

PRELIMINARY
UNEDITED
TRANSCRIPT

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
FOR THE PERIOD:
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
FRIDAY, MAY 12, 1978

The House met at 10:00 A.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

I would like to welcome to the House of Assembly three groups of students who are here today. From Berney Memorial High in Burin eighteen grade nine students accompanied by their teacher Ann Marie O'Leary. Also, a group of grade ten students from Beothuk Collegiate of Baie Verte accompanied by their teacher Mr. Barclay. And nine students from J.R. Smallwood Collegiate in Wabush accompanied by their teacher Mr. Ernest Condon. I know hon. members join me in welcoming these students and their teachers to the gallery.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Also present in the gallery this morning is a delegation from the Town of Dover including Mayor Stanley Noble and Councillors Abraham Keats and William Noble. I am sure that hon. members join me also, in welcoming them here to the House of Assembly.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. P. CANNING: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of privilege.

MR. SPEAKER: A point of privilege has risen.

MR. P. CANNING: Mr. Speaker, it is with some sadness, perhaps, that I rise in this House this morning to perform, I suppose, what is a duty. There are some things I must do. I am compelled by my conscience, Mr. Speaker, to rise. I am not compelled by any other outside force or any other motive other than my personal conscience. Mr. Speaker, that is to say after leaving this House yesterday morning, going down through the corridors, picking up my coat and my briefcase I immediately left the building.

MR. P. CANNING: Mr. Speaker, I have not had any conversation except a good morning or asking the time since I left here yesterday morning. Mr. Speaker, I cannot stay here in my position this morning according to my conscience.

The happenings of the House in the last while combined with the happenings or the events since I came back to the House in dealing with the government as a member of the Opposition - but on yesterday morning when some of the Opposition rose they rose and admitted that they meant it when they said that the Premier of this Province deliberately misled the House in certain matters. Mr. Speaker, I could have risen and repeated those words. I could have been turned out by you, Sir, but I remained in my seat because it looked as if the entire Opposition would leave this chamber and the situation would arise where there would be nobody here for perhaps three days or longer and there would be no Opposition to the government.

Mr. Speaker, in a few days from now I will have sat in this House twenty-six years as a member on the government side plus some years in Opposition. Mr. Speaker, I have been called to order by the Chair to my memory twice in that time. Twice in twenty-six years I have been called to order on a minor - not a minor, in fact, I broke the rules which is not minor but it was not anything serious. So now, and with all respect for the Chair, Sir, with all respect for you as Speaker I am going to put myself in a position and I am putting you in a position. I am going to break the rules that I know so well, which I reluctantly do. I am going to put you in, not an awkward position, Mr. Speaker, because you have your duty to do and we all know that you will do it perfectly.

Mr. Canning: going to far with it since my dealings with you as Speaker in this House.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know if I said during my speech last night, whatever night we call it, in the long session, that I believed that the Premier of this Province did deliberately mislead this House. I do not think that I insinuated that he lied. But, Mr. Speaker, in my conscience, in my mind, I felt, I felt moreso, I felt that I knew, I had proof enough that the Premier of this Province had deliberately misled this House.

MR. CALLAN: That is right.

MR. CANNING: And by the fact of numbers, Mr. Speaker, the numbers of the government, the overwhelming numbers in the Caucus there were certain actions taken and I should too be one of the victims. So, Mr. Speaker, now I will have to say that I believe, I believe, I feel I know, that this House has been deliberately misled by the Premier of the Province.

Mr. Speaker, in so doing I will use some judgment on the government, and it is this, I know that there are several members on the government side of this House -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! I would like to interrupt now. The hon. member stated in his remarks what he was going to do, and he knew what the Chair would be obliged to do, and the Chair is obliged to do it, and obliged to do it now ,

MR. CANNING: Do it now.

MR. SPEAKER: - and that is to name the hon. gentleman for Placentia-West, Mr. Patrick Canning.

MR. CANNING: Mr. Speaker, you are doing it now, and as of now perhaps, I do not have the credence to speak further, but I wanted to further emphasize the fact why I am going, but if I cannot do this I will humbly, respectfully bow to the Chair and take what is due me.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MINISTER

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to bring to the attention of the House a very sad occasion for two members of the House.

Premier Moores: I think all member of the House, both in and without, will join me in this particular comment I want to make. I would like to pass on the condolences of the House and the sympathy of the House to the Minister of Social Services whose father died the night before last, and also to the member for Naskaupi (Mr. Goudie) whose sister, Mrs. Marie Morris, also died within the last day or so. They were not in the House because of this reason. And I know all hon. members will join with me in passing on ours regrets and sympathy to them.

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

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, I would like to stand on behalf of our side of the House to be associated with any messages of condolences associated with the relatives of both hon. members.

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

MR. PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, the Rural Development Authority, under the Department of Rural Development, recently held its seventy-seventh meeting. Consequently, it gives me great pleasure to announce today that the Authority approved ^{at} that meeting twenty-one applications for assistance. These applications come from business entrepreneurs all over the Province, all over the Island of Newfoundland, and in Labrador.

The applications approved at this most recent meeting mean a total cash value of \$271,608 will be going directly into the bloodline of our ever-growing small business industries. These loans will have two, immediate and very important consequences. First of all they will mean the continuation of seventeen full-time positions, and seventy-seven part-time positions. Secondly, the loans will cause thirty-five new jobs and seventy-seven part-time jobs to be created. Altogether one hundred and ninety-six employment positions.

Mr. Speaker, there is no room, I suggest, for a debate as ^{to} the significance of creating such positions in our economy. The type of businesses receiving this assistance through loans approved under the Rural Development Authority include; A woodworking shop in Central Newfoundland; a sawmilling company in Stephenville Crossing; a

Mr. Peckford: pulpwood harvesting operation on the West Coast;
a fish process facility in Petty Harbour area, a fish processing
facility on the Labrador Straits side of the district of the Straits;
a pulpwood harvesting operation in the Baie Verte Peninsula area;
and an operation near Corner Brook manufacturing wood trusses.

It is fairly obvious, Mr. Speaker, by taking a
quick glance at this list that some of these operations are in areas
where employment has traditionally been difficult to find. Others are
in areas which have been hit only recently by employment scarcity.
In all of these case, the loans approved by the Rural Development Authority

MR. PECKFORD: will allow the provision of good jobs in smaller communities which some day may prove to be the backbone of the Newfoundland economy. In that light, then, we will continue to encourage this kind of industry with government financial aid and expertise. Incidentally, Mr. Speaker, since its inception the Rural Development Authority has expended a total amount of \$9,261,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the member for Bellevue.

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker, in responding to that ministerial statement I want to say, as the shadow on Rural Development, that we on this side of the House, of course, are happy and pleased at any time to hear of new jobs being created in this Province. This is the biggest problem that we have in the Province, unquestionably, unemployment - the high rate thereof, and we are happy that the Rural Development Authority met for their seventy-seventh meeting, as the minister told us, a couple of days ago, and at that meeting, of course, approved twenty-one applications for loans or grants or what have you in the amount of \$271,000.

I just want to ask the minister one question - perhaps there is hardly any need to ask it here, but at least it will save me a 'phone call. The minister mentioned three or four of the places there were projects had been approved. I notice he did not mention Come By Chance. There has been an application on the go from a gentleman in Come By Chance for the past five or six months. Now five or six months is not perhaps a long period of time to wait to get a loan approved and get all the paper work done. To people who are out there waiting and wondering what is happening to their application,

MR. CALLAN: of course, it seems like a very, very long time. And I understand that this application from Come By Chance was supposed to go to the board during this past meeting. I am wondering if it is on the list that the minister has there, and if it is, will he indicate that it is or if it is not perhaps he can indicate that.

Well, anyway, Mr. Speaker, we are happy to hear about any jobs that are created that bring employment to the people who badly need it in this Province and we congratulate the minister and the Rural Development Authority on that.

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

MR. MAYNARD: Mr. Speaker, I have a couple of short statements regarding the spruce budworm spraying programme as an update to my earlier statement.

My earlier statement outlining the full programme was given on April 11th, and at that time I indicated the tenders for the aircraft to be used in the spraying programme had been received and were under evaluation.

I would like to inform the House now that, acting upon the recommendations of senior Forestry officials, Cabinet has accepted a tender valued at \$811,000 submitted by Conair Aviation Limited of British Columbia. Conair was the only company to meet the specifications required by the Department. Quotations were for the supply of three large multi-engine aircraft each having a capacity of 3,600 U.S. gallons of insecticide formulation equipped with the Litton inertial guidance systems, two single-engine spray aircraft, the AG wagon or equivalent type, and three high-wing twin engine supervisory aircraft. There were two

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MR. MAYNARD: quotations received, one
from an American company which amounted to approximately
thirty-two cents per acre for a total of \$733,000, and
Conair 34.4 cents per acre. After studying the quotations
the department could not recommend the awarding to the
lowest tender, and recommended that Conair Aviation be
accepted.

I would like to give the reasons
why the lowest tender was rejected in favour of Conair:

MR. MAYNARD: Number one, the company having the lowest tender had never carried out an operational spruce budworm spraying programme in Canada and, therefore, did not have the staff or the expertise necessary to successfully carry out an operation. Number two, the company is American and has no aircraft registered in Canada. It presently owns one DC 7 aircraft, modified for aerial spraying and intended leasing three DC 4s, or two constellation aircraft from US spraying contractors.

However, under current air transport regulations, foreign aircraft are not permitted to work in Canada without prior permission from the Air Transport Board. Before the board can grant this permission, they must ascertain from all Canadian spray contractors that no aircraft are available in Canada. And officials of the board in Ottawa indicated that no such request for permission had been received to bring foreign aircraft into Canada by this company up to the time the recommendations were submitted to Cabinet.

At present the company has only one DC 7C aircraft the only one in existence modified for spraying and, therefore could not provide any back-up equipment. In other words the American company did not meet the specifications outlined by the Department. Conair Aviation did meet the specifications and have successfully carried out work for the Department in the past. Our experience with the company, which successfully carried out the 1977 experimental programme, has been highly favourable. We felt therefore that Conair Aviation was the only company suited to - the only company who bid on the tender call and suited to carry out the programme.

The other statement is related to the spruce budworm control and I might as well do it at the same time. The decision has been reached, in full co-operation and consultation between officials of The department and officials of the

MR. MAYNARD: two paper companies using criteria established earlier this year and announced at that time for the location of infested areas to be treated for budworm control this year. And in order to allow the general public complete access to the plans for the programme, a large one to 250,000 scaled map of the Island of Newfoundland will be made available for public viewing at Forestry Headquarters, Building 810, Pleasantville, and at Regional Office Headquarters in Gander and Corner Brook, starting on Monday, May 15th., 1978.

You will note there will not be any map of Labrador simply because we are doing a programme in Labrador. We did not feel there was any need for supplying a map for obvious reasons.

These very detailed maps, or as detailed as we can get them, show the areas that will be treated for spruce budworm control and will be available for public viewing for the duration of the spraying programme. Other large scaled maps showing specific areas to be treated in each forest management unit will also be available for public viewing by persons living in or near each of the management unit offices. These unit maps will be exhibited in management unit offices at Clarenville, Gambo, Gander, Lewisporte, Milltown, Bishop's Falls, Springdale, Roddickton, Port Saunders, Pynn's Brook and St. George's, again they will be ready for viewing on May 15th. And the maps will show only localized spraying work being carried out in each of these areas, the ones in the regional offices. For additional information, of course, the people can contact our Department at any time.

As well, to further aid the public in obtaining information about the programme, the department will again establish a toll-free telephone service at Gander whereby information and details will be available during normal working hours. This telephone number will be publicized shortly by the various outlets of the broadcast and the print media. By these efforts, we hope to afford

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MR. MAYNARD: complete information about the spraying programme to any and all residents of the Province.

In this regard, I might also mention that myself and officials of my Department will travel to the West Coast and central areas of the Province early next week to meet with various concerned groups and the media, town councils, etc. to fully explain the programme and to answer any questions they may have. On that trip, officials of the Department of Health and the Provincial Department of the Environment, will accompany me so that, hopefully, people will be able to obtain any information they desire about the spruce budworm programme for this year. Thank you.

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MR. SPEAKER: Before recognizing the hon. gentleman I would welcome to the House on behalf of hon. members, a number of grade VIII students from the Integrated Elementary School of Norris Arm. I know hon. members join me in welcoming the students to the legislature.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. member for Terra Nova.

MR. LUSH: There is not much that needs to be said on the contract to the Conair Aviation in the terms of a response but I will have some questions on it during the Question Period. With respect to the spraying for the spruce budworm control, I am glad that the minister has decided to let people know what areas will be sprayed through the accessibility of maps in the various regional offices. I only wish that this could be done on a wider basis because there is going to be an awful lot of people who are not going to be able to get into those regional offices; people who are concerned about what areas will be sprayed, people with a very profound concern for the effects that this might have on the environment and a few worries and some anxieties. I am sure that these people would like to know what areas are going to be sprayed, what areas might be sprayed that might be affecting their immediate area. The unfortunate part about that is that there are still going to be a large number of people who are not going to be able to get into those offices and get a look at those maps. But I certainly hope that the minister will give a lot of publicity to what he is doing and these maps will be put in those regional offices so that the people will know they are there and be encouraged to go in and see the areas that are to be sprayed. At this point, this is about the only advice that I would have for the minister; that he should certainly publicize this idea of placing the maps into the regional offices and encourage the people who are concerned about spraying to go into those regional offices and just see what areas are going to be sprayed and see if there are any areas that are going to be sprayed near their environments about which they may be concerned.

