hospital. The government has broken its promise and -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. S. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, may I have a little order, Sir? The government has broken its promise, Sir, broken its promise and as a result of it we saw one minister resigning from the Cabinet and several other ministers threatening to resign, maybe not directly as a result of the government's breach of trust, breaking their promise to the people in Grand Falls, but indirectly, I would submit, Sir, that that is what triggered the seven members on the weekend to have an emergency meeting, including the Minister of Fisheries who is now smiling over there, I believe, and the Minister of Industrial Development. I am not sure about the Minister of Tourism but if he was there, well, the hon. gentleman will have to speak for himself. Seven members threatened to go across the House over this matter and as a result, Sir, ever since the government has been in a state of chaos, has been in a state of confusion. The Premier has given up governing this Province. Mr. Chairman, if we had in this Province the same as they do in the United States a law whereby you could impeach a government or impeach a Premier, Sir, I would move tonight that we impeach the government. Well, we cannot do it because we do not have that law in Canada. We are not the same as the United States. But the hon. the Premier has given up governing the Province.

MR. FLIGHT: The grounds are there.

MR. F. ROWE: A point of order, 'Alex'.

MR. S. NEARY: The hon. gentleman is right ready to come out of his seat again on a point of order, the hon. Minister of Justice, the great constitutional expert.

MR. G. FLIGHT: Shellshockad, hoy, shellshocked!



MR. W.N. ROWE: He has not won a point of order in about six months.

MR. HICKMAN: I was going to straighten you out on the law of reasonable -

MR. S. NEARY: No, Sir, there is no rule, there is no law in Canada. We do not have the same laws as they do in the United States. We cannot impeach the government collectively, neither can we impeach the Premier. If we could, I would move that it be done, and the Minister of Transportation and Communications be impeached along with his hon. colleague that he has fallen in disfavor with over the last year or two. But we cannot do it, Sir. And so the people of Grand Falls -

MR. CHAIRMAN: (Dr. Collins) Order, please! Order, please!

If the hon. member would permit me, I do not think we should pursue this particular line too much. As the hon. member mentioned this is not part of our constitutional activity and therefore it is not in order for us to consider it. And, as hon. members will remember, that a matter cannot be brought up hypothetically and be in order if it is out of order if it is brought up in actual fact. So I would just remind -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible) a silly ruling.

MR. CHAIRMAN: - the hon. member that he should not bring matters hypothetically.

MR. S. NEARY: I thank Your Honour -

MR. A. HICKMAN: A point of privilege.

MR. CHAIRMAN: A point of privilege.

MR. A. HICKMAN: The hon. gentleman for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simmons) referred to Your Honour's ruling as a silly, stunned ruling and I ask that he be directed to withdraw it forthwith.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CHAIRMAN: In giving a ruling or when the Chair addresses the Committee I think it is equivalent to giving a ruling. And hon. members will remember that in our orders it is required that members of Committee not interject at that time. So if there was an interjection I would as the hon. member if he would kindly withdraw it. On this point, I think that

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MR. CHAIRMAN: whilst giving the ruling the Chair cannot hear everything that goes on in the House, but a point of order has been brought up - a point of privilege, I should say, has been brought up and unless the point of privilege is denied or negated in some way the Chair has to deal with it. So I would think that the way it could be best dealt with would be if there is validity to the point that any remark that would be made in regard to the Chair would be withdrawn.

MR. S. NEARY: May I help Your Honour in making that decision because

MR. CHAIRMAN (DR. COLLINS): Are you speaking to the point of privilege?

MR. NEARY: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The tradition of this House, Your Honour, has been that if the Chair did not hear the remark then the Chair does not rule; the Chair just takes it for granted that it was never made. And in this particular instance, Your Honour has indicated that he did not hear any remark. So I would assume there is no point of privilege or no point of order, Sir.

MR. MORGAN: To that point of privilege, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister of Tourism.

MR. MORGAN: The hon. Leader on the Government side of the House stated that the member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simmons) did state that your ruling was silly and stunned. This hon. gentleman also heard the same statement. And what I am saying is that whether or not the Chair heard the statement because of the fact he was speaking at the time while making his ruling, the statement was made by a member of the House of Assembly, in this case the hon. gentleman for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir and he should be asked to retract the statement.

AN HON. MEMBER: I did not hear it.

MR. MORGAN: I heard it, he heard it, he heard it.

MR. CHAIRMAN (MR. COLLINS): The hon. the member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir.

MR. SIMMONS: I do not know why everybody is getting so worked up about. Mr. Chairman, I made an aside to some of my colleagues. Mr. Chairman's ruling was brilliant. I withdraw any inference it was silly or stunned.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CHAIRMAN (DR. COLLINS): I thank the hon. member.

MR. SIMMONS: Brilliant! Brilliant!

MR. CHAIRMAN (DR. COLLINS): The hon. the member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir.

MR. NEARY: No, LaPoile, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DR. COLLINS): I am sorry, LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. gentleman, the Minister of Health would get out his pencil, Sir, and make a few notes I would like to ask the hon. gentleman a few questions that I hope he will answer when the hon. gentleman gets a chance to respond. First of all, Sir, I want to deal with this matter of the \$3 charge on hospital beds. My hon. friend the member for St. George's (Mrs. McIsaac) asked the hon. minister, Sir, sometime ago for some information in connection with this \$3 charge on hospital beds which, incidentally, the Committee may be interested in knowing now has to be paid in advance. Before people are admitted to hospital they have to lay out the hard cold cash, and if you do not have the cash you do not get admitted to hospital.

MR. H. COLLINS: That is not true.

MR. NEARY: It is true, Sir. Mr. Chairman, it is true. And the hon. gentleman can bluff all he wants.

AN HON. MEMBER: Twenty-five bucks in your hand.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, scandal seems to follow the hon. gentleman. In the Fisheries Department we had it, in Public Works, Exon House, television sets, Forestry and now with the Health Sciences Complex.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, we want to know, and the people of this Province want to know if the \$3 charge up to a maximum of \$45 only applies one time in a year or does it apply every time the person is admitted to hospital?

MR. H. COLLINS: I told an hon. member yesterday.

MR. NEARY: The hon. gentleman did not tell the hon. member yesterday.

