

PRELIMINARY
UNEDITED
TRANSCRIPT

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
FOR THE PERIOD:
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 1980

The House met at 3:00 P.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Order, please.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): The hon. the Minister of Tourism,
Recreation and Culture.

MR. R. DAWE: I rise at this time with some regret
to inform this hon. House of an impasse which has been reached between
my department and my counterpart in the Government of Quebec, with respect
to the management of the caribou populations which occupy a range between
the province of Quebec and the Labrador portion of this province.

From the early days of Confederation,
both provincial governments realized the mutual interest that was held
in the caribou populations in the North. There were sporadic joint efforts
over the years towards research into the populations concerned and in
general, good co-operation was experienced between the two governments.
In the early 1970s this informal arrangement was established on a more
structured basis with the establishment of a Quebec - Labrador
Caribou Management Committee, which included senior official
representation from the Wildlife division of Quebec and
this Province.

The objectives of the committee were
to coordinate research on the caribou populations and to identify a
mutually acceptable management policy, including the annual harvest or
quota. In recent years, staff of my department have expressed increasing
frustrations in trying to operate through this management committee. I
refer, in particular, to the experiences with the Lac Joseph and George
River caribou herds. The Lac Joseph herd: In the early 1970s, this herd
numbered approximately 5000 to 6000 animals. Today the latest population
count shows approximately 250 animals remaining. This severe reduction
came as a result of over-harvesting of the herd by residents of Quebec.

MR. R. DAWE: During the period concerned, the Newfoundland and Labrador wildlife division placed severe quotas on the residents of this province, with only a token hunt taking place for male caribou only. Indeed, in 1977 the seasons were closed entirely in Labrador on this herd. During this period, when surveys were all indicating a severe decrease in the population, Quebec residents continued to be permitted to hunt despite repeated requests from this province through the management committee for a reduction in the harvest by Quebec.

As a result, today there are less than 250 animals remaining in this herd. The season is closed entirely on the Newfoundland and Labrador side, but the residents of Quebec are still permitted to harvest this depleting resource.

The George River Caribou herd:

At this time it is the largest remaining free-ranging caribou herd in the world which occupies a range from the Labrador Coast west almost to Hudson Bay. There are an estimated 150,000 to 200,000 animals in this herd which spends approximately one half of the year, from early March to late Fall, in Labrador, including the critical Spring calving period.

MR. R. DAWE: My department have used this herd as a tremendous natural resource for the Province and the people of Labrador in particular. We fully accept and recognize the awesome responsibility incumbent on our department to ensure the management of this resource so as to provide for the maximum benefit to the people of the Province, while at the same time ensuring its continuation in perpetuity. It is in trying to meet this objective that my department has experienced continuous frustrations and disappointments in dealing with our neighbouring province to the West.

At present the harvest taken from this herd is approximately 8,000 animals annually, 2,400 in Labrador and 5,600 in Quebec. Quebec in recent months has taken a unilateral decision to allow virtually unlimited harvest of this herd. My department have viewed this move by the Province of Quebec as completely unacceptable in that the best information available to the wildlife division indicates that this herd may possibly be declining at this time and may not be able to sustain increased mortality.

It is true this position is based on limited data, but at the same time it is based on as much if not more information than the wildlife officials in Quebec have at their disposal. To effectively manage a wildlife population requires good basic data on population size and productivity, mortality factors including predation and hunting and the condition of the range. Within the limits of the funds available in this Province for wildlife management, we have carried out periodic population checks. Through the co-operation of DREE under the Labrador Interim Subsidy Agreement, a three phase project is presently underway to, number one; assess the physiological and pathological status of the herd, determine the impact of wolf predation and to

MR. R. DAWE: explore the potential for increased economic return from this resource through commercial harvest or sport hunt for the 50 per cent of the harvestable yield to which this Province is entitled.

With the results of this study, more informed decisions can be made on the management of this herd. Despite the fact that over the past several years Quebec has been enjoying the major benefits from this herd, this Province has invested three times as much funding in research and management than has Quebec. As indicated, this Province has as good or better data than that in the possession of the Province of Quebec to judge the state of the present herd, and our biologists have expressed some serious concerns that the population levels may well have peaked.

At the same time that my officials were expressing this concern to me, I have become aware of a public statement by the Quebec minister responsible for wildlife that the herd may well have a population of as many as 500,000 animals and that there is concern that the animals may be over-using existing range. This argument has been used by the minister as a basis for the implementation of a virtually unlimited quota. As I have outlined earlier, my department does not agree with the Quebec position. My deputy minister on December 10th., 1979 telexed the Quebec deputy minister responsible for wildlife expressing his concern.

MR. R. DAWE: This was followed by a letter of December 27th., outlining in some detail our concerns and requesting a meeting. A follow-up telex was sent on March 3rd., 1980. No response whatsoever has been received to these initiatives. What is now required for the management and wise use of this valuable resource is a formal agreement between the governments of the two provinces. We are aware of a similar agreement which has been signed between the Government of Alaska and the Yukon Territory respecting the Porcupine caribou herd which occupies range in both areas.

I would add that the experience of Alaska and the Territories in management of a large caribou herd is one of the main reasons for the concern of my department for the George River herd. Mainly because of over harvesting through hunting and predation, Alaska's major herds drastically declined during the 1970s. For example, the largest herd, the Western Arctic herd decreased from 242,000 animals to 60,000 animals, and the Nelchina Herd went from 70,000 to less than 9,000. Because of these distinct reductions, there was a major public outcry in Alaska and throughout the United States for better wildlife management practices.

MR. STAGG: Bring on the Greenpeacers.

MR. R. DAWE: Given the benefit of this experience, it is incredible that an agreement to provide for the management of a caribou herd range between two nations can be worked out, while two provinces have been unable to reach the same objective.

This government does not want to see the George River herd suffer the same fate as the Lac Joseph herd where a free-ranging caribou population has almost been completely annihilated through total irresponsibility on the part of the Quebec Government.

We have been at a loss to understand the position which the Quebec Government has taken in this matter. In the absence of any response at the official level, we were left to speculate on the reasoning involved. For example, could it be that the

MR. R. DAWE: Quebec Government feels that a formal recognition of the rights of both provinces in making decisions concerning the management of this resource would be giving recognition to the Quebec-Labrador boundary which they have repeatedly chosen to ignore? Could it be that the Quebec Government wishes to carry out massive hydro development projects in the Ungava region and one of the main obstacles to such activity is the presence of this large caribou herd?

On March 28th., 1980 I forwarded a telex to the hon. Lucien Lessard, Minister of Leisure, Fish and Game, expressing my concern and requesting a meeting as soon as possible. I recently met in Ottawa with the Federal Minister of the Environment responsible for wildlife, the hon. John Roberts, and conveyed to him our concern with respect to the attitude Quebec has adopted in this matter. I requested his co-operation in attempting to have the Quebec Government enter into meaningful discussions toward the resolution of this problem in a formal agreement between our two governments.

On April 16th., 1980 a response to my telex was received, indicating that officials of the Quebec department would be contacting officials of my department to discuss the problems. The problems have already been identified and are well known to both governments. I see no need for further discussion of the problems, but rather a commitment by the Quebec Government to take positive action in formulating a policy consistent with the best scientific data available.

I have again contacted the Quebec minister seeking an immediate meeting to impress on him the urgency of this matter.

I wish to again emphasize that there should be no question whatsoever with respect to

MR. DAWE:

the commitment of this government to ensure that the valuable wildlife resources of Labrador that share their range with the province of Quebec will be managed in a proper and effective manner with the residents of this Province receiving a fair share of the benefits. I will be continuing my efforts to reach an agreement with the government of Quebec and will keep this hon. House advised in this regard.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Simms):

The hon. member for the Strait of Belle Isle.

MR. ROBERTS:

Mr. Speaker, do I begin by asking if I get equal time?

MR. SPEAKER:

Half time.

MR. ROBERTS:

Half time. Well, I think what I need to say and what needs to be said can be said probably in less than half time. The minister's statement, Sir, requires no detailed comment from us and there is none of us in a position to speak with authority on these points anymore than, I venture to say, and this is not a criticism, the minister is not able to speak with authority. I have no doubt this was drafted by his officials and he has relied upon them. And that is okay, we have no quarrel with that.

The government have laid out another sad tale of woe in their dealings with another province and I do not think, based on what we know, which is essentially what the minister has told us, we do not know a great deal more about the Lac Joseph caribou herd or the George River caribou herd. They are not matters of common knowledge to most of us in this House, I venture to say.

MR. NEARY:

And what about moose herds? Are they all separatist or what?

MR. ROBERTS:

Well, the moose are another problem. The minister did not talk about the moose and I gather there are some problems with moose as well or with 'meese' being the plural of moose.

MR. NEARY:

What about the rabbits?

MR. ROBERTS:

I do not know where we go on rabbits, but I would say to my friend from LaPoile (Mr. Neary) when I am looking for

MR. ROBERTS:

elephants we should not get into rabbits.

But I do want to say that we on this side are prepared, as my friend the Leader of the Opposition has said on occasion, to be supportive of the government in moves that we judge to be in the public interest and we think that this move, on the face of it and based on what we know about it, is in the public interest. Obviously the government have a duty to protect our wildlife resources and obviously they must take the steps that are appropriate and, given the history outlined by the minister, we have no quarrel with what he said in this.

I do want to go on though, Mr. Speaker, and say that we on this side are coming increasingly to wonder about the overall context of these statements. First of all, the minister pointed out that it is difficult to make an agreement between two provinces, in fact the government up until now has been unable to make an agreement between two provinces. He pointed out that a similar agreement has been made between two nations, between the government of the United States or the government of Alaska, which is a state of the United States, and the Yukon Territories, which is a federal territory within the country known as Canada. I simply say to the minister that I would suggest to him and

MR. E. ROBERTS: to his colleagues that they ought to consider-and possibly they have - they ought to consider the impact of these statements in a far broader context and that is the events which are happening in the Province of Quebec and which will culminate, to an extent, in the referendum question to be put to the people of that province on the 20th day of May. And that, Sir, is something that ought particularly to concern the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador as Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, but it is something, Sir, that ought to concern each of us as a Canadian. And I am becoming increasingly apprehensive about the effect of this kind of statement. I do not suggest for a moment it was made with this thought in mind, but I would suggest to the minister that possibly he and his colleagues ought to take some heed. We do not exist in isolation in this Province. If Quebec is being, to say it mildly, unreasonable, as they appear to have been here, and as they certainly have been with respect to the proposals to develop the power, the hydro resources of the Labrador part of this Province, then I think we should consider carefully, as Canadians and as Newfoundlanders - and we are both. At times, Sir, we tend to forget that, I think, but we are both, we are Newfoundlanders and we are Canadians, and they are not divergent interests.

AN HON. MEMBER: On this side, I guess.

MR. E. ROBERTS: On this side they are not divergent, on this side they are the same, and we can be good Newfoundlanders and good Canadians and so, too, can the government.

The statement itself is not worthy of ten minutes of the House's time, I suggest to the minister. The matter could have been dealt with much more expeditiously.

MR. F. STAGG: (Inaudible).

MR. E. ROBERTS: I am sorry. My friend from Stephenville (Mr. F. Stagg) is interrupting again.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Order, please!

MR. E. ROBERTS: Now, Sir, my friend from Stephenville and I have had a number of exchanges and he is interrupting again, Sir. If he is not aware of the rule that he ought to be silent while another member

MR. E. ROBERTS: is speaking, then I would simply say I would have to ask Your Honour again to remind the member for Stephenville (Mr. F. Staggs) of the rules of this House. I would have thought he would have been here long enough to know the rules. I have done nothing to provoke him. I may have annoyed him, and I make no apology for that, Sir, In fact, that may almost be a plus.

MR. S. NEARY: He is a bad influence over there.

MR. E. ROBERTS: I would ask the gentleman from Stephenville to extend to me and to other members the courtesy which he has claimed for himself on occasion.

MR. S. NEARY: Hear, hear!

MR. E. ROBERTS: If he does not agree with what I am saying, let him in due course respond in the appropriate way.

MR. S. NEARY: Hear, hear!

MR. E. ROBERTS: What I have said is that while the statement is important, it is not worthy of taking this much time of the House and I would suggest -

MR. J. CARTER: (Inaudible).

MR. E. ROBERTS: The gentleman from St. John's North (Mr. Carter) is again interrupting.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Order, please! Hon. members should be aware that if the hon. member requests to be heard in silence, then that request should be adhered to.

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

MR. E. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, if I may now proceed without interruption. The trouble with interruptions, you know, is they lead to the tit for tat theory and the tits on the other side draw tats from this side. And that, Mr. Speaker, does not help anybody, including the business of the House.

As I have said, we are perfectly supportive of the minister's position on this matter. He appears to have taken the steps that a reasonable man ought to have taken to protect the interests of this Province and we will stand with him on it. We will await further word

April 22, 1980

Tape 921

EC - 3

MR. E. ROBERTS: from him as developments occur, but at the same time I want to underline that we must not take these statements in isolation, we must take them all in context, and the context these days certainly does include what is going on in the neighbouring province and wherever that may lead us. Thank you.

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

MR. J. DINN: Mr. Speaker, during 1977 the hon. House gave approval to a new Labour Standards Act and in so doing it consolidated all the existing legislation on annual vacations, the employment of children, minimum wages, termination of employment, weekly day of rest, hours of work and workers' wages as well as including extensive changes to develop new enforcement procedures. Because the new Labour Standards Act was developed in consultation with employers and unions, I find that the legislation has proved acceptable to those parties and is having an appreciable effect on work standards, particularly in those sectors outside the normal scope of collective bargaining.

The new standards in our legislation are comparable to those existing in other jurisdictions and in general terms establish acceptable levels for employees in the work force in such matters as vacation with pay, paid public holidays, rest periods for employees during the work week and work day, minimum wage rates for employees, particularly in operations outside collective bargaining, the regulation with respect to termination of employment, the protection of employees' wages in cases of bankruptcy, restrictions on the employment of children before a certain age and under certain conditions, provisions with respect to maternity leave and on hours of work.

Our experience with the new Labour Standards Act has been quite satisfactory. It has brought new standards of employment to at least 30,000 workers not covered by collective agreements or collective bargaining through the intervention of the new Labour Standards Act. The number of complaints ordinarily referred to the courts have been reduced as a tribunal is now permitting a more positive mechanism in adjudicating employee/employer differences. The tribunal is comprised of Mr. William Finn, Chairman,

MR. J. DINN: of Carbonear; Mr. Fred Bowdring
Employee Representative and Mr. Christopher Rusted, Employer
Representative, both of St. John's.

The new Labour Standards Board,
which replaced the Minimum Wage Board, is expected to become more
involved in labour standards matters generally, as well as with
minimum wages in particular. It is also expected to investigate
and do research into matters coming under the scope of the Labour
Standards Act, particularly as it may pertain to employment patterns
of employees at or near the minimum wage level.

MR. J. DINN:

The present Labour Standards Board is comprised of Mr. Donald Dooley, Chairman, Mr. Harold Duffett, Employer Representative and Mr. Frank Taylor, Employee Representative.