MR. LUSH: So I hope the minister will do this.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister of Health.

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, for some time now we have been concerned about the high cost of drugs to the people, to the consumers of Newfoundland and I would like to advise the House that over the past several months, the staff in the department and myself have given great consideration to the problem. We have discussed the matter with the Newfoundland Medical Association and also with the Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Association, and we think that we have come up with an approach to be taken, which I will outline briefly.

I think it is a well known fact that doctors, generally, when they prescribe drugs use brand name drugs. It is our intention to introduce a generic drug dispensing program in the Province. There will be a listing of suitable drugs made available to doctors and to the pharmacists around the Province. And we believe, Mr. Speaker, that the overall cost of drugs to the consumer in Newfoundland will be reduced by as much as twenty per cent and that is a tremendous reduction when one considers the high cost of drugs today.

I have a short statement which I will table. I am advising the House now that before this session ends I will be bringing in legislation to deal with the matter.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. member for Terra Nova.

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave of the House to present a petition that I attempted to present here on Wednesday. The petition on behalf of 836 citizens of the Eastport Peninsula, 836 concerned parents, Mr. Speaker, served by the Eastport school system from the following communities of Sandringham, Salvage, St. Chads, Burnside, Sandy Cove, Happy Adventure and Eastport. The petitioners, Mr. Speaker, are requesting that funds be made available for the construction of a gymnasium complex for the Eastport school system. I will read the petition which is as follows:

MR. LUSH: "We, the undersigned citizens of the Eastport Peninsula, petition the hon. House of Assembly to make available to the IDEC, the Integrated Denominational Education Committee, and in turn, to the Terra Nova Integrated School Board, and in turn, to the Eastport school system, sufficient funds for the construction of a gymnasium complex within our school system. We deem this to be absolutely necessary, since we are the only school system under the jurisdiction of the Terra Nova Integrated School Board whose students lack facilities for proper physical education. We humbly so pray."

Now, Mr. Speaker, it is obvious from that petition - the way the petition was worded, that these people are certainly aware of how the funds are made available in education. It is not a matter of misunderstanding how this is done. It is stated here precisely the way it is done so those people certainly understand the way the system is. This is a simple and a most realistic and just request from the citizens of Eastport. And, Mr. Speaker, it is much more profound and much more sophisticated and much more comprehensive than is revealed in this petition. The Action Group, a group of concerned parents that was formed recently on the Eastport Peninsula to look into the educational needs of the children on the peninsula designed this petition. Also, they presented a brief to the minister and to the Superintendent of Education in that area, the Terra Nova Integrated School Board, and to the IDEC. They presented that brief - it was an excellent brief that showed the comprehensive and detailed plans that the Action Committee have for the area, and the gymnasium is just a part of this plan, but the gymnasium is necessary to help them to

MR. LUSH: be able to realize their total plans.

In order to understand the purpose of the gymnasium, Mr. Speaker, one needs to talk about their brief. In their brief they presented some of the inadequacies in the system at Eastport. They have two schools, an elementary school and a high school adjacent to each other. Both of them have inadequacies, and the inadequacies in both could be taken care of with a gymnasium that would be placed between the two and would be used by both schools. Now let me illustrate some of the weaknesses in both systems first. There is no gymnasium, of course, in the high school. They mentioned this in the brief - no gymnasium - but they are using an auditorium that at the moment is very dangerous. It has radiators built onto the walls and stairwells coming down into the auditorium. It is very, very dangerous and certainly not proper for a gymnasium in the high school. In the elementary school they have no library, no resource centre, and in neither school do they have science equipment. So, Mr. Speaker, there is no question that on the Eastport Peninsula the students are discriminated against with respect to quality education and the quality of educational opportunity. Now with this gymnasium complex they are asking for, this will free up certain space now used within the high school for a gymnasium which is not satisfactory to be used at all. There is a gymnasium in the elementary school, but with this gymnasium complex they will be able to use the gym for both schools and this will free up the auditorium and free up the gym in the other school to be able to allow them to put in those facilities that they lacked, for example, the science facilities, to put in a library - and a library is a basic essential to any school today.

MR. LUSH: You cannot operate a school without a library. To say that you can is equivalent to saying a fisherman can fish without a boat. So there is absolutely no way that you can operate a school without a library, and there is no library in this school, Mr. Speaker, and so the granting of this request allowing them to build this two station gymnasium which would be used by the high school and the elementary students will allow the school board, will allow the Action Committee to be able to carry out those plans that they want to be able to take care of the inadequacies that are presently there. You cannot teach music in the Eastport school system - no place for music, you cannot do drama in addition to the other important areas that I have talked about, of science and of the important facility of a school library. And, Mr. Speaker, in this I have made

MR. T. LUSH: no reference at all to the need for physical education in itself, the importance of developing our bodies physically and these people in the high school in Eastport have no opportunity for this right now. And as they have said in the petition they are the only school in the Terra Nova Intergrated School Board, the only high school without a gymnasium and I would expect one of the very few right across Newfoundland.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. T. LUSH: Okay, thank you very much. I just want to finish then, Mr. Speaker, by calling upon members opposite to see the seriousness of this situation and I hope when the minister gets up to support this petition that he will do as he is requested to do in this petition. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Fortune - Hermitage.

MR. J. WINSOR: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the petition so ably presented by my colleague. I too have gone through that route where we had no gymnasium in our area. Our weather, in turn, being what it is it is very difficult for our children and the grown-ups too for that matter to get the kind of recreation that they do really need for their health's sake and other reasons - 836 citizens, that is a large number of people to be on a petition. The fact that they have set up an Action Group of parents who are vitally concerned with the social well-being as well as the physical well-being of their children are trying to tie together a school complex which is going to serve people much better than it has up to now, and I think most of these places in the outports, in the rural areas are very dependent on gymnasiums. To those people it would seem like a luxury. It is not a luxury, it is an essential thing both for the community as a whole and especially for the children. How can we develop them

MR. J. WINSOR: physically, mentally, socially if they do not have a decent place to meet, play the different games, take part in sports which will eventually get them going all over Canada and getting some medals and so on, and letting the rest of Canada know we are here and going along with the rest of Canada in trying to develop our citizens. I certainly support the petition whole-heartedly so ably presented by my colleague.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Stephenville.

MR. W. McNEIL: Mr. Speaker, I support the petition so ably presented by my colleague on behalf of 836 citizens from Eastport. As a former physical education teacher I realize how important physical education is in the school curriculum. Just to give you an example, during my term as an education instructor in the high school system, or prior to my term, I had the privilege of witnessing one student who was on the verge of being put out of the system because there was a discipline problem with that individual. He was overactive and had no outlet except through the curriculum which only was geared in the pure academic sense. The physical education instructor at that time had introduced for the first year time a physical educational program into the school curriculum and that individual turned from a troubled student into a very top student mainly because of his involvement in the sports program. And today in his sport he is ranked twelfth in the world and without a doubt I can say that he is an outstanding Canadian.

I do not think he could have reached that development without the physical education program that was initiated in the school curriculum. So it is very important that a school, if it is going to develop a student to his potential, have these physical education facilities. So I take, Mr. Speaker, I take no hesitation in supporting the petition of 836 citizens from the area of Eastport.

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MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Bellevue.

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the petition presented by the member for Terra Nova on behalf of 836 citizens of the Eastport Peninsula and their plea for a very needed facility addition to their school.

MR. CALLAN: at Eastport, that of course being a gymnasium or a gymnasium or an auditorium or whatever you might want to call it.

Mr. Speaker, as I understand it, listening to the member from Terra Nova (Mr. Lush) talk about his petition before he presented it here today, that not only will that facility provide a place, of course, of recreation and what have you, but a meeting place for large audiences in the case of the gymnasium. But not only that, the fact is that if this facility is provided it will free up other space that is presently being used in the school for these purposes. It will free up space that can be used then for library facilities, science rooms and other things that are so badly needed in our modern-day schools today.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I, of course, support this petition for a very obvious reason. In the twelve years that I spent as a school teacher in this Province in different areas, on Fogo Island and other places, I have taught in schools that do not have the facilities of a gymnasium and then I taught in schools that do have them and to teach in both systems, both sorts of schools, one can easily see what a beneficial effect it has on the morale of the students. The fact that they just do not have to sit in their seats all day long studying and doing text book work and so on, that they can get the odd period during the day when they can go to the gym and participate in some sort of sport and, of course, during dinner hours and after school they can carry on other sports, it adds to the morale of the students and it gives them a reason for staying on. In many, many cases where students sometimes, because they are so bored with the daily routine of schools, get so bored that they drop out. They drop out in one of two ways; they drop out in the man-fashion where they take their

MR. CALLAN: text books and say, "I am finished. I am going home." Or they drop out in psychic way, they have dropped out for all other purpose except that they are still there in body. To me a good comparison of that sort of student, the psychic drop out, the student who has given up all interest and all interest in school and has given up working and studying, but is still there in body, it reminds me, Mr. Speaker, of this government, they are still there in body and spirit but they have dropped out, they have given up the job of what they are supposed to be doing in this Province.

Mr. Speaker, if I may refer to this brief which was presented to the Cabinet of this Province by the NTA, the Newfoundland Teachers' Association, it has to do with the amounts of money that we spend in this Province on education and it compares us with other provinces and it points out, without any doubt in anybody's mind that education in this Province is not getting the priority that it deserves. True, practically one-third of our provincial budget goes towards education of different kinds, the School for the Deaf and vocational schools, university, day schools and what have you, but still, for example, in Prince Edward Island - Prince Edward Island is a good example to take, not Quebec or Ontario. Prince Edward Island which has a per capita income lower than Newfoundland's - in 1970 PEI spent \$526 per pupil. They were spending \$526 per pupil in that year 1970, compared to \$413 per pupil in this Province. And in 1975 Prince Edward Island was spending \$1,123 compared to \$944 per pupil in this Province, even though Prince Edward Island has a per capita income lower than this Province.

So, Mr. Speaker, in conclusion may I say this, that I whole-heartedly support the prayer of the petition because, as I mentioned in supporting other petitions, that a community in my district, Arnold's Cove is in a very, very similar situation. They have a fine school, a population of 300 but no

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MR. CALLAN: facility where they can carry on the
sports programme that is so vitally needed in our schools.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Consumer Affairs and the Environment.

MR. MURPHY: Mr. Speaker, it is not my wish to stand here and get into a political argument about capital or anything else. I would just like to speak on the philosophy of the petition, as one who has spent some fifty years in the recreation area, not only in the City of St. John's but throughout the Province. I was never a teacher, I did not have the ability or the opportunity to get some of the benefits that arose from teaching. I was not a professional with any degrees but I was perhaps a community-minded citizen who felt and preached in my sixteen or seventeen years in this House of Assembly that recreation, perhaps, was one of the more important things we should contribute to.

Just as this government was elected to office, I may say this, that I was Chairman of a small committee of younger members of this House representing various rural areas of the Province, who did a survey and supplied it to the Premier telling him, in our opinion, the great needs for different recreation facilities. And we are not talking about great million dollar stadiums or anything like this, but perhaps in the smaller areas providing help to provide playing facilities.

Towards that end, Sir, I am very proud and very happy to be a part of a government that has spent many, many millions of dollars in creating these facilities, in helping various organizations to provide the facilities that are so absolutely necessary. In my days when I was preaching for recreation, I always preached that an ounce of prevention was worth a pound of cure. When I was in the Opposition I was always preached that to spend a dollar in recreation might save \$10 in the magistrates court through the Department of Justice. And through that philosophy I think this government has followed.

Now, to get to the actual point of the hon. member's petition: I would love to see a facility such as that in the beautiful area of the Eastport Peninsula there. I know it very well, and I would love to see it, but for us as a government, and I am treading perhaps on constitutional grounds here, I do not think we can tell any

Mr. Murphy:

educational group that they should spend money on an auditorium or on a gymnasium or anything else. So I would suggest, perhaps, the way to go for those people in that area, and they are very much concerned about their children, is to form a recreation commission to establish such a facility there. And I am sure that going that way, properly organized with the help of the citizens, and if they are very anxious about their children, which I know they are, possibly they would form a committee that would start to raise funds. And I am sure, Sir, from my knowledge of what is happening in the Department of Recreation, that every sympathy would be given toward helping them to create that facility. But to come here in this House and ask that it become a part of a school or anything else, quite frankly, and I am just treading on constitutional ground, I do not think, and perhaps the Minister of Education could tell me that, that any monies we grant to education today are given in a certain form, to certain groups of people, to spend as they see fit providing that it is not beyond any realm of the Educational Task Force.

So I am very, very sympathetic to this group of young people, and I would say to the hon. member that he use every bit of influence he has in that particular area to organize committees, to get out to raise funds, I do not care if they sell oranges or sell apples or sell whatnot, and again I would guarantee them, and my hon. friend for Bellevue (Mr. Callan) the same way, we all know what the ordinary outport young fellow, if I am allowed to use the expression, is up against with reference to facilities.