MR. H. COLLINS: I certainly did.

MR. NEARY: And we would like to know now, Sir, if the charge can be repeated over and over and over again, or is it only one charge of a maximum of \$45 a year? And I would like for the hon. gentleman to clear up a statement that the hon. gentleman just made that people do not have to pay the \$3 a day in advance. I would like

Mr. Neary: for the minister to clear that up.

MR. H. COLLINS: The hon. member -

MR. NEARY: They have to lay out the hard cold cash, Sir, before they are admitted to hospital.

MR. SIMMONS: Shame!

MR. NEARY: And I submitted to the minister a few weeks ago in this hon. House -

DR. R. WINSOR: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

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

DR. R. WINSOR: I would ask the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) to document any case where a citizen of Newfoundland has been denied entrance to hospital because he did not have the \$3 to pay the hospital charge. If the hon. member for LaPoile can document the fact that a patient has been turned away from hospital where he has not had the money to pay, if he can do that I will resign my seat. If he cannot prove it, would he resign his?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

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

MR. W. ROWE: To that point of order, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DR. COLLINS): The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. W. ROWE: Can the hon. Government House Leader get control over the members on that side of the House, Sir, and ask them to stop abusing the orders and the privileges of this House?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. W. ROWE: What was raised there a moment ago, Sir, bore no resemblance whatsoever to a point of order. It was simply a matter, a dispute of opinion, fact, call it what you may. It has nothing to do with the rules, regulations, or orders of this hon. House or this Committee. And would you ask the hon. House Leader to try to get some control over the members on that side, Sir?

MR. HICKMAN: To that point of order. On the question of control, you know, it ill-behooves the hon. the Leader of the Opposition to get up and say that we should control the hon. gentlemen on this side on their points

Mr. Hickman: of order.

MR. W. ROWE: Try to control them.

MR. HICKMAN: They have been hopping up all over the House. We witnessed last Friday - Thursday afternoon, when the hon. the gentleman from Bellevue (Mr. Callan) got up on an alleged point of order and made -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

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

MR. HICKMAN: - an accusation against an hon. member.

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

I do feel I must interrupt and say that I do not think a point of order is before the Chair.

The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. SEARY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, The spokesman for the dentists has now become a constitutional expert, Sir, in this Hon. House. But, Mr. Chairman, I would submit to the hon. Minister of Health, and I said this several weeks ago, that if the minister wanted to save a few dollars that the thing to zero in on was the MCP. Eliminate the abuses of MCP by both the doctors and the patients and the minister would have gotten all the money that he needed. He would have gotten several hundreds of thousands of dollars and it would not have been necessary to implement the \$3.00 charge on hospital beds or the \$2.00 service charge on little children who have to go to the dentist. My hon. friend should be ashamed of himself to sit and support a government that has practically set the dental programme, the children's dental programme in this Province, back ten years. I am quoting the hon. gentleman's colleagues in Central and Western Newfoundland. And that hon. Tory - there are two or three Tories on the other side of the House, Sir, The member for St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter) is a real, honest-to-goodness Tory. You have some Liberals over there, some lukewarm PC's, but the hon. gentleman has turned out to be a right wing Tory. If there is ever a Tory on that side of the House, Sir, there it is down there in that hon. gentleman. And if he thinks he is going to get his practice down with Toastmasters then I would submit, Sir, that the hon. gentleman will have to come in the same as all other hon. members. The school of hard knocks, that is the only place you can get your experience in public speaking, not down at Toastmasters, and then get up and make specious points of order and suddenly become a constitutional expert apart from being spokesman for the dentists. So, Mr. Chairman, if my hon. friend wanted to get the money, the countervailing savings, the hon. minister could have zeroed in on MCP and tried to eliminate some of the abuses of MCP and the minister would have gotten sufficient funds to cover the amount that he will get from the \$3.00 charge on hospital beds that is creating such a hardship to people in this Province. Mr. Chairman, my hon. friend from Burin-Placentia West (Mr. Canning) there a couple of weeks ago told us that there were several hundred people on the waiting list. How many?

MR. CANNING:

There are a thousand at least.

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Topic No. 1435 (Night)

71-1

MR. NEARY: One thousand, one thousand people in this Province waiting to get into hospital.

MR. CANNING: That is three hospitals only.

MR. NEARY: That is only three hospitals, Mr. Chairman, that is St. Clare's, the Grace General and the General Hospital.

MR. FLIGHT: There are 600 in Grand Falls.

MR. NEARY: Six hundred in Grand Falls alone! And the minister had the gall and the face to get up and tell us, tell members of this hon. House and tell the people of this Province that no hardship was created, no one was suffering because of this waiting list. What a pile of garbage, Sir! What utter nonsense! There are people suffering. I know people right now who are on Workmen's Compensation who stand to lose their jobs because they cannot get admitted to hospital, the employers tell them if they do not report back to work that they are going to lose their jobs. They need surgery - the minister may call it elective surgery - but if that is not a hardship, Sir, I do not know what it is. The hon. gentleman cannot get up and lay his reputation, lay his ministry on the line and say that there is no hardship or no suffering as a result of 1,000 people on a waiting list to get into the three hospitals in this city.

Mr. Chairman, a few years ago the government adopted as its policy that in the city of St. John's only one outpatients department would be operated, the one down at the General Hospital. Now, Sir, I am told that we have gone back to where we were seven or eight or nine or ten years ago, that the three principal hospitals in St. John's, all three, are now operating an outpatient and an emergency department. Why, Mr. Chairman? Why has that happened? I would like for the minister to give us an explanation, tell us why St. Clare's and why the Grace General Hospital were forced to open up emergency and outpatients departments. Perhaps the spokesman for the dentists in the house can tell us. I would like to find out why. Is it because more staff have become available? Maybe the member for Exploits (Dr. Twomey)



MR. NEARY:

can tell us. Is it because they now have the specialists and the staff? The government has changed its policy, reversed its policy, and I would like to know, Mr. Chairman, which outpatients is being used the most. Is it St. Clare's, is it the General, or is it the Grace General? I would like to get some clarification on this waiting list, Mr. Chairman, because I am not convinced, neither are my colleagues convinced, Sir, that there is no suffering or no hardship as a result of these huge waiting lists that we have in this Province at the present time.