During 1979, the Labour Standards Board was asked to review the minimum wages and conduct hearings among employers, unions and interested groups throughout the Province. The Board has since submitted its report to government. The government have examined the recommendations of the Board and have given approval to all the main recommendations of the Board and these are summarized as follows: One: The minimum wage to be increased from \$2.80 an hour to \$3.45 an hour in the following increments: \$3.15 per hour to be effective 1 July, 1980, and \$3.45 per hour to be effective the 31st of March, 1981. Two: The overtime rate to be not less than \$4.73 an hour, which is time and a half minimum wage, to be effective 1 July, 1980, and the overtime rate to be not less than \$5.18 an hour, time and a half the minimum rate, to be effective the 31st March, 1981. The third recommendation was the deductions from the prescribed minimum wages where meals, board and lodging are provided are to be revised as follows: For single meals to be increased to \$1.00 from ninety cents; for board and lodging, \$25.00 a week from \$21.00. For board only, \$16.00 a week from \$14.50 and for lodging only \$7.50 per week from \$6.50. Recommendation for the minimum wage for domestics in private homes to be increased to 50 per cent of the legislative hourly minimum wage for each hour of work, from the present \$40.00 per week and that all provisions of sub-section 2 of Section 9 of 1979 Regulations with respect to restrictions on reductions in this scale remain unchanged.

Because a large segment of the work force is outside collective bargaining and their standards of employment and wages are regulated by our Labour Standards Act, government have decided that a survey be undertaken as soon as possible to obtain information

MR. J. DINN: on the number of persons employed for wages at or near the legislative minimum wage, their age groups, their type of employment and location in the Province. It is also hoped that the survey can deal with questions with respect to unemployed youth and students.

An assessment of the information obtained from the survey should assist government in determining what changes, if any, should be made for the minimum wages within the broad context of the Labour Standards generally. Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): The hon. member for Terra Nova.

MR. T. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, it is very difficult to get up in this House and publicly support a minimum wage of \$3.45 an hour when one considers the tremendous escalation in the cost of living. And that is not to say that we do not commend the government for having raised the wage from \$2.80 to \$3.45 an hour but, as I have said before, when one considers the escalation in the cost of living in this Province and to expect that people would have to live on a wage of this level is rather ridiculous. Of course, the saving grace about a minimum wage is that it is a guideline, and thank heavens that most employers throughout the Province do not pay the minimum wage, most employers pay in excess of the minimum wage and of course that is the saving grace about the minimum wage.

But it is an achievement and it is going to be a help to many people in this Province to know that they cannot be employed for less than the minimum as it goes into effect on July 1st, \$3.15 an hour, and to be escalated on the 31st. of March to \$3.45 an hour. Another point about it, and another bad point about this is the fact that it is going to be 1982 before the minimum wage earners of this Province can experience a further increase, going by the recommendations and what the minister has introduced here today, because as of July 1st., 1980, this year, it becomes \$3.15, then of March 31st. it becomes \$3.45. So if we look at the way that the minimum wages have been increased in the past, it is certainly going to be 1982 before there is another increase. I know that could be changed, and certainly as a result of the study that the minister has initiated that depending on the information that is brought back there could be a change in that before 1982. And I hope that it is

MR. T. LUSH: because with the continual escalation in the cost of living that certainly to expect people to work for \$3.45 an hour is a bit much to say the least.

So that is my only concern. I only wish that the \$3.45 could have been introduced immediately, and I am sure that the members of the Labour Standards Board could probably have wished that and that is another reason why one has certainly to go along with the recommendations inasmuch as that the committee or the Board comprised the business and the labour part of the public community and conducted hearings and they came back with these recommendations. But I certainly hope that the mechanism that the minister has set in motion to review

MR. T. LUSH: aspects of the employment field and to ascertain various questions as it relates to minimum wage earners, I would certainly hope that the minimum wage earners of this Province do not have to wait until 1982 before they see another increase in the minimum wage.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

ORAL QUESTIONS

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

MR. E. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of both the Premier and the Minister of Mines and Energy (Mr. L. Barry), both of whom, I understand, are away from the Province, perhaps I could ask the Government House Leader (Mr. W. Marshall), who I assume is also the Acting Premier during the Premier's absence from Newfoundland, could he indicate to us where the government stands with respect to the matter of moving energy across the Province of Quebec in light of the statements made yesterday in Ottawa by the Prime Minister?

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

MR. W. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, the answer that was received, I do not believe that any official answer as such has reached the eighth floor as of yet, I think it was an answer that was given by the Prime Minister in response to a question on the floor of the House of Commons on yesterday. Or was it Friday? I am not sure, I think it was yesterday. So, Mr. Speaker, we prefer to wait, particularly in a matter such as this, to withhold full comment until we have a complete and direct answer from the Prime Minister himself and at that period in time then we will be prepared to give a comment. Suffice it to say, nothing that has been said before or since the communication went from the government to the Prime Minister of Canada and to Premier Levesque has changed or altered in any respect the position of the government in this Province.

MR. E. ROBERTS: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Supplementary, the hon. member for the Strait of Belle Isle.

MR. E. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, if I understood the minister correctly what he was saying is that Mr. Trudeau made some statements in the House in Ottawa yesterday and that these do not constitute, nor would they be held out to be, I suggest, a formal reply by the Government of Canada to the letter which was sent to them by the Premier and which he told us about, and in fact tabled here in the House, I think it was Wednesday of last week, one day last week.

I simply want to ask, then, if the comments and the position adopted by the Minister of Mines and Energy (Mr. L. Barry) earlier this day is the position of the government or not? The Minister of Mines and Energy has made some statements indicating the government's position. I want to know simply whether it is the position of the government and this is the first chance I have had to ask?

MR. S. NEARY: Off the cuff.

MR. W. MARSHALL: (Inaudible) statements (inaudible)

MR. E. ROBERTS: Well, I do not know if it is in order for me, I am quite prepared to but I am not allowed to ask questions. I mean, I did hear the minister's own sibilant tones saying that he thought the Prime Minister's statement was encouraging and left the door open and so forth and so on, but I simply want to know if we are to take that as being the government's position?

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

MR. W. MARSHALL: The Minister of Mines and Energy speaks, Mr. Speaker, as any minister, he is speaking for the government from that point of view, but I think it is consistent with, you know, my answer.

MR. MARSHALL: The fact of the matter is, I would not, at the present time, wish to pass any official opinion of the government, as such, as to the reaction from the Prime Minister of Canada until such time as we get a definitive reaction from him. The statements that were made could be described as encouraging in some respects, but they certainly were not definitive. Obviously the Government of Canada requires a certain amount of time in which to consider the response, as witness the additional supplementary remarks made by the hon. Marc LaLonde when asked about the situation to the effect that he wished to discuss the matter further with the Ministers of Mines and Energy, both of Newfoundland and Quebec. And I presume that because the Minister of Mines and Energy for Canada (Mr. LaLonde) has made this statement that we can certainly hold out hope, and indeed not just hope but the expectation and the right that our letter will be given deep and sober consideration, and after the federal government has had an opportunity to make these consultations and its enquiries, then we will get a full and complete and direct reply at which time we will be responding in kind.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): A supplementary, the hon. member for the Strait of Belle Isle.

MR. ROBERTS: Thank you. I think we are getting near the end of the vein that can usefully be explored, given the fact that no answer has come officially on behalf of the Government of Canada, and the Prime Minister apparently was responding to a question in the House of Commons, if the reports are accurate, and I am quite sure that that question was not prompted by the government of this Province, given the circumstances. What I simply want to ask is whether, to the knowledge of the acting Premier, any communication has come from Mr. LaLonde, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, I believe is the correct title, but anyway the hon. Mr. LaLonde in Ottawa, with respect to trying to mediate or to try to bring together a minister or somebody from the government in this Province and somebody of an equal weight from the Government of Quebec with a view to trying to get a resolution of this

MR. ROBERTS: problem by that means?

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

MR. MARSHALL: Directly, Mr. Speaker, other than the fact I read a report in the press to the effect that the hon. gentleman is going to discuss the matter further, I do not know whether it is correct to call it an issue of mediation because the government has taken a particular stand but -

MR. ROBERTS: How about bringing it together.

MR. MARSHALL: - bringing together whether the hon. - that the hon. gentleman obviously intends to proceed farther and specifically for this reason, this is why I do not wish to make a more definitive response than I have already given because I think that probably if you make too many responses in between time, until you get the response, that it will not really be in the total best interest of the people of the Province.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms):

The hon. the member for LaPoile.

MR. S. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Premier, I would like to direct a question to the President of the Council (Mr. W. Marshall). For several months past now and probably for the last year or so, we have been hearing reports about a roll on, roll off ferry service that is scheduled to commence - and I understand it is to commence shortly - between a port in Massachusetts and Argentina. I would like to ask the hon. gentleman if he could enlighten the House of what is involved in this roll on, roll off ferry service? Could the hon. gentleman give us a few facts about it? Because all the statements we have heard so far are very vague and general and the people of this Province are not too familiar with what it is and what kind of a service is going to be implemented.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the President of the Council.

MR. W. MARSHALL:

Mr. Speaker, I, too, have heard of this proposed service, but at this particular stage and at this particular time, unless one of the other ministers has any in-depth knowledge with respect to it, I prefer to take notice of the question, because I cannot give the type of detail that is required. So I will take notice of the question if the hon. gentleman will permit.

MR. S. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER:

A supplementary, the hon. the member for LaPoile.

MR. S. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge the - well, the provincial government, I know, are pledged to saving the Newfoundland railway and protecting C.N.'s interests in this Province. And they also have on a federal/provincial committee - the representative, I believe, is Mr. O'Brien, the Director of Transportation. Would that gentleman not inform the government of what is going on in the way of transportation in this Province? For instance, I would like to know if this service is going to be solely and exclusively for bringing tractor trailers from the United States to Newfoundland. Well, if they are, I would like to know. That seems to me to be a very uneconomical sort of thing, Mr. Speaker, and, certainly, that is not going to be the reason for implementing that service,

MR. S. NEARY: just to bring ninety tractor trailers once a week up from Massachusetts. I would like to know how it is going to cut into C.N.'s operations in this Province? The hon. gentleman has pledged himself to protect the - Is it competition?

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. S. NEARY: Well, that is what I am trying to find out. Will it be competition for C.N.? Will it mean a layoff in other parts of the Province? How much employment will it create in Argenta itself? I mean, there are any number of questions that I could ask the hon. gentleman, but the hon. gentleman does not seem to be familiar with this new service that is coming up.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Order, please! Do I understand the hon. member has asked his question?

MR. S. NEARY: No, no, Mr. Speaker.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible) preliminary.

MR. SPEAKER: I will accept that as a brief preamble.

MR. S. NEARY: What I am really saying, Mr. Speaker, is that this service will have a direct bearing on the future of C.N. in this Province, and I think it is about time that somebody, either provincially or federally, told the people, especially C.N. employees, what is happening. What is this service all about? That is what I am asking the hon. gentleman.

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

MR. W. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I can only reiterate what I said. Of course, I am generally familiar with it, but at the present time I am not in a position to give the type of definitive answer that the question requires. All I can say is I will take notice of it. I know the Mr. O'Brien, to whom he referred, in the Department of Transportation and Communications is fully conversant with it and it is for this specific purpose that I take notice of the question.

With respect to the future of the C.N.R., I know the hon. member will agree that it is quite evident that there is nobody in this government who is more conversant with the interests of the people of the Canadian National in this Province and the railway in this Province

MR. W. MARSHALL: than this particular government, and I think we have shown this in our actions as well as in our words, and we will continue to make sure that the interests of the people in Canadian National and the railway in this Province are protected to the best degree that they possibly can.

As for the rest of the question, Mr. Speaker, it is not unusual. As I say, I will have to take notice of it, because I do not want to give the hon. gentleman an answer to a question and have him pop up on his feet tomorrow and say, you know, I did not give it completely or I did not give it accurately. I want the opportunity to be able to take notice of it.

MR. S. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

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

MR. S. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that this is a very significant event, and the hon. gentleman just pledged his government again to protecting the C.N. operations in this Province and C.N. employees, would the hon. gentleman indicate to

MR. S. NEARY:

the House that if this company is trying to do by the back door what so many other companies try to do by the front door, and that is to cut into CN's operations in this province? Will the hon. gentleman reassure the CN employees that this government will not allow that to happen in any way, shape or form that there will be no cutting into CN's operations, no lay-offs of CN employees as a result of this Norweigan ship, manned by a Norweigan crew, coming from Massachusetts to Newfoundland?

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

MR. W. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, as to will I give assurances, you know, I have already answered the question. All I say to the hon. gentleman, if he wants assurances with respect to the future of the railway in this province, he can endorse what the Provincial Government has done and he can approach his friends in Ottawa and seek their assistance.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): The hon. the Member for St. Barbe.

MR. T. BENNETT: Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and it relates to Parsons Pond. It is a district question, Mr. Speaker. Parsons Pond flood plain, it has been ongoing for the last three years, so I understand. I understand the department did make some commitment or other to help the people over there and I would like, if the minister would explain the present status and actually, Mr. Speaker, I will direct this one at the Minister of Municipal Affairs (N. Windsor) but I am a little bit cloudy on who, at this moment, I should be directing my question to because the Minister of Social Services (T. Hickey) might very well be able to answer it.

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

MR. N. WINDSOR: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman is correct, perhaps the question should be directed to my colleague, the Minister of Social Services (T. Hickey). As I understand, this agreement made by the Province several years ago was that the department would install a sewage system, I think it was, in a sub-division and that the Department of Social Services would make provisions on an individual basis for relocation of a particular number of homes that were affected, a certain amount per home, to relocate these people to the new sub-division. How many homes are involved, perhaps my colleague can answer.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): The hon. The Minister of Social Services.

MR. T. HICKEY: Mr. Speaker, I will have to take the question under advisement and get the details the hon. gentleman is wishing to have. I can tell him that one of the problems and one of the things which I recall causing the delay was the increase in the amount of money that the individuals were requesting. The initial estimate, it seems to me, and I stand to be corrected, and I am not going to state the amounts because I am not quite sure. It is quite a while now since I have seen the figures - but it seems to me that there was an escalation in cost and I believe that that was one of the causes for action not being taken. But I will have to check with my staff to get up-to-date information on it.

MR. T. BENNETT: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): A supplementary, the hon. the Member for St. Barbe.

MR. T. BENNETT: Mr. Speaker. Yes, a supplementary, please.

I hope the minister, and I would like for him to confirm the fact that this time, while the opportunity presents itself, and remember that 1977 dollars are not the same as 1980 dollars, Mr. Minister, because none of this project, at this moment, has concluded - none of this project, Mr. Speaker, has concluded. I understand, Mr. Speaker, something like seventeen houses are involved. And, I think, probably two at this time, might be halfway complete. So, I wonder if the minister,

MR. T. BENNETT:

Mr. Speaker, at this time, would be sure that the job can be complete this summer, even if it does take an extra few dollars to complete the job?

MR. SPEAKER (Simms):

The hon. the Minister of Social Services.

