

PRELIMINARY
UNEDITED
TRANSCRIPT

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
FOR THE PERIOD:
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
MONDAY, MARCH 20, 1978

The House met at 3:00 P.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS:

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: Mr. Speaker, less than two weeks ago it was my great pleasure to stand in this House and pay tribute to the Reverend Brother McHugh on his election to the highest position in the world of the Irish Christian Brothers. Today, Sir, it is equally my great pleasure to stand here to pay tribute to Reverend Brother G.R. Bellows on his appointment to the high position of Provincial Superior of the Christian Brothers Congregation of Canada.

Brother Bellows, who is fifty-three years of age, is truly one of Newfoundland's great educators. Brother Bellows was the founding Principal of St. Michael's High School in Grand Falls and of Brother Rice High School in St. John's.

He was Superintendent of the Roman Catholic School Board for St. John's from 1972 to 1975. He has been actively involved in the Newfoundland Teachers' Association.

Brother Bellows has contributed immeasurably to the enrichment of our Province, and I know I speak for all members of the House in extending to Brother Bellows our best wishes for every success in this new and challenging position.

Mr. Speaker, I remember last week when I made the other announcement, the Leader of the - not announcement but the resolution of tribute, that the Leader of the Opposition at that time remarked it was amazing the number of people who rise to high offices in the various religious orders and institutions, who in fact come from this Province. I think this is just further evidence of that particular statement and I think, Sir, I would like to move that this House go on record as congratulating Brother Bellows in this prominent new position he has.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR. W.N. ROWE: The hon. the Premier, Sir, has covered very well what needs to be said in this House about Reverend Brother Bellows and his rising to high office, and I repeat again, as the Premier has done, the statement I made a couple of weeks ago in which I said it is simply incredible, it boggles the mind, Mr. Speaker, the number of people from this small Province of less than 600,000 people, who have been able to produce leaders in the field of theology and education, and usually a combination of both, because of our unique system of education in this Province; the number of people who have risen to high and prominent position not only within our Province, but in Canada, in the United States, in England, the world at large, and Sir, we have every reason, as Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, to be proud of people like Reverend Brother Bellows for the contribution they are making and for the credit and sense of pride which they bring to bear on our own native Province.

So I do not know what the procedure is for Your Honour when a mention is made of matters such as this - naturally it is entered into the record of the House, and forms part of Hansard - but in cases such as this, Sir, I would recommend that somebody, either the Government House Leader or Your Honour yourself, send along a message of the House's best wishes and congratulations and everything else that might be appropriate with regard to it.

Sir, I have no hesitation at all, in fact it is with a feeling of pride that I, on behalf of members on this side of the House, join with the Premier in seconding the motion of tribute to the Reverend Brother Bellows on his achievement.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, on the same page of The Daily News where the Premier picked up the piece of information on

MR. NEARY: Brother Bellows was another significant item involving an outstanding Newfoundlander in the person of Ray Simmons, who has just won a national award for his articles on outdoor life in Canada, a national award, Mr. Speaker. I believe the title of the article that appears weekly by Mr. Simmons, I believe it is called Knapsack. I am not absolutely sure of that now. But, Sir, I believe that we would be remiss in our duties and our responsibilities in this House if we did not extend our congratulations to Mr. Simmons, Especially in this day and age when the media, the press are coming in for so much criticism, here we have a gentleman who has been associated with the news media for a good many years, I believe Mr. Simmons was one time, I am not quite sure, I believe he was associated with the Gerald S. Doyle news bulletin. And I -

MR. DOODY: He was born on Allen Square, right across the street from me.

MR. NEARY: He was born on Allen Square just -

MR. DOODY: Directly across the street.

MR. NEARY: And both gentlemen who lived on that particular street have done well, including the hon. minister. But I do want to offer congratulations to Mr. Simmons on winning this national award, Sir, for his article on outdoor life and I would hope that the hon. the Premier would move a motion so that I can second it, or I will move a motion and the hon. the Premier can second it. But I believe it would be very worthwhile, Sir, for this House to send out a message of congratulations to this very fine and outstanding Newfoundlander.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Premier:

PREMIER MOORES: Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to move the motion or second it; but I will move it I guess on behalf of the House to Ray Simmons. He is a person I have known for many, many years, a man who has always been interested in the outdoors and the conservation of the outdoors. He is a man who has made a contribution not only by his ability to be able to talk about the subject, but he has always written about it in a manner of those who have a similar interest, I think, have always found interesting and educational. He is a person who I think Newfoundland can be very proud of in many ways. He has been involved in various organizations, Rod and Gun Clubs and such organizations. He has made a big contribution to various regulations regarding wildlife, and hopefully will do more so in the future. As a matter of fact, I was talking to him just a few weeks ago and he asked me if we could get together and have his input once again into the things that concern him and other conservationists in the Province. And it is with great pride that I particularly at this time would like to congratulate him on winning a national award which was certainly well deserved.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

MR. J. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a petition on behalf of some concerned citizens, and the petition reads, "We the undersigned humbly petition the House of Assembly to define filibustering and then take steps to prevent it."

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. J. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, I am not the least of the concerned citizens. The House situation as it is developing this year -

AN HON. MEMBER: How many signed it?

MR. J. CARTER: Not that many. One person is enough to sign a petition.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. J. CARTER: There are five signatures on this petition, enough to -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. J. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, the House situation is extremely serious. At the moment the Throne Speech is finished. It cannot be called again. If it is called again the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) will get up and speak ad infinitum, or ad nauseam one might add. So the Throne Speech cannot be called. I suggest that after today the Budget Speech will be ended because all it will take is some one to pass a motion or an amendment to the Budget Speech and then that entitles him to speak endlessly, and Your Honour is powerless to prevent it. So the Budget Speech will end today, the Throne Speech ended on Friday, all we have left are the few little bits of estimates, we will certainly be out of here by June, there is no question about that.

So the debate has come to a complete halt. I had hoped -

MR. NEARY: ... go back into his savoury patch.

MR. J. CARTER: I had hoped, Mr. Speaker, when the hon. Leader of the Opposition choose the present House Leader that he had him next to him so that he would be able to control him, but obviously the House Leader is controlling the Leader of the Opposition.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. J. CARTER: I think it is a very sad situation.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

AN HON. MEMBERS: Is this in order, Mr. Speaker?

MR. J. CARTER: It certainly is in order.

So, Mr. Speaker, we are at a crossroads in this House of Assembly, and I do not know what procedure to suggest, wiser heads than mine will have to come up with that, but something certainly needs to be done and I would invite other members to -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. J. CARTER: Listen to the trained seals, Mr. Speaker. It is disgusting. It is just disgusting what a person has to put up with.

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

MR. T. LUSH: I would like to present a -

MR. SPEAKER: Do we have leave to revert to petitions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed!

MR. SPEAKER: Agreed!

MR. T. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a petition on behalf of 200 industrious and enterprising souls of the community of Cannings Cove, -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. T. LUSH: - a community in my district, 200 souls who have undergone the intolerable suffering and inconvenience which invariably accompanies a road that is poorly constructed, and it is poorly maintained. So, Mr. Speaker, I will read the petition first, the prayer of the petition is as follows, "To the hon. House of Assembly: The petition of we, the undersigned, being residents of Cannings Cove in the district of Terra Nova in the Province of

MR. LUSH: Newfoundland and Labrador humbly request that the Department of Transportation and Communications take immediate action to pave the road from Musgravetown leading to and through Cannings Cove. For many years we have suffered from the terrible inconveniences of a poorly constructed and an inadequately maintained road leading to this community. After several requests, representations and petitions to the government, two years ago our road was reconstructed in readiness for paving. The reconstructed section of the road has already begun to deteriorate and a small section needing further construction is in a deplorable condition. If the road is not immediately paved, money spent on the reconstruction two years ago would have been wasted. This road receives extensive use by our residents; students use this road daily to commute back and forth to school in Musgravetown and the adult section of our population use the road continuously in commuting to and from work. To save dollars already invested and to provide us and our children with a good, safe road we petition the government to pave this road in this fiscal year and your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray."

Mr. Speaker, there is very little that I can say in support of the petition that has not already been said in the petition itself. One thing I can say about the residents of Cannings Cove is that they are a very patient people. I expect that there have been more petitions presented for the paving and upgrading of this road than any other section of road in the Province. And I would expect that the Minister of Tourism, who at one time represented that part of my district, I would expect that he has presented petitions for this road. I am not sure, but I would venture to say that he has certainly presented petitions on behalf of the people of Cannings Cove. Sir, we are not talking about a lot of mileage. As it says in the petition, this is an extension of a road leading North from the Cabot Highway on through Bloomfield to Musgravetown, and that is where the paving ends presently. So from Musgravetown to Cannings Cove we are talking about a couple of miles. Indeed, to go right through the

MR. LUSH: community - the road is in a circle - to go right through the community, around it, would not take more than four miles, would not be more than a distance of four miles. So we are not talking about a lot of paving; what we are talking about is a great inconvenience to the people there who for years had to use this gravel road that is in a deplorable condition.

The town of Cannings Cove is a very interesting town. Fishing goes on there, logging goes on, but outside of these two industries the people have to commute to other areas in the Province to work, going to Clarendville, to other areas in the Province to work, going to Clarendville and other points West in the Terra Nova National Park. So the people use the road consistently and in addition to the adults, as referred to in the petition students use the road daily. And I can assure that I would not want my children to be one of the students that have to use this terrible road daily to commute back and forth to school.

So, Mr. Speaker, I wholeheartedly support this petition and ask for it to be put upon the table of the House and refer it to the department to which it relates.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. member for Baie Verte - White Bay.

MR. RIDGOUT: Mr. Speaker, I must make a few brief words to support the prayer of the petition so ably presented by my colleague for Terre Nova. In supporting the petition, let me say I believe it is a sort of a sad state of affairs when we can see probably X number of millions of dollars, and certainly hundreds of thousands of dollars, spent on the upgrading and reconstruction of a road and then it is left so long that that money actually becomes useless and if we are ever going to get to pave it it would have to be redone again. I believe that is one of the themes in the prayer of the petition, Sir; the petitioners are asking for us to make an effort to insure that the money spent on the reconstruction of that particular road from Cannings Cove more than two years ago is simply not wasted because it has been so long now since the reconstruction has been done then that is certainly a fear.

MR. RIDEOUT: Also, Sir, I think the petition is a monument sort of to the tenacity of those people who have been petitioning. I can remember I believe a petition or two coming in from those people in the couple of short years that I have been in the House of Assembly. So, Sir, I wholeheartedly support the prayer of the petition, I do hope that the Minister of Transportation and Communications will give it the careful consideration that it deserves and that he will be able to find the few hundred thousand dollars to finish off that road this year before the money that has already been spent on it becomes useless and goes down the drain in the process.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, I want to support the prayer of the petition presented by my colleague on behalf of his constituents from Musgravetown to Canning's Cove. They want their road upgraded so it can be paved in this fiscal year, and I think, Mr. Speaker, that is a reasonable request. That is once instance, Sir, where the administration cannot point the finger at Ottawa and say it is Ottawa's fault. The road comes under the jurisdiction of the Province and, as my hon. friend who just took his seat indicated, some work has been done on the road and unless a move is made to salvage what has already been done then it is just money down the drain.

Mr. Speaker, we are finding example after example of this across the Province. This weekend I went out over the Trans-Canada Highway, drove from Stephenville down to Port aux Basques, and I must say that part of the Trans-Canada Highway is in a deplorable condition. You would swear in parts of it you were riding a bucking bronc, and yet the Minister of Transportation and Communications sits there and does nothing about it, allows the heavy equipment to still go over the road - no such thing as a half load limit or a quarter load limit, just tear her up! And the administration has the gall then to point the finger at Ottawa and say, 'You will not give us a better deal, 90/10 or 75/25, you will only give us 50/50,' when that road comes under the jurisdiction of the Province, the Province has to see to it that it is maintained and kept in good condition, and they allow the heavy equipment to come in and tear the roadbed to pieces, tear it to shreds.

AN HON. MEMBER:

They are tearing up the pavement, too.

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, I do not care what they take.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please! I should point out that proceedings are now developing into debate on government transportation policy in general, federal/provincial relations, with respect thereto.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. member.

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, the point I want to make in connection with the prayer of the petition, Sir, is that there is all kinds of heavy equipment going over that piece of road as well as other roads in the Province. And now Spring is coming on and the roadbed is getting soft and muddy and the Minister of Highways does nothing about it, just allows the tractor trailers and the transport trucks and the big buses to go over it as if it were just a normal time in the year when in actual fact it is not, Sir. Something has to be done, otherwise there will not be a road left in the Province. Mr. Speaker, I support the prayer of the petition and I hope that the minister will take steps to try to protect the investment that has already been made on this road between Musgravetown and Canning's Cove.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Minister of Manpower and Labour.

MR. ROUSSEAU:

Mr. Speaker, the report of the Department of Manpower and Labour for transactions under the Labour Relations Act, the Public Service Collective Bargaining Act, the Newfoundland Teachers Collective Bargaining Act, the Fishing Industry Collective Bargaining Act, and the report of the Newfoundland Labour Relations Board, and the Minimum Wage Board report for 1977.

NOTICES OF MOTION

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Minister of Finance.

MR. HICKMAN:

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a bill, "An Act To Amend The District Court Act, 1976."

AN HON. MEMBER:

Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. W. N. ROWE:

What is going on here, a takeover bid?
I need my paranoia pills, Mr. Speaker.

MR. W. N. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the hon. the Premier, in view of the fact that the Minister of Social Services is reported as saying that he would resign if no hospital construction took place in Clarendville by the Spring of 1978, would the Premier indicate to the House whether the Premier has yet received the minister's resignation from his administration?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: No, Mr. Speaker, and I do not expect to.

MR. W. N. ROWE: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. W. N. ROWE: In view of the fact that ten days or more went by between the time that the member for Grand Falls (Mr. Lundrigan) submitted his resignation to the Premier and the time that the Premier got up the gumption to finally announce it in the House of Assembly, would he indicate to the House whether he is carrying around in his pocket any other resignations of ministers from his administration?

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

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MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: No, Mr. Speaker, I do not have any such letter at the present time. MY colleague from Social Assistance has not been to the ice. I am sure if that being the case I would have known before now if in fact I had a letter. I cannot understand with all of the so-called problems in this Province - I find it incredible that the Leader of the Opposition has to resort to this sort of lead-off question first thing in the House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Here! Here!

MR. NOLAN: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: Which hon. member rose on a supplementary? somebody said supplementary. Hon. member for Conception Bay South.

MR. NOLAN: I am rising merely to address the question, Mr. Speaker, to the hon. Minister for Social Services. Since there was a public news item on this matter today, perhaps he would like to deny it, that he is or is not going to resign over this hospital situation.

MR. W.N. KUWE: Whether it is guilt or not guilt.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. minister.

MR. BRETT: Mr. Speaker, I do not know if that was a question or not but I certainly welcome the opportunity to clear the air on that statement. That statement was never made by me in public, private or otherwise.

AN HON. MEMBER: Here! Here!