And, Mr. Chairman, the senior citizens came to see us there a couple of weeks ago and the Minister of Social Services was the spokesman for the government, met the group but, Sir, really the free drugs, free eyeglasses, free dentures does not come under that minister at all. It comes under the Minister of Health. The hon. gentleman's department merely certifies that people are in need. The hon. gentleman does not give out the free drugs or the free eyeglasses. Well, there are no free eyeglasses for senior citizens or old people. Children going to school are lucky to get glasses from the hon. minister. But I would like to hear the hon. Minister of Health's views on this matter of free prescription drugs to the senior citizens of this Province. And the hon. gentleman will tell us now there is no suffering amongst the senior citizens of this Province. I would like to bring up the correspondence down in my office. The hon. administration should be ashamed of themselves. Veterans and senior citizens are suffering because the minister's department will not certify need on their behalf and they are being denied badly needed drugs, prescription drugs and medication. They are being denied it, Sir, by this administration, and it is criminal what is happening to some of our senior citizens in this Province.

MR. NEARY: What does the hon. spokesman for the dentists have to say about that? Will the hon. gentleman tell me it is not true? If the hon. gentleman tells me that he is completely out of touch with his constituents. Because I would venture to say, Sir, that in the hon. gentleman's district tonight there are senior citizens who are suffering because they cannot afford to go down and pay huge sums for medication and prescription drugs that they need so badly to keep them alive. And the Minister of Social Services says, "We might". "We might in a year or so, we might do it."

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. BRETT: How come you did not bring it in then?

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, I can tell the hon. House and the hon. gentleman that I brought in a \$40 a month allowance for senior citizens and we did give them prescription drugs based on need.

DR. R. WINSOP: Was that for Bell Island?

MR. BRETT: We have it today based on need.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, there is the dirt coming out of the spokesman for the dentists in this House, the hon. Tory gentleman. I have my facts straight.

Mr. Chairman, what plans does the administration have, does the hon. gentleman have, the minister, to provide dentures for senior citizens in this Province so they can chew up their food so they can digest it properly? The hon. gentleman might get a bit of business if the Minister of Health provided dentures for senior citizens and veterans who cannot afford to buy them themselves, and eyeglasses.

Mr. Chairman, we have got people going around this Province half blind who cannot get eyeglasses. They cannot afford to buy them. They are going down to Woolco,

MR. NEARY: some of them, buying them out of the showcase down there, and they do not realize the damage in some cases they are doing to their eyes. And then this is the same crowd, Sir, that will get Cadillac helicopter contracts, \$4 million, \$5 million, \$6 million, can go up to \$8 million, a new aeroplane to carry the ministers back and forth across the Province and over on the Mainland, all kind of entertainment, all kinds of extravagance and waste. Action groups, directors part-time broadcasting hockey games, getting \$47,500 from the taxpayers of this Province and a couple of million dollars for McConnell Agencies

MR. NEARY: up in Montreal to do the government's PE work for them while they take it out on the hide of the sick and the crippled and the lame of this Province. The administration should be ashamed of themselves, Sir, and if they had any intestinal fortitude at all the ones who have any principle left would cross the House or resign and get out of politics altogether.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CHAIRMAN: (Dr. Collins) The hon. the member for Naskaupi.

MR. GOUDIE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to avail of the opportunity under these estimates to hopefully outline a couple of problems or concerns that some people may have in Labrador in relation to health care. Hon. members might remember there was a great 'to do' a couple of years back about the staff and facilities of the Paddon Memorial Hospital in Happy Valley relocating to the Melville Hospital at Goose Bay. There were some problems then and there still are some problems now, and one of the major problems again is the transportation of people - particularly senior citizens and older people, people who are on social assistance-travelling by taxi from Happy Valley to Goose Bay. It is only four or five miles, but a round trip will cost anywhere between \$6.00 to \$8.00 and people are concerned about that. There was a bus service in effect there at one point in time, but that was not paying for itself so it has now been discontinued.

In relation to that hospital itself, I would like to pose a couple of questions in relation to specialist care. I am told that because of our lack of population in all parts of Labrador we do not have enough people living there to warrant, I think you might call it a referral centre or a major centre for health care in Labrador. The physical facility is there. The present Melville Hospital can accommodate in an emergency up to 110 beds; it was designed that way by the American air force in the event of war or injury or any other activity. So under emergency situations the facility is there. I would suggest that the hospital could accommodate 80 beds comfortably. But what do you do with the beds once they are full of patients and inadequate specialists to care for them? For instance, I have had a number of letters over the last



MR. GOUDIE: that is going to bring in thousands of men and women during the construction phase. That means that these people are going to need medical care because of accidents that take place on such a construction project, any number of causes. Would it not be possible, for instance, to plan now to provide an adequate medical facility, preferably in the Happy Valley - Goose Bay area since it is central in terms of transportation and communications, with most other parts of Labrador? Would it not make sense to plan now for an adequate facility there to accommodate not only the work force which would come in to develop the Gull Island project but any other projects? We keep talking about the hope that offshore oil and gas discoveries will be large enough to warrant exploitation off there, and uranium deposits.

So the population is going to grow. Are we going to plan our programmes or our social programmes in relation to that? How long would it take to construct a hospital in that area? I do not know. Two, three, four years? Something certainly will be developing by then and would it not make good sense to plan now to provide specialist care in terms of the medical care of Labrador. I think the planning has to be considered not only for economic development which takes place, but for other services as well, such as hospitals. And if you talk about a need to justify that sort of thing, in past debates we have heard hon. gentlemen mention that something like ninety-eight per cent of the iron ore or the mineral production of this Province comes from a couple of towns in Labrador West, in Menihek district, not all that large royalty right now from the hydro power, but there is a considerable amount of money coming out of Labrador into the Provincial Treasury. Is it not reasonable to ask for a reasonable or an equitable return to provide this sort of thing?