MR. T. HICKEY:

Mr. Speaker, I cannot give any commitment, as I said, until I refresh my memory with the details of the case. And, as I said to my hon. friend, I will certainly undertake to get the detail. When he refers to '77 dollars and applies them to 1980, I can assure him that the estimates that I recall, and again as I said, I am going on memory - of the estimates and the increase therein that I recall, certainly did not have a span of three years. They were, at best, a year old or maybe less, and certainly I also recall that there was some difficulty in establishing a justification for the kind of increases that the people were requesting. But I will get the details and I will get back to my hon. friend.

MR. SPEAKER (SIMMS): The hon. member for Terra Nova.

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, I want to direct a question to the Minister of Forestry (Mr. Power) and I want to direct a question about a committee that was set up by the former Minister of Forestry, I think maybe sometime last Summer. Now the minister will forgive me if I forget the name of the committee because there are so many ongoing committees that one has great difficulty in remembering the names of the various committees and when they were set up, but just to enlighten the minister the committee was established sometime, I think, last Summer to look into the forest potential in certain areas of the Province, one area being the Eastern section of Newfoundland, the Bonavista Peninsula area and the other section, the Northern Peninsula. The purpose again of the Committee was to look into the forest potential in terms of ascertaining whether we could not start some other forest related industries and the one specified in the terms of reference to the committee was a thermo chemical plant. So I am just wondering what is the status of these committees or committee, whatever it was, in the singular or the plural, and when does the minister expect a report from the committees?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Lands and Forests.

MR. POWER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to the question, that report has not been presented to government. The study is still ongoing both on the Bonavista Peninsula and on the Great Northern Peninsula. We expect the report within a month or so. The preliminary report, if you want, or at least the preliminary readings from the persons who are doing the study, is that the annual allowable cuts both in the Bonavista Peninsula and in the Great Northern Peninsula may not be sufficient to allow one of the standard types of mills that we have both at Grand Falls and Corner Brook now. They are now further evaluating other types of industry which may be feasible both in the Bonavista Peninsula and the Great Northern Peninsula.

MR. LUSH: A supplementary.

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

MR. LUSH: How does this committee now, Mr. Speaker, fit into the structure of the Royal Commission that the minister set up to look into the budworm, because as I understand it this Royal Commission was not only to look into the spruce budworm but also to look into many other areas related to the forests? So is there any overlapping or is the committee that I am talking about going on to pursue its own work and is not related at all to the task force and that the minister does indeed expect the report of this committee set up by the previous minister within a month?

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): The hon. Minister of Lands and Forests.

MR. POWER: Mr. Speaker, the report of the committee doing the feasibility work for both the Bonavista peninsula and the Great Northern Peninsula, that report will certainly have to fit in the Royal Commission guidelines as set out in our report last week, or announcements setting out the guidelines and mandate of the Royal Commission to study not only the spruce budworm problem in Newfoundland as it is being conceived by some persons, but actually a Royal Commission which looks at both forest protection and forest management hopefully for the full utilization of the forest industry. And certainly the Royal Commission will be studying in great deal detail this feasibility report on the Bonavista and Great Northern Peninsula, the report from the Roddickton-Main Brook task force report which certainly will have certain considerations in it as it relates to wood supply and maximization and utilization of the forest industry and certainly also will be considering, I would think, in great detail the feasibility report done for the Happy Valley-Goose area of Labrador that my good member is aware of and which has certain implications for wood working industries in Labrador.

MR. LUSH: A supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A final supplementary. The hon. member for Terra Nova.

MR. LUSH: The minister indicated that it would have to fit into the guidelines of the Royal Commission, The Royal Commission coming after, will this not slow down the report of this committee since, as

MR. LUSH: I said, the Royal Commission was established after and if the committee was going about its work well then - and it is going to be completed in a month, so there are almost two questions - does that mean we will have no action on that committee until the report of the Royal Commission?

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

MR. POWER: Mr. Speaker, the sequence is that the Royal Commission will be presenting a report to government sometime at the end of this year relating to forest management and protection. We have a feasibility report that will be taking place and presented to government very shortly with regard to aspects of forestry in the Great Northern and Bonavista Peninsulas. Simply because the Royal Commission comes afterwards does not preempt the fact that we cannot take action on the report based on the Bonavista and the Great Northern Peninsulas. All it will mean is that members of the Royal Commission, their report at the end of this year may be effected by what is presented in the feasibility reports, not only for the Great Northern peninsulas and Bonavista but all also for Happy Valley-Goose Bay.

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

MR. THOMS: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Justice (Mr. Ottenheimer) I would like to direct a question to the President of the Council. I do not know if the President of the Council saw the programme on CBC last week, the Tors Cove Capers, a report done by Michael Harris. However, in that programme

MR. THOMS: on one occasion they referred to a prominent St. John's lawyer, which would probably leave himself and myself out of it, but a prominent St. John's lawyer who was involved in that particular drug bust. Also, the programme referred -

MR. NEARY: They were never charged by the way.

MR. THOMS: Also, the programme referred to a St. John's developer who was involved with that particular incident.

MR. NEARY: Never charged. Walking around scott free.

MR. THOMS: The impression which was left by that programme, in the minds of an awful lot of people in this Province, was that it could be any one of the lawyers in this Province, or it could be any one of the developers in this Province.

As a matter of fact, I think it was said jokingly, but a Roman Catholic priest asked me if I was the lawyer they were talking about. I understand -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. THOMS: Yes, I wish it were. I understand that the CBC does have the names; they have a lawyer's name, they have a developer's name. My question to the President of the Council is does the Department of Justice plan to investigate this matter to obtain the materials from the CBC and determine whether or not charges should be brought?

MR. NEARY: The masterminds behind the whole thing.

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

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I did see the programme and I think, if memory serves me correctly, certainly it was a lawyer and a developer. And I think the reference was to an entrepreneur rather than a developer, I am not sure. But anyway, it referred to somebody within a certain group of people in society. The hon. gentleman is aware the matter of investigation and the matter of prosecution with respect to drug offences is a matter falling entirely within the purview of the federal government.

Now, just by way of explanation, I know my hon. friend knows this, to the House, there is federal legislation that is enforced by the provincial government under the Criminal Code, certain aspects of it, under the Criminal Code. These particular offences come within the purview of the federal government. It is the federal government, really which initiates them, which does the investigation, so I would think that as far as the Department of Justice is concerned, the Department of Justice would obviously have concern, as the Department of Justice, with respect to the fact if anybody is walking around who happens to have been accused of committing a crime who has not been prosecuted.

But in the order of things it is for the federal government to initiate these things and it would be for the federal government to take the steps described by the hon. gentleman.

MR. THOMS: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER(Simms): A supplementary. The hon. the member for Grand Bank.

MR. THOMS: I realize, of course, that it is a federal offence, but I do not believe for a moment that it would be incorrect or wrong for the

MR. THOMS: Minister of Justice
(Mr. Ottenheimer) to request that such an investigation be carried out. I mean, would the Department of Justice agree to getting in touch with the proper authorities to see if an investigation could be initiated?

MR. NEARY: The programme was shown in this Province.

MR. THOMS: Yes. And the programme was shown in this Province and to a certain extent, I guess, irresponsibly because it labelled two groups of people for what may or may not be the wrongdoing of two individuals.

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

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, as I say, it is not within the purview of the government to do this type of thing. I mean, normally it does not take this type of action. But I would certainly be prepared to take the matter under advisement because if - I mean, the most the provincial government can do, as the hon. member is aware, is just draw the situation to the attention of the federal Minister of Justice and the federal authorities. And I have no doubt that these appropriate authorities already have notice of it. But in case they have not, I see no reason why the department would not draw it to their attention.

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

MR. E. HISCOCK: My question is to the Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Culture, having to do with the moose and the caribou. With the caribou herds when the construction of the Upper Churchill - biologists now say that basically with the construction of the Upper Churchill, it blocked the migrating patterns of the caribou and that is the reason why the 150,000 caribou are up North and the smaller herds are down South. The question I want to ask basically is with regard to the construction of the Lower Churchill and Muskrat Falls. Is his department, as well as other departments in government, making sure that this does not happen in the future? That is one question. Also, in 1958 the government ended up putting moose into St. Lewis River district, basically Southern and Eastern Labrador. Since 1958 no hunting has taken place and people now in that area are wondering when the season is going to be opened. And the third question is, now that moose are coming down in great quantities from Quebec -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Order, please!

The hon. member, I believe, has already asked two questions and there are only a couple of moments left. Perhaps he would let the hon. minister answer those and then put a supplementary.

MR. E. ROBERTS: We will grant leave for the minister to answer (inaudible).

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! I think it is quite normal, if we read the Standing Rules, that members are entitled to ask a question. The hon. member has already asked two and was about to ask a third, and there is a procedure for that where you ask supplementaries.

MR. E. ROBERTS: Your Honour, when you ask a question it is like beauty, it is in the eye of the beholder, and I mean, my hon. friend is simply asking one question in more than one part. And given the fact the time is short, he should be allowed to ask them. We will gladly consent to whatever time the minister needs to answer. I think it is an important matter, you know.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! I think I have already made the ruling and I would ask the hon. minister if he wishes to respond at this time, to respond.

MR. E. HISCOCK: If I may, Mr. Speaker. The main question I was asking, Mr. Speaker, if I may clarify the situation -

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Order, please! I think I have ruled that the hon. member has asked his questions, and, if the minister wishes to respond, now would be an appropriate time, but if you have a further question, to ask him as a supplementary.

MR. E. HISCOCK: Will we have time enough?

MR. SPEAKER: Well, I am not sure.

The hon. the Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Culture.

MR. R. DAWE: Mr. Speaker, with regard to the first question, the hon. member, I am sure, is aware of the fact that just in this present sitting of this hon. House, legislation affecting the environmental impact on developments within the Province is about to be proclaimed, hopefully in this session, and that will, in fact, require the detailed studies and the environmental impact on that particular development as it relates to the topography, the geography and the wildlife in that area will be done in due course, thanks to the forward thinking and positive policies of the present government.

With regard to the second question, surveys have been done from time to time since 1958 on that particular moose population and, as of this present date, there is not thought to be a significant enough increase in the population to warrant a season at this time, but it is under continuous monitoring and the assessment is made annually.

MR. E. HISCOCK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary, the hon. the member for Eagle River.

MR. E. HISCOCK: As I said before to the minister, the population of moose in Quebec are now on the North Shore and moving into Southern Labrador in great quantities -

MR. S. NEARY: The Separatists are moving out.

MR. E. HISCOCK: - so much so that in St. Pauls River, for example, one man ended up getting fourteen moose and selling it in Quebec

MR. E. HISCOCK: at \$1 a pound. But the residents in my district and that part basically want to know what does that minister have planned in the future? Will he allow the Newfoundland residents of Labrador a licence so that they can hunt the moose that are coming down from Quebec or is he in consultation with management about the moose population, as well as caribou, that are crossing over the border?

MR. S. NEARY: They are getting out before the referendum.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): The hon. the Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Culture.

MR. R. DANE: Yes, Mr. Speaker. If I can gather, the question that was asked is whether, in fact, our department is involved in adequate protection or control of the moose population as it relates to possible increases that are coming in from Quebec. As I mentioned previously, the department is doing the necessary counts and so on from time to time as resources and the time of the year

MR. DAWE: permit. It is very difficult taking the opinions of individuals who are in the area as it relates to a total moose population since they are only dealing with pockets of the moose population that are in their immediate area. I think our department officials have better arrangements to travel and have a look at the total population as it relates to the generally large area rather than the specific one, and I am sure that in given areas the moose population may in fact be significant but on an overall picture my officials tell me that the situation is such that it does not warrant a season at this particular time.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Order, please! The time for oral questions has expired.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN:

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Education.

MS VERGE: Mr. Speaker, I have the answer to the question posed by the hon. member for the Strait of Belle Isle on Friday for which notice was given. The question was -

MR. ROBERTS: Reductions. Yes.

MS VERGE: - the number of teaching positions which will be allocated by the Department of Education to the Vinland Integrated School Board for next year compared with the present year. The answer is that there will be no change in the number of teaching positions allocated by government to the Vinland Integrated School Board.

This year the total allocation is 109. It will be exactly the same next year. This includes the regular allocation, principals, assistant superintendents, programme co-ordinators, superintendents, small schools, average mean enrolment, these are the formulas used to make up the total.

In the present school year there are nine special education teachers and this number cannot be determined accurately for next year because there is no limitation placed by the department on the number of -

MR. ROBERTS: (Inaudible) the regular allocation.

MS VERGE: special education teachers. It is based on the need so that the number will be determined when the school board knows how many handicapped or students with special needs have to be served next year. So that there could be more special education teachers next year than in the present year. But as for the regular allocation it will remain the same next year as it is this year.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Order 11, second reading of bill entitled, "An Act Respecting the Establishment of a Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council." (No. 16)

MR. ROBERTS: Does anybody recall the order of play on this one? Bill 16 is it not?

MR. SPEAKER: I believe that is what I just quoted.

Order 11, the hon. member for St. John's North.

MR. J. CARTER: Mr. Speaker -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CARTER: - first of all I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that the sun is shining and yet here I am. So surely there must be something -

AN HON. MEMBER: The frost is not out of the ground yet.

MR. CARTER: - something worthwhile to discuss.

I would also like to make some reference to the fact - about interruptions. I was always under the impression that the two interruptions that were always parliamentary were 'shame' and 'rubbish!' I was going to pursue it in the point of order earlier this afternoon, but I did not think it worthwhile.

Speaking of art and the importance of art, some years ago when the Arts and Culture Centre was a new building a visitor to the city was passing by and it was pointed out to him and said, "That is the new arts centre." He said, "Well, that is grand because a lot of Newfoundlanders have had 'earts.'" Well, I do not know how bad our 'eart is, but I think that any political speech -

April 22, 1980

Tape No. 932

NM - 3

AN HON. MEMBER:

(Inaudible) months ago.

MR. CARTER:

- I think any political speech should be
composed of three elements - and of course this is a

MR. J. CARTER: political speech and I make no apology for that - you should have something to praise, something to blame and something to view with alarm.

Well, I am going to start off with something to praise, and the thing I have to praise is a new publication of John de Visser's photographs of Newfoundland. They are coloured plates. He has going around Newfoundland and Labrador with a camera and he has taken some coloured photographs, the text is by David Blackwood, and I think it is one of the finest publications to honour Newfoundland that is possible to find. It is available in most of the bookstores and I certainly recommend it to hon. members and would recommend it to the general public. I would like to suggest that it is a fine present to send to anyone outside the Province because I think it puts this Province in a proper light, in a better light than most publications usually do.

And this brings me to the central theme of what I wanted to discuss about this bill and that is that art is important; in fact, it is vital. Now, I would, for instance, like to draw the attention of the House to the very building that we are in at the moment. I do not know who was the stumblebum who devised and drew up the plans for this building, but I think it is surely one of the ugliest, one of the most useless buildings that ever defaced the skyline of St. John's.

MR. J. CARTER: Which one is that?