But all we are talking about is building great million dollar facilities, great big auditoriums, great big stadiums. So I am very sympathetic towards the thing and as I say again, not as a P.C., not as a Tory, not as a Cabinet minister, but as one who has seen the results through my efforts in many cases, through the efforts of thousands and thousands of people in this Province that we are rearing gentlemen today please God instead of punks and all the rest, and this is done through starting them off, to discipline them properly, organizing sports and everything else. So I will tell the hon. member that he has

Mr. Murphy: all of my support in the world for anything that can happen in that area, but as far as getting money through the school system it is entirely beyond my functions.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Education, the hon. the member for the Bay of Islands after.

MR. HOUSE: Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak to the petition and support it to the extent that we can support it. I have received this brief from the Citizen's Committee on the Eastport Peninsula. They were in and visited my office and, of course, I was very impressed with their brief. And, of course, I have a little feeling for that area because I taught there some twenty years ago.

And one of the things, of course, about that area, at that particular time, I believe, was that one of the first central high schools that was built in the Province was built at that time. And at that time, of course, that Peninsula or that area was the envy of all the other surrounding areas. Well, of course, as the cycle goes in the twenty-odd year span, there has been bigger and greater things done everywhere else.

MR. HOUSE: I just want to point out that the procedure that was mentioned in the brief that the government make funding available to the IEC, the Integrated Education Committee, thence to the Terra Nova board and then to the committee is, of course, not exactly the way it can be done because it is never made available to the committee, it is done through the board and the IECs. We have given, Mr. Speaker, granted, of course, this particular year \$15,700,000 for capital construction-\$13 million is done on a per capita basis throughout the Province and given to the various denominations and the other \$2.7 million was paid mainly to the IEC in lieu of DREE grants a few years ago. So there is about \$10 million going to the IEC this particular year. Now, Mr. Speaker, I cannot, of course, as a minister, or the government, cannot dictate to the IECs how this money is distributed but we have made available that amount this year and that is guaranteed up until, these guarantees of monies, up until 1983. And, of course, we keep extending that every two years to allow boards and the IECs and the DEC's the flexibility to extend their borrowing and build new schools.

There is about \$100 million worth of schools requested and a lot of them, all of them pretty well, now are requiring gymnasias. But a lot of the boards are building schools without gymnasias which is unfortunate because we do believe strongly that physical education is a very integral part of the education process. With the \$100 million worth of schools being built in the last six years it may take another five or six years at the same rate before the IEC's the DEC's and the RCDC get all the schools that they require.

Mr. Speaker, I have been discussing this with the IEC and that group went down and met with the IEC. I have not got a report back from them but I do sincerely hope that their requests can be met through that process.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. member for Bay of Islands.

MR. WOODROW: I would like to add my support to the petition

MR. WOODROW: so well presented by my friend for Terra Nova (Mr. Lush) whom I consider a very hard and sincere worker for his constituents. I think, Mr. Speaker, we should look at this in three ways, first of all the right to a gymnasium, secondly the need and thirdly the cost. Now, the children mentioned in the petition have a right to a gymnasium just as much as any children in any other part of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. I would like to add here also, Mr. Speaker, that there is no doubt about it the government has done a creditable amount for recreation since it came in power, and I am sure they will continue to do it.

Now, number two, there is a need for a gymnasium in Eastport. Unfortunately, what happened in many places throughout the Province was that once we got school buses the little recreation that children got in walking to school was completely taken away. In our days, in fact, perhaps almost everybody here in this hon. House had to walk to school and that was certainly a form of recreation. But there is no doubt about it now that since we have a programme of school buses and that is here with us to stay, we have to build gymnasias to keep our children exercised.

Now, the next and the final point that

MR. WOODROW: I want to make is the cost. The cost is really escalating every day. What impressed me, a couple of days ago I received a letter from the Chairman of the Recreational Commission in the community of Harbour Breton, my hon. friend's district, and there was a gentleman in that district, who is walking 151 miles from Harbour Breton to Grand Falls in the near future to start raising money for a rink, an arena. And probably what we should do is take a leaf out of what the hon. member for St. John's Centre (Mr. Murphy) said, I believe, that a lot of the money for recreation purposes has to be raised by voluntary groups. I am sure the hon. member who presented the petition will take that one into consideration and I want to assure him of my full support to his petition.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Grand Falls.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to have a word on this petition for a couple of reasons. First of all I had the opportunity of representing the people of Eastport and the region for a half a dozen years and I can sort of second the motion that it is one of the finest areas in our Province. Some of the finest people in Canada are in that area and they deserve every consideration for the petition which has been presented.

I also want to say it is a little regrettable that yesterday, I guess it was, the last sitting day - on Wednesday was it? - when we had some people come from the 150 mile distance to St. John's to present their petition through their member, that there was not some level of negotiations or discussion between the House leaders to have avoided the situation where, in fact, they came here and did not see their petition presented. That was a very unfortunate situation. There was no alternative because of the fact that we had precedence with the motion that was before the House. But I would hope that in the future, if anything like this happens, that the people are not let down. Because

MR. LUNDRIGAN: that gives the impression that the House is not willing to hear the public business, which is certainly not the case.

Another point I want to make, Your Honour, is the fact that we have a situation here which is maybe a typical situation in some of the areas of the Province where we have an obvious need, we have the lack of financial resources, which is the big problem, and, of course, it brings up the question about where some of our resources should come from. I have always been of the opinion that we should not be as jealously guarding the provincial rights in education as, say, the people in the Province of Quebec do. I have always felt that there needs to be some kind of an arrangement for a Province like our own to receive some input from the federal government in terms of educational needs, particularly as they relate to capital expenditure. We started on the DREE schools. I do not think that was a big success and unfortunately because of that there has been a backing away by the federal government from that type of participation. I do not know if we will ever get them involved in that again.

But I put a resolution on the Order Paper there two weeks ago regarding Term 29 and the hope that we can have a debate on the renegotiations of Term 29. This was precisely the reason why I raised the question; that in the area of services, and this is hardly a service it is more of a resource but we can classify it in the area of services, the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador is not financially capable of dealing with the requirements and the needs as they exist, causing frustration and leaving Newfoundland with, in many cases, second-class levels of service, second-class levels of facilities that the people require. And I would hope that we can, Mr. Speaker, when we dispose of this resolution, find some ways or means to

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MR. LUNDRIGAN: bring that topic forward so we can have two or three private members' days debating the issue of the resolution of Term 29.

I know that it is not as imminent in some ways because I do believe that an election setting would be the perfect setting to flush out the national leaders to give

MR. LUNDRIGAN: to give the Province a little better deal. But I feel it is an important issue. I support the member and I hope that the member for St. John's West (Dr. Kitchen) who is a distinguished educator in his own right, can find ways and means to bring the issue of education into focus in the Legislature. I have to say that I am a little bit surprised that he has not been more vocal in this field and I hope he does not leave all of it to his colleague from Terra Nova.

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

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, in rising to say a few words in support of this petition, I am glad to see that in the public galleries we do have a number of students, and possibly this discussion might be of some value to them. And certainly a discussion on education, I think, particularly on the funding of education which this petition is essentially about, will be of benefit to all members of this House.

I rise particularly because I have precisely the same situation in my own area. I think people may think that the St. John's area is particularly favoured in terms of educational facilities and perhaps even the Roman Catholic School Board in the St. John's area in particular. But I would like to point out that in the St. Patrick's Girls' School in my area the precise situation exists, that is, a deficiency in gymnasium facilities, and this is most unfortunate.

Now the petition, it seems to me, implies that there is an inequality in educational facilities and this, I think, we all have to recognize and I think that to some extent it is inevitable. I do not think perfect equality of facilities or services is possible in

DR. COLLINS: this life. It is worthwhile though looking at the source of funding for the services. My understanding is that about 95 per cent of the funding does come from the provincial sources mainly on a per capita basis, which is fed into the school boards and from there on into the schools. About 5 per cent of funding comes actually through district school taxes which is again fed into the school boards and from there on into the schools, and a small allowance - I do not know what the percentage would be, it must be a very small amount - which is fed into the schools directly by fund raising at school level or possibly at petition level. Now, I am not too certain if there are discretionary funds available to the minister to supply the need such as this petition points out. I suspect that there are not because the minister did not mention them. But I would suggest that under our present system, even if they were there, it would be rather impractical to use them very often, because if the minister used discretionary funds to fund certain needs in a particular school he would soon get into a lot of trouble with other schools and certainly with other school boards.

I think this opens up the whole need of looking at the question of funding educational services, and the recent controversy over the teacher supply certainly brought out the same point. And I was most disappointed, as I mentioned in this House, when this was subjected to a public meeting recently there was almost no word whatever on the financing and funding of educational services, which was a tremendous lack.

Now what are the alternatives? Firstly, one of the alternatives would be to increase the proportion of the provincial budget available to education.

DR. COLLINS: I wonder where this would be done. Would it be done in health services? Would it be done in welfare services? Would it be done in cutting out the odd airplane flight? I would think, desirable as that might be, cutting out the odd air flight would not give much in the way of financing to educational services. So if we decide to give a bigger proportion of provincial funds to educational services, fine. We can decide this in this House. But, of course, we have to face the consequences. The second way of doing it would be to increase school taxes and I think that is certainly a practical thing to look at. I would wonder if all members of this House would agree to increasing the school taxes to feed it into the school boards so that they can feed it on into the schools. And the third one, it seems to me that we must bring back the community and possibly the parents. Getting to that aspect of funding educational services, and again, I think that this is something this House should look at and I think that we are moving into this area, that we are getting away from the broad, overall funding, from government sources, of services that we use every day and we are getting more and more back to the practicalities of funding the services that we use every day, be they education, be they health, whatever they might be. We are getting more and more back to community responsibility.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for the Straits of Belle Isle.

MR. ROBERTS:

I would like to say a few words in support of the prayer of the petition. I think it is a very sensible and a very easily justifiable request and it is one which, in my opinion, ought to be granted.

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MR. ROBERTS: Like the gentleman from Grand Falls (Mr. Lundrigan), I can say I know the area fairly well. I have never as yet represented the area in any parliamentary sense, but I have spent a lot of

MR. ROBERTS: time there over the last few Summers and, in fact, am now a land owner in the area as my conflict of interest statement quite properly divulges. I am now invested in fee simple, in what I believe to me fee simple if not -

MR. PECKFORD: No mineral rights.

MR. ROBERTS: Well, I do not know if there are any mineral rights or not but we are drilling for oil, it is offshore. It is on the waterfront in Happy Adventure and we will be in for offshore permits.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. ROBERTS: But I believe it is fee simple. If it is not some of the partners in the estimable law firm of Halley, Hickman, Hunt will have an action against them for professional negligence. But be that as it may, now that the golf course has gone to the other end of the park I will admit that I own the land because I admitted it as of the moment I owned it which was two or three months ago. But anyway, I have a very real interest in the area and I agree with the gentleman for Grand Falls that the people who live on the Eastport Peninsula in the communities of Eastport and Salvage and Happy Adventure and St. Chads and Burnside are among the finest people in this Province.

MR. H. COLLINS: Sandy Cove.

MR. ROBERTS: I could name Sandy Cove, I could name Sandringham. There are a number of communities there and the gentleman from Gander is quite right to point out that Sandy Cove is there but he might as well name them all. -

MR. T. LUSH: There is land there too for the golf course.

MR. ROBERTS: There is Upper Cove and there is Lower Cove and Powell's Cove and Plate Cove and Princes Cove and I mean we could go - and Play Cove but the point is made it is the Eastport Peninsula and the children from the communities

MR. ROBERTS: the children go to the school at Eastport, the Holy Redeemer School I believe it is called.

MR. LUSH: Holy Cross.

MR. ROBERTS: Holy Cross School in Eastport.

The prayer of the petition is a very reasonable one and I do support it. In so saying, Mr. Speaker, I would like to go on simply to touch upon some of the matters raised by the gentleman for St. John's South (Dr. Collins) because unlike him I do not feel that the answer to the dilemma is to increase school taxes and I do not feel that we should get so-called community responsibility in the sense in which he used the word. I certainly feel we should have community involvement in education and that is why I feel, and have felt and when I was a member of Cabinet, or part of a Cabinet that brought in legislation to provide for the election of school boards so that we could have the authority to run our schools answering to the people to whom they serve just as the authorities who run our Province answer to the people whom they serve, and I will take that further. In due course I would hope we would have public representation on such things as hospital wards. We now have representation that is essentially either self-appointed or appointed by government. I would like to see it go a stage further as we have, for example, I think, in Corner Brook. The Western Memorial Board has always had one or two or three members elected at large in a public process.