MR. BRETT: Mr. Speaker, a statement was made by me two years ago in Clarendville in connection with being a candidate but it had nothing to do with the Cabinet because I was not in the Cabinet at that time.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: I would like to direct a question, Sir, to the Minister of Manpower and Industrial Relations. In view of the fact that a review of the Workmen's Compensation Board was undertaken almost two years ago, and in view of the fact that the report of the committee has been in the hands of the minister now for almost a year, and in view of the fact that the people in Buchans, in Labrador City, and in Baie Verte and especially in St. Lawrence are very concerned about the occupational health hazards in their industry, and in view of the fact that especially the people in St. Lawrence, the mine is closed, would the minister indicate, what time this report, this review of the Workmen's Compensation Board as it relates to these four industries that I mentioned; what time that report is going to see the light of day?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Manpower and Industrial Relations.

MR. ROUSSEAU: First of all, Mr. Speaker, it is not correct that it has been two years. It is not correct that the minister or the government has had it for one year, that is incorrect. Government has had it since the summer I think June, July or August, I forget which date. The problem was a very simple one, Mr. Speaker, that I hope hon. members can understand; The Chairman of the Workmen's Compensation Board to whom I referred the report to get his input into it, because as you know the Workmen's Compensation Board is not a division of the department but it is responsible to the House of Assembly through the Minister of Labour and Manpower who is not an expert on workmen's compensation, that the gentleman had a heart attack which the hon. member I am sure is aware of.

MR. NEARY: No, I am not aware of it.

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MR. ROUSSEAU: And unfortunately, Mr. William J. May had a heart attack.

MR. W.N. ROWE: We did not know that.

MR. ROUSSEAU: Well, I am telling you, everybody should have known it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

The hon. gentleman, I believe, is having difficulty answering.

MR. ROUSSEAU: The Chairman of the Workmen's Compensation Board, Mr. Speaker, who has to be my advisor on items referred to the Workmen's Compensation Board did unfortunately have a heart attack. In my compassion I thought it ill - advised, and on doctor's orders, to talk about the report of The Workmen's Compensation Board until the gentleman was in sufficient capacity healthwise to talk about it. As soon as the gentleman was back on his feet and back in the office we did so and that has been the cause of the delay. We tried to arrange one short meeting but we thought it would be better not to and unfortunately the lapse of the three, four or five months in the middle of there was because of that situation. The report has been forwarded to and is being looked at by government and I would hope that in the very near future, I would hope within two to three weeks we would have some indication of just what government intends to do with that review.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, first of all I want to say, Sir, I was not aware that the Chairman of the Workmen's Compensation board had a heart attack. I knew the hon. gentleman was ill at one time but I did not know what was wrong with Mr. May and I am sorry to hear Mr. May had a heart attack, but, Sir, government must go on.

Mr. Speaker, is the hon. gentleman aware that these people in St. Lawrence, these workers in St. Lawrence, Baie Verte, Buchans, Labrador City, in the pelletizing plant, are uneasy, they have an uneasy feeling, they are in deadly fear that their lives are being endangered and they are depending on this report probably to do something about their compensation in the event that their lives are in danger to look after their widows and their children, especially the people in St. Lawrence? Does the minister intend to table the report in the House? If not, why not? Can we have a copy of the report? Why is it being hidden away?

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

MR. ROUSSEAU: The hon. minister, Mr. Speaker, has been in this House for five or six years and very seldom - no, one Wednesday afternoon the hon. minister lost his cool in this House and look, Mr. Speaker, for anybody in this House to suggest that this hon. minister is not concerned about occupational health and safety is pure political partisanship. I happen to represent one of the districts that are very concerned with occupational safety and I would hope that the hon. member did not mean what I inferred in his question. I am very concerned with it and so is government.

MR. ROUSSEAU: The question that is being asked is this, When are we going to table it? Yes, as soon as government makes a decision. It has been policy in the past and it is still policy of government that when something is considered by government, that until it is considered and a decision has been made the report is kept confidential. I think it is common courtesy that Cabinet colleagues see it before it is released. As soon as a decision is made, within two or three weeks as I say, I will most welcome to table the report of the Workmen's Compensation Board and give an indication of just where government intends to go on it.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: Before I recognize the hon. gentleman for a supplementary I would point out to hon. gentlemen on both sides of the House the general rules with respect to the Question Period. The one I am specifically referring to is Standing Order 31(c) "In putting any oral questions, no argument or opinion is to be offered nor any facts stated except so far as may be necessary to explain the same - the same being the question - and in answering any such question the Minister is not to debate the matter to which it refers."

Beauchesne pages 147 to 149 gives a quite definitive and clear-cut guide with respect to questions, which has been the practice of this House, and a few pages after has some words to say about answers. On questions it says; "Observations which might lead to debate cannot be regarded as coming within the proper limits of a question."

On answers it says among other things - page 153 - "Questions must be answered briefly and distinctly, and be limited to the necessary explanations, etc." So I would point out to hon. members

MR. SPEAKER: the rules with respect to questions which are quite clear in the Standing Orders and quite clear in the precedents.

The hon. member for LaPoile had a supplementary, I believe.

MR. NEARY: Thank you, Your Honour.

MR. RIDEOUT: Sit down 'Joe'.

MR. NEARY: Well, I am going to give the hon. gentleman a chance to get up because I am going to ask a supplementary.

MR. ROUSSEAU: Okay, but I would like to apologize, Mr. Speaker. I am sorry.

AN HON. MEMBER: For what?

MR. SPEAKER: I was making a general ruling for hon. members on both sides.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I can understand the hon. gentleman being uptight, Sir, and the hon. Minister of Justice should be uptight also because St. Lawrence happens to be in the hon. gentleman's district.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Shame! Shame!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman should be riding herd on the Minister of Labour and Manpower to get the recommendations of this report implemented. I want to ask the minister if the recommendations of this report, and I forget the name of it now, I think it was an accountant who headed it up. I know the -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Harnett.

MR. NEARY: What is his name?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Harnett. From Corner Brook.

MR. NEARY: Harnett from Corner Brook headed up the review, the Committee of Review. Now would the minister indicate if the recommendations of the Harnett Report on the review of the Workmen's Compensation

MR. NEARY: will be made retroactive from the date the report was submitted to the Government?

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

MR. ROUSSEAU: The hon. member knows quite well I just said a few monutes ago it is being considered by government. I cannot as an individual minister make any suggestions as to what recommendations will be accepted or not. As soon as it is considered by government, which I hope will be in two or three weeks, that we will have -

MR. NEARY: Why have you not tabled it?

MR. ROUSSEAU: It will be tabled as soon as my colleagues in Cabinet, and the hon. member was in Cabinet and understands that out of courtesy to your Cabinet colleagues it is nice for them to see it first because they have to make the decision, as soon as that decision is made, within two or three weeks, the report and whatever recommendations are going to be followed will be tabled and a statement will be made on what recommendations will be followed.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A final supplementary then the hon. member for Windsor - Buchans.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, did I understand the minister correctly? I must have misunderstood the minister in his first answer, but did I understand the minister correctly that the

MR. NEARY: report has been passed on to the Chairman of the Workmen's Compensation Board without being discussed in Cabinet, without being examined by the minister's Cabinet colleagues, did I understand the minister to say that? That is most irregular and most improper is it not, not to allow the minister's colleagues to see the report?

MR. ROUSSEAU: The minister's colleagues has the report. What the minister went to the Chairman of the Workmen's Compensation Board for was to get the Chairman's recommendations and advice as to what the implications were of the recommendations in the report. That is what the minister is going to discuss with his colleagues in Cabinet.

MR. MORGAN: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: I had indicated that I would recognize another hon. gentleman after and that will be the hon. member for Windsor - Buchans, followed by the hon. member for Baie Verte - White Bay.

MR. FLIGHT: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Forestry. Recently the Crown Lands Division of the Department of Forestry served notice, on the general public, I suppose, that any persons who have taken possession of Crown land since 1957 and have not indicated they have taken possession, or have not applied, are subject to prosecution by March 31st., 1978.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the minister, is this an indication that people in this Province who have taken possession of Crown land since 1957 have ignored the department's announcements of last January and are - not as lax in making applications, or are not making applications, is that what warranted the threat of prosecution? I would like to hear the minister.

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

MR. MAYNARD: Yes, Mr. Speaker, since the announcement was made the act was changed in 1976 and the announcement was made several times regarding the new provisions under the act. There have been a number of people who are still ignoring the law and that is the reason for the announcement recently in the papers.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. FLIGHT: Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that when an application goes to Crown Lands and it is approved under the new regulations that the applicant can get a lease for \$25 a year for the life of the lease, but this advertisement here sort of indicates that it is now costing \$25 in order to make an application to Crown Lands. Would the minister confirm or deny that? Because the advertisement says, "Upon acceptance of your application and a fee of \$25," so the indication that the general public would get is that it costs \$25 now to apply for a piece of land.

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

MR. MAYNARD: No, it does not cost \$25 to apply for the land. The \$25 is in relation to a permit to occupy until such time as the regular application can be processed.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. FLIGHT: Well, Sir, would the minister indicate that in the event of an application being rejected, is that \$25 refundable to the applicant?

MR. MAYNARD: No.

MR. SPEAKER: A final supplementary, the original questioner.

MR. FLIGHT: The final supplementary, Mr. Speaker, would be two part in a sense, that the previous Minister of Forestry brought into this House an amendment to legislation covering the Crown Land Act and indicated when he presented the petition that this would reduce the waiting time to have a Crown land application processed down to sixteen months. It was around twenty-four when he brought in the legislation. Would the minister indicate to the House how

MR. FLIGHT: long it takes to have an application for a piece of Crown land dealt with, processed and either accepted or rejected?

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

MR. MAYNARD: It is pretty hard to put an exact time on it, Mr. Speaker, but the average is approximately six months.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. MAYNARD: There may be some applications obviously that are longer than that because of various complications, but the average is approximately six months.

MR. NEARY: Two years.

AN HON. MEMBER: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: I had indicated that I would recognize another hon. gentleman. It does not preclude hon. members from coming back to this subject at a later date. I think I had indicated I would recognize the hon. member for Baie Verte - White Bay.

MR. RIDEOUT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour and Manpower, and again it is related to the review of the Workmen's Compensation Board Act. In view of the fact that this report now has been - or the review has been ongoing for certainly more than a year to be reasonable, it has been ongoing for more than a year; due to the fact that the act provides that we must review the Workmen's Compensation Board every five years, and in view of the fact that I have been told that there are certain recommendations in the report that will necessitate legislation, could the minister tell the House whether or not we can expect to have that legislation brought before the House this session? Because if not the five years is going to be up and we have not dealt with the report.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear! A good man.

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

MR. ROUSSEAU: Mr. Speaker, it certainly be my hope to do so. I know the hon. member shares my concern with occupational health and safety. Every effort will be made to; while I cannot say how much drafting that the Department of Justice has, we will certainly push them on it.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Bellevue, followed by the hon. members for Stephenville and Conception Bay South.

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Tourism. Would the Minister of Tourism explain why no instruction was given before the Hunter Capability Testing Programme was started?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Tourism.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, I do not understand the hon. gentleman's question when he says there is no instruction. The fact is the programme is progressing quite favourably around the Province whereby to date we have tested and passed 12,000 hunters. We are experiencing a problem in the St. John's area primarily because of two reasons; one, Mr. Speaker, because of the fact that there is only one satisfactory shooting range we can use in the St. John's area, unfortunately. But regards to instructions -

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

MR. MORGAN: - with regards to instructions.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! I have to hear the point of order.

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker, the question that I asked was straightforward and simple, I did not ask anything about the testing that is going on, I asked why was there no instruction given before the testing; students take tests after they are instructed, drivers take tests after they have received instruction.

MR. SPEAKER: I would not at this point rule the minister's answer out of order, I have not heard enough of it.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. gentleman wants information he should give the speaker who he asked the question a chance to answer his question. And the fact is that the hunter capability test is a beginning of a Hunter's Safety Training Programme, and we will be getting involved as a government, this government, getting

Mr. Morgan: involved in a Hunters Safety Training Programme in the next number of years. But this year the hunter capability test is the first phase of the Hunters Safety Training Programme, and we are hoping to have all of these tests, in regards to instructions, all the people who are respective hunters know what to do in regards to instruction as to what to do, and pass their tests. In regards to instructions, in regards to safety training, that will come as a second phase of the Hunters Safety Training Programme.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CALLAN: A supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker, for the Minister of Tourism. You know, in view of the fact that no instruction has been given before the testing started, will there be instruction given for those who have failed the Hunters Safety? And also why are these people who failed the present test not permitted to apply for big game licences this year?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Tourism.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. gentleman would listen to the programmes and statements made by the Department of Tourism, Wildlife Division which is carried over the Province, it has been announced as the policy of the Department of Wildlife that any hunter or prospective hunter who has failed the test will be given instructions and will be given a second chance to pass that test before the commencing of the hunting season this year.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: I have indicated that I will recognize the hon. member for Stephenville next, followed by Conception Bay South, and Carbonear, and Terra Nova if time permitting.

MR. MCNEIL: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Premier I will ask my question to the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs. Could the minister explain the statement in the Advisory Board's final report of July 27, 1977, which stated the conversion of the existing

MR. MCNEIL: facilities of the Labrador Linerboard to newsprint production cannot be recommended, and in the Budget of Friday the government stated that the brightest prospect was for a one machine newsprint operation? Which report is a hoax, the Advisory Board's final report or the Budget statement?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR. DOODY: Mr. Speaker, I really suppose I should not accept the question because the inference is that one of the two reports is a hoax, so I subject myself to Your Honour's guidance on this in saying that somebody over across the way has now decided that both are hoaxes. I would think that that would be most unfortunate for the people of the Bay St. George area, and I sincerely hope that that is not so. The advice that government receives is the best advice that I could get. The best advice that I can get was obviously sought for on behalf of the people of the area directly concerned. In this particular case, we have received the report of the Advisory Group, who said that it seemed unlikely - and the hon. gentleman had the advantage of quoting directly from the report which he had on the desk - subsequently in the interest of the Province and in the interest of the people concerned government went to a great deal more effort, more expense, they did not accept that on its face value. We were not, as one would infer from the hon. member, hoaxed or misled, we pressed on, we got together more talent, more ability, and we have come up what appears to be some viable alternatives to the problem out in Stephenville. Hopefully

MR. DOODY: we can bring it to a successful head. I do not think that will happen if we get down to the kind of partisan political statement that the hon. member just made suggesting that both statements -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. DOODY: Your Honour, it was not I who suggested that both statements were hoaxes, the statement was made by the hon. member representing those people out there who are very, very anxious to get back to work and toward that effort we are doing everything we possibly can. The major part of that programme is to get various feasibility studies and various programmes and various reports in place which can make it possible for us to get that mill working again. I do not think that either of these groups are trying to perpetrate a hoax, I sincerely hope they have not and I would honestly and honourably ask everybody in this hon. house to work with us in trying to get that mill back in place and get the people working.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. McNEIL: Mr. Speaker, in the light of the statement made in the Budget maybe the hon. minister will indicate who or what company is interested in converting the Stephenville mill into a one machine newsprint operation, and when does the hon. minister expect construction to start? This is what we want to know. We want to get our people back to work.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister.

MR. DOODY: I am actually delighted to hear that the hon. member does not consider that these things are hoaxes and that there is hope to get people back to work. This is indeed absolutely delightful news and we are delighted to know that everybody in this Province is concerned about the people who live in that part of Newfoundland. I am glad that the hon. member shares their concern.

