

PRELIMINARY
UNEDITED
TRANSCRIPT

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
FOR THE PERIOD:
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 1978

The House met at 3:00 P.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

PRESENTING PETITIONS:

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Tourism.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a petition from 306 residents of the communities of Newmans Cove, Lower Amherst Cove, Middle Amherst Cove and Upper Amherst Cove. The prayer of the petition is requesting government through the Department of Transportation and Communications to pave the road across the Bonavista Peninsula from the Amherst Cove area across to Catalina. This road is an important road. It is approximately nine miles, between eight and nine miles, and it serves two districts. It serves Bonavista South, my own district, and that of my colleague from Trinity North (Mr. Brett), linking two districts across the Peninsula. It is important to the residents of the Bonavista South district because it is used as a means of transport to a place of employment. Many people in these communities I just mentioned, in Newmans Cove, Birchy Cove and the three Amherst Coves, travel to the fish plant in Catalina, the Fishery Products fish plant, and are working there, many of them year 'round now, and not only that but it is a major school bus route. All the children in these communities travel to school in Catalina.

The road was upgraded in preparation for paving two years ago. Sufficient funds were unavailable last year to be allocated for that purpose of paving and now that the road is upgraded and ready for paving it is hoped that funds can be found this year for the paving of this section of road linking two districts; in fact, it can also be labelled, I guess, as a road to resources.

MR. MORGAN:

Unfortunately the request made by myself while Minister of Transportation to the federal authorities for it to be included under a DREE funding programme was rejected despite the fact it is leading to a place of employment and can be looked upon as a road to resources. It was not included in the DREE package last year and it is not included this year under the Roads Agreements with the Department of DREE.

However, I am hoping my colleague can find sufficient funds, the Minister of Transportation and Communications, to have this road paved hopefully in this fiscal year.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, we on this side of the House, of course, support the petition, Sir, and in so doing we want to congratulate the member for doing his job on behalf of his constituents and not wasting the time of the House, as the hon. the Premier has indicated so often about members who present petitions in this hon. House. I am rather surprised, Sir, to hear that this nine mile stretch of road has not been paved when the hon. gentleman is the former Minister of Transportation and Communications. It is about the only piece of road in the hon. gentleman's district that has not been upgraded and paved. Parking lots have been paved. Roads that lead nowhere, parking lots have been paved but now we discover, Sir, that the hon. gentleman overlooked somehow or other to pave the nine miles of road across the Bonavista Peninsula. And now 306 residents of Newmans Cove, Lower Amherst Cove, Upper Amherst Cove and Middle Amherst Cove have now had to come praying to the hon. gentleman who happens to be a member of the Cabinet, too, Sir. The hon. gentleman has got it all in his own hands, a very influential member of the Cabinet and a possible leadership

MR. NEARY:

candidate on the other side as soon as the Leadership Convention is brought on now that we hear rumblings of discontent in the party and so forth and they want to replace the poor old hon. gentleman who sits opposite me there. The hon. gentleman will be a possible candidate for the leadership and one or two others on the other side.

So I do hope, Sir, that the hon. gentleman will be able to bring pressure to bear on his colleagues in the Cabinet and not just let the matter rest here on the floor of the House. The hon. gentleman should be able to bully and push and shove and persuade his colleagues in Cabinet to allocate a few dollars to have this road paved in this fiscal year. So we do support the prayer of the petition, Sir, and I only wish the Premier were in the House to see one of his ministers presenting a petition and doing his jobs in behalf of his constituents. I do not know what the hon. gentleman will say about it now, Sir. Are we wasting the time of the House? Does the hon. gentleman feel that we have wasted the time of the House talking about this petition?

AN HON. MEMBER: No.

MR. NEARY: No, Sir, and I am sure that no other hon. gentleman does, except the Premier.

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

MR. NOLAN: I am sorry that I was not here to support the petition of the hon. minister opposite. However he has my support. The petition I have, Mr. Speaker, is from a number of residents - I have not had time to count them yet but I will be quite happy to do so for the Committee, Mr. Speaker - from Dogberry Hill Road. And my hon. friend, the Minister of Tourism, has more than a nodding acquaintance with Dogberry Hill Road. What the petition says, in fact, is to plead with the House of Assembly to hear the prayer of the petition, that the portion of Dogberry Hill Road that is unpaved can be rectified during the current construction season. I am sorry the Premier of the Province is not here and the Minister of Transportation to hear this petition. A portion of this road was paved a couple of years ago and I might say that during that time as the Minister of Tourism who was at that time Minister of Transportation will know, and I am not exaggerating, Mr. Speaker, as again the minister will testify, you could not drive up that road unless you had a four wheel drive. You would go right to your axels in mud.

AN HON. MEMBER: Where is that?

MR. NOLAN: St. Phillip's.

At that time I understood from the minister, and certainly not formally, that it was hoped to do so much work in that particular year, which they did in upgrading and paving. They did approximately half the road, or something like that, and it was hoped to do the remainder in the following year. I am not attempting to hold the minister to that because it was a conversation where we were discussing the thing and I certainly do not have it in writing or anything like that and I am not trying

MR. NOLAN:

to pin him down on that particular thing. But the fact is this is not the first petition that I have presented here in this House on Dogberry Hill Road for the residents there in St. Phillip's.

The unpaved portion there now is in desperate shape. You have motor vehicles which are very expensive today that are being damaged as a result of the condition of the road. You have property that is covered in dust when the fine weather comes. In the early spring you have mud again and terrible rocks hitting your car as you drive along even at very, very slow speeds. Here is an artery that runs, as I am sure most of you know, from the Thorburn Road up to the St. Thomas Road going along the coast there and it is badly in need now of this extra portion of work that needs to be done that could make it not only driveable, walkable, liveable for the residents who live on the road but for all of those, and there are people not only who live on the road but many thousands of others who go up and down over that road daily. May I also say that there are people on the road, for example, who are in the dairy cattle business and so on and farming and they have to transport goods and cattle back and forth and it is most arduous for them.

I would think now that this House hopefully will consider the plea and the prayer of this petition to have this extra portion of road finished off this year. The reason it was done, the first part, was because you just could not move over the road. That is not an exaggeration. You could not move over the road it was that bad. Even if you walked you would go up to your knees in mud. So I am now asking my hon. friends here in the House to support this petition because it is not - I

MR. NOLAN:

am not asking for some luxury item. I am not asking for some frivolous request and that is not the purpose of this petition. It is very, very badly needed and I am sure, as I said, the Minister of Tourism, the former Minister of Transportation is familiar with it because he has been over it. He has talked to his officials about it when he was in Transportation and in fact it was he, I might say, who was responsible for that first bit of work that was done on the road. I am only sorry that he could not finish the job. So I only hope that the present Minister of Transportation, who I understand may be overseas on public business at the moment, will heed the prayer of the petition as will all members of the House so that we can give an indication of good faith to the people who reside on that road and so that something can be done in the current construction season. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I table this petition to be laid upon the table of the House and forwarded to the department to which it relates.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Ferryland.

MR. POWER: Mr. Speaker -

MR. SPEAKER: I believe the hon. gentleman for Ferryland is going to present a new petition.

MR. POWER: Yes, I am.

MR. SPEAKER: If the hon. gentleman yields and with the consent, the hon. member for LaPoile will be able to support the previous petition.

MR. NEARY: I will just take a moment, Sir, to say that I support the prayer of the petition

MR. NEARY:

so ably presented by my hon. colleague, the member for Conception Bay South (Mr. Nolan). And I support the petition, Mr. Speaker, on a sort of a personal note because my grandmother on my father's side was from that particular area and I do not think there is a soul by the name of Squires or Tucker in St. Phillip's that I am not related to in one way or another on my father's side. And I know Dogberry Hill Road - I beg your pardon?

AN HON. MEMBER: And they are all good people.

MR. NEARY: And they are all good people, Sir, and they are all fighters and they are all proud of their relative. Mr. Speaker, I know Dogberry Hill Road fairly well, Sir. I go down once in a while to visit George Albert Squires who lives about half way up that road - no, a little further than half way up. So I am very familiar with the road, Sir, and I can vouch for the description that was so eloquently and colourfully described here by my hon. colleague, Sir, in describing the condition of the road. So I wholeheartedly, Sir, support the prayer of the petition and I do hope that the Minister of Finance, who is not listening to me at the present time, who will not be a leadership candidate when the convention is called - the hon. gentleman cannot wait for the election to be called to gracefully retire from politics. I do hope the Minister of Finance - I knew I would get the hon. minister's attention -

MR. HICKMAN: You talking about me?

MR. NEARY: Yes, the hon. gentleman. I hope the hon. gentleman will be able to find a few paltry dollars to fix up Dogberry Hill Road and make it passable so that people can drive over it without puncturing the gas tanks of their cars -

MR. HICKMAN: I will take a look at it.

MR. NEARY: Take a look at it? But we have to get Transportation to take a look at it, too.

MR. HICKMAN: Not being a native of St. John's, I do not know the area.

MR. NEARY: Well, Sir, if the hon. gentleman will do that, Mr. Speaker, for all my relatives—I think I can speak on behalf of all my relatives in St. Phillip's area - if my hon. friend will do that he will go a little further than just an ordinary court reporter. We might even move him up to magistrate.

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

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the petition presented by my hon. colleague on behalf of the residents for the paving of the Dogberry Hill Road. I have no relatives there, Mr. Speaker, but in the Summer I drive quite a bit around that area. Because on my limited salary now that is about as far as I can go. This is the Dogberry Hill Road. I travel there and it is a beautiful area to visit and it is too bad that the drive is spoiled by having to drive over that terrible road. Mr. Speaker, I would rise to support all petitions asking for paving. I wanted to speak to the minister's petition as well but I did not realize that there was another petition being presented. It is terribly frustrating, Mr. Speaker, terribly inconvenient for the motoring public and for children who have to use those roads. I realize that it is a great expenditure of dollars to pave all of the roads in this Province that need paving, but certainly we have got to aim and hope to achieve this objective of having all major roads in the Province paved which will result in great comfort to the motoring public and also quite a reduction in expenses of operating vehicles because it does cost an awful lot by using the roads that are bumpy and in a deplorable state through punctured tires and broken shocks and broken springs and all sorts

MR. LUSH:

of inconvenience. So, Mr. Speaker, I support this petition wholeheartedly and hope that the minister responsible, the Minister of Transportation and Communications, will be able to see fit to do something about that road in this construction season, in this construction year.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Ferryland.

MR. POWER: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a petition on behalf of 1,282 residents of Ferryland district and the district of St. Mary's-The Capes. This petition and the prayer of the petition is basically dealing with pre-vocational facilities within the educational district of Ferryland from Bay Bulls through to the St. Shotts-Trepassey area, which takes in the two political districts of Ferryland and St. Mary's-The Capes.

The prayer of the petition reads, "Whereas high school students in many areas of this Province living in close driving proximity to vocational schools

MR. POWER:

can avail of special courses in pre-vocational education as part of their high school programme; and whereas high school students residing all along the Southern Shore in communities from Bay Bulls to St. Shotts have not access to a vocational school and as a result suffer an inequality in educational opportunity thereby missing a chance to be introduced to skills which could lead to a trade career or at least be valuable in living in rural Newfoundland; be it resolved that the government take immediate steps to provide facilities and extra teaching units to enable the Roman Catholic School Board for Ferryland district to implement a programme in pre-vocational education in each of the three high schools in the Southern Shore."

Mr. Speaker, I might add that there are three high schools in the Southern Shore area, one in Mobile, in the town in which I live, one a little further along the shore in Ferryland, and one in the community of Trepassey in the district of St. Mary's-The Capes. In those three areas where you have several thousands of students and certainly several hundreds and hundreds of high school students, one of the gravest problems that we have is not only access to vocational schools here in St. John's which makes it very difficult for us to compete with the massive population in this part of the Avalon, so besides there being a crying need for a vocational institute of some kind in the Trepassey-Ferryland area in the middle of the districts there is also a crying need in the area for some type of pre-selection.

I have often wondered at the grave wastage which takes place when students enter trade school here in St. John's or at our College of Trades and Technology, if you want, and enter into a course that they have entered

MR. POWER:

into for maybe only six week or five weeks and find that that course is totally to their unliking, that it is a course that they cannot cope with, a course that they do not wish to be in at that time simply because they have not availed themselves of a pre-vocational type of training or pre-selection course.

I have also received a copy, when the petition was sent to me on behalf of my friend from St. Mary's- The Capes, of a letter from the School Board in Mobile, which takes in the district, which emphasizes some of these features which really cause our students to be certainly in an unequal state. A part of the letter reads, "We on the Southern Shore along with other parts of Newfoundland and Labrador are not in the fortunate position of being close to a trade school. Schools are too far from the nearest vocational school to have students commute. Our only hope for introducing this aspect of education is to have pre-vocational teachers and facilities available at the high school level. If costs prevent the establishment of the necessary facilities in each high school, it might be possible to provide a board with a mobile facility which could be moved from one high school to another." We understand that this is done in some provinces and I would now like to ask and to beg the Minister of the Department of Education to look into the possibilities of having a mobile vocational type facility where a person could learn a little bit of carpentry or a little bit of mechanics or a little bit of electrical background where when that person came down to making maybe one of the most major decisions of his lifetime as to what course he would like to do, what would he like to do so with his life when he leaves high school, would he like

MR. POWER:

to be a mechanic or an electrician or a carpenter or a plumber, that maybe we would make that choice a little bit easier, a little bit more clear and maybe make that person a little bit of a greater contributor to our communities. And even if they never went into any of those courses, if they went to university, certainly the skills that they would have learned in their pre-vocational course in high school would certainly stand them in good stead in any part of rural Newfoundland.

Mr. Speaker, I certainly think that this petition is an extremely important one in the field of education. We have other educational problems in our area as have come out during the last few months, but certainly this one of having no pre-vocational selection of courses in our area certainly puts our students at a severe handicap. I would like to have this petition tabled in the House and referred to the department to which it is concerned. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Trinity-Bay de Verde followed by the hon. Minister of Fisheries.

MR. F. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, I wish to speak in support of the petition supported by the member for Ferryland district (Mr. Power). I am not quite sure exactly what the prayer of the petition was and I stand corrected when I try to relate what I think the prayer of the petition is. I think what the hon. member was saying was that in the particular area there are hundreds of high school students who do not have the facilities of a vocational school - is that correct? - and therefore wish to have additional teachers in their high schools in the three areas concerned for the purpose of teaching pre-vocational educational courses so that -

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MR. POWER: Something similar to -

MR. F. ROWE: Right. So that when they do go to the College of Trades and Technology or/and vocational schools they are better prepared to enter into these courses if they make the right choice.

MR. F. ROWE:

Now, Sir, there are a couple of things there that I would like to raise in support of the petition. Number one, Your Honour when you were Minister of Education I believe introduced a experimental vocational programme into some of the high schools in the Province and I would like to hear from the Minister of Education now as to the progress of that experimental programme and how exactly it would relate to the area mentioned by the member for Ferryland (Mr. Power).

MR. NEARY: Seal Cove, I think.

