

VOL. 4

NO. 1

THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE
37TH. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PRELIMINARY
UNEDITED
TRANSCRIPT

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

FOR THE PERIOD:

3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1978

December 4, 1978

Tape No. 1

NM - 1

The House met at 3:00 P.M.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! I have to ask hon. members if there is unanimous consent for the proceedings today to be covered by radio, television and perhaps photographs from the print media?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Agreed.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Mr. Speaker, their Lordships the Judges of the Supreme Court have arrived.

MR. SPEAKER: Admit their Lordships the Justices of the Supreme Court.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Mr. Speaker, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor has arrived.

MR. SPEAKER: Admit His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.

HON. GORDON A. WINTER: (Lieutenant-Governor): Mr. Speaker and Members of the hon. House of Assembly:

December 4, 1978, Tapes 2 and 3

I welcome you to the Fourth Session of the 37th General Assembly of the Province of Newfoundland. This House of Assembly opens at a time of confidence and optimism among our people. This Province has known more than its share of economic hardships, but today there is indeed just cause for optimism.

In my last address to this Assembly, we were eagerly looking forward to the visit to our Province of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness, the Prince Philip, and family. Their visit was a time of great personal and national satisfaction. We are proud to be Newfoundlanders and Canadians. We are also proud to be part of the Commonwealth. Her Majesty has since informed me of her appreciation for the warm hospitality and for the many and sincere expressions of loyalty and affection which they received from all parts of Newfoundland and Labrador.

We were also honoured in 1978 to be the host Province for the Canada Games for the Physically Disabled. Their determination in spite of disadvantage was in a way symbolic of the history of the people of this Province. We are glad that they were able to be with us.

MR. SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HONOURABLE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY:

Six years ago My Government accepted the challenge of building in this Province a sound economy within an equitable social fabric. My Ministers can be pleased with the progress. Per capita income in 1977 was \$5,048, over twice the figure of \$2,455 for 1972. Retail trade figures show that our people at this Christmas Season have more spending power than ever before. Our children have better clothes. Our youth have better educational opportunities. There are more refrigerators per capita, more telephones per capita, more washing machines, and more automobiles. The standard of housing is higher. We have more miles of paved road, more homes with indoor plumbing, and more homes with electricity. There are better hospitals, more senior citizens homes, and better schools. In the midst of talk about regional disparities when compared to other parts of this great nation, we would do well to compare ourselves to where we were just a few short years ago. Much progress has been made.

MR. SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HONOURABLE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY:

In 1972 My Government embarked on a program of regional resource development. A Department of Rural Development was established, along

with a Department of Industrial Development. Regional offices were established around the Province by the Departments of Fisheries and Forestry and Agriculture. In particular, Government presence in Labrador has been strengthened. Further, My Ministers and officials have travelled extensively throughout the Province to hold meetings and obtain the comments and advice of the people with respect to the policies and programs of their government. The result of this process has been the forging of a stronger developmental dialogue between Government and people. It is by working together that we will continue into the 1980's to further enhance our prosperity.

My Government wishes to acknowledge the important role of the Government of Canada as partners with us in social and economic development. We particularly refer to the manner in which the Department of Regional Economic Expansion has been responding to provincial priorities.

MR. SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HONOURABLE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY:

The best example of My Government's concern for development in all regions of the Province is the recently revealed regional fisheries development strategy. My Government firmly believes that the resources of the sea will be the mainstay of our economy. The fisheries will be the most important growth component for the foreseeable future. Fish landings will increase in volume and value. Employment will increase and incomes will rise.

The regional fisheries development strategy is based on the best data available on our fisheries resource, harvesting technology, processing requirements, and markets. Officials of the federal Department of Fisheries were involved. The fishermen have been consulted, and their views will continue to be taken into account. The fishermen's union has been asked for its views. The Fisheries Association of Newfoundland and Labrador will likewise have opportunity to comment.

The second major study recently completed was on the Feasibility of a Primary Landing and Distribution Centre. This study established the Centre's compatibility with the existing components of the fishing industry, and My Government has accepted the consultant's recommendation that Harbour Grace be the site. The Centre will be the operational base for a fleet of offshore wetfish and freezer trawlers. Fish will be landed at Harbour Grace and distributed either fresh or frozen to seasonal plants on the Avalon

Peninsula and Northeast Coast. This will create additional employment in communities from Bonavista to Trepassey. Plants in Catalina, Arnold's Cove, Port de Grave, Hart's Harbour, Fermeuse, Charleston, and other towns are part of this plan. The benefits clearly will extend far beyond the port of Harbour Grace.

My Ministers will introduce legislation to establish a Fish Procurement and Distribution Corporation (FPDC) to operate the port. Other activities of the Corporation will include the acquisition of fishing vessels by charter, purchase, or construction; the chartering of vessels to fishing companies; the buying of fish; the selling of fish to processing plants; and arrangements relating to the unloading, handling, storage and distribution of fish as they pertain to the Primary Centre concept.

The activities of the Corporation will complement private sector initiatives and it will be dissolved once domestic harvesting operations can ensure adequate supplies of fish to processing plants on a continuing basis.

The FPDC will be a Crown Corporation reporting directly to the Minister of Fisheries, and its Board of Directors will include representatives of Federal and Provincial Governments, industry, plant workers, and fishermen. The Corporation will be established on January 1, 1979, at which time a Chief Executive Officer will be appointed.

My Government will begin immediately an engineering assessment of all inshore ports to determine what facilities will be required. Initial emphasis will be given to those ports which account for the major share of inshore fish landings. Consultants will be required to meet with local Fishermen's Committees in the course of their work. The Small Craft Harbours Branch of the federal Department of Fisheries and Environment will be directly involved in all phases of planning and implementation of harbour improvements.

Fishermen of this Province are unanimous in their praise for the Marine Service Centre Program. It is planned to extend this program to upgrade a number of existing centres and to construct several new facilities at strategic locations.

My Government's commitment to an expanded longliner program reflects the growth potential of this sector of the inshore fishery. Appropriate financial and technical assistance programs will be continued for this sector in the form of low interest loans and mortgage support. It is projected that upwards of 430 new and replacement vessels will have to be

introduced into the fleet over the next seven years. Special attention will be focused on the Labrador Region and a special vessel assistance program for resident Labrador fishermen will be introduced on April 1, 1979.

My Government will ask naval architects to design a special multipurpose vessel for use in the seal fishery. Harvesting of seals is important in the context of fisheries management, and contributes substantially to the incomes of fishermen in certain sections of the Province. It is our aim to ensure that Newfoundland continues to take a leading role in this traditional industry.

Regulations will be introduced with respect to the transportation of fish in non-insulated conveyances. Additional ice-making capacity will be provided, and better fish handling facilities constructed.

My Government will take definite steps to increase cold storage capacity. The Province is already refurbishing 3,000 metric tons of capacity at Argentia. In addition, new facilities of 5,000 tons capacity each will be constructed on the Northeast and West Coasts. These facilities will be strategically located to receive finished product from a number of plants.

My Government will continue its policy of complementing and assisting the private sector in processing and marketing. We must extract the maximum employment and incomes from the raw material provided by our fishermen. In support of this objective, My Government will

1. Increase the maximum level of secondary processing incentives;
2. Give companies which are planning secondary processing activity preference in the leasing of provincially-owned fish plants;
3. Undertake an assessment of the centres where secondary processing is most feasible and seek development proposals for further processing activity in these centres. Funding assistance will be awarded in support of viable proposals;
4. Place increased emphasis on new fish product development. A new product development laboratory, construction of which has already commenced, is being established in conjunction with the College of Fisheries.

My Government will be pursuing with vigour other activities as outlined in the development program to 1985. Particular attention will be given to the saltfish industry with the intention of revitalizing this important sector of the fishing industry. A major marketing initiative will be commenced, along with an advertising and promotional campaign. The Province will add to its scientific capability in fisheries management.

MR. SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HONOURABLE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY:

My Government was extremely pleased to have been able to announce the sale of the Labrador Linerboard Mill to private interests. With the continued cooperation of the Government of Canada, all arrangements should shortly be completed so that the mill may become a healthy component of our forest industry, providing steady employment and high incomes for workers of Stephenville and the Bay St. George area.

MR. SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HONOURABLE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY:

For over fifty years the forests of Newfoundland have provided a solid base for a large portion of our economy. They should continue to do so indefinitely, but we must make investments now to guarantee better forests for future generations. My Government has just completed a five-year forestry development plan, and is ready to embark on another five-year program.

Beginning in 1979, My Government will expand reforestation of areas ravaged by the spruce budworm. Disease resistant spruce will replace balsam fir. The output of the provincial tree nursery will be doubled from six million to twelve million seedlings per year.

My Government will continue large scale programs to salvage dead and damaged timber on both Crown and company lands. First priority will be given to high unemployment areas such as Bay d'Espoir. We will be availing of the opportunity of using Canada Manpower funds for this and other forest improvement activities.

Insect control will be a major concern in 1979. The spruce budworm epidemic has moved eastward from its previous concentration on the west coast, and over 5 million cords of timber are dead or dying. My Government will research and apply the most suitable means of controlling this enormous danger to our forest.

The forest access road program will be continued. By the end of the next five-year program approximately 1200 miles of roads will have been completed. These roads improve wood supplies for sawmills and paper mills, aid forest management and protection, and provide access routes for our people.

My Government will study the feasibility of small thermo-mechanical

pulp mills and other specialty plants to use wood outside the economic radius of the major pulp and paper mills.

An extensive pilot project has been completed in cooperation with the two pulp and paper companies into cable logging on steep slopes. This project involved visits to Scotland where this technology is highly developed. It has now been proven commercially feasible to harvest thousands of cords of wood which had been inaccessible. To encourage the use of this technology, My Government has arranged for the Community College in Stephenville to give a course in steep slope logging next year.

The feasibility of whole tree chipping of hardwoods for use as a fuel supplement is being tested in a pilot project being conducted by My Government and Price Newfoundland Ltd. of Grand Falls. In addition to savings in fuel costs, forest stands will be cleared for replacement by commercial softwood species.

My Government believes that we must strive to make full use of our forest resources. To this end regulations will be introduced to minimize waste in harvesting operations.

MR. SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HONOURABLE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY:

It is a dominant policy of My Government to stimulate the development of all our primary resources. Agriculture is becoming more important to our economy, with farm cash income exceeding \$20 million in 1977.

My Government will introduce programs to supply fresh, quality produce at competitive prices, and to raise significantly our percentage self-sufficiency over the next five years. For example, by 1983 Newfoundland will grow 60 per cent of its vegetables, compared to 30 per cent at present. Milk and pork production each should meet 29 per cent of local demand instead of the present 16 per cent. Whereas we now produce 20 per cent of our lamb consumption, by 1983 we will produce 36 per cent, and 90 per cent of eggs. These targets will be achieved through several programs.

My Government will direct special financial assistance programs to commercial farms. We will provide guidance on new techniques in agriculture. An intensive land classification program will be carried out. In addition to on-farm vegetable storage units, a number of centralized vegetable packaging and marketing facilities will be constructed in

agricultural areas. Veterinary services will be improved, and new laboratories constructed at the Mount Pearl Experimental Farm.

MR. SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HONOURABLE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY:

Mineral resources provide the largest single component in our Gross Provincial Product, and potential exists for new developments in uranium, base and precious metals, and industrial minerals. The new Mineral Holdings Impost Act requires claim holders to invest in exploration or forfeit claims. Mineral exploration is now at an all-time high in terms of the number of companies involved, the range of minerals sought, and the distribution of exploration activities. You will be asked to approve an amendment to The Mineral Act to provide for the reversion to the Crown of any mining lease on which production has ceased, regardless of previous legislation under which properties were obtained. We will continue our very successful program of geoscientific and resource evaluation surveys under the Mineral Development Subsidiary Agreement.

My Government is very concerned to assist the town of Buchans to adjust to the impending closure of the mine. In line with existing policy, an industrial development officer will be assigned to Buchans early in 1979.

My Government has just signed an agreement with the Government of Canada to establish the Lower Churchill Development Corporation. That Corporation will be incorporated under federal charter, and will begin a new phase of development of the massive hydro electric resources of Labrador. The Corporation will be seeking to remove all obstacles to the recommencement of construction work in the Lower Churchill basin. My Government is working now to attract energy intensive industries to Labrador, as well as ultimately provide a transmission line to the Island.

My Government has approved a multi-year program by Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro to replace diesel generators at a number of communities with lines to the provincial hydro network. At present, it appears economic to construct lines to Mud Lake, Gallants, Long Island, Greenspond, Change Islands-Fogo Island, Grand Le Pierre-English Harbour East, Millertown, and Hampden-Sop's Arm. The Corporation will be preparing an inventory of other areas that may be served by small, local hydro stations. It is the intention of My Government to design and install a small scale plant as a pilot project.

