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HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

FOR THE PERIOD:

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 3, 1979

The House met at 10:00 A.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER (SIMMS): Order, please!

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

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

MR. L. BARRY: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that a number of -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. BARRY: Mr. Speaker, they have not even heard it yet.

MR. ROBERTS: That is the only reason they are cheering.

MR. BARRY: Wait until they find out the good news.

PREMIER PECKFORD: A big statement.

MR. BARRY: I am pleased to announce that a number of Newfoundland communities, currently receiving electricity from isolated diesel generating plants, are to be connected to the main provincial hydro grid.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. BARRY: That is not news.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. BARRY: However, the names of the communities; work will commence with a \$2 million project this year and when completed will enable the shutdown of five diesel plants. The communities are Greenspond, Gallants, Spruce Brook, Lushes Bight, Beaumont, North and South, on Long Island, Grand Le Pierre and English Harbour East. I should point out that shutting down these five diesel generating plants will have the effect of eliminating the consumption of some 350,000 gallons of diesel fuel in the first year. It will result in other benefits to the communities affected, including the expansion of one fish plant in the first phase and others later on.

The programme announced in the Budget Speech calls for a total expenditure of \$10 million, and it is designed to eliminate some eleven diesel plants by the time it is completed. The communities of Grand Le Pierre and English Harbour East should be

Mr. Barry: connected to the grid by early next year. Greenspond and the communities on Long Island will have to be connected by a submarine cable which should be completed late next Summer, and Gallants should be connected to the hydro grid by the end of this year.

Some 500 householders will benefit from the completion of the first phase of the programme which is about to get underway and will eventually take in a total of thirty-one communities.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (SIMMS): The hon. member for the Strait of Belle Isle.

MR. ROBERTS: Well, Mr. Speaker, the minister's statement is welcomed. I notice that the applause was not as enthusiastic after as it was before, which says something about the cheer leading techniques that are being developed on the other side.

PREMIER PECKFORD: We know all about it beforehand.

MR. ROBERTS: Well, the Premier may have known about it, his colleagues may have known about it, but I doubt if all of the backbenchers were informed about it. But in any event, it was welcomed news and I was going to go on to say that there ought to have been more applause at the end than at the beginning, because I think this is a very sensible and a very rational programme for the government not necessarily to embark upon, in effect to carry on with because although it was dredged up and put in the Budget as a jewel in the diadem, it was in fact a very old jewel in a very tarnished diadem. The fact remains that this programme has been going on for years. It is now being extended and quite properly so.

I would hope that the minister will be in a position to tell the House at an early date, as early as he can, the names of the other six communities that will be hooked up to the grid and also perhaps at some point, and this is not the point to go into it, we might get into the question of the large areas that are

MR. ROBERTS: presently on diesel that could conceivably be hooked up, including in particular, of course, the Northern Peninsula from Hawkes Bay North. Hawkes Bay is, I believe, the most Northerly point now served by hydro generated as opposed to diesel generated power. And, of course, that also would give rise to the further question of when we are going to move to the points where the rates are equalized so that people are not penalized for the part of Newfoundland in which they live.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, perhaps the minister could indicate how many employees will be affected by this. Each of these plants, I would think, would have two, three or possibly four men now working there, looking after them. What will happen to these people? Will they be laid off? Will they be absorbed elsewhere in the operations? And in general perhaps we could get some indication of the cost savings that we are going to get in return for the expenditures. But it is a welcome announcement. It is a good programme and my friend from Trinity-Bay de Verde (Mr. F. Rowe) asked what happens to the diesels. I do not know, but my guess would be that there will be other uses for them to replace machines now in use that are wearing out and need to be replaced. But it is a step forward and for that we compliment the minister. It is a small step and we hope it leads to bigger things yet.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: (Simms)

The hon. member

for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, I have a

question or two for the hon. the Premier in connection with the Come By Chance oil refinery. Even though, Mr. Speaker, we have pressed the Premier on a number of occasions to find out if the First Arabian Corporation have a contract for the supply of crude oil for the Come

MR. NEARY: By Chance oil refinery, we have never been able to get a straight answer so I am going to put the question to the hon. the Premier again. Does First Arabian have a firm contract for the supply of crude oil for the Come By Chance oil refinery?

MR. SPEAKER:(Simms) The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: I do not know how the hon. member defines firm or contract, nor do I know whether it is possible in the climate of the Middle East to get a firm contract for fifteen or twenty years or whatever for crude supply. We have been assured by representatives of First Arabian Corporation and their people who they work with in the Middle East that they have a crude supply to service the Come By Chance oil refinery.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary. The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, in view of the importance of this matter, and the hon. gentleman seems to be in possession of the facts, would the hon. gentleman indicate to the House if he has actually seen a contract for the supply of crude for the Come By Chance oil refinery in the hands of the First Arabian Corporation or any of their subsidiaries? Can the hon. gentleman tell this House definitely that there is a contract other than just the word of First Arabian? Has the hon. gentleman seen it?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: No, Mr. Speaker, I have not seen a contract, a written document. I think the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) as all hon. members realize that getting a firm document of agreement for millions of barrels of oil over a long period of time is difficult in the context of the Middle East for anybody to get. But we have been in touch with,

PREMIER PECKFORD: the government has been in touch with not only members of First Arabian but other people who do business with them and we are assured that there is this crude oil supply.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: (Simms) A supplementary, the hon. the member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I would gather then from the hon. gentleman's answer, Sir, that the hon. gentleman is not sure, he is just merely taking the word of First Arabian that there is a contract. And incidentally, Sir, other people who have made a proposal to this government have a firm contract for the supply of crude. I would submit to the hon. gentleman that First Arabian do not have a crude oil contract for the oil refinery, and if the hon. gentleman doubts me he should go to First Arabian and ask them to prove it, produce the evidence that they do have a supply of crude from an OPEC country, from an oil producing country.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

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

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL: The hon. gentleman is engaged now in argument, he is engaged in debate and he is engaged in passage of opinion. The purpose of the Question Period is just that, to ask questions.

AN HON. MEMBER: Correct.

MR. SPEAKER: I would have to rule that the hon. member must ask his question.

MR. NEARY: I understand, Your Honour, that you have to ask for information and not give information, but I was just giving the hon. gentleman a piece of information. I would like for the hon. gentleman to indicate to the House whether or not he will undertake to find out for sure - because the hon. gentleman seems to be married to First Arabian; he thinks he is the Premier for the First Arabian Corporation, not for the people of Newfoundland - will the hon. gentleman undertake to get the information for the House as to whether or not there is indeed a contract

MR. NEARY: or a supply of crude oil to be had by the First Arabian Corporation in the event that they get the oil refinery? And indicate what country because, Mr. Speaker, if the hon. gentleman does not indicate the country then we do not know about the quality of the crude, whether or not it has a high sulphur content or not. As I said, there is no -

MR. SPEAKER: (Simms) Order, please!

The hon. member, I believe, has asked the question.

The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: I thank the hon. member for his suggestions and his opinions, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. SPEAKER: A final supplementary, the hon. the member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman is evading the issue, of course, as he has always done on this question of whether or not there is a supply of crude oil. And this is too important, Mr. Speaker, because the hon. gentleman is dealing with the First Arabian Corporation and no other company.

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

MR. SPEAKER: A point of order, the hon. the President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman when he started his train of questions, embarked on a process of debate. I rose on a point of order, Your Honour sustained me, and now he persists in continuing on in the same tenor. By doing it, Mr. Speaker, he is flaunting Your Honour's ruling.

MR. SPEAKER: On the point of order, again I refer members to Standing Order 31(c) which states quite clearly that the member asking the questions must offer no argument or opinion other than to state the information that is necessary to explain the same. And this, of course, applies as well to the

MR. SPEAKER: (Simms) ministers responding. I would bring that to the attention of all hon. members and ask the hon. member to please ask his question.

MR. S. NEARY: Well, my question, first of all, is a two-pronged question. Would the hon. gentleman undertake to get the information for the House on whether or not there is, indeed, a supply of crude for the Come By Chance oil refinery? Would the hon. gentleman also indicate, if there is a supply of crude and I have my doubts about that, Sir, if there is, if the Isomax at the oil refinery can take care of the pollution problem involved with any supply of crude that First Arabian or any other company may have that has made a proposal to operate the oil refinery? Is that not what the Isomax is for? And perhaps the hon. gentleman would care to answer that and elaborate on that, whether or not there is equipment in that oil refinery that can take care of the pollution problem.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Two points, Mr. Speaker; the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. S. Neary) and all hon. members of this House can be sure that if and when the Government of Newfoundland gives its support to the application or the proposal by First Arabian Corporation to reactivate the Come By Chance oil refinery that we will be confident that a stable crude oil supply is available and we will not support any application which is uncertain as to crude oil supply. Obviously, you can not have a refinery unless you get a crude oil supply and, therefore, we will be assured and confident that that crude oil supply is available otherwise we would be foolish to support any reactivation efforts.

MR. NEARY: Do you not know that?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, on the question of pollution, I think the Isomax machine that is presently on site at Come By Chance has to do with refining the product further but

PREMIER PECKFORD: there are additional pollution mechanisms or equipment that will be necessary in order to ensure a clean environment in the environs of Come by Chance. And that is what the whole study is about now, to determine the environmental suitability of the proposal that First Arabian corporation has presented.

MR. SPEAKER: (Simms) The hon. member for Eagle River.

MR. E. HISCOCK: I would like to direct my question to the Premier or the Minister of Mines and Energy (Mr. L. Barry). I believe all too often in the past the government has looked upon the Opposition as being negative in their questions and not coming up with any constructive criticisms. I would like to be able to give some constructive criticism in particular.

We have been given notice this morning of five diesel generators that are going to be taken out and now we are going to have these communities connected up with power grid on the Island. I would like to ask the Premier or the Minister of Mines and Energy, could you possibly take one of these diesel generators and put it down in Williams Harbour, Labrador where they have a fish plant and they were told that they would go into the

MR. HISCOCK: fish plant year-round if with the promise of electricity they settle as a year-round community and they are still waiting for electricity and this came of course from the Lower Labrador, which I compliment the government on. During the election a telegram was sent to that community in the name of the Premier. Could you further elaborate upon this, that is if the generator is going to be sent to this community.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Premier, I am aware of the problem that the hon. member brings up and I can assure him that we are proceeding to ensure that electricity is available to Williams Harbour this year.

MR. MARSHALL: Like Mary's Harbour.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): The hon. member for Bonavista North.

MR. L. STIRLING: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to turn to a question that was brought up by the member for Placentia (Mr. Patterson) very specifically on the task force on fluoride which was a year ago. How many of the - a question to the Minister of Health - how many of the thirty-three recommendations have been carried out at this point?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Health.

MR. HOUSE: Mr. Speaker, that is the task force on fluoride, that is what you are referring to there? I am not certain of the number of recommendations. I have had some correspondence on it but I will endeavour to get the information for the member some time next week.

MR. STIRLING: A supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary, the hon. member for Bonavista North.

MR. STIRLING: In view of the time of the year, very specifically number (29) says, "The public should be advised that

MR. STIRLING: wild berries gathered within four miles North and Northeast of the ERCO plant may be contaminated," in view of the fact that we are now into the berry picking season has the government undertaken any plans to give adequate public notice of the contamination of those berries, number (29)?

MR. ROBERTS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): The hon. Minister of Health.

MR. HOUSE: Mr. Speaker, I am not definite in being able to answer that question. Again the same thing pertains, I will answer the question on the next day in the House.

MR. STIRLING: A supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A final supplementary, the hon. member for Bonavista North.

MR. STIRLING: The member for Placentia (Mr. Patterson) when he made the comments the other day—he is a member for whom I certainly have a great deal of respect—expressed a personal opinion that he had some doubt about whether ERCO was not continuing to pollute. Does the Minister of Health share that opinion or can he assure us that that is not the situation?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Health.

MR. HOUSE: Mr. Speaker, I cannot assure anybody anything in that respect, but I am certain that every caution is being taken to insure

Mr. House: that the company and the Department of Health and the Department of Municipal Affairs are ensuring that every caution is being taken. I cannot be definite, and I do not know if the member for Placentia (Mr. Patterson) has some additional information I would like to have it.

MR. SPEAKER (SIMMS): The hon. member for Windsor-Buchans.

MR. FLIGHT: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Brett). I wonder if the minister would indicate - remember a year or two ago there was some effort made to regulate the tractor-trailer transportation on the Trans-Canada Highway, particularly on weekends and holidays with a view to cutting down on the hazard caused by the heavy concentration of tractor-trailers moving into this Province, and there was suppose to be an effort made to have an agreement that tractor-trailers would not use or would cut down their activity on the Trans-Canada Highway on weekends and holidays: Was that ever followed up on? Or has there been any thoughts given to that particular thought, Mr. Speaker?

MR. NEARY: As they do in other provinces.

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

MR. BRETT: Mr. Speaker, I have no knowledge of that whatsoever. I will get what information I can, if there is any information on it. I will take notice of the question. I will probably be able to answer it next week.

MR. FLIGHT: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

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

MR. FLIGHT: I wonder is the minister, Mr. Speaker, aware that now particularly, with the Trans-Canada Highway under construction the way it is, that those tractor-trailers are travelling night and day, weekends, holidays, everything, in convoys, four, five and six. Is the minister getting those kinds of complaints? And that it is dangerous to go on the Trans-Canada Highway, it is worse now than ever

Mr. Flight: it was. And is he prepared to take a look at that and control the speed or the times that those tractor-trailers are on the road so as to offer some degree of safety to our travelling public?

MR. SPEAKER (SIMMS): The hon. Minister for Transportation and Communications.

MR. BRETT: Mr. Speaker, I am aware that tractor-trailers traffic is increasing. It has been increasing for a number of years. I guess it still is. And that is probably one of the reasons why our TCH was in such bad condition, because I do not think it was ever built for that type of traffic in the first place.

As I indicated to your first question, I am not aware of any controls being put on. Tractor-trailers do travel at night, I am aware of that, and I know why. We have our speed limits on the TCH, and I can only say I hope that they would observe these speed limits.

The fact that we are doing a lot of work on the TCH naturally means that there is greater danger of accidents where, you know, people are working, work trucks being around and men and so on, but that is a natural hazard. We are just going to have to drive more carefully. But, you know, I am not aware of anybody trying to put any special controls on, except that I hope they will live up to the speed limits that we have established.