If I can just refer again to the Paddon

MR. GOUDIE: Building, the former Paddon Memorial Hospital, one of the great concerns expressed by the senior citizens in the area was that a senior citizens home or a facility was required in Labrador, simply because - well, not simply because but one of the reasons being because there is no such facility in that part of the Province. So now the work is going ahead by a volunteer group in Happy Valley - Goose Bay to bring that about. Government agreed to guarantee occupancy so that the facility could be constructed. That, I believe, is going to be the final such facility in this Province. But do we also deduce from that that no more hospitals will be built in the Province? I do not know if they will be or not.

AN HON. MEMBER: This is not connected with the senior citizens home.

MR. GOUDIE: No, I realize that. I am just trying to present the argument that the senior citizens home is obviously a different facility and it is agreed, I think, that that is going to be the final one for Labrador - I am sorry, for the Province, will be built in Labrador. But does that same rationale apply to hospitals or to any other facilities, be they health care or other social care? And if that is not the case, all I am suggesting is that we plan not only for the economic development of our resources but for the social benefit of people who have to work and exploit these resources as well, in terms of providing medical care and so on to that part of the Province.

I think one or two groups of people who should come in for praise, if you would, at least recognition in terms of their contribution to the medical care of people in Labrador, one of them obviously being the IGA, the International Grenfell Association, but particularly the health nurses on the Coast of Labrador. We are pretty well off in the Lake Melville area with the medical facilities we have, not only at Northwest River but in Happy Valley - Goose Bay as well. I have travelled the

MR. GOUDIE: Coast on a number of occasions on a snowmobile and have encountered three or four nurses at a time snowmobiling from one community to another, providing medical care to people for injuries, for colds, for various problems they have had and that is in weather of twenty and thirty degrees below zero. I would suggest some of their medicines probably froze enroute from one community to another. That may or may not render it useless but it certainly presents some problems to the nurse if you had to inject medicine into a person's body.



MR. GOUDIE: So the medical facilities on the coast, I think, are sadly lacking. With the construction of airstrips coming about that may change a bit in that air ambulances will be able to get into communities on a more regular basis, or at least, easier basis. There is an aircraft stationed at North West River right now to carry people not only in from the coast to the Central part of Labrador, but from the North West River - Happy Valley - Goose Bay area to St. Anthony, or to St. John's, if need be. With airstrips being put in that is going to make that service a little more reliable, if you will, but that does not change the fact that medical facilities are needed on the coast in terms of clinics and staff.

The nurses out there are doing a yeoman job, I think. I do not know of any doctors who are out there on a regular basis. I think they visit there occasionally from some of the larger centres. So that group of people have rendered an almost invaluable service along with another group who are more involved, I think, in not necessarily preventative measures, but in measures to help ease the pain of those people who become sick or become injured, and that is the St. John Ambulance group who have been carrying on work in coastal Labrador for a number of years now. They are funded partially by the Department of Health, I understand, if you want to go through the estimates to check, but they are performing quite a service as well.

I would like the minister to address himself to the question of whether Labrador would warrant a referral centre, if you will, of its own in terms of specialist facilities such as surgical personnel, perhaps psychiatric personnell and so on. And the other question, a subject with which I am not very familiar, but hopefully he might address himself to, is the need or other-

MR. GOUDIE: wise of a hospital board, perhaps, to administer the Melville Hospital in Happy Valley - Goose Bay. As hon. members are aware, that has been carried on traditionally by the International Grenfell Association, but is it practical to suggest that a hospital board may or may not take over the administration of that facility? And perhaps he might explain some of the implications involved.

These are just a few of my concerns, Mr. Chairman. I had hoped that some other hon. members representing districts in Labrador might be in the House tonight to express their concerns in relation to their own districts. Perhaps the member for Straits of Belle Isle area - he is not in the House at the moment - perhaps he will get a chance to address himself a little later on. But if the minister does have the occasion I would appreciate his remarks on the questions I have raised.

MR. H. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, perhaps I should respond -

MR. CHAIRMAN(Collins): Order, please!  
I did recognize the hon. the member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: I would just as soon let the hon. minister go, Sir. I am anxious to get into item by item. If the hon. gentleman does not wish to delay or obstruct the progress of the Committee I will take my seat and yield to the hon. gentleman and let us go item by item.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. minister.

MR. H. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, if there is any hon. member in this House who should be accused of delaying the proceedings of the House, or filibustering or anything else, certainly that charge should not be directed at me. I will not, Mr. Chairman, offer to you any suggestions to where that charge might be directed, but I am sure that all hon. members would know where it should be directed.

MR. H. COLLINS: The member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) referred to the Health Sciences Complex and referred to what he said was a fact, that nobody has been able to identify or to come up with the total cost of that particular complex.

Mr. Chairman, the total projected cost, the total projected completion cost of the Health Sciences Complex, as I have given to hon. members in the House over the past two or three weeks, the total projected completion cost is in the order of \$67 million.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I should say something else about that and that is, as my colleague the Minister of Public Works and Services can confirm after doing an analysis

MR. H. COLLINS: across the country in terms of the Canadian construction index over the past number of years - over the years since the Health Sciences Complex was started up until this year when it will be completed - a study of the Canadian construction index not including, Mr. Chairman, incidentally, the cost of hospital construction, which this is, but the Canadian construction index cost will show that the Health Sciences Complex coming in at a completion cost of \$67 million is well within the history or the record as shown by the Canadian construction index across the country. So let us put that to bed once and for all, Mr. Chairman, that cost is not out of line with the accepted cost as we see it as provided by the Canadian construction index.

The hon. member also alluded to the \$3.00 ward charge in the hospitals which has been introduced. Mr. Chairman, not too long ago again I gave figures in this House which indicated that the average - and I might be a little bit off here on a few dollars but not too many. I gave all of the various costs per day for a hospital bed in the different institutions across the country and those vary a little bit - as I understand it, as I remember it, the average cost per day per patient in our hospitals is in the order of \$115 per day. The \$3.00 charge, Mr. Chairman, is certainly a very minute charge especially when one considers that in all other jurisdictions in Canada the charge of \$115, \$120, \$130, \$150, or as much as \$275 per day, is charged to the people who happen to be unfortunate enough to be hospitalized. Now, granted, Mr. Chairman, there are some provinces where health insurance premiums are in place and their premiums so collected of course meets that cost to some extent.