In 1978 the strong position taken by My Government on offshore oil

and gas exploration was proven to be wise and prudent. Drilling resumed and another major gas strike resulted. Imperial Oil has just announced its plans to drill in 1979, and as many as ten operations may be going simultaneously. In 1978 some \$40 million was spent by the oil companies, and expenditures in 1979 could be close to \$200 million. Through the Petroleum Regulations, My Government is well equipped to maximize benefits to Newfoundland in terms of direct employment and expenditure on goods and services within the Province. A manpower information system is already in place to match jobs with people. Funds have already been received from oil companies to establish training courses to meet the needs of offshore operators. Companies will be increasing their research and development expenditures in this Province. Nevertheless, My Government will give highest priority to environmental controls.

MR. SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HONOURABLE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY:

My Government has taken steps recently towards the creation of a year-round, deep water port in Labrador. The demand for such a port is coming from potential heavy industry based on energy from the Lower Churchill, possible development of offshore oil and gas, and development of vast iron ore reserves in western Labrador. My Government has requested the Government of Canada to put an icebreaker in Lake Melville this month during the period of ice ridging. Certain ice studies will be undertaken over this winter, and perhaps the "M.V. Arctic" will conduct ice trials in Lake Melville next spring. If the shipping season can be extended, My Government envisages the ultimate development of a major port linked to western Labrador by an all-weather highway and a railway.

MR. SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HONOURABLE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY:

My Government has carefully studied the tourism industry in our Province and is pleased to explain its policies and plans for this industry. These policies and plans take into account the needs of Newfoundlanders who wish to vacation in their own Province, and also the needs of our visitors.

The cornerstone of our tourism policy is to preserve, enhance, and market an image of uniqueness. Newfoundland is truly a vacation with a difference. Our scenic, cultural, and historical attractions are unique in North America. In Trinity, My Government will join with the community to restore historic buildings and improve existing homes that will renew and preserve the true character of one of our oldest settlements.

A model fishing project will be constructed in a community to be announced. This exhibit will include a typical home, surrounding buildings, and a fishing stage, all in conjunction with a gift shop and a restaurant with traditional menu.

My Government will construct specially designed cottages for seasonal use by travellers to rural portions of our Province. Roadside chalets and information plazas will direct tourists to points of interest. Package tours will be developed which will emphasize scenic routes, fishing trips, and wilderness hikes.

My Government will build three hundred new campsites over the next five years. A hospitality and catering training program will also be introduced.

My Government accords high priority to management of wildlife resources. The Hunter Safety Program will be extended next year. Measures will be devised to combat flagrant, extensive poaching, and game laws will be rigidly enforced.

MR. SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HONOURABLE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY:

My Government in 1972 began a program of rural development which involved the people of rural areas in planning their economic destinies. Thirty-six Rural Development Associations are now active. They have documented specific areas of potential development. It is a process that is unique in Canada and which is attracting international attention.

The rainbow trout farm project of the Upper Trinity South Development Association is an outstanding example of work that is being done by these Associations. By 1980, 300,000 pounds of trout should be ready for market. The Twillingate-New World Island Development Association was responsible for a filleting operation at Herring Neck. In Grand Falls a food preserving centre is being established. Other projects are a smokehouse project in Greenspond, a fish processing plant in Argentia, a greenhouse in the Labrador Straits area, and a fisheries development project at Port Kirwan.

My government has demonstrated its commitment to rural Newfoundland, and will continue these efforts. Rural development loans have assisted companies producing fertilizer and feeds, polished stones, and specialized furniture. My Government will offer a sawlog inventory assistance program again this winter to help operators finance their cutting operations. An intensive study of the handicrafts industry will be conducted

over the next four months, and a promotional program is in effect through gift shows and sales in other parts of Canada.

In order to facilitate marketing of Newfoundland products of all types, My Government will create a Newfoundland and Labrador Exposition Centre in St. John's. This will be a display and sales outlet for manufactured products, preserved foods and crafts. All products will be identified as meeting standards of excellence.

MR. SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HONOURABLE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY:

My Ministers will bring before this Honourable House such legislative changes as will be necessary to implement the announced government reorganization of departments and responsibilities. These changes are part of the efforts of My Government to improve the level of services despite tight financial constraints.

My Government will make plans this year to establish a provincial Resource Development Bank. This bank will centralize all lending operations of various agencies and departments of Government. Loan applicants will deal with one set of approval criteria and application procedures. Accounting will be computerized, and operations will in most respects resemble those of a commercial bank. My Government is confident that this will improve the service to the business community and give better control and administration.

My Government is proud of the progress that has been achieved in recent years in the health care system and in social services. During this session, My Government will reveal its long range hospital construction plan. Our emphasis will continue to be on prevention of disease and social ills, rather than on cures and corrective measures. Budgetary provision will be made to expand health education, particularly with respect to nutrition and prenatal care, and other community-based services. Our objective is to help people make better use of the facilities and services being offered. All possible support will be given to programs of physical fitness and recreation, which have been shown to contribute so much to the general wellbeing of persons of all ages.

My Government is acutely aware of the needs of senior citizens. You will be asked to approve a program in which Government will pay the major share of the cost of prescription drugs for all senior citizens. Further, you will be asked to approve legislation to provide for the substitution of lower cost high quality drugs for more widely used brand name drugs.

My Government plans to continue implementing the recommendations of the Gushue Report. In addition to improving the safety and level of care offered by institutions, My Ministers will be examining the entire system of care for the elderly. My Government believes that many senior citizens could be better served by home support services than by institutions. With some assistance, families will be able to continue the tradition of caring for the elderly to the benefit of all.

My Government notes with concern the increasing problems in our society associated with alcohol consumption. It is a contributor to poverty, to family breakdown, and to crime. My Government will seek to control liquor advertising, and increase its information programs. We will examine whether there is a need for further controls on licensed outlets, particularly with reference to hours during which liquor is available.

MR. SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HONOURABLE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY:

My Government will be presenting a new Municipalities Act for your consideration. The new Act will be based primarily on the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Municipal Government. With respect to capital projects, work will continue on the Waterford Valley Trunk Sewer, the St. John's Urban Region Water Supply, and the Exploits Valley Regional Water Supply. Work will commence on the Northeast Trunk Sewer in St. John's. In Labrador, My Government will conduct Community Planning Studies in all major coastal communities which will prepare the way for designing roads and water and sewer systems appropriate to the special conditions there.

With the reorganization of Departments, My Government will transfer the responsibility for occupational health and safety in mines to the Department of Labour and Manpower. Priority attention will be devoted to resolving dust problems at Labrador City. My Government will also conduct a one-year study into the levels of air contaminants in the community of Long Harbour.

Amendments to consumer protection legislation will be proposed to offer better protection in the areas of direct selling, used automobile purchases, and credit contracts.

My Government continues to be aware of the problems of over-regulation. The Action Group has helped the individual and the small businessman, but regulations may hinder larger businesses as well. A

thorough examination of all regulations will be conducted. The Economic Development Advisory Council will be asked to review the findings and report on possible changes.

My Government reaffirms its commitment to reform of matrimonial law, and will be tabling a policy statement along with legislation in this Session. Representations and briefs from interested groups have been carefully studied, and a complete review of this very complex matter is being undertaken with the object of removing inequities with respect to the rights of both marriage partners.

MR. SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HONOURABLE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY:

My Government will embark on major new initiatives in education. We have accepted the recommendation of the Minister's Advisory Committee to introduce Grade XII on a phased basis, beginning in September, 1980 with the Grade X class. Details will be presented to this Session in due course.

A second initiative will be to enrich the school curriculum with more Newfoundland and Labrador content, especially in literature, history, and culture. A comprehensive history of Newfoundland and Labrador will be commissioned. In keeping with our emphasis on developing Newfoundland expertise in resource development, a special scholarship program will be established for graduates of Memorial University to further their studies in the physical sciences associated with the fishery, oil and gas, forestry and mining.

My Government intends to introduce an exciting new concept to harness the enthusiastic and adventurous spirit of the youth of our Province. Early in the New Year we will unveil the framework for the establishment of a Newfoundland and Labrador Youth Corps, a concept which will represent a pioneer move for our Province. The Corps will enable a selected number of young Newfoundlanders to interact in a highly planned and disciplined fashion with many aspects of our way of life, including exposure to the northern environment, practical participation in experimental marine ventures, novel agrarian, forestry, and geological activities, and other worthwhile projects to be defined and announced.

The New Year has been declared the International Year of the Child and My Government will be taking special action to advance the welfare of the Province's greatest resource, our children. Our children are growing up in turbulent times in which traditional values are being challenged and when the basic unit of our society, the family, is subject to great stress and strain.

As a focal point for the Province's activities during the International Year of the Child, a Conference will be held to discuss fundamental issues relating to our children. These issues will include child nutrition, the care of children, and the rights of children before the law. Consideration will be given to the appointment of a Children's Advocate in the Department of Justice and particular emphasis will be given to the prevention of child abuse. A number of special activities will be undertaken to harness the energies of children through organized groups and to channel these into meaningful projects.

Investigations have been completed into the Judicature Act and replacement statutes will be presented for your approval. My Government will introduce a Small Claims Act and a revised Summary Jurisdiction Act.

My Government will submit a new Elections Act for your consideration. This Act will establish regulations concerning election expenses and contributions.

The Public Accounts for the period ending March 31, 1978, will be placed before you, for your usual thorough review.

You will be asked to grant supply to Her Majesty.

MR. SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HONOURABLE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY:

It is with much assurance and eagerness that My Government presents this report and program of action for your consideration. There is an air of optimism among our people in this Province. This is a good place to live. People don't want to leave. Newcomers want to stay, not because of low taxes or low cost of living, but because we have a pleasant and humane society. In 1978 there is a contagious consciousness abroad that this Province is on the threshold of bigger and better things. Our people deserve it, and they want to be part of it. Our resource foundation is firm; our goals realizable. My Government is committed to apply itself diligently to its task.

MR. SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HONOURABLE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY:

I invoke God's blessing upon you as you commence your labours in this Fourth Session of the Thirty-Seventh General Assembly. May Divine Providence guide you in your deliberations.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a bill, "An Act Respecting Elections, Controverted Elections, and Election Financing."

Motion, the hon. Minister of Justice to introduce a bill, "An Act Respecting Elections, Controverted Elections, and Election Financing," carried.

On motion, a bill, "An Act Respecting Elections, Controverted Elections and Election Financing," read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: His Honour the Lieutenant Governor has been pleased to make a speech to hon. members of the House of Assembly and for purposes of greater accuracy I have obtained a copy thereof which will now be distributed to hon. members.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Kilbride.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. R. WELLS: The gracious Speech from the Throne which has just been read by His Honour takes as its principal theme the development of the resources of this Province and in that context speaks of both human resources and natural resources. The speech strikes a note of optimism and a note of pride because resource development policies and the firm stands taken by the Province have shown themselves to be correct.

Mr. Speaker, every province of Canada has had at one time or another its periods of growth and prosperity, its times of adversity but no one can deny that we are now entering a period of unparalleled growth. Wherever you go in the Province or in the country it is an accepted fact that the combination of our resources, our geography, the domestic and foreign requirements for fish products, paper, minerals, hydro-electricity, and oil and gas, together, mean one thing, and it is that from now until the end of the century Newfoundland and Labrador will be one of the wealthiest and most exciting places in the world. That fact, Mr. Speaker, is known and discussed wherever major investment decisions are being made in North America and Europe.

What this administration has made clear to our own country Canada, to other countries, and to major corporations is that development in this Province must proceed on the basis that we must benefit from processing and job creation, from conservation, and the wise use of resources and from appropriate royalties and taxes. I for one, Mr. Speaker, would prefer that a resource of ours would remain undeveloped rather than be developed to the principal benefit of someone else or another country.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. WELLS: This is not chauvinism, Mr. Speaker, but a recognition of what has happened to Newfoundland and Labrador for nearly 400 years. It is clear to everyone that our government stands firmly and squarely against any further exploitation of this Province by the sale of unprocessed resources or cheap raw materials.

Mr. Wells: In this connection, Mr. Speaker, I should like to make a specific reference.

MR. R. WELLS:

I congratulate the government on entering into the Lower Churchill Development Corporation. I believe that the Lower Churchill will be developed, but I would rather see the project delayed for a generation than see it sold outside of the Province no matter for what price. No amount of cash for export power can benefit us as much as would industry brought to the Province by the availability of electric power. And I hope, Mr. Speaker, to hear from government and from this House during the session, a clear and unmistakable policy statement that we are not in the business of exporting power, with the exception of the very short-term, but we are in the business of attracting industry to the power here in Labrador and on the Island of Newfoundland.

Mr. Speaker, the people of this Province have made it clear that they are not flower children and that for better or for worse they want and demand the goods and services that go hand in hand with the modern industrial state. As I see the role of government, it is to work with and foster industrial development by private enterprise and to provide the public services and the atmosphere in which private enterprise can function within the guidelines of public policy. Mr. Speaker, a former political figure once said to me, "If only the amount of work which has been done on the sea around us could have been done on the land, what a country we would have been." I welcome, especially as member for Kilbride, the emphasis which is to be placed on agriculture. Our soil and climate do not encourage agriculture but I believe that we can do more than we have been doing in recent years for some land has gone out of cultivation and some livestock numbers have dwindled rather than increased.