MR. J. CARTER: This building that we are in right now. The front of it leaks, no one has been able to make it waterproof, the wind whistles around it, the draft comes in at every chink, it is as ugly as it is possible to be and unfortunately it will last for probably 200 years. Now, if there is anyone here who feels that is not too high a price to pay for bad art, and after all architecture is art, it is one of the most visible forms of art and I think that this should draw the attention of the House to the importance of this bill. And I notice that the central part

MR. J. CARTER: of this bill is that this Committee, and I am reading under heading 5, section c, "It will be to advise the minister with respect to the development of arts in this Province," and I understand and unless the minister tells me differently, I will understand art there to be the broadest possible category and certainly to include architecture.

I would like to make a plea to the members of the government, or the members of the House but particularly the members of the government, that when this Arts Council is set up that they take particular note of the state of architecture in this Province.

By the same token, the layout of streets and town planning itself is a genuine art form. I do not know how many people realize that the steep hills that St. John's is afflicted with were originally firebreaks, constructed when the city was built after the Great Fire of 1892. I suppose because they were rights of way or clearings, people started to use them, the next thing they paved them and now they are regularly used hills and they are far too steep for horse and cart let alone a car or pedestrian traffic. Yet here we have them and we have had this chance time and time again to lay out St. John's properly and to set out guidelines for the orderly development of this city and yet the one rule that seems to apply to St. John's is that there are no rules, no rules whatsoever. If you want to build a building with ten times coverage, go ahead, you might as well. And why should anyone put in a plan for less than ten times coverage if that is what you can get, why not twenty times coverage, thirty times coverage? There is no limit, spot zoning seems to be the rule of the day. So in the matter of art, St. John's, I think, has to go to the bottom of its class.

MR. J. CARTER: And it is too bad because we have a very delightful natural setting and with just a little bit of care and attention and a little bit of constructive criticism St. John's could be a very, very attractive city.

Now this is my something to blame. My something to view with alarm is - and here I am taking a page out of Ray Guy's writings - and that is that the houses themselves that we build are usually designs that are copied holus-bolus from designs that have worked away. There is no consideration taken of the climatic factors down here, we do not, as Ray Guy says, 'block the wind and trap the sun.' Instead we construct great breezeways for parking a car, and, of course, we should realize that the rain here does not fall straight down, it falls on a slant and very often it will go right through a breezeway. So the houses are quite unsuitable and built often facing the wrong way. It is just unfortunate. And yet all of this has to do with art. Now I do not know if that would be the only jurisdiction that this Arts Council will consider itself to have business with. I am sure it will not because, as someone once said, "Life is short, art is long, opportunity fleeting, experience treacherous and judgement is difficult." Now, I think in the Department of Education there is a vote for travel subsidies for students. I am just wondering if the minister when he gets up to close the debate whether it is his intention to take over those particular subsidies in his Bill or in his department? I know this Bill does not do it directly, although I am sure that the members of this Arts Council would be in a position to recommend what groups should have what subsidies. I am thinking there now particularly of the various choirs that have sprung up around the city and very often they take part in inter-provincial competitions.

MR. J. CARTER: And the cost of sending a whole choir away even to a neighbouring province is usually beyond the capacity of any one school and that will require some government assistance, and I would think would be validly under the aegis of the minister's department and governed largely under the cloak of this Bill. The St. John's Symphony Orchestra, I understand, gets some assistance from this government. I would like to know how much and whether or not that amount can be increased in the near future, because I think that is one of the finest things to have been developed in the last few years and I would like to take this opportunity to praise them. And their annual concert is always looked forward to.

I have mentioned architecture and I think by the same yardstick landscaping could be taken under the umbrella of this Bill. I think all members are familiar with Bowring Park. I do not know how many people are familiar with Bowring Park as it was some years ago before they started to modernize it. It is still a delightful place, it was even better. It was laid out by a very famous architect by the name of Mr. Kotius. He was a man from Holland who had a great deal of experience in landscaping and a particular - I think it was a farm that was bought out there and it was gradually or quite quickly developed into Bowring Park. The natural setting continues far beyond the park, in fact it goes up the river for about another mile. And I understand that the city council has some reservation on that land and I would just like to say here and now what a fine thing, what a marvelous park it would be if that whole gully were developed. The recreational needs for the city

MR. J. CARTER: are growing all the time and if anyone is looking for the park to be developed that particular gully is something that should be looked at very carefully. The arterial road looks down on it just after the entry from the Goulds and if you look to the, I guess to the North, when you are driving along there you can see this long gully and it is a very attractive spot and well worth looking at, perhaps by the Arts Council that will be set up by this Bill.

Now, I know I am riding my own hobby horse of architecture and landscaping, but I think that is a member's right. We all have our own particular interests and mine happen to lie in that direction. One of the questions, I think, that has to be raised is, since television, not only Island-wide but nationwide, I suppose internationally-wide now that we have cable TV, and the productions are so slick and any production is naturally shortlived because having been seen once it is immediately out of fashion, that perhaps the only art that can be successful will be professional art, that is to say, there will be no room left for amateur theater or amateur musicals, only the very highest quality professionals will be able to enter.

Years ago, I suppose, a repertory theater could travel all across Canada with its plays. But now, show them on television one night and that is it; everyone has seen them. It is remarkable, in my view, that the cinema has managed so strong a comeback because most of the first line movies are now able to be seen on television and this surely, you know, shortens their life.

So, perhaps we are talking about a lot of money, a lot of support for worthwhile artistic ventures. Perhaps the people who train artists, train actors will have to be very highly paid in order to get the quality that is going to be needed. There will be no longer any room for, I will not say second-rate, but for, well, extremely amateur productions. They will be seen as extremely amateur. I think we

MR. J. CARTER: are becoming much severer critics. And the other question we have to ask, and I am back to my old hobby horse again - I am sorry jumping around, Mr. Speaker, but I think this is the kind of bill that encourages this kind of discussion - are our cities going to become, you know, dreary and utilitarian, or are they going to be a pleasure to life in? Are the cores of our cities going to become ghost towns at night? Or are they going to be occupied both day and by night? And I think art can supply some of the answers and can solve some of the problems. I remember the high hopes that a lot of Newfoundlanders had when the issue of Confederation was debated some thirty years ago. At that time, a lot of people thought that we would have American efficiency, French culture and British government, and British style government - or Canadian, our being part of Canada. Instead, we got American culture, French style of government and British efficiency. Now, I do not know what that has to do with art, but I think perhaps the art of politics being the art of the possible, perhaps

MR. CARTER: this Committee will have something to do with politicians. And I do not object to politicians being put on such an art council. I think that a lot of the decisions that are made, and that should be made, should be political in the highest sense. When I say political, I mean they should be decisions that are made with an ear to the ground because everyone feels himself to be a valid critic of art and I think that this is just the way things are.

So with those few words I will sit down. But I would like to say that very shortly we have high hopes of introducing into this House an artistic endeavour that I think is well worth considering and that, of course, is the new flag. The new flag has been chosen and it will be introduced into this House in about a week's time and I look forward very much to that happy event. Thank you very much.

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

MR. BENNETT: Mr. Speaker, I should like to have a few brief words on the bill. It is speaking on the arts and of our culture, of course. Certainly in this Province I feel there is most certainly a very broad scope from which one could speak. So many avenues of culture, so many avenues of art, as the hon. gentleman across the way has suggested.

Sometimes when I am speaking to our counterparts up in Ottawa some of the lingo I use is not fully understood, when I speak in my own local tongue, in Newfoundland, which seems to be - even the language seems to be a little bit different from what is understood in other parts of Canada.

MR. BENNETT: Likewise, I would like to suggest, Mr. Speaker, that outport life, I grew up in an outport, sometimes is not fully understood, especially in conversation, by people who have been born and bred and educated in a city.

Like, for argument's sake, there are so many words in our dictionary. A few days ago I said to a girl on the telephone, in Ottawa, 'Run down to the ballycater, make sure you put on your raquettes now, and get some splits so that we can have a mug-up'. She did not have a clue what I was talking about. Did not have a clue. But a lot of this, Mr. Speaker, a lot of this is falling by the wayside. This, in itself, is all the culture of our Province.

I feel that we have to offer in this Province in the form of culture almost a language of our own just being blended in, I would like to suggest, from so many different foreign languages like French, and Scottish, and Irish. And by the time it is all blended down and you find the different parts of the Province that have different accents - on the Northern Peninsula, and in Corner Brook, and in St. John's and Bay Roberts, in all these areas they certainly have a different accent and, in a lot of cases, most certainly, different meanings for different words. And it is a shame, in my opinion, Mr. Speaker, to see this fall by the wayside and be forgotten.

Newfoundland is famous for its jokes. It has a real heritage in jokes themselves. A real heritage in jokes. Probably, Mr. Speaker, some of the hon. gentlemen in the House heard yesterday morning's open line - a joke I heard yesterday morning on open line: A woodsman was applying for a job and the employer said, 'I am sorry, you are a woodsman, I cannot employ you'. He said, 'We have no work for

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. T. BENNETT:

How can he pile it if I do not cut it?

Many of these Newfie jokes have come down through the years, and they should, and I suspect a lot of them are being documented at this time. Let us hope they are anyway. And a lot of the heritage of this sort, I would hope, finds its way into our schools to be nurtured and, indeed, added to.

I do not think for one minute, Mr. Speaker, that we should try to change and be completely and entirely North American. I do not think we should try to be Americans; I think we are as well off being Newfoundlanders and let somebody else understand us. I try to make myself understood by the rest of Canada. It is not always easy with the rest of the people I come in contact with across the nation. And it is a little harder to make people in the Southern part of the States understand us; they have their own way.

I think that our special way of life and our heritage and our art, Mr. Speaker, are what attract people to come to this Province as tourists. I think that our tourist office should excel in this area of development to make sure that our art and our culture is nurtured and, most certainly, advertised through the rest of Canada and the U.S., where the dollars are, out there. Hopefully we can bring them in through the tourist development. The language, the old songs, the music, all of us know somebody, a neighbour, who has written songs, has written poetry, has written his own music, created his own. And I venture to bet, Mr. Speaker, that there has been more of this type of creation in this Province and in this colony, mind you, when it was a colony, than any other province across Canada. Newfoundland being the oldest colony, I feel, must surely goodness have more to offer or as much to offer as any part to which one would travel.

The mode of travel around the Province, and especially in rural areas - 1957, I guess, saw the first vehicle, the first thing on wheels ever to travel from Corner Brook to St. Anthony.

MR. T. BENNETT: The hon. the Minister of Health (Mr. W. House) knows who was driving it. It was a twelve passenger snowmobile, the very first thing ever to travel on wheels powered by an engine, from Corner Brook to St. Anthony, and I drove it myself. As recently as 1958! Prior to that we had our old dog harnesses and our horses and our sleighs and everything else, which were all part of our culture. It has all fallen by the wayside, it is all gone and forgotten, a lot of it destroyed. I find too much of it being taken out of the Province. For the last fifteen or twenty years I have met a lot of it - in vans, in trunks of motor cars. I have met people on the road when the road was gravel in St. Barbe, I have travelled and have met people and they would open their trunks and they would have some of our antiques, our old shotguns. And to me it was criminal to see the way the Province was being raked over - pilferage, I feel. It should have been stopped a long, long time ago. And if it is not being stopped, then it should be stopped right now.

I would certainly like to recommend that we go right after this like a dog at dinnertime and make sure for certain that no more of this stuff goes out of the Province, because it is the heritage of the people who live here now and it will be more valuable as time goes on.

It is not very long ago, Mr. Speaker, that the politics of Newfoundland was dominated completely and entirely by the people who lived in the city, primarily St. John's. But now, you know, a lot of people like myself have aspired, and hopefully now we can come in and we can express our views and what we see from the rural areas where, Mr. Speaker, a great deal of culture for the Province has grown, has been created - the old spinning wheels, and, like I say, the old shotguns and the harnesses and our mode of transportation and method of life and the way that we carry on. And mind you, a lot of this should come into the city of St. John's to be preserved, because it is the capital city. As much as we would like to move it

MR. T. BENNETT: over to the West Coast, it might be too much of a hassle to move the seat of government over to the West Coast where we could probably salvage a lot more

AN HON. MEMBER: I am all for it.

MR. T. BENNETT: I would like to see a programme where the government, possibly - I do not know, rural development might help, tourist development might help - reach out and bring in a lot more into the Capital City of the things that are being destroyed and being carried away - being carried down across the boarder to the US-brought in here and put on display. I understand that a lot of the material that came out of Port au Choix, the artifacts that came up there - 4,000 or 5,000 years buried in cemeteries - has come into St. John's, some of it has found its way back again. But blended in with that into a place like Port au Choix, you should find evidence of the way people lived then, evidence of their having used dogs and whale bone sleds and whatever. It would be the most interesting challenge for anybody to pursue and have taken care of and nurtured for the benefit of those who come after we are gone.

It has been a most interesting lifestyle, I think, that Newfoundlanders have experienced. It has been a hard one but I think Newfoundlanders have proven how they can survive, they have proven to most of the rest of the world how they can survive under extreme hardship. And in surviving they had to devise methods by which they could survive; they had to create and to make, they had to make their own snowshoes, they had to make their own methods of transportation and their own methods of digging in the soil and preserving. Not always did they have deep freezes, Mr. Speaker, People had to figure a way of salting down their fish and some of the methods used have since, in the last few years, fallen by the wayside when still, in my opinion, they should still be displayed as a way of life that we once did experience and I understand that people loved that way of life and now they feel they are being

MR. T. BENNETT:

gypped of a freer way of life.

Local goods, especially the development, the creation of local goods, mats, clothing, skins, anything and everything that was a way of life in rural Newfoundland, Mr. Speaker, in my opinion we should sort of today, I think we should go back to it again in a way that we should have it for display purposes for people who come in and see the way of life that we experienced. The way of life in Newfoundland was brought along and of course a lot of the way of life came from the old country.

For those who would serve on the council or whatever might be established, the arts, I would strongly advise that people be chosen or selected, I do not know the method that would be used, but most certainly I would like to see that people should serve for the desire, Mr. Speaker, of serving as much as anything. It is when a person has got the love for doing something they are going to put a lot more effort into it. If it is going to cost the Province a lot of money to employ people and go out looking for the things to salvage from the cultural end of our life, I feel that they will not put as much effort into it as people who come on to do this thing for the love of doing it. And they will do the research and find the materials.

Mr. Speaker, I really wonder if the people in the Province, and indeed the hon. members of this House of Assembly, if we value, if we really and truly value the heritage that we have in the past years experienced, I wonder if we really value the way of life that our forefathers experienced and if we would not like to salvage some of this and have it on display for generations to come.

I thank you for your time.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear.

MR. SPEAKER (Butt) :

The hon. the Minister of Education.

SOME HON. MEMBERS :

Hear, hear.

MS. L. VERGE :

Mr. Speaker, it is with pleasure that

I rise to speak in support of the Arts Council Bill. This bill is important and significant for our Province for many reasons. Our province, as has been pointed out by previous speakers, is unique in having a rich tradition of spoken language, song, music, theater, folk arts and crafts. Because, perhaps, of our geographic isolation, we have been able to develop some of these features more fully and richly than our counterparts in central Canada or other parts of North America and we have been able to retain some of our heritage more than other parts of North America.