But the answer to our problems in education is not to tax those who cannot afford to pay already. We are not allowed to debate school taxes under this particular procedure, Mr. Speaker, and so I will not but I do not think the answer is to put a greater burden on parents. In fact the answer is to put the burden where it ought to be, on the shoulders of the general revenues,

MR. ROBERTS: to use the phrase with which my friend for St. John's Centre (Mr. A. Murphy) will be very familiar. The general revenues of his quotes that is the answer to the needs of this Province. We may not be able to have enough money in general revenues to pay all the services and to buy all the facilities we need, but that is not going to be solved by attempting to ship the burden on to the people who can least afford to pay. And I would say to my friend for St. John's South that the people in the rural areas, generally speaking, are the people who can least afford to pay these impositions and yet they are the people who end up paying most and getting the less services. because the harsh truth of it is that in the rural areas of this Province, I can speak of my own district intimately but in other districts it would apply, to Eastport and elsewhere in the rural areas, the quality of education being made available through the system we now have is not equal to that which is available in the urban areas. And that is a direct result of the financing system, a direct result of the per capita grant system which discriminates against people in rural areas. I know the Federation of School Boards are working on proposals to the Minister of Education. In fact, the Reverend Mr. Cheeseman who was Rector at Holy Cross for many years and now, I believe, is Rector of the Parish at Petty Harbour - I am not familiar with the name -

MR. LUSH: The Goulds.

MR. ROBERTS: - the Goulds, the Anglican parish out in the Goulds, here south of St. John's I believe is Chairman of the Committee that is working on it. My friend the Minister of Education shakes his head -

MR. HOUSE: That Committee has become defunct.

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MR. ROBERTS: That Committee my friend tells me is defunct. I have one minute I just want to say that while the Committee may be defunct. I hope the idea is not. Because I think we have got to get to the point of looking at the equality of education offered to people in rural areas and not just simply equality of dollars. I think that is a very basic principle and it is not being met now. The harsh truth is that children in the rural areas of this Province, and this includes the children on the Eastport Peninsula and this petition makes it quite clear, do not have access to the same

MR. ROBERTS: quality or standard of educational facilities or services, the same quality or standard of education as do children who live in the more urban areas. And that, Sir, is something we should all oppose and that, Sir, is something we should all try to change.

I support the petition, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister.

MR. HICKEY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to add a word of support to the petition as presented by my hon. friend from Terra Nova (Mr. Lush). Indeed, I would be remiss in my duty if I did not, as Minister of Recreation, and realizing and acknowledging the tremendous need for such facilities about the Province.

My friend from Bay of Islands (Mr. Woodrow) pointed out that the gymnasium is indeed needed in the Eastport peninsula. I say to him that I have agreement, that indeed that is so and so are there so many needs throughout the Province. We are in a time, Mr. Speaker, where fitness has become an essential item to do something with and to draw attention to. This government has on many occasions supported the whole theory of the fitness programme when first brought into place by the federal government, and indeed in more recent times have found some money in our limited budget to support the fitness programme. This year we hope to get into a number of small programmes to entice people or provide some incentive for people to become involved in the whole area of fitness.

I would suggest to my hon. friend, and I am sure he does not want the record of the House to go and not be corrected, in his reference to the per capita cost of education being reduced or decreased in this Province, in equating that or those figures with that of the situation in Prince Edward Island, Mr. Speaker, I point out to my hon. friend that in that Province the whole area of education has in it the whole area of recreation, so that when he quotes a figure from Prince Edward Island he is covering the whole

MR. HICKEY: spectrum of education and recreation as opposed to this Province where my colleague's budget or estimates deal directly with education and all that that encompasses while my own budget and my own department covers the whole area of recreation which indeed is separate. So if you add the two, I would suggest, that the statement made by my hon. friend is really not correct and I am sure he would want me, and I am sure he appreciates my making that correction.

Mr. Speaker, fifteen years ago or thereabouts if one saw one jogging in a community, or if one saw a person who was taking good care of their physique, their physical appearance one was termed the exception rather than the rule, maybe indeed one might well have been termed an unusual person as such, but not so today, Mr. Speaker, as I pointed out. It is typical today to see people jogging in communities throughout the Province, it is typical to see people drawing attention to and indeed doing something themselves to make themselves more physically fit. That is a good sign, Mr. Speaker, because a good sound mind is essential but certainly going with that a good sound body and being physical fit is also very essential, both of which makes better citizens of our people. And certainly from a purely financial point of view, as I am sure my colleague the hon. Minister of Health will agree, the whole fitness programme goes a long way in the long range to reduce health costs.

So, Mr. Speaker, all hon. members I am sure see and realize how important such facilities, as the one requested by my hon. friend from Terra Nova (Mr. Lush), how important they are to our people and acknowledges, well, that we are indeed living in a different age and recreation, fitness and sports and everything that goes with that today is much more important, recognized and, of course, receiving much more attention.

I wish my friend well and I hope

Mr. Hickey: that he is successful in his attempts to get that facility for the people of the Eastport Peninsula.

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

DR. H. KITCHEN: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this petition. There is a question that rises though, and perhaps the Minister of Education might either today or tomorrow or something indicate how a government which is preventing sports from getting the appropriate number of teachers, the teachers that they need to man these institutions, can at the same time speak out of the other corner of his mouth and say that he supports the petition for gymnasias, we can either have our cake and eat it or we cannot.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

I must point out to the hon. gentleman that debate under the provision for petitions is not allowed.

The hon. member for St. John's West.

DR. H. KITCHEN: Thank you, Sir.

Well let me put it a different way, Sir, that perhaps consideration can be given to implementing the use of a gymnasium once it is there.

The other question that has to be looked at as well -

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

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

MR. HOUSE: Mr. Speaker, I wonder is it parliamentary for a member to say that people speak out of both sides of their mouths? I just want to get some information on that.

MR. SPEAKER: Actually, I had intervened previously with respect to debate and pointed out to the hon. member that he may not debate and he did ceased to so do. But the hon. minister's objection as I understand it is different and that is with this specific term of speaking out of both sides of one's mouth. I do recall, I think, a couple of days ago that specific term did come up and I did point out that it is a suggestion of hypocrisy or it could well be understood to be such, even if not intended as such. So I would point that out and ask the hon. gentleman just to withdraw that term.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the member for St. John's West.

DR. KITCHEN: Whatever I said, Sir, I withdraw on that point.

The question is one of inconsistency rather than of verbal specific words, inconsistency in being able to support a physical structure and at the same time denying the means to utilize effectively that physical structure. So any words that were used that were unparliamentary we withdraw.

The other point, of course, that has to be raised with this question of increasing money for physical structures is the government's role in it. The way things are now the minister and the government can say, Oh, yes we support gymnasiums. But at the same time this government and the previous government and all other governments in the Province have consistently stayed out of the decision-making. And it may very well be time, it is not unconstitutional in my view, it may very well be time for government to make more careful decisions as to how the money is to be spent on physical facilities in this Province. We have the present system by which we decide how much money is to be spent and divided up on a per capita basis and turn it over to the denominations to spend. We do not have to do it that way, we do not have to. All we have to do constitutionally is to guarantee that fairer ways of distributing the money are in effect. Whether the government distributes it directly or does it indirectly by passing the money over to the denominations, both ways to me would be constitutionally acceptable.

What we are doing here, when we in the House of Assembly support in a very altruistic way about putting more money up for educational facilities, we are not really

DR. KITCHEN: guaranteeing that that happens because we have, in my view, perhaps incorrectly passed too many of these decision-making mechanisms on physical facilities over to a body which is not accountable to the people in the Province.

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

MR. PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, I did not intend to get involved in this petition necessarily but there has been a fair amount of discussion on it and I would like, as one hon. member of the House, and as a former teacher, to lend my support to the prayer of the petition. I think most people who are involved in education today directly, are fairly aware that anywhere there is a school or an educational facility where they did not have the opportunity of a gymnasium, an auditorium, and then later were successful in getting such a facility so that you could compare or contrast both circumstances, that any teacher or an educator could see a vast difference in the quality of education that was conducted in that area or in that community or in that school. And I think it is stating the obvious but perhaps it needs to be reiterated from time to time, that it is not a matter of having people say that the students spend all day in the gym rather than in the classroom, or to say that all they are doing in the school is playing games and that there is no longer any real "education" as known by the three R's years ago. It is not saying that. There is an element in our society which from time to time becomes rather upset when the pendulum starts swinging full the other way that we have to get rid of all these trappings, all these very expensive buildings and so on. I think we have to have a control on that, of course, as we do not need just big buildings.

But there is a strong overwhelming argument to be made in favour of reasonable recreation facilities being provided to students as they move through the various parts of their academic education. And I for one know from personal experience, both as a student going to the school system of the Province in the rural parts of our Province and

MR. PECKFORD: then as both a student and a teacher learning and teaching in areas that had no facilities for quite some time and then being exposed to it as a student and teacher after facilities were put in place, recreational facilities, an auditorium for drama and other cultural activities associated with the curriculum. And there was a vast, vast difference in the quality and the kind of student that graduated in grade eleven. There is absolutely no question about that and nobody can deny any longer that this is an integral part of any decent, reasonable, formal educational system.

Now the whole question of educational financing has come up as a result, of course, of this kind of a petition. I will just point out to the hon. member for the Straits, in talking about where all the money has to come from, that whether it comes from general revenue or if it comes from the districts or the regions of the Province, it all comes back to the taxpayer. I mean, let us not fool ourselves and try to make a tiny distinction between general revenues and school taxes. The whole point of it being that the taxpayer finally, the citizen must pay additional money in taxes or some other way in order to increase financing of any social services in this Province whether it be education or whether it be health or whether it be welfare or whatever it happens to be. And then the question comes down, if you have given an amount of money then the priorities that government wishes to place on how that amount of money is to be spent. And I guess that is the other corollary to it, just whether the priorities are right. Then if the priorities are right in the large breakdown of sectors then are the priorities right within the educational budget itself and whether that money should be split a bit differently?

The whole question of rural versus urban as it relates to quality of education is a very dangerous one to get involved in. I am a rural Newfoundlander born and bred and I know now where I live in South Brook, Halls Bay that there are schools, elementary and primary and high schools, that in one part of my district the quality of education

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MR. PECKFORD: is extremely high and can rival anything in St. John's or Corner Brook or Toronto or Vancouver or New York or whatever but other parts of the riding are not so well endowed. So it is not just

MR. PECKFORD: a question of rural versus urban but there is very often - if you are going to talk about these kind of distinctions and qualities there is also the whole question of where that stops, where you stop making that kind of distinction because it is just not a matter of St. John's versus Nick's Nose Cove but rather a question of Springdale versus Nick's Nose Cove as well and that whole question has to be addressed on the regional basis as well as the provincial one.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. member for Fortune - Hermitage.

MR. J. WINSOR: Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition on behalf of 282 persons in the community of Seal Cove, Fortune Bay. The prayer of the petition reads: "To the hon. House of Assembly we the people once again stress the fact of the poor road conditions in our area. We feel that in our present economic and social structure that a dirt, gravel, pothole road is not a good example of a means of communication. We have a modern oral communications system consisting of telephone, radio and television but our sole means of physical communications is very poor in comparison. We have a population of approximately 600 people, not a large one we know but we are human and are entitled to the modern conveniences of our time. As far as road improvement goes we are still in the horse and cart era. We would like to point out to you the many uses of the road in question: Medical services to Harbour Breton, Hermitage, Grand Falls or any other destination; banking services, the nearest banking facility is in Hermitage. To obtain this service we have to travel via this road. Consumer commodities; Our everyday existence depends on the condition of this road, freight trucks cannot drive over an impassable road. Teaching services; teachers in Hermitage have to travel this road twice a day from home and employment and vice versa for teachers at Seal Cove. Also when there is a medical doctor in Hermitage there is a bimonthly trip to be of service to the public. Eighty per cent of Seal Cove's labour force are Price (Nfld.)

MR. J. WINSOR: loggers and machinery drivers, these men have to tear up their cars going to and from employment. Also, there are other forms of employment that have to be found outside the community and still have to make use of this road. We cannot stress the point enough, that it is a means of communication and that we should not have to tolerate the inconveniences of rough uses of a dirt, gravel road when we live in a modern advancing society that demands that we as a people keep pace with it.

So to give voice to our complaints and strength to our demand for improvement we sign our names below. And there are 282 signatures.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this is not the first petition that has been presented for that particular piece of road. Approximately twelve miles it was built by hand, pick and shovel, and I believe the grader was a frame of wood with two strips of steel on it drawn by a horse - they are much cheaper than the graders we use today. That road to stand up would have to be graded twice a week and there are not enough graders in the Department of Transportation to keep up with that kind of a schedule, they have other places to do. The only way is to build a decent road there which will stand up to the heavy traffic.

I have travelled over that road many times in the last twenty-seven years and I must certainly support what these people say in their petition, it is ridiculous. It is one of the most beautiful drives you can imagine and I do not think that anywhere else in Newfoundland can you see as well, right across the famous Fortune Bay. You can see from that road, in a particular spot, Sagona, Brunett, the Flats, St. Pierre and Miquelon and that is a pretty good group to get all in one view as the hon. Minister of Justice I am sure will agree, he having looked at it many times himself I am sure.

I have much pleasure in supporting this petition for the second time

MR. J. WINSOR: and I would certainly ask the minister to give this particular piece of road his strongest possible consideration. It is really needed. It is a terrible road to travel over. These men when they are finished with the lumberwoods on a Friday evening - there are a whole whack of them - they beat over that road; shock absorbers are the order of the day at the service station.

I therefore have much pleasure in supporting this petition and ask that it be tabled and referred to the department to which it relates.

MR. SPEAKER: (Dr. Collins) The hon. the member for Terra Nova.