We have, Mr. Speaker, to recognize that the farmer and fisherman are the important people of the future and that their incomes are reflecting and will reflect that status and that young people are choosing farming and particularly fishing careers over the so-called white-collar jobs which so attracted our generation. And I think it is exciting, Mr. Speaker, that this is so

MR. R. WELLS: and that the financial rewards make it so. There is no more important area of Newfoundland life than the fishery and there is no more promising area. There are points of dispute, Mr. Speaker, between this Province and Ottawa in the management of the 200 mile limit but we must give

MR. R. WELLS: credit where credit is due. I for one did not dream ten years ago that the 200 mile limit would ever happen. But it has happened and the management of the resource is here to stay. And though we may argue over the details of management and control, a prosperous fishery and a growing fishery will mean more to us than any other part of our economy. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the administration on their plans for the fishery and their emphasis on it as referred to in the gracious Speech from the Throne.

Mr. Speaker, I note with pleasure the plans outlined in the Speech for improvement to health and social services and in particular the plans which will assist the elderly and those unable to help themselves. The way in which these matters are approached is a measure of our society and we would all agree that we must do everything within our power to spend wisely the dollars available for social purposes. One area, Mr. Speaker, in which we must do more is the field of nutrition and physical fitness. It is an area where wise leadership is more important than dollars. We have become a generation in which the majority are spectators and the minority are participants, where the few are trained and developed to give incredible performances while the many participate in a minimum of physical activities and ignore every rule of nutrition and fitness. I believe, Mr. Speaker, a change is coming throughout Canada and the United States but we still have a long way to go and we must realize that more public dollars on sports facilities is not by any means the whole answer. People, young and old alike, must be motivated to seek and develop for themselves, and often by themselves, their own programmes for fitness and healthful living. I welcome the government's commitment to the encouragement of individual health just as much as its programme for the curing of the sick, the one being simple, inexpensive and largely in the hands of each individual, the other complex, expensive and dependent on highly trained professionals.

MR. R. WELLS:

Mr. Speaker, the speech we heard this afternoon is a document of policy, of optimism, and faith in this Province. It is the nature of human beings to believe in different solutions to the same problems and even to differ in the identification of problems and priorities, but I do know, Mr. Speaker, that the intentions and concepts in this speech will be

MR. R. WELLS: debated fully and vigorously over the next weeks and months. We in this House have a choice, we can debate the issues, discuss solutions and stimulate public debate or we can, as has happened before, allow the House to think below that level. I sincerely hope, Mr. Speaker, that this session will produce discussion which will serve this Province and the people who live here and which will attract people to public life rather than repel them from it. After all, we are debating about our home and its future. With these remarks, Mr. Speaker, I have much pleasure in moving that a committee be appointed to draft a reply to this most gracious Speech from the Throne.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Mr. Speaker, it is a great honour for me to second the motion presented by my colleague from Kilbride (Mr. Wells) in moving a vote of thanks and an expression of appreciation for the gracious Speech from the Throne. It is also an honour for me as the member for Grand Falls, having been in the legislative process for eleven years, to have my first opportunity to be associated in this capacity in such an expression.

I want to say on a parochial note that I was very personally pleased to see the reference in the Throne Speech to the social field, the one which has been an aggravating one for me personally, and I think most members of the Legislature appreciate that any progress in the direction as stated in the Throne Speech is very, very welcome.

Let me congratulate my two colleagues on their appointments to the two important portfolios of Municipal Affairs and Housing as well as the portfolio of Rural Development, the member for

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Naskaupi (Mr. Goudie) and the member for Mount Pearl (Mr. N. Windsor).

Mr. Speaker, we have seen really in the expression from the gracious Speech from the Throne today a new challenge to all of the members of this Legislature, a challenge which points out the areas that we need and can make very effective progress, as the member for Kilbride (Mr. Wells) said, the challenge that can make Newfoundland and Labrador into one of the great 'have' areas of our Province, the most exciting part of certainly Eastern Canada and perhaps if we look in terms of a frontier land, as we are to a considerable extent, the most exciting area in the whole of the nation.

We are looking

MR. LUNDRIGAN: at challenges that have been realized in the last number of years. I reiterate the statements on fisheries. We have come a long way from the days when the Continental Shelf was introduced first as a national concept.

I look at my colleague, the Minister of Fisheries, and recall the events leading up to ten years of struggle and determination to make the Continental Shelf a concept that was understood by Canadians. I believe today our combined efforts as a people, as a Legislature, as members of Parliament, that we have been able to promote the fisheries into a national concern, and a national challenge rather than just a parochial issue which we have always been preoccupied with in our own Province.

We still look at the challenge of forcing ourselves to dedicate and rededicate our commitment to the aim that not a nickel's worth, not a pound of the resource will ever go outside this Province in an undeveloped fashion. We must rededicate ourselves to the aim and objective that not a pound of the resource will go outside the Province to foreign bottoms and other nations that are prosecuting our resource at the present moment. These are challenges that we must face this year in this Legislature. In the forest field; it is still one of the greatest challenges when we realize that only, at today's statistics, thirty per cent of all of the forestry products that we use in our Province are produced locally. Now we must ensure that not a stick of lumber, not a bit of two by four, not a thing relating to the forest industry comes from offshore. That is a challenge that we must assume as a Legislature.

In the field of agriculture, the gracious Speech points out the fact that we aim at increasing our production in some areas to 90 per cent of our production

MR. LUNDRIGAN: capability. This should be another dedicated aim of the people representing the people of our Province in the Legislature.

I could go on into the field of services where, even today with the great achievements we are still looking at in roads alone, according to my colleague, a \$1 billion requirement is needed over the next number of years for highways improvements and transportation improvements. In the field of social services, generally speaking, a field where we are not able to meet the commitment with our own financial resources and hence the need to look to Ottawa for continuous support in the field of social services.

In the field of hydro development, as we have talked about so dramatically over the last several years, I believe this is the year 1978/79 for us as a Legislature, to come to grips with the gnawing problem of the fact that we are exporting to another Province a resource that is double the total revenue base of our own Province and

Mr. Lundrigan: consequently the need for us to address ourselves as a Legislature to this particular area. The area, of course, is the redevelopment of the other resources in Labrador.

So, Mr. Speaker, I could go on and talk about education and various other aspects of the Throne Speech which have been identified here today, but the most important thing I want to say in seconding the motion proposed by my colleague is the fact that as a Legislature we represent the people of this Province, fifty-one elected members, fifty-one elected legislators. We have been given the responsibility to guide the Province through the very challenging period that lies ahead of us, the exciting period that we are facing in the next year or the next number of years, and I think it is incumbent upon all of us in the Legislature this year, the 1979 season which is coming our way, to recommit ourselves collectively as a Legislative body to the aims and the objectives and the challenges and the goals that have been put forward in the gracious Speech from the Throne. I think the people are expecting us as legislators to set new examples, to paint horizons, to set goals, to state objectives so that the people themselves can rekindle the excitement that I think all of us are feeling here today.

So it is with a great deal of pleasure, Mr. Speaker, that I have the honour of seconding the statement and the expression of appreciation proposed by my colleague for Kilbride.

SOME HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: (MR. YOUNG): The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. W. N. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, first of all let my words be one of welcome to the dignitaries here today gracing our Chamber representing church and state. Once a year, Sir, we have the honour of having their presence in this august Chamber and I am sure I speak for everybody, every member of this House of Assembly when I welcome them here and say that we welcome their presence at any time during our deliberations to come.

MR. NEARY:

Hear, hear!

MR. W. N. ROWE:

Let my second words be ones of sadness,

Mr. Speaker, that we are unfortunately deprived of the presence

MR. W. ROWE: of the leader of the government, the Premier today. When the hon. Deputy Premier gets up to speak he may have a word on that. I assume he is ill, I understand he is ill. I am very sorry about that because his presence always, of course, graces this chamber, when he is here. We are very sorry to see him absent today. I trust that his illness will not last long and that we will soon have the benefit of his deliberations in our debates as well.

Now, Sir, let me get quickly to the Throne Speech itself. This Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, could be assumed, I suppose, to be the last enunciation of government policy before the next election. We can presume, we can assume that this Throne Speech is what this government, this administration wants to present to the people some months in advance of going to the people, submitting its fate to the people in the next provincial election and, therefore, Sir, I, for one, as a member of this House and as a member of the Loyal Opposition in opposition to this government, I for one expected with some anxiety, some trepidation a Throne Speech which would be of such benefit and enunciating policies of such benefit to the people of this Province that we could be fearful on this side of the House of our very existence following the next election. That was the anxiety and fears which I had. Well, Sir, I could have saved myself any sleepless moments, any anxiety and any fears because the plan of development, short-term mid-term and long-term development which I, for one, expected this government to unveil here today leading up to the next election simply did not materialize I am very sorry to say. The Throne Speech which we just had read by His Honour - and of course no offence meant to His Honour, His Honour reads the Throne Speech which is provided to him by the government - this Throne Speech, Sir, had nothing whatever,

MR. W.N. ROWE: of originality in it, Very little of any imagination whatsoever was shown in this Throne Speech. It seemed to be, to me as I listened to it and as I followed along, a repetition, a barren repetition of what we have heard for nine Throne Speeches since 1972, this is the ninth. It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, and I will be interested to hear what other members of the House have to say as the debate proceeds, it seems to me to be the barren kind of Throne Speech of a government which has run out of steam, of a government which has seemed to have given up all hope of governing this Province in a proper fashion. In fact, Sir, I think I would be fair in saying that it seems to be the Throne Speech of a government which, after seven or eight years in office now admits defeat, it cannot grapple with the momentous problems facing us in Newfoundland and Labrador today. It seems to be the Throne Speech of a government which has lost all further interest in ever again forming the government or the administration of this Province. One example, Mr. Speaker; to hear in a Throne Speech leading up to an election the old, tired cliché of government restructuring, the restructuring of government programmes trotted out again after the disaster of the last restructuring programme which took, God knows how much time, energy, and talent and money to accomplish exactly nothing, to hear that trotted again, Sir, is an example of the barrenness of this particular speech, a speech Sir, which repeats for the seventh or eighth time promises and commitments made in 1972 and in succeeding years. In fact some good ideas which were enunciated in that Throne Speech, seven or eight years ago, the government this time, Sir - which have never been put into effect -

MR. W. N. ROWE: and to the Province was a Liberal project put there by the former administration of which I was a part. I was proud of the project then, Mr. Speaker, and I am proud of it now, and I certainly hope that the matter can go through with all deliberate speed. In fact, Sir, there would be no harm to say that every member on this side of the House opposed the close-down of the Labrador Linerboard mill, to start with,

MR. W. ROWE: eighteen months ago.

MR. NEARY: Six years of mismanagement.

MR. W. ROWE: We opposed it. It should never have been closed down and I will make mention of that again in the future, in a few minutes.

MR. NEARY: Skulduggery and mismanagement.

MR. W. ROWE: But let me say this, Sir, that having voiced our support, having voiced our encouragement to the government and to Abitibi Price and to everybody concerned, we have to say that, as usual the manner of the announcement that this proposal, this bid by Abitibi-Price had been accepted by the government was wrong. It turned out later that two essential ingredients, namely the tax concessions from the Canadian Internal Revenue Department and the DREE grants had not yet been finalized. And that is why I came out, having heard this on the radio for the first time, not from the government, heard it on the radio from our Minister in Ottawa, Mr. Jamieson, that these two essential ingredients had not been finalized and completed, having heard that I immediately, as soon as I heard it, drafted telegrams to the Prime Minister of Canada, to the Minister of Internal Revenue and to the Minister of Regional and Economic Expansion, Mr. Lessard, in which I said; "Speaking on behalf of the Opposition once more, that although the proposal had been announced as a completed and final sale it now turns out that it is not, in fact, final and I therefore urge the government, the Prime Minister and his colleagues to finalize the matters - the tax concessions, and the DREE grants - finalize these matters, complete them as soon as possible in order that the sale could, in fact, go through and become final and benefit the people of the Province.

Of course we favour the reopening of the Linerboard mill, Mr. Speaker. As I said it should never have closed. It would have been far more valuable as a going concern, far more valuable as a going concern than it would be as a mothballed, closed

November 4, 1978

Tape No. 14

NM - 2

MR. W. ROWE:

up Linerboard mill. Besides the fact
that figures, we have not gotten them from the government but indications
that I have show that it cost more to the people of this Province to,
in fact, close down that mill than

Mr. W. N. Rowe: if it had been kept open over the last year or year and-a-half. The closedown costs, Mr. Speaker, are very much inflated, have gone well over estimates, and if it had been kept open the cost would not have been nearly so great not to mention at all the most important fact of all, Sir, the complete economic and social disruption to the lives of hundreds, thousands of people in the Stephenville area and the Bay St. George area.

MR. NEARY: Even our tennis team down in Boston went bankrupt.

MR. W. N. ROWE: We are glad, Mr. Speaker, to see that the proposal of Abitibi-Price has been accepted, and I state here publicly, to the government, to the Deputy Premier and to his colleagues today, that we are behind any reasonable proposal to get that mill going, we encourage its opening, it should never have closed, and we hope that it opens very soon.