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

MR. ROBERTS: I will only be a minute 'Steve!' you can come back on it.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Health (Mr. House) has been very helpful this morning. Let me ask him, and perhaps he can tell the House when the government will be carrying out their commitments to build new hospitals on the Burin Peninsula, Clarenville, and the big expansion of the Grand Falls Hospital?

MR. SPEAKER: (Simms)

The hon. the Minister of Health.

MR. HOUSE:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to be able to be definite about when we will be able to do this.

MR. ROBERTS:

Yes.

MR. SPEAKER:

One of the things - I think it was referred to in the Budget Speech and it will be discussed, I guess, in the Budget Speech - is the fact that we will be doing an intensive study of the areas. We have received input from all the areas and, of course, I believe as far back as 1975 there were a number of tentative plans for hospitals. We have since come to the conclusion, of course, that perhaps a lot of the things we had planned at that particular point in time were too elaborate and we will be in the next three or four months coming up with a definite approach for hospital expansion in the next five years.

MR. ROBERTS:

Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER:

A supplementary, the hon. the member for the Strait of Belle Isle.

MR. ROBERTS:

I listened with interest to what the minister said. Is the minister saying the government are no longer standing by their commitments to these three hospitals?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. minister.

MR. HOUSE:

Mr. Speaker, I do not think that is what I said. What I said was we are looking at the programme of expansion and building in the next five years along with the government programmes. I further said that I am not so certain that we are going along with what was originally planned, the size of the various structures. For instance, I can give an example: Some years ago we talked about a 150 bed hospital for the Burin Peninsula; perhaps that is not necessary, that size. We are certainly looking at a hospital for that area, for the Clarenville area and the Grand Falls expansion, but perhaps not the kind of structure that was talked about originally.

MR. ROBERTS:

A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A final supplementary, the hon. the member for the Strait of Belle Isle.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, the minister is obviously saying the government are reviewing their plans. He is obviously saying the government are not committed to carry out their commitments. Can he tell us when we will have some definite answer as to what the government are going to do? And I would remind the minister that the sod was turned for the Burin Peninsula hospital in 1975 by the present Minister of Mines and Energy (Mr. Barry), among others; The sod was turned for the Clarenville hospital by the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Brett), money has been spent on planning, hundreds of thousands of dollars: When will the government be able to say what they are going to do and when will they be able to say, since they are not going to keep their word, exactly what they are going to do?

MR. SPEAKER: (Simms) The hon. the Minister of Health.

MR. HOUSE: Mr. Speaker, possibly I have not been clear. I have not said that the government are not going to keep their word in that they are going to provide information as to when or to what kind of programme that it will be putting into effect. And hopefully we will be able to do that in the next three or four months, but I would not want to be tied to that particular time frame.

MR. F. ROWE: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. F. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. W. Carter) has not been on T.V. for the last twenty-four hours and he is looking very depressed and sad over there, so I thought I would direct a question to him. I wonder if the Minister of Fisheries, Sir, could indicate

MR. F. ROWE: to the House, since a number of fishermen around the Province now are complaining about the fact that they cannot sell their squid to the plants on shore here in the Province, what steps have been taken with the Fishermen's Union and with the federal government as far as licenses are concerned to get these factory ships in the Province again as a temporary measure to sell over-the-side the squid and caplin and what have you that are starting to glut the fishermen at the present time?

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): The hon. Minister of Fisheries.

MR. W. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, the plants around the Island are pretty well blocked; that I think is a known fact. They are unable to take any more squid. The ships are coming in. I understand the union has got six or seven, I think about seventeen altogether over-the-side sales ships, I think about seventeen. I think the union has got ten or twelve and once these ships get in place this of course will alleviate the problem. Of course, Mr. Speaker, the unfortunate part about it is the squid is a very unpredictable animal. It is something like the Opposition, they are here today and gone tomorrow.

AN HON. MEMBER: True.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. W. CARTER: Therefore it is difficult for the plants to gear up for such an uncertain fish and that is why at certain times of course there is a glut. I am told by the plants that they are doing all they can to accommodate the fishermen and trying to buy their landings and do what they can for them.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary, the hon. member for Trinity-Bay de Verde.

MR. F. ROWE: I wonder if, Mr. Speaker, the minister would indicate where these ships will be placed in Newfoundland - I do not know if any will be on the Labrador Coast or not-but where, generally speaking, these ships are going to be placed because last year I know a number of fishermen were complaining about the fact that they were not in certain areas and certain bays and what have you, and secondly, what steps the provincial government has taken to protect the Newfoundland fish plants with respect to fishermen finding it easier to sell over-the-side rather than steaming to a plant some thirty or forty miles away for purposes of unloading the squid in these plants?

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): The hon. Minister of Fisheries.

MR. W. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, the ships will be stationed around the Island. I am not sure exactly what bays but I suppose where there is an abundance of squid, where there is a glut, these ships will be moving in because they are as anxious to buy the squid once over here, bearing in mind the tremendous cost, as the fishermen are to sell them. With respect to the latter half of the member's question - what steps are we taking - well, we do have a new policy now with respect to over-the-side sales where the vessels and companies engaged in that aspect of the fisheries are required to apply to the Province for a licence and these licences will not be issued in cases where it will interfere

MR. W. CARTER:

with the day to day operations of fish plants in the area. The licenses this year, I am afraid, were issued without the knowledge or consent of the Department of Fisheries provincially and therefore by the time we got our new policy in place, I am afraid it was too late to impose certain restrictions on the vessels, at least this particular year. But certainly in future any vessels coming into the Province to buy squid, or indeed any other fish, will be required to adhere to a very strict regulation that will be imposed by the Province.

MR. F. ROWE:

One further supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: (Simms)

A final supplementary and

then the hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. F. ROWE:

Did I understand the minister

to say that the provincial government now is licensing or will be licensing these ships in the future and the federal government will or will not, or was it a joint situation?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. minister.

MR. W. CARTER:

That is not a joint situation.

Mr. Speaker, in that the federal government will still have to issue the licenses to allow the ships over here, but the Province, we look upon these ships as an extension of a fish plant. For example, if there is an over-the-side sale operation taking place in Twillingate Harbour, which is an extension of the Twillingate plant, well then we believe that the operation of that ship should adhere to the regulations as indeed does the plant in Twillingate both in terms of health and sanitation standards because that fish will be sold through the plant and will go into the market place as fish coming from Newfoundland. And therefore I think we have an obligation to ensure that fish going into the market place with the Newfoundland label on it, under the label of a Newfoundland company is good and is produced and processed under the best conditions possible. And that is why we are going to enforce these regulations. Secondly, Mr.

MR. W. CARTER: Speaker, the matter of employment on board of these vessels: We are very much aware of the danger of certain companies may be finding it expedient to process fish on board of these ships where labour, certainly from the Communist block countries, is far less costly than that in Newfoundland fish plants. In future people on board of these vessels will have to be Newfoundlanders. Where the men can be had in Newfoundland then they will be required to hire Newfoundlanders on board of these ships.

MR. F. ROWE: I did not quite finish my question, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: You did not quite finish your question? A final supplementary and then the hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. F. ROWE: This I would assume is a temporary measure. I am wondering what initiative the government are taking in order to increase and upgrade the number of fish plants in the Province and increase the capacity to process within the Province rather than having the raw material basically shipped out of our own seas? Last year I indicated support for that particular concept as long as we had insufficient plant capacity, and I think the minister -

AN HON. MEMBER: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: (Simms) Order, please!

MR. F. ROWE: - indicated the same thing. What I want to know from the minister, Mr. Speaker, is what initiative and what steps are being taken by the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. W. Carter) in this Province to

MR. F. ROWE: ensure that this will be a temporary situation, will not be a permanent situation where we will have these factory ships coming in in ten years time, and increase the plant capacity in the Province so that we will employ greater numbers of Newfoundlanders and ship out a processed product rather than the raw material?

AN HON. MEMBER: A good question.

MR. SPEAKER: (Simms) The hon. Minister of Fisheries.

MR. W. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, I think the answer to that question is obvious that we have gone on record as stating our support for over-the-side sales while they are necessary but certainly it is no long-term solution to the glut problem. With respect in reply to his question of what is happening, well, the processing sector, Mr. Speaker, has increased its capacity by about 30 per cent in the past year, and I can name probably seven or eight new plants, very large plants, that have gone into operation during the past twelve months, and I understand that there are plans on the drawing boards now that you will probably see an even greater increase, say in 1980.

We have a number of programmes, Mr. Speaker, that we have initiated to assist, to encourage plants to enlarge their freezing and cold storage and processing capability. For example, our Deficiency Guarantee programme where one company alone last year was given \$28 million and they will be undertaking very substantial improvements in expansion to their plants, where other companies which have applied for assistance will be getting it. We have other programmes for loans under \$150,000 to small, independent fish plants. So there are a number of plans and assistance available so these plants can expand.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. W. CARTER: You want an answer? I am giving them to you.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. S. NEARY: I have a quickie for the Minister of Finance (Dr. J. Collins), Sir. Would the minister tell the House whether or not there is a reorganization going on in his department and that the Assistant Deputy Minister of Finance in charge of debts, I think that is in parenthesis, Assistant Deputy Minister of Finance (Debt) is being replaced, has resigned or is there a shake up of any kind going on down there?

MR. SPEAKER: (Simms) The hon. Minister of Finance.

DR. J. COLLINS: The Department of Finance is a very dynamic organization, Mr. Speaker, and, Sir, many beneficial changes are going on all the time. I think what the hon. member is referring to is the Director of Fiscal Policy, who is seconded to the department from the federal government for a period of time - I think the contract was something like two years - and that contract is just about up now.

MR. S. NEARY: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, the hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. S. NEARY: Is his title, the Assistant Deputy Minister of Finance (Debt), is that Mr. Fearn we are talking about?

DR. J. COLLINS: No.

MR. S. NEARY: No. So, there is no assistant deputy getting the boot or has resigned recently?

DR. J. COLLINS: No.

MR. S. NEARY: Ok, that is fine.

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

MR. G. FLIGHT: Mr. Speaker, my question goes to the Minister of Health (Mr. W. House) re a question asked a little earlier by the hon. member for the Strait of Belle Isle (Mr. E. Roberts). And I am wondering specifically the situation with the Grand Falls hospital, if the minister is aware whether or not the Concerned Citizens Group in Grand Falls or the Board of Directors have been notified that the hospital expansion is indeed shelved,

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MR. G. FLIGHT: will not take place and what is
the minister's reaction to the commitment made last Fall that
on September, 1978 the minister and the Premier would come out with
a list of priorities for hospitals,

MR. FLIGHT: for a five-year plan that would have been announced in September of 1978.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): The hon. Minister of Health.

MR. HOUSE: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any information received by a group of senior citizens informing them that the hospital expansion will not go ahead. Certainly they have knowledge of the fact that it will not be going ahead this year as a result of this year's budget, because there is nothing in the Budget stating that there will be any action in that respect in this fiscal year.

The fact is I have written practically all the hospitals advising them of what I advised the member for the Straits of Belle Isle (Mr. Roberts) this morning, about the fact that we will be looking at all the expenses that we have been talking about and all the new buildings we have been talking about in the next three or four months and we will be keeping them informed.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! The time for Oral Questions has expired.

PRESENTING PETITIONS:

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Carbonear.

MR. R. MOORES: I would like to present a petition, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of 207 in the town of Lower Island Cove in my district. The 207 petitioners, Mr. Speaker, represent ninety-eight per cent of the persons affected by the negligence of the Department of Transportation and Communications in regards to the lack of upgrading and maintenance of this road.

In preparation for the submission of this petition to the House this morning, I travelled to Lower Island Cove just a couple of days ago and viewed the condition of the road myself. This was partially in response to the fact that I had in a letter to the minister, about two months ago, brought the matter to his attention and asked him at that time to do some upgrading in preparation

MR. R. MOORES: for the fish plant trucks that quite frequently go over this road in the Summer. It is obvious, Mr. Speaker, that nothing has been done with this road and nothing intends to be done. The road is still in the deplorable condition that it was the last twelve months and in fact for the last four years.

The dust problem is incredible. The people cannot hang their clothes out to dry. Their vegetables, which are now growing in the garden, are practically inedible.

I cannot imagine, Mr. Speaker, this petition being any different than perhaps 100 that have been presented to this House, perhaps more than 100 in the last three or four years, and I quite often wonder what exactly happens to these petitions, what exactly happens to the requests of the petitioners to what them is a very serious problem.

I now, Mr. Speaker, would like to table the petition and have it passed along to the appropriate minister of the department for some action.

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House who is familiar with the problems of Lower Island Cove, and as a member who knows so many former miners who used to work on Bell Island who live in Lower Island Cove and Upper Island Cove, Sir, it gives me great pleasure to support this petition so ably presented by my hon. colleague, the member for Carbonear (Mr. R. Moores).

One thing I will say about my colleague, Sir, he does not waste any words. He gets straight to the point and when the hon. gentleman started to present his petition this morning he proved again that he does not fool around at all, just went right straight to the point, he does not mix his words and did an

MR. NEARY: excellent job of appealing to the Minister of Transportation and Communications on behalf of ninety-eight per cent of his constituents who live in and around Lower Island Cove to have that road upgraded.

 The road is in terrible condition, as my hon. friend described it, but my hon. friend said something that was very discouraging to me; the hon. gentleman when referring to the petition said what happens to the many hundreds of petitions that are presented in this House, do they fall on deaf ears? Sometimes I wonder myself, Mr. Speaker, and I am amazed that

MR. NEARY: a rookie member, so to speak, I suppose, you could classify him, but at least one of the younger members of the House. - I do not know if the hon. gentleman is the youngest member in the House, but if he is not, he is pretty close to being the youngest member in the House - and the hon. gentleman is discouraged and disillusioned with the way that ministers and the government with the attitude they have towards the presentation of petitions, which is the most democratic way that people living in communities and villages and towns -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: (Simms) Order, please! Order, please!

MR. NEARY: Thank you. The hon. gentleman said it very well.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. NEARY: That is right.

So, Mr. Speaker, let us hope that this particular petition will not fall on deaf ears as my hon. friend indicated that so many of the petitions presented in this hon. House have gone the way of all flesh. It is, indeed, an important petition. It is a very important item for the people who live in that community. As the hon. gentleman indicated, the women over there on washday cannot even hang their clothes out on the clothesline there is so much dust. Can you imagine what it is like when you get a week's rain over there, the mud and the dirt?