I can also tell the hon. member that nowhere in Newfoundland has anyone ever been denied admission to hospital because they cannot make a down payment. If the hon. members can show me or tell me of any hospital in this Province where a person has been denied emergency treatment because he or she has not had the \$3.00 or the \$15.00 or the \$20.00 or \$45.00 to put down as a down payment, as it were, before admission, I would be interested in hearing about it. Naturally people are requested to pay the \$3.00 charge per day when they come for admission. But, Mr.

MR. H. COLLINS:

Chairman, as I said, if hon. members do have any instances where people have been denied hospitalization of an emergency nature by virtue of the fact that they do not have their down payment, then I would be most interested to hear about it.

The hon. member for LaPoile also alluded to the great waiting list, the great number of people on waiting lists across this Province and particularly in the hospitals in St. John's. I do not know if hon. members remember or not, but three or four weeks ago, I believe, I did go into the waiting list situation and I will repeat tonight what I said then and this was an updated list of about three or four weeks ago. The total number of people on waiting lists at the Grace Hospital was 2,074. The total number of people on the waiting lists at St. Clare's was 743. The total number of people on the waiting list at the General was 598. The total number of people on the waiting list at the Janeway was 424. At the Western Memorial Regional Hospital in Corner Brook the waiting list was 1,681. The waiting list at the James Peyton Memorial Hospital in Gander was 574 and the waiting list at the Central Newfoundland Hospital at the same time was 420. Mr. Chairman it might be worth breaking down that list but before I do that I should say that the number of people on a waiting list is not a good yardstick to be used in terms of justifying the need for additional hospital beds. This waiting list, so the professionals in my department and people in the Medical Association tell me, is not different from the waiting list one would find anywhere in the Atlantic Provinces or indeed

Mr. H. Collins: anywhere across Canada. In the case of The Grace, for instance, 246 people are on the waiting list for surgery, which is mainly elective, 27 people were there for medicinal purposes, 30 psychiatry, 22 eye, 404 gynecology, 18 urology, 1,330 E.N.T. And that figure just about applies, Mr. Chairman, all across the Province. And I would want to make the point again, now this can be confirmed by any of the professionals in the field, that those waiting lists are not unusual; In fact, they are most usual and are found in all of the institutions across the country.

The hon. member also referred to a meeting which was held some days ago with the representatives of the senior citizens of Newfoundland, My colleague the hon. Minister of Social Services and, I believe, the Minister of Tourism met with that particular group, I would have met them myself but I was out of town that day, I was back in my district. We are very sympathetic with the case which those people have presented to us. It is a well known fact that people who are on fixed incomes -and essentially they are on fixed incomes and very little increments do they receive - and we are sympathetic. Some of them, not all of them, Mr. Chairman, but some of these people do have to, or are requested to pay a disproportionate amount of their income on drugs. The government, as I said, is very sympathetic to that need. And my colleague is having an analysis done of that particular problem and the government will be giving very serious consideration to it in the days to come.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DR. COLLINS): Shall 1001-01 carry?

On motion 1001-01 carried.

On motion 1001-02 through 1003-02-08 carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DR. COLLINS): Shall 1004-01 carry?

The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: 1004-01, Vital Statistics. Could the minister tell the House if the registration of births, marriages, and deaths and so forth, if all that branch has been computerized yet? Is all that information now held over in the Newfoundland Computer Services, you know, on microfilms? What I am asking the minister is if they have completed the computerization of the Vital Statistics Department?

MR. CHAIRMAN (DR. COLLINS): The hon. the Minister of Health.

MR. H. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I suspect what the hon. member is referring to now is that during the past several months we have had a real problem in trying to keep up with the demand in the department on the basis of request which we are receiving for birth certificates. There is a great number of people in Newfoundland by virtue of the registration system in the past whereby baptismal certificates were given, and people today are looking for birth certificates. The demands on the department have been increased tremendously this past few months in that the Federal Department of National Health and Welfare, I presume, are in the process of issuing new social security, I think that is the right name, social security cards. In order for people to obtain those they have to have a birth certificate. Consequently, the demands being made on the department are most unreal in terms of the usual patterns.

I might say that all provinces are faced with the same problem with the exception of the Province of Quebec where for some reason they have been exempted from this. We thought we might have been exempted but we found that that was impossible. What we had to arrange, Mr. Chairman, was for a number of people to come back on overtime to try and clear up the backlog, and

MR. COLLINS: once that is done then we will get up-to-date and have the whole thing after a period of months computerized and put on film, or whatever it is they call it, but it will be updated and a better service provided.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. member for Baie Verte-White Bay.

MR. RIDEOUT: Mr. Chairman, the minister in his reply to my colleague did not mention how long it would take now for applications that come in by mail to be processed in the Vital Statistics division. For Birth Certificates - some of my constituents have been telling me they have had some great delays, like four or five or six weeks, and they still do not have any reply back and consequently what they are doing is phoning up to us and we end up going down and getting the Birth Certificates for them. I am not complaining about that, but I just was wondering how much of a backlog the minister has and whether he has taken any steps besides the overtime business about getting it cleaned up. That is just an aside: what I did want to mention, I understand that the Marriage Licenses come under this particular head. That is right, is it not?

MR. H. COLLINS: What number is the hon. member on?

MR. RIDEOUT: We are on 104, Vital Statistics. Page 61, if the minister is looking for the page.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I do believe that the issuers of Marriage Licences come under this particular head. I know they are responsible to the minister's department and I believe they come under the head. I am not going to get into the debate that I was into last year with the minister about the political hanky-panky that went on in the appointment of some of those issuers of Marriage Licenses but I do want to say this to the minister; after all was said and done and they appointed the people that they really were determined to appoint, has the minister been reappointing any of those people lately? For example, in Baie Verte, the person that the minister appointed in Baie Verte held the position for five or six or seven months and then left Baie Verte and it is my understanding, I have had a number of complaints about it, it is my understanding that nobody has been reappointed to that position since and that person,



MR. RIDEOUT: the original person who held the position left Baie Verte now about twelve or fourteen months ago. It is my understanding that nobody has been reappointed in Baie Verte to issue Marriage Licenses and consequently, Mr. Chairman, it means that people in Fleur de Lys or Coachman's Cove or Seal Cove or Baie Verte itself have to drive to LaScie, which is a seventy mile round trip, just to get a Marriage License before they can get married. So maybe the minister would tell me whether or not he has appointed anybody in Baie Verte. I know there are applications on file and I know that the person who probably should have been appointed to it first but was not, that application is still on file and maybe the minister would dig out that application and appoint somebody down there so that they will not have to drive down to LaScie just to get a piece of paper to carry to the church.