The point of the matter is, Sir, that there are various companies involved and they are concerned and interested and

MR. DOODY: various proposals and various discussions have been held with many companies. I have indicated to the hon. members opposite, on previous questions, that we are not at this point in time at liberty to discuss or to reveal the names of the companies with whom we have had conversations. When I say 'we' I mean the Divestiture Committee who have been appointed by government to conduct this negotiations. The group consists of representatives of the community in that area -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. DOODY: Well if the hon. member feels that the members representing the two unions and the member representing the Harmon Corporation or the joint councils is just one person I have more respect for the two unions than that, Sir, I feel that there are at least three representatives in that area. The hon. member is a little bit upset perhaps because there was no political input into the divestiture effort. I am not at all upset about that, Sir, I feel that it is far more important, Sir, that we get that mill in operation than that we make political points in the area. So I cannot, Sir, in this point in time reveal the names of the companies with whom we are having discussions. I can only assure that the Divestiture effort Committee which is an nonpartisan group not politically oriented have been carrying on conversations with honourable, reasonable, reputable companies who we hope will invest sufficient funds to get that industry back and supply the employment and the economic opportunities that that part of Newfoundland so desperately needs.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. McNEIL: Would the hon. minister indicate to this House what are the efforts of the Divestiture Committee besides receiving the reports from - or the couple of reports from the selling agents, Woods Gordon - what other things have they done besides just getting together for a briefing?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister.

MR. DOODY: Well, Your Honour, there are very - I think what the hon. member is really asking for is the number of visits that have been made to various respective clients, the description of the various sales approaches that have been made to these particular companies, the number of companies that have been approached, the numbers of people that have been talked to, what financial people have been brought into the discussions, what particular areas of product mix have been discussed and what the particular interests. These are all done by this Divestiture Committee through the group and as I explained on various occasions prior to this the Divestiture Committee will call on all areas of expertise depending on that particular line of work, the particular product line, the particular product mix that a newsprint or a paper manufacturing company is concerned with. To give an absolute detailed accounting of every visit that they made, the accounting of all the conversations that they had, the discussions of the kind of investment that would be necessary, the discussion of the marketplace for these various products would be a very long and involved chore indeed, but all these things, Sir, will be made available to this hon. House hopefully when a successful divestiture is concluded. If we are unsuccessful and I sincerely hope we are not, then all this information will be made available anyway but it is certainly not in the best interests of that particular programme at this time to get involved in that sort of detail.

MR. NEARY: A final supplementary, the hon. member for Port au Port.

MR. J. HODDER: Would the minister tell me, when he talks about a conversion, does he mean that the plan is to convert to another product line or to install a capacity on the machine so that there will be two product lines? That would be in linerboard and bleached pulp.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Finance.

MR. DOODY: My background always leads me to talk about total conversion but that may not necessarily be the most appropriate thing in this particular line. Total conversion, of course, is a very, very delightful and a much sought after principle and it is prayed for regularly by many people of many creeds. What I am talking about in this particular instance is that particular product mix which will be most profitable, and most presentable and most acceptable to the economic dilemma that we are now facing in that part of Newfoundland.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow the gentleman one further supplementary then I will recognize the hon. member for Conception Bay South.

MR. HODDER: No, I would like the minister to tell me, does it mean that there will be two heads on that machine, that the machine will have the capacity to turn out linerboard and another product or is the minister saying that maybe, or is he saying that there will be two products or one?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Finance.

MR. DOODY: The hon. minister had told you quite clearly that the major factor in the reactivation of the linerboard operation, which probably will not be a linerboard operation but conceivably could be, but in the mill at Stephenville is one that is open to whatever sort of profitability arrangement that is available for that. It may

MR. DOODY: very well be a product mix, it may be a total conversion operation, it may be several different products, it may be a single machine, we do not know. We do know that there seems to be more interest at this point in time in a single machine operation for any product mix, but we are not, nor is the divestiture committee ruling out any possibility at this point in time because the ultimate object is to get that mill operating and to get the people out there back in operation with the mill.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Conception Bay South followed by the hon. member for Carbonear.

MR. NOLAN: Mr. Speaker, with your permission I would like to continue to question the minister on the matter that we have been discussing, namely the Linerboard mill in Stephenville. I wonder if the minister is in a position to tell us if it is the intention of government, supposing a company agrees tomorrow to purchase the mill and if there is going to be a conversion, is it the intention of government to put money in to assist the company, whoever it is, in the conversion or what exactly is the plan insofar as the minister can tell us at the moment?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Finance.

MR. DOODY: The obvious objective of government is to have as little public investment in that operation as possible. It would be our objective to entice private enterprise to invest whatever capital is necessary to get that operation back into place. That is the simplistic statement that does not necessary exclude government assistance. As soon as the hon. member for LaPoile is finished his private discussion, I will continue.

MR. NEARY: I am sorry.

MR. DOODY: That does not necessarily exclude various arrangements and various options that may take place between the Government of Canada, the Government of Newfoundland and prospective

MR. DOODY: operators of the mill, or prospective converters of the mill, we are holding the options open. The optimum would be obviously, for private enterprise to purchase the operation out there and to invest the money that will make it possible to operate it again. There may be concessions of one sort or another that may be necessary to facilitate that optimum result. It is too early in the game to say what they might be and we certainly do not want to exclude any possibilities.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I have a message from His Honour, the Lieutenant-Governor.

MR. SPEAKER: The following message is directed to the hon. Minister of Finance, "I, the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Newfoundland, transmit estimates of sums required for the Public Service of the Province for the year ending the 31st. March 1979 by way of Interim Supply and in accordance with the provisions of the British North America Act of 1867, as amended, I recommend these estimates to the House of Assembly." Signed, "Gordon Winter, Lieutenant-Governor."

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

RESOLUTION

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to provide for the granting to Her Majesty for defraying certain expenses of the Public Service for the financial year ending the 31st day of March, 1979, the initial sum of one hundred and sixty-five million eight hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$165,850,000).

MR. CHAIRMAN: (Dr. Collins) The hon. the Minister of Finance.

MR. HICKMAN: For the information of the Committee, the sum of \$165,850,000, give or take a few dollars, is approximately one-sixth of the Budget that this Committee will be asked to approve and is indicated in the main estimates which have been tabled.

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

MR. W. N. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, before proceeding perhaps the hon. the Government House Leader and we on this side can come to some kind of a modus operandi.

We are now debating the resolution which has been submitted to the Committee. We can either debate that generally and make specific and pointed references to various heads of expenditure and subheads or we can wait until we get to the bill and arrive at the clause where the heads of expenditure themselves arise so that we can have the heads called by way of a schedule. Does the House Leader have any particular preference as to how he would like to proceed on this matter? It is a matter of indifference to us, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! In the Committee of Supply and Interim Supply the resolution and the bill, itself can be debated at this time and when the Committee rises, if the House accepts the report the bill will go through its various stages without further reference back to the Committee.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Chairman, only for purposes of clarification, the debate is on the main resolution as opposed to the procedure that is followed on the Supply bill itself where headings are called, that when the resolution passes the schedule which contains these headings pass, but during the debate on the resolution it is quite within the rules for any hon. gentleman to refer in detail to any matter that may be under a particular heading.

MR. W. N. ROWE: Okay, that is all right with you?

MR. HICKMAN: Yes.

MR. W. N. ROWE: Okay, Mr. Chairman, we can just carry on.

Mr. Chairman, ordinarily, as Your Honour well knows, the Interim Supply resolutions and the bill normally go through the Committee of the Whole House without too much difficulty. There have been one or two occasions when the Committee has had the pleasure, I suppose, of hearing extensive debate on Interim Supply, but in the normal course of events there is very little debate. We on this side of the House, Sir, would have been quite content during this session to allow the Interim Supply to go through and wait until the main estimates were called before Your Honour before getting into real hammer and tong debate on the estimates, but, Sir, as a result of the disgraceful document which the hon. Minister of Finance had the unblushing face to introduce into this House a couple of days ago, we have decided, Sir, that we cannot in all conscience consistent with our duty to the people of this Province, allow even Interim Supply to go through without having some debate.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. W. N. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, the Budget which was presented by the hon. the Minister of Finance a couple of days ago, on Friday past, indicated as clearly, Sir, as any human endeavour can indicate, the type of priorities which this government is going to be guided by in the short few months, hopefully, remaining to it in office in this Province. The P.C. Party priorities were clearly indicated to the world at large and certainly to the people of Newfoundland.

MR. W.N. ROWE: We saw, Sir, in that Budget Speech which appeared to be a Throne Speech in the way it was handled by the Minister of Finance, we saw, Sir, one of the most rabidly partisan documents ever presented in this House under the guise of being a Budget Speech. And, Sir, I will tell the Minister of Finance this now, that the next time a Budget Speech is presented by that side of this hon. House there will be no television cameras in here, Sir, recording the political partisanship and nonsense that that hon. member emitted the other day unless, Sir, this government gathers up its strength and its courage and gets some semblance of bravery and allows the television cameras into this House on a general basis so that the people of Newfoundland can see generally what is going on in this hon. House and the way this government is conducting themselves.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. W.N. ROWE: Normally, Sir, as my hon. friend the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee indicated on television a day or two ago, normally, Sir, you can expect a fairly statesmanlike document, a document which indicates in a factual manner, a clearly enunciated manner to the people of the Province what the financial and economic state and condition of the Province may be during this particular year and what it is likely to be in the year to come and the years ahead, but not this one, Sir. We saw a document which was full of - I am not saying the hon. minister meant to deceive, but it was a document which in itself caused deception and was misleading to the people of this Province.

MR. NEARY: Hear, hear!

MR. W.N. ROWE: And, Sir, the reason we are debating on Interim Supply that budget and the

MR. W.N. ROWE: Interim Supply now is to expose before too much time goes by the deception and the misleading nature of that particular document.

As I indicated earlier, Sir, the P.C. Party and government priorities were clearly enunciated. The only example of any tax relief in the budget, Mr. Chairman, the only example of any substantial tax relief was given to what is called small companies or small businesses. That was the only example where tax relief was given to our hard-pressed and beleaguered people struggling to make a living and keep body and soul together in this Province.

MR. NEARY: Hear, hear!

MR. W.N. ROWE: Now what is a small business to start off with, Mr. Chairman? Because nobody wants to knock or undermine the viability of a business which is truly small. What is a small business as defined by my hon. friend the Minister of Finance? First of all, Sir, we are talking about a business which made no more than three-quarters of a million dollars clear profit over the past five years, so that it can be called a small business, small company for the purposes of the Income Tax Act, and, Sir, a company which will make no more than \$150,000 clear, straight profit. Now remember what that means, Sir, that means that the members, the presidents, the executives, the managing directors, the people involved in doing some work for that company can in the meantime have paid themselves \$50,000 or \$75,000 by way of salary and on top of that the company itself can have shown a profit of \$150,000 for this coming year and still be entitled to the tax relief which the hon. Minister of Finance came into this House with a couple of days ago, the only example, Sir, of the tax relief which this government is willing to give.

MR. HICKMAN: The hon. gentleman is off on the wrong foot. It is not profit over a period of five years of \$150,000, it is taxable income.

MR. W.N. ROWE: Taxable income?

MR. HICKMAN: That is quite different. On a 50 per cent profit that means it is half that, 50 per cent tax, right?

MR. W.N. ROWE: Yes, profit before taxes, taxable income.

MR. HICKMAN: Taxable income.

MR. W.N. ROWE: Yes! What is the problem, Mr. Chairman? Another attempt by the Minister of Finance to try to, as John Crosbie would have said, obfuscate the proceedings of this House, Mr. Chairman. Everyone knows what he is talking about. We are talking about a government which has given tax relief to a group,

Mr. W. Rowe: only small companies so-called which can make taxable income of up to \$150,000 after whopping big salaries might have been paid.

MR. PECKFORD: Not profits. Not profits.

MR. W. ROWE: The Minister of Mines and Energy is talking, Sir, as if he knows what is going on in the House.

MR. FLIGHT: He thinks he does. He thinks he does, that is the problem.

MR. W. ROWE: As if he knows! Just look at him, wagging his head. Look!

MR. PECKFORD: (Inaudible).

MR. W. ROWE: Look, Mr. Chairman. We will hear a schoolboy's speech from him in a moment. Look at him, Mr. Chairman, look! Pretending he knows. He is a good actor. I would say it is a toss-up between himself and the Minister of Finance who should be awarded the Oscar, Mr. Chairman, this year for acting ability -

MR. PECKFORD: You know more about that than -

MR. W. ROWE: - the hon. Minister of Finance for his performance in the House the other day pretending, trying to make hard and desperate things look sweet and easy, or the hon. Minister of Mines and Energy who pretends every day he knows what is going on in the House. Look at him!

MR. PECKFORD: I know where -

MR. W. ROWE: There he goes again.

MR. PECKFORD: - thinks he does.

MR. W. ROWE: Now, Mr. Chairman, if we can get back to more important matters than the Minister of Energy and Mines. Nobody is knocking small businesses, Sir, but it has already been indicated by the Board of Trade that, first of all, apart altogether from what I said a minute ago, the point is, Sir, the Board of Trade in St. John's has indicated that this tax relief given by the Minister of Finance is totally useless and meaningless and will have no bearing whatsoever on incentives for small businesses in this Province. It merely means a couple of thousand dollars extra in the pockets of these companies, companies that do in fact make \$100,000 profit in a particular year. That is what it means, Sir.

MR. W. ROWE: Now, Sir, the ones who need help, the small businesses which need help, the ones that make no profit in the coming year, who suffer a loss, or the ones which make very little profit and are struggling along, Sir, trying to keep themselves as a corporate entity, trying to keep body and soul together, Mr. Chairman, for those companies there is no relief whatsoever by this government to try to keep these small businesses and small companies afloat in desperately bad economic and financial times, the only relief, the only people who can gain from the tax relief given by the Minister of Finance in his disgraceful document brought down as a Budget on Friday, Sir, are those companies which can make \$50,000 or \$60,000 or \$100,000 profit in the year to come.

Now, Sir, I ask Your Honour to bear that in mind when we compare the treatment accorded profitable operations which, when you include the salaries that can be paid can be upwards of a quarter of a million dollars a year in the pocket of the owners, the treatment accorded them by way of tax relief and a couple of percentage points reduction in taxation, and the treatment which is being accorded certain other individuals in our society today. How has the government decided that it will make up the loss of \$1.5 million - because they are going to give it to these so-called small companies, which are certainly not small, and are not going to the companies which need it most, this tax relief - the \$1.5 or \$1.6 million which is being lost to the government coffers as a result of this generosity by the government, how does the government intend to make up this loss?

One of the ways, Mr. Chairman, that the government is going to make up this loss of \$1.6 million, because of their generosity to companies making a profit, and a large substantial profit, one of the ways, Sir, is to slap on a three dollar a day charge for people who have to use the wards in hospitals in this Province. That is one way they are going to make up this loss of revenue to the government coffers. Three dollars a day, Sir, slapped on top of the other costs that people have in the event that a mother or

Mr. W. Rowe : a father or a number of children have the misfortune of being admitted to hospital for medical treatment of some kind or another.

Now, Sir, I ask this question; who, Your Honour, uses wards in the hospitals? Professional people, lawyers and doctors drawing down anywhere from \$30,000 to \$100,000 a year, Sir, income?