Anyway, Sir, I support the prayer of the petition. I am sorry that the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Brett) is not in his seat at the present time; I was hoping that the hon. gentleman would participate. Under the new rules we are allowed two on this side, one other than the person who present the petition, and one on the other side. I do hope, Sir, that the government will avail of the opportunity, that the ministers will take advantage of the opportunity for the one spokesman on the other side to get up and tell us whether or not they are going to support these petitions and what they are going to do about the problems that are indicated in the prayers of the petitions.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. R. MOORES:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: (Simms)

The hon. the member for Carbonear.

MR. R. MOORES:

Notwithstanding, Mr. Speaker, the seriousness of the previous petition, I now have what I consider to be another petition of a very much more serious nature.

About a month and a half ago

I approached the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. N. Windsor) and privately we discussed the contents of this petition that I am now going to submit. It has to do with 55 per cent of the voters of the town of Salmon Cove in my district, requesting the recall of a town council due to misappropriation of funds and mismanagement of their duties. I make the presumption that because I have not heard from the minister in forty-five days that he is not interested in it, he is not concerned with it and he is not going to do anything about it.

I have been under relatively strong pressure from the people who signed this petition to get on with it, to present it to the House and never mind what the minister is going to do, present it to the House, put him on the spot publicly, go on record as having asked him to do what the voters of Salmon Cove - their inalienable right to recall the council by petition.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to read part of the prayer "that at a public meeting held in Salmon Cove on May 1, 1979" at which I was present and did participate, "abundant evidence presented itself to indicate that our town council is not being operated or managed in a manner that serves the best interests of our community and its citizens, and that this mismanagement is due mostly to the inability and incompetence of the present town council to effectively execute their duties in an appropriate and consistent manner, and that this mismanagement and incompetence on behalf of the present town council is causing the questionable expenditure of the town's finances and programmes and activities that are not in keeping with proper priorities and expectations of the community and its citizens.

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MR. R. MOORES:

"Therefore, we ask the hon. the Minister of Municipal Affairs to effect immediate recall, to call a general election and give the people of Salmon Cove their right to elect a new town council."

Now, Mr. Speaker, whatever my personal views on this are,

Mr. Moores: I do not think it is really important. However, I think I should hold the view that it is the right of the citizens of any community in this Province to recall its council, to opt out of an incorporation, to opt out of anything they want to as long as there is a majority in agreement.

There a number perhaps of us hon. members in this House who would like to have been elected with a majority of the votes cast; I am proud to say that I was one of them. But, I think, Mr. Speaker, it is incumbent upon the minister to get off, to get moving on this, give the people what they want, their inalienable right to recall, because they believe, the majority of them believe, that their council is not running their town properly.

I support this petition, Mr. Speaker. I do not support the minister's attitude for the last forty-five or fifty days. I hope it is not typical of the way he is going to carry out his responsibilities in the next four or five years.

Thank you very much.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. MARSHALL: The Budget Debate.

MR. SPEAKER: The Budget Debate.

The hon. member for Grand Bank.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. THOMS: It is becoming even more chaotically confusing,

Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, when I finished speaking - not finished speaking, when I adjourned the debate yesterday I was suggesting that there is a tremendous responsibility and even a duty on all members of this House, and I believe particularly on new members of this House, to ensure that the debate in this House, if I may dare say so, is raised above the debate that we have seen for this past few years.

MR. NEARY: You are saying the Speaker did not maintain order in the House before?

MR. THOMS: I am not saying that. What I am saying is, though, that the Speaker showed just exactly what a great Speaker he was to maintain the decorum that was maintained before.

Mr. Speaker, too many people believe that this House does not work, that it does nothing, that it accomplishes nothing. Too many people walk into this House, sit in the Public Galleries for comic relief and, Mr. Speaker, they get too much comic relief in this House, much too much. For myself, Mr. Speaker, I am going to leave the wit, the irony, the sarcasm to the more experienced parliamentarians in this House.

MR. NEARY: You are going to be the Saviour, are you?

MR. THOMS: No, I am not going to be the Saviour, but I am going to try and do my job.

Mr. Speaker, I would of course like to put on record my thanks to the people of Grand Bank, to the district of Grand Bank for the overwhelmingly vote of confidence that they gave me and the Liberal Party on June 18.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. STAGG: Recite that again.

MR. THOMS: For the benefit of my friend for Stephenville (Mr. Stagg), I was thanking the people of Grand Bank for the overwhelmingly vote of confidence that they gave me on June 18, and they gave the Liberal Party on June 18. And I am very proud to represent that particular district.

I was born in one of the most beautiful villages, Mr. Speaker, in that particular district, in Garnish. I lived in various places on the Burin Peninsula, and it is a place that I have got a great deal of affection for. My family, of course, has had a long and a very happy association with the district of Grand Bank. My father was a teacher on the South Coast of Newfoundland,

MR. L. THOMS: when there were very few ministers, so he was not just a teacher but he also performed an awful lot of functions that our ministers and priests perform today. My mother, of course, was a nurse and a midwife on the South Coast of Newfoundland, and all over Newfoundland as a matter of fact, when there were very few doctors and they touched a lot of people of this Province in a really real way. Mr. Speaker, the people of Grand Bank, the people of the Grand Bank district are not a greedy group of people; they want only their fair share. There are needs in the district as there are needs in all districts. There is a need for more water and sewer. There is a need for more consideration to be given to senior citizens and widows. The Blue Crest Senior Citizens Home in Grand Bank has a waiting list of forty-four, they need more room, they need more space; they need to take in more of those who need nursing care. There is need for more improved fishing facilities such as wharves and slipways. There is need for better housing for those who cannot afford to build or repair their homes and provide adequate shelter for their families. There is a very real need, as I am sure there is in all districts, where the sitting member performs a particular function; he helps an awful lot of people with an awful lot of what we would consider small problems. And I think this is where the government can help. There is a particular need. Right now, for example, I am trying to perform my duties for the people of Grand Bank just like every member on the other side is trying to help the people of their district. How it affects you I do not know, but at the present time I am trying to perform this function, in this building, where I have to share a secretary with three other members of this caucus. I have to share an office, a very small office, with another person. If you have somebody in from the district and you want to have a private conversation with them you have to ask the other person to leave. I think there is a duty, I think there is a responsibility on the government to provide the necessary facilities so that the people in this Province can get the

MR. L. THOMS: type of service from
the elected representatives that they deserve.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. L. THOMS: Mr. Speaker, the people
of St. Lawrence are to be commended for the way they have stood up
following the close-down of the mine by Alcan. This was a close-down
which showed the hard-heartedness and callousness of a Board of
Directors many miles away, far removed from the scene. It showed
the lack of concern for people. It was the type of lack of concern
that aids and abets the cynicism that I spoke of yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, the
situation at St. Lawrence also showed what a people can do when
faced with this kind of a problem. Unselfish dedication to the St.
Lawrence people was shown by such as the Rev. Father Molloy who
played a major role in the drive to have built at St. Lawrence a
new fish plant to fill the void left when Alcan closed down.
Fishery Products are to be commended. And especially to be commended,
of course, is the Leader of our Opposition who, as the member for
Burin-Burgeo (Mr. Jamieson), played such a vital role.

AN HON. MEMBER: What part did the
Province play?

MR. L. THOMS: I am having a very
difficult time finding out exactly what role the Province played.
But whatever role they played I would like to thank the Province
as well.

Mr. Speaker, I am
going to say some things that probably would be better said in the
Speech in Reply, but there is some question as to whether or not
we will get to the Throne Speech again so I would like to say them
now. I heard with interest the contents of the Throne Speech. I
think the understatement of the century appears on page three of that
document when it says, "We know from our own recent experience that
our existing political system is far from perfect." Now, Mr. Speaker,
we have many experiences in this Province to prove that.

MR. L. THOMS: The Throne Speech outlined two things which I would like to mention in passing. One is that a new Elections Act is to be introduced, and I would ask the government to ensure that when drafting this legislation that the question of advanced polls be dealt with so that voters, everybody, is given the maximum opportunity to vote. In the past election, for example, the advanced polls were held on Friday and Saturday, from 4:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M., and the election was on June 18th. Now that is not my definition of an advanced poll. And in my district, of course, four o'clock in the afternoon the fishermen are out to their traps and the fishermen who are not out to their traps of course are down the shore fishing for the Summer and they come back maybe once a week, once every few weeks. All these people should be given the opportunity to exercise their franchise, and when the new Elections Act comes in I would like to see some consideration given to that.

Mr. Speaker, the other reform of course has already been brought in and that is the rules reform, and these I agree with. However, of course, the debate in this House is not going to be improved until we realize that personality attacks have no place here. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to see as well that resolutions are now being debated and being voted on.

Mr. Speaker, it would be unforgivable of me if, as a representative of the district of Grand Bank, I did not speak of the fisheries. The district of Grand Bank, like most rural areas of Newfoundland, is completely dependent on the fishery, just as the rural areas in the rest of Canada are dependent upon agriculture. The fishing industry is just as important to Newfoundland as the agriculture industry is to Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, sometimes I get the impression listening to various government ministers, the media and others that any moment now oil will start flowing down the streets of old St. John's and we are all going to be filthy rich.

MR. L. THOMS: If, and I repeat, if there are commercial quantities of oil out there, it is my understanding that we really have not yet developed the technology to bring it ashore, so it is going to be a while even if it is there.

Mr. Speaker, Newfoundland's future lies with the fishery and with the development of our hydro power. If there is oil, fine and dandy, but the here and now needs must be met. Mr. Speaker, we have a great growth rate in the fishing industry. The total fish catch is up and there is a tremendous increase in value. However, one has to be cautious. Fishing in Newfoundland has always had its ups and downs. It has always had a few good years and a few bad years. Things may look good now but we have to keep in mind the possibility of the bad years as we approach the future of the fisheries.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to refer briefly now to something that has been bothering me for a while. It came out in the Social Services Committee the other morning and the minister agreed with me on that particular case. Mr. Speaker, we as politicians cannot turn a blind eye to those in need. The obvious approach in Canada today where there is poverty is to give money, and that is supposed to be a cure for poverty. There are some people who still believe that this simplistic approach will somehow banish poverty and make individuals rich, but that is not so.

Mr. Speaker, poverty is a symptom. It is a symptom of a lack of capacity, a lack of industry and a lack of opportunity. But you cannot cure poverty by giving money,

MR. THOMS: any more than you can cure measles by just scraping off pimples; it just does not happen.

Mr. Speaker, welfare does little more than effectively destroy the incentive of people to better themselves. And do you not think, Sir, that as a nation we have gone too far as a welfare state? I think we have and I hope that it will be corrected. Mr. Speaker, we must have the will to correct it consciously or for sure the forces of nature will correct it for us and that is a painful process, a very painful process indeed.

Mr. Speaker, what I am actually saying is that handout, constant aid and assistance weaken individuals. It weakens their will to do things for themselves. Mr. Speaker, in the same way that a limb, if it is not used, will wither and can no longer support the body, so individuals who are not by necessity pressed into being productive, useful and thinking individuals will lose the ability to produce or to support themselves.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, the fish plant in St. Lawrence is so vitally important. It is important that the people of St. Lawrence get back to work. Because I find when an individual is off work for a certain number of years, he will develop what I call a welfare mentality. It is useless to then go back and offer him a job because he is so comfortable in his unemployed welfare state that he will find any excuse not to work.

Mr. Speaker, this is a grave social and economic problem and I think we all have to address ourselves to it. It is not enough to give lip service to these things, we have to do something about them.

Mr. Speaker, in my few remarks I have tried to express some of my concerns, some of my concerns in the fishery, some of my concerns about other matters, and I have tried to do it in a positive way.

I trust that over the next three or four years I will have a greater opportunity to do it.

MR. THOMS: In the meantime, Mr. Speaker, I hope that I can work with everybody in this House, members on this side of the House and with the government members, to insure that this House becomes a place that the people of this Province can be proud of. And I hope that I can work with everybody in this House to make sure that Newfoundland is a better place in which to live.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: (Butt) The hon. the member for Harbour Main - Bell Island.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. DOYLE: Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to take this opportunity, as did my colleague, to offer a word of congratulations to you on your recent election as Speaker of the hon. House. Also, I would like to voice, if I may, similar sentiments, I should say, to you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as well, on your appointment. Next, of course, congratulations to the hon. the Premier on his great victory. That victory, in my opinion, represents the kind of respect and admiration that the people of Newfoundland have for their great leader. And I think I speak for all members - at least I am pretty well sure I speak for all members on this side of the House - when I say that this admiration and respect is shared by us all.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. DOYLE: Also, I would like to say, Mr. Speaker, that congratulations are in order to all hon. members on their personal victories in the areas they represent. And, of course, I would like to take advantage of this occasion to express a special word of thanks and appreciation to the people of Harbour Main - Bell Island

MR. N. DOYLE: for the trust and confidence they have placed in me. I hope always to be worthy of that great trust insofar as I possibly can.

First of all, I would like to say how very pleased I am to see so many references made to the rural areas of our Province in the debate that went on over the weeks previous, especially as it relates to small and medium size business in Newfoundland today. It is especially encouraging to know that governments will not be overemphasizing the big projects in its philosophy of development, nor will it be offering financial assistance or financial support to the large industrial enterprises which properly belong in the free market sector.

I personally feel that with this type of approach we, who represent rural areas of Newfoundland, will be greatly encouraged to support the development of small and medium size fish plants in Newfoundland today with the eventual goal, of course, of year-round permanent employment. Having touched on that particular issue, I would like to mention, if I may, another area of concern in my district, again, directly related to the fishing industry. That area, Mr. Speaker, is concerned with the processing of fish. The inability of the average fisherman today in my district to cope with the problem of what to do with the product he is harvesting, that is of major concern to me.

With the advent of a new realization of what our fishery can and what our fishery will mean for the future of my area, a great number of people have become actively involved in the process of trying to eke out a living in the fisheries. And they would remain there, I feel, and would express a willingness to remain closely connected with that particular way of life if they could find a sale for the product they are harvesting especially as it relates to the squid fishery.