MR. F. ROWE: Your Honour, I can remember the first vocational school used for such an experimental programme was the Seal Cove Vocational School. However, this was a case where students were taken out of school and I believe brought physically to the vocational school. I was wondering what is being done in the Province to help these students in high school who are not in close proximity to the eleven or so or fourteen or so vocational schools that we have in the Province at this time. I would like the Minister of Education to update us on the experimental programme and whether or not it has been modified to take care of the situation suggested by my friend and colleague from Ferryland.

Secondly, Sir, at this very time that we have cutbacks in the number of teachers in the schools here we have a member opposite in the backbenches calling for, in fact, an increase in the number of teachers in the school system. This is the very thing, Sir, that we have been arguing against all along when this teacher cutback was announced, that it most affects the specialist area. And in this particular case we are talking about a

MR. F. ROWE:

specialist area that really does not exist and really the member for Ferryland (Mr. Power) is asking that a new specialist area be created for the purpose of preparing students, high school students, for entrance into vocational schools and the College of Trades and Technology.

Once again, Sir, it comes back to this whole business of teacher specialization with respect to guidance. Here again we can see the need for guidance specialists in such schools in order to determine and assist students as to whether or not they want to carry on in an academic kind of an education after they leave high school, whether they want to carry on in a vocational technical type of education after high school or whether they want to go into the work force or into some sort of an on the job training kind of a course that you find in a bank or a charter accountancy and this sort of thing.

Sir, the petition points out very, very clearly and supports and endorses and substantiates our arguments about why in fact we should not have teacher cutbacks at this particular time and we should put a moratorium on the cutback of the number of teachers in our school, the layoff of these teachers until such time as a task force studying this particular problem is brought before the government and the recommendations are studied and a particular action is taken. Sir, I wholeheartedly endorse and support the petition put forth by the member for Ferryland and I hope that a number of members on both sides of the House will stand up and support the petition because really what the member for Ferryland has done now is introduced a new factor, a new element into this whole business of the

MR. F. ROWE:

teacher supply problem in this particular Province. Sir, I would be the first to admit that in terms of quantity, bodies of teachers versus bodies students, you may be able to put up an argument with respect to whether you should lay off teachers or take on more teachers or keep the number of teachers that we have on hand. However, in terms of quality of education and the need for specialist teaching in certain areas, there is no doubt in my mind, Sir, that we should have the very opposite of layoffs, we should be taking on more teachers for these particular areas. And I commend my colleague for having the courage to bring in a petition which flies really right into the face of the government's educational policy at the present time.

I am not trying to embarrass my colleague opposite at all but the petition in fact is dead set against the existing government policy as it relates to the number of teachers in our schools.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Fisheries.

MR. W. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the petition. I suppose if it were possible to jointly present a petition then I would have to join my colleague and neighbor in the Ferryland district in presenting the petition because it was, I think, presented to us jointly and of course the

Mr. W. Carter: signatures on the petition, numbering in all 1,282, contain a number of signatures from the electoral district St. Mary's-The Capes. I am pleased to present the petition for a number of what I think good reasons, one being that there is a desperate need for that kind of pre-vocational training in the area. Secondly, of course, the fact that there are no trade schools within commuting distance from the areas mentioned, especially from the extreme areas mentioned, that of St. Shotts and Trepassey, in my view indicates maybe that there is a great need for that kind of a facility. Thirdly, of course, the districts that we have the honour to represent, Ferryland and St. Mary's - The Capes, are in every sense of the word the rural districts. Ferryland district, and the district of St. Mary's-The Capes are working men's districts, a lot of blue collar workers are in the area. Now, of course, with the upswing in fishery activity in both districts there is a substantial work force developing in that area. In fact, I suppose, in the two districts concerned, in the areas concerned I would suggest there are anywhere from 2,000 to 3,000 people employed in the processing sector of the fishing industry. And that in itself, Mr. Speaker, would indicate that there is need for some kind of a pre-vocational training facility in the area. It might well be that in the absence of a more sophisticated facility, maybe the mobile facility concept, as pointed out in the covering letter with the petition, would suffice. But certainly I believe government will have to give some very serious thought to the construction of a fullfledged trade school in that particular area sometime in the near future.

I appreciate what my colleague, the Minister of Education, has done in that regard in many areas of the Province. I think he will be probably speaking to this petition, and at the same time he will give some indication as to exactly how many of these facilities now exist in the Province. But, Mr. Speaker, in Newfoundland today, and not unlike other eras, we have had too many round pegs in square holes as it were. Of course, that stems mainly from the fact that there was too little attention given students in, especially, the

Mr. W. Carter: high school area of our system with respect to pre-vocational training and trying to find out the various slots in which they were best suited.

This kind of a facility, this pre-vocational facility will certainly help overcome that very serious problem, the problem again of having too many people being streamed in the wrong direction, and ending up in many cases trying to do work for which they are totally unsuited, and both psychologically as well as vocationally.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support this petition. I commend it to my colleague the Minister of Education with the strong request that every effort be made within the very near future to accede to the request of the petitioners.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I rise too to support the prayer of the petition presented by the member for Ferryland on behalf of 1,282 of the hon. the member's constituents. The hon. gentleman did not say whether any high school students actually signed the petition or if they were all voters.

MR. POWER: I think there were some, judging by the names.

MR. NEARY: Some of the names are of high school students, which goes to show the interest of the students in that area, in the district of Ferryland, and in St. Mary's-The Capes, Sir, to have pre-vocational training brought to the Southern Shore of this Province, not the only part of the Province, by the way, Sir, where the problem exists. Your Honour introduced a programme when he was Minister of Education, as my hon. colleague pointed out to the House, an experimental one, a pilot project in Seal Cove that seemed to work out fairly well, but in all cases, I believe, the students are brought to the vocational schools.

MR. NEARY:

And in the case of Ferryland of course with the road conditions and so forth they are not within commuting distance of the vocational schools, although I believe the Fishery College does go out into the field, out in the rural areas. The Fishery College have training programmes that they bring into the communities. I do not know if they have any mobile equipment or not but I know they use whatever facilities are available, halls and the like belonging to the school boards and the churches in various parts of the Province. But even they, I believe, have cut back on their programme of going out into the rural areas, which is rather unfortunate, Sir, in this day and age when we are trying to develop the fishery in this Province.

I was rather amused to say the least at the hon. Minister of Fisheries who on the one hand sits in Cabinet and goes along with a decision, assists in the taking of a decision to cut back in the field of education and then supports a petition in the House asking for expanded facilities in the field of education.

MR. W. CARTER: A different direction.

MR. NEARY: A different direction. Oh I see, Sir.

So it is a different direction. But what about the money? Is that -

MR. W. CARTER: That is different.

MR. NEARY: That is different. The hon. gentleman sits down on the eighth floor and says, "Yes, Minister of Education you have to cut back. I am not resigning from the Cabinet because I go along with this decision of the Cabinet. Cabinet solidarity, we must be united. I am going along with this decision to cut back in the field of education, to lower the quality of education

MR. NEARY:

in this Province," and then comes into the House and supports a petition presented by his colleague saying that we should have expanded educational facilities, in this case, pre-vocational facilities. I cannot sort of get the thing straight in my mind of how the minister can wear two hats in this particular case. I would suggest that the minister do his battling in Cabinet, fight with his colleague, the Minister of Education, in Cabinet.

Well, Sir, it is a good petition, I believe. It is a problem not only in the district of Ferryland but all over Newfoundland and Labrador, and I would say especially in Labrador. We have managed to build in this Province a technical college, a regional college on the West Coast, eighteen vocational schools, a College of Fisheries second to none in the world, and yet, Sir, we have not been able to reach a large number of young men and women who live in the rural parts of this Province and that is rather unfortunate indeed.

I do not know if dormitories are the answer, by bringing the students in for a couple of days a week. I do not know if that is the answer or getting mobile equipment to bring the facilities out to the schools but it is certainly something, Sir, that the Minister of Education and the Minister of Manpower are going to have to struggle with in the foreseeable future and see what can be done to bring pre-vocational training to the young men and women in the rural parts of this Province who are interested in this kind of training.

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

MR. RIDEOUT: Mr. Speaker, I rise to say a few words in support of the petition presented by my friend from

MR. RIDEOUT:

Ferryland. I think the concept that forms the prayer of the petition, Sir, is an excellent one especially as it applies to pre-vocational training and pre-vocational education in the rural parts of this Province. I would say to my friend from Ferryland, Mr. Speaker, that the concept that the petition talks about is not a new one. In fact, the very proposal itself as outlined in the prayer of this petition has been on the desk of the Premier for the last four or five months. I do know that the Cape John Collegiate in LaScie, for example, in my district, which is thirty-five miles away from the vocational school in Bale Verte, a round trip of seventy miles and which therefore cannot take part in any pre-vocational programmes, that they may offer have already made a proposal to the government through the Premier and I would assume a copy to the Minister of Education - I have a copy of it - asking that this very type of programme that this petition calls for be set up in the rural areas of our Province. And I am very hopeful that now that a petition has been brought in by a member or a supporter of the government and supported as it appears, unanimously by this House, that the government, the Premier and the government will give very serious consideration to that type of programme.

It is very important as I have said in the rural areas of the Province, in the LaScie area of my district which is seventy miles by round trip away from any pre-vocational programme. It would be very important in the Roddickton-Englee area of my district which is a couple of hundred miles away from by round trip the nearest vocational school, in St. Anthony for example. So I think the concept itself is a good one, one that we

MR. RIDEOUT:

ought to be exploring and getting into, and I would hope that some positive steps will be taken in this regard by the government, be it now that a petition has been brought in supporting the concept and also that the concept has been proposed to the Premier, as I have said, by the staff of the Cape John Collegiate and the Green Bay Integrated School Board some four or five months ago.

Mr. Speaker, I take great pleasure in supporting the prayer of the petition.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. member for Terra Nova.

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to support this petition, a rather unique petition, a good petition, a petition that is asking the government to provide the opportunity to give students more of an opportunity to develop their talents and their skills, to try and narrow the gap of equal educational opportunity as it exists in the urban areas of this Province and as it is in the rural areas of this Province, and to come closer to equality with the remainder of Canada where they have been doing this kind of work for years, offering students courses for which students might have other interests other than purely the academic work. In the educational field and with the educational jargon what we would say is that this petition is a move from the Procrustean type curriculum. Procrustes was a creature of Greek mythology who took travellers, and the problem was that the beds were all the same size and if the traveller was too short to fit the bed then he was stretched and pulled until he fitted the bed, and if he was too tall then his legs were chopped off to bring him down to size. That has been one of the major complaints with the school curriculum today, that it has been a Procrustean type curriculum, that we are making the students to fit the curriculum. This is a move whereby a student would be allowed to select courses for which he has some greater interest, for which he has more aptitude and not force him into a stream for which he has no interest or no aptitude, a method to get away from the expression used by the hon. Minister of Fisheries of trying to put square pegs in round holes.

MR. LUSH: So, Mr. Speaker, I support the petition wholeheartedly and would hope that the minister will be able to see fit to be able to accommodate the requests of the petitioners. I am not sure, Mr. Speaker, that it takes a great degree of effort and a great degree of expenditure to be able to do the kind of thing that petitioners are requesting. I believe that we can use many of our present, existing day schools to carry on pre-vocational education. I am sure that the space is there in lots of our schools to do this sort of thing. I know that I got the request from one particular school in my district, in Glovertown, where they feel a little bit discriminated against because there is no vocational school in the area and they look just a short distance East and observe what is going on in Clarendville where the students there are exposed to the opportunities to pursue pre-vocational courses. This aspect, Mr. Speaker, of certain students given the opportunity to do pre-vocational courses has an awful lot to it more than meets the eye with respect to quality of education. For example, students are relieved of their regular day school work to go and do those courses at the vocational schools while their regular day school teachers are left behind to prepare work for the next day or the next week, thus improving the quality of education and yet in other areas they cannot have this kind of a service. It is unfortunate and I would hope that the minister would look into the possibility of seeing what can be done within our present day schools. I know that equipment has to be purchased and this sort of thing, but I believe that we can do a much better job towards providing pre-vocational education for students in this Province by using our present day school facilities and it can

Mr. Lush: be done probably with not too much expenditures of the public dollars of this Province, and certainly what is spent would be well spent towards developing the skills and the talents of the young people of this Province, towards developing them to becoming contributing citizens to the economy of our Province.

So I, Mr. Speaker, hope that the minister on rising and speaking in support of this petition will be able to announce to the House today that he plans to do something in this respect for the good of the students of this Province, and for the people of this Province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR. J. ROUSSEAU: Very seldom, Mr. Speaker, but today I have to stand up and address myself to the concept of the petition. I certainly agree with it fully. I had some experience when I was the Principal of the Sacred Heart section of the J.R. Smallwood School in Wabush a few years ago, when we had an experiment up there. We had, of course, as many of you know what it was called the Wabush Plan; the Roman Catholic section and the Integrated section got their own academic courses on their wings, and it was a central, shared facility that we both used and it was jointly administered by both principals, the Integrated principal and myself.

AN HON. MEMBER: Shared?

MR. ROUSSEAU: Yes, we shared teachers. One section was responsible for certain aspects of the courses, and the other section was responsible for the other aspects, the administration and the hiring of teachers. And we had at that time industrial arts, home economics, music, physical education, art, all the subjects that are classified as non-academic. I think it is very important that students be given an opportunity to see the range of subjects that they may take a liking to. I think it is especially today, Mr. Speaker, since the trend is not really towards the university as it was a very short number of years ago. many more students now are attending the vocational schools, and I think

Mr. Rousseau: that giving a student the wide range of experiences in all aspects of education, it gives the student a better opportunity in consultation with his guidance counsellor to determine which area he would like to go into. For example, the general pass in Grade XI will accept a home economics or an industrial arts subject as one of the topics for - we started the programme in Grade VII and went through Grade XI. Industrial arts, for example, there was a course each year; Grade VII, I think, was carpentry, the first year; and then electrical, and mechanical, and so on through for five years. A lot of the students now after two or three years decided they did not want to do that. So, of course, it also poses a problem for time-tabling.

But I think the situation that did occur at Wabush in the J. R. Smallwood Collegiate, both sections certainly co-operated, I think a lot of it depends on the personalities of the school boards and the personalities of the administration of both schools, but there is no reason why they cannot get along to such an extent that this sort of a programme enlarges quite heavily the scope of the educational system. It is a real practical problem that one school could do that. But there is no reason why a number of schools could not get together and probably have one common, shared facility, a day and a half, two days a week, at least to give students the opportunity to react to these experiences. And as I say I feel very strongly that now that the trend has been that the university is not the only place of higher learning in this Province, as I presume in other provinces, then we have an onus as government, as the House of Assembly, to ensure that each student gets the greatest possible range of experiences, and they cannot get that merely in the classroom doing the academic work because all of the teachers, I am sure, and I presume all the members of the House of Assembly know that a lot of more education goes on outside the four walls of the actual classroom than may go on inside the four walls of the classroom. So there are a lot of ways that that can be done at lower cost. There are some of course that are going to take some cost but by co-operation amongst the schools and school boards, I think

Mr. Rousseau: that the opportunity could be arranged whereby these students would have the broadest possible range of educational experiences which is most important to them in respect to choosing their future vocation in life, and their future higher seat, if any, of learning.