MR. W.N. ROWE: I would submit not. Businessmen, Sir, tradesmen making \$25,000 a year? I would say not, Sir. Most people who have good incomes and most people working with companies, and most professional people, are already in insurance programmes which guarantee them private or semi-private rooms in hospitals, Mr. Chairman. The only people, I would submit, Sir, who voluntarily go to wards are those people who are outside of insurance programmes, those people who cannot afford the small amount of money, the difference between the cost of a ward, which was nothing at the moment until this budget was brought down, and the cost out of their pockets of semi-private or private rooms.

Now, Sir, these people, these very same people, people on welfare with families, who get sick as well as we do, are human as well as we are, people making small amounts of money by way of wages, Mr. Chairman, with a large family, ten or twelve children, who are barely able to keep shoes on their children's feet and clothes on their backs, talk about essential services like hospitalization and expensive services like hospitalization and medical costs, Mr. Chairman, drugs and medication of various kinds, and the very people, the very individuals in society who are the least well off, the least able to pay, Mr. Chairman, who have the least amount of money, who are suffering most already from inflation and from poor economic times, these are the people that this government and this Minister of Finance, the hon. member for Grand Bank (Mr. Hickman) sees fit, Mr. Chairman, to slap the three dollars head tax on in case they have to go to a hospital, not through any choice, not through any voluntary effort, but because the medical doctor says, "You have to go to hospital," and as a result of that sentence they have to pay anywhere upwards of \$50, \$3 a day in addition to all the other costs that people are plagued with in Newfoundland and Labrador today, Mr. Chairman.

That is what the government has done, Sir. That

MR. W.N. ROWE: is the way they have decided to make up the \$1.6 million which they are giving the so-called small businesses uselessly, money in their pockets, admitted by the Board of Trade that it is a useless thing as far as incentive to small business is concerned. And this loss of \$1.6 million or more - I would assume that that would be a very generous estimate; it is likely to be \$2 million or \$3 million I would say - this has to be made up off the backs of people who are forced to put themselves or their children into a ward in a hospital. That is one indication, Sir, of the priorities of Her Majesty's Progressive Conservative Government.

Another way, Sir, to make up losses in revenue - another loss of revenue which I will not mention now but which I will mention later, a scandalous use of the public funds - another way this government has decided to make up these losses and try to make sure that the government can balance its books, is to charge pupils in school, Mr. Chairman, the cost - make sure that they have to pay the cost of all consummable materials used by that student which might otherwise have been given free, or in a subsidized way. We are talking about work books, Sir, and that kind of thing.

Again, Sir, I have to say - Mr. Chairman, any way of getting a bit of order outside the House? It is very disconcerting. You do not mind inside, Sir. But anywhere -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. W.N. ROWE: I do not care. I do not care. It is noise Sir. I do not care where it is. There is nobody here, Sir, there is nobody here who I cannot handle, Mr. Chairman, but when somebody is outside the House -

MR. MORGAN: The hon. gentleman -

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! The Sergeant-at-Arms perhaps will take the matter in hand and make sure that order and quiet is kept in the corridors.

MR. W.N. ROWE: Thank you, Sir.

MR. W.N. ROWE: Another way, Sir, that this government sees to make up its losses and to get enough money is to charge for, or to make sure the students pay for consummable materials. Now, Sir, once more the question has to be asked, who in our society is most likely to suffer from that? A family where the income of the mother and father is \$30,000 a year with three or four children, or a family that makes \$8,000 or \$9,000 a year with twelve children, most of them in school? And the question only has to be stated, Mr. Speaker, before the answer becomes blindingly obvious. But this is the kind of regressive measure which this government has again decided upon in order to try to make up for its extravagances, its misuse of public funds, and to make up for other losses of income as a result of the priorities which they have decided on.

MR. W. ROWE: And even there, I would submit, Mr. Chairman, even assuming that something had to be done with regard to school books, it seems to me that this government in its usual blundering, unthinking way has chosen the worst possible thing to make a student pay for. It seems to me, Sir, it would have been much better to require students to pay for other books which might be reusable, which you might be able to buy this year and sell again next year as second hand books, or where big families could buy second hand books or pass books down through the family from one grade to another in order to try and save cost, Mr. Chairman. But instead of doing something like that, assuming it needed to be done and not saying that it does need to be done, instead of doing that the government chooses the very thing which cannot be used again, Mr. Chairman, something which once used has to be thrown away. You have to buy, children in large families now have to buy out of their own funds completely, one hundred per cent, materials and workbooks and consumable goods used in school that cannot be used again and for which no further recompense can be had in the years to come, whereas the subsidy still apply of course to books which can be passed on again from one student to another, from one year to another.

They did not even have the wit, Mr. Chairman, to choose the proper, assuming they had to do it, and they do not, but assuming they had to, this government did not even have the wit, did not have the sense, Mr. Chairman, to choose the right thing upon which students should be required to pay all of some of the cost. Who else is the government taking money from in order to meet the costs of trying to balance the Budget? Are they taking it by way of an increase in personal income tax, which would apply much more fairly, much more equitably to the better off than the least off? No, Mr. Chairman, they are not doing that. They are singling out the students who are going to Memorial University, struggling, trying to get through their training in university so that they can come out and be contributing members

MR. W. ROWE: of society, and their parents, Sir, who may have two or three students or children or more at university or in trade school or struggling through grade schools or unemployed, which has been much more the case since this government has come into power; the government seizes upon these students, Sir, and requires them to pay \$700—or to borrow \$700 from the Canada Student Programme before they can avail themselves of the provincial programme. In other words, Sir, I would say - I am no expert in the field of this side of education and I will defer to my colleagues who know more about the financing of education at the student level, but I would say, Sir, that this requirement alone will require hundreds of poorly off, bright Newfoundland men and women, boys and girls, to give up the hope of going to university and getting through in four or five years, probably they will have to extend it over a longer period of time or give up hope altogether because they simply do not have the wherewithal or cannot stand the thought in a large family of their family going further and further and further into debt on account of their children's education.

I would like to hear from some of my colleagues on that matter, Mr. Chairman. But certainly if they are going to take money from a segment of society in order to balance their Budget, in order to try and get money to make sure

MR. W.N. ROWE: there is no deficit on current account, certainly the people who you would last or least be expected to pick on, Sir, would be the children in school and the students at university or the students at trades school, the very ones who are struggling, they and their parents, to try to get into society with the training and the education and the skills to make a contribution and make a contribution to the public pool that was greater even than they got out of it themselves. But no, Sir; this government picks on that particular group, the students at school and the students at university. And he is not satisfied with that, Mr. Chairman, not satisfied with that, the hon. hon. Minister of Finance.

I heard a great phrase, Sir, on St. Patrick's Day by an Irishman; it was to the effect that somebody had a heart as cold as a wet Christmas. And that is what the hon. minister of finance, Sir, reminds me of, and his colleagues who supported this Budget, a heart, Sir, as cold as a wet Christmas, dismal and cold and uncomfortable and mean in motivation. Because, Sir, not being satisfied to penalize the students, the pupils in school, the students at university, the people who are forced to use hospital ward beds when they go to hospital, not being satisfied with that they cast their baleful eyes around, 'Who else can we knock, who else can we sock it to? and they seize upon the children who have to get dental care and they say, here is what we will do; with the one hand we will say we will raise it from eleven to thirteen years the program whereby a child can get the free dental program, we will raise that, make that sound good, and in the same breath, Sir, robbing Peter to pay Paul, in the same breath they say, 'Every service provided for a child going to a dentist will cost that child two dollars.' Two dollars by itself does not mean anything but if you have a half a dozen kids I have two,

MR. W.N. ROWE: Sir, small family - I know what they cost me for dental services and other kinds of services and keeping body and soul together, keeping clothes on their back and food on the table, I know what it costs me. What in the name of God must it be like for an impoverished couple with a half a dozen children whose teeth are rotting in their heads and they have to go to a dentist and it costs two dollars a shot for every service provided by that dentist to a half a dozen children up to the ages of thirteen, Mr. Chairman. And again, Sir, if I or your Honor has to pay forty or fifty dollars in dental fees we will probably survive. We do not make a great deal in this hon. House but we will make enough to pay my hon. friend the member for Mt. Scio, who is now presently in the doorway, to pay his moderate and sensible and restrained fees. But, Sir, for somebody who is living on welfare, somebody who is making six or seven or eight or even ten thousand dollars a year, with a half a dozen children and, Sir, forty or fifty dollars every six months or even every two or three months is going to make the difference, Sir, between misery - misery, Sir, and perhaps some kind of a half decent life.

But again, this hon. government seizes upon the children needing dental care in order to try to raise the difference between the revenues and the expenditures in this Province. And I guarantee you again, without being any expert on dental care or the financing thereof but being some expert in observing human affairs and human psychology, I guarantee you, Sir, that this increase or this imposition of a two dollar head tax on

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MR. W.N. ROWE: children needing dental care will mean the difference in hundreds and thousands of children in this Province having half decent teeth in their head or going around with teeth with cavities and all kinds of problems with their teeth because their parents will not be able to afford this in addition to the other costs which the government has laid on their heads in this particular Budget.

Now, Sir, this government in its zeal to provide the public purse with a balanced Budget,

MR. W. N. ROWE: once more casts its mean and spiteful eyes around the people of this Province and says, 'Where else can we impose a tax calculated to cause the most harm and the most misery in this Province?' And sure enough, Sir, up they come with another area - they are requiring the school boards in this Province to contribute to the cost of school transportation, school buses for children, requiring the boards to contribute 10 per cent rather than the 5 per cent which they had been contributing traditionally in the Province. And, Sir, the sneakiness, the disgraceful sneakiness of this measure is not evident in the Budget itself. There is no indication in the Budget itself that the people of this Province are going to have to pay any more taxes aside from those mentioned by the Minister of Finance. But again, Sir, as sure as I am standing here and speaking to this hon. Committee, it is clear from my discussions with people who are in education that this will mean that the school tax authorities in this Province will be forced reluctantly but of necessity to impose higher school taxes. Is that right or not? I ask my friends who are involved in education.

AN HON. MEMBER: They will have no choice.

MR. W. N. ROWE: They will have no choice, Mr. Chairman. So in fact this Budget brought down by the hon. Minister of Finance had the effect of increasing the school tax in this Province. Any tax is bad, Sir, but in this particular case you are talking about one of the most regressive, one of the most backward looking forms of taxation possible in any Province, a tax, Sir,-

MR. MORGAN: Brought in by the Liberals!

MR. ROWE: Brought in by the Liberals? I do not know if it was brought in by the Communists, the Nazis, I do not know, Mr. Speaker. All I know, Sir, is that this Liberal Party when it gets into power will abolish the school tax.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. W. N. ROWE: And we will abolish it, Mr. Chairman.

AN HON. MEMBER: It was not brought in by the Liberals.

MR. W. N. ROWE: Anyway we can get into the debate on ancient history as to who brought it in. Sir, I prefer to look to the

MR. W. N. ROWE: future of the Province. The ancient history of my hon. friend, the Minister of Tourism - the future of this Province indicates quite clearly that in a matter of months there will be certain political changes, and when those political changes take place, Sir, the school tax will be one of the first pernicious, regressive taxes to go in this Province. We are dedicated to that, Sir. Because, Sir, it is a tax which bears no relationship to the income of people, bears no relationship to whether you can pay for it or not, it is imposed on the rich and the poor alike. And that kind of tax, Sir, we in the Liberal Party as part of a Liberal government, are determined to wipe out and to obliterate from the face of this Province.

MR. NEARY: Hear, hear!

MR. W. N. ROWE: Now, Sir, the P.C. government has imposed an additional school tax on the people of this Province, but not satisfied with that, Sir, not satisfied with that they look around for the most unfair tax possible, not an increase in corporation taxes based on profitability - no, Sir, we have a decrease in that - not an increase in personal income tax, if such need be, and I am not saying it is - no, Sir, because that might hit the rich people a little harder than the poor people. 'What will we impose further taxes on?' this government asked itself and decided, Sir, that they would impose a further tax by way of a sales tax, which again, Mr. Chairman, is the most backward, most unprogressive, unfair, inequitable tax possible for any government to apply. Because again, Sir, it hits those who are least able to pay much harder than those who are able to pay. And these exemptions, so-called, for the necessities of life are meaningless, Sir. Anybody who knows anything about tax calculations and so on will know that it is the people who are better off in society today, those with greater incomes who will get the greatest benefit from these exemptions.

MR. W. ROWE: That is right. The Minister of Tourism over there, Sir, is the one who will benefit from this. He can buy four or five new suits, wear them into the House, flash them around, Sir. He will gain the benefit of this exemption on taxes on clothing. It is not the person with a half a dozen children, Mr. Chairman, who is trying to get a few dollars together to buy some clothes who gets any great benefit from these exemptions.

AN HON. MEMBER: Cosmetics.

MR. W. ROWE: Any taxes, Sir, which hit the poor and worse off people of our society so hard as the sales tax is not the tax, Sir, which any civilized, any decent government, any government looking after the welfare and the dignity and the well-being of the people it is suppose to govern, no government would impose a sales tax which hits the poor with a bludgeon and the rich with a feather.

MR. MORGAN: How would you pay for education?

MR. W. ROWE: Put the hon. member on display. That should be worth a \$1 million a year, to the tourist industry alone.

AN HON. MEMBER: Put him in the museum of natural history.

MR. W. ROWE: Museum of natural history, museum of extinct species, we would get a million dollars a year coming in.

AN HON. MEMBER: Oh, Oh!

MR. SIMMONS: Cut out \$50 million in waste.

If the hon. member will wait I will tell him how some of the things can be paid for in this Province because I have not finished yet, Mr. Chairman. There are a few other things that need to be said. But before coming on to that, Sir, let me mention again the sneakiness, the slyness, Mr. Chairman, with which the hon. Minister of Finance tried to indicate to the people of this Province that he is doing them a great favour as far as electricity consumption was concerned. Out he comes, Sir, saying they are going to take the sales tax off electricity which would be a boon in itself. It would be very helpful to those people who are on fixed incomes, people on low incomes, Sir, especially those people who were taken in some years ago by the actions of the government when they encouraged people to

Mr. W. Rowe: get into electrical heating because there was apparently going to be cheap electricity available. And every school board in the Province suffers from the same thing as well; they were encouraged by the governments to get into electrical heating because it was so cheap only to have the cost of electrical heat and lights and power generally rise sky high, Sir.

So taking off the sales tax from electricity would in itself have been a boon to a lot of people. A great number of people would have profited, would have had money in their pockets to spend on other essentials and necessities of life if the government had in fact taken off the sales tax. But, no, Sir, once again we see the sneaky way the government robbed Peter to pay Paul. No sooner had they announced that the sales tax would go off electrical consumption than they announced that the same amount, by coincidence, nine or ten or so per cent, the same amount would go on the consumption or the cost of electricity by way of a rate hike which this government allowed its Crown corporation, Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro, to impose. And they tried, Sir, to avoid the responsibility by saying that it was recommended by the Public Utilities Board. Everybody knows, Sir, what the Public Utilities Board is. The Public Utilities Board is a board, a judicial body, set up to look at the financial side of things, to look at the engineering side of things, to look at the technical side of things, and decide on the evidence presented before it - my hon. friend the member for St. John's West (Dr. Kitchen) knows all about this. He sat down there for two weeks and listened to the gobbledygook and the mumbo-jumbo presented to the Board, for the Board to make up its mind on. And the Board, based on the evidence presented to it, financial and construction evidence, and engineering evidence, and economic evidence of all kinds, decided that, yes, there was a case financially for Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro to require its customer, Newfoundland Light and Power Company, to pay more for its electricity. That is all it decides, Sir. The Public Utilities Board was not elected to represent the best interest of the people of this Province;

Mr. W. Rowe: the government was elected by the people of this Province, and this House was elected, Mr. Chairman, from which the government is formed. And it is the government who have to take the full responsibility for making the policy decision to impose 9 per cent or 10 per cent of an increase on the cost of electricity to consumers of this Province.