Just to add to that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that up until two or three years ago there was

MR. N. DOYLE: approximately ten or possibly twenty people actively engaged in the process of trying to eke out a living in the area of the fishery in my area and now, today, we have approximately 200 - 250 people that are attempting again to eke out a living in the areas of fishery. That speaks well of the industry, I am sure. There are also approximately 100 - 150 people that are employed, again, on a seasonal basis in the two Holyrood fish plants and that is indeed very encouraging in light of the fact that another fish plant is about to be established in my area, possibly within the next year or so. Now, these figures may seem relatively unimportant in the overall scheme of things but I believe they are of great significance to the people of Harbour Main - Bell Island district.

I would like to comment briefly, if I may - I am getting away from that now - to comment briefly, if I may, on the amount of road work that has also yet to be done in my district, both in the Harbour Main portion of the area and the Bell Island area as well. The government, of course, should be certainly complimented on its paving programme in my district in the last couple of years and, more particularly, in the last four or five years because an awful lot of work has been done especially on Bell Island in that area. But also at the same time I would like to bring to the attention of the hon. House the fact that a great deal of work has yet to be done, of course, and that as you know is a source of concern to a great number of my constituents. Coupled with that, of course, it is especially encouraging to look at our Budget just recently in the Transportation and Communications sector where we find that approximately \$4 million will be devoted to the maintenance of roads and small bridges. And, of course, I was especially encouraged by that in view of the fact that approximately fifteen to twenty bridges will either have to be repaired or replaced in my area in the very near future.

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MR. N. DOYLE:

I would like to get away for a moment from the issues which I feel are common to all districts and dwell for a moment, if I may, on a subject which I feel is very close to the hearts of many of my constituents and it has been for quite a number of years now. The subject, Sir, is that of recreation. The dream of one day having a facility

MR. DOYLE:

such as a stadium to fill the recreational needs of my district is not only a dream now, but the residents of my area seem to feel that it is a definite must. The facility will not only afford our children the opportunity to develop physically but to develop culturally as well.

Now I would imagine, Mr. Speaker, that we are all very well aware of the fact that quite a number of - or rather quite a high percentage of our stadiums here in Newfoundland suffer a deficit each year, some to a greater extent than others. However, I am firmly convinced that the physical and the cultural value to be derived from such a unit cannot, and I repeat cannot, be measured in dollars and cents. Given the opportunity, Mr. Speaker, I feel that we in the Harbour Main area can follow the very good example of our neighbours in Conception Bay South, who through good management and sound planning have experienced a substantial profit ever since it opened in 1975. Already the various councils in my area, I might add, are in the process of forming steering committees to try to determine the feasibility of such a venture, a venture in which I will be deeply involved. Again I feel strongly that our children not only need that facility merely for recreational purposes but also to ensure that the education of our young people will be as extensive and as well rounded as it can possibly be and with that in mind of course I will be attempting, during the months that immediately lie ahead, to have such a project started in the area.

There are at least two more points I would like to briefly dwell on in connection with my district and I am sure that some hon. members will say, "Well, here we go again," when I introduce you to the problems connected with our ferry service on Bell Island. While the people of that particular portion of my district are indeed very grateful for the extension of the service with an extra boat from June until September, I would also like to impress upon the hon. House the grave importance of a further extension,

MR. DOYLE: one that would see the service extended one more time, for a period - well, especially during the Christmas period, from a period, say, until the 1st. of December until the end of January. That of course would ensure the people of Bell Island the convenience of an extra boat at a very, very busy time of the year. It is indeed not uncommon for residents of Bell Island to have to wait sometimes for possibly two hours at certain times of the year to get a boat from Bell Island over to Portugal Cove, and of course from Portugal Cove back to Bell Island again. Now with a great deal of patience of course one can tolerate that but they seem to feel that they cannot tolerate the fact that the working man who has to leave home at 5:00 a.m. in the morning in order to get over to St. John's at 8:00 a.m. to go to work and then maybe get back at eight or nine o'clock at night, punching in fifteen and sixteen hours simply to get eight hours work, this is what they feel that the people of Bell Island cannot tolerate. And I would like to assure them that I share their views completely and I will be trying to the very best of my ability to see that something is done about that situation that exists over there now.

Mr. Speaker, I mentioned a few moments ago that there were two points I would like to give some attention to; the ferry of course was one and the other one is an issue which is very close to my heart personally also. I was approached a few days ago by a group of people in my district who are concerned with a highly controversial issue, an issue which they would like for me to touch on if it is at all possible in this hon. House and of course I promised them I would. The issue, Mr. Speaker, is that of abortion. Now because that request was made only a couple of days ago I really did not have time to dig out any statistics, any facts or any figures to support my arguments; however, I would like to touch just briefly on behalf of my constituents because they expect me to do so on how I feel about that particular issue.

MR. DOYLE:

First of all, I would like to say that I find certain people in the medium of radio today to be a little bit too blunt in their treatment of that issue. Just recently at one of our local radio stations one of the announcers was known to have said, and I heard it myself, "Well, today is Friday, folks, and it is abortion day at the Health Sciences Complex." Now I feel strongly that the abortion issue is becoming just that common and I feel that it is a sad story indeed. I feel strongly that as a body of dedicated people

Mr. Doyle:

that we have to make the stand against this type of thing. It is an issue that is crying out for attention.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. DOYLE: Then for the sake of children yet unborn I also feel that we should give that matter the attention it deserves, because failure to speak out can only be interpreted as approval. Now I feel also strongly that the greatest resource that we can possibly draw upon in the future are our children, our young people. And if we as leaders of our country today, if we insist on teaching our children or our people how to wage war upon the unborn then we can only assume that we are giving these people the tools that they will need to commit greater atrocities in the future. I sometimes wonder who we, the people of this generation - and I am not referring to government members or opposition members, but just the people of this generation - I sometimes wonder who we think we are that we can actually say to the unborn, "You can live, and you can laugh, and you can do whatever it is you want to do, and enter our world if you want to" and at the same time we say to another, "No, you are not free to do that. You are condemned to die. You are not allowed to enter our world. You do not deserve," in other words, "the God-given right to live and, in turn, raise your children."

I sometimes wonder if we have forgotten, like so many countries of this world, the old-fashioned values that set us apart in this country in the first place from the rest of Canada, the old-fashioned values that shaped our country that made us unique. I wonder if we have forgotten about the great amount of respect and dignity that our fathers and our forefathers had for human life. And I wonder if we have forgotten about the untold sacrifices that they made to ensure that this particular way of life would be preserved for generations to come. In other words, can we, the people of our generation, look ourselves straight in the face and say that we have done our little part, we have contributed our little

Mr. Doyle: to making this country a better place in which to live? In certain cases and in a lot of cases I do not think we can. Have we made this country a better place to raise our children, and our children, in turn, to raise their children?

We have to make sure that these old traditional values come first, no matter what it takes. And I do not think it is enough that I sit here in my own little particular corner of this world and say, "Let somebody else worry about it, let somebody else do it." I feel that it is my responsibility. It is everyone's responsibility, the young and the old alike, not simply because it is one more issue to be either for or against, but because the preservation of human life is the responsibility of all, and the children of today, I think we all realize that, need the good example that we can give them in order to make sure that they become good decent citizens of tomorrow.

Now with that I would like to sum up by saying that hopefully that issue will be dealt with at some future time in this hon. House. And I hope what I have said will be given every sympathetic consideration.

Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: (SIMMS) The hon. member for Torngat Mountains.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, I think it is only correct for me to also pass along my congratulations to you as being elected Speaker of this House. I would say probably I know the Speaker as well as any other member of the House; I have had close relationships with the Speaker on many, many occasions during our years as Kinsmen together.

I would like to go on and tell some of those stories, but I am sure I would get half ways through and the Speaker will cut me off, so if any of you members would like to know

Mr. Warren: some of the stories about the Speaker I will gladly tell you after.

Mr. Speaker, when I look around this hon. House it gives me quite a satisfaction to know that I have worked for six other members in this House; the hon. the Premier, when he was Minister of Rural Development, I was on the staff; the hon. Minister of Rural Development (Mr. Goudie) now, I was also on the staff while he used to Minister of Rural Development; the hon. Minister of Social Services (Mr. Hickey), the hon. Minister of Fisheries (Mr. W. Carter), and also my colleague for the Strait of Belle Isle (Mr. Roberts) and my colleague for LaPoile (Mr. Neary).

Now probably what that says is that I was moving around or they were moving around. What I would say was that they were trying to fit everyone else into the proper place to accommodate me.

MR. WARREN:

Mr. Speaker, I am quite pleased to be the first member to be elected in the new district of the Torngat. I should at this time congratulate the government in creating that new district. It is a new district that encompasses six communities. I am sure if the hon. members of this House heard the name Torngat Mountains there are a lot of us here who pretty well know very little about the district, so I am going, in a few minutes, elaborate a little bit on my district of the Torngat. It has only about 2,600 people scattered over approximately six hundred miles, six communities with the largest a population of approximately 1,000.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the unique opportunity of living in four of those communities for seven years. And living with those people, I have great admiration, I know of their aspirations and I hope that within the next four or five years I will make this government more aware of the tribulations of my people in the Torngat.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. WARREN:

Mr. Speaker, it is impossible for anyone to spend even a short time in any of these communities without coming away with a real sense of independence. Living and working among those people in the Torngat, Mr. Speaker, has given me an appreciation of their needs. During the months ahead, Mr. Speaker, I am going to raise very many issues concerning the people in my district; however, I am sure today that time will not permit me to go on and list all of them but I will list a few. Throughout this session and the next session I will be addressing this government on the major items in my district which are transportation and communications.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. WARREN:

Mr. Speaker, the first letter from Newfoundland or Canada was sent from St. John's, Newfoundland on August 3, 1527, 452 years ago. It was sent to England to King Henry VIII and it took approximately a month to get there. Today in Labrador

MR. WARREN: it takes eighteen days for a letter to get from Williams Harbour to St. John's, Newfoundland.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Shame! Shame!

MR. WARREN: A half month 452 years later!

Mr. Speaker, would you believe on the transportation issue alone that in order for a resident of Davis Inlet in Labrador to come to St. John's, Newfoundland it costs \$168.00 in air transportation? From St. John's, Newfoundland to Toronto it costs \$139.00. Imagine, halfway across Canada and you cannot even go within your own Province for less!

Mr. Speaker, another indication of the high cost of transportation in my district is the medical attention, ambulance services. I would like to quote from this brochure from the Department of Health. It says, "What is the purpose of the new ambulance programme? The purpose of the new programme is not only to make ambulance service more readily available to our people but to remove any real financial hardship." Mr. Speaker, when a resident in St. Barbe has to pay \$40.00 for ambulance service to St. John's and a resident in Davis Inlet or Cartwright has to pay in excess of \$300.00 in changing over to planes, I believe there has to be something else done to make this equitable for all Newfoundlanders.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, I may be a wee bit off of the Budget, but if you look through the Budget under Transportation there is

MR. WARREN: very little there for ambulance service. There is nothing at all for ambulance air service for Labrador residents.

We have a bush airline in Labrador called Labrador Airways. This airline is subsidized by the government at \$190,000 per year. This subsidy has been going on for the past several years. Although the volume is increasing, the subsidy is not increasing, so, therefore, it is the consumer who has to pay the shot. The prices are going up and the consumer is the person who suffers.

Mr. Speaker, still on the problem of transportation in my district, although it may not relate to the provincial government alone -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. WARREN: If the hon. member would just listen for a few minutes!

Back in June at the opening of the navigation season, the Canadian National Railways had a coastal boat tied up in Goose Bay, Labrador for six days. Navigation to all communities in the North was open, and this coastal boat was tied up there for six days and the people in six communities in the North were without fresh fruits and vegetables. And the reason why it was tied up was because their schedule did not start before July 1st - they could not go before the schedule started.

Mr. Speaker, in my district a serious threat to good health standards is that many residents do not have access to pure water supplies and there are no sanitary methods of disposing of sewerage and garbage.

The Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing in their budget last year allotted six incinerators to be installed in Northern Labrador. Those six incinerators went into Labrador, and, Mr. Speaker, if any member of this House would like to go up there now they will see one on a point outside of Nain, not in use; they will see

MR. WARREN: one on a wharf in Davis Inlet, not in use; they will see one in Makkovik, not in use, because there was no consultation with the people. There was no consultation on what kind of incinerator should be placed up there. And all they did was add more garbage to the community.

Mr. Speaker, would this hon. House believe that a water and sewerage project undertaken by this government in conjunction with the federal government for 400 people in Makkovik cost \$3.3 million? It is a disgrace, Mr. Speaker, because half of this money was wasted. It was only now in the last year that this new contractor came in there and did a really good job that we can see that the project is finally going to be finished.

I hope that this government will look more seriously at the other communities when they are installing water and sewerage and not spend \$3 million in the other communities. We do not need \$3 million; we can have a good water system for much, much less.

Mr. Speaker, at the Committee meeting last night with Consumer Affairs and Environment, it was noted by Madam Minister (Mrs. Newhook) that there is \$4,400 allotted for travelling and \$5,300 allotted for training for the metric system. Now I understand also from the Madam Minister that the metric system will come into effect on January 1st. Now there is \$9,700 for travelling and training for the metric system. Mr. Speaker, that only takes two trips to Labrador to my district and that is all used up. What about all the other communities throughout Newfoundland which need to be educated in the metric system? It is not enough, Mr. Speaker, and I hope the Madam Minister will see fit to find more monies to be allotted to this metric system.

MR. WARREN:

Mr. Speaker, housing in the Torngat district is a very serious problem. They are of extremely poor design and of very little insulation until recently. Do you know now at the present time there are thirty-eight families in the community of Nain who are waiting for adequate housing? There are thirty-eight families in one community waiting for adequate housing. We have two and three families living in one small house, so naturally, Mr. Speaker, this is another factor in poor health.

I believe a concentrated effort should be made by municipal government, provincial government and federal government, all three levels of government, to help to alleviate the housing problem that is faced in the Torngat district.

The next topic I am going to drill on is very important and it is the fishery. Seventy-five to eighty per cent of the people in my district rely on the fishery for livelihood. This year, as last year, the fish is below par; it is a much lower catch this year than last year. And, again, I believe we are going to have a lot of fishermen in my district who will not be able to get the U.I.C. benefits, especially with the new restraints.

This question was asked of the Minister of Fisheries: are our fishermen paid the lowest? They are the lowest paid fishermen in Newfoundland and Labrador - \$1.80 per pound for salmon! Mr. Speaker, there has been a question recently saying that fishing off the Grand Banks was going to fade out and the fishing on the Hamilton Banks was going to fade in. Mr. Speaker, it is only now that the Hamilton Banks are recovering.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Hear, hear!