Now, Sir, let me say a word about a matter which was not mentioned in the Throne Speech, namely, the Come By Chance refinery. Again, speaking for my colleagues, we welcome the public indications that progress is being made, apparently, towards reopening that project as well. Again we support and encourage the efforts of all concerned, Mr. Speaker, to get that project, the Come By Chance refinery going. I will say, however, that there does seem to be a slight problem. In the declining days of the last session of the House, the Premier and the other ministers concerned did not give the impression that they are fully in control of what is going on regarding the Come By Chance refinery. I think my colleagues will agree that the members of the government did not give the impression of having a clear and firm grip on what was going on with regard to the reopening of the Come By Chance refinery. Apparently the government was not even consulted or advised until it was announced that the proposal of First Arabian Corporation had been accepted by the receiver for the first mortgagee. We still do not know, Mr. Speaker, although we should by this time, we still do not know whether the government favours the

Mr. W. N. Rowe: proposal of First Arabian or the proposal of the Shaheen group. The Shaheen group proposal, certainly on paper, appears to be much more to the benefit of the people of this Province, but we do not have the government's ideas or the government's position on those proposals.

Let me say, Sir, that it is up to the government, a government which seeks to lead on behalf of the people of this Province, to make its position clear. How do I know or how do the people of this Province know which of these proposals is most in the interests of the people themselves?

MR. W.N. ROWE: That is why we have governments and it is up to this government to take a firm position now, Mr. Speaker, before the die is cast or before we go too far beyond a situation where what the government says or does can make any difference whatsoever. And the government, in making its position known, should accept only that deal and that proposal, Sir, which is in the best interest of the people of this Province not just in the best interest of the first mortgagee, ECDG or Kleinworth - Benson over in Britain, but in the best interest of the people of this Province no matter what the first mortgagee may like or not like. And, Sir, as I say we support the government and anybody else in their reasonable and, hopefully, energetic efforts to get the Come by Chance refinery going again.

Let me say in passing one final word, Sir, for the moment on these two projects. The Come by Chance refinery was put there by the former Liberal administration and the linerboard mill as well. These two projects were closed down for a variety of reasons under this present administration. We have now reached the point where it is hoped that by 1981 the linerboard mill in Stephenville and the Come by Chance refinery may be going again. That is the hope!

MR. S. NEARY: The next thing they will have the steel mill going again.

MR. W. N. ROWE: That, Mr. Speaker, is ten years just about exactly ten years after this administration first took office in January of 1972. As far as these two projects are concerned Mr. Speaker, it can be truly said that these have been ten wasted years. We will find ourselves in 1981 at exactly the same position that we were in regarding the Come by Chance refinery and the linerboard mill, if everything goes well, in exactly the same position as this Province was in in 1971. That is progress, Mr. Speaker! There

MR. W.N. ROWE: is something to proud of! That is real achievement by this administration, to have arrived in 1981 at the position they were in when they took over the reins of power back in early 1972.

Now, Mr. Speaker, on the Lower Churchill Development Corporation let me say this as well; we as a party and as a group in this House, welcome and support the federal/provincial Crown corporation now set up to deal

MR. W. N. ROWE: with this project. But in saying that, Sir, let us be very clear and let the public of this Province be very clear what exactly it is we are talking about when we talk about the federal/provincial Crown corporation, development corporation, to deal with the Lower Churchill. That is the corporation, Sir, which is set up to study the feasibility of the Lower Churchill to determine whether its development is viable and economic, to decide upon alternative methods and ways of developing that project, if it is viable and economic, to inquire into marketing and financing and methods of getting the electricity and power to the markets. That is what that corporation is set up to do, Sir.

Once again, we are confronted as a people in this Province of Newfoundland and Labrador by a little problem. If we have now arrived, Mr. Speaker, at the point where we are spending money and setting up corporations to study the feasibility and possibility of getting the Lower Churchill going, why then, it may be asked, did this administration in the months leading up to and during the 1975 general election spend \$110 million of public money - provincial money too - on construction, or the start of construction of the Lower Churchill power development in Labrador? \$110 million, Mr. Speaker, no matter what the Minister of Mines and Energy may say or the Deputy Premier or anyone else, \$110 million, the great proportion of which is now wasted public money down the drain. Why would they do that if it is only now that we are trying to determine the feasibility, the economic viability of that project? You do not have to strain your imagination very much, Mr. Speaker, to come up with the answer to that particular question, a start up for purely political purposes at the expense of this Province, \$110 million worth of tax dollars and public money.

MR. W. N. ROWE: The more one probes into the energy and the power policy of this government, Sir, the more one comes to the conclusion that the public has not been well served over the past number of years.

Let us just for a moment look at the BRINCO takeover in Labrador which included the Upper Churchill power. My hon. friend and I, during our visit to the Mainland to contact Mr. Bell and to support his takeover proposal, happened to come across a man who had been very close to the scene in Labrador, associated with BRINCO, in fact, And we asked him some probing questions on the BRINCO takeover and he told us, Sir - and I am sure that public documents will support this - he told us that BRINCO as a private company had invested in the Labrador - the assets which were taken over by the Newfoundland Government - had invested \$53 million, and yet, Sir, we find that when the government took over the BRINCO assets in Labrador it paid in excess of \$160 million, and this person, Sir, whom I do not mind mentioning privately to the Premier or Deputy Premier - I would not mention him publicly - this person, Sir, left no doubt in our minds that the people of this Province paid more than three times too much for those assets as far as the people are concerned. He was not complaining and BRINCO certainly was not complaining, but the people of this Province paid over

MR.W.ROWE: three times as much as those assets were worth, to accomplish what? What did we gain by this takeover? We went dangerously close to being considered a Banana Republic by Wall Street. We now have a huge debt which we are paying interest on, which is the reason why people in this Province cannot have roads paved or hospitals constructed or water systems put in, and we put another \$100 million down the drain. Every now and then, Sir, I am very amused to hear some member of the government side of the House on the public airwaves say how negative members of the Opposition are. But, Mr. Speaker, let me assure you that I have no desire to be negative nor am I, I hope, negative by nature but the facts which surround the administration of government by this government on the other side of the House are negative. It is the facts which are negative, it is the government's actions which are negative and which have been counter-productive.

SOME HON.MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR.W.ROWE: And if anyone seeks reasonably to tell the truth about the actions of this administration it is impossible, Mr. Speaker, to be positive. You have to be negative if you are going to tell the truth. You could gloss over the truth and pretend that it does not exist but I and my colleagues on this side of the House have no intention of glossing over the truth, Sir, where public money is concerned. \$100 million wasted on the premature startup of the Lower Churchill, \$100 million given away on the takeover of the BRINCO assets, which accomplished exactly nothing. Over \$200 million of public money down the drain, Mr. Speaker, in this Province. And then the hon. member for Grand Falls (Mr. Lundrigan) who took a brave stand when he resigned on a matter of principle concerning a hospital, the hon. member for Grand Falls (Mr. Lundrigan) hopes that hospital construction will continue this year now and get it underway. The Speech from the Throne mentions the possibility of hospital construction with no definite dates given and no commitments made.

MR. W. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, I tell the people of Port aux Basques, of Grand Falls, of the Burin Peninsula, of the Donavista Peninsula that if it were not for the incredible wastage of public money on this mixed up, confused energy policy of this administration where \$200 million were wasted - confused and mixed up would be the most charitable way to characterize it, other people might say that it was done for blatantly political purposes, but I say, Sir, that if these things had not been done and this \$200 million had not been wasted then the people of these areas would have their hospitals today or they would be well under construction, and the people who are now, this day in the middle of the Winter, carting water to their homes in many areas of rural Newfoundland would have their water system and the roads which my hon. colleague from Bellevue (Mr. Callan) mentioned should be paved - at every opportunity he has - those roads, Mr. Speaker, would be paved now or well in the process of being upgraded and paved. It is the extravagance, Sir, the waste which has caused this government to renege on its basic commitments to the Newfoundland people.

I was in the hospital over in Port aux Basques with my hon. colleague the member for Lapointe (Mr. Neary) not a month ago -

MR. NEARY: Two weeks ago.

MR. W. ROWE: - two weeks ago, and what I saw there, Mr. Speaker, men and women, some with terminal illnesses jumbled in together in rooms, in wards, Mr. Speaker, not through any fault of their own, not through any fault of the administration of the hospital, they are trying to do their best, the administration and the staff of the hospital, but the facilities, Mr. Speaker, are so hopelessly outmoded and in need of updating, of modernization. For the sake of a few million dollars the people of the Port aux Basques area and the other areas that I have mentioned could have their modern hospital facilities, for the sake of the millions which were wasted by lack of government control on the Health Sciences Centre, Mr. Speaker, which we have seen revealed in recent days, for the sake of that,

MR. W. ROWE: the people of the Port aux Basques area, of Grand Falls, of the Burin Peninsula, of Clarenville or the Bonavista Peninsula, they could have their modern facilities and would not have to put up with the sight, the spectacle of what goes on in some of the less modern hospitals in Newfoundland today, not through the fault of the administration or the staff, they are doing their best, but purely as a result, Mr. Speaker, of the extravagance and waste of this administration.

Also in the area, not mentioned in the Throne Speech I notice, but also in the area of energy policy let me mention that everyone I have spoken to in Newfoundland in the last couple of weeks is amazed that our Premier and our Minister of Mines and Energy could be up in Ottawa; or anywhere else in the country, supporting increases, Mr. Speaker, increases in the cost of oil, the cost of gasoline in this Province.

MR. NOLAN: Shame! Shame!

MR. NEARY: Resign! Resign!

MR. W. ROWE: Everyone, Sir, is simply amazed that this could take place.

MR. NEARY: That is what they did.

MR. W. ROWE: And the obvious question, Sir, is why would a government which seeks to persuade the people of this Province that they are acting in the best interests of the people of this Province, why would they not only agree but actively encourage a policy which would increase the cost of gasoline to the hard-pressed people of Newfoundland and Labrador? Why would Newfoundland, the poorest province in Canada, be cosying up to Alberta, the richest Province in Canada, and helping that Province get more money into its coffers to go with its multi-billion dollar heritage fund, that is already developed, at the expense of the consumers of Newfoundland and Labrador? Why would that be? Some uncharitable souls, Mr. Speaker, have indicated that this government is so outraged at the thought that

MR. W. ROWE: the federal government might do something which gives it some political glamour, or makes it look good politically, that they are even willing to act in the worst interests of the people of this Province.

I do not say that the government is acting politically in that fashion. What I do know, Sir, and what I think and believe is that the reason they are doing it is because this government, through the waste and extravagance, two or three examples of which I have already given, is so completely strapped for money to run this Province that it has to pray for and hope for further equalization payments and grants from Ottawa and the only way, of course, that it can get further equalization grants from Ottawa, further money from Ottawa to keep the Province going is to try to get the richer provinces of Canada more money through the increases in gasoline and other ways that can flow into the federal coffers and then come back to this Province. In other words, Sir, to take the complication out of it, what this government is trying to do is impose a further indirect tax on the people of this Province without, I might add, having the courage to come into this House and debate it and even talk about it or ask for it, but to do it up in Ottawa, hopefully far enough away from the Newfoundland people -

MR. NEARY: Nobody will notice it.

MR. W. ROWE: - so that nobody notices it. But people do notice it, Sir.

It is a desperate move by this government to try to obtain more money from Ottawa and that, Sir, is a further indication of what the wastage and extravagances of this government have led to; where this government will go up and seek to have Alberta get more money for its oil and its gas off the backs of the Newfoundland consumers and the Labrador consumers in the hope that they will get more money through equalization grants from the Government of Canada.

MR. NEARY: They should resign.

December 4, 1978

Tape No. 19

NM - 3

MR. W. ROWE:

That, Sir, is an act and an action
which is not in the best interests of the people of this Province

Mr. W. N. Rowe: and I echo the thought of somebody a moment ago, any government in this day and age with inflation rampant, with the cost of living sky-high, with nearly every family in this Province strapped to keep body and soul together, any government which would go up and agree to, in fact, encourage an action which would increase the cost of living so substantially is a government which does not deserve to represent any longer the people of the Province. And, Sir, to add insult to injury is Alberta grateful for the position taken by the Newfoundland and Labrador Government? To add insult to injury we read in the public papers and the newspapers the other day that Alberta, from its billions of dollars, has now agreed to make loans to other provinces in Canada, aside from the loan which was made to Newfoundland, and it is interesting to note, Sir, that the loans are for a lower rate of interest than that which was paid by the Newfoundland Government when it borrowed its money, its \$50 million in spite of the fact that interest rates generally have gone up since the time of our loan. That is the appreciation shown by the Government of Alberta to the cosyng-up attitude, in the worst interests of the people of this Province, expressed or demonstrated by our own Provincial Government here, Sir.