However, of course, with modernization, better communications, much of what we did have only a few years ago, is being eroded. Much of this rich tradition is being forgotten and younger people, in many cases, do not know anything about it. An example of this, I think, is demonstrated by the reactions to the present exhibition of hooked and poked mats of Newfoundland and Labrador called the 'Fabric of Their Lives' at the Memorial University Extension Service Arts Gallery at the St. John's Arts and Culture Centre. I was very honored to be able to officially open this exhibition about two weeks ago and I commend it to everyone here. The display of mats is very well mounted. The mats were gathered from people from every corner of our province over the last couple of years.

The inspiration for the exhibition itself came from a woman by the name of Colleen Lynch who works with the Provincial Government. And it was through her initiative that the contacts were made with, primarily, women in many parts of the Province from St. John's to the Coast of Labrador and the mats were gathered together and have been very well displayed.

It is the first such kind of exhibition ever anywhere and it will be going to England and other parts of North America

MS. L. VERGE: before coming back to tour in the rest of our own province.

This I mention by way of illustration of the danger of losing the traditional arts and crafts which were once to borrow the title of the exhibition, 'the fabric of the lives' of many people of our Province. Our Province is also unique, at least in this country, in having modern and well equipped physical centres for arts and culture. We have five such centres, in St. John's, Gander, Grand Falls, Corner Brook and Stehpenville and these have been described by Maxim Mazumdar, an internationally attained actor and director, as, and I quote, " Five of the best designed and equipped theatres in the country, Some Provinces do not even have a comparable one". There have been in recent years many examples of resurgences of activities in the traditional arts and crafts. We have had several publications dealing with our history and heritage and several cases of documenting

MS. VERGE: of our past with inspiration from individuals. Again we have had activity in some arts, theatre primarily, also painting, but in most of these cases the activity has been directly due to the inspiration and initiative of a relatively few individuals who do this part-time along with their regular full-time employment, along with their responsibilities for caring for children and managing households. It has been largely a voluntary effort and, of course, a characteristic of any voluntary effort is that there tend to be rather sporadic movements and benefits which fade and go out altogether as the individuals move on or find that they have to devote most of their energy to other activities. This has certainly been true in theatre in Corner Brook, where the main amateur company for many years has been the Playmakers, and they have done a lot of good work over the years, but depending on the dedication and interest of individuals who happen to be participating at any one time, the level of activity has varied greatly. Presently things are on the incline through the dynamism of a couple of individuals, and something that has breathed a lot of new life into amateur theatre in the Province overall has been the work of some professional companies. Last Summer there was established for the first time a full-fledged professional theatre company called Theatre Newfoundland and Labrador, directed and spearheaded by Maxim Mazumdar, comprising four actors, young people from our Province. The value of an Arts Council of the type to be created under this legislation, as I see it, is to bring together a group of individuals from different parts of the Province with different backgrounds and interests in the arts, some of whom who are practising artists themselves, others of whom appreciate the arts but hold positions with various members of our business community who are in a position to contribute financially to the development of the arts. In this way, such a Council with such a combination of people will be able and will have a mandate to develop a co-ordinated policy on the arts and crafts in the Province to give some continuity to efforts of artists throughout the Province and to provide some consistency in the levels of funding, so that the momentum and development in the arts is not entirely dependent on the initiative

MS. VERGE: of the few individuals here and there who can find time from their other commitments.

It has been interesting that a lot of the dramatic development in arts and crafts in the Province in recent years has come about through the efforts of people who have moved to our Province from other parts of Canada or other parts of the world. I think this is so, in part, because these people, having a different perspective, can more fully appreciate some of the benefits which are inherent in our Province in the kind of heritage and tradition that I mentioned first, and also in the physical facilities that we have.

So, in conclusion, I will say again that I personally

MS. VERGE:

strongly support the establishment under this legislation of an arts council. I see that it will be able to develop a comprehensive policy on the arts, that it will provide continuity to efforts. And I would hope that among the beneficiaries of this arts council will be the students in the schools who have been getting improved education programmes in the arts. They have been getting instruction in art, drawing and painting. They have been getting instruction and coaching in theatre. Of course there are many other areas of the arts which are not being explored with our students on a comprehensive basis but are dealt with on an ad hoc basis depending on the teachers available or the school.

I would just like to mention one indication of the level of activity among our high school student population in theatre and that is in the high school theatre festivals. This year the amount of participation in that festival is unprecedented. The number of schools which have taken part in regional festivals is sixty-seven and the finalists will be performing at the provincial festival at the St. John's Arts and Culture Center on May 1st, 2nd and 3rd. And I would hope that after the establishment of the arts council and the benefits that that will bring that these young people will be among the first beneficiaries of the arts council. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (BUTT):

The hon. member for Port au Port.

MR. HODDER:

Mr. Speaker, -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. HODDER:

- I would just like to add a few words to the debate on this bill. I understand that today may be the last chance to do so. I feel as other members of the House, that this is a good bill and perhaps something that we have long waited for and it may cure a lot of the problems that we see with the folk arts and with culture, I suppose, in general in the Province. It is a very simple bill,

MR. HODDER:

Mr. Speaker, in that it merely sets up a group who then will handle requests and funding and all that sort of thing for the various groups who are interested or who have talent in the Province. Mr. Speaker, I do hope that this group will work well because I think if this becomes, if they take over the handle, I suppose, take the handle firmly and weld themselves into an effective group that they will carry an awful lot of weight in the Province, and if they do their job well it will certainly be to the benefit of artists in the Province.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to give an example of where we lack at the moment and where the bill can perhaps help us. We have in the Bay St. George region a group called the Sonatinas. They are a vocal group from ages eleven to sixteen. A few years ago at a Rotary Festival an adjudicator from the mainland came down and sort of flipped out when he heard them. He just was totally surprised and had nothing but absolute and genuine praise for them and I think this has happened on a number of occasions where a group which we have here in the Province, unknown pretty well to the rest of the Province, has been given high praise by people coming into the Province to adjudicate at Rotary Music Festivals and Drama Festivals and things of that nature. But this group is an excellent group. The problem, Mr. Speaker, is that a little while ago they were asked to make a tape and

MR. HODDER: submit it to Prince Edward Island so that they could take part in a music festival. What happened was a request was put out, I suppose, throughout the national newspapers and throughout national magazines asking groups such as this to have a tape made and submit the tape, and on that basis they would be chosen. Of course, I guess there were a number of groups in this Province that did that, but the Sonatinas, to give you an idea, they are run totally by one woman, Mrs. Jean House, who gives fully of her time and who is a very, very dedicated person and is a person who is well-known for her efforts in the field of music in the Province. But, you know, to get that tape made and get it made professionally - we have a recording studio in Stephenville, and, of course, it was done cheaply because the fellow who runs the recording studio knew the problems that this group was having - they had to go down there. The cheapest it could be made was \$150. Here is a group of great talent having trouble just making the tape to submit. Now they submitted the tape and they were chosen to represent the Province along with, I believe, a school in Corner Brook, the Presentation Choir. Those two groups were chosen to represent the Province and now, Mr. Chairman, they are having trouble raising the funds to take themselves to Prince Edward Island. Now here is an example of a group that badly needs funding, and I have spoken with the minister and passed on the request for any help that can be given, but I understand as well that the minister's office, of course, as he points out, is the worst, I suppose, group to evaluate that sort of thing. Perhaps when this Arts Council is put into place they will be able to look at groups of this nature around the Province and be able to give them funding, so that they can travel, not only to travel so that the rest of Canada can see them but so that, perhaps, we can see them ourselves. So, you know, there, Mr. Chairman, is a case which I find to be - I find it hard to believe that a group with so much talent and a group with so much promise does not have the finances to be able to

MR. HODDER: to travel to Prince Edward Island. They are selling tickets now at the present time, they are doing this and that, and no doubt they will get there. But it is wrong when the effort should be going into the development of a group like this, that they have to spend their time trying to raise money.

Mr. Chairman, one other thing I would like to talk about as well is that very many of our Newfoundland bands - we have two or three which have achieved national prominence - some of our well-known Newfoundland singers achieved their prominence on the mainland, I must say, but one of the problems that they have here is competing with mainland bands that come in from the mainland and - I am not saying that that is wrong, that we should isolate ourselves in any way, that we should not have mainland bands coming into the Province - but it does sometimes give an unfair competition to a band which has to raise tremendous amounts of money to buy its expensive equipment and everything else. I am told that it is horrendous to have all the proper equipment that you need to compete, and then have to compete with bands that come flowing in here through the club circuit all the time. I think that sometimes we lose, that some of those groups give up because they cannot get paid as well. I think one of the problems, as well, may be that they do not have the opportunity, particularly in the smaller areas of the Province or the rural areas of the Province, they do not have the chance to develop a stage presence. If you look at many of the bands, there is such a thing as the type of - you know, I am told that very many of them - there are places where bands can train and they can learn stage presence. I was just talking to a person who is involved with the arts and culture centres, and I know it is a very different place to be in an arts and culture centre than in a club, but that was the criticism that they had of many of the local bands, that they did not have the type of stage presence to be able to put off the same type of show.

MR. J. HODDER: Perhaps', Mr. Speaker, we might have some workshops to instruct some of the bands from the Province who show promise to be able to -

MR. STAGG: a select committee to go around and visit them all.

MR. J. HODDER: Yes, that would be good. I think the hon. member frequents places of that nature from time to time. Perhaps the hon. member would - we would not need a Select Committee, he could perhaps just from his knowledge.

Mr. Speaker , as well, we do offer, too, in our Arts and Culture Centres, the opportunity for local artists to take part. We bring in from time to time, groups that travel across the Province, and I understand that it is for a very reasonable cost. A local group can take part in the Arts and Culture Centre, can get it - I think they have worked out certain rates. The ushers are paid for by the Arts and Culture Centre and the tickets are paid for by them and there is a split on the door, 75/25 - that sort of thing, and in most of the areas, I think, in the Province that the local presentations, the local skits and variety shows and all that sort of thing - and I am thinking outside of St. John's because that is the area I know most about - but the local presentations, the local singers, the Seville Singers in Stephenville, the Sonatinas or whatever groups that Port au Port review - you know, I am sure that goes on all across the Province - that these have filled houses.

But I wonder sometimes, Mr. Speaker, if we should not open up our Arts and Culture Centres a little more so that we could give them the sort of a promotional package - when we have a good group here in the Province who might want to travel the Province, that we might be able to give them the type of promotional package that we often give to groups coming in from outside. Because there is no trouble, Mr. Speaker , to know when a group from outside is touring through the Arts and Culture Centres. But I do not know if we have gone far enough, although I do understand now that the group, the Carol Players, the group

MR. J. HODDER: from Labrador City, will be doing that sort of thing. I believe that they will be the first drama group to ever go through the circuit of the five Arts and Culture Centres. I am told that they are a very fine group and I believe this is a first. I think that it is a good thing and I would like to see more of that sort of thing happening. If we have drama festivals where, you know, it does not even have to be the drama group that comes first, I think that all of those groups should be given the right to travel through the Province. I think that would create a healthy competition among the drama groups in the Province as well, Mr. Speaker,

The only other thing that I would have to say on this particular bill, Mr. Speaker, is that for some time now, I have been interested in the folk festivals that go on. I attended one at Gros Morne the year before last. I did not attend the folk festival here in St. John's last year, but I had hoped that I could be in here at that time. Where we bring all our folk singers and musicians and whatever into one place, what I would like to see, Mr. Speaker, - and I suppose when the Arts Council is set up, perhaps they will consider something like this - but what I would like to see is a series of regional folk festivals in various regions of the Province - geographical regions of the Province. Because what we would be doing then - you see, Mr. Speaker, if you talk about Port au Port and you think about folk music, you think of Emile Benoit, and there is no doubt that Emile Benoit is perhaps better known outside the Province than he is in. He went to a folk festival in New Hampshire the year before last and this was a folk festival with people from all over the world, and the cover of the brochure they passed out to those hundreds of thousands of people who attended that particular folk festival, had his picture on it. And he has travelled from B.C. - he is totally on the go all the time, usually for honorariums, but he does not mind that. And sometimes he has played at local clubs here in St. John's. He is a good musician.

MR. MORGAN: Get Rufus Guinchard.

MR. J. HODDER: No, but I am just thinking of my own district now. I know Rufus as well - it is probably the same sort of thing.

MR. J. HODDER: But the point I am trying to make is that we - not only am I trying to tell everybody that Port au Port probably has more folk singers and step dancers than any other part of the Province -

AN HON. MEMBER: They have more fiddlers.

MR. J. HODDER: - and more fiddlers and accordion players.

But, Mr. Speaker, what I would like to see - you know, even though Emile Benoit, through his own great skill and talent, is well-known, there are so many who have just as much talent or almost as much talent, or in other types of music have talent as well but they do not get a chance to compete. Now, in our part of the area - and I look at the member for Stephenville (Mr. F. Stagg) there - we have the clubs there. In the afternoons everybody brings along - if you go down to Stan's Place in Stephenville or you go to the Piccadilly Club in Piccadilly on a Sunday afternoon, everybody from all over the region, all sorts of people, come along with their guitars and their fiddles and their spoons and whatever you can think of, and they play all afternoon.

AN HON. MEMBER: No charge.

MR. J. HODDER: No charge, people just come in to listen to them.

MR. F. STAGG: Extemporaneously.

MR. J. HODDER: Extemporaneously, yes, that is a good word.

But, Mr. Speaker, I feel that a series of regional - and I have considered myself and have talked to some people and the thing has slipped a little bit now, of having a folk festival in that particular area in the Province. I would like to see a series of regional folk festivals, perhaps culminating in a large folk festival each year somewhere in the Province - somewhere like Gros Morne, somewhere where you have a lot of land and all sorts of things and you have the proper electrical hookups and all that sort of thing. And I think that we perhaps would find an awful lot of musicians and actors and people who can do all sorts of things that we would not know about.

MR. J. HODDER:

I attended in the community of Mainland, which you heard me - Mainland is known for its bad roads, but it is known for something else as well, and I did not realize it until last year. This community, a very small community, does not have a community centre. Well, the community centre is not much bigger than where Mr. Speaker sits there, it is just a little small - it was an old chapel, I think,

MR. J. HODDER: and the town has tripled in size since that and -

MR. STAGG: It was big enough for a Tory meeting.

MR. J. HODDER: Well, yes, that is right. You could not have a Liberal meeting there because it would certainly be too small for a Liberal meeting but the Tories could very well, in Mainland, have a meeting in that place. But nevertheless this community never before had a party as a community and apparently the French group there got hold of some funds and they decided that they were going to have a party - a community party - first time ever in the history of the community which goes back to the days when the French were here on Red Island. So I attended and I suppose for these last 200 years or whatever people have been getting together and they have parties and they have them in their homes and I found the greatest bunch of step dancers I have ever seen in my life. I have never seen anything like it, every single one of them. I could not believe it. I mean, if you brought in Steps to Stardom - I am telling you I have never seen anything-and nobody ever knew, nobody ever talked about the people from Mainland and the way that they can step dance. And they have their own way of doing it.