MR. WARREN:

And I believe you can appreciate and hon. members can appreciate that robbing Peter to pay Paul is not the solution. If the fish stocks on the Hamilton Banks are being depleted, the large trawlers, whether they are Canadian or foreign, will simply move on while the fishermen on the Labrador Coast, who depend on the fishing for a living,

MR. WARREN: Will have to rely on social assistance or some other form of income.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, the Department of Fisheries must do more than make promises, as they did last year and as they have been doing this year, about expanding the plants in Makkovik and Nain. The plants in Makkovik and Nain should be expanded as soon as possible to accommodate other species than char and salmon.

Mr. Speaker, this year the people of Rigoulet had to discontinue fishing for seven days because the Salt Fish Corporation did not see fit to have an ample supply of salt in the community. The answer was given, ' We did not expect them to get so much fish.' Mr. Speaker, the fish in the Labrador waters, the same as in the Trinity Bay waters, have tails and they do swim. And if the Salt Fish Corporation or their agents cannot foresee having a supply of salt in these communities, why are they there at all?

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier I have lived and worked in those communities, and if you could go to these communities last March and walk into a government store in Davis Inlet and have to pay \$2.45 for a dozen eggs or .89 cents for a package of table salt, then you know the cost of living has gone up 77 per cent! And that is in a government store, Mr. Speaker, \$2.45 for one dozen eggs.

MR. G. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, if the price of oil is hurting the homeowners in St. John's, imagine how difficult it is for the people in my district where oil is substantially more expensive because of transportation cost? So you can see, Mr. Speaker, that the cost of living in the section of Labrador from Nain right down to Red Bay is much, much more expensive than any other portion of the Island.

Mr. Speaker, radio and television, to say the least, in my district, and I believe in the district of Eagle River, is a disgrace. Imagine in this day and age people finding out two days later who won the election! I did not tell them really but two days later they found out who won the election - in this day and age! Mr. Speaker, I believe more emphasis should be placed on Labrador by the news media, not necessarily just Goose Bay and Labrador City but places like Cape Charles, Williams Harbour, Snug Harbour. There are people living there and they wish to know what this government is doing, so to speak, behind their backs because it is weeks and weeks later before they hear any news.

Mr. Speaker, the residents in my district are anxiously awaiting the outcome of discussions between DREE and this government because I believe and the people in my district believe that the best avenue this government has to improve services in Labrador is through the offices of DREE.

Mr. Speaker, one can not go on without mentioning tourism. The government definitely place more emphasis on tourism in Labrador. Do you know there are exactly forty-eight parks in Newfoundland and Labrador, forty-eight, forty-six in Newfoundland, two in Labrador - one in Pinware and one in Duley Lake in Labrador City. Mr. Speaker, there are approximately eight or ten residents in Happy Valley, Goose Bay, Mud Lake, Northwest River area who would love to see a provincial Park in their area

MR. G. WARREN: also. Mr. Speaker, in this book Newfoundland and Labrador, the Vacation Guide to the Happy Province, there are four pages about Labrador, four pages out of seventy-odd pages in the book, in this book on provincial parks there are four lines.

And, Mr. Speaker, this book right here, Alluring Labrador, I would like to quote on the first page, "I am very proud of my country Labrador. That name goes very deep within my being. The beauty of its rivers and lakes and the beautiful green forest and the hills and the great white Mealy Mountains." That was written by a great lady, a wonderful lady, the mother of the Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development (Mr. J. Goudie), Mrs. Elizabeth Goudie, and it is true, so I am inviting anyone to participate of the beauty of Labrador. And this lady, a true Labradorian, there are the truest words she ever said.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. G. WARRAN: Mr. Speaker, it is disgusting: A few minutes ago I spoke to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. N. Windsor) and, you know, in Labrador last year every community organized into what they call a Combined Council, every community had an elected member on the Combined Council of Labrador. They had their annual meeting in Northwest River,

Mr. Warren: I cannot say for sure, but I think there were six different ministers of the Crown up there and spoke and said, "Oh, yes. We understand. We will do this, we will do that, and we will do something else." And not one cent, Mr. Speaker, not one cent in this Budget has been allotted to the Combined Councils. I have been told by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Windsor) that we support the Newfoundland Federation of Municipalities, \$30,000. Mr. Speaker, that includes North West River, Goose Bay, and a few other concentrated communities in that area. How about the other twenty-eight non-incorporated communities along the Labrador Coast? There is not one measly cent to help them to get more recognition from this government. There should definitely be means of supplying a grant for this. Let us face it, this is the spokesmen for the Labrador people, the Combined Councils. They are now the spokesmen for the Labrador people, and as time goes on this government will be more aware of it.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure I do not need to remind the hon. members that the people in Labrador are dissatisfied with this government. Looking back on June 18, there is an indication where this government received over 3,000 votes less than they received in the 1975 election.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. WARREN: That in itself, Mr. Speaker, shows you that the people are dissatisfied.

Mr. Speaker, if I can quote one item from the Throne Speech it says "My government's basic position will be, first, that the unity of the nation must be preserved." I so heartedly agree with the hon. Premier. But, however, Mr. Speaker, the first priority of this government should be the unity of the Province. That is what is lacking, Mr. Speaker, is the unity of this Province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. WARREN: The number one item on the minds of the people in Labrador today is to get away from Newfoundland. If you go to any district, any community in any district up there, in the four districts - Labrador West, Naskaupi, Eagle River, or Torngat it is the same thing on their minds, "Let us get away from Newfoundland."

AN HON. MEMBER: True. True.

MR. WARREN: It is because of the way this government is looking at the people in Labrador. Mr. Speaker, the people do not want to separate, but what choice do they have?

Time and time again in the Throne Speech it was mentioned about the development of Labrador, "Let us develop Labrador." Not once, Mr. Speaker, I repeat, not once were the rights of the people mentioned. During the past several years LIA and the NIMA have tried to make a settlement with the government on land claims. Up to this day very little have been achieved.

Mr. Speaker, it is not my intention to talk only of the problems facing the Torngat district; rather, I would like to stress the positive side, the opportunity which clearly exists for economic and social and cultural development of the region. With the anticipated interest and co-operation of this government and the government in Ottawa, I am optimistic that the renewable resources which are available to the people of Northern Labrador can be harnessed to provide meaningful employment and opportunities for all.

Mr. Speaker, there must be more emphasis placed on trapping, there must be more emphasis placed on arts and craft development, there must be more emphasis placed on hunting. Mr. Speaker, the potential is there, so this government should definitely avail of it.

Mr. Speaker, I would say the biggest farce of this government through the years has been the Public Tenders Act. Now I have it rephrased, I call it the Public Delay Act, because, Mr. Speaker, anything anyone wants to buy

MR. WARREN: in Nain, Makkovik, or Hopedale or so on and you want to buy it through the store and it is not there, the manager has to make up a requisition, the requisition comes out to the Department of Rural Development, from there it goes out to the Government Purchasing Agency, from there it goes out to three or four suppliers in St. John's for two or three weeks, and by that time the item that the person wants in Davis Inlet is no more in stock.

Mr. Speaker, you know if the government is concerned about putting more government emphasis on Labrador, like placing more civil servants in Labrador, surely goodness they should have confidence in their managers ability to order an outboard motor without waiting two months for it. Even if they want five pounds of nails they have to wait two months for it. Mr. Speaker, it is almost like buying in the dark. The managers are up there but they cannot buy. They requisition Avon beans, for example, when the beans do arrive sometime in September, they get Graves. They asked for Avon and they got Graves, Mr. Speaker, that is one example. He went to the supplier, he did not have Avon, so Graves are okay.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to clue up very shortly but I am going to throw out an invitation. I know it must be very embarrassing for the hon. member for Naskaupi (Mr. Goudie), he reminds me of a rose between thirty-one thorns. But anyway I think he is going to - oh my, I have twelve minutes left - good! Mr. Speaker, I am going to throw out an invitation to all the members on the government side, especially the Cabinet Ministers, come up to my district but let me know when you are going because I would like to get a lift there, it is awful expensive, and I will give you some insight of not only the tribulations of these people but their independence. Also, I think they could give you people a good enlightenment of the years down the road for the people of Labrador. So fellows look forward down the road for five years and let us do more than we did in the last five.

Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): The hon. Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. GOUDIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I should follow tradition this morning, since this is my first opportunity to take part in debate and do anything other than answer questions, to congratulate Your Honour for being elected to the position of Speaker of the House and the hon. member for Conception Bay South (Mr. Butt) for his election or appointment as Deputy Speaker.

I thought I should take advantage of the invitation extended by the member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren) this morning and I guess the words expressed by the member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simmons) yesterday when they addressed themselves to the Budget Speech. I think I should deal first of all with the remarks expressed by the member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir when he suggested that I was sad in Committee in answering questions from Committee members regarding cutbacks in the Rural Development vote. Perhaps the hon. member was referring to the photograph in The Daily News yesterday which depicted me leaning over and it was not quite clear, I suppose, whether or not I was being ill or what was happening. I was coughing actually and I guess that is about the only expression of sadness that I can relate to. I thought I provided my answers with a great deal of pride, with some conviction, with hesitancy in some, as the member for Bonavista North (Mr. Stirling) will agree, I think, and perhaps other members of the Committee, a little wobbly answering some of the questions. I thought I explained that rather well, as well, in Committee, being one of the newer ministers, one of the less experienced than others in not knowing the Agricultural Division of the department as well as I should and obviously not knowing other parts of the operation as well. But the commitment was given at the conclusion of the Committee hearings that next year, if I am in the same portfolio, I would hope that there will be a vast improvement over my performance in Committee.

MR. GOUDIE:

the hon. member for

Burgeo - Bay D'Espoir (Mr. Simmons) was referring to the cutbacks in the RDA, I believe, in his comments yesterday in the Rural Development Authority, \$701,000 or something to that effect is cutback from last year's programme. I will repeat the answer I gave in committee, Mr. Speaker, and suggest that there are a number of reasons for that. Number one; we hope to become - we are becoming we are not hoping to become, we are becoming a little more selective in some of the loans which are being approved. In the past there have been a number of approvals, for instance, in the service industry in this Province and we believe that the commercial banks, the FBDB, the NLDC and the other organizations can play a role in that sort of thing because they are not necessarily related to the resources of our Province. Some of them are and we will continue to use the discretion we have in the past. There are austerity measures in effect, I think, to a certain degree and this year there was not quite as much funds available as there should have been, as we would have liked to have had made available to the RDA but we accept some of the austerity measures the same as other ministers in departments of government accept austerity measures which were in place to try and get this Province again on an economically sound basis. I realize that is going to take some time and it is not all going to happen this year but I think we are moving in the right direction.

We are also imposing, as

was announced in the Budget Speech by the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins), a small interest charge on our loans of six per cent per annum for the remainder of this year and for years to come. We think that is going to streamline the programme a little more and perhaps result in a few less applications than we have had in the past. The money voted, by the way, in the RDA vote in our department this year also includes projected funds for what is referred to as, The Special Sawmill Assistance Programme. Last year we provided in the vicinity of \$605,000 during the three months or so that that programme comes into

MR. GOUDIE: effect annually and we expect that there will be an equal number of requests this year as we had last year. Although I do not know what the results of that forest fire out near Gambo is going to have on the small sawmill industry in that section of our Province, there may be some small fluctuation there. But we think that the money voted will adequately cover the needs this year.

If I can continue on to some of the remarks made by the member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren). He talked about transportation and communications difficulties in the districts of Torngat and Eagle River. I agree with him. I also agree that government is providing in the vicinity of \$190,000 a year in subsidy for passenger service and for the freight and mail service to the Coast of Labrador. I fully agree with him on the point he makes in relation to the ambulance or the air-ambulance service, not just the little Turbo Beaver which is currently being used by the IGA, but in my district itself, if I can just give another example, Mr. Speaker. When living in the Happy Valley - Goose Bay area a member of my family becomes ill and has to be transferred to one of the larger centers on the Island, as an example, St. John's it is going to cost - particularly if the patient is a stretcher case - it is going to cost the fare of two seats which is \$212.00 return, I believe, so that is \$424.00 there, it is going to cost me a fare for another seat for a nurse or someone to accompany that patient, it is going to cost me whatever the hotel and meal costs are for the duration for that person who is accompanying the patient to St. John's, so I could very well end up paying \$1,000 to have a member of my family, who might become ill in Happy Valley - Goose Bay, referred to a center here in St. John's not counting any other costs which might arise after that. So I appreciate and sympathize with the concern expressed by the member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren) particularly as it relates to air-ambulance service in Labrador. I understand from my colleague the Minister of Health (Mr. House) that there is some discussion

MR. GOUDIE: going on - I do not know if this is going to be reflected in the estimates in his department - to try and make this a much more equitable system in that a new service may very well be established to accommodate or to help defray some of these very expensive costs that are incurred in terms of getting patients down from parts of Labrador to one of the larger referral centers on the Island of Newfoundland.

The water and sewer system in Makkovik: The member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren) points out it was too costly. I agree with him again. I do not think that it is a particularly brilliant observation but it did cost in excess of \$3 million. There are some reasons for that. It was a very costly lesson, I think, for this government to learn. It is the first water and sewer system in the Northern part of the district, I believe, to be completely installed and it was done at Makkovik. I might suggest here, Mr. Speaker, that having learned that very expensive lesson, last year the hon. the Premier, when he was Minister of Rural Development, attended a conference in Ontario of ministers who deal with problems related to the Northern parts of our country and one or two of the concerns that they dealt with at that conference - there will be again, this Fall, a conference, which I will be attending in September, at Thunder Bay - were the very expensive problems of housing and water and sewer developments in the Northern parts of our country. Not just Labrador but the territories, Alaska - the States will be

MR. GOUDIE:

involved, I understand, as well.

So hopefully, with the lessons learned at Makkovik in the installation of that water and sewer system there with other lessons which are learned by other parts of the Northern parts of the world, then we can come up with a much more efficient system and a much less costly system for other communities in Northern Labrador, and I look forward to that conference taking place this Fall.