And something else mentioned in the field of mines and energy in the Speech from the Throne is the Buchans situation, Mr. Speaker. We will have that mine in Buchans closing down in about four months, very regretfully and very unfortunately. This government to date has been distinguished by the lack of concern, the callousness, and the lack of interest which it has shown to the people of Buchans, the miners in Buchans and the people living in Buchans, and the Buchans area. The ideas of the Task Force, which I suppose—the Task Force put its report in what, three years ago?

MR. FLIGHT: Two and a half or three years ago.

MR. W. N. ROWE: Two and a half or three years ago. The ideas of this Task Force which I have read through, Sir, many times, and most of

Mr. W. N. Rowe: which I agree with entirely, the ideas of the Task Force have not been considered even by this government let alone implemented. And we see now in the Throne Speech -

MR. FLIGHT: One line.

MR. W. N. ROWE: - one line with reference to the people of Buchans. They are going to set up an industrial development officer or something in Buchans a month or two before the close down. A suggestion made along with scores of other suggestions by the Buchans Task Force two and a half or three years ago or even longer, we are now seeing it going in. Talk about a policy or a philosophy, Sir, of too little too late, and there you have it exemplified in the case of this government's lack of concern with Buchans.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there will be plenty of time to get into all aspects of the Throne Speech during the Throne Speech debate itself and in other legislation, so I am not going to mention everything. But I will mention the fishery and the developments or lack thereof in the fishery since this government came to power seven or eight years ago. First of all, I think it is instructive to point out that since this government came to power there have been seven or eight Ministers of Fisheries culminating in the present one we have today. It would also be instructive to point out that fisheries was the largest, loomed the largest, and was the largest single area of mention in the Throne Speech of 1972, and that since that time in eight separate Throne Speeches we have had, Sir, the same promises and the same commitments made by this administration in Throne Speech after Throne Speech. And once again we have in this ninth Throne Speech of this present administration the same promises, the same ideas, the same so-called commitments thrown out with regard to

MR. W. ROWE:

the Newfoundland and Labrador fishery.

Last month there was a conference attended by the minister- no members of the House were even allowed to get into the workshops, or no members of the press - but the minister called the conference, some representatives of the fishermen were there, and these promises were once more made to the fishermen. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, and this is where one is forced to bring the government to task, unfortunately it turned out that these promises, these commitments, made unilaterally by the provincial government, will require, if they are going to be implemented, hundreds of millions of dollars, \$.5 billion \$500 million, perhaps, if they are going to be implemented, and it turns out that all, nearly all of these hundreds of millions of dollars need to be provided by the federal government in Ottawa. That is okay. One would have assumed that the federal government and the provincial government had gotten together, had agreed on a plan and this was now being announced by the Minister of Fisheries and the government. It turns out again, Sir, that far from agreeing to these grandiose plans announced by the Minister of Fisheries, the government of Canada and the Minister of Fisheries, the federal Minister of Fisheries in Ottawa did not even have any knowledge of the ideas and plans which were put out by the Minister of Fisheries on behalf of his government.

AN HON. MEMBER:

That is a lie. It is true.

It is not a lie.

MR. W. ROWE:

Well the Minister of Fisheries, Sir, is an honourable gentleman, the Minister of Fisheries here and the Minister of Fisheries from Ottawa. The Minister of Fisheries from Ottawa came out and publicly stated that he had no notion of what the Minister of Fisheries here was talking about and had not agreed to anything. And even if, Sir, the Minister of Fisheries in this Province

MR. W. ROWE: can produce, which he has not done, can produce some correspondence, some documentation, some telegrams, or telexes and table them on the Table of this House, even that, Sir, is a far cry from the agreement of the Government of Canada to spend the hundreds of millions of dollars which are necessary.

I am afraid, Sir, and this is very unfortunate, and I am sorry to have to say this, but I am very much afraid that it is another example of this government looking for, desperately searching for some political kudoos, some pats on the back, that it is willing to go out on a limb and announce as a fait accompli, as something completed and finalized something which, in fact, has only reached its first stages of planning and development. And, Sir, that statement which I just made a moment ago is compounded by the fact that at this Fisheries Conference, which the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Carter) hosted, although we were not allowed to get in on various things as members of the House, it was noticed by members of the press and members who were there looking around, that the most evident gentlemen present were members of the P.C. Party's P.R. Firm busily filming what was going on at the conference and the Minister, unfortunately, had to come out and subsequently admit that some or all, some at least of these films, were going to be used for a political purpose. The press secretary to the Premier, not being a politician himself, the Premier not having gotten to him in time, the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Carter) not having gotten to him in time came out and admitted, I suppose in his naivete members of the government would think, admitted that these films were being taken for political purposes. Well, Sir, the people of this province and the fishermen of this province I do not believe for one moment will tolerate being used for political purposes by this

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Tape No. 21

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MR. W. ROWE: government or any other government,
and that is the way it should be. And it is too bad that this govern-
ment, which has made over the years some statements regarding the
Fishery, some commitments and ideas regarding the Fishery

MR. W. N. ROWE: has only now at this late date shown its true colours with regard to the fishery. They do not intend, apparently, to do much about the development of the fishery as long as they can get the impression abroad that they are actively and feverishly working on behalf of the fishermen of Newfoundland and Labrador. It is noteworthy, Mr. Speaker, that the only real activity, the only sign of energy, the only time when the full talents of the Premier, the Minister of Fisheries and other members of that government were utilized to their fullest was on the Nordsee deal involving a foreign multi-national company, involving a proposal to fish the Northern cod stock with the very real danger of ruining that cod stock as a source for our entire Northern, Northeastern and Eastern inshore and nearshore fishery in this Province. And one can only ask why it was with regard to the Nordsee deal, this deal involving a giant multi-national company, this was the only time that we saw real energy, real imagination, real dedication to the fishery on the part of this administration. That is the question that the Newfoundland people have to ask themselves and have to answer for themselves, Mr. Speaker. Why would that be? - hundreds of commitments made and never fulfilled except for this massive effort with regard to the Nordsee.

Now, Mr. Speaker, very briefly I want to touch on a number of policies, some of which were mentioned in the Speech from the Throne, which we as an Opposition, which we as a Liberal Party, and which I, as Leader of this party, want to see implemented by this government, and if not by this government then by us as a government when we have the privilege and honour of forming the administration in this Province.

MR. W. N. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, it is clear what has to be done. I know, my colleagues know, I am sure there are members on the other side of the House who know, it is clear what has to be done to get this Province moving economically, and, Mr. Speaker, I, for one, and speaking on behalf of my colleagues, we are determined that these things will be done, because if they are not done, this Province will be doomed to economic disaster.

Let us look at the fishery, Sir, for a moment, compared to what has been offered by this administration. I believe wholeheartedly, Sir, that there must be developed in this Province a full and comprehensive plan for the development of all aspects of the fishing industry. This has never been done - perhaps it could not have been done before the 200 mile limit came into effect a short time ago. But now that the 200 mile limit has been brought in by the government in Ottawa, we now need a plan of development involving our government, involving the federal government, involving the fishing industry, and most important of all, the representatives of the fishermen and the processors, the plant workers.

The government of this Province must take the lead in developing this plan, but, Sir, it would be useless for this government to simply develop a plan without having the full co-operation of the government in Ottawa, the industry and the union representing the fishermen and the plant workers. The federal government has most of the jurisdiction in the fisheries; everybody admits that, it is a fact of life, but it is our fishery, Mr. Speaker, it is the fishery of the people of Newfoundland and Labrador and for that reason, and that reason alone, the provincial

MR. W.N. ROWE: government must take the lead in developing a full and comprehensive plan for the Newfoundland and Labrador fishery. Mr. Speaker, such a plan if it was commenced now, and after the next election, Sir, I guarantee this if we have the honour of forming the government, within a year after the next election, or if it were commenced now, within a year such a plan could be fully developed and ready to go in into effect. It is a plan, Sir, which would deal with all elements of the fishery not just the ad hoc disjointed elements which we have seen in the last number of years, something in slings here or something pushed here but no overall plan of development. It would have to take into consideration all elements and all aspects of the fishery. Conservation, Sir, now that we have the 200 mile limit, conservation which is designed to protect our own fishermen not foreign fishermen, conservation designed to protect the welfare and well-being of the inshore, near-shore fishermen of Newfoundland and our own trawlermen, conservation methods for their benefits, Sir, and not conservation methods designed to enhance easy deals with foreign concerns and foreign companies. The plan, Mr. Speaker, must involve quality controls on all aspects of the fishery. If the Newfoundland and Labrador Fishery is ever going to get into the markets and capture its great share of the markets in Europe and the United States then every shopper in the United States and in Europe, Sir, must learn through experience over the next number of years that the products of Newfoundland and Labrador are the very best fish products produced anywhere bar none including Iceland, including Norway, including West Germany, including anywhere on this globe. So there has to be some hard decision making regarding quality controls in the fishery and quality controls in the processing of our fish.

Marketing, Mr. Speaker - and all these things go hand in hand, the conservation, the quality controls, the marketing - the marketing of our fish cannot be left

MR. W. ROWE:

to any single element in the Newfoundland Fishery. The marketing of our fish, Sir, must involve the governments as well, not in some sort of a socialistic takeover, not in any effort to undermine private enterprise but the governments, provincial and federal must get highly involved with the industry and with the union in the marketing of our fish in the United States, in Europe and in Asia. The importance of this, Mr. Speaker, can be seen from the fact that it is the federal government which must negotiate with these countries lower tariff barriers to process products so that we here in this Province can have the jobs which come from further processing rather than sending out big chunks of the crude unprocessed product to the European or the American or the Asian market. We have to get the further processing here and it is the federal government which must be involved in that.

We must take the lead in technology, Mr. Speaker, with both governments getting highly involved and we have to get involved as governments in the protection of our fishermen from these onerous, terrible risks associated with the fishery such as catch failure and gear loss and we have to provide reasonable and sensible insurance programmes.

Mr. Speaker, we will be spelling out our policies in this regard as time goes on but there has to be a full and comprehensive programme for the development of our fishery. And, Sir, if that is done the best expert advice which I can get, studies that I have read and expert advice from people who know the fishery in government and outside, believe that if we develop it to our full potential the fishery in this Province can be worth five or six times or more than the worth it is today. And one does not have to strain one's imagination to realize the tremendous impact on our economy, Mr. Speaker, from the full development of the Newfoundland Fishery. And this can be done, Sir, not just by knocking Ottawa,

MR. W. ROWE:

as this administration has been doing, not just by proceeding unilaterally without regard to the Fishermen's Union, without regard to Ottawa, without regard to

MR. J. ROWE: anyone else catering to the multi-nationals, not by using the fishermen, Mr. Speaker, for political purposes as we have seen it unfortunately in the past couple of months; not by fits and starts; not by pushing this here and pushing that there, but by sitting down and all elements of the fishery coming up with the full plan involving the conservation, the controls, the marketing and all other aspects, Mr. Speaker, which can make the fishery viable in this Province, and without which, Sir, the fishery will stagnate and will not reach its full potential. It can be done, Mr. Speaker, and it will be done as far as I am concerned and as far as my colleagues are concerned.

Now, Mr. Speaker, let me touch briefly on our policy with regard to the development of the Labrador power and the usage of Labrador power. Let me repeat in case there is any mistake in anybody's mind our policy regarding the Upper Churchill power, the single biggest power source, Mr. Speaker, in the world with all of its value - nearly all of its value - going presently to the province of Quebec. When we look at our thirty or forty thousand unemployed in this Province, Mr. Speaker, and you realize that \$800 million or \$900 million worth of value is going to the Province of Quebec from our resource, it is enough to make your blood boil. And the reason they are getting \$700 million or \$800 million or \$900 million worth of value is because the situation has changed so drastically and so radically since the time that the deal was first signed back in 1965 or 1966, that instead of getting a reasonable profit from the Upper Churchill, the Province of Quebec now gets a tremendous windfall profit of hundreds of millions of dollars. Unforeseen changes and hikes in the oil prices caused it, Mr. Speaker, as the windfall profit which is going to the province of Quebec. Well, Mr. Speaker, we as a party and as a government representing the Newfoundland people are determined we are going to, Mr. Speaker, get back a fair share of the value of the Upper Churchill power. We are going to force

MR. W. ROWE: renegotiation of that deal which has changed so radically, which has altered so drastically, Sir, that I would venture to say that any code that was ever between two private individuals would be forced to say that the foundation has utterly fallen out of the contract and the agreement, the situation has changed so radically since the deal was first entered into.

The power, Mr. Speaker, the electricity is on our side of the border in Labrador, the switch is on our side of the border, and so any government which does not make use of the fact that the switch and the power are on our side of the border to get more money on our side of the border is derelict in its duty and does not deserve to form the government of this Province. Mr. Speaker, the magnitude of the situation is seen that if we were to get only one-half of these windfall profits or values now going to Quebec, which would be in the area of \$400 million, that \$400 million is equal to the money, the income going to the provincial government today from all sources every single year - every year, \$400 million or \$500 million goes to the provincial government by taxation and by all sources not counting the federal government - we could double, Mr. Speaker, in one fell swoop, we could double the revenues of this provincial government. And so I for one am determined, absolutely determined to see that this comes to pass.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as far as the Lower Churchill is concerned, some hard decisions have to be made there as well. Some people think it is reasonable to assume that the federal government might proclaim a corridor through the province of Quebec to allow our power to get to the market. I do not think, Mr. Speaker, that there is a government in Canada or that there ever will be a government in Canada,

MR. W. N. ROWE: who will have the temerity to proclaim a corridor through the Province of Quebec as long as Quebec is a Province of Canada. I do not think they will do it. I think we have to look at other methods of developing that power.