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this petition so ably presented by my colleague the member for Fortune - Hermitage, a petition from 282 residents of Seal Cove, representing a population of 600 people. And, Mr. Speaker, in the presentation of the petition my hon. friend referred to the many services which are dependent upon this road surface - medical services and banking services and consumer services - the ordinary, routine business of any small community where they have to travel to other larger communities on larger areas to avail of these services. And then another point that the hon. member refers to was the fact of teachers communicating to the area to work, teachers living out of the area, no doubt, coming into the community to teach, and teachers within the area - certainly essential reasons why we should have good road surfaces in any such area depending on the services from outside their community. So certainly, the petitioners have advanced good reasons, good solid reasons as to why they should be provided with a good transportation system. And I support the petition and certainly hope

MR. LUSH: that the Minister of Transportation will be able to come up with the money to be able to provide these people from Seal Cove with this much needed good transportation service - for this good road transportation.

The hon. member also made reference to the fact that people's cars are being beaten up by travelling over those roads. And, Mr. Speaker, sometimes I think we fail to recognize the tremendous cost involved for people who have to use poor gravel roads, and I stress the word 'poor' gravel roads - roads in a deplorable condition. People driving over those roads daily get their tires punctured, springs broken, shocks broken, plus the dust from the road getting into the engines causing all sorts of malfunctionings and causing all sorts of expense. I would venture to say that the maintenance bill of people living in such areas must quadruple. The maintenance bills of people living in areas where there are paved roads, for example, here where we live and on the Avalon Peninsula and other larger areas of this Province, to compare the maintenance bills would just about overwhelm people to look at the comparable difference between the expense of running a car in an area where there are paved roads and in an area where they do not exist, and more particularly, where the roads are bad. And I know of what I talk because I have these conditions in my own district and know the tremendous cost involved with people operating vehicles of any nature in these communities. It is terrible - a tremendous expense, and these people, of course, are taxpayers like all other people in the Province, workers

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MR. LUSH: contributing to the economy of our country, paying for their licences and for their permits, and naturally they have a right to expect that they be given this service - good roads. And the saddest feature about all of this, Mr. Speaker, too, is the lack of maintenance on these roads, and I think the hon. member referred to this, the lack of summer

MR. LUSH: maintenance - the lack of a good summer maintenance programme where ballast is placed on the roads in areas where the roads are exceptionally bad. And where the roads are adequately graded this certainly would help alleviate the situation, but it seems as though a lot of these roads in the rural areas of Newfoundland, in the smaller parts of our Province, are neglected totally and are causing great inconvenience and great hardship to the people concerned.

Mr. Speaker, I support the petition wholeheartedly, and sincerely hope that the minister will be able to do something for these 600 people and the 282 people who signed the petition. I certainly hope the minister will be able to do something with correcting the situation there, and the least that can be done is to offer these people a good maintenance programme so that this coming summer ballast and topsoil can be put on the roads where they are exceptionally rough and that they can be offered a good grading service. I hope these measures can be taken.

MR. SPEAKER: (Dr. Collins) Presenting further petitions. The hon. the member for Bellevue.

MR. CALLAN: No, I am speaking on this last petition.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member.

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker, I have a few words to say in support of the petition so ably presented by my friend and colleague from Fortune - Hermitage (Mr. J. Winsor) on behalf of 282 residents of Seal Cove in Fortune Bay.

Mr. Speaker, the point was made there in that petition very forcefully, I believe, that one of the disadvantages of having a gravel or a dirt road is the fact that - of course, obviously, the answer to the

MR. CALLAN:

problem would be pavement to get rid of the washboard roads, the potholes and what have you, that would be the answer to the question. But, Mr. Speaker - and I believe I have said this before in supporting a petition on behalf of bad roads - I am wondering perhaps if the highways crews throughout this Province could not be doing a better job in trying to maintain these roads in a better condition.

Mr. Speaker, last week I went to my district down in Southwest Arm, nine communities on a nineteen mile stretch of road. I went down to a meeting. The next day I came back and I 'phoned the local foreman and asked him, 'How often is this road graded?' because it was in terrible condition, and I nearly cried, Mr. Speaker, having to travel over that road in a 1970 Ford pickup with 116,000 miles on it and the thing nearly fell apart. So I 'phoned the foreman the next morning and I asked, 'When was the road graded last? I was down there last night and I have to go down again next week. I was down last night as a matter of fact, to another meeting down that way.' And the foreman said that the grader is on the road every day. Well, Mr. Speaker, last night travelling over that road again! - I do not doubt that the grader is on the road every day, but if I get a chance later on this morning I want to 'phone that foreman again and ask him would he tell the grader operator to put down the blade this time! Put down the blade! No good to have the grader on it driving back and forth, drop the blade and let us get rid of some of these potholes that exist. And I am talking about that one, but I am sure the same situation exists - there is a joke throughout this Province, and whether the joke is

MR. CALLAN: justified or not I do not know. You know, there is a joke - an awful lot of people call this building the Conglomeration Building because of the large numbers of people who do not seem to be doing anything, because you have to wait two years and three years for a piece of Crown land to be settled and this sort of thing, four or five months for a Rural Development Authority loan to be approved. And there is another joke regarding highways - an old fellow goes to work with the Highways, he is gone to his eternal rest. And whether these jokes are justified or not, Mr. Speaker, I do not know, but I sometimes wonder if the highways crews cannot be doing a better job to maintain these roads. Now we know that there are limited funds for reconstruction and paving this year as in other years - \$15 million,

MR. CALLAN: I believe and perhaps this road cannot be done this year. Perhaps the road cannot be paved. Perhaps the roads in my district cannot be paved but I am wondering can they not be maintained in a better condition? I noticed the contract call a few days ago for 300 miles, calcium chloride for 300 miles of dirt road in this Province. I think last year there was a contract called for 400 miles of dirt road in this Province, a contract call for calcium chloride. This no doubt, Mr. Speaker, is good stuff. It keeps down the dust especially. It is good on reconstructed road. I am told that if it is put on a road that is not reconstructed you suffer the next spring because the calcium chloride gets into the road and the next spring you suffer doubly because the road breaks up quite easily where the calcium chloride is in it. Now that is the reason that I have been given when I asked to have calcium chloride put on a road in my district, I have been told that while the reason it is put on this road is because the road is reconstructed, it can take the calcium chloride and it is ready for paving. But the other road is not reconstructed so if the people want to go to the axles in mud next spring, sure we will give them calcium chloride.

So I hope, Mr. Speaker, that this road, this twelve mile stretch of road in Seal Cove in Fortune Bay if it cannot be paved that at least it can be maintained in a half decent condition and, as I said, calcium chloride put there to at least alleviate the dust problem which exists naturally on all gravel roads not only in this Province, but everywhere else.

Mr. Speaker, I support the prayer of the petition by the 282 people in Seal Cove and, of course, I know that they deserve it from what the member outlined there, the numbers of people that travel on this highway, on this piece of road. I do not know how many communities are involved. Perhaps there is only one and perhaps in the list of priorities perhaps it is not way up there. It would not be up there, for example, like the Southwest Arm Road where you have a nineteen mile stretch of road with nine communities. That has to be a priority. It has to be a priority and I know and I think I know

MR. CALLAN: that when the final decision is made regarding what roads will be paved and reconstructed this year that the Southwest Arm Road that leads down to Southport will be included in the minister's list. Obviously it will be. You know there is no rational, sensible reason why it should not be. And as I said if the money cannot be allocated for twelve miles of road for these people I hope that for their sake the calcium chloride will be put there and that the road will be maintained in a decent condition by proper maintenance, by the maintenance crew.

I support the petition, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, I wish to go on record in support of the petition presented by the hon. member for Fortune-Hermitage. As the member for Bellevue pointed out there are still many dirt or gravel roads in this Province. As a matter of fact, the reason that spurs me really to get up this morning on this petition is that in my own district of Green Bay this morning there are two roads washed out and there are upwards to two to three hundred who are stranded right now because - and these are dirt roads, of course, that are washed out. They have not been reconstructed and proper bridges and culverts and so on have not been installed and hence it has caused a lot of problems. I am familiar with the road that the hon. member mentions or that the petition mentions as presented by the hon. member. I know that that whole area now you can drive fairly well from Bishops Falls turnoff down to Bay d'Espoir. But then, when you turn off almost just before you get to Bay d'Espoir and start going down towards Harbour Breton and Hermitage and so on, and Seal Cove and that whole area, that is the next area that now has to be addressed. And when as the hon. member points out very, very well the people of Seal Cove in his district are some of the top workers in this Province and I know that to be true because many of the people from Seal Cove who worked with Price (Nfld.) are pretty good friends of people who worked with Price (Nfld.) from Green Bay district in the Triton area and I hear it all the time about the great workers from

MR. PECKFORD: the Seal Cove area. And not only in Seal Cove where you have a lot of real good workers and people who are working in the lumber industry but that whole area down there of Harbour Breton and Hermitage. The economic life of that area is very vibrant right now and looking down the road there is no way to see otherwise. I think that whole area down there, down that peninsula there, has a great future and we have to as a government, address ourselves to that problem.

Now I think myself, Mr. Speaker, that the road from off the Bay d'Espoir road down to Harbour Breton should be a major secondary road and that that should come under a DREE programme. Now as we are getting sort of the big, big trunk secondary roads done like the Great Northern Peninsula and well, for example, the LaScie road if I am not mistaken was a DREE road - not the Baie Verte Highway road, that was a DREE road too. The road from the Trans-Canada to Baie Verte, to put a major thoroughfare down on that peninsula was a DREE road but also the road off the Baie Verte Peninsula road down to LaScie was considered such a major secondary road with the fish plant down there and other communities that it was also funded.

Mr. Peckford: Federally-provincially. And I think myself that the road from the Bay d'Espoir Highway to Harbour Breton should be considered a secondary road and included under a DREE subsidiary agreement for highway construction. Then that would give the Province greater flexibility in its own programme to do the other road -

AN HON. MEMBER: Millions of dollars.

MR. PECKFORD: Right. Exactly. And that is what it has got to be connected to. It has got to be connected to resource development. And if, as Ottawa always talks about, this business of DREE is where it can be demonstrated that it has some economic consideration to it, well then surely the road to Harbour Breton to open up that peninsula the Southwest Road or whatever -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. PECKFORD: I do not know off the top of my head. All I am saying is that I think the best way to get at reconstruction of the road in the Seal Cove area, and even the Southwest Arm as the hon. member for Bellevue (Mr. Callan) mentioned is to get additional funds under subsidiary agreements with DREE for these other secondary roads that have in the last ten years or so really come into their own as economic viable units. Albeit they are a long way from the centre of provincial capital or the centre of power whatever you want to call it, but they are the areas that are really coming into their own, and the same way as Fogo Island is or Twillingate or other fishing areas or St. Anthony and on it goes.

So I think the next part of any DREE programme would have to include such roads as the one mentioned by the hon. the member in his petition. Not, perhaps specifically that road to Seal Cove but will facilitate getting the Seal Cove Road done, if that other main secondary road to Harbour Breton that opens up that whole peninsula is considered as a DREE road. So I fully support the petition cognizant of the fact that there are many parts of this Province both in my district, and the hon. the member for Fortune-Hermitage's (Mr. J. Winsor) district and the hon. member for Bellevue's district where we still have dirt roads, gravel roads that are now in 1978, even though they might

Mr. Peckford: not have been in 1960 leading to very, very prosperous communities that are contributing in a real major way to the lifeblood now of the economy of this Province.

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): The hon. the member for the Bay of Islands,

MR. L. WOODROW: I would like to support the petition so ably presented by my friend from the Bay d'Espoir - Harbour Breton area. In fact, I spent almost eight years in that area when the only way to go anywhere was by boat. And I was just pleased when I heard the hon. member for Green Bay (Mr. Peckford) point out the importance of the Harbour Breton and Seal Cove area and the like. Of course, this was brought about at a great meeting held here in St. John's in 1956, and I happened to be privileged to be present at that meeting when they decided to build a fish plant at Harbour Breton, and get the hydro going for Bay d'Espoir.

I think the substance of the petition was to upgrade and pave if necessary twelve miles of road in this area. Now I happened to drive down last year over the Bay d'Espoir road and on to Harbour Breton, and again I would certainly endorse the sentiments of the member for Green Bay when he said that there should be some great DREE programme or some other means found to upgrade and pave that portion of the road, I think, it is forty-seven miles from the Bay d'Espoir Road into Harbour Breton, because it is a very important place at the moment. And I do not think there is anybody in Harbour Breton who is unemployed.

The hon. member talked about Seal Cove, I remember, Mr. Speaker, about ten or fifteen years ago, seeing the people from Seal Cove, the young men used to go away every year and work in the woods and the like. And I do not think even at that time - probably now there is hardly any unemployment in that area. Of course, I too have certain roads in my district. In fact, at the present time I am working with the Department of Municipal Affairs to try to get some work done

MR. WOODROW: on a byroad over in Summerside and, of course, there are many other hon. gentlemen in this House, Mr. Speaker, who must have similar problems and, of course, the problem is money. We have only so much money to go around and as a result of that there is only so much work that can be done. But I would refer back again to my hon. colleague from Grand Falls. He has put on the Order Paper a motion that we should really get after Ottawa to try to get Term 29 put in 1978 dollars.