I was interested in the member's comments in relation to the feelings of people all over Labrador, I believe he said, who want to separate from this Province. I suppose - I do not suppose, I know he is accurate. When you talk to some people in Labrador there is that feeling of wanting to separate, the feeling of wanting to become another Province, the feeling of frustration. That whole gambit, at least, has been gone through since I have been a member of the House, since 1975, and I have taken part in public discussions on that sort of issue along with the member for the Strait of Belle Isle (Mr. E. Roberts) who attended a conference in Happy Valley-Goose Bay a couple of years back and addressed himself, as a number of us did, to that sort of problem.

I suppose one of the ways of alleviating that kind of expression of frustration is to bring more services to Labrador, to make more accomplishments in Labrador, and that is the way we are going - at least that is the way I think we are going. We also, obviously, would agree that the private sector would have to play some kind of role in that as well. I do not think government, any government of this Province, be it P.C., Liberal or whichever party forms government, should be entirely responsible for all aspects of living and livelihood in the Northern part of our Province. I do not think the member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren) was suggesting that either, but I just wanted to make that point.

The Public Delay Act, as the member for Torngat refers to; I do not think, I know he was directing his comments towards my department, because we have had a number of frustrations over the years since we have been operating retail stores in Labrador,

MR. GOUDIE: as a matter of fact, with the Public Tendering Act and the way we had to purchase supplies. But I think it needs to be clarified and I think I should also outline for the hon. House, Mr. Speaker, some of the steps we have taken to try to get away from the problems we have had in the past in relation to the Public Tendering Act. And I would hasten to point out, Mr. Speaker, at the outset of these remarks that we are not, in our new process, contravening the Public Tendering Act. I do not want to get into any kind of problem in relation to breaking or stretching the guidelines of the Public Tendering Act. The member is correct,

MR. GOUDIE: in the past there have been some frustrations in terms of the variety of food and other items which were shipped into stores in Coastal Labrador. We, this Spring, the staff in our department sat down with people in the Public Service, who are responsible for the Public Tendering Act and tried to work out some new guidelines or some new rules under which we can operate without, as I say, without breaking the Public Tendering Act.

We have now been able to set up a system - whereby in the past, the system referred to by the member for Torngat Mountains where we could, in effect, have 500 or 600 different suppliers for the five or six retail stores we operate on the Coast of Labrador, obviously - well, anyone who is involved in private business can certainly appreciate the frustrations anyone would have with that, government included. So we could place an order from a store in Hopedale for, let us use the Avon beans the hon. member suggested earlier, just as an example, and assuming that suppliers in St. John's or Corner Brook or Stephenville or some other location in the Province could not supply these items, we may end up with a supplier out in British Columbia who had to supply these things. By the time it went through this public tendering process the member was talking about, and the confirmation came back, these items usually were completely out of stock and we had gone through three or four months of waiting because of the Public Tendering Act and the way we were directed to administer our purchasing. So what we have now done is streamline that. We are dealing with - I did not count the number of suppliers on that list, I do not know if the member for Bonavista North (Mr. Stirling) can remember or not, the list that was tabled in Committee, there are twelve or fourteen I think - different suppliers who over the years have given us good service. They have in most cases supplied what we have ordered and they have supplied it fairly quickly and they have supplied it in good condition because all of these different things play a role, Mr. Speaker, in the goods which are received in these stores.

MR. GOUDIE: Of course, one of the problems we are always dealing with in Coastal Labrador, the shipment of supplies in and out during the few months of the Summer and Fall to last these communities, or to see these communities through the Winter months, is late arrivals in the Fall. If, for instance, like last Fall a supply boat shows up in Hopedale or Nain or Makkovik with holds full of cargo for that community and it is mid-November and it is ten or fifteen or twenty degrees below zero and our warehousing is not what it should be and supplies are left on the dock for a matter of a few hours - Mr. Speaker is aware of the weather conditions in Labrador having lived there for a number of years himself - it does not take very long for a can of peas or a can of prunes or whatever the item might be to freeze solid on the docks of any community in Coastal Labrador. So we realize there are deficiencies, not only in the purchasing system. We put a new system in place, as I have suggested, which we hope will streamline our whole operation. This is the first Summer of operation so there are going to be difficulties. We recognize that, we think the people of Coastal Labrador recognize that, but we think, also, that we can do away with these difficulties in years to come and end up with a much more efficient system.

We also realize that there are deficiencies in the buildings on the Coast, the store buildings, the warehousing, the freezing units, all of that. There are some capital funds earmarked in the Budget this year in the Department of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development for improvements there and I do not know if it is necessary for me to apologize for not having done all these things before but having been in the department only since October of last year we think we are stepping in the right direction. Obviously, all of these things were not planned by me alone, some of the previous ministers had hands in this as well.

But generally speaking, Mr. Speaker, we are trying to improve, we are trying to streamline, we are trying to

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MR. GOUDIE: make more efficient. Perhaps we will come to a situation a few years down the road where it may be rather obvious that the Division of Labrador Services in the Department of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development should not be operating stores on the Coast of Labrador. Perhaps we should not be subsidizing the stores the way we do. Perhaps we should not be subsidizing the cost of travel, the cost of living, the cost of food, the cost of clothing, the cost of ammunition, the cost of everything that people buy in Northern communities in our stores. Perhaps we

MR. J. GOUDIE: should not be doing that. Perhaps the hon. member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. G. Warren) is suggesting we should not do that.

MR. R. SIMMONS: You are not construing that as what he said though.

MR. J. GOUDIE: Pardon me.

MR. R. SIMMONS: The minister is not -

MR. J. GOUDIE: I am speculating. I am not suggesting that the member suggested that, I am speculating myself. Perhaps we should have the Hudson Bay Company run the store. I do not know.

MR. R. SIMMONS: Would the minister address himself to the suggestion that perhaps the system could be made more efficient if instead of having a tender every time probably, for example, a tender on a yearly basis, ask companies if for the next twelve months they could supply at a certain unit price so then if you need an engine, instead of having to call a tender on that particular engine, you go to the supplier that has the contract for that year to supply?

MR. J. GOUDIE: Yes, Mr. Speaker; I thank the hon. member for his question. That is the type of thing we are trying to streamline now with the new method of purchasing still under the Public Tendering Act, but we are streamlining the whole operation. As I suggested, this is our first year doing this. We know there are going to be problems, we know there are still going to be difficulties next year but, hopefully, through this learning process in a year or two we can have most of the wrinkles ironed out and we will end up with a much more efficient system and a much more - a system where, when you order something, you do not have to wait six months before it finally arrives and you can buy it and perhaps it is not broken or half dismantled as things are in the shipping system we have right now to Coastal Labrador. But yes, that is one of the things we are working on and we hope we can overcome it. But in my remarks I was addressing myself to another question and that was whether or not the Government of Newfoundland and

MR. J. GOUDIE: Labrador should be operating retail stores in any community in this Province?

MR. SIMMONS: That is a fair question.

MR. J. GOUDIE: I do not know what the answer is if we do not operate the stores in Labrador. Right now if people on the coast of Labrador think it is expensive living, just wait until the Hudson Bay or some other commercial operation moves in and recovers their costs. Just as an example, the Indian Band Council of Northwest River last Fall suggested to the department that we do not need the retail store in our community now, there is a Hudson Bay across the river. We can walk or drive across on a snowmobile and purchase what we need. Close down the store and we will use the funds for something else. All of a sudden \$300,000 became available to them.- the subsidy which was pumped into this store to keep it operating and still offer fair prices. Now that is in the community of Northwest River itself which is linked by road to Happy Valley-Goose Bay, one of the central points of shipping or trans-shipping as the case may be. I do not have at my fingertips the cost of subsidy, if you will, to a store in Nain or Makkovik or Hopedale but I would suspect that it might be even a little bit higher, certainly it would not be any lower. So these are the types of subsidies that government right now, through my department with its cost-shared programme, are picking up and again that is a broader question which will be addressed somewhere down the road, perhaps by some other minister, I do not know.

MR. R. SIMMONS: Would the minister mind pursuing that point, though? He mentioned the example of Northwest River, what has happened? I mean, are the prices competitive, are the people getting a fair, square deal from the private outlet there?

MR. J. GOUDIE: Well, Mr. Speaker, yes the prices are competitive, I guess, in relation to other commercial retail

MR. J. GOUDIE: outlets in other parts of Labrador.

The only place where you will find the subsidy attached to a retail outlet is, other than the stores which my department operate, is the store at Churchill Falls and that, obviously, is a company operation so it is a different situation. But the prices are competitive, you pay the same thing in Northwest River for a tin of meatballs as I would pay in a Hudson Bay store up in Happy Valley - Goose Bay. So it is competitive that way.

MR. L. STIRLING: Mr. Speaker, I think my colleague was asking for a bit more specific information. When you said that the suggestion was made that you close your store, that produced \$300,000 which had been going in in subsidy, before the store closed, presumably the reason that you people suggested you should close the store, before the store closed

Mr. Stirling: were the prices competitive with the private enterprise there across the way?

MR. GOUDIE: No. In that particular store, Mr. Speaker, it was on the Southside of the river which is the Indian community there, there are two communities at North West River, North and South, and generally speaking only residents of the Southside of that community could purchase in that store, that half of the community was designated as native. So if I walked in to buy a tin of drink legally I was not allowed to buy it, it was only the Indian population of that community.

The only thing I can think of as an example, Mr. Speaker, if you walked into the Hudson's Bay Company or any other retail outlet in Happy Valley-Goose Bay now, including my own, to pick up a box of ammunition, twelve gauge, three inch magnum ammunition, you pay anywhere from \$10 to \$11 for that box of ammunition. You can go to one of the stores operated by my department on the Coast of Labrador now and in North West River at the time and get this same ammunition for \$6 or \$7 a box, so many items were much cheaper.

MR. STIRLING: The question must follow, why would they be prepared to let the store close if that were the case?

MR. GOUDIE: They wanted to use the funds for other purposes. They have a trapping programme, for instance, Mr. Speaker, which they would want to -

MR. SIMMONS: The subsidy then was available for other purposes?

MR. GOUDIE: Yes, that is right.

MR. SIMMONS: Is it still available?

MR. GOUDIE: Pardon me?

MR. SIMMONS: Is it still available?

MR. GOUDIE: Yes. It is budgeted this year again.

The other process that we go through, Mr. Speaker, in terms of providing funds to these designated communities in Labrador;

Mr. Goudie: there is a committee system set up of staff in my department and members from various communities who sit down and determine what types of projects are going to be funded for the subsequent year, so that there is input from the community level itself and from the department, and jointly the decision is made where funds are going to be expended and how they are going to be expended for the year to come, and that is done on an annual basis.

MR. STIRLING: Would the minister permit another question?

MR. GOUDIE: Yes.

MR. STIRLING: It came as a surprise to me when my colleague mentioned that eggs, the subsidized cost that you are talking about, eggs are costing \$2.25 dozen? What would they cost without the subsidy?

MR. GOUDIE: That is a good question, Mr. Speaker. I do not really know. I do not know what the price of eggs are these days in Happy Valley-Goose Bay or what they would be in Nain. I do not even know what they are downtown here, my wife does the shopping. I really cannot say.

MR. WARREN: \$1.59 in Goose Bay.

MR. GOUDIE: Pardon me?

MR. WARREN: \$1.59 in Goose Bay.

MR. GOUDIE: \$1.59 in Goose Bay. I would assume that these eggs are the locally produced eggs, so they are a little cheaper that way in that air freight is not paid on them and that kind of thing. And if we reflect back to last Fall, I think hon. members will remember that the cost of shipping the feed in to that chicken farm was not exactly excessive either, at least not to the owner of the farm, it was excessive to the taxpayers or the country I guess, in that the Air Force carried them in.

MR. SIMMONS: It sounds like more than chicken feed.

MR. GOUDIE: Pardon me?

AN HON. MEMBER: It sounds like more than chicken feed to me to get the feed in there.

MR. GOUDIE: Yes, that is right, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Goudie: No, I really cannot answer that specific question, but in the Winter months, I can just address myself to the Winter months, I assume the member was talking about Winter months or the price of eggs in the Winter months. The air freight, Mr. Speaker, what are the rates?

MR. WARREN: (Inaudible) the price of feed.

MR. GOUDIE: It costs \$80 to fly a sack of potatoes into Nain from Goose Bay, 100 pound sack of potatoes?

MR. WARREN: The price is (inaudible).

MR. GOUDIE: Yes. Okay. You know, there is a subsidy attached. People are not paying that much for 100 pounds of potatoes in Nain or in Hopedale or Makkovik. So I would assume following that line of reasoning, that people are not paying the total cost to get these eggs into these communities. It is only an assumption, I cannot state that flatly. I can certainly check on it, and I will, as a matter of fact, now that the member has mentioned it. But these are the types of factors that we are talking about, not only in shipping eggs or any other commodity into a community on Coastal Labrador, but the installation of a water and sewer system that really does not relate, that was a very bad experience as the hon. member is aware. He was probably in the department when that occurrence took place, and I am not reflecting anything on the member for that, because I do not think that was in the ambit of his responsibility any way. The member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren), Mr. Speaker,

MR. GOUDIE: was responsible for a handcraft industry and that sort of activity of the department in Labrador for several years.

So I just wanted to address these remarks in this Budget debate, Mr. Speaker, and hope that I have clarified some of the points and expressed an interest in alleviating some of the problems that we have in Labrador -

MR. SIMMONS: Before the minister sits down -

MR. GOUDIE: - I am sorry.

MR. SIMMONS: - I have a question I want to put. Would he permit an interjection?

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

MR. SIMMONS: I may incur the wrath of my colleague and friend from Torngat (Mr. Warren), but I am going to put a kind of devil's advocate question, because it seems to me there is something I have not understood from what the minister said about food prices on the Labrador Coast. I can understand the exorbitant price in regard to fresh produce and eggs and so on because of the air freight, but I am presuming, in putting my question in a moment, that at least some of the supplies are taken in by sea during the navigable season. Let me put this devil's advocate question to the minister without my taking any position on it. I could have no difficulty at all convincing my constituents, say, in Francois or McCallum or Grey River that it is fair ball to subsidize food prices out of my tax money, out of their tax money so that the prices are equivalent to what they would pay, but I would have difficulty telling them that the subsidy should be sufficient so that the people on the North Coast are only paying 70 per cent of what they are paying on the South Coast. And I thought I heard the minister say just now that some prices are considerably cheaper than they would be in the Hudson Bay situation. Would he just respond? Perhaps I have not followed him, but would he respond on the point if he understands what I have said?