MR. W.N. ROWE: And, Sir, it is even worse than, I suppose, it appears on the surface. The sales tax can only be abolished from electricity once, once you reduce it to nil. There it is. It is gone. That is it. But the government has given every indication that this year it will allow the increase in electricity to go up by nine per cent as far as Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro is concerned. And next year, Sir, the government will allow another increase, another nine or ten per cent. Where will the sales tax exemptions be then, Mr. Chairman? I tell the people of this province that this government as a result of the policy making arm of the government, Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro, and I believe the evidence presented at the hearing will bear this out, Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro is determined, Sir, to raise the cost of electricity in this province by forty, fifty, sixty, seventy per cent.

MR. NEARY: They are told by the government to show a profit.

MR. W.N. ROWE: They are told by the government, You show our bosses down in Wall Street who are ruling us, who are telling us what to do, you show that crowd of gnomes and financial minions down in Wall Street, you show them what good boys you are. You increase your prices. You go before the Public Utilities Board and then we will use the Public Utilities Board, who makes their decision purely on the financial evidence before it then we will use that as an excuse to allow you to increase your profits and the rates to the people who have to use electricity. It is all a devious plot, Mr. Chairman, a conspiracy between the government of the province and the bond holders and the gnomes of Wall Street and the government's own creature, the Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro Corporation which they have complete control over, it is a conspiracy to get them to go to the Public Utilities Board, use the PU Board as a front so that then they can do through the back door what they do not have the nerve or the courage to do by the front door, namely, raise the cost of electricity to the consumers in this province.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I do not know how the situation can be painted in any different way from what I have just

MR. W. N. ROWE: described. What else, Sir, what else did the government decide to do in its efforts to achieve some economies and to keep the budget deficit or cut out the budget deficit and then keep down expenditure to as low a level as possible? Did they decide, Mr. Chairman, that they were going to make no more payments, frivolous, vexatious payments to their PR firm, the PR firm for the government and for the P.C. Party which, Sir, if there is any evidence of conflict of interest, there it lies? Did the government decide to do that? No, Mr. Chairman. What they decided to do to keep down costs in addition to upping the sales tax, in addition to upping the school tax, in addition to imposing a charge for going to hospital and going to a bed in a ward, in addition to increasing the cost of electricity to consumers, in addition to making sure that thousands of children would not have the wherewithal to go and see a dentist, in addition to all these things and several others I have not mentioned, they decided that rather than attack the frivolities and the extravagances they would light in to another essential service in the province, namely, the essential service of hospitals and hospitalization and hospital facilities. And so they decide, and the minister took sort of a perverse delight and glee from announcing it, they decide no hospital construction this year.

Now, Mr. Chairman, we might have had some sympathy for this government and for the Premier if in fact they had not raised the expectations and the hopes of people throughout this province. But, Sir, for purely political purposes, in order to save their own skins as politicians in the 1975 election and later, they found it politically expedient, Mr. Chairman, to promise the people of Central Newfoundland that they would have a much needed hospital extension; promised the people of the Grand Bank area, the Burin Peninsula, that they would have a new hospital; promised the people of the Bonavista Peninsula that they would have a much needed new hospital; promised the people of Port aux Basques and the Southwest corner of the province, the Island that they would have a new hospital. They promised the people that, Sir, and when they came looking for

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MR. W.N. ROWE: their promises tell them, well next year you will
have that, until finally, Sir, this government is reaping at this
moment what it sowed,

MR. W. ROWE:

a government which raised the expectations and the hopes of people not in a silly and vain and frivolous way, Sir, not as far as frivolities are concerned, but concerning the very essential necessities of life, hospital care, decent hospital care. And now, Sir, they find that they are totally incapable of meeting this commitment, or at least they say they are. I do not think for a moment they are. I think they have other ideas in mind as to where to spend the public's money. I do not think the government and the Province is as bad as all that, that we cannot finance \$20 million or \$30 million or \$40 million or \$50 million or \$60 million or even \$70 million worth of hospitalization which will be paid for over the next fifty years. And the irony of this sordid chapter in the political life of our Province, Mr. Chairman, the irony of it is that if this government had not, again for purely political purposes, thrown down the drain, tossed out the window, \$70 million on a premature abortive start-up, so-called, of the Lower Churchill development this Province would now have the money to look after these essential services, hospitalization services.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. W. ROWE: \$110 million, I am prepared to say that that is not all wasted. I think it is, but I am prepared to give the government the benefit of the doubt and say that only about \$70 million or \$80 million of our public money was in fact thrown down the drain and wasted utterly. I am prepared to make that concession, Mr. Chairman. When I think back - I was not in politics at the time. It is one of the reasons I am back in this House again today - when I looked at the hypocritical political antics of this government prior to the election of 1975 and saw them blast off a couple of firecrackers on either sides of the Straits of Belle Isle to deceive the people of this Province, mislead the people of this Province into thinking that the Lower Churchill development was going to go ahead, when I think of that, Mr. Chairman, or when any Newfoundlander or Labradorian thinks of that foul, infamous

MR. W. ROWE:

misuse of public funds so that now the people of this Province cannot have hospital facilities, when anyone thinks of that, Sir, it is no wonder that there are petitions calling for the resignation of the Premier of this Province.

"Over 800 Signed Petition For Moores To Resign", excuse the use of the name, Sir, it is in the headline. "A meeting tonight in the Mount Peyton Hotel in Grand Falls at which invited guests mostly political leaders from Central Newfoundland will discuss the situation," Mrs. Tubrett said. Mr. Tubrett happens to be the one remaining member, as I understand it, of the P.C. District Association in Grand Falls. "Moores met with the hospital's Board of Directors last May and guaranteed them the expansion would begin this Spring," she said, Mrs. Tubrett. T-u-b-r-e-t-t, Tubrett it looks to me, Mr. Chairman, but your know.

"During the same visit to the town the Premier - he is called by his name in this article in the Evening Telegram which I will table, Sir, if Your Honour requires it - "the Premier met with the local P.C. Association and said he would resign, Mr. Chairman, if the expansion did not go ahead as promised."

SOME HON. MEMBERS: The Premier said that.

MR. W. ROWE: The Premier.

MR. FLIGHT: Did the Premier say that?

MR. W. ROWE: Mrs. Tubrett, Mr. Chairman, who attended the meeting with the Premier said the Premier advised them at that time to resign also if the expansion did not go ahead. Well, Sir, they kept their part of the bargain. If the Premier of the Province and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Hickman) had a shread of whatever it is left in them they would resign, Sir, in disgrace for raising the hopes of the people of that part of this Province and several other parts of this Province in a matter which brooks no joking or frivolity at all, Mr. Chairman, the health and physical and mental well-being of our people, one of the great essentials that any government has to provide if it is doing any kind of a job, Sir.

MR. W. ROWE: 40,000 jobs, Mr. Chairman; this government is now going to create 40,000 jobs in the next five years. Now, Sir, if this was a fresh government coming into the Province with a fresh mandate from the people, a government which was not tired and worn-out, a government which had not run completely out of steam and ideas, a government which did not exhibit at every turn complete intellectual bankruptcy, lack of ideas, lack of intellectual vigour, lack of energy of all kinds, Sir; if this was a government that did not indicate that and exhibit that especially with regard to its Throne Speech, then we on this side of the House and the people of this Province might be inclined to give them once more the benefit of the doubt and to say "Okay, let us see; let us see what this government can do." But, Sir, when this government by way of its Minister of Finance rises in this House and has the gall, the unmitigated face after six years of disaster to promise the people of this Province a blueprint, I think they called it, a blueprint, a promise of 40,000 jobs in five years, Sir, then we have to all say in this Province that it is wearing a little bit thin. How many jobs were created in the last five years in the Province, Sir? 8,000 jobs Mr. Chairman, 8,000 jobs created in this Province in the last five years, 8,000 jobs in the Budget Speech according to the Minister of Finance. And this government, Sir, expects us or the people of the Province to believe, to take it, to swallow that they are going to create 40,000 jobs in the next five years! Mr. Speaker, talk about ad nauseam as mentioned by my friend from St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter) earlier, ad nauseam, Sir. If there is anything that would be calculated to nauseate anyone in Newfoundland it would be to hear these same sick, tired, fatigued old promises on how they are going to create employment in this Province - 32,000 people out of work now in the Province, Mr. Chairman - in a Province, by the way, which has a participation in the labour force which is the smallest in the whole of Canada. What I am saying, Sir, is that the figures show that a lot of people have given up in desperation, have resigned themselves to the fact that

MR. W. ROWE: they will not find a job and therefore only 32,000 rather than the 50,000 or 60,000 that there should be appear on the books and on the statistics and lists of the Department of Labour and the Department of Manpower. 32,000 jobs and in the next five years another what - 6,000 a year -

AN HON. MEMBER: 6,000

MR. W. ROWE: -at least another 30,000 or more other new people into the labour force, at least. That is not counting an upsurge in the participation by women, for example, which is presently the lowest in Canada and which can be expected by any reasonable government to increase as time goes on. There is no reason why the women of this Province should not have the same participation and right and opportunity to work gainfully as do the women of other provinces of Canada. So, Sir, we can expect to see a labour force of anywhere from 60,000 or 70,000 or 80,000 more jobs required, people looking for jobs in the next five, six or seven years than presently exists - or that presently have jobs, I should say, because I included in that 32,000 who are presently unemployed. And this government, this government, Sir, is going to find 40,000 jobs for these people.

MR. W. ROWE: The pathetic side of this, Sir, is the humbleness, I suppose, of the Government's objectives. I suppose they did not want to appear too incredible although for this Government to promise to create a thousand jobs would be incredible to most people. But this Government, Sir, decided that what they would do is create 40,000 jobs and fling that out. Now they could have said, Sir, we are going to create 100,000 jobs in the next five years and bring our unemployment problem down to zero; five years from now there will be no unemployment problem. They could have said that, Sir. It makes about as much sense as saying there is going to be 40,000 jobs. But no, Sir, in order to try to be credible, in order to pretend that they were a government which is going to do something believable, they say, "What we are going to do is aim for a small little unemployment rate five years from now, ten per cent of the Province is going to be unemployed". Now, Sir, if that in itself does not indicate clearly the bankruptcy of ideas and the bankruptcy of energy and thrust by this Government, that in itself would indicate it. Ten per cent, Sir, ten per cent unemployment rate in most provinces and in most countries would be enough to make most governments with any pride or dignity resign from office in disgrace, thrown up their hands in despair and say, "We cannot cope with the problem, somebody else take over". But no, this Government, in a misguided attempt to lend some credibility and some believability to its five-year blueprint, its great leap backwards into the dark, its Lenin plan perhaps, this Government tries to give credibility by saying, "We are going to aim for ten per cent unemployment in 1982."

Well, Sir, I wish the Government luck. They are only going to have about a year and a half or two years in which to deal with the problem, because the people of this Province, Sir, have been taken in, I might even say sucked in, by this particular Government and this particular party long enough. If there was ever, Sir, a need for evidence to prove what I just said, which appears to be self-evident, it was obvious during that by-election which I had the honour and pleasure to play a small

MR. W. ROWE: part in, the Twillingate by-election on December 8, 1977. My hon. friend, the member for Lewisporte (Mr. White) played a small part in that as well. He did an admirable job, running the campaign there. He knows, perhaps better than I, because I was going out door to door and he was in the office there, listening to the nonsense being perpetrated by this Government in its unholy quest to cling on to another seat and to give the impression that it still had some drive and some ability left, and the promises, Mr. Chairman! Somebody counted up the promises and the cost of the promises made in that by-election. It came to something like \$30,000,000.

AN HON. MEMBER: Between \$30,000,000 and \$40,000,000.

MR. W. ROWE: Between \$30,000,000 and \$4,000,000, Mr. Chairman, of promises made in a by-election in a desperate attempt to scrab and cling on to a seat, hoping, I suppose, Sir, that by knocking off the new leader of the Liberal Party it would give them a respite and breathing space, and they could then go quickly to the people while we were in disarray and perhaps gain another four or five years of hopeless government in this Province. But, Sir, the people of the Province, the people of Twillingate District, whom, I would submit, Sir, are neither better nor worse than the people in any other part of this Province, the people of that District, a cross-section of good, hard-working, decent Newfoundland men and women, rejected the attempt by this Government to bribe them with their own money. They were all down their, Sir -

MR. WHITE: The member for Deep Bight.

MR. W. ROWE: The member for Deep Bight was down there, Sir. Instead of resigning and doing the decent thing for the promise he made, the commitment he made regarding his hospital, he was down there also like the rest of them -

MR. WHITE: Making more promises.

MR. W. ROWE: - making more promises that could not be kept, and he knew could not be kept. And all the rest of them, Sir, were camped down there.

AN HON. MEMBER:

I was not down there.

MR. W. ROWE:

If you were not down there - oh, you were up in Quebec at the time trying to learn some French because the hon. Minister of Tourism at that time had it in his head, Sir, to bail out of this Government, and it is the only time he has shown any intelligence as far as I can see, to bail out of this Government and run federally, and he is up there learning some French so that he can be bilingual. That is the only reason, Sir -

AN HON. MEMBER:

He is in Japan - Tokyo - to help them with their (inaudible)

MR. W. ROWE: I see. Well anyway, the only reason he was not there, Sir, like all twenty other members or whatever there was of the administration down there making promises, Sir, \$30 million - I will not say \$40 million - I will say \$30 million worth of promises to the people of Twillingate district and the people of Twillingate district took it, Sir, and flung it back in the teeth of this government because they knew, Sir, that it was total nonsense and that this government had no intention of living up to the commitment. And the worst part of the hypocrisy, Sir, was that the ministers who were down there working, trying to get me knocked out and the other man in, a fine, upright, respectable gentleman who was lost in the flurry of activity, a man who was thrust into the background and the Premier pushed out front, a confrontation between the hon. the Premier and myself which the people of Twillingate sized up and said that we have had enough, Mr. Chairman, we have had enough of broken promises, of breach of faith, breach of trust, of commitments made.

Take out your pen, Mr. Chairman, and write on a bit of paper to the chairman of a community council, all right, such and such a minister, or I, such a premier, hereby promise you, commit you irrevocably, \$3 million for a water and sewer system. Nothing to do that, Mr. Chairman.

MR. NEARY: On the back of an envelope.

MR. W. ROWE: On the back of an envelope, anything at all.

Calculated to impress upon desperate people, and I use the word desperate advisedly because when you have been without water in a community all your life and you are forced to drag buckets along through the ice and snow in the middle of the winter, you have a tendency, perhaps a greater tendency than normal, to trust the Premier and to trust the ministers who make these promises.