MR. STAGG: Did the hon. member step dance?

MR. J. HODDER: Oh, yes, the hon. member step danced too and he stayed there until about somewhere around four o'clock in the morning.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. J. HODDER: Anyway, Mr. Speaker, these were some of the things I wanted to bring up, that we should make use of our Arts and Culture Centres, we should make sure that they are used by our own local groups more, we should help groups that show promise and talent like the Sonatinas who I hope the minister will- seeing that they are just about in his district, and they are made up of some people from my district and his district, perhaps, that they will be funded, hopefully, if they have problems getting to Prince Edward Island. And I would like to see a greater emphasis put on

MR. J. HODDER: searching for talent and musicians, and I feel that there is an awful lot of unfound talent in the Province and I would like to see a series of regional folk festivals throughout the Province culminating in a large folk festival somewhere in the Province in a suitable location each year which would be billed not only because every other province does this, you know -

MR. NEARY: And no (inaudible)

MR. J. HODDER: Oh, certainly not. What next am I going to hear, Mr. Speaker? Did you hear that, Mr. Speaker?

But not only should the folk festival be an all Newfoundland thing; that last folk festival, once we have had our regional folk festivals each Summer, that last folk festival should be advertised far and wide right throughout the width and breadth of Canada and the United States, in a proper location in the Province, and then we can show the rest of the country and show the rest of the world what talent we have here.

Those are just the few words that I had to say, Mr. Speaker, and I hope that they will not fall on deaf ears.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

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

MR. W. HOUSE: Mr. Speaker, I rise to say a few words on this bill, "An Act Respecting The Establishment Of A Newfoundland And Labrador Arts Council." Of course, I do not think I have heard any adverse reaction to the bill, I have listened in the last two or three day it was on. As a matter of fact, I heard a lot of good speeches, very, very good ones, and the great thing I saw come out of it was the development of the disco cousins, the member for Stephenville (Mr. F. Stagg) and the member for LaPoile (Mr. S. Neary), who had members, of course, of their districts competing for a Believe It Or Not competition. And they danced -

MR. NEARY: (Inaudible) were dancing.

MR. W. HOUSE: - and they were dancing together

MR. W. HOUSE: That is why I called you the disco cousins. And we did hear, of course, from the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. D. Jamieson) and the Premier, their support for this particular bill and, of course, everybody has spoken in the same vein. And I think a bill of this nature, which is going to promote the culture and the arts in Newfoundland, can do something that I have wanted to see done for a long time. As an educator, I thought that was one of the greatest weaknesses we had in the Province.

The traditions of Newfoundland - and I have not travelled in a lot of places. but I have been in the Maritimes, I have been on the Atlantic Seaboard and I find, of course, that we have a lot more or we used to have, I do not know if we have got it now or not, a lot more creativity. There seems to be a lot more creativity and, I suppose, part of it was due to our isolation and we had to make our own sport and fun as it were. You can pick up the Peacock book of songs, there are three volumes of it, and a lot of them are Newfoundland songs. Of course, a lot were Maritime songs also. And that one that was put out by Gerald S. Doyle a few years ago, again, as somebody mentioned, that that was one of the things that did a lot for the culture of Newfoundland. And it seemed to me, of course, as I was in schools and teaching, that all of this was not getting through to our young people. I have been sitting down night after night watching this Reach For The Top

MR. HOUSE:

programme and they can do pretty well on physics and chemistry and all this kind of thing but when it comes to the Newfoundland questions I can outstrip them anytime. And it seems to me that there is not - I cannot do it in physics and chemistry by any stretch of the imagination - but when it comes to the Newfoundlandia they do not seem to know too much about it, which shows, I think, an appalling lack in our school literature. One of the -

MR. NEARY: Do you know there are more (inaudible) in Newfoundland per capita than there are (inaudible)?

MR. HOUSE: Yes, I do and we call it Easy Off. That is the kind of hair dressing that I use, Easy Off. Yes, I know that and we have a lot of other categories of people too in the Province that I would like to mention. But one of the things I think if you look back at the history of the Province and look at their writings and their songs - I often wondered why the song, "I'se The B'y" was so prominent. And, of course, the whole point of it is it just exhibits the confidence that the Newfoundlander had in himself, there is nobody else like him. That is one of the great things that we - and the people seem to think that we think we are inferior. I always say that Newfoundlanders by their songs and by their stories and their way of life they live never considered themselves inferior, they always considered themselves to be, I think, a little bit superior and their sense of humor shows that.

MR. STAGG: There are no flies on them.

MR. HOUSE: There are no flies on them, that is correct. But the Newfoundlander was kind of shy, so he was a bit humble but never inferior. And all our traditions have shown us to be that kind of people, humble but not inferior. And a lot of people have taken this humility that we have for inferiority and that is wrong. I have looked at these songs like, "We'll Rant And We'll Roar Like True Newfoundlanders", and what could be more determined or "I'se The B'y", you know, there is nobody else like me.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Sing us one.

MR. HOUSE:

These are things - I can sing these too if you want but I am not going to do it today.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

By leave! By leave!

MR. HOUSE:

"Harbour Le Cou" , and some of the others.

MR. STAGG:

He knows the words.

MR. HOUSE:

I know the words. I know the songs.

Now, Mr. Speaker, one of the other things.

I was interested in listening to the member for St. Barbe (Mr. Bennett) because we were talking about a stretch of the coast and he was talking about the culture and the losses in the Province. But one thing, you can go in any part of the Maritimes, any part of Maine and you can pick up a Maine dialect, or a Nova Scotia way of life but you can go in almost every community in Newfoundland and find that they have different traditions. I remember one time, and the member for St. Barbe will remember this because we used to have American people come into a place called Portland Creek. I used to work there. And they said to me one time, "How is it that you can take somebody from Daniel's Harbour and somebody from Portland Creek and they have a completely different dialect and they are living five miles apart?". And I had not recognized it but it is true. And you can go to practically every community in the Province and you will find this. And there are a lot of, as I say, traditions, a lot of stories that are flavoured by, of course, the Newfoundland dialect that we are rapidly losing.

I just want to mention, you know - and

I mentioned these two songs and the kind of people, of course, who have gained prominence. You have to mention people like Art Scamell, whose songs have gained national prominence. I think we can look at some of the others too -

MR. STAGG:

E.J. Pratt.

MR. HOUSE:

E.J. Pratt. Well, of course, E.J. Pratt was, I guess, the greatest poet laureate that ever Canada had. I am sure

MR. HOUSE:

that I never read any poetry emanating from any other poet so great as that coming from E.J. Pratt.

But the member for Port au Port (Mr. Hodder) mentioned the people from that particular area and I have to say that you are exactly right, your are right on. I never saw as many fiddlers, that kind of fiddler in my life as I saw from that particular area. I used to work in the woods one time and the fellows that came in from that particular area, from around Black Duck, working in the woods out there, if they did not have a violin, well, they would make one. They would get what they called the old Hi-Plane can and make a fiddle and play a tune on it. And just about everybody could do it. And I thought this was a tremendous talent, of course, one that I was never, ever able to emulate. But there is one person that never got mentioned yet in all of this and this is this fellow by the name of Rufus who was just about eighty years old who has a fan club now, Rufus Guinchard has a fan club, or had a fan club, in Alberta and they had t-shirts made, I think, and they were boosting these. I saw them on national television there one night and I believe the writing that they had across it was, "Rufus Is No. 1st". And, of course, he is truly a legend in his own time, with all due respects to Emile, but Rufus was always a great fiddler but he was late

MR. HOUSE:

getting into the national scene, I just want to put that in the record.

Now, Mr. Speaker, one of the purposes of this bill and the purpose of the act is to establish a Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council to foster and promote the study, enjoyment and the production of works in the arts of the Province and to encourage the preservation and the public awareness of cultural heritage. That seems to me to be a great objective, a great objective for any literary course, literature course, in any of our schools in the Province. I am sure that if it is not already written in the aims and objectives of education, that part of it should be there because there are so many things that are lacking. One of the things that I always thought when I was Minister of Education and when I was an educator is that we seem to be able to do everything else but the kind of thing that means so much to people. I think what it was, it was taken for granted that we knew all these things, we knew all about our past, but that was not the fact. I think history is going to bear us out, that we are going to forget a lot about our culture if we do not make a concerted effort by this means to revive it and to relive it.

I remember a few years ago I was, as a superintendent and as a principal of a school, trying to beef up what I called our industrial arts program. We were trying to see what peculiar things to Newfoundland that we were not doing that we could be doing. For instance, somebody mentioned a filling of snowshoes, and I advertised for a teacher for industrial arts and I wanted a person who was able to do that kind of thing. I never ever got a response. Somebody in Labrador, when I was up in Nain speaking at a conference up there, said, "You know, we got our school here but one of the things - there is hardly an Innu person, a young person, who knows how to make a snow house, which is a skill". It is unfortunate that these things were not fostered in our schools, but I think with this and with an emphasis by government in funding, we will get these kinds of things

MR. HOUSE: revived and our schools can do what they were meant to do in part, and that is promote the culture in which they exist.

Mr. Speaker, you know, I am one of these kinds of persons who find it a little bit difficult to funnel out \$700 or \$800 for a painting. But we have some of the greatest artists in the Province, too, and you look at the Blackwood paintings, I cannot afford them but they are very unique paintings. He has been a credit to this Province.

MR. THOMS: You need another raise.

MR. HOUSE: We need another raise, okay. We have the Pratts, a family of man and wife, and then Sheppards, again another man and wife team, and, of course, I must say, in my own district - perhaps you have not heard of a very great artist in that district by the name of Roberta Green who has had displays of art in various parts of the Province. So we do not have a shortage of any kind of people, artists, and I am sure that this bill is going to seek out more and more as time goes on. I did not mention - one precaution that I would suggest that we would make in this respect is that I do not think everything we do and say should be promoted as art, because I believe we can go overboard with that, but there are some excellent writings and writers in this Province. Of course, we have mentioned them before and I do not want to reiterate, the Horwoods is a good case in point.

AN HON. MEMBER: Smallwood.

MR. HOUSE: Well, I would suggest that is another thing that we want in this Province, is somebody to write an authentic history of this Province and make sure, because I do not think there is one - if you look back in our history, if you go back, you will see I am talking about a full history. There have been some good parts written, no doubt, but a full history of the Province? I think Prowse was the last one that did a comprehensive thing, and I think that was a lot, perhaps, more fiction than it was fact.

April 22, 1980

Tape No. 946

GH-3

MR. HOUSE: Certainly it was not classed as a full
authentic history of Newfoundland. I think that is something, in
order for us to preserve our past, that we are going to have to
commission and get done,

MR. HOUSE:

some kind of a history of the Province. Now the -

MR. F. ROWE:

One has been done.

MR. HOUSE:

Pardon?

MR. F. ROWE:

One has been done by the new senator.

MR. HOUSE:

Is that a history of Newfoundland or

is that -

MR. F. ROWE:

A comprehensive history of Newfoundland.

MR. HOUSE:

I knew that he was doing some history

of education, I knew that.

MR. F. ROWE:

Not just education.

MR. HOUSE:

But he is doing a full one now is he?

That would be interesting.

MR. ROBERTS:

There is nobody better qualified.

MR. HOUSE:

No, I would say that that is a fact because

out of all the writings, I might say, of Newfoundland, particularly with regard to some of the cultural history of the Province I find his writing very much attuned to what I think about it too although I am not a historian.

MR. ROBERTS:

All you teachers are the same.

MR. HOUSE:

Yes, that is right. Anyway, Mr. Speaker,

I just wanted to point out that I am going to support this bill as everybody else has and that we do have a lot of talent in the Province and I saw evidence of that when I was out in Corner Brook to the Cabinet meeting. Somebody came in from the folk arts and these were fellows who were playing the spoons, masters at it and just wanted some support or to give us some idea of what was going on in the folk arts in the Province. I attended some of these festivals that the member for Port au Port (Mr. Hodder) mentioned and I was amazed at the vast array of talent and the different kinds.

The main thing I just wanted to underscore though is to point out that I think that the very aims and objectives of this bill can be written in our literature programmes in the Province and

MR. HOUSE:

that I am sure that as this goes ahead and people have generated an interest, we will see our pupils being exposed to both the present and the past culture of the Province. So, Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to say these few words and point out my enthusiasm and say that I do support the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (SIMMS):

The hon. member for Grand Bank.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. THOMS:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to have a few words to say on this historic piece of legislation. In the beginning I was in support of the legislation but there is a condition attached now to my support for this legislation. As you may have heard, on Tuesday of next week, we are going to be unfurling in the House of Assembly a flag for the Province of Newfoundland. At lunch time today we had a luncheon meeting whereby the one person outside the select committee who had access to the design of the provincial flag, the minister who introduced this bill into the House, the Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Culture (Mr. Dawe), we had him along to lunch so we could show him what we were going to recommend to the House of Assembly for a new provincial flag. The Chairman of the Committee, not having our original design, decided to draw a picture of the flag to show to the minister. One big surprise I got was that the hon. minister did not turn it down outright at luncheon time today because it was the worst piece of art that I think I have ever seen in my life. And I will support the bill provided that the member for St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter) never gets a grant in aid of any sort in the field of art under this act or never be a commissioner or director or anything, that he stays away from this particular field entirely.

But apart from that, having said that, of course, the Opposition, members of this party are supportive of this piece of legislation. So far in the debate I have not heard - there was one and my friend from LaPoile (Mr. Neary) reminded me of this, there is one

MR. THOMS:

piece of Newfoundlandia that was not mentioned and that is our own provincial anthem, "The Ode To Newfoundland" which is probably one of the most beautiful odes that I have ever heard. And it is beautiful because, you know, it depicts, it brings out peace and tranquility and love,

MR. L. THOMS: you know, unlike the national anthem of the United States where the rockets red furl and machine-guns and you expect everything to burst out around and another war to start. But the Ode to Newfoundland, the one written by Sir Cavendish Boyle and which has been officially recognized as the provincial anthem by an act of this Legislature, it is a beautiful ode. We will leave history to record whether or not we are going to have a beautiful flag.

Mr. Speaker, Newfoundland, of course, abounds with artistic talent. I was a teacher one time before I was crazy enough to go into law, and I taught in what we call a sole charge school in St. Chads in Bonavista Bay. I think in that classroom I had more musical talent than is probably in this House of Assembly today. A number of those kids could play every known instrument, any instrument they could get their hands on, and play it well. And I have known in other areas of the Province an awful lot of people who had the talent but never had the opportunity.