MR. SPEAKER: (Butt) The hon. the Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development.

MR. GOUDIE: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure if I understand what the hon. gentleman is asking. Would he mind going through that once more just to make sure -

MR. SIMMONS: Okay. Did the minister say a minute ago that, when I asked him an earlier question, some of the prices were something of the order of 70 per cent of what they would pay in a private retail outlet?

MR. GOUDIE: I do not remember using the terminology 70 per cent but -

MR. SIMMONS: I think the minister implied they were cheaper, they were less expensive.

MR. GOUDIE: Yes.

MR. SIMMONS: And that is my point. That is the devil's advocate question. I mean, how can you justify to taxpayers elsewhere in the Province providing a subsidy -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SIMMONS: I got the same treatment. How can you justify to taxpayers elsewhere in the Province - I say again, you can justify a subsidy which creates an equal situation, but how can you justify a subsidy which creates an imbalance in the other direction so the taxpayer who lives on the road network or on the South Coast of Newfoundland, for example, is actually paying more for groceries than the fellow he is subsidizing elsewhere in the Province?

MR. SPEAKER: (Butt) The hon. minister.

MR. GOUDIE: Mr. Speaker, I suppose that is one of the failings of this particular system we are into. My department - its Labrador Services division - is not in the business of making money. All we want to do is buy the items, put them on the shelf, recover our costs in terms of shipment during the Summer months - because the costs are very reasonable if you are going to ship items in by boat - and hopefully cover the costs of operating the stores - that is during the Summer months. So we do not have to mark up our prices. Where the Hudson's Bay Company or any other retail outlet in Labrador would have to mark up to make their profit, we do not make a profit - as a matter of fact, we lose in most

MR. GOUDIE: or perhaps all cases. In the Wintertime when you are shipping in the vegetables and the eggs and fruit and other items - meat and so on - the costs are so high by air freight that we have to subsidize that particular part of the operation. There is, I guess, a double subsidy in the sense that we are subsidizing Labrador Airways anyway, who carry these items out, unless we arrange for a different transport company to do that, and we are subsidizing the actual price as well. So there is a double subsidy in that sense.

MR. HISCOCK: Would the minister agree that since more money is being paid in by the companies and people in Labrador that the people in Newfoundland do not have to worry about subsidizing people in Labrador?

MR. GOUDIE: I am not quite sure what that question means, Mr. Speaker.

MR. HISCOCK: Well, the member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simmons) says that he did not particularly like the idea that the people in his district were paying taxes to subsidize the lower cost in Labrador and I was pointing out that with Churchill Falls, with Goose Bay and Labrador City and whatever, there is now more money being paid in if anything. I think we have seen that Labrador itself, more than any subsidy, whether it is Labrador Airways or anything, in taxation, government really does not give them any subsidy they are only giving them a fair return off the money that is being paid in in the first place.

MR. GOUDIE: Okay, Mr. Speaker, I agree with the member for Eagle River (Mr. Hiscock) that one probably offsets the other. But I have been issued a very appropriate two minute warning, Mr. Speaker, so I will now take my seat and thank hon. members for their kind attention.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: (Butt) The hon. member for St. Barbe .

MR. BENNETT: May I begin by congratulating the hon. Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, the hon. Mr. Premier, and our own leader of the Liberal party and all the rest of the hon. gentlemen elected or re-elected to this hon. House. I would like, also, to say thanks to my constituents for placing their faith in me and trust. I shall work to represent them to the best of my ability.

I would like to begin my remarks by reminding you people that I already know that I have an awful lot to learn in this hon. House, and I want to learn from you people. I would like to suggest, also, that I can teach you people a lot about my district. I would hope that every hon. gentleman in this House - I am sorry, it should be ladies and gentlemen - the hon. members of this House are eager and willing to learn of the resource potential, the things that we have in the St. Barbe area, the district that I represent, the resource that we have to offer this Province that I feel down through the years has been overlooked. I doubt very much if this hon. House is aware of the resource that we have in that district and in that gulf and on the Northern Peninsula generally. In that area we have just about everything one could mention in resources with fish, with timber, with minerals, national park, such as it is. None of us are very happy with the national park. We have every species of fish that you can think about that might swim around our shores, in the halibut, the lobster, the seal, the caplin, the whales. We have all the various species. At the moment most emphasis seem to

MR. BENNETT: be placed on the lowly cod and lots of emphasis. We have many , many other species of fish I feel we should be harvesting ourselves for the Province rather than seeing it being swept away, carried away to other neighbouring provinces, mind you, as well as foreign countries. Hopefully we will soon get rid of the last foreign draggers from the area. I feel that district is among the most diversified in the whole Island Province as well as Mainland Labrador in the resource that we have and in the manpower resource that we have. I would like to say , Mr. Speaker, give us the tools and we will finish the job. That district does not want to be dependent on the rest of the Province or Mainland Canada or Ottawa . We do not need to be. We do need development. We need recognition. We need roads upgraded and paved. I could go back and mention the park I mentioned a little while ago, and it is ten years ago and more than ten years ago a lot of our rights were taken,

MR. BENNETT: a lot of the rights of the people were taken away from them in that area, not permitted to cut timber, catch rabbits, carry a gun, get more land. Crown lands were given out to the National Park Authority. Peoples lives were disrupted. I could talk on considerably about the national park and the dissatisfaction in that area. I know it is a federal thing but these people are taxpayers, they are voters, they are human beings, and in my term in the next few years, hopefully, I can bring to this hon. House, Mr. Speaker, some of the problems related to the so-called potential industry we have as a national park and I would like to be able to help bring the national park on as it should be in real form and create employment instead of breaking the hearts of so many people. I know, because I visited these people, they are heartbroken by the way that they have been treated over that national park.

Mr. Speaker, we need a government to recognize and to invest in us, in our people, in our resources. There is a difference between invest and spend. There is a difference. When you invest money hopefully you are going to make money in return, when you spend - I feel when you spend money on a holiday, when you spend it on drinks, booze, whatever, if you spend it it is gone. If you invest it, Sir, to upgrade, to help us be self-sufficient people, if you invest in us, Mr. Speaker, this hon. House, and this government and this Province will not be let down I assure you.

I am hearing all the time around the Province, and indeed across the nation, how people are flogging the system when it comes to Unemployment Insurance benefits, welfare benefits. It may be a little hard to explain to you, Mr. Speaker, but I do not think they are flogging the system, I think the inequities lie within the framework of our government. It is not possible for a man to raise, educate, and feed a family, construct a decent home for them to live in on \$2.50 or \$3.00 or indeed \$4.00 or \$5.00 an hour with the existing cost of living - we just heard the prices quoted on eggs. As I see the structure of the Unemployment Insurance benefits

MR. BENNETT: and indeed the welfare recipients, a lot of these people cannot survive on the existing structure of employment they are capable of earning, and that is available to them to earn. Consequently, as soon as a man is able to get Unemployment Insurance benefits he throws down the job that he is working at for \$3.00 or \$2.50, he throws it down so he can get the benefits, so he can educate his family and live in a certain degree of respect. He can go moonlighting, if he so desires, to bring him up to a decent standard so he can educate his family and feed them properly.

A lot of these people now, Mr. Speaker, in their desires and ambitions to support their families and support the economy of the country instead of being a burden to it, a lot of these people, Mr. Speaker, are being stymied in their approach because of government regulations. They cannot get any more Crown lands without years of waiting, applications and red tape. They cannot get permits to cut trees and catch fish and shoot game. They cannot get these permits. I would certainly like to see some relaxation in that direction so that our people could have more leeway, especially in the rural areas.

MR. BENNETT: We have the resource, we have the hunting and fishing, we have all the resource that the rest of Canada enjoys and we have the men, the human resource, just waiting to go to work on it. We have along the Northern Peninsula many good industries becoming established at this time, Mr. Speaker. We have the woods operation in Hawkes Bay; we have quite a viable mining operation in Daniel's Harbour. I understand the payroll is something like \$250,000 a month for the payroll in the mine at Daniel's Harbour. I understand also, the life expectancy of that mine is maybe five, six, seven years down the road. We have families now who are building homes, heavy mortgages, motor cars and they are living in fear that some day down the road in five or ten, less than ten years, they are going to have heavy mortgages and no alternative but out on the street, no jobs again because of the mine closing down. And I would hate to see a recurrence of a Buchans or of many other mining - the history of mining is not very good and it bothers me to think of Daniel's Harbour mine.

I would certainly like to be involved in stimulating the interest of this hon. House, Mr. Speaker, to act before it is too late. We have the resource and we should be starting to utilize it.

There was a time when we could make a living from the fish and/or timber. We cannot do that anymore. We have turned to the land and the land is not available. I understand that area of the Province, Mr. Speaker, is not recognized as having arable land, and let me assure you it does have arable land, very much so. If it did not have arable land we would not have great sawmills up along that way. It takes good soil to produce good trees, and we have good trees. Now, we can produce anything that we need on that Northern Peninsula, we can produce it in the form of vegetables, potatoes, carrots and hay and animals. We can produce, the people can produce it, but we certainly do need relaxation on the regulation that stops people from getting into land development. I know a young man who applied for a plot of land, some acreage, I do not know exactly how much, and by the time he got through all the red tape in government

MR. BENNETT: departments, Mr. Speaker, he was three years older and living up on the mainland, three years older, he finally got the permit, a lease as it were. So, he did finish getting the lease and he is back in Newfoundland now, but this is an indication of what happens, and I would like most certainly to see applications of this sort speeded up so our young men can have land, and if they do not use that land to the satisfaction of departments in government and the local opinion, of course, there is no reason why we cannot have that land reverted back. It could be built into your policy. That land could be reverted back, but I cannot see that land taking any more than several months, not several years, for a young man to acquire.

In the Rocky Harbour - Bonne Bay area we have two of the finest boatbuilding shipyards in the Province. Very few of you are aware of that. I was into Rocky Harbour not very long ago. One of the boatbuilding plants there, building fish boats, longliners as it were, had seven longliners under construction, seven, some in the beginning stages, some half finished,

MR. BENNETT: some almost ready to go into the water seven boats - what an industry. These people have a problem getting permits, I understand, to cut timber. They have to violate regulations from what I understand in order to cut timber to build boats. I am hearing the hon. minister a few days ago speak of our forests and our timber and I must congratulate the hon. gentleman for having, I think, brought our timber industry, our lumber industry productivity-wise, along a little bit further than it had been. There is no way we can produce 100 per cent of the timber that we need because we have not got the right type of material in trees. We have not got the hardwoods that we need for wharves, stages and things, but I feel we are on the right track.

I would hate to think that it would take us two years down the road before we could start to harvest the burnt over areas of Central Newfoundland. Already I have inquiries from the district of St. Barbe, "How long will it be before we might get permits to cut lumber?" We need that lumber in the Province rather than have it imported from mainland Canada, then we might produce 60 per cent of our requirements for housebuilding. I would like to think that we should be able to start harvesting that timber, maybe in a year somebody could. Probably the minister could correct me on that, but I spoke with men and they said, "Look, we do not worry about the soot, the money is clean", and if it could be arranged, they are suggesting that by the time they wait two years before they are permitted to go into that timber, then it is a year of applications and getting ready, that is three years, and that makes eight years and in eight years the tree is no good anymore, it is not good lumber anymore. I understand, and you will have to correct me probably, some of these trees probably might only last five or six years before they are not good -

MR. MORGAN:

Between two and three years.

MR. BENNETT:

- between two and three years.

So, as fast as we could move in, I feel, Mr. Minister, as fast as your department could take action on that one and there is a lot of it to be harvested, I would like to be able to let my people in St. Barbe district realize that some of this land will be available for timber cutting, especially for lumber where the slab goes away and it is clean, you can handle it. It might be a little different when it comes to pulpwood where you have to grind it in and it is a paper product.

Many, many things I can speak about in that district. Hopefully, I shall in the next few years. If I sound as though I am jumping from one end of the district to the other, you have to forgive me, but I cannot let my time elapse without mentioning the northern end of the district where, at this moment, I understand, a picket line exists trying to get an answer from the hon. Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Brett) with regards to upgrading and paving of their roads. It is unfortunate that people have to take the law into their own hands, and I sympathize. I certainly cannot condone it. I cannot condone violation of the law, but I certainly have to sympathize with them and they are human beings, they are voters, they are taxpayers. They are only looking for answers. They do not expect miracles. They would like to get an answer from the hon. Minister of Transportation and Communications and from this hon. House. When can we expect action? We have been expecting action for the last ten years, the last five years, the last two years. We were supposed to have action this year, and now it is not action this year. When? So, these people are made to look like criminals, when I think they are asking a question that could be answered. I think it could be answered. I wish the hon. Minister of Transportation and Communications would give an answer through the representative of that district, and I am the member for that district, and we are not asking that the road be

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MR. BENNETT: paved this evening or even, indeed, this year, but we do want something on a piece of paper guaranteeing us that we are going to have action on that project.

MR. BENNETT: The people are thoroughly, completely and entirely fed up. Last year there was in excess of five million pounds of fish came over that road, fourteen miles of road. People still haul their water over that road in the back of a pick-up. They have no water systems, and they have to come with barrels in the back of a pick-up. They do own \$50,000 homes, some of these people. They make good money from the fishery. They do pay a lot of tax into the government. They pay enough tax into the government to deserve more recognition, I feel, I am sure they do. The schools leave a lot to be desired in that area. I visited a school during my campaign there, and it was in a deplorable condition. It certainly needs upgrading. I am sure the Department of Education will certainly allow for it in the Budget in the not too distant future, to get in and make sure that the schools are in decent shape there along with the road and the water system. They are not asking for miracles. They are asking for drill holes. The terrain will not permit - the terrain, the geography will not give us gravity feed, but fifty or sixty feet down we can get, I understand, artesian wells to supply the needs of the people.