MR. MOORES: Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member for Carbonear.

MR. MOORES: I would just like to ask - I would like to give the minister first an example of a problem that I am having with the constituents in my district and it relates to a situation where the constituent wants a Birth Certificate but cannot, although he has tried very sincerely and very hard, he cannot find two pieces of documentation to indicate his date of birth as a result of the church records, I believe, being burnt and the census records and the archives just not being kept. I have taken the matter up with a department official, Mr. Dewey, and I have asked him in this particular instance - because two pieces of documentation cannot be found, it is impossible to find them - that an extraordinary case be made of this situation and that a deferred, if you like, Birth Certificate be given. Would the minister just explain to me if it is possible in a circumstance like this to get the regulation bent, if you like?

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, with regard to the question asked by the hon. member for Baie Verte (Mr. Rideout) with regard to Marriage Licenses, I think it will be agreed, all hon. members will agree, that the Marriage Licensing Act which,

MR. H. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I had the honour of bringing in and getting passed through this House, was a major piece of legislation, long overdue, and was well received by all of the people in Newfoundland. The officials in my department were very much concerned when the legislation was passed in the first place because they thought it was going to be an administrative nightmare, very difficult to administer. The result has been, Mr. Chairman, that it has been well administered by virtue of the fact that we were fortunate in that we managed to select a number of very competent people to act as marriage licence issuers around the Province. There could very well be, and I know there have been some cases where people who were appointed in the first place have resigned for different reasons. Chances are they did not want to be saddled with the responsibility or they might have left the community or whatever. But certainly in the case of the hon. member when he alludes to Baie Verte, which is a fairly large community, I am astounded to know that there has not been a replacement. I have to take the hon. member's word. But I will certainly check that out because it is most important that we do have a marriage licence issuer appointed in Baie Verte to take the place of the one who resigned for whatever reason.

MR. RIDEOUT: Let us get a replacement.

MR. H. COLLINS: I will take a look at that situation, Mr. Chairman.

In regard to the hon. member for Carbonear (Mr. Moores), I do not know the case to which he refers, but I think all hon. members will know that there are some cases where it is very difficult for the officials in the department, in the registry, to be able to issue a birth certificate. I know there have been cases in the past where certificates have been issued on the

MR. H. COLLINS: basis of information which has been given, I am sure with the best of intentions but proved to be less than factual. And that is understandable when some elderly person tries to draw upon memory back sixty-five or seventy years ago.

There is a procedure, if the required documentation is not available there is a procedure whereby birth certificates can be issued. Now I will certainly guarantee the hon. member that if he wants to drop down in the department and see me we will get the people involved in that particular field in and see what information is available. I am sure the necessary information cannot be available now. If it is not, we can certainly indicate to him, who can take word back to the applicant, to ensure that the suitable information is found and the birth certificate can be issued.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for St. George's.

MRS. MACISSAC: I would just like to say a word on the issuance of birth certificates because I have been involved in one. Well, it is cleared up now, but there was a lady in my district, a Mrs. Sheppard to be exact, who had applied for her old age pension and had to have a birth certificate, naturally, and it took her - she applied six months early, she started the paper work on it, and a year and a half after she became sixty-five she still had not received her first old age pension cheque. And there must be some way to speed up this service because when people turn sixty-five naturally they want their old age pensions, they do not have anything else to live on. And as I said she started six months in advance and a year and a half past her sixty-fifth birthday she still had not received a cheque because there was no way to verify her age.

But in a case like that, when you go back that far, and in some of the remote areas where there were not that many clergymen or parish priests or ministers or whatever, and

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MR. H. COLLINS:                   the records probably got to St. John's late and probably got mixed up along the way somewhere, people probably got baptized a year after they were born, and this is what I think happened in Mr. Sheppard's case, but there was not much that could be done about it. But it seems as though after they went back and researched all the old census records, that was not sufficient - they got a couple of them to jibe, but that was not sufficient and it ended up that they had to send people out from St. John's

MRS. MacISAAC: and hold some sort of an inquiry and get representatives from the area. And I do not dispute, you know, this procedure, but I certainly hope that something can be done to speed it up because it is a little bit long, you know, when you are waiting for an old age cheque, for an old age pensioner to have to wait a year and a half to get it. I wonder if something could be done to speed up this process?

MR. CHAIRMAN: (Mr. Young) The hon. the Minister of Health.

MR. H. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, that is a problem, as I just mentioned, and it is a very difficult one to resolve, but I can appreciate the difficulty which it poses to the applicant when one is corresponding back and forth with the people in the department. I do not think it is unfair to say that very often the requirements which the departmental people lay down might be misunderstood by the person back wherever. We have to be very careful and we have to make positively sure that before a birth certificate is issued that it is accurate because sometimes the receipt of old age pensions are contingent upon it. NOT that we would want to keep away the old age pension from some people but it is necessary that the record which we provide to the federal authorities is accurate, because if it is found not to be accurate goodness knows what the repercussions can be coming back a year or two years down the road. There is a procedure through affidavits and so on and so forth which can be followed, and while hon. members are here in St. John's if they have some problems from some of their constituents, I would suggest that they go down to the department and talk with the people in the Registry. If the information is not available there now, then they could readily obtain the information from the constituent and possibly get some affidavits from some friends in the community supporting and confirming what the applicant claims to be his or her birth date, and we will try and arrange to issue a certificate. But, as I say, we have to be careful to make sure as far as possible that the information which is given to us is actual and factual. We are on the receiving end of a lot of complaints because of that, but I am afraid that under the present circumstances there is not too much we can do other than try and

MR. H. COLLINS: get the people to let us have the necessary supporting evidence in the absence of the proper evidence which is normally available through the churches and the clergymen. If the hon. member has a particular case we would be glad to look at it for her.

On motion, 1004-01, carried.

On motion, 1004-03-01 and 02, carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (Mr. Young) Shall 1005-01 carry?