So I fully support the concept of the petition,

Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. HOUSE: Mr. Speaker, I wish to speak to the petition and support it, I guess, in principle. I just want to comment first of all upon the programme that is presently in place. About 25 per cent of the high school students in the Province are actively taking part in pre-vocational education, and contrary, I guess, to what is believed most of these pupils are from the rural parts of Newfoundland because usually the vocational schools in the larger centres are too over-crowded to use for pre-vocational. So it is about 24 per cent. I guess everybody

MR. HOUSE:

is aware that a few years ago an effort was made through the Federal government under the existing programmes that were in effect under the DREE schools to try and get them to support us on a seventy-five-twenty-five basis to build pre-vocational wings on all high schools. That was in Your Honour's time, of course. But I think it was about a year and a half ago that we received word from them that that would not be possible because they were not supporting regular schools any further. So that hope that we had to get that kind of thing and get programmes in all our high schools was quashed with that news from the DREE people.

We are now working on a programme with our industrial arts to try and develop a programme. As the hon. member for Menikiek (Mr. Rousseau) just mentioned, they had an extensive programme in that school running from Grade VII through to Grade XI. I think this is the kind of thing we are thinking about now, and there is a programme being developed by our industrial arts consultant.

One of the real problems in Newfoundland, there are mixed feelings, I think, with educators across the Province. We do only have a three year high school programme, and a lot of people have mixed feelings about bringing in these kinds of programmes because they say our school career is too short and therefore we dilute our academic programme. And that is one of the best reasons that we see for the introduction of Grade XII, to expand the programme so that you can get at least an industrial component. And I think this is backed up very strongly by a recent book that is written by the C.T.F. secretary, Mr. Gobel, who talks about half a revolution where he

MR. HOUSE: says that the high schools across Canada by virtue of the fact that we are catering to all the pupils, we are not meeting their needs, and we are not meeting their needs because we are not catering to the utilitarian aspects of education which we call pre-vocational or industrial arts. So these things are being actively talked about now and the programmes are being developed. It is a matter of cost. I must admit it is going to be very costly. And the other thing is, of course, there is a committee working on a programme for recommendations on Grade XII, so this will be all intertwined. And I am hopeful that in a few years we will have some very good programmes in the schools.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

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

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of the petition presented by the member for Ferryland (Mr. Power), the prayer of a petition that asks for improved educational opportunities overlapping in two districts, the district of Ferryland and the district of St. Mary's-The Capes. And as former supporters of the petition in their remarks have said, Mr. Speaker, there is no question about it, the need is there. The students should be given every opportunity possible to avail themselves of the best educational opportunities.

I know in my own home town of Norman's Cove, students at least once a week are bused from that high school to the vocational school in Placentia where they there get at least a taste of what goes on in the vocational school. They get some of the skills, and, of course, no doubt this probably helps them and guides them into knowing perhaps and making up their mind whether or

MR. CALLAN: not they would like to enter this course or enter this trade or take up this trade when they have finished their high school academic programme.

In supporting the prayer of the petition, Mr. Speaker - and I was rather reluctant, actually, to rise and support the petition in the first place, because, you know, there was too much of a contradiction there. I was tempted, as I always am, to rise and support petitions that have to do with improved road conditions; I was tempted to rise and support that petition. I did not do it because there seemed to be too much of a contradiction. I do not know, Mr. Speaker, what kind of a hypocrite the Minister of Tourism can be.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! I would ask the hon. gentleman to withdraw that remark.

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker, let me say that no member of this House of Assembly has any more respect for the Chair than I have, but

MR. CALLAN: I believe that remark too sincerely to take it back. I was referring to the Minister of Tourism and I believe it too firmly to withdraw it.

MR. SPEAKER: I call upon the hon. gentleman to withdraw the remark. There are situations in which the Chair has options or judgements and discretion to exercise and there are situations in which the Chair has no discretion to exercise, situations in which the Chair is required, by the rules which govern hon. members, to take a specific course of action. It is not my wish at all to have to take that course but the rule is totally operative on me. It would appear to me to be an anomaly if the hon. gentleman puts me in a position to do that. We are not in a heated debate, we are on petitions, I do not think there is any particular disagreement between hon. members on one side and the other side. Everybody assumably supports the petition. So it would be a most unusual situation in which I were to be required to take that action. Yet required I would be because the rules are as binding on me in their enforcement as they are on hon. members in their observance.

I therefore call upon the hon. gentleman to withdraw the allegation of hypocrisy.

The hon. member for Bellevue.

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker, I do not know what to say actually. As I already said, it is no reflection on the Chair whatsoever or this hon. House. But I referred to two hon. Cabinet Ministers who spoke on petitions as being hypocritical and, as I say, I believe it too sincerely and too firmly to withdraw.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! I think I did explain totally the position of the Chair and the rules of the House in this respect. I have no choice. I name the hon. member for Bellevue, Mr. Wilson Callan.

The hon. Minister of Education I thought had spoken on this petition.

AN HON. MEMBER: Maybe it is another one.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Education.

MR. HOUSE: Mr. Speaker, I wish to present a petition on behalf of 404 residents from the Hampden area and that covers I think the communities of Bayside, Rooms and Beaches and they are requesting action regarding television coverage in the area and the prayer of the petition reads that, "We, the undersigned residents of Hampden do hereby petition the House of Assembly to put pressure on the CBC to honour their commitment made to us in a letter to have a television transmitter, a rebroadcaster for the community of Hampden"

Mr. Speaker, the first efforts were made in 1971 to get a better signal in that area and there was a promise made in 1973. At the present time the signal from the Bay Verte area, I think, and Hampden is farther up the Bay and there is not a good signal - the signal is weak at times and it is almost invisible, and when they are watching television, watching a hockey game of course and see a scramble in front of the net and cannot see the puck you get a little frustrated. But when you are watching it in Hampden you cannot see the puck at all. This is the kind of coverage that they are getting. They are not asking for two stations. I have heard petitions coming in asking for a second station, they are just asking for a signal.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Hey, 'Wallace' They had to shovel Perry Mason up a bank of snow, did they not?

MR. HOUSE: That is right.

Last year the former Minister of Transportation and Communications had written, as I did, and they promised that they would have a new facility there this year, by the end of this year, the current year 1978. And that was the fifth promise, I think, and now they get a letter back last week saying that they regret to advise that there has been some delays in their accelerated coverage plan implementation and now the projected date

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MR. HOUSE:

is December 1979.

So what it is the people feel that
they are not being taken seriously, that they are being put off
year after year. They have

MR. HOUSE:

been advised that it is not a very costly operation to install that particular facility so they are asking now this House to apply pressure-or the House to ask government to apply pressure to get the action taken this year. So I wish to table the said petition and have it referred to the appropriate department.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. S. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure, Sir, to support the -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. S. NEARY: - prayer of this petition, Sir.

This is not the first time, Mr. Speaker, that we have had a petition in this hon. House criticising the services and the programming provided by the CBC, by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, by the publicly owned Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, which was set up as an instrument of national purpose which turned out to be an instrument of national destruction. In my own district of LaPoile we have had untold complaints about the programming and about the reception of CBC television on the Southwest corner of the Province and along the Southwest Coast, in Grand Bruit and LaPoile in my own district and further down in Grey River. I think they have rectified the situation now more or less in Rames. They have made some adjustments to the transmitter that was put in there last year and so reception is a little bit better now, Sir, in Grand Bruit and LaPoile and in the Grey River area than it was heretofore. They had an awful lot of interruptions. But the programming is still lousy. The people would go out of their minds, Sir, they nearly flipped their lids at what they are forced to watch.

AN HON. MEMBER: They can switch back and forth.

MR. S. NEARY: No, they cannot switch back and forth, there is only one channel in the area. They go berserk, Sir, having to watch the so-called Canadian content.

MR. S. NEARY: And I believe next month, in June, the owner of the private station is being hauled, dragged into court because he violated the CRTC regulations on Canadian content, and I believe as members of this House, Sir, that we should come out in support of the hon. gentleman. I was almost tempted myself to have a province-wide petition circulated saying how much we appreciate the work that has been done by the private broadcasting corporation in this Province, the NBC television, in providing us with some decent programming. And now we have the CRTC, aided and abetted by the publicly owned broadcasting corporation that is costing the taxpayers of this nation I believe \$500 million a year, shoving down our throats programs, so-called Canadian content that we do not want, and it is about time that we let them know up in the Mainland that we do not want this. It is alright in Toronto or in Montreal. They can get cable television, they can get a half a dozen channels from down across the border down in the United States but here, Sir, in the rural parts of this Province, in the remote areas, they are forced to watch one channel and that is the CBC, and that is bad enough but then they are forced to watch so much - what is the percentage, do you remember?

AN HON. MEMBER: It is a high percentage.

MR. S. NEARY: It is a high percentage anyway of so-called Canadian content and apparently the so-called Canadian content, Sir, the sexier they make it, the more vulgar language they use in these programmes, so-called Canadian content, they think that makes them popular, makes it popular.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. S. NEARY: And the minister agrees with me and I am glad the minister agrees with me because it is true. We have been at this now for so long! In Labrador West -

MR. ROUSSEAU: They are going to have their (inaudible) corporation.

MR. S. NEARY: Thank God we are going to get rid of Peter Gzowski. Thank God he is going. There would be more televisions broken up, smashed up in Labrador West and down in my own district and along the Southwest Coast if they left that nincompoop on the air! He may be a good man for what he is used to doing, a news man.

MR. ROUSSEAU: CBC (Inaudible)

MR. S. NEARY: And then on top of that in Labrador West they are forced to watch so much French, are they not? Do they still have that policy down there?

MR. ROUSSEAU: Two channels.

MR. S. NEARY: Well, two channels -

MR. KIDEOUT: Gzowski should come down here and cover the House.

MR. S. NEARY: Yes, that is right. Peter Gzowski can now move down here and do what he is best at and that is do news, news coverage. He might come down. We might be able to get the CBC reporters removed from the gallery and bring in Peter Gzowski to see if we can get some objective reporting from this House to CBC. That might be a good job for the hon. gentleman. But after all we have said about him, he may not be

MR. NEARY: so objective after all.

But, Sir, I support the prayer of the petition. And I do not know when, Mr. Speaker, I do not know when the word is going to filter through to the Government of Canada and the CRTC that we are fed up to our teeth with the service and with the programming and with the reception that we are getting in this Province from the publicly owned Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. It is time for them to do something about it or get out of the business altogether and turn it over to private enterprise. Let the CBC look after the rural parts of the Province, as they are supposed to be doing.

It is a shame, Mr. Speaker. There is nothing, Sir, that I - I cannot find adjectives to describe my feelings about the matter. When I go down to my own district, and I was down again this weekend, and the main complaint in my district, the main complaint is with television reception and with the CBC programming. I bet you if you went into the rural parts of this Province and you said, "What is the number one problem?" - because I did a survey of Labrador, as my hon. friend knows, and the number one complaint was not air services, was not hospital services, was not unemployment - the number one complaint, Sir, was radio and television programming and reception. Not so much now radio because the private stations have gone into Labrador, and have gone into the rural areas. Dr. Noel Murphy's station has gone into Wabush. They are down in my district. They are all over the Province. But television, Sir, is bad, and it is about time that something was done about it.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Tourism followed by the hon. member for Port au Port.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, in saying a few words in support of this petition, I would point out that the correspondence

MR. MORGAN: attached to the petition as Minister of Transportation and Communications I was involved in this matter in Hampden I was involved in fact in a number of communities around the Province. And as a result of many complaints and requests of this nature for extended coverage by CBC TV, and in fact improved radio broadcast reception as well, as a result of these requests and complaints a study was commenced back in 1978 and financed by both levels of government, Federal and Provincial Governments, to determine the problem that exists. The problem was clearly defined and in Hampden, for example, I note with some astonishment that despite the firm commitment given to me while Minister of Communications by the regional engineer of CBC to the extent that there would be a relay or a rebroadcaster established in Hampden in '78, I now find that correspondence sent just recently, I think it is Mr. Osmond who is the Chairman of the Committee in the area, again by CBC saying that they apologize for the delay and they regret the delay, that now there will be no relay centre constructed there or rebroadcaster until some time in '79. And the fact that it has been going on since 1973 is annoying to me because it was a firm commitment given while I was Minister of Communications that it would be done this year.

Now I would like to make one point, Mr. Speaker, that presently there is legislation drafted and ready for the House of Commons by the Federal Minister of Communications. It is called the new communications legislation, or act. In that legislation it points out that the CRTC will be instructed by the Governor in Council, in this case the Federal Cabinet, to have the carriers, in this case the CBC which is owned by the taxpayers of the Country, to instruct them to go into areas and to improve the reception of TV and radio. And I think it is long overdue. It is good legislation on the part of the federal minister. I agree with it totally. I was involved in the drafting of the legislation, involved by means of consultation with all the ministers across the nation, and it

MR. MORGAN: is about time, in my view, that the CRTC can come along to CBC and actually tell them, instruct them. The taxpayers are paying for the operation of CBC. They cannot go to Mr. Stirling of the NBC network but they can come to CBC and say, "You get into Hamden, and do a rebroadcast centre or a relay centre." And it is long overdue because I hate to see a situation where - in St. John's today we have cable television in certain areas, switch from channel to channel, channel to channel, all kinds of movies and TV news broadcasts, etc., from across the USA and across the nation, but go to parts of my colleague's district and he cannot even get one TV channel. And I think it is time that we recognize the needs of the rural parts of our country, in this case the CBC, the National Broadcast Corporation, recognize the needs of rural Newfoundland and Labrador. And this is long

MR. MORGAN: overdue when they can be told what to do in our Province.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. member for Port au Port.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, I would like to as well speak on this problem. I suppose it is too bad that the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs is not here because perhaps he could take it up with some of his counterparts in Ottawa. In the district which I represent we have a problem which is probably unique in that we have three TV stations, one which is the French network. Now there are two or three communities in the district which are basically French, where about, I would say, sixty to seventy per cent of the people in those communities speak French in their homes, or the older people speak French, but there is one community in particular which is, I suppose, the most French community in the district. Now a couple of years ago Radio Canada, or the CBC, put a French transmitter in the area to service or for the benefit of the people. It was requested by the people of that area and it is something that is really needed to preserve the culture. The French speaking people there are trying to hold on to their culture. They are not allied with Quebec, they are French Newfoundlanders and there is a French immersion programme in one of the schools. But the odd thing about it is that this transmitter, while the people of Stephenville get - it is the best channel we get, the French channel - the people of Kippens and Port au Port, where there is very little French spoken, they all get the French channel, but the people in the community of Mainland do not receive that channel, they cannot get the channel. The channel was actually put there and meant for them and many, many letters have gone to the CRTC and the CBC but we have had no action on it. I would like to see some action taken on that. As far as the other channels are concerned, I understand that except for the fact that the CJON signal is weak there, and there are problems from time to time, basically they are okay. While I am speaking on this I would like to say one other thing, that the fishermen in the district

MR. HODDER: of Port au Port, it is a developing fishery and it is also a fishery where there are no harbours so that the fishermen must depend on the weather forecast more than most fishermen around the Province because they just cannot go in and tie up in a sheltered place. I would like for anybody in the galleries from the CBC to take note of this, I will be writing later on to the CBC when I get a chance, but the fishermen have asked me, they all watch that Here and Now programme and they have asked me if I would try to get in touch with the CBC to get a good marine weather forecast; they say that the forecast that they personally get is not adequate. And it is the time of the day when they are all home; usually very early in the morning they are all gone and they do not get back and that is the one that they always watch, It is at the right time of the evening for them and they have asked for a good marine weather forecast. Now I know that has nothing to do with the petition but I thought I would say it anyhow.