We heard the latest statement from the Province of Quebec whereby Mr. Levesque said there is no way he is going to oblige this Province by helping us get our power to the markets. The only way he would help is if he buys the power from us at the border at a price which he will dictate so that they can resell to Consolidated Edison or someone else in the United States at highly inflated profits once more. So, Mr. Speaker, the way things are at present, I do not think we can expect too much from the Province of Quebec as far as accommodating our desires is concerned. I will be very interested in seeing what this federal/provincial corporation brings in, but at the present time, Sir, unless there are facts and evidence to radically alter the situation as it presently exists, I have to say that the Labrador power, the Lower Churchill, must first of all be developed for use in Labrador and industrialization in Labrador, that any surplus from that must be brought to the Island part of the Province and if sold on short-term contracts, sold by means of transmission lines under the sea across the Gulf. Mr. Speaker, ten years ago that was laughed at as a joke, the Anglo-Saxon route. As it now happens there is no doubt whatsoever about the technical feasibility of such a plan, and fortunately with the rise in oil prices dictated by the OPEC nations, the economic and financial viability of that kind of a deal, that kind of a transmission, is well within our reach. And we should

MR. W. N. ROWE: explore that possibility as soon as possible, Sir - further development in Labrador of our raw materials, any surplus power for the benefit of the Island part of our Province to reduce domestic rates of electricity and so on, and any sales that take place - and this can apply to the Upper Churchill as well - any sales that take place, take place on a short-term basis to the United States or to the Maritime Provinces.

And, Mr. Speaker, I am convinced as a person interested in the future of this Province, that in these two policy areas alone, the proper development of the Newfoundland fishery and the proper development and use of our Labrador power would be enough in themselves to make Newfoundland and Labrador one of the most prosperous provinces in the whole of Canada. We have a population of 560,000 people and we have resources, Sir, which would make land masses and populations far exceeding our size exceedingly jealous, and it is only because we have not developed these resources properly that we have not achieved the prosperity that we should have.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this party, the Liberal Party, stands committed to the full, proper development and use of these resources. And I know that will bring the prosperity and the pride and the dignity that can go with full employment at high levels of income such as is now being attained in other regions of Canada - Alberta, Saskatchewan, for much the same reason, the proper use and the proper development of their own resources.

Mr. Speaker, before I sit down let me say quite briefly what I think should be the policies of this government and failing, in default of this government, what we will do following the next election in a number of areas.

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Tape No. 25

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MR. W. N. ROWE:

In Education, Sir, we believe that education is the single most important area of social policy in this Province and that as long as we have the rate

MR. W. ROWE: of one-half the national rate of graduates from high school, from universities, from trade schools that they have across Canada, as long as we are one-half and that is what we are, there can be no cutbacks in education such as had been advanced by this government in recent years. And we are 100 per cent behind the idea of Grade XII being implemented as soon as possible as a policy in this Province. In fact, Sir, in 1971 one of my colleagues, then the minister of education, publicly introduced the concept of Grade XII but was unable, because of certain unfortunate happenings in a general election which followed shortly after, to implement it fully. Now seven or eight years later we see it enunciated in a Speech from the Throne once more. I hope, Sir, that it goes through this time. My hon. colleague, the member for Lapoile (Mr. S. Neary) has had private members' resolutions and bills on the Order Paper for years asking that Grade XII be brought in. I hope now, Sir, that it does come to pass and we will certainly, Sir, if this government does not bring it in, then we are committed, as a matter of policy, to bringing it in when we form the government.

Policy considerations for the elderly, Mr. Speaker, this government, this party, rather, when it forms the government, stands committed to the idea that all prescription drugs and medication for the elderly in this Province should be provide free of cost. Well, as long as you have any cost borne by the elderly people in this Province or any chronic users of prescribed medication for that matter, Sir, then you are going to have people who suffer, who are deprived of other essentials of life because of the need to spend money on essential drugs. We stand committed, Sir, to policies regarding care and health for elderly people to remain at home and not to be institutionalized at the drop of a hat. We are committed Sir, to a policy of municipal taxes and rates being wiped out as far as the elderly in this Province are concerned; and, if necessary, to be subsidized by the provincial government.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. W. ROWE: It is simply amazing, Sir, the number of elderly people in this Province, senior citizens, who cannot afford, without depriving themselves of the essentials of life, to pay the municipal taxes and rates which are imposed upon them, on pain of going to court and being penalized, and so we are against that kind of thing, and we are in favour of wiping it out once and for all.

Mr. Speaker, in the area of Buchans, which is the concern of my hon. colleague the member for Windsor-Buchans (Mr. G. Flight), we are in favour of the vast majority of all of the recommendations in the Buchans Task Force. When I say vast majority, there are certain things which are outside of the government's control because they depend on local initiative, but anywhere that the government is involved and can be involved we want to see measures taken to alleviate the problems, the economic hardship that is going to arise in the near future.

A couple of matters - the road to Howley, Mr. Speaker, this could be done in conjunction with the Hinds Lake project which could be of such benefit serving as infrastructure to other developments in the town of Buchans, why did not the government go ahead with that? They will not do it, Sir. The Hinds Lake project which is nearby and which any reasonable government would use as at least a short-term measure to alleviate and get rid of and lessen the economic problems which are going to come to Buchans as a result of the mine close-down, this government will not even look at that proposal, Sir. They will not even look at it. Well, Sir, we are committed to that kind of a proposal on grounds of simple decency to the people who are involved.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. ROWE: In the area, Sir, of equal rights I made a commitment the other day and we have made it public here in this House of Assembly that we are, as a party, in favour of equal rights and equal opportunities and equal duties for all individuals in this Province, all adult individuals, and this would particularly

MR. W. ROWE:

apply in the area of women's rights.

We put on the Order Paper last session and we support and reaffirm our support for the concept of equality and equity in the area of matrimonial property laws, and, Sir, I have no hesitation in confirming our policy in that regard and our determination to bring in equitable laws which would apply to all individuals and to bring all individuals up to the same level of social equality and opportunity and duties.

Native groups, Mr. Speaker; The callousness and lack of concern

MR. W. N. ROWE: shown by this government towards native groups on the Island and in Labrador, Sir, is simply shocking. Whenever anyone approaches the government, the government's attitude is, 'Sue us, take us to court.' Well, Sir, our policy will be one of a complete reversal of that callous and uninterested policy, a policy of sitting down and listening to what claims or suggestions are, sitting down and negotiating with native groups in this Province. How can you make any commitments at the moment about exactly what your position will be? In many cases the final claims are not finalized, but I do make this commitment, Mr. Speaker, it will not be a matter of sending them off to court, it will be a matter of sitting down and as reasonable men and women trying to arrive at an equitable, sensible, reasonable solution acceptable to both sides on these claims and these matters which are of great concern to the native groups at the moment.

The area of Youth, Mr. Speaker -

MR. NEARY:

Got another Youth corps.

MR. W. N. ROWE:

- got another Youth corps set up.

What is that, the fourth or fifth one, under a different name?

MR. NEARY:

That is the fourth one. Will they have uniforms? Will it be like the Hitler movement?

MR. W. N. ROWE:

Mr. Speaker, a great deal of money is needed to help our youth in this Province and the government should not think that they can get away with these pious platitudes of setting up this and setting up that. A great deal of money is needed, money for recreation for our youth to tap their energies and their talents, not just for the elite but for other people, all youth who want to get involved in recreational

MR. W. N. ROWE: activities. It costs money. Youth centres, Mr. Speaker, cost money, but these are the things, these structures, these buildings, these facilities are things which are needed if the youth are going to be catered to properly and they would more than pay for themselves, Mr. Speaker, in the reduction in vandalism, in reduction of lives being wasted or devoted to the wrong kind of social activity, more than compensated for, Sir, the expenditure of that kind of money. Alcohol and drug abuse, Mr. Speaker: this government if it had a social conscience would use a far greater proportion of the money which it gets for alcohol sales, tens of millions of dollars gained by this government on the sale of alcohol, booze, liquor, beer, wines, spirits of all descriptions, and a pitifully small amount of money, Sir, used to help with rehabilitation of people who are alcohol addicts, alcoholics, or people who might come under severe problems with regard to the abuse of drugs. Money has to be committed to this social enterprise and I say here, Mr. Speaker, that that kind of money would more than return itself to the public purse in the rehabilitation of lives which may have been ruined or partially ruined by abuse of alcohol and drugs. And I congratulate the efforts of volunteer societies. Harbour Light, St. Clare's is involved in it as well, -

MR. NEARY: Hear, hear! The detoxation centre.

MR. W. N. ROWE: - Detox centre and all these, I congratulate them, Sir. But the government has to get in in a bigger way, has to spend much more money, and pious platitudes are not enough, it will take millions of dollars and the government should get into it. They are making enough money off alcohol consumption, let them put a little bit back into rehabilitation and education programmes

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MR. W. N. ROWE:

abuse.

regarding alcohol and drug

MR. NEARY:

Hear, hear!

MR. W. ROWE:

Rural development, Mr. Speaker; The government takes a great deal of credit for rural development. I do not know why. There has not been one original thing done, Mr. Speaker, by this government in eight years.

MR. NEARY: You laid the foundation when you were minister.

MR. W. ROWE: Rural Development Associations which this government will try to take credit for or will cite as examples, Sir, were started long ago, Mr. Speaker, and were funded first by the former administration.

MR. NEARY: When they were all Liberals, carrying their Liberal membership cards.

MR. W. ROWE: Yes. And, Mr. Speaker, the Rural Development Association should be congratulated but the government should not try to take political advantage of them. They are dedicated volunteers and workers, Mr. Speaker, who are trying to do a job for their districts and for other areas and they should be congratulated. And I am very proud of the role which I, personally, and this party have had in formulating the plans and setting up the funding for rural development associations nine or ten years ago.

MR. NEARY: Hear, hear!

MR. W. ROWE: And finally, Mr. Speaker, this afternoon - I know the minister is getting anxious, the minister having written the speech is now anxious to get up and say how good it is and I will be finished in a few minutes - Mr. Speaker, there are many policies which we want to enunciate, positive policies for the benefit of Newfoundland and Labrador during this session of the House. Time does not permit even touching on them at this moment. I have mentioned several, but there is one policy, Mr. Speaker, that we are determined as a caucus to see implemented and to see done, Mr. Speaker, even if we were to fail dismally at all the others which I have mentioned and please God we will not fail dismally in them, but if we were, Sir, there is one policy which we are determined to get implemented in this Province and I am talking, Sir, about reforms and rules and laws designed to clean up politics in Newfoundland and Labrador.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: Get back to public tendering.

MR. W. ROWE: Our people, Mr. Speaker, are disgusted and well they should be at the waste and corruption which goes on under the present system of politics in this Province, disgusted! And, Mr. Speaker, we are dedicated, I personally am dedicated to strict rules and laws regarding any gifts or gift giving to politicians by anybody in this Province with severe penalties attached to any breaches of these regulations. We are dedicated, Mr. Speaker, to limits, strict, severe limits on contributions made to political parties with disclosures by anybody, individual or corporation in this Province and to limits on spending by political parties and candidates. We are 100 per cent in favour, Mr. Speaker, of a Public Tender Act with teeth. What is the good of a law, Mr. Speaker, if people can flaunt it and break it -

MR. NEARY: The ministers are told to break it. The ministers are telling their senior civil servants to break it.

MR. W. ROWE: - giving the people the idea that everybody involved in politics in this Province is somehow corrupt or crooked. It has got to be changed, Mr. Speaker. The curse of corrupt patronage has to be changed, has to be done away with and removed from the political fabric of this Province.

As the member for Kilbride (Mr. Wells), I believe, said a moment ago, how are we ever going to attract the very best people, men and women to politics in this Province if all they see and all they hear and all they smell is skulduggery and corruption and wrong doing and waste? We will not do it and this Province is desperately in need -

MR. NEARY: Abuse to the public treasury.

MR. W. ROWE: - of the very best people coming forth and offering themselves as public figures and as politicians.

MR. NEARY: The Health Science Complex is a good example.

MR. W. ROWE: Now, Mr. Speaker, as I said, if I were to fail in everything else that we have set out to try to do I am determined to succeed in rooting out the evil which may exist in our political system today and make what I believe to be the high calling of politics the

MR. W. ROWE:

decent and honourable and honest profession that it should be and
a profession, Mr. Speaker, which acts for the people of the Province

MR. W. ROWE: and not against the people of Newfoundland and Labrador. Thank you Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN: The late Sir Winston Churchill said in one of the famous war debates that any member of Parliament or indeed any person who spoke for more than twenty minutes had nothing to say. With that in mind I apologize to our guests and to the viewing audience and to those who are unfortunate enough to have switched from Another World to see even another episode of another world, I commend them for having turned back their sets.