Sometimes I believe that we are not doing enough in this Province, and hopefully, that will change. The member for Terra Nova (Mr. T. Lush) and I were talking the other night about the sports programme in this Province and the cost of sending, for example, minor hockey teams or minor soccer teams or baseball teams or what have you, to the mainland of this great nation where they can get some good competition. And we were wondering why the government has not approached, for example, Air Canada, which is a Crown corporation paid for by the taxpayers of this country, or approached E.P.A., who I understand are subsidized by the people of this Province through the government of this Province, and why, when we are sending minor hockey teams or baseball teams or soccer teams or what have you, to Halifax or Montreal or Toronto or any of these places - why they cannot go free of charge? In many cases, the airplanes are going up half empty. Or why could not these airlines be requested to donate a charter to some of these groups? In the overall subsidy plan and in the overall cost to the people of this nation, it is not going to mean that much more, but it would

MR. L. THOMS: give the kids of this Province -
and it costs a lot of money to send a seventeen or eighteen or nineteen
man minor hockey team, for example, away.

The same thing, for example, with our
swim teams. We had a swim team in Halifax this weekend. And I know how
much it has cost me to send my child to the mainland this year to swim
competitively. And in that particular case, the association - in my case,
the association was paying two-thirds of the air fare. Now there are
other parents, of course, for whom the association will only pay one-third
of the cost of sending the child to Halifax. But there is no reason why
some sort of a programme or agreement could not be reached with our two
major airlines so that teams across this Province could have the opportunity

MR. L. THOMS:

compete with other teams in other places in Canada. And it is just not for the sports competition that they are going to get but it is of tremendous educational value. I was down to Marystown and Fortune with two minor hockey teams this weekend. It was not for the hockey experience that those kids got going down there and playing, but they got a tremendous experience being able to associate with other Newfoundlanders their own age in other places where normally they might never see Grand Bank they may never see Fortune. So there is a tremendous educational value in these things. But, Mr. Speaker, as I said, I am certainly with the rest of my colleagues and obviously with the government members supporting the bill. But I am not prepared to stand here and say that it is the greatest thing since the wheel was invented. Since June 18th - I mean this particular act certainly will apply to the Premier of this Province because if there was anybody ever fiddled, if there was ever a Nero that fiddled while this Province is burning it is the present Premier of this Province. Nothing! Nothing! I do not expect the Minister of Lands and Forests or the Minister of Public Works to agree with me, Mr. Speaker. I am not that stupid that I would expect them to agree with me but I am saying it. What have we seen before this House since June 18th ?

AN HON. MEMBER: Constructive (inaudible)

MR. L. THOMS: Constructive? You know, there is a fish depot in my district in Grand Bank and I have been trying -

AN HON. MEMBER: 40,000 jobs (inaudible)

MR. L. THOMS: Why do you not listen and find out?

Either that or go back to your seat and get in Benedict Arnold and have a chap with him! One or the other.

AN HON. MEMBER: Where are the children (inaudible)

MR. L. THOMS: There is a fish depot owned by the government of this Province in St. Lawrence. Since June 18th I have been -

MR. STAGG: Is it relevant?

MR. L. THOMS: Of course it is relevant. I have been - a bait depot. I have been trying to get fifteen thousand dollars for insulation for that fish depot. I cannot get it so the squid spoil or they have to go to Lamaline or they have to go to Fortune and haul it down. And what am I in here debating? What did we spend two or three days on? An act respecting the establishment of a Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council.

MR. YOUNG: Why do you not vote against it?

MR. L. THOMS: No, I cannot vote against it, I am supportative of the bill. I am not voting against it but what I am saying, the time of this House could be better taken up by debating other matters. I mean, we have unemployment problems, we have problems with our bait depots. We have other - Sir,

AN HON. MEMBER: When are you going to cross the House?

MR. L. THOMS: You ask me when I am going to cross the House? I will tell you when I will cross the House and I will tell you who will put me across the House, it is the people of my district. Because I will have the intestinal fortitude to go down to the people of my district and ask them if they want me to sit over there. I will not have the decision being made by the Premier of this Province or anybody else on that side.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. L. THOMS: And now do not ever ask me again, because I have absolutely no intentions. And do you know something? If somebody on that side of the House wants to walk across to here and if this caucus decided to accept that person then I would sit as an independent -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. L. THOMS: -because I happen to believe that the person should have the -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER(Baird) I would like to remind the member of relevance.

April 22, 1980

Tape No. 949

RA - 3

MR. L. THOMS:
was being very relevant.

I really thought, Mr. Speaker, that I

MR. L. THOMS: Certainly in defense of myself, I did not bring up the subject, it was brought up by a comment across the House and I just wanted to explain my position.

MR. F. STAGG: He has nothing to say but he is trying to (inaudible) out.

MR. L. THOMS: If the hon. member would like to speak, Mr. Speaker, he should first be in his own seat and secondly should be recognized by the Speaker and until that time he should keep quiet. But maybe he does not like sitting there anymore. Maybe he is a little bit uneasy sitting in that particular seat now. Maybe he is. I know I would be uneasy there. I certainly would be uneasy sitting in that particular seat now. No wonder he spent all afternoon up here. I do not blame him one bit. I would get further up. I would go up where the hon. the member for Fortune - Hermitage (Mr. Stewart) is sitting right now.

AN HON. MEMBER: (inaudible)

MR. L. THOMS: If he felt like that, of course, he would not sit over there at all.

MR. F. STAGG: We are blood brothers.

MR. L. THOMS: Now, Mr. Speaker, this is the momentous legislation that that particular member we are eluding to walked across this House. So they could be part and parcel of this. Mr. Speaker, as I was saying there is more important things to be discussed in this House. This is an act that we could have had brought in here and passed in half an hour. So what have we done? We have wasted two or three days talking about it.

MR. DAWE: Why do you not sit down and we will vote on it.

MR. L. THOMS: I will sit down when I am good and ready to sit down. I have just as much right to be on my feet as the hon. Minister of Lands and Forests. Just as much right because I think it needs to be said and I think you need to hear it.

MR. L. THOMS: Mr. Speaker, there are more pressing problems in this Province; unemployment, problems in the fisheries, the high cost of living, So what has this enthusiastic, energetic young Premier of this Province done since June 18 apart from bringing in an Act Respecting The Establishment Of A Newfoundland And Labrador Arts Council?

MR. S. NEARY: He has had his picture taken ten times a day.

MR. L. THOMS: Oh, he has done one thing. He has certainly talked enough about oil and gas. He has talked about that ad nauseam. He has managed to get into the confrontation position with Quebec that he is presently in. But it is all a camouflage, Mr. Speaker,

MR. S. NEARY: A red herring.

MR. L. THOMS: It is a red herring. It is nothing more than a red herring. And in a certain respect this act, the Matrimonial Act, the Act Amending the District Courts, the Act Amending the Embalmers and Funeral Homes, they are all nice things. But what has this administration - What have they done since June 18?

MR. F. STAGG: Talk about the unemployment rate, how it has dropped since.

MR. L. THOMS: Yes, tell me how it has dropped. Tell me how it has dropped. Tell me how we still do not have a thirty-three per cent unemployment rate in this Province.

MR. SPEAKER: (Simms) Order, please!

MR. L. THOMS: Just go ahead and tell me. Tell me how we do not have an unemployment rate of thirty-three per cent.

MR. HANCOCK: There are not enough left in Newfoundland to haul up a punt, they are all out in Alberta.

MR. S. NEARY: There are several thousand out in Fort McMurray.

MR. STAGG: (inaudible) beer down in his place.

MR. HANCOCK: You do what you like in your place and I will do what I like in mine, all right?

April 22, 1980

Tape No. 950

MB - 3

MR. L. THOMS:

As I said there are more important things for us to be doing. And we should try to get this type of legislation

MR. L. THOMS: through without too much delay.
But I would suspect that there is nothing momentous to come before this House that this government, this administration and the Premier will fiddle until this Province burns. And they are waiting for the oil and gas. I sat in a Committee this morning and the first thing was oil and gas. Everything turns on oil and gas. What this administration is saying is that there is nothing we can do. The Premier flung his arms up and said, 'There is nothing I can do unless we have oil and gas.' And that is nonsense. There is lots that can be done in this Province today if this administration would put its mind to it and get off legislation - which is fine in itself, but you know, it is just a waste of time.

MR. S. NEARY: Tell us about Confederation Trust.

MR. CARTER: Tell us about Confederation (inaudible)

MR. L. THOMS: Yes, that might be -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

AN HON. MEMBER: There is the first sign of a separatist over there.

MR. L. THOMS: If this administration has its way, that will be history too.

MR. S. NEARY: (Inaudible) the fellow who wants to haul down the Union Jack.

MR. L. THOMS: I am not overly concerned if the Union Jack flies over this Province.

MR. S. NEARY: The Stars and Stripes will be flying over in ten years time.

MR. L. THOMS: But that concerns me. What concerns me, Mr. Speaker, is that the Maple Leaf will not be flying over this Province if the Premier of this Province and this administration and the member for St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter) have their way. That is what is going to happen in this Province.

MR. F. STAGG: A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (Baird): A point of order, the hon. the member for Stephenville.

MR. F. STAGG: The hon. member has been going on now for about fifteen minutes. Not once has he been relevant. There is a rule which we passed in the House of Assembly in 1973 or 1974 talking about needless repetition, needless tedious repetition. This is both irrelevant, needless and tedious, and I suggest that we get on to some speakers who have something to say. I have already had my kick at it, so I cannot speak again, otherwise I would be glad to. But the hon. member has nothing to say, Mr. Speaker.

MR. E. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. E. ROBERTS: If ever anything was needless, tedious and unbearably painful, it is the intervention in this sense on a so-called point of order by my learned friend from Stephenville.

MR. F. STAGG: Your friend from Stephenville.

MR. E. ROBERTS: No, my learned friend from Stephenville. The depths or extent of his learning is not something to which I can testify, but he is my learned friend and I think he revealed what he was up to when he said he cannot speak again in the debate but he wished he could, and then said what little he had to say.

Mr. Speaker, the rule is there. It was written in circumstances which the gentleman from Stephenville would recall.

I believe he is the only person ever to have invoked it and I believe I am the only person against whom it has ever been invoked. And it has since then, Sir, fallen into the desultude which is its natural, inevitable and proper lot.

My friend from Grand Bank (Mr. L. Thoms) is making a most excellent speech; he is being terribly relevant to a bill -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. E. ROBERTS: - to set up an Arts and Culture Council in this Province. The matters to which my learned friend from Grand Bank - and he is not only learned, but I can testify to the depth and width and breadth of his knowledge which is as the sea, Sir, limitless and boundless and forever moving.

MR. E. ROBERTS: But, Mr. Speaker, the point is that what he is saying goes to the heart of the culture of this Province, Sir, the very pith and essence, the very soul, the heart.

MR. F. STAGG: Heart transplant.

MR. E. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, if anybody needed a transplant, Sir, it is the gentleman from Stephenville. And I am not at liberty due to the bounds of good taste -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (Baird): Order, please! Are you speaking to the point of order?

MR. E. ROBERTS: I am speaking to the point of order, Sir, and the bounds of good taste, if not the bounds of Parliament prevent me from saying what kind of transplant the learned gentleman from Stephenville needs.

MR. S. NEARY: Not a heart transplant.

MR. E. ROBERTS: But I suggest, Sir, that what my friend from Grand Bank (Mr. L. Thoms) was saying is in order and he ought to be allowed to proceed without this harassment, this needless, tedious, offensive and unwarranted harassment of the learned gentleman from Stephenville.

MR. S. NEARY: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: To the point of order, there is no point of order. I would ask the member for Grand Bank to carry on.

MR. L. THOMS: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. No trouble to know when you are hitting home with a few truths, Mr. Speaker. No trouble to know. The member for Stephenville is on his feet. The learned gentleman from Stephenville is on his feet. When you are hitting home with a few truths - and the member for St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter) the same way - when you are hitting home with a few truths you get them on their feet.

MR. THOMS: Mr. Speaker, what I am saying is very simply - I can certainly speak for the district of Grand Bank which I represent. There is lots of culture there. Of course, there is lots of culture there, but I am telling you that there are more pressing needs in my district at the moment, there are more pressing needs in my district at the moment, than whether or not we have a commission for the arts or an arts council in this Province. That is simply the truth of the matter. As I say, there is the Winterland Road to be paved. There is the \$15,000 that I have been trying to get out of the Department of Fisheries for the bait depot. That is more important than what the Minister of Health (Mr. House) had to say on this bill this afternoon, much more important, much more important to these people. Go down to St. Lawrence and say, "What would you rather have, \$15,000 to insulate your bait depot or \$15,000 under this particular piece of legislation?" You know what the answer will be and I know what the answer will be, but as I was saying, Mr. Speaker, this act is brought in, and I think it is relevant to speak of the camouflage attempt of this administration by bringing in these particular bills and spending two or three days in debating them. This is their priority. This is what the member from Baie Verte-White Bay (Mr. Rideout) wanted to get on the other side of the House so he could be a part of. Nothing at all to do with oil or gas. This is what this Province right now is waiting for. Everything has been suspended. Everything has been suspended.

MR. CARTER: Surely goodness his time is up.

MR. THOMS: I presume that I will be advised when my time is up. But this is what we are doing and this is what we have been doing since June the 18th; the Matrimonial Act, An Act Respecting Dispensing Opticians, and then the Bay St. George Community College Act, you know, An Act Respecting The Drilling Of Water wells, An Act Respecting Amusement Rides, that should be a good one. I have not read that one yet. That should be a good one. That should certainly be a priority in this Province. That should bring the unemployment rate down considerably. I expect, to all intents and purposes, we will be fully

MR. THOMS: employed by the time we get around to that act. What is this? An Act To Ratify, Confirm And Adopt An Amending Agreement Entered Into Between The Government And Burgeo Fish Plants.

MR. NEARY: Do not forget the Union Jack, now, they are going to haul her down.

MR. THOMS: Do not try to embarrass me now, I am part of that one. There is one to - the Mineral Act, the Public Works and Services Act.

MR. STAGG: (Inaudible) anything to do with minerals.

MR. THOMS: Yes, there is an act to provide for natural areas of the Province to be set aside for the benefit, education and enjoyment of present and future generations of this Province. All momentous legislation. We had the Municipalities Act in the last session, we had the Matrimonial Act, and then we : provided, I think, for the setting up of a district court down in Wabush somewhere, and now we have the Arts Council Act, none of which is going to -

MR. HANCOCK: Get the roads paved in my district.

MR. THOMS: - get the roads paved in St. Mary's-The Capes or going to provide the health facilities for Labrador.

MR. STAGG: All roads are paved in St. Mary's-The Capes.

MR. THOMS: No, you know what we are waiting for to provide the health facilities in Labrador and to pave the Winterland Road and get the \$15,000 for the bait depot, we are waiting for that black stuff to come in.

MR. NEARY: Now, here is a dandy. You forgot this one. Look, An Act To Amend The Members Of The House Of Assembly (Retiring Allowances) Act.

MR. THOMS: Well, I am not about ready to retire so I do not have that much interest in that act at the present time.

MR. NEARY: They are, They are.

MR. THOMS: They are, that is right.

MR. THOMS: But, Mr. Speaker, I think I have said some things that I felt needed saying. I am sure that not all members are going to agree with me, but I think some of them might be pretty sheepish, you know, in a lot of these matters. I am sure a lot of members on the other side of the House could use the money that is going to be filtered through under this particular act for something more beneficial in their district. The member for

MR. THOMS:

Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir I am sure can use a lot of money.