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

MR. SPEAKER: A point of order.

MR. CALLAN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I rather doubt that the hon. gentleman from Bay of Islands is being relevant there. He is talking about Term 29 and so on. I am wondering possibly if it is not a stall to try and avoid the Question Period this morning. I think he should be more relevant.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please! On that point of order the hon. gentleman in my understanding is referring to financing of road building and is suggesting that there might be ways of getting additional financing so I would not state that it was irrelevant in the sense in which that word is understood and practised by hon. members on both sides.

The hon. member.

MR. WOODROW: Mr. Speaker, that is exactly what I am saying. I think that I would go so far as to say that I believe that our next -

MR. CALLAN: Could we have a quorum call, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A quorum is called.

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MR. SPEAKER: I am informed that a quorum is present. The quorum call has had the effect of consuming the time.

The hon. the member for
Stephenville.

MR. McNEIL: Mr. Speaker, I want to stand in support of the petition of 282 people for the community of Seal Cove, Fortune Bay, who have requested the government to repair the road - there are only twelve miles of road in their community. As was pointed out by my hon. colleague from Fortune - Hermitage, the road is the only means of physical communication and the community depends on that road heavily.

Mr. Speaker, I see no reason why in this day and age the government could not keep this road up to an acceptable standard if it cannot be paved at this moment. And I think that possibly even the twelve miles of pavement could be done and I do not think that would break the government in its current financial position.

Mr. Speaker, I gladly support the petition and I hope that the government will act upon it quickly.

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

MRS. McISAAC: Mr. Speaker, I rise to say a couple of words in support of the petition. I was not here when the petition was presented, but from listening to the other speakers I have got the gist of it and I just want to say that I support the petition, and in fact, would support any petition with respect to roads. And that is all I will say at this time since I was not here to listen to it. I support the petition.

NOTICES OF MOTION

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

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a bill, "An Act To Enable The Golden Eagle (Canada) Limited To Become A Federal Corporation," and I also give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to move the House into a Committee of the Whole to consider certain resolutions in relation to the granting of supply to Her Majesty for the financial year ending March 31, 1979. And on behalf of my colleague, the Minister of Public Works and Services I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a bill, "An Act To Amend The Social Assistance Act, 1977."

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

MR. DINN: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a bill, "An Act To Amend The Department Of Municipal Affairs And Housing Act, 1973."

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the member for Fortune - Hermitage.

MR. J. WINSOR: My question is directed to the hon. the Minister of Justice. I notice by the paper this morning that charges have been laid against an individual as a result of a police investigation into matters raised last May by the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, my colleague, the hon. the member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simmons). And my question is this, Why was there no representative of the Crown present when the case was called yesterday?

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

Before recognizing the hon.

the Minister of Justice, I would point out that the matter of substantive issues is sub judice. I am not here saying that that specific question is, because I understand that as a question within an administrative framework or procedural framework, but I do point out that from the substantive point of view the matter would be sub judice.

The hon. the Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN:

Mr. Speaker, I will obviously

have to be very restricted in my answers to any matter that is before the court. The position is that the charges in question were laid by the appropriate Crown Prosecutor a week ago, returnable yesterday. It was known as a result of information given to the Crown Prosecutor by Counsel for the accused that his client was not within the jurisdiction of this court within the Province, but was within Canada and that he will be appearing in court next week. And it was known in advance that nothing would happen on Thursday, yesterday.

MR. HICKMAN: other than the reading of the charge and consequently there was no point in council being present nor was it necessary.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. J. WINSOR: Does the Crown know the whereabouts of Mr. Walsh, the gentleman named in this case who did not appear when the case was called? Is the minister aware of where Mr. Walsh is? Do you place any priority on this case?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, we are getting dangerously close beyond the administrative procedure now. The Crown gives exactly and precisely the same attention to this case as every other criminal case that falls within our jurisdiction and I repeat that I am assured by the Director of Public Prosecutions that the accused will be present next week in the Magistrate's Court in St. John's to answer to the charges.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Bellevue.

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the hon. Minister of Fisheries. Is the minister aware of the fact that at this present time or at this present moment out in Placentia Bay on Merasheen Island—I also believe, perhaps, in the minister's own district, that there should be at least under construction a couple of federal projects, federal wharves and because of the possibility that the company Metro Engineering owned by AB Walsh is on the verge of bankruptcy or alleged to be, therefore these projects are way behind schedule? Is the minister aware of that, number one and if so what -

MR. W. CARTER: That is a federal matter.

MR. CALLAN: I know it is a federal matter, I know these are federal wharves, but what is the provincial Minister of Fisheries doing to help alleviate the problems experienced by these fishermen who cannot use these facilities because they are way behind schedule? They should have been finished long ago except for the fact that AB Walsh and Metro Engineering have been lagging and dragging their

MR. CALLAN: heels on that. Perhaps the minister could make a few comments and also indicate what he as the Minister of Fisheries is doing to alleviate any hardship by the fishermen who use these facilities.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Fisheries.

MR. W. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the interest being shown by our colleague opposite. I am very much aware of the problem being encountered by the fishermen who now fish on Merasheen Island, most of whom were, by the way, resettled some years ago and are now going back to fish on the islands. The wharf being built is a federal responsibility, it is a contract that was awarded sometime last year, last Fall to, I think it is called, Metro Engineering Construction. I was informed by my colleague for Placentia about a month or so ago that work was not progressing as planned on its construction, I have since sent my Assistant Deputy Minister to the island to discuss the problem with the fishermen there. We have since made strong representation to the Federal Department of Small Crafts and Harbours in public works and the last word I have on it was to the effect that work had stepped up on the wharf, I think last week they had something like eight people working there and if they can keep that kind of progress going it might well be that something will be in place in time for this year's fishery. Certainly, in so far as what the Province can do we are doing all we can in that we are pressuring to the best of our ability the people who are responsible but certainly as a Province we cannot possibly afford to get involved in the construction of wharves, slipways and breakwaters. These are matters that are strictly the responsibility of Ottawa and it would be a very serious thing for us to do, to start encroaching on their jurisdiction in that respect because it would be costly and, in fact, it is the sort of thing that there would probably be no end to. But in answering the member's question, everything that can be done by the member for Placentia (Mr. Patterson) myself and the department has been done.

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SOME HON MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

A supplementary.

MR. CALLAN:

I am glad to hear that, Mr. Speaker, as the minister probably knows people from my district also use the facilities on Marasheen Island so I am glad to hear that the minister is keeping an eye on it. Now the fact that there were eight people out there last week, of course, is no indication that there will be eight next week and I want to get the assurance from the minister that an eye is kept on it. I say there might not be eight people next week because I know people from my own district - a couple of divers who worked on these projects are owed \$3,000 and the only

MR. CALLAN: way they are going to get their money is because the company is bonded. They will get their money sometime in July they have been told by Federal Public Works. So the fact that they were working this week is no indication that they might be there next week. So I am asking, can we have the assurance then of the minister that an eye will be kept on it? And perhaps of the recent developments last night and so on with this man and this company, this man who owns this company, some interim measures can be taken.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Fisheries.

MR. W. CARTER: I can only repeat what I said a moment ago that I have no jurisdiction whatever over the building of that wharf. I will certainly keep an eye on it and I am sure that the member for the district of Placentia will be keeping an eye on it. In fact, I suppose, we have talked about it every day or just about every day for the past month and we have made numerous telephone calls and like I said we did follow it up by sending one of my assistant deputies to the island. But we will be following it up.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for the Straits of Belle Isle.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Public Works and Services which grows out of the Crown's action in bringing charges against Mr. A.B. Walsh but it is not related to the case in any direct or substantive way. My question, Sir, is this: It is obvious that the procedures in the department in purchasing were less than acceptable, a fact which was first revealed by the Auditor General a year or so ago in his report to the House, and a fact which was further exposed by the Public Accounts Committee under the chairmanship of my colleague, the gentleman from Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir. What I would like to know is specifically from the minister is what steps he has taken to prevent a recurrence of the situation which gave rise to the set of facts upon which the Crown has based the criminal charges against Mr. Walsh in this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister.

MR. DOODY: Mr. Speaker, I went through the detail on the system

MR. DOODY: that is now in place down in the Department of Public Works during the estimates. I can get an update on that for hon. members and bring it in in detail and present it to the House. The situation now as I recall it is an amount of allocated funds under \$1,000 for emergency or other purposes has to be authorized by one of several designated senior officials of the department. The system some years ago or sometime ago was simply the matter of a telephone call to an individual firm or company to get the department committed to such projects or repair work. This has been, as I say, changed. The work order system is completely revamped and revitalized. They are having considerable strides made in that direction during the past year, particularly since the appointment of Mr. John Whalen as the deputy minister. I mean no disrespect to his predecessors or to his colleagues in the department but Mr. Whalen's experience and knowledge in that area has been invaluable and he has put into effect in the department a considerable number of changes since his appointment and I think that during the coming months and during the coming years the result of them will be seen very clearly.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. ROBERTS: Can the minister tell the House whether the Department of Public Works which he administers has now any contractual work ongoing with A.B. Walsh Electric Limited or for that matter any of the firms the principal owner of whom is the gentleman who has been charged with the criminal offences in this matter?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister.

MR. DOODY: Yes, I understand there are some contracts ongoing with A.B. Walsh Electric.

MR. ROBERTS: Are they contracts, contracts bids or are they these work order situations?

MR. DOODY: Bids, tenders, public tender bids. And also another company with which the gentleman is associated, I think, is Stares

MR. ROBERTS: Stares Mechanical.

MR. DOODY: Stares Mechanical also have ongoing work. I think that gentleman is the principal of that firm as well. Both of these jobs were public tender jobs and both of them were awarded to these companies on open tender at public openings of the tender.

MR. ROBERTS: On low bids.

MR. DOODY: On low bids, that is right.

MR. ROBERTS: A further supplementary, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. ROBERTS: The minister dealt with the question of, let us call them contracts which were bid. I do not know the details of this case and I am not permitted to comment on them though should I be but there

Mr. Roberts: is another category of work, and I know the Auditor General's comments two or three years ago and the attention of the Public Accountants Committee focused on the other type of arrangement into which the department enters and that is the work order or the more or less emergency situation. Is there any work ongoing now involving Mr. Walsh's companies, on one hand and the department on the other, of that nature as opposed to the type to which the minister just spoke where, you know, bids would be invited and there would be an opening and the lowest respectable bidder, in this case Mr. Walsh's companies, would get the work?

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

MR. DOODY: To the best of my knowledge, Sir, there is no such work. The only work that I know of that Mr. Walsh's companies are involved in or are engaged in at the present time are the tendered contracts which I mentioned earlier.

MR. ROBERTS: May I have a further supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A further supplementary.

MR. ROBERTS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Walsh's companies — and the charges I note have been laid against Mr. Walsh, not involving any company, to whatever extent it is possible to lay a criminal charge against a company, so I draw that distinction — Mr. Walsh's companies, to my knowledge, are not before the courts in any sense involved here. There may be some civil actions. The Town of Torbay and the Town of Pouch Cove are both involved in civil actions, but this is irrelevant to this entirely. Mr. Walsh's companies did receive a great deal of work from the government, from Public Works over the last two or three years under these work orders. And the minister tells us, and I am glad of his assurance, that there is a new system in place to prevent any abuses that may have occurred — And I am not speaking of criminal matters, I am speaking of abuses only — can the minister tell us whether he has issued instructions and if he has not, can he tell us why? And will he issue instructions ^{that} until this matter is resolved, Mr. Walsh's trial has been held and the matter has been disposed of by the courts in

Mr. Roberts: the proper way, that no further work will be given to the companies with which he is involved.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Public Works and Services.

MR. DOODY: I think, Sir, that under the public tendering process that Mr. Walsh and his companies -

MR. ROBERTS: I do not mean public tendering, the work contracts.

MR. DOODY: Oh well the work contracts are - we certainly can give that assurance.

MR. ROBERTS: Did the minister say he could give the assurance?

MR. DOODY: Yes.

MR. ROBERTS: Okay.

MR. DOODY: There is really no - the system down there in the department now is an index which has been compiled over a period of time, I described it to the House during the estimate period, advertisements were placed in all of the major and most of the minor newspapers in the the Province informing the trades in various parts of the Province, various type of contracting companies, mechanical, electrical, masonry and so on, of the intention of the department to compile such an index, and it is a huge volume, it is down on the deputy minister's desk, in which he has broken down by geographic area of the Province, and also by trade designation, so that in jobs of \$1,000 or less the officials of the department are required to telephone at least three companies in that particular area. If there is a repair job going on in St. Anthony and there are three -

MR. ROBERTS: If there are three companies.

MR. DOODY: - companies in that area they will phone the three of them and get three prices and give them to the lowest caller, the lowest quotation.

MR. ROBERTS: Would Mr. Walsh's companies be one of those three companies in that area? That is really what I am after.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Public Works and Services.

MR. DOODY: My information from the department is that they have been very, very careful about Mr. Walsh's companies during the past several months.

MR. ROBERTS: Will they be a little more careful now?

MR. DOODY: I would suspect they will be a great deal more circumspect under the circumstances.