I will just end by saying that I do sympathize with the problems of the people of Hampden and I do hope that something will be done to alleviate their problems.

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

MR. NOLAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am only kidding. I certainly rise to support the prayer of the petition, Mr. Speaker. I believe it is time that the citizens of this country - I talk about Canada and in our particular case the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador - to take a good hard look at the operation of the CBC as it is constituted both provincially and nationally. Nationally of course we should have greater input from the CRTC insofar as the functioning and operation of the CBC is concerned. When I rise to castigate the CBC, as I do, I want it clearly understood that throughout the network there are some quite remarkable, talented and creative people both in the technical end, the production and every other side of the broadcast and telecast media.

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MR. NOLAN: However, as one who spent a good chunk of his life in the private broadcasting, may I say that within the CBC we have criticized from time to time in this House, as members of the Opposition and as have members, I might say, on the opposite side, of certain bureaucratic structures that we have created and built up in provincial agencies and corporations of one kind or another; what we do not have a crack at often enough I am afraid is the CBC. As one who, as I said, spent most of his life in private broadcasting, I can

MR. NOLAN: tell you that some of the fat cats that operate - some of the so-called intellectual elite which are enough to turn your guts - that operate both nationally and provincially are enough to make you sick of this corporation.

MR. NEARY: Hear, hear!

MR. NOLAN: I am not satisfied even with, as the hon. member opposite, and minister indicated, to have perhaps the necessary guidance from the CRTC. I think it is too far removed in many instances, because oftentimes it does not get down to the local level, at least to the point that I would like to see it. I do not know if it is possible or not, but is it beyond the wit of man, is it so unrealistic that there could not be a board of directors of some kind of citizens - plain, ordinary citizens - and they are the only product you have if you are in the media. If you are in the business of radio and television, either you have the viewers or the listeners or you have not, and if you have not you are out of business or you should be.

Now in the case of the C.B.C. in comparison to much that goes on in the private network and one, I am sure, as my hon. friend, the Speaker, who spent some time in the trade in his day will perhaps testify, if you were to see sometimes the behaviour of some of these nitwits in their arrogant behaviour who feel because they are with the C.B.C. that it is a sort of broadcast senate seat!

MR. NEARY: Hear, hear!

MR. NOLAN: To hell with this! I mean, I am talking about men and women who have to make a living. I am also talking about the situation where you have perhaps the most powerful media in the world, the most

MR. NOLAN: powerful of all perhaps particularly when you realize the numbers of hours a day that children and adults spend looking at T.V., we have got to have a say in what is there. If we put not a cent into it at all, we have a right to offer our feelings and expressions and so on. We have a duty to do so, but if we are paying for it we are negligent and derelict in our duty if we do not see to it and speak out when we see something that is going on. Those who operate oftentimes in the private sector must feel like they are a welfare package beside the C.B.C. Sometimes when you have one or two bodies to produce a programme on the private side you may have fifteen or more in the C.B.C.

MR. NEARY: That is right.

MR. NOLAN: And I think it is wrong, because oftentimes the product coming out the other end is not that good. There has to be a greater local input into the operation of the C.B.C. in this Province.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. NOLAN: We have to have, I believe, a good look on behalf of all citizens to see what they would want in the type of broadcasting they are getting. I mean, have we now reached the point where the C.B.C. is only good enough for the mighty elite in St. John's or the major metropolitan areas?

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. NOLAN: Are those who are living in the more remote areas that my friends opposite and on this side refer to, I mean, are they broadcast scruff? Are they not entitled to the same division of the dollar and of the media for educational purposes or whatever as anyone else? Who do they think they are in the C.B.C.? Sometimes

MR. NOLAN: their behaviour indicates quite clearly that they have sort of an alleged intellectual snobbery that makes them feel that they know what is best for this country and for its people. Well, it is time that the people on the other end of the box started speaking back and to do so strongly. The C.B.C. is not performing its function either nationally or provincially and it is time now that those of us who are aware of what has happened to the remote areas of this Province where they are being neglected by this massive electronic giant -

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. NOLAN: - it is time that they paid their dues to the people who are paying the shot. And no longer should we sit back and bow and cow to that tribe, because that is exactly what some of them have become. I believe, in fact, that unless more ordinary people speak out - you do not have to have spent a lot of your life in broadcasting to speak out about what you see on radio and television, your opinion is important, too. The trouble with Newfoundlanders oftentimes we are too darned used to accepting anything and everything that anyone wants to feed us from Toronto.

MR. NEARY: Hear, hear!

AN HON. MEMBER: Too complacent.

MR. NOLAN: Too complacent.

AN HON. MEMBER: That is right.

MR. NOLAN: And it is time we put a stop to it.

AN HON. MEMBER: Right.

MR. NOLAN: So I certainly support the prayer of the petition, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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Tape 3463

EC - 4

MR. SPEAKER:
Labour and Manpower.

The hon. the Minister of

MR. ROUSSEAU: I fully support the petition, Mr. Speaker. I remember in late 1974 and 1975 when I was Minister of Transportation and Communications I kept hearing about this accelerated package plan, and I said then somewhere during that time, between October, 1974 and October, 1975 that the only acceleration in the plan was at a rate that the C.B.C. wanted.

It is not too often that one can stand up in the House of Assembly and say that he can speak and know that every constituent in his constituency supports the statement he is going to make, but I have no doubt about saying right now that the people of Menihek, Western Labrador, would

MR. ROUSSEAU: string me up if I did not say how very, very, very, very, very pleased we are that Mr. Gzowski is no longer on the late night night show. I believe that other hon. members in Labrador may feel the same way.

MR. ROBERTS: I think several of us would second that motion.

MR. ROUSSEAU: It is unfortunate that we had to put up with him so long because of the fact that he had such a long term contract, CBC could not get out of it. It would be an idea if they could have cut off his Newfoundland coverage and taken that amount of his contract prorated per capita for our share of it and did some improvements to the CBC across this Province, I think it would have served a lot better use for the money. So we are pleased with that. It is always difficult in any town or community where there is only one outlet, be it CBC or CTV, to not have that alternative as we do have.

It would be very interesting now if we could get a poll to find out just what coverage -

MR. ROBERTS: A poll! The hon. gentleman would be out of a cabinet seat if that happened.

MR. ROUSSEAU: - is in the new cable television, just what percentage of viewers that CBC have now in relation to what they had prior to the introduction of cable in the Province. So I fully support the petition, Mr. Speaker, and hope that the CBC will look at this coverage they have in these smaller towns and smaller communities around the Province, especially where there is one outlet, to ensure that they do get the best possible reception.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR. RIDEOUT: Mr. Speaker, I just want to take a minute or so to support the prayer of the petition presented by my friend from Humber Valley (Mr. House). The petition, I believe, is signed by some 400 - odd of my fellow native

MR. RIDEOUT: residents of White Bay in the Hampden area, Hampden, I would assume, the Rooms and the Beaches, and probably, I do not know if it goes up as far as Jackson's Arm, Sops Arm, and Pollard's Point or not, but certainly that area would be the coverage area of the reception area referred to.

Mr. Speaker, I think the Provincial Government, the Department of Communications should bring as much pressure to bear as they can on the CBC and the Federal Government to continue with this accelerated coverage programme that has worked so many wonders in areas of my district. Eight or ten communities in the Baie Verte Peninsula portion of my district last year, this past year, were fortunate enough to be covered under this accelerated coverage programme, and despite the objections of the late night viewing that we get from time to time, people have been very pleased in that they have been able to get one channel relatively good.

I understand that last year there was some sort of Interprovincial Committee set up between the Provincial Department of Communications and the Federal Department of Communications to work on the further development of T.V. signals in this Province. I do not know what has happened to that Committee. I have not heard anything from it since.

MR. PECKFORD: They are making a report.

MR. RIDEOUT: They are making one. So it would be interesting, Mr. Speaker, to see the report and I hope that they will recommend that this accelerated coverage programme be further accelerated, if that is possible. Yet, I am very concerned in that the Minister of Education gave us reason to believe today that the programme rather than accelerated has been decelerated in that some of the areas that have been promised reception in this current fiscal year have apparently been chopped off the programme. And I have a

MR. RIDEOUT: number of areas in my own district - Pacquet, Ming's Bight, and a couple of other areas that come to mind - that have been promised improved reception under that programme this year. So I would hope that the Federal - Provincial Committee that has been dealing with the whole issue of T.V. signals and improved T.V. signals will have some very strong recommendations to make. And I would hope that the Provincial Government will take a strong stand also with out Federal comrades in Ottawa to ensure that the accelerated coverage programme of the CBC is further accelerated, if that is possible, until the whole of rural Newfoundland at least receives an adequate signal from the publicly owned corporation.

Mr. Speaker, I take great pleasure in supporting the prayer of the petition.

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

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I have just done a little rundown and discovered that we have had fifty petitions presented to the Legislature so far this year. I believe the hon. minister presented number five zero, 50. And what I am really wondering is, Mr. Speaker, what time is somebody in the House going to tell the Emperor that he has no clothes on, because effectively what we are doing

MR. LUNDRIGAN:

here, Mr. Speaker, we have fifty communities that are under the illusion that there is some effectiveness to presenting a petition to our Legislature. And I am suggesting, Mr. Speaker, that basically the procedure is outmoded, that the people are under a false illusion, that collectively we are practicing a form of hypocrisy by continuing to stand in our places day after day and trying to indicate to the people that there is some means whereby there is an effective result from the presentation of petitions. And I am suggesting that all of us are really guilty of a form of misleading the public by encouraging petitions, by having them presented, by standing in our place and doing it, as we do from day to day. The effectiveness is pretty close to zero and I believe it is about time that we assess the whole problem of the presentation of petitions. Your Honour has been a little bit lenient with me but I had to get that point on the record.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. member for the Straits of Belle Isle.

MR. ROBERTS:

Mr. Speaker, a number of hon. members have spoken with eloquence and feeling on the petition and I want to support it, but I cannot add a great deal to the points which they have made so I will not attempt to reiterate their points except to say that I subscribe to them. And I may add I subscribe to the point of view expressed by the hon. gentleman from Grand Falls (Mr. Lundrigan) who has returned from Houston and I think he with reason ought to have been proud of the appearance in Houston and of the recognition which was given to a campaign in which he had such a prominent part.

But I think we might have a look, indeed I have long felt that we in this House might have a look at the petition procedure, not just in internal procedure, although it is a matter

MR. ROBERTS: of interest that after an hour and twenty-five minutes of the one day of the week allotted to private members we are now still on the petition procedure, and I believe almost all of them have been have been presented by the gentlemen on the other side.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. ROBERTS: Not all of them, Some have and my friend the House Leader says some have not.

But in any event, I think my friend from Grand Falls (Mr. Lundrigan) made a valid point and I hope it is one that meets the consideration it merits.

I would like to support the petition, Sir, but I would like to go one step further, because I think there is something which this government can do with a view towards improving the television service available to the people of this Province.

Now my constituency receives television only from the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. There is a repeater station in behind Conche, between Conche and Roddickton, and there is a large one at St. Anthony and most places in the Strait of Belle Isle district now get adequate CBC television coverage. The people who live over on the St. Barbe Coast, the Southern part of it, do not because of some peculiar geographic considerations and I believe the same is true of the Hampden area. I think they are in behind the hills and that is what causes the problem.

My concern is with that situation surely, but also with a much broader situation and that is the fact that there are still a significant number of citizens in this Province, among them all of my constituents, who have access to only one half the television service. And I listened to most of the remarks in support of the petition that have been made this afternoon. I do not think I have heard anybody say that. Well I would like to say that in my constituency the issue is not simply television, it is getting a second channel and I think that is a valid issue. I think the people

MR. ROBERTS: In this Country have a right -

MR. NEARY: You did not hear what I said on that.

MR. ROBERTS: Well I did not hear what my hon. friend from LaPoile (Mr. Neary) said. The hon. member for LaPoile speaks more often than I can listen to him. I am afraid this is once when I was not listening to him. But I think the same is probably true up in parts of his district, up in the district of LaPoile on the Southwest Coast.

MR. NEARY: Outside of Port aux Basques.

MR. ROBERTS: Outside of the town of Channel - Port aux Basques itself. I think the government of this Province, Sir, can take a responsibility here because there is a solution and it is not a terribly expensive one. For want of a few hundred thousand dollars, say the cost of running a helicopter for a year, or that kind of money, small repeaters could be made available or, for example, the big television tower which CBC have at St. Anthony could have installed on it equipment which would pick up the CJON or the CTV signal and rebroadcast it. And I would think the kind of repeater which is going to be needed in Hampden could be provided in a number of places throughout this Province and would enable people to have both television channels.

Upon the Southern Shore, the district represented by my friend from St. Mary's - The Capes (Mr. W. Carter), there are a number of these small repeaters which are owned in most cases by community organizations. My friend says three. At least one of them, I believe, was funded originally by a grant from the old Community and Social Development Department, by provincial government money. It does not interfere with the federal jurisdiction because all we are talking about is the ownership. They are licenced by CRTC and they are subject to the CRTC jurisdiction.

MR. W. CARTER: Only \$6,000 or \$7,000.

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MR. ROBERTS: My friend for St. Mary's -
The Capes (Mr. W. Carter) says it is only \$6,000 or \$7,000
And my point is for a relatively small amount of money, Sir,
the government of this Province-I think the government will
have to do it, CTV have not got the mondy to do it, It is not
worthwhile in economic terms. It does not increase their
audience enough to enable them to charge more money on
commercials and thus make back their investment. CBC have no
interest in it. CBC are providing coverage through their own
system and only worried about their own channel, their own
service, their own network. The only way we are going to
get it is if the government of the Province does it. The national
government should do it, perhaps we could say, but they are not going
to.

So I simply say to the Minister
of Education, who presented the petition, that the most useful thing
he could do-and it is not contrary to the constitution, and it is
not contrary to precedent, and I submit it is not contrary to
good policy-the most useful thing that the hon. gentleman
could do would be to persuade his colleagues in the Cabinet to
take a relatively small amount of money and over the next two
or three years to provide all of the people of this Province with
access to both television channels. Let us not slough it off
on Ottawa. Ottawa are not going to do much more than they
have done and that is to provide CBC service. It needs to be
improved, well then let us improve it, but Ottawa will not do what
needs to be done which is to provide all of the people of this
Province with access to both television channels. And I think that
is the very least that people have; I think the people who live
along the Northern Peninsula or along the Southern Coast of
Labrador ought to be able to have a choice in what they watch on
their television; or the people in LaPoile, or the people in

MR. ROBERTS: the bottom of White Bay, or the people in the district of Terra Nova or anywhere else-I could name many other places throughout this Province-ought to be able to have the same right to watch both television channels. And I think it is something the Government of the Province can do and I would say, Sir, if the Government of the Province cares at all about this they will do it and they will start now.