MR. RIDEOUT: Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. RIDEOUT: Mr. Chairman, I want the minister, if he would be kind enough, to tell me before I get into a few remarks whether this district medical care, provision of medical service in rural areas, would that be the particular head that would take care of any expenses incurred by the LaScie Clinic? If it is not there may be another head and I will wait until that time. Would that be where you would take care of the doctor's salary and the operating expenses of the LaScie Clinic?

MR. H. COLLINS: It would be.

MR. RIDEOUT: Okay. I thank the minister, Mr. Chairman.

Now, Mr. Chairman, the few remarks I have on this head are related specifically, as I indicated in my opening question, to the operation of the medical clinic in the town of LaScie.

On the Baie Verte Peninsula, Mr. Chairman, as far as I am concerned, we have one of the best health care operations in the Province, operated under the auspices of the Baie Verre Peninsula Health Centre operated by the United Church of Canada with its own board and so on set up by the Province - an excellent medical care centre.

In the town of LaScie we have a clinic staffed by a doctor and a nurse. And what I am concerned about, and what has been coming to me, Mr. Chairman, from the people of LaScie, is how this particular clinic, while there is nobody arguing about the necessity for it - in fact, we think it should be upgraded a bit and probably some more

MR. RIDEOUT: supportive staff put in there, we are not arguing about that - what we are concerned about is how a doctor and a clinic thirty-five miles away from a fully fledged hospital can continue to operate in a vacuum. The minister, Mr. Chairman, should know, or he ought to know because I have been talking to officials in his department on this matter a couple of years previous when people were in from LaScie and we went down to see him, that the present doctor - and I am not knocking the doctor; I have to be very careful over my words here - not knocking the doctor - the member for St. John's South (Dr. J. Collins) nods his head -

MR. RIDEOUT: but it is a problem in the sense that the doctor who is there will not even meet the medical superintendent at the hospital in Baie Verte. They cannot even meet on common ground to discuss common medical problems. I do not know what the situation is that has developed over the last number of years, long before my time, but with all the facilities that Baie Verte hospital has, with all the modern facilities and the extra staff and the doctors and so on, that doctor appears evidence presented to me, to be very reluctant to even send people. It is a court of last resort to send people to the hospital in Baie Verte.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I would think that that is a completely, absolutely ridiculous situation. We have a fully equipped, fully qualified staffed hospital thirty-five miles away from LaScie. Now, as I said, there is nobody arguing about the necessity of the clinic in LaScie. We know there are four or five thousand people down in that particular area that need the services of a doctor. And that is a great thing, we want to see it there. In fact, we would like to see more supportative staff there. But what I want to get through to the minister is this; who is controlling this doctor who is operating on his own down in LaScie? Certainly there must be some supervisor here in the Department of Health whom that doctor must answer to. Certainly if that doctor wants to take off for three or four or five weeks there must be somebody here in the Department of Health that he must get permission from.

MR. HICKMAN: Is he a salaried doctor?

MR. RIDEOUT: He is a salaried doctor, yes, paid by the Department of Health, as I understand. Who is he answering to? And I hope the minister is listening and I hope he is gone to find the information. Why is it that this particular doctor operating in LaScie cannot be attached



MR. RIDEOUT: or associated in some way with his colleagues in the hospital at Baie Verte? Why is it that he has to operate like he is out on an island all by himself and not attend meetings of the staff in Baie Verte, or not share in their ideas and the problems that they face in that particular area? Why is this person out there by himself with no contact whatsoever with that very modern hospital-which is doing a good job, I might add. If he wants to leave the area, why is it that the people only find out that he is gone when they go up and knock on his door? Does he have to get permission from anybody in here to leave? I assume he has a superior down in the Department of Health somewhere. It certainly is a problem. The people are very concerned about it down there. They warrant the service. The area is big enough to have a doctor stationed there with the nurse in the clinic. We certainly would not want anything to - you know, we would not want the service to be deteriorated in any way.

But seeing that it is there and seeing that the taxpayer is paying for it, then certainly goodness somebody must have some authority over this lone operator down in LaScie. So if the minister would grace the House with his presence now, I would like for him to be able to inform us about what is happening with that clinic and with that lone operator down there who appears, from all reliable sources, and I may have a few other things to say after the minister speaks on it - who appears to be doing just exactly what he likes.

MR. CHAIRMAN(Young): The hon. member for St. John's South.

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a few comments under this Heading. Before getting into remarks I want to make myself, perhaps I could comment on what the hon. member for Baie Verte - White Bay (Mr. Rideout), said. I think he really has put his finger on it, and that

DR. COLLINS: is that in this day and age no person in medical practice should be on his own, and, I suggest, is not on his own, really; that the day when a doctor was off by himself- there were no communications around, he had no lines of communication with his colleagues, he no referral line- all of that has surely gone by the board. If it still persists in a particular area that is most unfortunate and I would suggest that something should be done about it.

This brings up the whole area of regionalization of medical care, and it is an area that I think Newfoundland is ripe for. I think it is a matter that is basic to many of our problems. I think that if we had a rational regionalization programme drawn up, and I am not only thinking of hospitals, I am think of the administrative aspect of health care, I am thinking of the personnel involved in health care, if we

Dr. J. Collins: had a programme drawn up for the Province, I think that we would get at the bottom of many of our difficulties such as we have heard about Grand Falls, we have heard about Burin, we have heard about Clarenville, we have heard about, as the member for Naskaupi (Mr. Goudie) said, about Labrador. All these matters can either be dealt with on an ad hoc basis or they can be dealt with within a programme that takes cognizance of the legitimit requirements and the monies available to deal with it on a regional basis. And I am sure this is not news to the Department of Health, it is not news to the minister, this is something that I am sure all planners in health care are aiming for, but the sooner we get on with it the better.

Now by regional health care I certainly do not mean that we have to have a complete centre on the West Coast with no relation to any other part of the Province, we have to have a complete centre in Labrador with no relation to the rest of the Province, and so on and so forth - there have to be levels of care - but despite that, within a particular region there is a clearly defined set of facilities, personnel, administrative structures which take care of the health services in that region.