Mr. Speaker, firstly may I, on behalf of the Hon. the Premier, indicate to hon members and to our guests his deep disappointment in his inability to be present today. The hon. gentleman, the Premier of this province, is ill in bed on doctors advice where, if the doctors get their way, he will remain for the rest of this week. He is suffering from a severe bout of the flu and for the past couple of weeks he has been working night and day on government business. Newfoundlander's who saw him perform at the First Minister's Conference had every reason to be proud, proud of the fact that he was rated by the press as having given the best performance of any of the First Ministers present.

On behalf of government, I welcome to the House today representatives of church, representatives of State, representatives of various organizations, and former speakers of this Chamber. It is a tradition that we are determined to see continue, and in that same light I congratulate the hon. the member for Kilbride (Mr. Wells) and the hon. the member for Grand Falls (Mr. Lundrigan) for their excellent, precise and to the point speeches that they delivered this afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I have to confess that the hon. and learned leader of the Opposition has placed us in a somewhat awkward position. Generally speaking, tradition dictates that on opening day the leader of the Opposition speaks for about ten minutes and the Premier for about fifteen and generally speaking

MR. HICKMAN: there is little, if any, partisanship prevail. There are the usual comments by the hon. the leader of the Opposition as to what is missing from the Speech from the Throne and there may even be some attack upon the government but this is the first time since I have been a member of this Hon. House that I have seen an hon. leader of the Opposition spend an hour and thirty two minutes and twelve seconds totally on the defensive and I just do not know where to begin. I do know this, Mr. Speaker, that the so-called reforms that have been alluded to by the hon. gentleman opposite are in the Speech from the Throne

MR. HICKMAN: so I thank him most sincerely for commending the government for having the leadership to bring it in.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HICKMAN: I cannot figure out where the government stands with respect to the Labrador Linerboard Limited. I have no hesitancy in saying at all that the Moores' administration is proud, has never been prouder, of its record with respect to the revitalization of the paper mill, not the linerboard mill, the paper mill in Stephenville based on Island wood with a company whose reputation is worldwide, with a company -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HICKMAN: - with a company which is one of the best corporate citizens that Newfoundland has ever seen and the people of Grand Falls and Central Newfoundland will attest to that, with a company that has already sold over 50 per cent of the product of its new machine in Stephenville and still will have orders to pick up long before the mill comes into operation. That is the kind of approach that we are determined to follow. That is the kind of approach, Mr. Speaker, where I am sure the people of Bay St. George and the people of Newfoundland will stand shoulder to shoulder with us in seeking it through to fruition and seeing to it that once this paper mill opens, like Grand Falls and Corner Brook it never will shut again.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HICKMAN: But, Mr. Speaker, the Opposition say "We have to do something about this. We have to approve it, but at the same time we have to shed some crocodile tears and we have to point out some flaws." So, they searched and they searched and they found that when the hon. the Premier announced it only once or twice did he mention that there is a DREE grant to come to this organization. They overlooked the fact that the hon. Mr. Jamieson and the hon. Mr. Lessard mentioned it in the area during a certain contest where

MR. HICKMAN: we saw a young man go into Parliament as a result of a democratic exercise of the votes in that area. So, they knew about it. They forgot to understand the approach to this. Our approach simply is this: that there is a DREE program initiated by the government of Canada designed to enable certain provinces including Newfoundland to re-establish on a strong foundation industry - this is a matter of right, not a matter of a gift. It is a right; it is a right of the people of Bay St. George; it is a right of the people of Stephenville to receive a DREE grant to aid in the recouping of some of the losses in the re-establishment of that industry; and it is also a right of every Canadian to have certain tax write-offs. These are not things that the people of Bay St. George would want us to go to Ottawa on our knees for. We will not have to do it anyway because Ottawa has been on sides from the very beginning, and I can assure the people of Bay St. George that this administration, the Moores' government, is totally on side and totally committed to their future development and their future employment.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, there is one thing that the hon. the Leader of the Opposition said today that is correct beyond all reasonable doubt. He said "During the past nine years, for the past nine Speeches from the Throne of the Moores' administration, the largest amount of space, ink, print has been taken up with matters involving and dealing with fishery". That is true. I do not apologize for it. As long as the Progressive Conservative party forms the government of this country, that is the way it is going to be.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, again I thank the hon. gentleman opposite for confirming and corroborating and congratulating our Minister of Fisheries on the plans and the programs that he has enunciated, because these matters that came out over a period of a

MR. HICKMAN: half an hour or more as to what the policies would be in the unlikely event that the hon. gentleman opposite ever formed the government have already been completed and are in place under the leadership of our Minister of Fisheries. Ask the people of Arnold's Cove. Ask the people of Triton. Ask the people of Harbour Breton. They will tell you what plans this administration has laid down. They will tell you about the added employment; and if you do not believe me go ask the people of St. Lawrence. And that is where we saw leadership Mr. Speaker. Let me point out, Mr. Speaker, that in the last Speech from the Throne, the Speech from the Throne,

MR. HICKMAN: the so-called empty Speeches from the Throne that contain promises that are not kept. Let me simply draw to the attention of hon. gentlemen present certain things that were contained in last year's Speech from the Throne; one, the Lower Churchill Development Corporation was promised. Is that an empty promise? No, it is a fact, in place on the initiative of the Premier of this Province. That is why it is in place.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HICKMAN: In the last Speech from the Throne, His Honour read these words, "My Government will be co-operating with private enterprise to establish a fish plant and attendant fish catching systems in St. Lawrence to alleviate the effects of the closure of the mine. The sod was turned in St. Lawrence two weeks ago. Fishery Products with the aid of both governments have now started excavation to build a fish plant there which will assure the future of the independent people of St. Lawrence. Is that an empty promise?"

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HICKMAN: The conviction was expressed last year that the Linerboard mill would be sold and that we were optimistic that the mill would be used for bleach craft pulp or newsprint. That has been accomplished. Is that a record that this government should apologize for?

Mr. Speaker, last year in the Speech from the Throne, we indicated that we were taking a certain position in defence of Newfoundland's right to draft, prepare and proclaim gas and oil regulations to insure that any benefits that may lie offshore in this Province will be for the benefit of Newfoundlanders. There were some who said it should not be done. Those purveyors of woe said, 'If you do that no one will come and exploit our resources offshore. You will drive

MR. HICKMAN: free enterprise away.'

But we did it. The oil industry will spend more money next year off the coast of Newfoundland than ever before in our history and Newfoundlanders will be the beneficiaries thereof.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, we also in the last Speech from the Throne said we would bring in a Mineral Impost Bill, a bill that is designed to see to it that there be further accelerated exploration in the Province of Newfoundland. We did that, this House approved it, and let me give you two figures that may be significant to show that this policy is working, that this Province is indeed on the move. In 1972 in the area of mineral exploration - that was the year that the Moores Government came to power - in 1972 there were thirty-five claim stakes; in 1978, this year, with the Moores' Government working with the people and for the people, there were 9,000 claims staked for mineral exploration in Newfoundland.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HICKMAN: That, Mr. Speaker, is performance.

I have mentioned the Labrador Linerboard mill, but I would be very remiss indeed if on behalf of the government I failed to publicly thank the Divestiture Committee, representatives of the trade union movement, residents of the area and representatives of government for the work and the effort that they put in during the past year to eighteen months in bringing to a successful conclusion the sale of the mill in Stephenville. And for the record, they were Mr. A. J. Roche, the Deputy Minister of Industrial Development, Mr. Dave Vardy, Clerk of the Executive Council, Mr. W. E. Fearn, Deputy Minister of Finance, Mr. H. Clarke, Deputy Minister of Forestry and Agriculture, Mr. J. G. Cochrane,

MR. HICKMAN: president of Harmon Corporation, Mr. Robert Grant of Woods Gordon and Mr. Gonzo Gillingham representing the woods union and a representative of the papermakers union in the Stephenville area. These people, Mr. Speaker, worked very assiduously. They were under Mr. Albert Lodge, the vice-president of the papermakers union and Mr. Scott Chalmers, the general manager of the Labrador Linerboard. These men worked under tremendous pressure. People were after them all the time, 'Will you tell us what is going on?' But they knew that if they started going public, if they started generating public debate that this would very seriously impede the possibility in the progress that was being made towards the happy culmination of events which we have seen. That is the kind of approach that this government will continue to implement insofar as the development of this Province is concerned.

I thank the hon. gentleman opposite for his words of commendation and congratulations to the Moores' Government for having been the first government to set up a Department of Rural Development. We came to office determined, Mr. Speaker, that people who were living in the smaller communities of this Province would remain there, because they wanted to remain there, they like it there, they like their way of life there. But it is one thing saying, 'You can remain there,' but it is another thing providing the amenities of life and the facilities to make life meaningful and worthwhile and to give their children a chance. And this is what we have done, Mr. Speaker, and if there is a record of the Moores' administration that we will flaunt anywhere and everywhere, it is the success,

MR. HICKMAN: the undoubted success of the Department of Rural Development.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Here, here.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, we have seen a lot of improvements in education. The gracious speech from the Throne which enunciates government policy says: "The time has come in this province for the implementation of a grade twelve program." And that was not a decision simply reached after a five minute discussion or rushing in and sitting behind a chair in an office, and the first day an hon. gentleman is there saying: "There shall be grade twelve," it was done and it was reached after consultation with the ablest professionals we have in this province in the field of education. They recommended, they say it can be done, they allow this province to implement a policy that we feel is now in time and in keeping with meeting the educational demands of this province and a policy which will enable young Newfoundlanders to remain at home, at least one more year, before they have to enter university. I believe that is good. I was waiting and hoping that the hon. gentleman opposite would commend the government for the changes in curriculum which will emphasize Newfoundland history, Newfoundland geography, Newfoundland resource, and the Newfoundland way of life, but no mention of it. Now whether that means that they are at odds with government on that issue, I do not know, but let me assure you, Mr. Speaker, and through you, the people of this province, that this government is determined to make certain that everyone who lives in the province of Newfoundland from Cape Chidley to Cape Chapeau Rouge, and for the benefit of the hon. member from St. John's West (Dr. Kitchen), Cape Chidley is the northern most point in Labrador and Cape Chapeau Rouge is near St. Lawrence, we want to make sure, Mr. Speaker, that all Newfoundlanders will get the opportunity to show their pride in the same manner that we have seen them show their pride in their work, we want a pride in

MR. HICKMAN: their history, a pride in their forebearers and we are not apologizing for it and that is good Conservative legislation and good Conservative programing.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne sets forth very clearly, indeed, the plans that the government has with respect to the fishery development, the continuation of the plans. There has been some criticism, not in the best interest of Newfoundland, and I would be bold enough to suggest maybe for partisan purposes, that our Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Carter), the hon. the member for St. Mary's-The Capes, with the full cooperation of the government of Newfoundland should not be showing the leadership that he has been showing, that he should not be developing plans, that we should wait until someone who lives along side the Rideau Canal in Ottawa suddenly remembers that they catch fish in Newfoundland and says we must work a plan. Well let me say to hon. gentlemen opposite that they are out of step, they are out of step not only with the views of the people of Newfoundland, who are very proud of what they see happening in fisheries development, it is happening now. The people in Argentia and the Placentia area like what they see happening with the cold storage facilities. The people in Arnold's Cove like to see the plant being developed in their town, and so it goes. But to ensure the people of Newfoundland that this administration will not play partisan politics when it comes to fisheries development may I say that we are proud to have on side none other than the gentleman named the Hon. Romeo LeBlanc, P.C., Minister of Fisheries - P.C. being Privy Councillor. Today at a meeting in St. John's, in addressing it, he praised the provincial Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Carter) and the government for its new development plan for the fisheries. Anyone who watched the First Ministers Conference last week, I am sure were proud once again of our Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Carter) when his program was praised and adopted by Hon. Romeo LeBlanc speaking on behalf of the government of Canada. We have some

MR. HICKMAN: modest pride when we hear the government of Nova Scotia, the government of New Brunswick, and the government of Prince Edward Island, the three Maritime Provinces, saying that they too want to endorse and support the plan that has emanated from this government for fisheries development

MR. HICKMAN:

Atlantic Canada. We do not apologize for it. We have been in the fishing business a lot longer than they have anywhere else on this Continent. We cannot and we will not sit around day after day, year after year, month after month until someone who has certain constitutional rights is moved to start working out a plan for the development of the Newfoundland fishery. Our fishermen would not forgive us if we did that. We will not do it and that is why we have a plan, in my opinion, that will continue to guarantee the tremendous upsurge that we have seen in the fishery and in the income of the fishermen in this Province during the past two or three years.

When the fishery is bad the Opposition blames the government. Why are they not up commending us for that now? Why are they not saying that under your leadership the fishermen have at long last broken their bondage, they are now getting an income the like of which they have never seen before. Why not?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HICKMAN: Why not? Mr. LeBlanc says we are doing a good job.

MR. SIMMONS: You had nothing to do with it.