I support the petition.

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

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, I want to give my support to this petition as well because I can certainly sympathize with the residents of Hampden who are requesting improved television reception. Mr. Speaker, it is one thing to talk about the remote areas of this Province not having a good television reception and to talk about areas that are right in the mainstream of the activities of this Province though neither should be without them, but it is one thing to talk about the remote places and those places that are in the mainstream of the provincial activities, and I refer to my own district in the center of Newfoundland with no effective television reception from either channel, from either station. In Glovertown we happen to have good reception because of the private cable there, but outside of that there is no good quality reception in any part of the district and I think that is disgraceful, a district representing about 12,000 people all within the center part of our Province and these people not being provided with good television service.

Mr. Speaker, it is something that has to be corrected and, as was suggested by my hon. friend for the Straits of Belle Isle (Mr. Roberts), there is no way we can expect the CTV network to provide this service because in many parts of rural Newfoundland the economic base is just not there to give these people the return on their investments. So there is a distinct obligation on the part of government to provide

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

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, if I may have but a few words in support of this petition.

We have, ever since I have been a member of this House, had a number of petitions coming in each year praying and seeking the same relief. I can recall first when they started coming in they were not acceptable to this House. The phrase used to be that they had to be presented in another place, meaning Parliament, but very properly we have been receiving them and forwarding them, I guess the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, to his counterpart, the Minister of Transport in Ottawa.

What the hon. gentleman from the Straits (Mr. Roberts) says has a great deal of merit, but forgetting the constitutional niceties, I do not think we should lose sight of the fact as to who has the obligation to provide that service in the first instance, and I resist and resent -

MR. ROBERTS: (Inaudible)

MR. HICKMAN: I know. Ottawa will say they are providing it, but as the hon. gentleman from LaPoile (Mr. Neary) says they are not providing it, they are miserably failing in their responsibility to provide it. And I do not think it hurts to remind them. And there is no reason why this Province should, except as a last resort, have to dip into the Provincial Treasury and use provincial funds to discharge an obligation that sits squarely with the Government of Canada, and it does.

There are a couple of other points that have been made by hon. gentlemen in supporting this petition. One is the Canadian content. And I am on all

MR. HICKMAN: fours with the hon. the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) in his views on this Canadian content. It is a sign, in my opinion, of an inferiority complex on the part of the people of Upper Canada. They force us to watch Canadian programmes. I know that there are many people, young people in particular in Newfoundland who love to watch American football, but that is precluded to them because they have to watch Canadian football, which is probably entertaining as well. And it is done because of great agitation in Upper Canada. But really, you know, those Upper Canadian viewers are not paying the supreme sacrifice and watching some of this Canadian content stuff because they have a half dozen American channels that they can pick up direct, but they are using residents of Atlantic Canada and the far West to sort of boost their own morale because of their so-called insistence upon Canadian content.

I wish, Mr. Speaker, that both T.V. stations operating in this Province were allowed to use more non-Canadian content. If the Canadian actors and actresses and artists want to have their programmes shown on any T.V. station, all they have to do is be just as good as their international counterparts. There would be no problem. But we should not have this stuff forced down our throats if we do not want it. We should be given the freedom of choice. In the areas of Newfoundland now that have cable television, I would guess that the viewing audience on cable television is substantially higher than on the Canadian networks. And I note that watching the main station that Nova Scotians are advertising their products in Nova Scotia over that station, obviously aimed at Canadian viewers. And I saw the other night an advertisement

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MR. HICKMAN: for some Newfoundland performances as well.

Mr. Speaker, I have to confess that I cannot join with some of the hon. gentlemen opposite in wholesale condemnation of the C.B.C. I have found the C.B.C. to be doing a very good job. I only have one plea to them and to the media - when they are giving the news would they give the facts and when they editorialize, which they are entitled to do at any time, will they please say, 'We are editorializing. This is our opinions.' And with that, Mr. Speaker, I believe that you would find that we would have pretty top rate media performance in both television stations in the Province.

There is a very interesting editorial in a magazine that I receive, and I am sure some hon. gentleman in this House do as well, called the United Church Observer. There is an editorial by Dr. A. C. Forest on the role of the media in Canada and in the United States, and he makes a very good point that there has been a moving away from factual reporting ever since the Washington Post received their kudos in Watergate.

MR. HICKMAN: that magazine or paper, and some of the reporting staff, in their anxiety to uncover some untoward activities in Washington, they themselves invaded a lot of civil rights in their anxiety to accomplish this and everyone thought it was all right at the time. Now they are beginning to realize that there can be no excuse for invading the civil liberties of anyone. The result is that there is a strong voice being heard now amongst people such as Dr. Forest that there be some return to factual reporting.

But in any event, Mr. Speaker, I have no hesitancy in joining hon. gentlemen in supporting this petition which was so ably presented by an hon. gentleman on this side of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Ferryland.

MR. C. POWER: Last but not least, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to say a few words on the petition. I certainly will not take very long, but I support the petition in its entirety. The concept that in certain parts of Newfoundland people cannot get the basic amenities of life, which in this case means good television reception, one of the things I want to point out is that this problem does not pertain itself particularly to areas that are far away from the urban centres of Newfoundland. The community of Petty Harbour is a prime example, which exists only five or six miles away from the station itself, and in most of the North Side of Petty Harbour TV reception is almost absolutely negligible. It just is not there. The same in many other communities in my district.

Again the problem that we have is this discrimination against many parts of rural Newfoundland where CRTC will give licences for people to operate in an economically viable area and rule out many of the outports of Newfoundland. I think that is grossly unfair. I am not at all sure that I do not agree with the member for the Straits of Belle Isle (Mr. Roberts) who says that sooner or later the government has got to take responsibility,

MR. C. POWER: or someone has got to take responsibility and settle the problem there and say irregardless of whether the radio stations are going to do it or not then the government will come in and say, "Look, through the CRTC licencing programme we will force you to go and give equal reception to all areas or otherwise the government will subsidize those areas where reception is not available in a decent means.

Mr. Speaker, I support the petition fully.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Kilbride.

MR. WELLS: Mr. Speaker, I think that we might as well enjoy ourselves. The petition period, if there is such a period in the House, I think this is what it ought now to be called, has become a time when we can range over the subject matter which -

MR. NEARY: Usually Private Members' Day.

MR. WELLS: Oh on other days, too, really. So we might as well enjoy ourselves and do it. And I support the petition of course because I believe that anybody who wants to have access to a service such as television should have it. It is one of the things that we give out. But the interesting thing is, and there has been some comment made by the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) and the hon. Attorney General on this question of content, I wonder if we are really enriching our lives in this country by television. I have the private opinion and express it now.

MR. ROBERTS: But the hon. gentleman does not get All in the Family and other cultural essentials.

MR. WELLS: There are worse than All in the Family.

MR. ROBERTS: Yes, the Gong Show. And maybe the House of Assembly will be televised.

MR. WELLS: Yes. I must say I do not think that that would edify the public particularly, you know.

MR. ROBERTS: It certainly would solve (inaudible) problem (inaudible).

MR. WELLS:

But somebody said once that television will never be satisfactory until you can turn it off when a click that is heard in the studio. There is a lot to be said for that. I do not think our lives have been particularly bettered by a lot of the TV that we watch.

You know, when I first saw TV, it was twenty-odd years ago in England and I went to a person's house and sat down and I thought we were going to watch one programme, whatever it was, and then turn off the TV and discuss that as you would if you went to a movie or something. But to my astonishment instead of that one programme was shown, and then the next programme followed and everybody sat there goggle-eyed watching the TV until half past eleven or twelve o'clock at night, or whenever it was that I decided to go home. And I left with the distinct feeling of frustration that this surely was not the proper way to spend an evening, and if you wanted to watch something worthwhile watch it and then talk about it or think about it, or do what you like, but not this sitting down in front of the TV set all evening.

Later on in life, after I got back here and working and everything, I used to sit down and watch TV a good many evenings. But I must say, I am happy to say that I have stopped doing that. I quit it two or three years ago, Mr. Speaker, quit it cold. Because as far as I was concerned it was not particularly doing anything to help me or assist me in the business of life or my work or whatever aspect of representing people or anything else. It was just filling a void which I allowed to be filled. And since

Mr. Wells:

since then when I gave up watching on that sort of basis I found my disposable time to do anything of interest and worthwhile endeavour was increased, I suppose, three or fourfold, because your working life, whatever that happens to be, fills most of your day, you have got your sleeping time, and then you have got the evening; if you are going to spend the evening goggle-eyed in front of a T.V. set, God help you. And I for one have stooped doing it.

So all I can say is I must say associate myself with remarks that the other speakers made with regard to Canadian content. I do believe that if some of these plays that emanate from the Mainland, and they are on T.V., if you went to China and you happened to turn on a T.V. set you would recognize one of these plays instantly if they were on and immediately turn it off again because, honestly, a lot of them are just not worth watching. And we have a long way to go, I am afraid, in Canada before we can compete with either American T.V. or British T.V. Other countries I cannot speak for, although I have seen the odd programme from other countries which was well worth watching.

So you cannot legislate quality, Mr. Speaker, and you cannot legislate performance or any of these things. That is where we have gone wrong in our society, I think, with our massive regulations and legislation about everything. You soon literally will not be able to turn around without having a book of regulations with you, Well the only trouble is the book would be so heavy you would not be able to carry it. So I regret that we can so ill compete in this country that we have got to legislate Canadian content. It is one of the sad things about this country.

So at any rate, Mr. Speaker, I support the petition. I hope that the people of the communities involved will get access to T.V., and I can only hope that they will be discriminating enough to turn it off when it is junk, which unfortunately so much of it is.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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

MR. W. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow introduce a bill, "An Act To Amend The Fish Inspection Act".

o o o

MR. DINN: No, no!

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, revert to Notices of Motions.

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 Establish The Northeast Avalon Urban Region."

ORAL QUESTIONS

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Consumer Affairs, Sir. Would the minister be so kind, Sir, as to inform the House what action the minister took on a statement in the Auditor General's report on page 38, the end of March 1977 Auditor General's Report where the Auditor General said that "In my opinion, on the basis of the best of the information available to me, no acceptable method for accurately recording and checking the number of scrap vehicles was actually in effect up to the 31st. of March, 1977. However, despite the inadequate verification procedures, invoices relating to the period January 1976 to February 1977, totalling \$143,866, were certified and paid." Would the minister inform the House, if he would be so kind, what action the minister took on that statement in the Auditor General's report?

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

MR. MURPHY: Mr. Speaker, I have the whole thing here in answer to it actually, and I was hoping to table it.

MR. NEARY: Will the minister table it now?

MR. MURPHY: Yes. Well I just have a few pencilled notes on it, but I will get it done up -

MR. NEARY: That will be fine.

MR. MURPHY: - the question, that position, and it explains the whole thing.

If I may, while I am on my feet, Sir, we held four meetings, I believe, with the Auditor General, explained many things, and they seem to be satisfied with the explanation for what had happened over the four or five years since this programme was in. But apparently there is still a note in, I think, there is one paragraph, 63, I think, Inadequate control. I have a question here, so what I will do, I will get this in the proper form of an answer and I will table it on the next sitting day, if that is agreeable with the Opposition?

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

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. NEARY: I thank the hon. the gentleman, Sir, for the information, and we look forward to having the document put on the Table. Will that be put on today, by the way, on the Table of the House today?

MR. MURPHY: Tomorrow.

MR. NEARY: Tomorrow.

MR. MURPHY: Well, I will put it up in Answer to Question form, the notice that the question was asked.

MR. NEARY: Okay, Sir. Perhaps the minister, Sir, will be so kind as to tell the House, then, what is now going to happen to the car wrecks that are stockpiled down

MR. NEARY: here on the East Coast, I believe, and in Central Newfoundland and in the Western part of the Province? Are they going to be left there for an indefinite period? What is the position now of the company vis-à-vis the car wrecks? Have they fulfilled their commitments? Are the car wrecks going to be shipped or are they going to be left on the sites where they are now in the Eastern part of the Province, in Central Newfoundland and Western Newfoundland?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister.

MR. MURPHY: Mr. Speaker, in answer to that I think the hon. member is fully aware of what is happening because someone pretty close to himself is in a negotiating stage with what is happening at the present time. But I will just say, and I just had a note, the total number of cars collected was 20,889 as far as we could check in. The idea being that the final check would be when the cars were being checked out and it would be going by the manifesto of the people that were buying the cars, so we would have a double check one way or another, in other words in checking these cars in we tallied 20,889. I think everybody is aware that the contract price was \$27.50 per car delivered to the site, of which twenty-five per cent of that money was held back until the cars were actually shipped out of the Province. So what would happen of course if we collected 20,889 and paid for them at whatever the rate was, and when they were being shipped out we discovered that there was 800 or 1,000 short, that money would be charged back out of what we withheld, the twenty-five per cent. In other words, there is \$6.88 for every car wreck that is stored in the Province, whether it is in Corner Brook or St. John's or wherever, up to a total of about \$150,000. So if there were mistakes made in checking them in, and I think in the early stages there could possibly have been, we would correct it when they were being shipped out because of the fact, again, that the shipper or the carrier would be checking these cars aboard. And what rate was charged, of course we would have the going out as against the coming in of the cars so there would not be any problem of overpayment at that time.

MR. MURPHY: As far as what is happening now, I understand that there are something like three or four companies now wanting to buy what scrap is at Octagon Pond, at Corner Brook, and at different other areas of the Province. I have had calls from different people as to the status of the \$6.88 that is being held back, and my answer to them was that morally and legally when these cars were shipped out by the party concerned - not dealing with the government, we do not own them at all, Sir; they are owned by another company, when the deal was made that we would have available to that company the \$6.88 that was withheld, whichever company it was A, B, C, or D, I understand it was something like four negotiating, and I am very happy to say that I hope and feel quite confident that within the next week or so a deal will be made where we will at least get clear of the old cars collected. We are about ready to launch a new system on which we have gathered facts from all across Canada, which way we will go on the collecting of what cars are scattered around the different areas. and I have thirty or forty requests from different areas of the Province to collect these cars. And as I say I hope something will come out of this. There is a holdback of \$6.88 per car of what is in there and whatever company deals with either the company themselves - and I speak of Affiliated Metal or someone acting on their behalf have a perfect right when the deal is completed and these cars are shipped out to get this money that is in this trust fund.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. NEARY: I have to say this, Mr. Speaker. I do not think the hon. gentleman really meant to mislead the House when the hon. gentleman said that somebody close to me was negotiating for these car wrecks. I am not my brother's keeper - and it is not my brother, by the way.

MR. MURPHY: No, brother-in-law.

MR. NEARY: I am not my brother's keeper and I know nothing about any negotiations for these car wrecks.

MR. MURPHY: I will take the gentleman's word for it, Sir.

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MR. NEARY: Well, the hon. gentleman can take my word for it.