It is not very many years ago, the members of this hon. House will remember, that our fishermen were receiving, if they were lucky, 1.5 cents a pound for cod and right now they are getting something like 15 cents; lobsters 5 cents, if they were lucky, I remember when they went up to 14 cents, now they are \$2.00 a pound; halibut no price and now it is \$1.00 or \$2.00 a pound; shrimp, I understand our fishermen are getting 38 cents and they were not saleable; seals, I remember them being bought for 50 cents and the average price is \$20.00 a pelt; salmon was not saleable in that area not very many years ago and now it is \$2.00 plus. We have the same soil, the same ocean, the same young people, the same system of government. Now, with an increase in price for the resource that we have to offer the rest of the world, and we are not going after and

MR. BENNETT: harvesting that resource, we are not going after it. We spend an awful lot of time suggesting we should process, we should not ship out - I am not suggesting now that we should not process - but what I am suggesting is that we should first start to harvest what we have so we can eat, so we can own a motorcar and have a half-decent house to live in, start to harvest the things that we have, use our land, use our timber, use our fish, use our mineral, use our rivers, use our game, bring in the tourists, develop. We have a very small population, less than 600,000 people. We have a land mass, again you can correct me but I think probably it might be similar to West Germany with 60-odd millions, we have a land mass similar in size. You know, look at some of the old European countries over there. We have the resource, these are old, dying, dead countries, all the resources have died, they are just importers of the resource we have to offer them, but we cannot harvest our resource. And we talk about processing, we do not even go out and harvest yet. I would like to see a program of harvesting our resource that we have, and it will not be very long before we will be able to afford to put up processing plants, but right now I feel it would be a burden to put up processing plants unless we have lots of money, unless we can get some big entrepreneur to come in and put his money in in co-operation, mind you, with government, but if we have to flog the taxpayers to put up big white elephants to say, "Oh, we are in the processing business now and we are going to be rich now", we are already rich but we are not taking advantage of it. It was twenty years ago

MR. BENNETT: I started to establish a business on the Northern Peninsula. I had great ambitions. I built a motel, a service station and cottages. The co-operation I got from the government then, believe me, left a lot to be desired, and I understand it still leaves a lot to be desired from that direction of development, but that type of thing in this Province would work miracles for us if we went and here I would have to backtrack and go out across the Gulf and start at Sydney, start at the cattle boat to get - I am sorry about the remark but to me it is a cattle boat, what we call a ferry across the Gulf, to bring people into this Province and they have to sleep on the floor if they can sleep. They make one trip, Mr. Speaker. I have been in the tourist business a long time, a long time, I am out of all business now at this moment, I have sold everything so I am a free man, and I would like to work with all of you hon. gentlemen in the direction of making the Province a better place for all. I do not see why in years ahead we should be held up to ransom by Alberta with their oil when we have the resource that they are going to need so desperately in fish in a few years. I feel that we should start now thinking in terms of holding them up for ransom if they are going to hold us up for ransom, we have bargaining power, too. We are a little rock sitting in a fishpond, fish swimming all around our shores, and it is a wealthy shoreline, very much so. A note I have made here, I say, "There is lots of work", and I can justly say, "There is lots of work". I have never in my lifetime seen a time when I, as an employer, could not employ a dozen people, could not put a dozen people to work, never in my lifetime. I have been an employer for 25 years, I think probably, and all an employer needs is co-operation, co-operation from the government departments. He is an ambitious man or he would not be an employer. He sees land that needs to be cleared, he sees rocks that need to be removed, he sees all the resource around him, and he is an employer, he is an energetic man, and I wish, Mr. Speaker, that the government would take

MR. BENNETT: a look at the ambitious men who want to be employers, cut them loose to be employers, instead of burdening them down with red tape which seems to be the case in the last good number of years. It is not only since we have had a change of government. I have tried to have a moose licence, I got one this year, a moose licence, to go hunt a moose. It is the first time that I have qualified in eight years. It is the first time and I never miss in my lifetime going out in the bush, not to hunt moose so much as to relax, go out in the camp for a week or ten days or two weeks, lie back in the wilderness. If I am denied for eight years, I know that a lot of other men around the Province are also denied, and I have a long letter in my office at the moment addressed to, I believe, the Minister of Tourism (Mr. Power) and I have a copy, and the gentleman who writes that letter is saying that a neighbour of his in that household has got five or six licences, many, many licences, in that house, three or four of them in his household do not have a licence to hunt a moose, and he has a family. You know, there is something wrong with the system. There must be something good about it, or you people would not carry it on. The government department would not have carried it on for all these years, but I would like to see it revised. I would like to take a look at it. I would like to express an opinion on it. I am available to express an opinion to the Minister of Tourism, I am available to express an opinion to every department in government, and I am at your service. You do not have to be shy of me. You do not have to be wondering if I have time. My time is your time. I am not the Premier of the Province. I am not a minister. I have tried to see ministers and I realize they are so busy, but I wish you

MR. BENNETT: no harm and I want you at this moment all you hon. ministers, all of you hon. gentlemen - I want to help you perform your duties. And I can offer you a lot of stuff about this Province you do not know about especially on the Northern Peninsula where I was born and raised and drove the first thing on wheels that ever went up that Northern Peninsula, and built the first motel that was ever put up there.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. BENNETT: The first set of wheels that ever travelled that Northern Peninsula from Corner Brook to St. Anthony, I owned it and drove it up there, and chopped a lot of the trail. I know that part of the country, and that part of the country is similar to lots of other parts.

Some years ago, some gentleman in St. John's said we would have to ship out probably 125,000 Newfoundlanders. And I could not resist; I had to go to the radio and say, "If we have to ship out 125,000 Newfoundlanders to make sure they have employment I wish you would ship them up to the Northern Peninsula because we have the resource - if we do not have the resource to support 125,000, let us bring in 2,000,000 Chinamen, they will feed themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I have two minutes. Could you bear with me - I heard a song across this hon. House and I was impressed - Would you bear with me while I read a tiny little verse that comes to me? And then I will sit down.

AN HON. MEMBER: Do not sing it. Oh, no!

MR. BENNETT: The hon. member from - You have been over here so long I have forgotten where you are from, the hon. member for Humber East (Ms. Verge).

I am in this seat for just - how many days/Working hard to learn the ways/Of politicians in debate/I have watched the laws how they relate/To the lives of those who are enslaved/ Requesting that their roads be paved/ I represent the district which/ in resource base is very rich/ One time known as French Shore/ As France

MR. BENNETT: and England fought a war/ The issue then was the lowly cod/ And who should have this land of God/ That land was rich in many a way/ Unknown to government as it is today/ The Gulf, a sanctuary for our fish/ There is timber, there is game, gold if you wish/ There is scenic beauty can not be beat/ From the Humber Valley to that northern retreat/ Men came from other lands to live/ They loved the things our land could give/ Friends, let us tank the Lord above/ It is a great land, it deserves our love.

Thank you very much.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: (Simms) The hon. member for Placentia.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the men who spoke here today. I think the maiden speech for the member from St. Barbe (Mr. Bennett), the member for Grand Bank (Mr. Thoms), and also the member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren). It is very refreshing for us on this side of the House to hear positive speeches, not just a daily tirade of attack on government. Because the Moores' days were not all that bad. When you look back at the twenty years of government we had with no tendering system, no public accounts system, it was the Moores' administration that brought in the tendering system -

MR. SIMMONS: (Inaudible) did not.

MR. PATTERSON: it was the Moores' administration that brought in the public accounts system.

MR. SIMMONS: And then doctored them.

MR. PATTERSON: All human institutions have their frailities and there is none of us perfect. That is one thing we would want to remember.

I was delighted to hear today the speech of the member for Grand Bank, and he is a down-to-earth man. He has a grip on the things that are happening in Newfoundland -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. PATTERSON: - and I certainly had the pleasure of knowing and working with his brother, the late Esau Thoms, a great union man.

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MR. PATTERSON: a great man, a man that sought consultation rather than confrontation.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. PATTERSON: I am quite sure while he was chairman of the Railway Brotherhood never did we have a strike and I sat for hours and hours and discussed the problems that they were having with the Railway. One thing about Esau,

MR. PATTERSON:

he said to me on numerous occasions, "This thing has to be avoided. We just cannot go for a strike", and neither did he. The member for Trinity-Bay de Verde (Mr. F. Rowe) expressed some concern and anxiety over 'Mr. Carter' not making any statement. Well if there is one minister in this government who should be making statements twenty-four hours a day it is 'Walter Carter' because 'Walter Carter' has brought a new dimension to the fishery. And wherever you go in Newfoundland you see that. That is very evident.

MR. F.B. ROWE: In living colour.

MR. PATTERSON: Now, in my district - now if he is good looking and he is getting publicity and the hon. member for Bay de Verde is not in on that, so be it. There is nothing I can do about it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. FLIGHT: Well, he should have been Premier (inaudible).

MR. PATTERSON: Well, his chance is coming up. The hon. Premier, he does not want to stay there. He told me if he is there for twenty years, Patterson, he said, that will do me, and then you can go ahead.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. PATTERSON: But the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. W. Carter) is doing an excellent job. Up in my district they rebuilt two cold storages and these cold storages now have been turned over to private enterprise for operation and they are blocked to the hatches, at least they were blocked to the hatches last week with fish. And a ship came in there from Europe, unloaded and now the tractor trailers are whistling out there, one every hour, to load them up again. So that is the kind of positive thing that the Minister of Fisheries is doing.

MR. SIMMONS: You have never been to Harbour Grace, have you?

MR. PATTERSON: Now, we will come to that. As I mentioned a minute ago all institutions are not perfect. I do not agree with everything that the Minister of Fisheries is doing or what this government is doing.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. PATTERSON: But I am quite sure that you do not agree with what is happening on your side.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. PATTERSON: But you are in the enviable position, you can cheer yourself up with your band where I just have to go along in a mediocre sort of a way.

I introduced a resolution here on the opening day and that was for a development corporation for Argentina. Of course we never did get along to debating that. So that went by the board but nevertheless a development officer has been appointed and he is doing a marvellous job out there, an excellent job. And now that we have a Placentia bayman in Industrial Development I am sure that things are going to proceed out there at a very rapid pace, not only out there but all over Newfoundland because he is a very strong minded Newfoundlander.

MR. NEARY: What are you doing for Marystown over there?

MR. PATTERSON: A great Newfoundlander and he is going to do things for Marystown. Do not underestimate him there.

I was delighted to read in the Throne Speech that amendments have been made, or changes made in the Welfare Act. That is great. That is good news. And I am sure that my hon. friend, the Minister of Welfare (Mr. Hickey), a man I have been associated with for many years when he was a district welfare officer up in our district. But that is great because we were going along with hard set rules. They were not flexible. And those who were sick were being treated the same as those who were well. So that is all changed now. The district officers will have more flexibility, will be able to make more decisions and deal with the various needs of the people.

Now, I looked up some statistics on the fishery. In fact, they were in the Rounder Paper, and that paper is published by the Rural Development. It is an excellent little paper. It keeps you in touch with Newfoundland. Here are a few of the statistics on the fisheries so far this year. It says, "Newfoundland sea fish landings in 1977 amounted to 850.5 million pounds, up 13.7 per cent from the previous year's catch of 748 million pounds. The gross value of \$81,630,000 is up

MR. PATTERSON:

30 per cent from the landed value for 1976.

"The Federal Fisheries and Environment

Department reports the groundfish landings amounted to 607.9 million pounds, Cod landings increased 18.3 per cent from the 1976 catch of 263.5 million pounds to 312 million in 1977. Flounder catch decreased from 150 million pounds

MR. PATTERSON: in 1976 to 146 million pounds in 1977. Grey sole landings in 1977 amounted to 30 million pounds compared to 23 million pounds. Now, this was in the January issue of 1979 and all members should get that and it is a good way to keep in touch with Newfoundland and the various programs sponsored by that department.

Now, I am not quite happy with the manner in which the seiners are operating in Placentia Bay and in Bonavista Bay and in Trinity Bay. These seiners, they could go into Bonavista Bay, St. Mary's Bay and in Placentia Bay and take the quota of 700 tons in one night, one 24 hours they can scoop up 700 tons of herring and that must be stopped forthwith because, if the herring seiners were barred from the bay, the quota can be taken by the inshore fishermen with purse seines and ring seines. This will give the herring the chance to move up in every little nook and cranny in Placentia Bay, Bonavista Bay or Fortune Bay and the codfish would follow and both would be caught. So, I think we are interfering with the cycle there, and there should be a stop put to the taking of herring by these huge herring seiners.

The lobster licensing will have to be looked at. Some fishermen have as high as 400 pots, 500 pots, 600 pots, 800 pots, and they are licensed for a couple of hundred pots. There are no means of knowing how many pots. So, I think what we should do is we should buy back the pots from those people who are not using pots, say, pensioners with pots and they are putting them out and they would be glad to sell out for \$500 or \$600, and this will get younger Newfoundlanders into the fishery. To fish successfully in Newfoundland you have to be able to fish for all species, not just herring, not just cod, so that is something we have to look at.

MR. PATTERSON: We have to look at more cold storage space, and I understand the government Department of Fisheries will soon be making an announcement now that more cold storages are to be built. My hon. friend is out now when he mentioned the primary landing superport, I do not think we need superports in Newfoundland, whether it is in Harbour Grace or Argentia or Twillingate or Trepassey or Bonavista or Corner Brook -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. PATTERSON: - I do not think that is the way we should go in fisheries.

MR. MARSHALL: I wonder would the hon. member care to adjourn the debate?

MR. PATTERSON: Yes, I will.

MR. SPEAKER: (Mr. Simms) The hon. the President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, before moving the formal adjournment notice, I should give notice of the Committee meetings which will occur on Monday. At 10 o'clock the Government Services Committee will be meeting in the Department of Health boardroom. The Estimates under consideration will be Transportation and Communications and when that is finished, they will move on to Finance. There is another meeting scheduled for Monday evening at 7:30 in the Collective Bargaining Room. The Resource Committee will meet on Monday, August 6, at 9:30 in the morning at the Colonial Building. The departments under consideration will be Forestry, Resources and Lands and Fisheries. Monday, the evening, at 7:30 again in the Colonial Building they will continue their deliberations. Social Services Committee will meet on Monday at 10:00 a.m. in the Collective Bargaining Room and the department under consideration will be the Department of Justice. On Monday the House will be continuing on with the Budget debate. After the Budget debate is finished, we propose to go into certain taxation bills but we also, I think the

MR. MARSHALL: hon. members opposite particularly would wish to take note of this, we also may depending on the times and the circumstances, we may instead go immediately into the Lower Churchill Corporation Bill.

So, with that information, Mr. Speaker, I move that the House at its rising do adjourn until tomorrow, Monday, at 3 o'clock and that this House do now adjourn.

On motion, the House at its rising do now stand adjourned until tomorrow, Monday, at 3 o'clock.