The point I particularly rose to speak on was perhaps matter that may raise a few eyebrows in Committee and that is on the fee for service mechanism. Unless doctors tend to be a little bit paranoid, I think they imagine that the general populace does not think much of the fee for service mechanism in the exhibition of health care, and I personally would like to lay that to rest. I do not think the fee for service is a panacea or that it is applicable in every particular aspect, but I would suggest to the Committee that the fee for service mechanism has been one that has been in vogue for many, many years and that it has done very well by and large for the people in terms of health care. And on the district medical care heading, I think that this can be pointed out in some degree. I have done a little bit of research into this, and my information is that the district medical officers earn anywhere from, say, \$30,000 to \$40,000, that is their salary, that is their

Dr. J. Collins: income, which is not out of line with what they should get. Because if you do not remunerate professional people sufficiently for their services, well, you just will not have professional people. So you have to decide you do want them or you do not want them, and if you do want them you have to attract them. So I am not complaining about the remuneration they get in terms of their salary. but I think that is only part of the total amount. The salaried physician in this regard has other costs which he personally is not responsible for, - he has secretarial help, he has housing, he has office facilities, he has travel, he has holidays, and so on and so forth. All these add up to an appreciable amount and I would suggest to the Committee that these are not, if you aggregate these, these are not out of line with what is paid for a person who is in fee for service. I would further suggest to the Committee that in many circumstances if a person is on fee for service he has to work at such a degree that he actually produces more than the person who is on salary with these other amounts added on to take care of his expenses. Now I am not saying this is black and white. I am just saying that it would be incorrect, it would be unrealistic for anyone to think that the answer to the exhibition of good health care is to do away with fee for service and bring in a salary service and you are home free. I would suggest to the Committee that this is by no means a certainty. It might well mean that we would end up with greater costs, perhaps budgeted a little bit differently, perhaps the salary aspect will not loom so large, but other aspects will loom very large. So that whereas the salaried service has its place I would think that we would be unwise to think we have the answer if we would just say there is no such thing as fee for service. This is not something that

DR. J. COLLINS: perhaps is terribly germane to our considerations here, but I think it should be part of the reality that we operate in when we think of the health costs.

MR. CHAIRMAN (MR. YOUNG): The hon. member for St. George's.

MRS. MACISSAC: Mr. Chairman, I just want to bring up one little matter that I am concerned about, again in my district. I would like to ask the Minister of Health what the situation is with respect to the doctor in Jeffrey's. Now there has been a bit of a turnover there in doctors over the past few years and Jeffrey's is an out-of-the-way place. It is, I guess, about thirty miles from St. George's and about fifty miles from a drugstore, and like I said, during the past few years we have had a bit of trouble keeping doctors there and it is a bit of inconvenience to have to travel to St. George's to see a doctor and certainly if sickness happens in the middle of the night, or on a weekend, it is almost impossible to get a doctor. Then if you were fortunate enough to get to St. George's to see a doctor, you still have to travel twenty-odd miles to a drugstore.

So the people in Jeffrey's are certainly inconvenienced by this. As it happens right now they have a doctor there, but from what I can understand he is going to be leaving again in June or there is a possibility that he may leave in June. The minister shakes his head "no" No? Well, I am told that he may be leaving in June. But I am wondering if there is anything that can be done to probably get somebody established there on a sort of a permanent basis anyway and certainly to provide drugs in the area, because that is the biggest problem. Once you get to see the doctor you have to get to the drugstore, get hold to the druggist. I wonder if you would tell me what the situation is in Jeffrey's.

Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. Minister of Health.

MR. H. COLLINS:

Mr. Chairman, it might be worth my while to indicate to the Committee the doctor population ratio in Newfoundland and make some comparisons with the situation in other jurisdictions. I am not sure if this information has been given before. Sometimes we are inclined to use the number of dollars spent in the delivery of health care as a measure of the quality of the health care being delivered. I am not sure that that is a good yardstick sometimes because all provinces are made up differently in terms of geography and in terms of population distribution and so on. But I like to think the doctor population ratio is probably a better way for one to measure what we are doing in terms of health care.

The most recent figures which we have is that the Canadian average is one doctor for every 713 people. That is the average all across Canada. The situation in Newfoundland, Mr. Chairman, is one doctor for every 937 people. In Prince Edward Island the ratio is one for every 1,026 people. In Nova Scotia it is one doctor for 769 people. In New Brunswick it is one doctor for every 1,003 people, one doctor per 1,003. In Quebec it is one to 725. In Ontario one to 669, in Manitoba one to 728, in Saskatchewan one to 827, Alberta one to 780, in British Columbia one to 637, which, incidentally, is the lowest ratio, or the best ratio across the country, and in the Yukon one for every 913, Northwest Territories one for every 1,154 people. Ours, as I said, is one for every 937 people.

MR. H. COLLINS: If we break that down in provincial terms we will find that in the major centres throughout the Province- in Carbonear, for instance- we have one doctor for every 825 people. In St. John's there is one doctor for every 473 people. In Gander there is one doctor for every 844 people. In Grand Falls there is one for 857 people and in Corner Brook, one for every 937 persons there.

MR. NEARY: Are you going to table that document?

MR. H. COLLINS: Look, Mr. Chairman, I can table the document but I am trying to make a point here that on a provincial basis our population ratio is a very good one. One of the problems which we find, of course, is that by virtue of the population distribution in Newfoundland, and by virtue of other factors such as where the specialities are and where the better roads are and so on and so forth, you will find that in the urban areas of the Province we have a very good ratio. In some of the more remote rural parts of the Province, naturally the ratio is not as good as one would like to have it. But that is a situation, Mr. Chairman, which we might not be able to improve on for a long time down the road. Because it is a simple fact of life and will be for some time, I suspect, that a great number of people in Newfoundland -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. H. COLLINS: Do you want me to stop?

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee rise and report progress and ask leave to sit again.

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 of Committees.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN: report having passed estimates of expenditure under Heading VI Education, all items without amendment, and to report having made further progress and ask leave to sit again.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I move that the remaining orders of the day do stand deferred and that this House on its rising do adjourn until tomorrow Wednesday, April 26, 1978 at 3:00 p.m.

On motion, the House at its rising adjourned until tomorrow Wednesday, April 26, 1978 at 3:00 p.m.