But the people of that district, Sir, and I would submit, Sir, the people of fifty-one districts have this government's number. They know that the jig is up and that this government will never again be permitted as far as the people are concerned to pull

MR. W. ROWE:

the wool over their eyes and to go into office purely for the sake of being in office, Mr. Chairman, not for the sake of what you can do when you get in there but just to be in there, to be the hon. minister of this or the hon. minister of that and to spirit yourself around on aircraft, fly all over North America and Europe, entertain yourself lavishly at the people's expense and not care two hoots, Mr. Chairman, whether there is a water system in Durrells Arm or whether there is a hospital in Clarendville. That is what we are confronted with, Sir, and that is why I would submit that a number of us got into politics in 1975. I know that is why I got into it, to make sure that this kind of political chicanery and skulduggery will not go on again.

MR. MORGAN: Came in on Joey's coattails.

MR. W. ROWE: If there is anything that I can do - came in on Joey's coattails or something, right. That is right, Mr. Chairman. That is right, Sir, I was elected in 1966 on Joey Smallwood's coattails as were a number of hon. members here, as were or not. Clyde Wells was willing to admit that, Sir.

AN HON. MEMBER: On the other side.

MR. W. ROWE: A number over there on the other side, the Minister of Justice, John Crosbie, the former Minister of Finance, Mr. Earle. There were a number of them, Sir, who got elected on Joey Smallwood's coattails and I was one of them.

MR. SIMMONS: And those who could not even latch onto his coattails, like the Minister of Tourism.

MR. W. ROWE: He tried his best. Oh he did his best, Sir, but they would not have him. As low as we had sunk in 1970, Sir, we did have some taste.

MR. SIMMONS: Brinking in the sheaves.

MR. W. ROWE: Now, Sir, I am glad the hon. member mentioned that because in 1971, Sir, the Liberal Party got defeated in this Province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. W. ROVE: Mr. Chairman, if I could have a little order I would like to continue my few remarks. In 1971, Sir, the Liberal government was defeated in this Province after twenty-three years in office. And, Sir, I do not mind saying-in 1972 this government took over on January 18th of 1972-and, Sir, I do not mind saying as a Liberal that I was delighted that the Liberal Party was defeated. I was delighted, Mr. Chairman, because

MR. W.N. ROWE: after twenty-three years in office any government, no matter how good or how bad, any leader, no matter how good or how bad, has a tendency to have parasites build up around them have a tendency to have dead wood build up around them, has a tendency perhaps for the party to run out of steam, to lose sight of the reason why they were elected in the first place. They become a little bit arrogant, Sir, after twenty-three years in office and I was delighted, Sir, that the Liberal party was taken by the people of Newfoundland by the scruff of the neck and the slack of the pants and flung out of government. I was delighted because, Mr. Chairman, every party needs to have that renewal process.

MR. MORGAN: (Inaudible).

MR. W.N. ROWE: And, Sir, that party, our party had in fact run out of steam and needed a breathing space to gather itself together and get new blood into it, new ideas, new concepts, new policies, and new directions. But, Sir, it took twenty-three years for the Liberal Party to run out of steam. This government, Sir, has been in for six years and, Sir, the very same things that caused the defeat of the Liberal Party, Sir, have now grown up around this honourable crowd, as my friend says, but to a much greater extent. This party here, Sir, this government here has succeeded in six short years, Sir, in becoming arrogant in flinging out any kind of a promise for the sake of making a promise, Mr. Chairman, without even worrying whether you have to meet it tomorrow or not, has run out of concepts and ideas and policies, Sir.

MR. CANNING: They never had any.

MR. W.N. ROWE: I am prepared to say - perhaps my honourable friend is right - but I am prepared to concede that when some of these members were elected - I see one down there now, for example, the hon. member for St. John's East; and there might be a few other ones, the hon. member for Kilbride, the hon. member for St. John's North - I am prepared to believe that the hon. member for Ferryland down there still has the blush on the rose so to speak. These hon. members I think, Sir, came into this government, maybe the hon. the Premier himself - who

MR. W.N. ROWE: knows? although he has skillfully hidden it - came in here full of vim and vigor, Mr. Chairman, in an honest desire to try to get this province on the right track or on the tracks again, on the right track as they saw it at that time. But, Sir, after five or six years of extravagance and misuse of power, misuse of public funds this crowd, Sir, is finished. This crowd, Sir, has used itself up and has certainly worn out its welcome as far as the people of this province are concerned.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. W.N. ROWE: And there is no more chance, Sir, of that - I will not go any further than that, Sir, But I will say that I would certainly welcome the opportunity of allowing the people of this province the chance to see or to indicate whether they want this government in any longer or whether they want the good creditable alternative represented by this party on this side of the House. I would gladly put that to the test, Sir, tomorrow.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. W.N. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, one thing I forgot to mention when I was going through my few remarks there, I was indicating how this government had decided to give tax relief and tax benefits to a certain segment of the business community and had decided to lash into and take it out of the hides of those people in our society least able to pay, namely, Sir, students and people who have to go to hospital and use ward beds and so on.

But, Sir, there is one thing that I would like to mention if I can borrow my hon. friend's estimates here. Sir, in the Executive Council, Sir, on page thirteen there are a number of things which will be brought out by my friends on this side of the House before this particular debate is over because, Sir, the Interim Supply Bill is not going through easily or quickly this time. The hon. Minister of Finance might as well resign himself to that. Now, Sir, we have on page thirteen of the estimates under the

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MR. W.N. ROWE: general heading of Executive Council, a sub-head, 307, which has the name Special Action Group -

AN HON. MEMBER: Now, 737

AN HON. MEMBER: Action Committee.

MR. W.N. ROWE: Now, Sir, the salaries are \$149,800 dollars, about a \$150,000 dollars. Fair enough.

MR. SIMMONS: For part-time jobs.

MR. W.N. ROWE: I have considerable misgivings and doubts about the utility, the usefulness of this particular group but I am prepared, knowing the people involved as I do, I am prepared to say that these people earn that money. Whether what they are doing is going to bear fruit or not I do not know; I doubt it but I am prepared to concede that they are working for that money. But then, Sir, we come down through that sub-head and we come to 307-03 which is called Resource Public Relations Program and, Sir, we have a revised estimate for the year 1977/78 ending 31st. of March 1978 and we see, Sir, that this government has already spent, without any authority from this hon. House or this hon. committee, \$1,100,000 dollars, Mr. Chairman, for Public Relations a P.R program \$1,100,000 dollars a new sub-head all together, was there not last year in the estimates of 1977/78, something which was set up - how long ago? - two months ago and already the revised estimate indicates that that Special Action Group will spend by the time this financial year over well over \$1,000,000 in P.R in Public Relations, in advertising and, Sir, I challenge the minister of finance or the hon. Premier to get up in this House and say that a substantial portion of that large sum of money is not going or has not gone to the P.C. party public relation firm, McConnell Advertising Agencies Limited headquartered up there in Montreal.

MR. W.N. ROWE: One million dollars spent on advertising in an effort to try to buttress, to try to make this government look good in the public eye by glossy, slick advertising from a P.R. firm headquartered in Montreal. They did not even have the decency, Mr. Chairman, as I understand it to try to employ some of the people in this Province who have become quite expert and competent at advertising and public relations. No, Sir, they had to use this highfalutin, slick and glossy political P.R. Firm, the P.R.

MR. W.N. ROWE: Firm that will be the P.R. Firm.

PREMIER MOORES: Did you see Goldfarb?

MR. W.N. ROWE: If I did see Goldfarb lately I can assure the hon. the Premier that no public funds were used when I went to see him.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Here! Here!

MR. W.N. ROWE: Or Vicars and Denson, for that matter, who have done an admirable job for the Liberal Party provincially and federally. We will find people locally, Mr. Chairman, who will do the same thing. We did not need to use any glossy, slick advertising and P.R. down in Twillingate district, Mr. Chairman, I will remind the hon. the Premier. None of these great, big blue and orange signs, Mr. Chairman, a young fellow by the name of John Darrow, who I recommend to anybody in this hon. House who wants a few signs painted in that particular area of the Province, who painted them, Sir, with his own hand.

MR. F. ROWE: Right on the spot.

MR. W.N. ROWE: None of this slick and glossy mainland P.R. stuff in that particular election, Sir, and I am modest enough to say that it paid off. The people of Twillingate district were turned off, Mr. Chairman, by this

MR. W.N. ROME: hard sell, this mainland voice trying to persuade them to vote for empty, vacuous promises from a discredited government.

\$1,100,000 Mr.

Chairman, to be paid for p.r. - perhaps not all of it is going to its agency. I do not know. There are a number of other places in the estimates which we will be questioning as time goes on where there is other similar, not quite so large but large sums of money being paid by departments for p.r. and advertising.

MR. W.N. ROME: A million dollars spent without any authority from this House to try to bolster the sagging image of a government in disrepute. Well, they are not going to

Mr. W. Rowe: succeed, Sir, The people of the Province are not going to be taken in any more by this kind of hard sell PR and advertising.

Now, Sir, not satisfied with throwing well over a \$1 million of the public funds away as far as the people of this Province are concerned, as far as benefit is concerned, the government puts in its estimates, in this new subhead, another \$900,000 for this year, Mr. Chairman, to be spent for public relations and advertising and so on under this special Action Group subhead. In other words, Sir, this government which saw its Minister of Finance rise in this hon. House and wring his hands in despair and say that we had no choice, people of Newfoundland, but to make these savage cutbacks in your public service, no hospital construction, we have no choice but to lay it on the backs of the people who cannot afford to pay any more money for any service, this same government, Sir, while according a measure of tax relief to people who, I would submit, may need it, but need it least of all of all the people in our society, not satisfied with doing that, Sir, this government is going to spend the scandalous amount of \$2 million, half of which has already been spent, for a programme that has already indicated to the public of the Province its total, abysmal failure, and a programme, Sir, which was designed, I would say in the first place, to do nothing else, a two pronged thing, first, to try to bolster the image of this government, number one, and number two, to get public funds into the hands of the PC Party advertising and PR firm.

Let the people of Newfoundland, Sir, put this whole thing in perspective. Let them put it in perspective. We know we are going through trying economic and financial times. Everybody knows that. But, Sir, this government would have gotten a measure of sympathy and support from the Newfoundland people if it had not shown first of all that it was careless and heedless as to whether its promises were going to be kept or not. 'Tell the fools

Mr. W. Rowe: anything, has been the maxim of this government, 'Tell them anything. They are only the people. If they want a hospital, tell them they will get a hospital, until the day of reckoning comes, and then what we will do is tell them they cannot have a hospital. And then what we will do is we will employ a high powered PR firm to put slick and glossy advertising over the television and radio and newspapers to make us look as if we are good in spite of the fact that we have not kept our commitments. Subliminal advertising, and hard sell advertising, drill it into their poor misbegotten heads that we, the government, are really their benefactors, that we are helping them out.' That is their attitude, Sir. 'The people will forget that we promised them this or we did not meet this commitment when the time was due, and we will try to fool them once more with an advertising campaign designed to make the government look like heroes.'

Well, Sir, I can assure this government that it will be a long time before the people of Central Newfoundland will forget the breach of faith and the breach of trust perpetrated on them by the Premier and the government of this Province. And I can assure them, the hon. Minister of Finance particularly, that the people of the Burin Peninsula will never forget the breach of faith perpetrated on them regarding the hospital. The face of the government, Sir, to put up signs saying, Site of the new Burin Peninsula Hospital. They will do anything, Mr. Chairman, unless Your Honour suspects me of exaggeration.

MR. NEARY: You know they turned a sod and put in a little platform and everything down there.

MR. W. ROWE: That is right. The platform fell down or something, did it not?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. W. ROWE: Did not that platform collapse? Somebody must have been looking down at that particular moment, Mr. Chairman, that that platform collapsed.

MR. W. ROWE: The people of the Bonavista Peninsula - it will be a long time if ever before they forget that they were taken in, They trusted the government which has let them down,

MR. ROWE:

which has broken faith with them. The people there will not forget, Sir, and the people of Newfoundland are not, no matter what kind of millions upon millions of public money is spent to improve the image of this government, the people of Newfoundland, Sir, are not going to forget that this government over the past six years in office have not created one single industry in this Province. It closed down a number of industries, Sir. Come By Chance; Mr. Chairman, does Your Honour remember; I know Your Honour was busy trying to get elected yourself in the election in 1975, but does Your Honour remember the deception practiced on the people of this Province by certain politicians back in 1975 when right before the 1975 election there were announcements made including, I believe, announcements made by the government's PR firm on slick and glossy advertising on TV saying that there was going to be a second oil refinery in Come By Chance and there was going to be a petrochemical complex in Come By Chance? This was weeks, Sir, before the 1975 election and leading up to the election and, Sir, during the election this promise, this commitment was made to the people of this Province. Your Honour knows nothing about that because Your Honour was busily getting elected in an honourable and decent way yourself. But, Sir, within weeks after that election was over the government of this Province, the Minister of Finance, I suppose, at that time Mr. Crosbie, announced within weeks Mr. Chairman, weeks after the election, announced that the Come By Chance refinery would be closing down, had gone bankrupt. Now, Sir, I am not saying that the government is responsible for that bankruptcy, I leave that to other people to judge. But what I am saying, Sir, is this that this government knew, knew, Sir, at the time that they were telling the people of this Province that there was going to be a second oil refinery in Come By Chance, that there was going to be a petrochemical complex, this government knew that what they were saying was not factual information.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. W. ROWE: They knew or if they did not know, Sir, they should have known and if they did not know they are guilty of the greatest neglect ever shown by any government in this Province.

SOME HON MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. W. ROWE: Two or three weeks before the closedown, Mr. Chairman, they knew or should have known that that oil refinery was going bottom up but instead of telling the people or saying nothing about it, Mr. Chairman, nobody could blame I suppose the government for not being the bearer -

MR. NEARY: You should have read that letter I gave you today.

MR. W. ROWE: I have it there somewhere. Nobody can blame this government, Sir, for not wanting to be the bearer of bad news right in the middle of an election campaign so I would forgive them is they said nothing about the oil refinery in Come By Chance during the election campaign and if they were forced thereafter to announce its close down. But, Sir, the guilt, the culpability of this government, Mr. Chairman, is seen from the fact that they knew at the time they were telling the people of Newfoundland and Labrador that there was going to be another oil refinery, there was going to be a petrochemical complex, they knew that the oil refinery in Come By Chance was about to shut its doors. Now, Sir, if that is not the most heinous, misleading piece of deception ever perpetrated on the people of this Province then I do not know anything about the history, the poor benighted history of Newfoundland and Labrador, And God knows, Sir, we have had some awful examples of chicanery in this Province, but that, Sir, should be registered in the Registry of Deeds downstairs as the example for public knowledge so that the people will know - or in the Registry of the Court House - as the most blatant example of lack of concern, of chicanery, of deception for political purposes ever practiced by a political party in Newfoundland and Labrador. And right next to it, Mr. Chairman, let us put the photographs

MR. W. ROWE: and the words and the TV images of the couple of sticks of dynamite which the Premier of this Province blasted off-where? - up in St. Barbe Bay?

MR. F. ROWE: Yes.

MR. W. ROWE: Up in St. Barbe Bay on our side and where over in -

MR. F. ROWE: Savage Cove and Anchor Point.