MR. MURPHY: Very good, then.

MR. NEARY: So therefore, Sir, I would not want the hon. gentleman to leave that impression in the House. When I speak in this House I speak for myself.

MR. MURPHY: I certainly hope so, Sir.

MR. NEARY: That is right - and nobody else. I do not speak for Craig Dobbin, I do not speak for Mr. Mullaly, I speak for myself.

MR. MURPHY: Right, Sir. We acknowledge that -

MR. NEARY: That is right, Sir.

MR. MURPHY: - if John Doyle is not there it is Steve Neary.

MR. NEARY: Now then perhaps the hon. gentleman can enlighten me a little further seeing the hon. gentleman is so co-operative today, Sir. Would the hon. gentleman be so kind as to tell the House, if indeed I heard the hon. gentleman correctly, that the \$103,000 that was withheld, \$6 something, \$6.80 something -

MR. MURPHY: \$6.88 per car.

MR. NEARY: \$6.88 per car, if the original intention of withholding this amount of money was to take care of any falsifying of invoices that may have occurred. Was that the intention of withholding the money?

MR. MURPHY: No.

MR. NEARY: Well, that is what the minister just - at least that is the impression I got from listening to the hon. gentleman. Can the hon. gentleman straighten me out on that now?

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

MR. MURPHY: I do not think I used the word 'falsified'.

MR. NEARY: No, I used them.

MR. MURPHY: - because I alleged no dishonesty to anybody, but there could have been a discrepancy in the checking in, you know, because they were coming from all over the Province. All this was done in about a period of seven or eight months and the idea being that in the contract the full amount would not be paid until these wrecks had left the Province, not to be stored here, there or everywhere else. So that was the reason this was left there. And the way the cars were collected, and first of all the Department of Highways were connected with the thing and then the Department of Environment came in, so between the whole works there was the checking that as minister when I took over I was not quite satisfied with checking the individual cars because there was a front end of a car here and a rear end there, rusted out and everything else. So then we went to a new system. If I have a minute or two I will explain this. We said then that every wreck coming in would be weighed - before they were processed that we would weigh them. And the accepted weight for a wrecked vehicle is one ton. So we did weigh the last lot of cars that came in, the past two or three years since I became

MR. MURPHY: Minister of Consumer Affairs and Environment and since I became responsible for this car wreck programme. So I say when they are being shipped out - and I might add also that Cyclomec, which is the outfit that started in New Brunswick, that are shredding cars and whatnot there, they also accept one ton as a car when it is stripped down of upholstery and that type of thing. So we certainly hope that when this deal comes to pass, which I hope it does, particularly for the hon. member for Conception South (Mr. Nolan) - I guess he is still getting complaints about Octagon and we feel very terrible about it - that when we have cleaned them up that there will be no one overpaid or, I hope, no one underpaid in the whole deal.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. NEARY: Sir, I thank the hon. gentleman for being so co-operative, Sir, and kind. And I wonder if the hon. gentleman could now tell me and tell the House that if through errors, as the hon. gentleman put it, or mistakes which may have occurred in invoicing the government for the amounts more than actually the cars that were collected, invoicing the government for more money than they had actually collected in car wrecks, if that happens to go over \$103,000, say it goes up, for argument sake, to \$200,000, how does the hon. gentleman then propose to get the difference between \$103,000 say, and \$200,000? Now the hon. gentleman told us he has withheld \$103,000. Let us say, for instance, that after the weigh-out, after a company buys the car wrecks and they provide the minister with their manifesto, as the hon. gentleman said, and it shows that they are \$200,000 out in their calculations, mistakes and errors

MR. NEARY: in invoicing, how will the minister then get the extra \$97,000, if indeed there is that much due?

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

MR. MURPHY: Mr. Speaker, in reply to that I might double the number; you know, I mean this is just a fairytale that there could possibly be another \$100,000 owed, And quite frankly, if there is a small discrepancy - and I think there may be, although we feel there may not be - we will look after the interests of the people concerned, whoever collected them, and if it is morally and legally due them then it is only right that we give it to them. But I will guarantee this House that there will not be a difference of 2 per cent or 1 per cent in the amount, not talking about the 100 per cent to which the hon. gentleman refers.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. gentleman for the additional information, I am wondering Sir, if the hon. gentleman, who has been most co-operative today, would also tell the House if there are any commitments, any strings attached to this \$103,000 that the minister and the government are withholding? Will that be paid out with strings attached? In other words, does the company have access to it, once they fulfil their agreement will they have access to that \$103,000 or are there strings attached that the government would make sure that the company has no outstanding debts, that all the creditors are paid in the Province before that \$103,000 is released?

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

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MR. MURPHY: Mr. Speaker, that is no concern of mine what the company owes or anything. My only dealing is with a contract that was made between government and a certain company and the monies that we held back, But I forgot to mention that there is \$103,000 payable less any monies owed government, and there is a small amount that is payable to government for the rent of the property in at Octagon, I think it is in the area of \$10,000. But outside that, whatever money the other company owes, as far as we are concerned it is not our concern, it is not my concern, I am not a liquidator, I am not anything else. All I am doing is trying to straighten up a mess that we are into as far as

MR. A. MURPHY:

this is concerned because of the fact that the bottom went out of the steel market there was no demand for them, consequently this one hundred-odd thousand dollars or this twenty thousand-and-odd cars have been piled up in different areas of the Province. And in fairness to the Province and to the Department of Environment and everything else we are hoping to clear it and I sincerely hope that in a short while we will be able to do this.

MR. S. NEARY:

A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Final supplementary.

MR. S. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, I thought I understood the hon. gentleman correctly but I just want to repeat and just get the hon. gentleman to confirm or deny what I am saying, that the \$103,000, apart from the government taking out of the \$103,000 what it is owed for - I believe the hon. gentleman referred to storage or land in by the Octagon - the land in by the Octagon, I presume that is what the hon. gentleman mentioned; Can the hon. gentleman assure the House that the hon. gentleman or no other minister in the government has written anybody in this Province - banks, finance companies, people who may be interested in purchasing these cars - if the hon. gentleman or none of his colleagues has written any of the people concerned, the banks who are owed money or anybody else, saying that this \$103,000, if and when it is paid out to anybody who either buys the contract from Affiliated Marine Metals or fulfills the terms of the contract, can only receive this \$103,00 provided that they pay all claims and all debts that are made against Affiliated Marine Metals in the future? Could the minister assure me and the House that this is not so, that no letter has ever been written to any bank or anybody else? Does the hon. gentleman get my question?

MR. MURPHY:

What is that?

MR. S. NEARY: That the hon. gentleman has not written a letter to anybody saying that apart from what the government is going to take out itself, that the minister has not told a bank or told anybody that if the \$103,000, for instance, is paid over to the Bank of Nova Scotia, that they have to make sure -

MR. MURPHY: Would you leave out the name because I do not think the bank, or -

MR. S. NEARY: - or the Royal Bank or the Toronto Dominion -

MR. MURPHY: - any bank.

MR. S. NEARY: - or any bank, but we will use the Bank of Nova Scotia for an example, that the minister has not written, for instance, the Bank of Nova Scotia saying that if the \$103,000 is paid over to the bank or paid over to a company, that they have to make sure that all the debts of Affiliated Marine Metals are paid, the minister has not given any guarantee of that at any time?

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

MR. MURPHY: No, we have not given any guarantee to anybody, only that the people acting on behalf of this company have assured by us that as far as we are concerned if there is a commitment to any bank, and this bank claims and proves that they are owed, we have no other objection and we will not be held responsible for any other debts outside this.

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

MR. WINSOR: Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries. In view of the tremendous storm damage that was done Monday and Tuesday, would the minister tell the House if he has been able to assess the amount of damage caused to lobster pots and associated equipment in Fortune Bay and Hermitage Bay?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Fisheries.

MR. W. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the fact that damage, considerable damage did occur both in the district represented by my hon. friend and the Port au Port Peninsula as well. This morning I asked the field people in our department to visit the affected areas and to give me a report on the extent of the damage.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. J. WINSOR: I wonder would the minister tell us in view of the fact that the lobster fishery has come to a complete halt, or almost a complete halt in this area, and I am sure in my hon. friend's area in Port au Port, with a great loss of income to the fishermen, is there any possibility of assistance in any form, in materials or grant of any kind to get them back to work? I think the fishermen would accept even a truck load of laths; bows you cannot cut now, they tell me, because the twigs are not right, they will crack or something. Maybe there is a plastic substitute that could be supplied. These fishermen are out of business. They are going to lose a tremendous amount of income. Would the minister enlighten us on all that?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister of Fisheries.

MR. W. CARTEP: Mr. Speaker, I would not want to give any commitment today on what assistance, if any in fact, we will be giving the fishermen who suffer losses certainly not until the extent of the losses have been assessed. But I think the hon. member opposite realizes that there is no ongoing assistance program as such. There is no insurance program on lobster gear or in fact any other type fishing gear for that matter. But once we have the reports that I have

MR. W. CARTER:

asked for with respect to the extent of the losses, then I am certainly willing to take a look at it and anything we can do, within the regulations, then we will do it to assist. But I cannot, at this time, give any kind of an undertaking that will initiate a gear replacement programme or any kind of an assistance programme to assist the lobster fishermen at this point in time.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary, the original questioner.

MR. J. WINSOR: In light of that statement, I would like to point out as a preamble to this, the people on the Southwest Coast I do not think they have ever, ever had any assistance for any damage done by storms of that nature. And I think other parts of the Island have had and I would ask the minister if he would give his very best efforts in trying to get some kind of assistance, as I mentioned before, either in kind or a grant of some kind. Would the minister indicate to the House that he will move move and earth to get something done?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Fisheries.

MR. W. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, I can certainly tell the House that we will do all we can to assist. I do not know yet just to what extent we can or will assist. Certainly I think this points out the need for some kind of an insurance programme, as I have said before on a number of occasions, and it points out, Mr. Speaker, the unfortunate fact that the programme that was interded, and to which we agreed to subscribe to the tune of something like \$80,000 to \$100,000, did not materialize. I am not blaming anybody for that. It is a difficult thing to administer. It is awfully difficult first of all to come up with a feasible programme, and then it is equally difficult to administer any such programme. But I can give the hon. member an assurance that we will do whatever we can to help the fishermen get back fishing.

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

MR. HODDER: A supplementary to the Minister of Fisheries. Last year a similar situation occurred in the district of Port au Port and at that time there were people who went out and I believe looked at it, I am not sure if they were from the minister's department, but there was a survey done. Now there was no help forthcoming to the fishermen, Now the minister is again sending out people to the district to have a look at the damage, Surely the minister must have some sort of idea of what sort of assistance he can give to the fishermen and my question to the minister is could he give us some general idea of what the fishermen can expect?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Fisheries.

MR. W. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, I cannot do that and I have already stated why. Last year we did have field people take a look at the areas that were affected by a storm, but we found out that the losses were greatly exaggerated, that in fact when it was all totalled up the losses were very, very much far short of the amounts that were being used by certain people.

Mr. Speaker, every year there are a number of storms that causes untold damage to fishing gear. In fact I suppose if it were added up it would be in the millions of dollars. And if the Province were to respond to every single request that we get for gear replacement, for assistance to replace this, that and the other thing, from stages on land to wharves, slipways, lobster pots, salmon nets, cod traps, gill nets, boats, engines, if we were to respond to every single request that we get for assistance, I would submit, Mr. Speaker, that our total budget, and that is no exaggeration, I think our total provincial budget would be used for that purpose alone. And I am not suggesting for a moment that there is not a need for some kind of assistance, but we must be careful as to just at what point we will move in and assist. There is a federal programme as the hon. members know that can be put in place when losses reach a certain point. In fact I believe it is

MR. W. CARTER: on the basis of a dollar per capita of the total population. Or in other words, if the losses incurred exceeded, say, \$550,000 then the Emergency Measures fund would fall in place. That would be then funded partially by the federal government and partially by the Province. But I repeat what I said a moment ago, Mr. Speaker, that after the losses have been carefully assessed and if in fact they are as serious as was pointed out today and yesterday, then whatever can be done we will do but exactly what I cannot say at this time.

MR. F. ROWE: A supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A final supplementary on this subject, then I will recognize the hon. the member for Windsor-Buchans. I am not sure if the hon. the member for Trinity-Bay de Verde rose on a supplementary?

MR. F. ROWE: Yes, a supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes. A final supplementary. The hon. member for Trinity-Bay de Verde.

MR. F. ROWE: Mr. Sneaker, could the Minister of Fisheries indicate why the administration of which he is now a part indicated in 1971,1972 and repeated in 1973 Throne Speech why the administration was planning to institute or bring in a low,shared-cost gear insurance programme for the fishermen of this Province if he is now stating that it is impossible to administer and to put it into effect.

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

MR. W. CARTER: I cannot be expected to answer for what was said in 1971 any more than the hon. member could be expected to answer for what was said back in 1951 when the then Leader of the Party to which he is now subscribing told fishermen to burn their boats.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. W. CARTER: I am sure that when the statement was made, when the promise, if in fact there was a promise, if it was made, that it was made with all good intentions, but it is a difficult programme to come up with, it is a difficult one to administer. I have had people in my department now working on that for quite some time, working with the private sector in the insurance industry. And I have taken my proposals to Ottawa. I have presented them to my federal counterpart with a request that they may be joining us in,first of all,seeking a solution to the problem, secondly,then helping share the cost,which I do not think is an unreasonable request. Their response was absolutely in the negative, no hope whatever of getting any federal participation,but we do have an ongoing committee that is now working on the problem, talking to the private sector, seeking their assistance where possible, where necessary, and I am hoping that some time in the

Mr. W. Carter: near future we will have some kind of a gear insurance programme in place. Certainly there is a dire need for it.

MR. F. ROWE: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: I had indicated that would be the final supplementary so in fairness to the hon. members who have been standing I must recognize them. Obviously with time permitting there is always an opportunity to return to the subject.

The hon. the member for Windsor-Buchans.

MR. FLIGHT: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment with regards to the spruce budworm spray programme. I wonder would the minister indicate to the House to what extent his department is going to be involved in monitoring the environmental affects of the spruce budworm spray programme that we are going to be looking at in a few weeks?

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

MR. MURPHY: Mr. Speaker, we will be involved as we were in the earlier part last year, more involved as a matter of fact. Our budget for it, we implied - and unfortunately I thought I had a note up here the number of students that we had who would assess any fallout or anything else from the spray. And this year we are co-operating to a greater extent with Forestry and Agriculture and with the Department of Health as to the effects. And while I answer this, Sir, I was invited yesterday to get into the debate, as they called it, on the spruce budworm, which was not a debate but a petition. And I was rather appalled, Sir, at some of the statements made that must have put the fear of God in the hearts of an awful lot of people, when the people in our department, the biologists, and the people of highly intensive background of determining the affects of the spray say there is not a bit of worry in the world environmentally or healthy to anybody; and as Minister of the Environment, Sir, I am quite assured by the staff who are trained in this thing, not like some of these we call sea lawyers

Mr. Murphy: that we hear so much about, but are trained in this thing who assure me, Sir, that there is not a worry in the world, our environmental programme will be carried out this year with increased staff, and we will check the waters, the vegetation, damage to bird life and everything else. So I would like to assure the House, Sir, through the member who asked the question that there will be no letdown whatever in our environmental checking this year, and it will be more extensive than it was last year because of the increased amount of spraying. And I would like to assure, if I may, the general public that environmentally speaking there is nothing to fear whatever from what is happening in their spraying. As a matter of fact, one doctor said the plane could crash in the middle of Gander Lake and you could drink the water without any harmful affects. I have heard that from a medical doctor who is quite up on this particular matter.