MR. HICKMAN: But we had nothing to do with it! We had nothing to do with it! We had nothing to do with trying to defend, which we are going to continue to defend, the seal fishery of this Province! We had nothing to do with it! I say we had a lot to do with it, Mr. Speaker, and I would draw to the attention of Newfoundlanders that paragraph in the Speech from the Throne which says, "It is our determination and our commitment to build multi-purpose boats so that not only can Newfoundlanders prosecute what is their heritage and their right, the seal fishery, but that these boats will not be tied up for the rest of the year.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HICKMAN: Now, Mr. Speaker, the power policy of this Province is moving ahead, it is moving ahead based on the economic realities of the day. I listened very carefully to what the hon. the Leader of the Opposition had to say about Brinco. He chastized us for paying

MR. HICKMAN:

\$160 million for what someone in Brinco said cost \$53 million without checking to see what the market price of these shares was. It was far in excess of \$160 million, far, far less than what any Board of Arbitration would ever have awarded. Then he went on to say that we were in danger as a Province because we took back our resource which belonged to Newfoundland, we were in danger of being called a Banana Republic. And having drawn another breath twenty minutes later, still in the same sentence, he says that the switch is on our side and we know what to do with it. Now you cannot have your bananas and your republic and eat it, Mr. Speaker, you have got to do one thing or the other.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HICKMAN: You have either got to behave as a responsible government committed to the development of our resource for Newfoundland or you have got to go around flipping switches and all that sort of thing which certainly will not be to the benefit of any Newfoundlanders.

Let me say in closing, Mr. Speaker, as I put on my hat as Minister of Finance and I know how disappointing this is to the hon. gentlemen opposite, but the credit of this Province stands much better today than it did when the Moores' Administration assumed office in 1972.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HICKMAN: And please do not take my word for it. Ask Standard and Poor. Ask Moody's. Ask the people, Mr. Speaker, who want to lend us money.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in closing may I once again articulate very briefly the total commitment of the hon. gentlemen who sit on this side of the House and who form part of the Moores' administration and who support the Moores' administration. We see now for the first time in Newfoundland's troubled history where there is daylight at the end of the tunnel. We took a calculated risk as a government in 1972 and said the future of this Province has to be based on the

MR. HICKMAN: proper, planned development of our resource. The unemployment situation in Newfoundland is not good, but there are certain facts about Newfoundland that bear repeating. Number one, Mr. Speaker, retail sales in this Province rose this year at a more rapid rate than any Canadian province. Number two, Mr. Speaker, on a per capita basis more Newfoundlanders own their own home mortgage-free than any other part of Canada. Number three, Mr. Speaker, there is more money on a per capita basis in savings accounts in our chartered banks in Newfoundland than in any other Canadian province. And number four, Mr. Speaker, the repossession rate, the default rate insofar as consumer lending is concerned, is the lowest of any Canadian province. Now, Mr. Speaker, these are not facts that in any way, in my opinion, sustain the attitude of gloom and doom and negativism of hon. gentlemen opposite. We see, Mr. Speaker, in this Province 550,000 Newfoundlanders proud of their country, proud of their province, happy with the way they see things being developed, and men and women who are determined to share with us in the development of Newfoundland and Labrador. We are going to do it. If the hon. gentlemen opposite does not want to join, the other 550,000 Newfoundlanders they can stay where they are.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: The motion before the House is that an address of thanks be presented to his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor in reply to the gracious Speech with which he has been pleased to open the present session of the House of Assembly and that a select committee be appointed to draft such address and replies. Is the House ready for the question? Those in favour 'aye', contrary 'nay'. Carried. The committee will consist of the hon. member for Kilbride (Mr. R. Wells), the hon. member for Grand Falls (Mr. J. Lundrigan) and the hon. member for Stephenville (Mr. W. McNeil).

Notices of Motion

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

MR. W. ROWE:

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will

on tomorrow ask leave to move the following resolution:

WHEREAS unemployment in Newfoundland and Labrador has more than doubled since 1971; and

WHEREAS more than half of those now unemployed are in the fifteen to twenty-four year old age group; and

WHEREAS in addition to the tens of thousands presently unable to find work in our Province, there are further thousands of Newfoundland and Labrador workers and their families who have been forced to leave their native province to find work on the mainland and in distant foreign countries; and

WHEREAS the resources already known and available to our Province could, if properly used and developed provide stable, full and permanent employment to everyone in the growing Newfoundland and Labrador labour force;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT a select committee of this House be appointed to hold hearings in a wide variety of areas in Newfoundland and Labrador for the purpose of obtaining the ideas of a large cross-section of the general public, including representatives of labour unions, business associations and the academic community, as well as interested individuals, regarding the development of job opportunities in this Province;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that without undue delay the said select committee draw up recommendations for early consideration by this House and by the provincial government with a view to producing a clear plan for the joint and co-operative action of the provincial and federal governments designed to provide stable, full and permanent employment for all workers of Newfoundland and Labrador.

MR. SPEAKER:

Hon. member for Grand Falls.

MR. J. LUNDRIGAN:

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on

tomorrow I will introduce the following resolution:

MR. J. LUNDRIGAN:

WHEREAS the needs and requirements for public services in Newfoundland and Labrador far exceed the financial capability of the Province, despite the excessive tax burden on the people of the Province; and

WHEREAS the federal government accepted the conditions of Term 29 for the payment annually of \$8 million to assist in the development of public services in this Province to a level comparable to those existing in the other Atlantic Provinces; and

WHEREAS the \$3 million translated into 1978 terms would approximate some \$40 million;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT this hon. House express itself in a resolution to the federal government in support of the renegotiation of the benefits currently being received

MR. LUNDRIGAN: by the Province under the
aforementioned constitutional power.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR. F. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, I give notice
that I will on tomorrow introduce the following motion:
WHEREAS there is evidence that the government's present
fisheries policies appear to favour multi-national
corporations at the expense of the development of the
inshore, nearshore fisheries and native Newfoundland and
Labrador trawlermen; and
WHEREAS this policy will endanger the future development
of the inshore fisheries in this Province:
BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this House of Assembly
affirm its support for the inshore, nearshore native
Newfoundland and Labrador trawler fisheries and independent
fish plant operators.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that
I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce the following
resolution:

WHEREAS the North side of the United States naval base at
Argentia has been leased to the Government of Canada, who
in turn have subleased certain sections for industrial
development to the provincial Government of Newfoundland
and Labrador; and

WHEREAS Argentia harbour is the best ice free port North
of New York: and

WHEREAS this ice free harbour with its \$200 million worth
of air fields, hangars, repair shops, docks, fuel dumps
and supply depots now stands virtually abandoned; and

MR. LUNDRIGAN: WHEREAS these facilities lend themselves to fishery development as well as industrial development and transportation by rail, highway, sea and air;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador establish a development corporation composed of representatives of Industrial Development, federal and provincial Fisheries, federal and provincial Public Works, Tourism and the department of DREE with a mayor from one of the councils in the area serving as a director to promote the development of the Argentia area.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

DR. KITCHEN: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to present the following resolution:

WHEREAS the people of Newfoundland and Labrador should be the ones to benefit from the development of our resources: and

WHEREAS many governmental, corporate and other organizations are being dominated by outsiders; and

WHEREAS unemployment has reached disastrous proportions among Newfoundlanders and Labradorians;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that throughout this Province there be instituted a strong policy of job preference for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this policy of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians first be adopted by (a) the Public Service of the Province; (b) all Crown corporations of the Province including Public Utilities and hospital boards; (c) all educational institutions receiving financial assistance from the Province, including Memorial University, the College of Trades, the Fisheries College, district

DR. KITCHEN: vocational schools and school boards; (d) all municipalities in the Province; (e) all unions certified to bargain by the Province; (f) all firms doing business with the Government of the Province; and (g) all firms doing business in the Province; and

BE IT STILL FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government of the Province be requested to take the steps necessary to implement this resolution.

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

DR. J. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on tomorrow I will ask leave to present the following motion:

WHEREAS the present C.N. dockyard was conceived and developed as a major industrial venture by the people of Newfoundland over fifty years ago; and

WHEREAS the dock has continued ever since to be the largest employer of the industrial work force in Eastern Newfoundland and

WHEREAS the management of the C.N. dock has diligently sought and obtained new sources of work in the international shipping industry and

WHEREAS the future of the dock and the work force employed there is placed in serious jeopardy without the development necessary to reach this new potential;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the House of Assembly urge the Government of this Province again to press the federal government to fund upgrading of facilities at the C.N. dockyard primarily for the acquisition of a synchrolift in the immediate future.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

December 4, 1978

Tape No. 35

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

MR. RIDEOUT: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that
I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce the following
motion.

WHEREAS the economic well-being of many of

MR. RIDEOUT:

our people is dependant on the utilization of nonrenewable resources;
and

WHEREAS companies and corporations can and do reap profitable returns
from the exploitation of those resources; and

WHEREAS when those resources have been exhausted such companies and
corporations can and do pull out of this Province leaving behind economically
depressed areas:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House cause to be established
a Select Committee on Resource Management and that this Committee
be empowered to advise the House on the advisability and the feasibility
of one, the Province becoming a partner in the development of all non-
renewable resources; two, the establishment of a nonrenewable resource
contingency fund to be funded by the industrial exploiter. The purpose
of such a fund would be to provide financial relief to areas where
nonrenewable resources have been exhausted and to help in attracting
alternate industry:

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee have power in and out
of session to send for papers and other documents and generally to
exercise the powers which may be conferred upon commissioners under
the Public Enquiries Act, Chapter 314 as the Revised Statute of
Newfoundland, 1970:

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee be authorized to sit
from place to place throughout Newfoundland and Labrador.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Bay of Islands.

MR. WOODROW: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow
ask leave to move the following resolution:

WHEREAS the fish meal plant located at York Harbour in the electoral
district of Bay of Islands has been closed for approximately one year;
and

WHEREAS the fish meal plant was the major source of employment for
the people of York Harbour and the surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS it is essential to the social and economic wellbeing of
the area that the said fish plant resume operation:

MR. WOODROW:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this hon. House urge the government to take all steps necessary to cause the fish meal plant at York Harbour in the district of Bay of Islands to resume operations and thereby permit the industrious residents of the area to derive maximum benefit from Newfoundland's prime natural resource.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR. FLIGHT: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow move the following resolution:

WHEREAS the senior residents of this Province have throughout their working years contributed to and have indeed assured the growth, development and future prosperity of our Province; and

WHEREAS a great majority of our senior citizens have fixed incomes; and

WHEREAS inflation and the ever increasing cost of living continually erodes the ability of our senior citizens to maintain an adequate, even decent standard of living; and

WHEREAS our senior citizens have earned the right and are entitled to share in the prosperity that they themselves created:

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this House urges the government to bring in legislation this session to exempt senior citizens from school and municipal taxation:

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Province reimburse the taxing authorities for loss of revenue of such exemption.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

The hon. member for Mount Scio.

DR. WINSOR: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on tomorrow I will ask leave to introduce the following resolution:

WHEREAS the fishery as a mainstay of the provincial economy; and

WHEREAS the management and control of our fishery resource is of vital importance to the Province:

DR. WINSOR:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Constitution of Canada be amended to give the Province of Newfoundland concurrent jurisdiction in the fisheries management and control with the Province paramount in certain aspects of control and management and Canada paramount in others.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to present the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador has the highest cost of living in Canada due in the main to inflation and escalating prices to consumers for electricity, heating fuel and food costs; and

WHEREAS the cost of living has gone up 17.1 per cent since October of 1976, the last year in which an increase was granted in the minimum wage; and

WHEREAS in addition to score of workers in the private sector having their incomes geared to the minimum wage, several provincial and federal government social and job creation programmes are linked to the Provinces's minimum wage; and

WHEREAS 16.7 per cent of our families receive salaries below the low income level; and

WHEREAS 52.1 per cent of the Province's unattached individuals receive income below the low income level; and

WHEREAS the reason for the great majority of these people in receipt of incomes below the low level income ~~may be attributed to the Province's present minimum wage~~.

MR. T. LUSH: may be attributed to the Province's present minimum wage; and

WHEREAS minimum wage earners and thousands of others whose incomes are linked to the Province's minimum wage are powerless to increase their level of incomes and thus to protect themselves against inflation and the continuously rising cost of living; and

WHEREAS the minimum wage of this Province is the lowest in Canada;
NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT this House urges the government to bring in legislation this session to raise the minimum wage to an amount to put it in line with that received in other Canadian provinces, with a provision for a mandatory review in January of each year to ensure that our minimum wage is kept in line with that received in other Canadian provinces.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. minister.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I move that the remaining orders of the day do stand deferred and that this House on its rising do adjourn until tomorrow, Tuesday, at three of the clock and that this House do now adjourn.

MR. SPEAKER: Before putting the motion, I remind members and their guests that they are welcome to a reception at the ground floor in the foyer of the Confederation Building.

The motion is that this House adjourn until tomorrow, Tuesday, at 3:00 p.m.; those in favour 'aye', contrary 'nay'.
Carried.

This House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 3:00 p.m.