MR. W. ROWE: And on the other side where? Forteau ?

MR. F. ROWE: Forteau.

MR. W. ROWE: Forteau on the other side, Mr. Chairman, Savage Cove on this side and Forteau on the other side, at a time, Mr. Chairman, and I say this realizing that I am going dangerously close to unparliamentary behaviour, at a time, Sir, when this government and the ministers here today knew that there was not a chance of the proverbial snowball of the Lower Churchill power development going ahead during that year or the year after or for several years to come, when those blasts were set off on both sides of the Strait to great fanfare and great hullabaloo. And the talk was that the Lower Churchill was going ahead right up to the election and until the election was over and then the dismal news came, Sir, that the Lower Churchill was not going ahead and that \$80 million of public funds had been thrown down the drain in a desperate attempt to cling onto office by this government.

MR. RIDEOUT: And businesses left and right.

MR. W. ROWE: Yes businesses everywhere sprouting up, small businesses trying to take advantage of this windfall, the Lower Churchill power development going ahead, left, Sir, in the lurch to collapse. That is what the government is like, Mr. Chairman, that is what they are like, everybody knows that by now. They are a crowd who will do or say anything, Mr. Chairman, to suit the occasion. The Premier does not even care now about the uproar he has caused. The Premier gives every indication now of total lack of concern for the way he has got just about everybody in Central Newfoundland up in arms. I had one fellow on the Open Line programme this morning, Sir, talk

MR. W. ROWE: about his disgust with politics and government, talking about taking his gun down. That was his solution to the problem.

Now, Mr. Chairman, this was after this Budget Speech was read in the House and after six years of skulduggery and chicanery and the worse kind of partisan politics. And far be it for me to condone that kind of thought-talk about action-but, Sir, you can hardly blame people who have become so desperate. They cannot even trust or believe what their government, the highest elected officials in the land are telling them, they know there is nowhere they can turn and get a straight answer, an honest answer, they know they are going to be led down the garden path, they know they are going to be given the spin around the office and out the door before they know what will happen to them, and they will be halfway home again before they realize what they went for was skillfully forgotten or turned around by the government or the minister concerned.

MR. NEARY: Or they are pawned off on the secretariat or the Resource Committee.

MR. W. ROWE: Yes go and see the action group, Mr. Chairman, the \$2 million

MR. W. ROWE:

phone number. We do not see that. \$2 million, what am I talking about? Special action group, \$5 million this year and -

MR. NEARY: That is the total?

MR. W. ROWE: That is the total, yes. \$2 million, well nearly \$2.5 million for the two years, 1977-1978 and 1978-1979, of which, of course, the first year is only a couple of months so you are talking about one year activity, \$2 million or more. A phone number, designed, Sir, to frustrate and disillusion and cause people to become completely disenchanted with government projects and government programmes. Bluff and guff, you name it what you will, Mr. Chairman, that is all it is, a hoax, even a fraud perpetrated once more on the people of this Province. Did you say I have unlimited time?

MR. NEARY: Yes. Carry on.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. W. ROWE: Oh, very good. Now, Mr. Chairman, the evidence of the lack of good faith as far as these 40,000 jobs are concerned promised by the government to be created within the next five years - does anybody remember Bourassa's famous promise, 100,000 jobs? Within three years he was taken and he was flung out. Ignominiously raising the peoples' expectations like that, Mr. Chairman. He happens to belong to the same party I belong to. But I would say, Sir, that anybody whether they are Liberal or P.C. or NDP or Social Credit, anybody who raises peoples' expectations with the sure and certain knowledge that they are going to dash their hopes when the time comes deserves to be thrown out. And, Sir, this government is going to do 40,000 jobs in the same period of time. Quebec or Premier Bourassa was a little more modest. He only said 100,000 for their vast population of 6 million or 7 million. This government, Sir, is going to create 40,000 jobs in the next five years.

MR. W. ROWE:

Sir, how do they start? How, Sir, do they commence this great new dream, this blueprint for the future of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador? Forty thousand jobs, Sir, and how do they start it? By an announcement that they are going to layoff 300 civil servants in one smack, 200 casual seasonal workers in another smack, 300 or 400 teachers are going to be given the bum's rush this year in another smack. There are nearly 1,000 jobs there, Mr. Chairman. How many teachers?

MR. F. ROWE: They are saying there are 150.

MR. W. ROWE: How many are there going to be?

MR. F. ROWE: I would say there will be close to 300 or 400.

MR. W. ROWE: How many?

MR. F. ROWE: You cannot get an answer from the Minister of Education (Mr. House).

MR. W. ROWE: Well you have to realize that when you are in the Opposition you have to dig out things yourself and you cannot get a straight answer from any minister. I mean you will hear 150 and you will hear - what about the several hundred who are going to come out of the University this year having being actively encouraged by the government to go in and do teachers training and will not be able to find a job from here to Timbuktu? How about that, Mr. Chairman?

MR. NEARY: Putting themselves in debt to do it.

MR. W. ROWE: That is how they are going to start their great new vision for the future, Mr. Chairman, this blueprint. Could they not find something a little more original than that? Premier Smallwood, that great political institution won a great victory in 1966 on his blueprint.

MR. NEARY: A bunch of maps, was it.

MR. W. ROWE: Blueprint for the future. He had this tremendous document with photographs and graphs and figures in it, what he was going to do and, in fact, accomplished most of it, ninety per cent of

MR. W. ROWE:

it over the next five years. Blueprint for the future. Building on the foundation was the idea and, Sir, the people of Newfoundland accepted him on that basis knowing from his past history and experience that he was a man of his word, elected him and he accomplished what he had set out to accomplish by and large. But, Sir, this government here when it talks about a blueprint for the future or building on the foundation, Sir, that they have laid down they are not offering very much to the Newfoundland and Labrador people, this foundation, Sir, built on slipping and sliding sand and muck.

What was it somebody said - it might have even been me - the other day about this government, Sir, having the reverse of the Midas touch. King Midas,

MR. W.N. ROWE: Sir, merely had to touch something and it would turn to gold. This government here, Sir, has the reverse of that. They have the sadim touch, Midas spelled backwards. Everything they touch, Mr. Chairman, turns to muck in their hands although it might have started off as gold or something good. This government on that kind of experience, with the Newfoundland people, that kind of a history short as it might have been for six years expects the people of Newfoundland to believe this great blueprint for the future. It was delivered, Sir, on St. Patrick's Day and the Irish had a word for it - malarkey, Mr. Chairman.

MR. NEARY: No, St. Patrick drove the snakes out of Ireland.

MR. W.N. ROWE: Well, he needs a job here.

MR. NEARY: Yes, we should have a St. Patrick here to drive the snakes out of Newfoundland.

MR. W.N. ROWE: Yes, Sir.

MR. STRACHAN: The snakes crawl at night.

MR. W.N. ROWE: Malarkey, Mr. Chairman. Forty thousand jobs this government is going to create in the next five years and starts off by laying off several hundred professional people, fairly high-paying jobs from the Civil Service, several hundred. Can you understand several? Take off your socks and your shoes and use your hands and your toes and you might get up to it.

Mr. Chairman, as a passing observer of the political scene you see people who - what happens to them when they get into government and power? Some people act in a sensible sane way. The Minister of Tourism, for example, is known for his rationality, sanity and then certain other ministers, Sir, their egos get control of them. Look at it. Their egos Sir, seize control of them. They think they are God Almighty.

MR. PECKFORD: Do not complain, do not complain.

MR. W.N. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, this hon. minister happens to be one of them. What is it somebody said - He is a self made man, Sir, and he admires his maker, the hon. minister.

MR. SIMMONS: And nobody else will take credit for him.

MR. W.N. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, the point I am making that even the Minister of Mines and Energy, if I repeat it often enough, will get a grip on is how can a government expect anybody in this province to take them seriously, Mr. Chairman, to take them seriously at a time about a blueprint or 40,000 job creation programme when there has been 8,000 jobs created over the previous five years, when they have closed down a half a dozen major industries and caused, I would say, the bankruptcy or insolvency of scores of others because of their misguided, misleading, deceptive programmes like the Lower Churchill. A government, Sir, which commences its great leap forward by announcing it is going to lay off several hundred high paying jobs and that, of course, will have an adverse effect again itself on the economy. You do not lay off three or four hundred people with fairly high paying jobs, Sir, and not expect other people to be adversely affected.

MR. NEARY: Will the owner of Affiliated Marine Metals be one of these I wonder?

MR. W.N. ROWE: The owner of Affiliated Marine Metals, we will get into that, Mr. Chairman, that other scandal where a gentleman who has run dangerously close to taking this government for a ride as far as public money is concerned and now apparently - I have my honourable colleague's word to go by -

MR. NEARY: No, the minister told us he was on the payroll.

MR. W.N. ROWE: The minister has admitted it? He would not mention it before.

MR. NEARY: He will not tell us what he does but he is on the payroll.

MR. W.N. ROWE: He is on the payroll - a man, Sir, who has taken the government and the people of this province for how much?

MR. NEARY: Every vehicle owner pays a dollar on his license for this.

MR. W.N. ROWE: It is supposed to go into this man's company.

MR. NEARY: That is right.

MR. W.N. ROWE: And now he is on the public payroll having skinned everybody of a dollar, he is now on the government payroll.

MR. NEARY: We are still paying the dollar.

MR. W.N. ROWE: It is good to have self-confidence I guess, Mr. Chairman,
because this government must have that if nothing else.

The Lower Churchill Falls, Sir;

MR. W. ROWE: We still do not have any form of an agreement which can be described to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador as being a document in which they can put any faith whatsoever.

The Minister of Mines and Energy and The Premier of the Province admitted the other day under questioning from this side of the House that the announcement made in Ottawa following the famous First Ministers Conference that there was an agreement, in fact turns out to be an agreement to agree to agree if they can come to an agreement sometime down the road. The Government of Canada in good faith has offered \$5,000,000 and now, apparently, the bunch of public servants who are sitting down on either side, federally and provincially, are trying to come up with an agreement.

An agreement to do what, Mr. Chairman? An agreement to get the Lower Churchill power development going? To hire on the 2,000 or 3,000 men per year which will be on during the course of the construction? An agreement to do that, Sir? No, Mr. Chairman, six years after this Government has come to power, two and one-half or three years after it has spent \$70,000,000 or \$80,000,000, wasted \$70,000,000 or \$80,000,000 of public funds, we now have civil servants sitting down to take the very preliminary steps leading towards the getting together of a contract to determine whether the Lower Churchill, the Gull Island power development is, in fact, feasible or not.

We have arrived, Sir, at the point where we are trying to determine whether we should invest one dollar in the Lower Churchill development.

MR. HICKMAN: That is not so.

MR. W. ROWE: It is so a feasibility study.

MR. HICKMAN: We want to be sure that the Government of Canada does what in effect they should do (inaudible)

MR. W. ROWE: Well, Mr. Chairman, who ever heard the like of this?

MR. MORGAN: No sell-out over here.

MR. W. ROWE: No sell-out! No nothing over there, Mr. Chairman, nothing! No mistakes! This crowd has not made a mistake because how can you make a mistake if you never do anything.

AN HON. MEMBER: There are a hundred and fifty jobs around rural Newfoundland that the hon. Leader talks about and does not understand. understand.

MR. W. ROWE: Yes, that is right. Last year I was here listening to the Budget Speech, the Speech from the Throne actually, and up jumped the Premier and started to take credit for setting up the Rural Development Associations and funding them. Up he jumped and said, "What a great Government we are, we fund the Rural Development Associations". Now, either through ignorance, meaning lack of knowledge, not discourteous, Sir, because the Premier is a very courteous and polite man, charming fellow.

MR. NEARY: Not vindictive.

MR. W. ROWE: Not vindictive or anything like that. He never gives the back of the hand. Mr. Chairman, but out of ignorance or malice, I do not know which, indicates publicly on television that his Government started to fund the Rural Development Associations in this Province. An outright falsehood, Mr. Chairman, when in fact the Rural Development Associations which had been set up by the industry and efforts of local people long before the Premier was even heard of in politics.

MR. NEARY: Before he came to Newfoundland.

MR. W. ROWE: - Before he even ventured to come back to his native Province, Sir, there were Rural Development Associations. Sir, it was the former administration, I am not taking any credit for this, it is a matter of record and fact and it should be established -

MR. PECKFORD: It is the same way as you will take credit for everything.

MR. W. ROWE: - the former administration, Sir, funded, took a policy decision,

MR. W. ROWE: and decided to fund the Rural Development Associations.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. W. ROWE: And up jumps the Premier, Sir, and talks in terms of setting up the Newfoundland and Labrador Development Corporation as if it was a brand new P.C. concept. In fact, Sir, the thing had already - when we left office through no fault of our own there had been eighteen or so drafts which had gone through my hands and the hands of the present member for Conception Bay South (Mr. Nolan) in an effort to make sure that that development corporation was set up and after the government got in power, the present government got in power it went -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible) making drafts.

MR. W. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, I realize the hon. member can have a chance to speak. I realize that he does not have very good manners, that he is basically not a very courteous man. He should learn something from his boss, the Premier in that regard.

MR. PECKFORD: I am a bayman at heart.

MR. W. ROWE: Learn a little bit of charm, and a little bit of courtesy, a little bit of manners, Sir.

MR. F. ROWE: The baymen would be ashamed.

MR. W. ROWE: He can stand up and make a speech. He is a bayman, is that what he said?

MR. F. ROWE: That is what he is saying, yes.

MR. W. ROWE: What?

MR. PECKFORD: I know you do not understand ...

MR. W. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, in other words baymen are all ignorant are they, and discourtesy, and impolite? What an insult, Mr. Chairman, that hon. gentleman over there. What an insult. Well you have to say honourable it is in the book, I have no choice. So learn a little bit of courtesy and decency from your boss, the Premier of the Province, who knows how to do that very well that is what he is best at as a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman.

But anyway, Sir, at this point in time the Lower Churchill development has started to take its first baby steps after

MR. W. ROWE: \$110 million has been thrown into it, which means no hospital construction this year, which means, what? of the \$280 million worth of water and sewer systems and so on needed this year, there is \$18 million, is that correct?

AN HON. MEMBER: \$12 million or \$14 million.

MR. W. ROWE: \$12 million or \$14 million to spend on them, for highway construction \$14 million, for the Trans-Canada Highway of which 75 per cent is supposed to be federal money, of which only 50 per cent is going to be federal money, so you are going to have to get up another \$10 million. Twenty million dollars, Sir, on a Trans-Canada Highway, -

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. W. ROWE: - which this government, Sir, for six years has allowed to go to rack and ruin.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. W. ROWE: A government, Sir, which was too busy lashing out the money to its PR firms or lashing out the money to try to get elected by wasting money on the Lower Churchill power development premature start up, allowed something which means comfort to everybody in this Province, the Trans-Canada Highway to go to rack and ruin, and to listen to the hon. minister who is the former Minister of Transportation blaming the public servants in his own department for the state of the highway, Sir, was an insulting spectacle to behold.

MR. F. ROWE: That is right. That is right.

MR. W. ROWE: The hon. minister forgot perhaps when he was saying that the road was not built properly, that the thing was engineered and approved by the present deputy minister.

MR. MORGAN: The standards were approved by him.