But in answer to the question, Sir, environmentally

MR. MURPHY: we are doing the job that we set out to do co-operating with the Department of Forestry and with the Department of Health.

MR. FLIGHT: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary, the original questioner.

MR. FLIGHT: Mr. Speaker, to be more specific, would the minister tell the House just how many people from his department are going to be involved and where those people are coming from? And if he is going to, Mr. Speaker, I suspect that the Question Period is running out of time so I will give the minister a chance to kill the rest of the Question Period. I want to know how many people are going to be involved in monitoring the spray programme, where they are coming from, whether or not they are going to be students, what experience they have had with regard to determining any dangers that come as a result of that spray programme, and is he totally, completely confident and prepared to tell the people of Newfoundland that everyone he hires is expert in the field for the purpose of protecting the health of the people of this Province?

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

MR. MURPHY: Now, Mr. Speaker, that is rather a weighty question for me to answer off the top of my head. A question like that, I would suggest, should be put in writing and I will get all the answers for the hon. gentleman.

MR. McNEIL: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. McNEIL: Could the minister give to me or to the people of Newfoundland a written guarantee that there will not be any medical effects, be it short term or

MR. McNEIL: long term, to any of the people who handle the pesticides or any people that may be in the vicinity of spraying?

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

MR. MCNEIL: If you are so sure give it to us in writing.

MR. MURPHY: As far as we can ascertain, we will guarantee the people of this Province that there will be no medical effects short term or long term as far as we are concerned and as far as the scientists, the biologists and everybody else can assure us. And any more than that I cannot do.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!
It being Private Members' Day,
the adjourned debate on Motion 10 and the amendment thereto.

The hon. the Minister of
Rehabilitation and Recreation.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HICKEY: Mr. Speaker, when I adjourned the debate last week we were discussing the amendment as made by my colleague, the member for St. John's East (Mr. Marshall), and I said then, Mr. Speaker - and I do not wish to rehash what was said last week - that this side of the House, obviously, would support the resolution but for the fact that in its present form it can only be termed a partisan resolution. The Liberal Party in this Province feeling that the resolution passed by the national party at a national policy convention some time ago by approving a resolution to do certain things or to see that certain things were done in Labrador included in this resolution,

MR. HICKEY:
it a partisan resolution.

Mr. Speaker, obviously makes

Your Honour, I think it should be pointed out - certainly it should be pointed out for the record of this House - the fact that a political party approves a resolution at a policy convention does not in any way guarantee that that policy ever becomes a policy of the government in power even though that government is made up by those same party members. There have been many policies, Mr. Speaker, that have been approved at policy conventions-and it is not my intention to catalogue any of them right now -but many resolutions approved at policy conventions by the party in power which never became government policy. So, therefore, the fact that the national Liberal Party approves a given position with regard to the development of Labrador is no guarantee to the people of Labrador that the meat of that resolution ever becomes a reality. It is no more, Mr. Speaker, than lip service to the people of Labrador that the national Liberal Party agreed to a resolution which at best, Your Honour, can be termed a motherhood resolution. For who in this Province, or for that matter who in

MR. HICKEY:

this country and certainly who in government answerable to the people of all the country would refuse to acknowledge in principle what is embodied in this resolution as it applies to Labrador, namely, that the resources of Labrador be developed first and foremost to the fullest degree for the people of Labrador?

To be against that, Mr. Speaker, is like being against motherhood. This government has had that for a policy since it has been in office, this party has had that as its mandate for as long certainly as I have been a member and as long as I can remember. It has not come about and there are a number of reasons why it has not come about since this particular party has been in office. So, Mr. Speaker, to say that we on this side can approve the resolution as it stands is certainly unreasonable because there is no way we can. It is unfortunate, Your Honour, that that section is in the resolution, I think my colleague the member for St. John's East (Mr. Marshall) was proper and absolutely correct in moving the amendment. He would not have had to do it if the Opposition had brought in the resolution excluding that section. In fact, Your Honour, it takes something from the whole intent of the resolution, it makes the issue more partisan than indeed it should be because it is the basic part of the resolution, as I said, line politics. But, Your Honour, the fact of life is that indeed it is partisan and for that reason we cannot support it.

A word, Mr. Speaker, with regards to the resolution generally. This government has tried its best to enforce a policy of prior consultation with the people of Labrador before development to insure that the best economic results accrue to the people of Labrador from any development. That is a stated policy and an enforced policy of this government. Some prime examples, Mr. Speaker, can be found in the long awaited and much talked about development of national parks. There is a development of national parks in Labrador

MR. HICKEY: in the Mealy Mountains and in the Torngat Mountains today, Mr. Speaker, purely because of the policy of this government which is exactly and precisely what this resolution is all about, namely, that we are not prepared to allow the Federal Government large tracts of land in Labrador for development of national parks until we are absolutely sure and until we see a master plan which will tell the people of Labrador especially, and the people of this Province generally, what benefits are going to accrue to the people, what economic benefits they are going to realize as a result of that kind of a development, what they will lose from a social point of view. There are many things to consider in any kind of development in an area such as Labrador and for this reason, Mr. Speaker, this government, whilst anxious to move forward with any kind of development which would realize new jobs, which will realize the essential and deserving services to the people of Labrador nevertheless must be steadfast in our position that it cannot be allowed to go ahead until all of the ramifications are known and until all the benefits are clearly indicated as regards to the people of that region.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot let the opportunity go by without reflecting on transportation in Labrador which has

MR. HICKEY: come in for a great deal of debate recently in this House and rightly so because there is nothing more urgent, there is nothing more essential to the people of Labrador as indeed the people of this Island than transportation. It is the life's blood of this Island and its people and surely, Mr. Speaker, it is equally the life's blood of the people of Labrador; without a proper transportation network the whole area of Labrador will never come into its own. This government believes this, Mr. Speaker, and practices that policy.

I am delighted to see that there is a change of position by the Liberal Party of this Province and the official Opposition is now being agreeable to a network of roads in Labrador which they were not in agreement with prior to this government taking office. As I said last week, Mr. Speaker, for twenty-three years we heard the former Premier very clearly articulate his government's position, that never while he was around would there be a road network linking Quebec with Labrador. It would be on his terms.

Mr. Speaker, we said then, and I had the privilege of sitting in the Opposition, we said then that you do not hold onto a territory by simply an imaginary line on a map or by denying the people essential services, and very vital services, such as a road network.

Not only did we say it, Mr. Speaker, but we put our position into action. We put our policy into action in 1973. And the Opposition at that time had some doubts or certainly, I will not accuse them, Mr. Speaker, of being against our position at the time because I think that would be wrong and I do not want to falsely accuse any hon. member, but let me put it this way; statements by myself when I was Minister of Transportation and Communications in answer to questions in this House, in debate of estimates in this House, were received with less than enthusiasm

MR. HICKEY: when I talked about a pending agreement with the Province of Quebec with regard to a Trans-Labrador highway.

I am not sure, Mr. Speaker, that hon. members of the House, and especially the newer ones who were not here then, are aware of the fact, because the Leader of the Opposition, for example, and some other hon. members, making such a great issue today about a road leading from Quebec to the border in Labrador West and that this Province should move on, move forward, with a road network up there to counteract that obviously. Obviously that is the ploy, to counteract any infiltration by the Province of Quebec. Mr. Speaker, that is crazy. That is absolutely crazy. Is anyone suggesting we are going to lose Labrador because a road is going to come in from Quebec? Surely, Your Honour, if the only basis for our putting a road in Labrador is to hold onto Labrador then we should be all taken out and we should all have our heads examined. And the Leader of the Opposition talks about, and I heard him just this day, quarrels with the figure of \$500 million. I can tell my hon. friend if he were here that he not quarrel with that figure, and it will be substantially more than \$500 million if we are to build a road across Labrador.

MR. ROBERTS: A road from where, the Straits?

MR. HICKEY: Obviously from the Straits to Labrador West.

MR. ROBERTS: Straight from Goose Bay and then across -

MR. HICKEY: Right. From Churchill Falls and onto Wabush and Labrador City. It was \$400 million, Mr. Speaker, in '73 and God knows inflation has taken its toll since then.

MR. ROBERTS: How many miles is it?

MR. HICKEY: I cannot recall exactly. The mileage from -

MR. ROUSSEAU: 583, was it not?

MR. HICKEY: Five something. I knew the figure,

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MR. HICKEY:

the exact figure -

MR. ROBERTS:

The better part of \$1 million

in miles.

MR. HICKEY:

Unusually high, Mr. Speaker, because

of the terrain, the difficult terrain, the difficulty in that

kind

MR. HICKEY:

of operation, that kind of construction in the area.

MR. ROUSSEAU:

The whole road was new. The route from Goose Bay to Esker now is they are going to go south of that plus all the development down through the Straits.

MR. ROBERTS:

On the Island now, the DREE roads cost approximately a quarter million dollars a mile.

MR. PECKFORD:

Building a new road, yes. You are right.

MR. ROBERTS:

I am always right.

MR. PECKFORD:

No. But you were right on that one.

MR. HICKEY:

Mr. Speaker, it might be argued that the road, or the so-called road that exists between Goose Bay and Churchill Falls - what do they call it, the Freedom Road? Obviously the fact that that road is there, Your Honour, would reduce the cost because certainly some of the work is done and no one quarrels with that. All I am saying, Your Honour, is that it is wrong for any hon. member, and especially the Leader of the Opposition who should obviously know better, to suggest that we can put anything but a first class road in Labrador. Even with a first class road, Mr. Speaker, the problems associated with keeping that road open in the Winter are horrendous. Even if you have the Trans-Canada Highway, to suggest it - what comes across to me from what he says is that he is suggesting that a less than regular or normal standard road would do. And I say Your Honour, would do for what? Would mark a trail? That is about all. You need a first class highway.

But, Your Honour, the point that I started to make was this, that whilst I certainly will never quarrel with expenditures of money for a road network in Labrador - I agree that it should be done, it should be done, we are late in doing it now - and in this connection, Mr. Speaker, I point out to hon. members

MR. HICKEY: of the House that there sits in the Department of Regional and Economic Expansion an agreement, a document, Mr. Speaker. You know, the Opposition should not run away with the notion that when they talk of roads in Labrador that they are breaking new ground. There was new ground broken, Your Honour, and this government broke it. There was a precedent set and we set it. And I happened to be the minister at the time who had the privilege of presiding over those meetings. There is an agreement in the Department of Regional and Economic Expansion for a Trans-Labrador Highway, as part of the Trans-Canada Highway, where we sought ninety-ten agreement, ninety-ten dollars, or ten cent dollars in relation to the Province.

MR. ROBERTS: If the hon. gentleman waits long enough the Canadian dollar will only worth ten cents.

MR. HICKEY: Yes, with the Province of Quebec, to drive a road through from their section, which amounted to to I do not know how many hundred miles, to link up to our section to link up Labrador, and Mr. Speaker, it was ascertained by the scheduling at that time, or the scheduling was such at that time, that by the time, if they started both ends at the same time, both governments, that there would be a road and that the people from Goose Bay would be able to travel to Wabush and Labrador City on or about the same time, maybe in fact a little earlier, than the people would be able to travel from Quebec to Labrador City. I do not know if that route has changed, if what they are doing now is a kind of crash programme to link maybe one of the more Northern townships of Quebec with the border, I

Mr. Hickey: that seems to be the situation. I am sure that when the Leader of the Opposition, as I heard him today, talks of within a year or two of road work and not going full bust that Labrador West will be open to the Province of Quebec, I am sure that he does not mean the route that was planned in our agreement signed in 1973, because that was a monumental task, a major undertaking, by both governments, of construction programmes. And certainly whatever they are doing now is what I would consider an interim measure at best. It is not the kind of programme that we were talking about then.

So, Mr. Speaker, as I said there was less than enthusiastic support at the time. There were a lot of questions at the time as to whether or not we were right in doing what we were doing when we signed an agreement with the Province of Quebec to confront the Federal Government with the transportation problem in the North. And after many months of negotiations with three different ministers in Quebec, starting out with Mr. Penard, who is now a judge of one of the courts in Quebec, and then Mr. Berthiaume who was Minister of Transportation, Minister of State responsible for Transportation, and later Mr. Mailloux, who indeed signed the agreement with myself and that agreement was hand carried, Mr. Speaker, by myself to the Department of Regional and Economic Expansion, the then minister, Mr. Jamieson, accepted the proposal, and that was the end of that proposal. There was nothing forthcoming.

So, Mr. Speaker, it is not new for the Opposition to talk about roads in this Province or in Labrador insofar as this government is concerned. As I said, we have done our homework. We have made our effort as to continue to make it. And we have attached the kind of priority that is necessary, and that was proper for a road network in Labrador as we continue to do at this very moment.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. HICKEY: The federal government, Mr. Speaker, need do no more than to dust off that agreement, and maybe, maybe the people of Labrador

Mr. Hickey: might well believe what they hear about what is going to happen in Labrador as opposed to just passing a resolution in this hon. House which at best, as I said, gives lip service to a very serious problem.

Mr. Speaker, I would have to support it, and I am sure my colleagues, all of us, have to support the amendment to delete this section.

MR. ROBERTS: Politics makes strange bedfellows, does it not?

MR. HICKEY: It is shocking. It is absolutely shocking, Mr. Speaker, to see a good resolution spoiled by the insertion of a section which is purely and totally partisan politics. I do not know, I do not understand, Mr. Speaker, what possessed hon. gentlemen to include that. Because, you know, -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: /Oh, oh!

MR. HICKEY: - that statement by the National Liberal Party at their Policy Convention, Mr. Speaker, holds about as much water, as we say in Newfoundland, as -

MR. ROBERTS: As the Speech from the Throne -

MR. HICKEY: No, no! Not the Speech from the Throne at all. My hon. friend -

MR. ROBERTS: Admit it.

MR. HICKEY: If my hon. friend would listen I will tell him what this section is worth, and what the passing and accepting of that resolution by The National Liberal Party after Policy Convention is worth. It is worth, Mr. Speaker, about as much as the resolution which passed, I am told, to legalize marijuana.

MR. ROBERTS: The hon. gentleman is -

MR. HICKEY: My hon. friend for Windsor-Buchans (Mr. Flight) honestly feels that the federal government are going to move gung ho to legalize marijuana?

MR. FLIGHT: Yes.

MR. HICKEY: They will, Mr. Speaker, they will, they will move gong ho just as much on legalizing marijuana as they will on implementing

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Mr. Hickey: that.

MR. FLIGHT: Why do you not stop knocking them, you got -

MR. HICKEY: That is not knocking them. It is constructive criticism. Why do they not put their money

MR. HICKEY:

where their mouth is? Why do they not give us \$400 million?