MR. ROBERTS: Then they should just put the man on a special list until the matter is resolved.

MR. DOODY: It is a difficult thing. The man has not been convicted of anything that I am aware of at this point.

MR. ROBERTS: And he may not be.

MR. DOODY: And I sincerely hope that he is not. So one hesitates to discriminate against somebody before the law has had an opportunity to examine the details of the case. But as I have said -

MR. ROBERTS: No, no, people are normally - I mean if one of the minister's officials were suspect -

MR. DOODY: As I have said earlier -

MR. ROBERTS: He would be suspended.

MR. DOODY: Well I have already given you that point, Sir, to that effect.

MR. ROBERTS:- One further supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A final supplementary.

MR. ROBERTS: Because I think, Mr. Speaker, it is an important matter, and I would like for the minister - I am not prejudging Mr. Walsh in any way, I mean the courts will decide that issue and we will see. What will be will be, and so it should be. - is the minister satisfied that the system now in place is reasonably adequate and that is all the minister could be to prevent a recurrence of the type of events which have given rise to the situation with which we are now faced? To my knowledge this is the first time since Confederation at least that criminal charges of this nature have had to be laid in people dealing with the government.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Public Works and Services.

MR. DOODY: We are reasonably satisfied that - well, the system has tremendously improved as Mr. Whelan has pointed out. It still has some gaps, some problem areas, some cracks and gaps that he would like to fill and will tighten up during the coming months. It is a vastly improved system over what it was up to a year or so ago and it has been improving. I mentioned the index area. I also mentioned the fact that the \$15,000 limit over which public tenders must be called has been by -

MR. ROBERTS: A firm \$15,000.

MR. DOODY: No, - by deputy minister's order it is a firm \$12,000. He had discovered that he was running into problems on \$14,999 plus an overrun, so he has 20 per cent leeway in there which gives him that.

AN HON. MEMBER: A very solid man.

MR. DOODY: And on areas between the \$1,000, which I mentioned earlier and the \$12,000, the same index is used, but written proposals are demanded from at least three companies. This index and the people who are written or called depending on the \$1,000 or up to \$12,000 are monitored by the ADM every two weeks and the list is monitored by the DM every month to make sure -

AN HON. MEMBER: And the Auditor General every year.

MR. HICKMAN: Well, hopefully, but certainly it has been done to make sure that there is no discrimination or that one name does not keep popping into prominence in a particular area, in a particular trade or particular job. So they are having considerable tightenings, considerable administrative changes and improvements. I think there is probably room for more, but I have no doubt that they will be all put into effect.

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

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications. I wonder if the minister is aware that the Director of Air Services flew to Texas - I think it was Texas - to either fly up or to accompany the pilot who was flying up a helicopter for Sealand Airways Limited or Sealand Helicopters Limited, whatever the title of that company is?

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

MR. DOODY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I became aware of it after the event. The gentleman in question was using his annual leave at his own expense, but in the meantime he has received a letter from the deputy minister suggesting to him that it might be construed as a conflict of interest position and has been instructed not to have a repeat performance of that type of operation.

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. LUSH: With relationship to the Director of Air Services, can the minister indicate to the House whether the Director of Services had put in his request for annual leave prior to this situation?

MR. DOODY: To the best of my knowledge this is so. I talked about it with the deputy minister and the impression that I received from him, without actually asking that direct question, was that this was the case. I may be mistaken on that but I believe that that is so.

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

MR. DOODY: I think it is standard procedure

MR. DOODY: to apply for annual leave to be taken.

MR. ROBERTS: No, I do not argue with that answer at all. What I want to know is this; The minister told us in response to my colleague's query - and I must say, the first I heard of it was when my colleague asked the question - that the deputy minister had told the Director of Air Services please not to do it again. In effect, I mean, 'You have not done anything wrong, but there is a possibility it does not look right. Civil servants, particularly the man who is in charge of administering Air Services ought not to be going to Texas, even at his own expense, and coming back in a helicopter owned by a company that charters these helicopters'. That is what the minister was saying, I think. And then the minister told us that the director had done it on his own time, and what the man does on his own time is his own concern and I agree with that. And then the minister tells us that the Director of Air Services had made a prior request for annual leave - it was not after the event - which was fair and right and proper. I want to know now whether when the Director put in his request for annual leave he gave any indication of what he had in mind? And it would not be unusual to say, 'I am going to go down to Texas to come back on a helicopter. I want to see how they work,' or whatever you want to say, 'I will have to take three or four days annual leave.'

MR. DOODY: The answer that I will have to give the hon. House, Sir, is that my impression from my conversation with the deputy minister was that there was no indication that this was the purpose of the annual

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MR. DOODY: leave or the trip. I do not think he explained and I do not think he was asked. It is not standard procedure to ask, and it was only after the

MR. DOODY: fact, my understanding is that the department became aware of this and the subsequent action that I described was taken

MR. LUSH: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary, the original questioner.

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, I was just wondering whether the minister can enlighten us as to whether or not the Director of Air Services has a second annual leave because my understanding is that the Director of Air Services is now vacationing somewhere in Antigua somewhere. So were there two annual leaves? What is the situation?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister.

MR. DOODY: That may very well be so, Sir, I have no idea where the gentleman is now. He may very well be on annual leave. He may have twenty-one annual leaves. He may be entitled to twenty-one days and he may take them a day at a time or he may take a week now and two weeks later or he may be entitled to only two weeks and take a week then and a week now. I really could not say. If he is in Antigua I certainly envy him. I think the director -

MR. ROBERTS: It is warm enough here now.

MR. DOODY: Not for me it is not. They have the side out of the building again.

MR. ROBERTS: It will be warm enough where the hon. gentleman is going in due course.

MR. DOODY: No, I do not think so. I honestly do not know but I can find out. If he is on annual leave now I can only assume that it is annual leave to which he is entitled and which he had not used during his previous annual leave.

MR. MCNEIL: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, this is a most important question we are into now because the Director of Air Services, as I understand it, is the gentleman who sets the quota for helicopter hiring for the government and this sort of thing. But something that has been brought to my attention, a very important matter that I would like for the

MR. LUSH: minister to comment on or to comment on as to its truthfulness and that is it has been brought to my attention that the Director of Air Services when travelling via air or any other way, I suppose, carries in his pocket a little tape recorder on which he tapes all of the utterings of ministers and I think that it is very important that the minister look into this for his own protection. I am just advising the minister of this for his own protection so that he can check the matter out. But that has been brought to my attention that this gentleman does go around with a little tape recorder in his pocket and when he is travelling with ministers tapes everything that is carried on.

So I wonder if the minister can comment on that and if he does not know about the situation then look into it for his own protection.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister.

MR. DOODY: I do not know if I am mistaken or not. I do not know if I heard that question correctly. My understanding is that the hon. member for Terra Nova is telling me that the Director of Air Services carries a tape recorder in his pocket, an allegation, a charge that the Director of Air Services without the permission or authority of the people with whom he is travelling records their conversations. I find that absolutely incredible. I do not know quite how to respond to that. I certainly do not know that it is so. I certainly hope that it is not so. I will certainly ask the hon. gentleman. I have no intention of frisking him everytime I meet him in the corridor. As a matter of fact, unless the hon. gentleman has something more substantial than that to - perhaps it is something that you should bring up outside the House so the gentleman can defend himself. Maybe it is something that should be said outside the confines of the House and then the Director of Air Services might be able to take the appropriate action.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Stephenville.

MR. MCNEIL: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of

MR. MCNEIL: Transportation and Communications in his capacity as chairman of the Labrador Linerboard. Mr. Speaker, according to the people in the pulp and paper industry if a company was going to buy the Labrador Linerboard mill they would enter into an agreement first to negotiate with the government to acquire the assets. Could the minister indicate if the government has signed any agreement with any company to enter into serious negotiations to acquire the assets of the Labrador Linerboard and to reopen the mill?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister.

MR. DOODY: No, Your Honour. The answer is no.

MR. MCNEIL: A supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. MCNEIL: Could the minister indicate since the sales agent Woods Gordon have almost completed their major part of the work in trying to sell the mill, is the selling agent close to reaching this position whereby they would have one company in a position to seriously negotiate with the government to acquire the assets? How close are we?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister.

MR. DOODY: I would sincerely hope that we are very close, Sir, but I honestly cannot say whether it is this week, next week or two or three weeks time. I know that there is at least one company and probably two that appear to be very interested and are very close to a point where they might want to come in and discuss these matters in detail with the board and with senior members of government, elected, and officials, but to date we have not reached that stage.

MR. MCNEIL: A supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. MCNEIL: Mr. Speaker, then I had understood from the government that the selling agent Woods Gordon had not been successful in acquiring a buyer for the mill. Could the minister indicate how much money this government has paid the firm of Woods Gordon in consultant fees up to date?

MR. DOODY: No. I cannot, Your Honour, the hon. gentleman asked me that question some time ago and I undertook to get the answer for him. I remember asking the officials for that information and to the best of my knowledge I have not received it as yet. I will have a look around to see if I can locate it for him.

MR. MCNEIL: The amount would be quite large.

MR. DOODY: Well it is a very substantial amount. They have been on staff, on and off, mostly on, since government took over the asset out there and I would suspect that it is a very substantial amount.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for the Straits of Belle Isle followed by the hon. gentleman for Bellevue.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Justice who has returned to the delights of this house from the delights of Paris, and I am sure he would regret what he has missed just as we regret not having him here with us. My question, Sir, arises out of the resolution which the Police Brotherhood, I understand, adopted at a meeting they held - I am not sure if it was last week or

MR. ROBERTS: earlier this week and I subsequently heard some reference to it on the air, Constable Skehen I believe the President of the Police Brotherhood - the minister I assume is familiar with the resolution. The background then, Sir, if the minister would permit me, as I understand it, is that in his absence his Deputy Minister informed the Police Brotherhood that they were not to communicate with the press and I gather this was a general blanket instruction. They were not to communicate with the press apparently about anything. The Police Brotherhood had a meeting in which they adopted a resolution which resolved, "That the Brotherhood empowers its president or such member of the executive as he the president may nominate to make such public appearances, press releases and communications through the media or in person as to matters having to do with Brotherhood business only" And I would stress that "brotherhood business only and the welfare of its members as the president or his nominee may seem desirable or expedient." I think that is, I must say, a fairly reasonable position for the Brotherhood to take. Can the minister tell us whether this is acceptable to him and whether he has either modified the direction of his deputy or if the direction his deputy gave was not completely understood? Would he confirm that this is an acceptable position?

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, hon. gentlemen will realize that that resolution - I have now heard it for the first time and ordinary prudence would dictate that I first get an opportunity to peruse it. The matter came up here about two weeks ago, I checked and all that the Deputy Minister of Justice did at the time was to read to the group a standing order that was passed, I think, in December 1970 which precludes, that is very proper no one takes issue with it statements by anyone other than the Chief of Police on matters relating to the force, the Newfoundland Constabulary. This resolution may very well not deal with the force so I shall look at it very promptly and the Brotherhood will hear from me very quickly.

PRIVATE MEMBERS DAY

MR. SPEAKER: It being Private Members' Day the adjourned debate on the amendment to Motion 6.

The hon. member.

MR. ROBERTS: Before the hon. member speaks I wonder if he could tell us, and I am not about to pull any ploy, I understand he has about forty minutes left in his time, could he indicate whether he intends possibly to take it up to the adjournment because I hope to speak in the debate following him and I want to govern myself accordingly.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. member for Naskaupi.

MR. GOUDIE: I took advantage of the five minutes or so last Wednesday, Mr. Speaker, to bring to the attention of the hon. House a situation which exists on the coast of Labrador in relation to damage to fishing gear and stages and so on but I have gone through that there is no point of going through that again. When I spoke on the original motion I indicated that

Mr. Goudie: I would have no problem voting for that motion. And I think I made it fairly clear that I was talking in relation to the guts of the motion, if you will, or the main points, and that is, in very brief, the development of Labrador for the benefit of people living in Labrador and developments as much as possible to take place in Labrador itself. I still do not disagree with that concept. I do not think anyone in the hon. House does.

But there is an amendment before the House now and the only thing that I can see that amendment is going to do is remove the word 'Liberal' or 'Liberal Convention' or 'National Convention' or whatever, so the main motion is not changed as far as I can see.

I would like to take advantage of this opportunity of talking under the topic of development. It mentioned that the Happy Valley-Goose Bay area, the central part of my district is suffering somewhat severely because of the lack of development in the area. I think I made reference on a couple of occasions in other debates to the efforts being put forth by the Happy Valley-Goose Bay Development Corporation which hon. members will remember was funded through a DREE subsidiary agreement, I think, it was or an interim agreement or whatever the term was a little over a year ago. They have been quite successful in some of their efforts. I understand they have been awarded the remaining Labrador linerboard wood which was left there with the closure of that particular operation a couple of years ago, and they now have plans in place to try and form a locally owned company raising money publicly in the area.

And it is my understanding, based on their proposal which was submitted to government and the Department of Industrial Development specifically, that that particular operation, if and when it comes into being, will employ in the vicinity of forty-five people, initially, in relation to a sawmill operation with markets overseas and so on. And that seems to be the only thing at this point in time which may happen in the Happy Valley-Goose Bay area.