MR. NEARY:

More (inaudible) in your district than in any other part of Newfoundland. Do you realize that?

MR. THOMS:

So, Mr. Speaker, while supporting this bill and giving the bill the credit that it is due I cannot help but point again that the one person that this act really applies to is the Premier and the administration of this Province. And I say again that this Province is burning while Nero is fiddling. Thank you very much.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (SIMMS):

The hon. Minister of Tourism. If the hon. minister speaks he will now close the debate.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. member for the Strait of Belle Isle.

MR. ROBERTS:

Normally we would allow somebody else, not allow, I mean the normal course is somebody else on the other side would speak. Are we to understand there is nobody over there who wishes to speak?

MR. HISCOCK:

I would like to speak.

MR. ROBERTS:

Okay, well my friend from Eagle River also wants to speak so there will be at least two of us and perhaps some others will want to speak before the minister speaks.

MR. HOUSE:

(Inaudible).

MR. ROBERTS:

I am sorry, my friend, the Minister of Health (Mr. House) is saying something?

MR. HOUSE:

The hon. minister is saying you should get the bill through. You know, we were killing time, he was saying and now it is the other side that is killing time.

MR. ROBERTS:

When the minister speaks he kills time all the time. He kills us too by boredom.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

The hon. member for the Strait of Belle Isle wishes to speak?

MR. ROBERTS:

Yes I do, Sir, and if it is in order I would proceed to do so and if one of the clerks would be kind enough

MR. ROBERTS:

to pass me a copy of the bill, and they have already done, but if I could have another one.

MR. NEARY:

You mean you have not read it yet?

MR. ROBERTS:

I have read it several times, I would say to my friend from LaPoile (Mr. Neary), the question is whether I have understood it. Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues have, I think, made it - Mr. Speaker, let me say now that I have an auditory problem and the auditory problem leaves me to hear and even if I do not comprehend what gentlemen on the other side say and I, as it has become clear to any who were not aware of it -

MR. STAGG:

Hearing too many Tories.

MR. ROBERTS:

I could never hear too many Tories, Sir, it is like, you know, the Tories, my friend from Stephenville (Mr. Stagg) speaks of, remind of the case of the gentleman who many people regarded as a fool but many were not certainly until he opened his mouth to speak of it. And when I hear the Tories speak then that reminds me of that. What I do hear is the Minister of Health (Mr. House), a gentleman and an estimable man speaking a little too loudly, some converse he has going with my friend from Lewisporte (Mr. White) or my friend from St. Mary's-the Capes (Mr. Hancock) or my friend from Grand Bank (Mr. Thoms) but, you know, I wish they would have their tete-a-tetes a little tete and a little less noise. That is all I say. I mean I do not quarrel and if the hon. gentleman wishes to interrupt me well I think I am one of these members who -

AN HON. MEMBER:

(Inaudible).

MR. ROBERTS:

Well, I welcome the challenge and sometimes in a battle of wits I lose and sometimes I win and I am prepared to take it in the same good spirit as when my friend from Humber Valley district (Mr. House), who lives in Deer Lake enters into it.

Sir, the bill is a good one and insofar as it goes we are quite prepared to support it. There is no question of that. The speakers on this side beginning with my friend from the

MR. ROBERTS:

district of LaPoile (Mr. Neary), I think, have made it quite clear. We are not sure how far it goes. We are not sure what it will achieve but I think it is a tentative step and as such it should be welcomed. I thought my friend from Grand Bank (Mr. Thoms) made a very pertinent point and it has been made by other speakers on this side, that, you know, the bill in itself is hardly the answer to the troubles of this Province. It is not the answer to all the prayers of all the maidens and I know Your Honour is familiar with the prayers of the maidens of at least part of this Province.

MR. STAGG:

He has answered them.

MR. ROBERTS:

I am sorry. My friend from Stephenville is at it again?

AN HON. MEMBER:

He says he has answered them.

MR. ROBERTS:

He may have answered them, Sir, he may in fact have answered them but I was going to say that that was hearsay in the legal sense. I do not know whether his knowledge is first-hand or otherwise, second-hand or whether it is unhandled but in any event the bill is hardly the answer to the needs of this Province. That does not take away from its merit but it perhaps puts it into perspective. You know, of all the things we need today in Newfoundland and Labrador,

MR. E. ROBERTS: an arts council, I am sorry, an arts council, it is on the list but I would say that it is well down the list and I would simply say to the Minister that while I welcome this I hope he will shortly apply his undoubted talents, his perhaps, unbounded as well as undoubted talents to matters that are even more productive of the general good of this Province. And that is a criticism, it is a very fair criticism, it is one which I would commend to the minister. The Minister of Tourism has a great challenge. The tourist industry in this Province is not what it ought to be. It has over the years suffered from the ministrations of my friend from St. John's East extern (T.Hickey), benefited from the ministrations of my friend from Ferryland (C.Power). and I believe the first minister was Mr. Tom Doyle, a friend of the gentleman from - a number risk - but the gentleman from Ferryland had his differences of opinion with Mr. Tom Doyle who was at one time, for one term or two terms-he was twice elected in 1971 and 1972 as the member for Ferryland. But the point is we have not done the job on the tourist industry in this Province, we have not begun to do it so I hope that when this bill is adopted by the House, as it will be very shortly, the minister can put it aside, let the Arts Council do its work in the normal way and we will go on from there. The members of the council is in place. I think they are splendid people. Some of them are perhaps new to the cultural world and all the more welcome because of it. Some of them are men and women who are widely known for their interest in artistic and cultural activities and that is all the more welcome too. Let them get on with it, let us see what comes out. The success of this council, I would say to the minister, and I believe it can be successful and I certainly hope it will be, the success of it will depend almost entirely on the ability of the minister, his colleagues, his officials and his political friends, on the success of those people, in keeping their hands off the council. Nothing will kill what I believe is a worthwhile endeavor, and I believe it to be entered into

MR. E. ROBERTS: with laudable and proper intent, nothing will kill it quicker than any political interference, any partisan political interference. There is going to be politics in it because they tell me that politics in the arts and cultural world are exceeded in their bitterness and in their variety only by the politics of churches. And I would say to the members of this House, Sir -

MR. NEARY: (inaudible) Medical Profession

MR. E. ROBERTS: Well, the legal profession is not bad either but I would simply say, Sir, having over the years been engaged in a number of political exercises, and I have some scars to show and I have inflicted a few in my time and maybe more to come, that the politics in which we engage through the public life of the Province is not only not the only politics in the Province but in many ways is by far the gentlest, the most polite and sometimes even the most productive. So there is going to be politics in the arts council and that does not particularly bother me. The people who are picked and the people who advise them by definition are going to have views and generally these views will be strongly held. Have we not already seen - is it Mr. Peter Bell? - who writes quite an interesting art column published in the Evening Telegram from time to time, I think once a week. I believe Mr. Bell has already given us his views on this and I have heard from others of my friends, and some of my best friends are artists I like to think, so do they like to think, both that they are artists and my best friends, that, you know, there are strong views on the people involved, strong views on the merits of the various works that they put forth and that is unavoidable. It is a very subjective business because one man's art is another man's non-art. I mean, it is not like the learned gentleman from Stephenville. We all agree he is a first class lawyer and there can be -

AN HON. MEMBER: (inaudible)

MR. E. ROBERTS: - he told me to say that and I will say it without any hesitation. There can be no challenge with that view, Sir, that he is a first class lawyer, that his work as a legal beagle, as a gentleman learned in the law is beyond challenge, beyond

April 22, 1980

Tape NO.954

RA - 3

MR. ROBERTS: parallel. Mind you, there are some courts that do not feel that way but some courts feel that way about my work too, I hasten to say. But in the world of the arts Sir, there is rarely unanimity.

MR. STAGG: What was that peculiar word you just used?

MR. ROBERTS: The member for Stephenville is peculiar ? I did not say he was peculiar, but if he feels that way -

MR. STAGG: What was that peculiar word you used?

AN HON. MEMBER : It will be in Hansard tomorrow.

MR. STAGG: Unart ? non-art?

AN HON. MEMBER: Non-art.

MR. ROBERTS: Non-art. N-O-M-A-R-T.

MR. E. ROBERTS: Like non est factum sum, which more or less describes the gentleman from Stephenville (Mr. F. Stagg) from time to time.

Mr. Speaker, if I may come back.

I am on the track but I may waver somewhat, stagger.

MR. S. NEARY: You are no match there 'Stagg', boy, you are no match.

MR. E. ROBERTS: Now, Mr. Speaker, the point I am making, I think, is a very valid one and I would commend it to the minister, that he will have to take on and swear on faithful allegiance to a self-denying ordinance, that the first time somebody comes to him and says, 'I would like to get a grant from the council,' or 'I would like some project to be favoured by the council - What can you do?' whether that somebody be his wife, if she has artistic inclinations - she has obviously shown good taste.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. E. ROBERTS: She is related to me? Well, I am glad. It just shows, Sir, she has excellent fortune as well as good taste. Or whether it is one of his colleagues in the Cabinet or whether -

MR. F. STAGG: (Inaudible) have a purge.

MR. E. ROBERTS: The hon. the gentleman from Stephenville is the product of a purge, if not the beneficiary of one.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. E. ROBERTS: Or whether it is his Premier or whether it is - I do not care who it is - or whether it is just somebody who wants to lobby the minister, that his response to that man or that woman will be, 'Look, I am delighted to hear from you. I will do what I can for you. What I shall do for you is give you the name, telephone number and address of the Chairman of the Council or the executive director, whoever the point of communication is in the Council.' I do not need to belabour the point, but I do want to say that I think that is absolutely critical to the success. I think the success of the Canada Council - and it has been successful - has been that the politicians in Ottawa of all stripes have adhered to a self-denying ordinance in respect of the Canada Council. That is the way it ought to be. There is going to be enough controversy. I can say to the minister now that

MR. E. ROBERTS: not only is my advice sound in the interest of the Council and the interest of the cultural affairs of this Province that this Council is intended to try to promote, but I will tell him for his own sake it is good advice, because there is nothing in this world that will cause him more grief than becoming involved in artistic controversy, particularly if, as far as I know is the case, he does not hold himself out as being of an artistic nature or an artistic temperament. He is like most of us, perhaps he - What is the phrase? - 'I know what I like when I see it.' And that kind of thing perhaps, describes the minister - and I do not say that unkindly. I, too, know what I like when I see it and sometimes what I like is what other people like, sometimes it is not. Is it not a grand world in which we live?

Mr. Speaker - now, my hon. friend from Stephenville (Mr. F. Stagg) is cheering me. That, Sir, causes me considerably more anguish, considerably more trouble, considerably more wonderment, than would his normal bellicose beneficence.

MR. E. ROBERTS: How are we doing?

MR. NEARY: You are no match, boy. You are no match.

MR. YOUNG: (Inaudible)

MR. E. ROBERTS: I would say to my friend from Harbour Grace by way of Upper Island Cove that he should not enter into this, because the wittiest people in this Province, Sir, legend tells us, are from Upper Island Cove and my friend from LaPoile (Mr. S. Neary) declaimed upon that at some length and it is true. The people of Upper Island Cove have a great sense of wit, and one of the greatest examples of their wit, Sir, is that they perpetrated upon us the gentleman from Harbour Grace (Mr. H. Young). I think that proves the point.

MR. YOUNG: I will be here for years to come.

MR. E. ROBERTS: Maybe the hon. gentleman will be here for years to come, Sir, I have no way of knowing. When I see what the electorate have returned to office in this Province, Sir, I simply stand back and I renew my faith in democracy. And I tell you, Sir, every time I look at the gentleman from Harbour Grace, it renews my faith in the democratic process.

MR. HOLLETT: Not unless his own business takes him.

MR. E. ROBERTS:

Mr. Speaker, let me come back -

MR. H. YOUNG:

(Inaudible).

MR. E. ROBERTS:

Mr. Speaker, I would rather have run -

it is better to have loved and lost, I say to my friend from Harbour Grace (Mr. H. Young), than never to have loved at all. And not only has he never loved, Sir, I venture to say that he, in that sense, has never been loved.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY:

I can vouch for that.

MR. E. ROBERTS:

Now, Mr. Speaker, if we -

MR. F. STAGG:

The last fellow to let you down.

MR. E. ROBERTS:

Well, I will tell you, when I go, boy,

he is not the fellow I want to send me away. I want to go first-class. I want to go with Geoff Carnell, that is the way I want to go. I do not want to be let down by the gentleman from Harbour Grace, he has let me down enough over the years.

MR. F. ROWE:

I want to go up in flames, myself.

MR. E. ROBERTS:

Well, I say to my friend from Trinity -

Bay de Verde, he may not go up in flames but he goes down in flames on occasion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. E. ROBERTS:

Now, Mr. Speaker, I wish my hon. - I am

trying to make a point and the point occasionally escapes me, if, in fact, it was ever there. Fortunately, I will not finish by 6:00 P.M. We are not going to

MR. ROBERTS:

sit this evening, so I will have two days, I believe, to gather my wits as best I can and try to organize a thought or two, because this is, to me, a terribly important subject even if the bill itself, you know, is of passing importance in dealing with an important subject. The question of the cultural life of this Province is one that -

MR. NEARY: They are talking about Confederation across the House.

MR. SPEAKER: (Simms) Order, please!

MR. ROBERTS: I do not know what they are talking about, but I would simply say that my auditory problem is bothering me again. My friend from Menihek (Mr. Walsh) and my friend from Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) are tete-a-teting and I wish they would have more 'tete' and less 'a'.

MR. NEARY: Confederation Trust is what they are talking about.

MR. ROBERTS: Well, they may be talking about Confederation Trust, they do not know.

Mr. Speaker, maybe the best thing to do in kindness to all concerned is to see if my friend, learned, dignified and honourable, from St. John's East (Mr. Marshall), will agree to call it six, in which case I will move the adjournment of the debate. Are we to carry on with this jollity on Thursday? I mean, should I take tomorrow and Thursday to organize my thoughts or will we be doing something else?

MR. MARSHALL: We have two things open: the Premier's estimates and this bill, so it will be one or the other and I can let the hon. gentleman know tomorrow on it.

MR. ROBERTS: Okay, well I will move the adjournment of the debate and whenever it comes back, Sir, I shall launch forth into the fray again with undiminished vigour, vim, vitality and vibrant enthusiasm, carried away as I am by the minister's eloquence, art, feeling, passion and above all, Sir, his concern for the cultural life of this Province, which I fully endorse.

MR. SPEAKER: (Simms)

The hon. President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL:

Before moving the adjournment of the debate, Mr. Speaker, I might announce, as has become customary, that the Social Services Committee will be meeting at the Colonial Building tonight from 7:30 to 10:30 and the estimates under consideration will be those of the Department of Education.

Mr. Speaker, I move that the House at its rising do adjourn until tomorrow, Wednesday, at 3:00 p.m. and that this House do now adjourn.

On motion, the House at its rising adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, at 3:00 p.m.