MR. W. ROWE: Ha, Mr. Chairman, -

AN HON. MEMBER: By the minister -

MR. W. ROWE: The Deputy Minister, Mr. Knight -

MR. NEARY: Mr. MacDonald.

MR. W. ROWE: - and the present Deputy Minister,

Mr. MacDonald friends of the minister, here, and I would say -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. W. ROWE: - I would venture to say, Sir, that many were the nights when Mr. MacDonald would go over and seek a bit of comfort and solace from his friend, the Minister of Finance, and say, Is there any way you can get that maw-mouth to close up. I bet you he said that fifty times, Mr. Chairman, to have his own minister -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. W. ROWE: And, Sir, finally they took him and threw him out of the department.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. W. ROWE: To have your own minister, Mr. Chairman, to have your own minister get on the public airways and say, That it was my deputy minister, and my officials, and my engineering officials

MR. W. ROWE:

officials who approved every inch of the Trans-Canada Highway, Mr. Chairman. To have your own minister do that is an awful disgraceful insult.

MR. SIMMONS: It is hard to take.

MR. W. ROWE: Oh Mr. MacDonald had to swallow a lot, Mr. Chairman, when that hon. minister was Minister of Highways.

MR. NEARY: He was ashamed of his life, ashamed of his life.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. W. ROWE: Oh yes. Well you would expect the hon. minister to defend his colleague however distasteful the task may be, Sir.

MR. HICKMAN: The hon. gentleman would not mind if I comment on this? This is the first time that I have heard - you know a fundamental rule is you never use the names of public servants in this Province. Never, never.

MR. W. ROWE: Do not be so silly.

MR. HICKMAN: Because they cannot defend themselves that is why.

MR. W. ROWE: I am defending. I am saying that Mr. MacDonald, the Deputy Minister is one of the finest -

MR. NEARY: He is a fine engineer.

MR. W. ROWE: - public servants, administrators and one of the finest of his profession which is engineering that this Province has ever produced. And I said that the hon. minister's disgraceful display of lack of courtesy made that man look as if he could not build a highway, Sir. That is what we are saying and it is true. The hon. minister, Sir, owes an apology to all the professional people in the department which he formerly had the dishonour to serve as minister. He owes them an apology. Luckily once more Uncle Ottawa comes to the rescue and is going to bail out the government with a few dollars to upgrade the Trans-Canada Highway. And it is high time that some money was spent on it because this government - think, Sir, think of the way this government operates and maneuvers itself. This government, Sir, rather than spend the millions of dollars

MR. W. ROWE:

necessary to get the Trans-Canada Highway in a safe and driveable condition, Sir, rather than doing that, we find this hon. minister first of all lashing out at Ottawa every second he could at the same time trying to get more money out of Ottawa. Now if that was not counterproductive, Mr. Chairman, what was? Kick out at the hand that feeds you. Bite the hand that feeds you. Not look a gift horse in the mouth, clout the gift horse in the mouth. That is what this hon. minister used to do, until finally the Minister of Transportation in Ottawa appealed to the reasoning of the Premier and said, "Will you get rid of this man. We cannot get anywhere with him."

MR. FLIGHT: That is right! That is right!

MR. W. ROWE: And, Sir, at the same time that he is lashing out at Ottawa he is casting aspersions and insults on the professional ability of the staff, the engineers who serve beneath him. Now that is what this government does, Mr. Chairman.

MR. FLIGHT: Disgusting boy, disgusting!

MR. W. ROWE: Oh, Mr. Chairman, their day is coming, Sir, their day is coming.

Sir, I was very interested to read or hear the minister read in the Throne Speech how the work ethic in Newfoundland is alive and well.

MR. NEARY: Except in Confederation Building on the eighth floor.

MR. W. ROWE: The work ethic, Sir. It certainly was not from firsthand experience. They must have had a royal commission on it, on that question. But, Sir, we on this side of the House and many members on that side of the House are aware that the work ethic, the industriousness of the ordinary Newfoundlander is alive and well. I wish somebody would tell the hon. the Premier. It was only last Summer, Sir, that he took it into his head on two separate occasions to lash out at the people of this Province who were unfortunate enough to be on welfare or on unemployment insurance. In the dead of the Summer now - this is in the peak construction

MR. W. ROWE:

season because this government had given up any construction activity or fostering it - to have the Premier come out, Sir, and say that people who are on welfare in this Province or people on the unemployment insurance in this Province are by and large unfortunately on that type of government handout, I suppose, because they are too lazy to work.

MR. SIMMONS: Shame, shame, shame.

DR. KITCHEN: That is when he was working one day a week, was it.

MR. W. ROWE: That is when the car was parked down in front of number one down there one day a week. We were lucky.

Mr. Chairman, I am talking, Sir, about a government which has got its priorities completely topsy-turvy, a government which gives tax relief to a segment of society which does not need it, which is admitted by the Board of Trade who should know will cause no incentive to small businesses in this Province, which gives no encouragement to the small businesses which need the help, those which are marginal, those which are rocking on the edge of insolvency. No help there at all, Sir. Help out those who are making \$100,000 a year. That is the ones this government helps out. And at the same time, Mr. Chairman, rips additional money out of those areas of our society and those people in our society who are least able to bear the brunt of financial adversity; students in school, students at the University,

MR. W. ROWE: families who are required to use wards, beds in wards in our hospitals; families whose children need free dental health or will get no dental care at all; people, Mr. Chairman, who can ill-afford to pay any more sales tax than they are doing now; people, Mr. Chairman, particularly in rural Newfoundland, who cannot afford to pay any more school taxes than they are paying now, cannot afford to pay what they are paying now; people, Mr. Chairman, who need adequate and decent health facilities by way of new hospitalization, new equipment and new buildings, these are the people, Sir, that the Government chooses to take it out of the hides of, a deliberate choice, a policy decision, a value judgment by this Government to take it out of the hides of those who are less able to pay. And, Sir, to add insult to injury, to include in the Budget under Executive Council headed by the Premier of this Province as Premier, \$2,000,000 of public funds to be paid out in Government advertising to bolster the image of the P.C. Party and to pay out money to McConnell Advertising Agency, the P.C. Party's public relations firm in the hopes either, I would suspect, of looking after debts incurred from the last election or trying to incur a little goodwill and credit for the next election in anticipation of the event.

That is the Government, Sir, a government which has proved itself, which has built a great foundation, Mr. Chairman, beyond a doubt. This blueprint for the future should be based on a different foundation than the one they are trying to convince the people exists now. The foundation laid by this Government is a foundation of promises made and commitments, Mr. Chairman, never fulfilled, a breach of public faith and a breach of public trust. Mr. Chairman, the people of the Province know what the Government is like. They know what they can expect from this Government. They know, Sir, that given the opportunity, no matter how good a Budget may be brought down next year or the year after, the people of this Province are not going to be fooled into thinking that this Government has any intention of keeping its commitments publicly made. They simply do not care. When the next election is called, Mr. Chairman, and I hope sooner rather than later, the people of this Province

MR. W. ROWE: will consign this Government to the fate which they deserve, ignominious defeat.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. PECKFORD: Mr. Chairman, I have just listened, almost not believing my ears, to an hon. gentleman who is trying to be premier of this Province and who, since 3:40 P.M. until 5:45 P.M., could make a speech about the future of this Province based upon the Resolution on Interim Supply and hardly mentioned in talking about where this Province is going, how this Administration plans to see it go through the Budget, even though he says he has to now not wait for the Budget Speech, that he has to launch into how badly this Administration is governing this Province. He has to launch into some of the major issues of the day. From 3:40 P.M. until 5:45 P.M. this hon. gentleman who wishes to be the leader of this province fails to mention the fishery once in all the things that that hon. gentleman could talk about. This is the hon. gentleman that was part of an administration that downgraded the fishery. This is the hon. gentleman who was part of an administration who downed rural Newfoundland and this is the hon. gentleman who was part of an administration and who advocated eliminating rural Newfoundland.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. PECKFORD: This hon. gentleman can get up here and advocate great social reform. It was this Administration in six years that has poured more money into recreation and health and education than the former administration did in twenty-three years. That is the kind of social reform that this government believed in, but we are also cognizant of a very important fact that anybody who is a thinking citizen of Newfoundland realizes, that we have a very real obligation to the people of this Province to tell it the way it is, to indicate to them that social programs alone are not the answer to the future of this Province, that economic bases

MR. PECKFORD: cannot be built on hospital extension; that hospitalization and social services are all important and must continue and must increase, but that if this province is to have a chance into the next century we must start turning around our priorities so that we also put a lot of dollars into resource development. That is why since 1972, Mr. Chairman, that this administration has for the first time had what we can call a Department of Fisheries. That is why this administration since 1972 has put its emphasis on resource development. It was the hon. Leader of the Opposition who talking about bringing in mainlanders and PR firms; it was that hon. gentleman who hired people from all over the world and brought them in here, great planners, great social scientists and brought them in and it was mainlanders who were given the responsibility and the mandate to determine what was going to happen to rural Newfoundland, it was not even going to be done by Newfoundlanders. It was the VanEses of this world who were brought in from outside and did not know that Newfoundland existed and were asked to make up a master plan about destroying rural Newfoundland and this is the hon. gentleman who is saying to the people of Newfoundland, "Elect me as Premier and all your problems will be solved. Elect me as Premier and I shall bring in social programmes that will be the economic base of this province." That is what the Leader of the Opposition has said for the last hour or so. He has not addressed himself at all to the economics of this Island or this province or of Labrador. He has addressed his remarks almost totally to saying that the economic base, the best base for any country is to go on with the social programmes, to try to - not deliberately - but to try to deceive the people of this province into believing that this administration is out to hurt the sick, it is out to hurt the needy.

It was in this Budget, Mr. Chairman, it is in this Budget that we have increased again, as we have for every year, the amount of money that will go to those people on fixed incomes. It was the former administration and the Liberal Party's policy to forget about the pensioners who worked with the Government of Newfoundland and it was

MR. PECKFORD: this administration who recognized the people on fixed incomes, those pensioners who were being pensioned off by the government and its agencies, that we would see that they got increases in their pensions. And almost every year since we took office we have been increasing the amount given to pensioners. And the Leader of the Opposition can get up and for that length of time not hardly mention rural Newfoundland, not hardly mention the fishery, which happen to be the two pluses that we have in this province for survival, for economic survival. But the Leader of the Opposition is not concerned about economic survival. He wants to move everybody from rural Newfoundland and he wants to bring them in to these great urban centers again.

Can you imagine, Mr. Chairman, bringing the hon. people from the other side and putting them over here and have all our great planners back, have our planners back from all over the world. It is one thing to hire public relations firms who will do what you tell them to do, but it is another thing to hire on a group of people from all over the world and give them the mandate to organize Newfoundland society right from a textbook from Germany somewhere. No, Mr. Chairman, the people of this province are not going to buy that kind of tirade that the Leader of the Opposition got on with today saying that the answer to all our economic ills lies in social programmes. We all recognize that social programmes must continue and must increase but we also recognize that we have an obligation as a government to try to turn around the economy of this province. And the only way the economy of this province can be turned around is to emphasize those things that we have, primarily the fishery, rural development. Hundreds and hundreds of jobs have been created over the last year. There has not been - The Leader of the Opposition mentions Come by Chance and spent a long time on Come by Chance. That is his idea of industrial development. He does not understand, appreciate, and hence one is led to believe care, about rural parts of this province because he can only conceptualize. And I can understand the Leader of the Opposition. I can

MR. PECKFORD: understand it because he has never been exposed to rural Newfoundland in the same way that a lot of us on both sides of the House have been exposed to rural Newfoundland. He does not have the same feel. He does not understand small enterprise. He does not understand it and hence he is to be pitied more than blamed for the approach he can take. And I know the Leader of the Opposition, number two, who sits next to the present House Leader for the other side, I know he does not appreciate what the Leader of the Opposition said. I know the member for LaPoile would have loved to have been on his feet first in this debate

Mr. Peckford: and put it where it is. The member, and the Leader of the Opposition, number two, who sits right there was disgusted with the Leader of the Opposition's speech today, Mr. Chairman.

AN HON. MEMBER: No, no, no.

MR. PECKFORD: He was absolutely disgusted because one thing you cannot say about the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary), one thing you cannot say is that he cannot understand rural Newfoundland. He definitely does understand rural Newfoundland.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. PECKFORD: And since being the member for LaPoile, he understands perhaps better than anybody the role that the fishing industry happens to play in this Province and that if any government of Newfoundland, now or in the future, has any additional dollars to put into stimulating the economy it must first and foremost go in the fishery.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. PECKFORD: And then, Mr. Chairman, the Leader of the Opposition could start off his speech, the Leader of the Opposition number, I do not know what number he is, Mr. Chairman.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Three.

MR. PECKFORD: It changes from day to day.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Three.

MR. PECKFORD: One day you will hear rumours coming from the other side that the member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simmons) is going to make a new effort after the leadership over there, the member for LaPoile another day. You have the member for the Straits (Mr. Roberts) down there who still has allegiance of about half the caucus, and you get all of this coming out and you do not know who to address all of your remarks to, Mr. Chairman. It makes it very difficult on someone like myself.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. PECKFORD: Now, Mr. Chairman, the Leader of the Opposition-

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Oh, oh!

MR. PECKFORD: Mr. Chairman, could I have silence. A point of order, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! The hon. minister requests silence while he is speaking.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CALLAN: How can you have silence when you are speaking so loud.

MR. PECKFORD: Mr. Chairman, the Leader of the Opposition could begin his remarks today not by talking about what is in the Budget or what is not in the Budget, but by the fact that he was absolutely and totally disturbed that the Budget speech was being televised. Now, Mr. Chairman! And then to go on to suggest that the Budget speech because it was phrased in such a way -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. PECKFORD: - because it was phrased in such a way it was no longer a Budget speech. Now if the Leader of the Opposition was one time part of a government then surely he understands that -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. PECKFORD: Mr. Chairman -

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! The day is nearly finished and I think before the House might get into some state of disorder, it would be as well if the temperature were lowered a little. So I would ask hon. members if they would let the hon. minister complete his remarks in the few minutes remaining with reasonable silence.

MR. PECKFORD: The hon. member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir and the hon. member for Bellevue who now and then ask a question in the House, will have the opportunity to speak in this debate, and I look forward to their brilliant treatises on the Budget and all the rest of it. I understand, and I know they are hurt because what I am saying they really agree with, and they do not want to go along with what the Leader of the Opposition has said.

MR. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

MR. PECKFORD: You know, I understand that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: A point of order has been raised.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, after this -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMONS: Thank you gentlemen. Thank you. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: A point of order.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, after this vicious attack by the Minister of Mines and Energy, I just want to point out for his fairly simple mind that we like sometimes giving a bit of his own medicine. He has yapped for an hour and a half, and now he can take it for five minutes.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. PECKFORD: Mr. Chairman, I do not think that is a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! There is no point of order before the Chair.

MR. SIMMONS: It was not meant to be, Mr. Chairman.

MR. PECKFORD: Mr. Chairman, I move the adjournment of the -

MR. NEARY: No, there is no such thing as adjournment. You are in Committee.

MR. HICKMAN: I move that the Committee rise, 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: Order, please! The hon. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply have considered the matters to them referred, have made some progress and ask leave to sit again.

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

On motion the House at its rising adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, March 21, 1978 at 3:00 p.m.