MR. ROBERTS: To give it to Craig Dobbin.

MR. HICKEY: No, certainly not. I do not know if Craig Dobbin has a construction company where he builds roads but -

MR. FLIGHT: He would if you built the road.

MR. HICKEY: Mr. Speaker, surely you know, I do not wish to be sidetracked by that comment, but, Mr. Speaker, let us look at it. Are hon. gentlemen opposite suggesting to me that if Mr. Dobbin or Mr. Jones or anybody else had a construction company, they could not legitimately bid on building a section of a road in Labrador? And if they won a contract by the lowest tender, should they not get it?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: (Mr. Young) Order, please!

MR. HICKEY: Mr. Speaker, a very weak argument indeed for hon. gentlemen to bring in a red herring at this point in time. All I am saying, Your Honour, is that it is unfortunate that a section of a resolution which is in my view, and I am sure my colleagues on this side as well feel the same way, a good resolution, it is motherhood. It is not going to do anything to get a road in Labrador. It simply says if the House were to pass it unanimously that at least all elected members, all political parties represented in this House, stand squarely behind the government in its efforts to bring about a road network in Labrador and the other kinds of development which see the benefits of that development go to the people of Labrador in the first instance. And surely, Mr. Speaker, nobody at all would oppose that. In that context it is motherhood.

So, Mr. Speaker, for this reason, I am sorry to say, while I am in favour of the resolution in principle, I certainly have to support my colleague's

MR. HICKEY: amendment to delete that blatant attempt by the Opposition to make what is a very important issue facing the people of Labrador and the people of this Province yet a very real political issue. And it is not just a political issue, Mr. Speaker, it is a very human issue, a very serious issue, one that should be dealt with, and certainly we will be delighted to accept Ottawa's money, and, Mr. Speaker, be delighted to put some of our own in although it is scarce, to bring about an agreement and to bring about this kind of development in Labrador.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, after that stirring demonstration of logic, passion, enthusiasm, commitment, eloquence, conviction by the hon. gentleman from St. John's East Extern, the Minister of Recreation and Rehabilitation, if ever there was a man who needed recreation and rehabilitation it is the hon. gentleman who is the minister. I am almost underwhelmed, Sir. I do not want to talk a great deal about the amendment although I realize we are debating the amendment, Mr. Speaker. I think the amendment is silly and childish and petulant. It adds nothing of any substance. It takes away something of substance, it takes away a factual statement. And whether hon. gentlemen opposite particularly like it or not it is irrelevant to the fact that at the meeting which the national Liberal Party held in Ottawa late in the month of February, a resolution was put forward which won unanimous support, and if hon. gentlemen opposite do not like it that is their problem. I would find it significant that the Tory Party

MR. ROBERTS: when it has its annual meetings does not put forward any resolutions dealing with Labrador. And the resolutions that are put forward that do not deal with Labrador do not win the unanimous support that the resolution which was put forward at the Liberal convention won. I mean, it is a fact the resolution was put forward, and hon. gentlemen opposite, as evidenced so strikingly by the gentleman from St. John's East Extern, obviously just do not like it. They are obviously hurt, they are offended, they are being petulant and childish, and so they propose to use their legislative majority to remove it. Well, you know, thirty will outvote twenty. They do not have the courage to face the country when they would find out about being outvoted but they will use their votes and they will doubtless delete this particular section or portion of the resolution and there the

MR. ROBERTS: matter will rest. But in so doing they will not change the facts; all they will do is reveal themselves to be a group of very small minded gentlemen indeed. And they have taken what ought to have been a debate on one of the more important subjects facing this Province today, namely the whole question of Labrador and the future of the Labrador part of our Province, they have taken it and they have tried to twist it and to distort it into being a debate on petty, partisan, narrow issues.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I intend to vote against the amendment. I do not do so with any particular belief that the votes of those of us on this side will carry the day but that in itself is not reason enough to stop me, I assure the hon. gentlemen opposite. And if they do succeed in carrying this amendment then they will not have changed the fact. All they will have shown is that once again the members who support the government of this House are incapable of recognizing reality or dealing with it once they do recognize it.

I do not want to talk any more about the amendment because it is really almost too silly for words. I am surprised at the hon. gentleman from St. John's East (Mr. Marshall), an honourable and learned gentleman, a man who is certainly partisan, and I do not think that is a term of opprobrium.

MR. HICKEY: Oh, no!

MR. ROBERTS: The hon. the member for St. John's East Extern (Mr. Hickey) seems to think it is. Well, I would say, Mr. Speaker, that this is a partisan House and that is why we sit to Your Honour's left or to Your Honour's right, and that is why debate goes back and forth in an antiphonal fashion. Of course it is a partisan House dealing with partisan issues in a partisan way, and that is the whole point of the kind of legislature

MR. ROBERTS: which has emerged in the so-called British system of government.

But while the hon. gentleman from St. John's East (Mr. Marshall) is partisan, and I say that as a term of praise and not of censure, I am surprised to find him so petty as to move this particular amendment. I might have expected if from other hon. gentlemen opposite. My friend the Minister of Mines and Energy would have been capable of it, and for all I know, inspired this. But, Mr. Speaker, I was surprised at the gentleman from St. John's East Extern (Mr. Hickey) who was party to this.

I was going to deal with remarks that my friend from St. John's East Extern came across with in his speech but, really, I found little of any substance to deal with. I want to make reference to only one point he made. He talked at some length in his usual way about the road across Labrador, and he talked about building a road from the Straits - and he made this clear when he was kind enough to respond to a question which I put to him - a road from the straits running North and West across the Mealey Mountains and into the Lake Melville area and down into Happy Valley and then running from there roughly West towards the line of rail which goes from Sept Iles through Labrador and ends at Schefferville in the Province of Quebec again and then, presumably, generally West and South running into the Labrador City - City of Wabush area.

He talked of that road as if somehow it were involved in this resolution and somehow the cost which he, I think, pulled out of thin air, to be quite candid, but whether he did or not the cost which he spoke about somehow affected the principle of this resolution.

Well, Mr. Speaker, let it be

MR. ROBERTS: noted, quite simply, that this resolution at no place talks of a road such as I have described and such as the minister spoke of. It speaks of a road from Port Labrador, which is suggested as being on the Labrador coast, and I think most people would feel it would probably be in Lake Melville, then from Port Labrador to the Happy Valley - Goose Bay area in the Central part of Labrador, if you wish, Sir, then on to the Labrador City - Wabush area and then in turn, on to the rest of the mainland of Canada.

Now, Sir, that road is largely there, and of all the pig-headed stances which could be taken the one taken by the Minister of Recreation and Rehabilitation today in this debate is about the most pig-headed I can imagine. The road is largely there. A number of hon. gentlemen have driven over it. I think the Minister of Tourism, as he now is, before he was translated from the Department of Transportation and Communications made a trip - I gather in his official capacity although we never got that straight - by road across the Central part of Labrador. I gather he made it officially because he only had - was it two or three helicopters to convoy him and convey him and guard him and protect him?

AN HON. MEMBER: Only one.

MR. ROBERTS: Only one? That is one more than most people get but then most people do not have the privilege of letting the Province pay for it, but be that as it may. I have spent a number of years in this House on this side, Mr. Speaker, trying to get at the facts and I am delighted to have the facts given. Nothing would give me more pleasure. How about the facts of some of the other questions

MR. ROBERTS:

which have been asked in this House? The hon. gentleman, if he is going to give facts about helicopters, going to table logs, the hon. gentleman should realize that people who live in grass huts should not stow thrones, as a certain chief was once told.

MR. PECKFORD: Another Disney World quote.

MR. ROBERTS: Well, Mr. Speaker, Disney World may not be inappropriate when I look at the Mickey Mouse of the Minister of Mines and Energy and that incredible letter he wrote. If I were the minister I think I would just slink under my desk for the next six months and hope that Ms Maureen Dwyer and the ladies in Baie Verte - did the hon. gentleman see them on television last night? It is a digression, Mr. Speaker, but I hope Your Honour will permit. Of all the moving, genuinely moving incidents which I have seen recorded on television, the Newa Magazine story on Baie Verte which was shown again on television last night on the second part of that Hear and Now show at about seven o'clock.

MR. PECKFORD: I was here in the House.

MR. ROBERTS: The hon. gentleman was here in the House because the hon. gentleman wanted to go home and watch the hockey game and let that be recorded. Well I was not here in the House, I was watching a group of ladies in Baie Verte who were quite genuine. The tears were in their eyes and well they might have been with the situation in Baie Verte. And all the hon. gentleman for Green Bay (Mr. Peckford) can talk about is their alleged voting proclivities in Baie Verte. Well, Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman should hang his head in shame, should slink away and skulk and hope that in due course -

MR. PECKFORD: There is not a chance.

MR. ROBERTS: There is not a chance, I agree. He has got the brass of a canal horse, Mr. Speaker, the gall of him. The brazen. But anyway, Sir, that is not having too much to do -

MR. PECKFORD: How do you know about that?

MR. ROBERTS: I do know a great deal about brazen gall, Sir.

MR. ROBERTS: I have lived with the hon. gentlemen in this administration opposite for the last five or six years, Sir, and I have seen what gall and brazen gall, piled upon brazen gall is and so do the people of this Province. If the hon. gentleman doubts that let him persuade his colleague, the Premier, to have a dissolution, let him persuade the Premier to have a dissolution and then we will see.

MR. PECKFORD: We all know where you stand.

MR. ROBERTS: I stand on my own hook and I would rather stand where I stand than stand where the hon. gentleman is. At least I stand, Mr. Speaker, and at least I do not skulk as the hon. gentleman opposite, I would suggest, should.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as I was saying, the road is across Labrador now. There is a road from Happy Valley-Goose Bay in to Esker, which is I believe mile 284 on the railway, the QN and L railway running North from Sept Isle; and there is a road link I am told from the Ross Bay Junction into Labrador City and the city of Wabush. All that is needed is to upgrade that road -

AN HON. MEMBER: No.

MR. ROBERTS: The hon. minister says no. I agree he is too busy paving every bush path down in his own - I said upgrade that road -

MR. PECKFORD: It cannot be done -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. ROBERTS: It cannot be done. Well where is the hon. gentleman going to build it if he does not build it across Labrador. Mr. Speaker, if the hon. gentleman opposite -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. gentlemen opposite wish us to have more facts I wonder if they would be good enough to bring to the House and table their reports.

MR. PECKFORD: Do your research.

MR. ROBERTS: Do my research? If the hon. gentleman would authorize me to approach the Deputy Minister of Transportation and Communications, or rather would authorize the Deputy Minister of Transportation and Communications, a very good and a very proper Civil Servant to release

MR. ROBERTS: to me these reports I would love to have them. But hon. gentleman opposite feel that they are their own property although they are paid for by the taxpayers of this Province, and then they trot out little nuggets as if to say "Ah ha! Have we not surprised you now." If hon. gentleman opposite have some reports, produce them and let the whole Province look at them, The whole Province paid for them. My constituents in the Strait of Bell Island paid for them, not the ministers opposite. The hon. gentleman from LaPoile (Mr. Neary), his constituents paid for them, not hon. gentlemen opposite. Hon. gentlemen opposite tend to treat public property as if it were their own, and that is one of the reasons why in five or six years they have come down so far and so fast, the greatest fall since the fall of Rome, about fifteen or sixteen hundred years ago if memory serves me correctly.

MR. PECKFORD: You are familiar with falls.

MR. ROBERTS: I am familiar with falls, Sir, I am more than familiar with falls and great was the fall thereof.

Mr. Speaker, there is a road link across Labrador now, All this resolution speaks of is upgrading, of building either a new road or upgrading the present road, and it matters not for the time being which, and all that is needed is a start. And of course this administration has so little sympathy for Labrador, so little concern for Labrador they really could not give a hoot. They will stand here and they will talk about it and they will hand-carry it to Ottawa - and what that means is instead of an eight cent stamp it costs us, say, \$500 to get the document delivered to Ottawa, to be hand carried to Ottawa, and then they will

MR. ROBERTS:

take a swipe at Ottawa, a swipe at Mr. Jamieson, who has done more for this administration and for this Province, and whatever he has done for this administration has been done in the interest of this Province, has done more than all hon. gentlemen opposite have and will do more, I venture to say, than all hon. gentlemen opposite. And then they say, 'Ah ha! Look what good boys we are. We have gone to Ottawa.' Their whole idea of running the government of this Province is to turn to Ottawa. They seem to forget there is a British North America Act, there is a scheme of federation in Canada that divides matters into federal matters and provincial matters and Her Majesty's Ministers in right of Newfoundland are supposed to deal with provincial matters, not just whine and skulk off to Ottawa every time.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution calls for the construction of a Port Labrador and calls for the construction of a railway and a road. It calls for negotiations with Ottawa to this end. And there have been no negotiations. There have been no such bold, imaginative planning. There have been no such concepts put forward, just the usual whining and skulking and reacting and trying to get a little bit of publicity, trying anything to get over the next hump. Just the same as there was back in 1975 of the start on the tunnel, and the blowing off of the dynamite down at Point Amour and then across the Straits on the Newfoundland side in Savage Cove.

That is typical of this government and they said then contracts were let and everything was all set to go and \$100 million was wasted later, \$100 million gone, and the whole thing now is a shambles.

The hon. gentlemen opposite talk about Labrador and the hon. gentlemen opposite wonder why the people in Labrador have lost faith in them. All they have to do is look in the

MR. ROBERTS: mirror, look at the record, they will see why. They will see why there will not be a Tory candidate win a seat in Labrador in the next election, and that includes the two who now represent seats in Labrador. That is why the hon. gentleman for Menihek (Mr. Rousseau) will not be running in Labrador in the next election. He has not got the courage it will take to go back and face the people who have twice sent him to this House. And that is why the hon. gentleman from Naskaupi (Mr. Goudie) will not be running in the next election in Labrador in the Naskaupi seat. That is why.

Mr. Speaker, the Tory Party's record in Labrador is shameful, a shambles. I do not know if I am allowed to call it a fraud ; if I am I will and if I am not then I will not use the term. I am not allowed to say they have deliberately misled the people of Labrador but I can and I do say they have misled the people of Labrador. This is the government which promised Labrador some special consideration, some consideration for its special needs.

Mr. Speaker, I have - what? - three minutes or do we want to call it six?

AN HON. MEMBER: Speak for three minutes.

MR. ROBERTS: I can say more in three minutes than the hon. minister says in an hour and I would be quite happy to do it if the hon. gentleman wants. Do you want to call it six or -

MR. HICKMAN: Call it six o'clock.

MR. ROBERTS: All right. The House Leader says six, I move the adjournment of the debate, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member has moved the adjournment of the debate.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I move that the remaining orders of the day do stand deferred and that this House on its rising do

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MR. HICKMAN: adjourn until tomorrow, Thursday,
at two of the clock, and that this House do now adjourn.

MR. SPEAKER: It is moved that this House adjourn
until tomorrow, Thursday, 2:00 P.M., those in favour "Aye",
contrary "Nay", carried.

This House stands adjourned until
Thursday, 2:00 P.M.