Now, I was home this week on personal business and drove around the town and talked to a few people and had a look to

Mr. Goudie: see what was going on and what was not going on. And it is rather depressing to drive on a number of streets in Happy Valley-Goose Bay and see the windows and doors boarded up of houses which are beginning to deteriorate, I think. But the main concern is the reason these houses are boarded up. I have heard various figures presented or mentioned in terms of the number of unoccupied units in that town, and the numbers vary anywhere from 300 to 800 housing units unoccupied. Now that is a pretty serious matter, Mr. Speaker, when you talk about the development of Labrador. That community at one time had approximately 8,000 U.S. Military personnel and their dependents, about 3,000 Canadian forces, military people and their dependents, the civil population of 6,000 or 7,000 people, and transient workers as well every day of the week. So we have come from a rather active community, over the last couple of years, to a community which is in dire straits at this point in time. The only employment we have to any great degree other than local businesses and some small location industry is the Federal Department of Public Works and the Ministry of Transport. It is a caretaking society where the buildings and other facilities at Goose Bay are being serviced by these people. That is the only saving grace we have right now, the only reason people are staying alive. We are losing a great number of people who are very valuable to the community.

I was told this week that one of the councillors, for instance, who was just recently elected, last November, has had to resign or will be resigning her position on the council, a person who has had a very valuable contribution not only as a member of the Town Council of Happy Valley-Goose Bay but in other service organizations and work she has done in relation to community service in that area. She and her husband had had to leave to take up employment in other parts of Canada. She and her husband are just one example of the many, many people who have had to leave the area. Our population is declining. That has a very demoralizing effect on people who are there. I suppose in one sense it may be beneficial in the long-term in that the people who do hang in there are people who have said they want to stay, they

MR. GOUDIE: want to make that area of Labrador their home and they are willing to stick it out. But the point is, how long can people stick out a situation where they are living either on welfare or unemployment insurance or trying to make ends meet by other means? It has a very demoralizing effect on the young people of the community. It seems to me that minor crimes have increased somewhat in the area since there has been so much unemployment. If people are very low on money, nothing is being purchased of any great value in the area so their service industries, the businesses and so on are drastically affected by this. It is a demoralizing situation and it is of great concern to me. And I would encourage in my comments the government of the day to try to bring all their efforts to bear in coming up with some sort of an answer, even though it might be short-term for the area.

I realize there are DREE proposals before the Federal Government for the development of Labrador and I know there are plans being talked about in our own Provincial Government, but having to wait for so long for developments to take place is becoming of primary concern to the town council, to the Chamber of Commerce and to every citizen on the streets, I would say, in Happy Valley-Goose Bay and, obviously, the communities of Northwest River and Mud Lake which are also affected by the larger center, Happy Valley-Goose Bay.

That is about all I wanted to say. Mr. Speaker, I spoke for in excess of an hour on the original motion. My comments have not changed. It is not going to bother me very much that there is an amendment before the House at this point in time. As far as I am concerned, the main guts of the motion have not changed and I can vote either way with a clear conscience. It does not bother me at all. My priority is Labrador and that is the way I look at it. So with these few comments, Mr. Speaker, I will assume my seat.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Recreation and Rehabilitation.

MR. HICKEY: Mr. Speaker, I want to add a few words to this resolution for a number of reasons. I am not sure which one I should

MR. HICKEY: address myself to first in terms of importance or in terms of priority. The whole question, Mr. Speaker, of Labrador and the development of Labrador for the benefit of the people who live there, the real residents of Labrador, is obviously the greatest importance and must be the very basis for the debate in this House. Certainly nobody quarrels with that.

In the debate which has gone on, Mr. Speaker, a number of areas have been mentioned and certainly some of them have hit me as rather interesting. One I would suggest, Your Honour, which is rather astounding to me is that the Opposition would think that they could, in fact, bring in a resolution in this House and have it approved by this House no matter how significant and how important that issue, being the whole issue of Labrador and its development for its people, is. Nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, to be naive is putting it mildly for the Opposition to conclude that this House and this government, especially, could support a resolution which had in it or which was in effect saying that we were adopting this stance or this policy because it was conceived by the Federal-Liberal party or Provincial-Liberal party and endorsed by the Federal-Liberal party.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not

MR. HICKEY: wish nor do I propose to become too partisan. I know it is a partisan Chamber as such, partisan politics have got to be involved. It is not my intent or wish to become overly partisan about this issue. But, Your Honour, some basic facts must be drawn to the attention of hon. members with regard to this aspect of the resolution. To suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the only people, or the people who conceived the idea first of developing the resources of Labrador for the people of Labrador is the provincial Liberal Party or the federal Liberal Party, but especially the provincial Liberal Party, is to say the least bordering on the very ridiculous. A Liberal Party, Mr. Speaker, which was in office for twenty-three years, a Liberal Party that gave nothing more than lip service to Labrador, who continued to take out of Labrador and put nothing back; a Liberal Party who to all intents and purposes ignored the wishes and the needs of the people of Labrador, what are we going to do, Mr. Speaker, erect monuments to them because they went up and developed a mine? Are we going to erect a monument because they took a chunk of the Linerboard mill and put it in Goose Bay, that great imperial concept that we are stuck with, that we are trying to save for the benefit of the unfortunate people of Cape St. George, of Port au Port, of Stephenville, that other problem that we inherited? Are we going to erect monuments to the Liberal Party and those who sat in this Chamber for twenty-three years because of that? Hardly not! Hardly not, Mr. Speaker!

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, I have tried to figure out really what was behind bringing in

MR. HICKEY: a resolution in the form in which it was brought in, taking the whole issue and aligning it smack right into the very existence and policies of the Liberal Party. My God, Sir, do those hon. gentlemen think that the people of this Province have such short memories? Do they expect the people of this Province, and in particular, the people of Labrador, to forget the twenty-three years which went on year by year ignoring the needs of the people of Labrador?

Now, Mr. Speaker, it is in this context that I have to be partisan, and I hope hon. members can forgive me on the other side while I take a moment to illustrate why if this government - and I would suggest that I would be hearing from hon. gentlemen on the other side - had the audacity to bring in the resolution which said 'Progressive Conservative Party, Progressive Conservative Government enshrined some of the rights of the people of Labrador.' Now we would really hear an outcry from the other side, I would suggest. But, Mr. Speaker, that would not be so far from the truth, because, in fact, the government of this Province that addressed itself to the real issues, the gut issues of Labrador happens to be the Progressive Conservative Government, the government that sits on this side of the House, the government that we are a part of today.

I do not suggest, Your Honour, for one second that we have a claim to everything that has been done for Labrador, I would not be so naive and I would not be so partisan, but Your Honour, you cannot fight the facts, you cannot

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MR. HICKEY: ignore the facts. The facts are as plain as the nose on anybody's face that the only efforts that were made to bring Labrador into the mainstream of society in this Province from an employment point of view, from the rights of the natives point of view, from the rights of people wherever they are, whatever their race, colour or creed, happens to have emanated from this government, the Progressive

MR. HICKEY: Progressive Conservative Government, not the Liberal party as this resolution would suggest. But then again, Your Honour, I suppose I can say that it is never too late to learn. It is never too late to be converted. It is never too late to make up for one's sins of having ignored that great landmass and its people. And so I do not quarrel with the fact that the Liberal party of this Province now finally, after being in office for twenty-three years, having ignored the needs of Labrador for twenty-three years have now come to the light, have now realized that indeed those people do have some rights and that they should be recognized and that whatever development goes on there should be for those people. I hail that, Mr. Speaker, as a move in the right direction and a very positive approach and I commend hon. gentlemen who make up the Liberal party for taking that particular position. But to say that they should enshrine it in a resolution that they expect this House to approve unanimously and to put it into a resolution which really no hon. member could oppose, that being the real principal of that resolution inasmuch as it is the development of the resources for Labrador, for the peoples of Labrador.

Surely, Mr. Speaker, no hon. member, no member of the public in this Province would dare oppose the principal of this resolution - the development of the resources in the first instance for the people who indeed own those resources, the people of Labrador? Mr. Speaker, I do not know which member of the Opposition it was that made reference to the problems that beset the Indian population of Labrador. Some hon. gentleman opposite gave me honourable mention during the debate in which I was accused of having created the problem known as the Indian problem in Labrador. Mr. Speaker, that is very unkind of whatever hon. gentleman labeled me as having been the creator of that problem, very unkind. But then again one has grown, and certainly I who have been in this Legislature since 1966, have grown accustomed to charges of one kind and another of that nature.

To set the record straight, Your Honour, let me recount

MR. HICKEY: for my hon. friend, whoever it was who made that statement, that while he, whoever he is, may want to keep his head buried in the sand and believe that this minister created the Indian problem in Labrador let me suggest to that hon. gentleman that it was because of the inactivity of a government which was the party which he now is a member of and the failure on the part of that government for twenty-three years to wrestle with that Indian situation in Labrador, that is the basic reason that we had the problem in the first place.

Mr. Speaker, let me issue a challenge to whatever hon. gentleman made that statement, let me issue this challenge to him to come with me to Northwest River where that Indian problem was most prevalent in terms of the use of the wildlife of this Province and especially Labrador. Let him come with me to Northwest River and let him place that question to the Indian people in Northwest River and let us get the answer and see who fowled up the whole Indian problem and created the Indian problem in Labrador. I have been to Northwest River, Your Honour. I have dealt with the Indian people of Northwest River. We did not always see eye to eye. There was a lack of communication in the beginning. There was a lack of

MR. HICKEY: trust and good reason for why, because of, as I said, the failure on the part of the former government to deal effectively with the problem. But, Your Honour, those problems were sorted out. The same people, the Indian people of Northwest River who were the first to say that they did not get everything they wanted, they are not one hundred per cent happy or content but then again I ask, Your Honour, who is? Who gets everything they look for, one hundred per cent? And I suggest to you no-one. We live in a situation of compromise, of negotiation but the important thing to remember, Your Honour, and the important thing that the record of this House must show is that we dealt with that problem or those problems that beset the Indian population in relation to the wildlife issue and we made some strides, we made improvements. We broke new ground so to speak. We acknowledged, Mr. Speaker, as a government and to my knowledge the first government in this Province who acknowledged the right and I would say that this government is prepared to enshrine that right into law if necessary, the right of the Indian people in Labrador or indeed the Eskimo people in Labrador, to pursue their own life style, to live the way they want to live and to partake of the wildlife in keeping with that very important decision that each and every one of those people must obviously make. If it is their decision to pursue that life style, their traditional life style then the laws and regulations pertaining to the use of wildlife will apply to them and apply to them in an entirely different way than it will to the average resident who does not have that as their aim.

That was a major step forward, Mr. Speaker. We dealt with the whole very wide area of native problems in Labrador by agreeing to create a position of what the Indian people referred to as a lay biologist, a person who will come from the Indian community, hopefully an Indian, a gentleman who is versed in the language both English and Indian, a person who is in a position to bring about the kind of dialogue between the Indian people and the government to ensure that there is never

MR. HICKEY: again that kind of misunderstanding and misinterpretation of what one or the other is attempting to achieve and that was the very basic root of the problem I suggest, Your Honour, the very basic problem which existed and which took us awhile to sort out. Both sides did not really understand what the other parties or the persons concerns were and what they really wanted and the reasons why they wanted it. And so we have addressed ourselves to that question and we have sorted that problem out so that never again, Your Honour, will there be that grey area of misunderstanding, of not appreciating fully the problems that beset the Indian population and the basic reasons for them, not to mention, of course, the possible solutions.

Let me say, Mr. Speaker, for the first time that I know of in the history of this Province, we have the Indian people, and especially Northwest River, taking the initiative to preserve and protect the wildlife, hand in glove with the Province. So much so that some of those people took the initiative to turn in their own people who contemplated going hunting in violation of the regulations while the negotiations were going on. There, Mr. Speaker, was a sample of the trust and the confidence that we have in the Indian people on the one hand and that the Indian people have in us on the other. Are hon. gentlemen going to tell me that that is not progress?

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. HICKEY: That is a far cry from even a few months before, Mr. Speaker, when there was total misunderstanding, and as I said Your Honour, and let the records show, we cannot say it often enough, total misunderstanding, because nothing was done, and I accept some blame, even as a member of this government, for not understanding sooner

MR. HICKEY: earlier, for not addressing myself to the question earlier, and I will take my share of the blame, but, Mr. Speaker, I will not take it in isolation of some of my former friends who are members of the party on the other side and some of my acquaintances who sat on this side as a government for twenty-three years.

I am sure, Mr. Speaker, there are problems with the Eskimo population. My hon. friend from Eagle River (Mr. Strachan) from time to time raised this issue. And I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that maybe we might have to look at a similar proposal or a similar situation there.

MR. HICKMAN: Would the hon. gentleman care to move the adjournment of the debate?

MR. HICKEY: My heavens, Mr. Speaker, I was just really getting into it! Of course, Your Honour, I will be glad to move the adjournment.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I move that the remaining Orders of the Day do stand deferred and that this House on its rising do adjourn until Monday next at 2:00 P.M., that this House do now adjourn.

MR. SPEAKER: This House stands adjourned until tomorrow, Monday, May 15th at 2:00 P.M.