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PRELIMINARY  
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TRANSCRIPT

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY  
FOR THE PERIOD:  
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1980

The House met at 3:00 P.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

Sergeant-at-Arms: Mr. Speaker, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor has arrived.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Admit His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.

May it please Your Honour, the General Assembly of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador has, at its present session, passed certain bills to which in the name and on behalf of the General Assembly I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

A bill, "An Act To Authorize The Lieutenant-Governor In Council To Enter Into An Agreement With Erco Industries Limited". (Bill No.83)

A bill, "An Act To Provide For The Repeal Of The Churchill Falls(Labrador) Corporation Limited (Lease) Act, 1961 And The Lease And Amendments Thereto Executed Under That Act And The Reversion To The Province Of The Rights And Liberties Leased Or Granted To The Lessee Under The Lease." (Bill No. 85)

A bill, "An Act Respecting Juries And Compensation Of Jurors In The Supreme Court Of The Province And Compensation For Certain Witnesses In The Courts Of The Province." (Bill No. 67)

A bill, "An Act Respecting The Assessment Of Real Property And The Imposition And Collection Of Certain Taxes In The City Of St. John's." (Bill No. 84)

A bill, "An Act To Amend The Fishing Ships(Bounties) Act (No. 2)." (No. 86)

A bill, "An Act To Amend The Municipalities Act." (Bill No. 88)

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A bill, "An Act To Amend The  
Education (Teachers' Pensions) Act (No. 2)." (Bill No. 89)

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR: In Her Majesty's name I assent  
to these bills.

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

The Second Session of the Thirty-Eight General Assembly of this Honourable House of Assembly is about to be prorogued, but before releasing you from your duties I wish to convey to you my appreciation for the careful and sympathetic attention you have given to the important matters brought before you by my Ministers.

Major legislative initiatives were enacted during this Session of this Honourable House of Assembly, particularly in the areas of resource development and management, environmental law and the administration of justice.

In the area of the development and management of our resources, major bills were enacted during this Session. My Government was most pleased that this Honourable House passed The Upper Churchill Water Rights Reversion Act. This Act has as its purpose, the realization of vested rights for our people by the return of unencumbered ownership and control to the Province of the Upper Churchill water rights. My Government is convinced that when this Act is proclaimed into force, fairness and equity in the utilization of the Churchill Falls hydro resource will be achieved.

In accordance with my Government's desire to see a more equitable return for the price paid by industrial users of electrical energy, this Honourable House passed an Act to authorize my Government to enter into an Agreement, negotiated by my Ministers with Erco Industries Limited, to vary the 1966 Agreement with respect to the payment to the Province for electrical energy used by the Long Harbour plant. This will result in payment by that Company of electrical rates from three to twelve times those originally provided and, for the first time since

THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR:            its establishment, Erco Industries Limited will be a net contributor to the Provincial economy.

Earlier during this Session, An Act to incorporate the Newfoundland and Labrador Petroleum Corporation was passed. In accordance with my government's policy of controlling the rate of potential development associated with our offshore petroleum resources, and as a means of participating in that development, the Petroleum Corporation, a Crown owned Company, has been authorized by law to explore for, develop, refine and market petroleum.

The Fishing Ships (Bounties) (Amendment) Act was passed during this Session. This amendment will enable the ship building industry to expand.

The Mineral Act, 1976 was amended during this Session to provide for, among other things, the reversion to the Crown of rights to out-of-production mines held otherwise than under the Act.

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

My Government was determined that the time had come for Newfoundland and Labrador to have its own distinctive flag. During the previous Session of this Assembly, a Select Committee of this Honourable House was constituted to make recommendations for such a flag. After due deliberation and consultation with people throughout the Province, the Committee made its recommendations during this Session and, as a result, The Provincial Flag Act was enacted providing for the adoption of a new distinctive flag. My Government is confident that this new flag will be flown proudly by our people in the succeeding generations of our history.

Also during this Session, An Act to Establish a Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council was passed to foster and promote the study, enjoyment of and production of works in the arts of the Province and to encourage the preservation and public awareness of cultural heritage.

In an effort to bring before my Government matters relating to the status of women and public matters of interest and concern to women, An Act to Provide for an Advisory Council on the Status of Women was passed during this Session.

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

In the area of the administration of justice, a new Juries Act was passed during this Session. This Act, among other things revises and reforms the law relating to jury service. The major reform is with respect to the qualifications and exemptions for jurors. As a result, the large number of classes of citizens presently exempt from jury duty will be greatly reduced. In this Act, women are also treated equally with men. The District Court Act, 1976

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR: was amended to provide for the appointment of an additional District Court Judge and an additional Judicial Centre at Happy Valley-Goose Bay.

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

As an indication that my Government is greatly concerned about the environment of the Province, The Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act was passed. It authorizes the setting aside of certain wildland areas in the Province for the benefit, education and enjoyment of the people of the Province. Natural areas in the Province could be designated either as ecological reserves or wilderness reserves and certain activities would be prohibited and programmes established in those reserves. The Environmental Assessment Act was also passed by this Honourable House to protect the

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR: environment of the Province. This witnesses my Government's determination that before any industrial undertaking is commenced an environmental assessment will be conducted to ensure that any undertaking started will not compromise the quality of life of the people of the Province.

During this Session, an amendment was made to The Workers' Compensation Act extending benefits under that Act to our fishermen.

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

In the matter of the proposed Constitutional Resolution currently before the House of Commons and Senate of Canada, this Honourable House passed a Resolution supporting the patriation of the British North America Act but objecting to the present intent of the Federal Government to unilaterally request the Government of the United Kingdom to first cause the British North America Act to be altered, and, in particular, to have imposed in the proposed Canadian Constitution a new amending formula without the consent of the Provinces. The Resolution as passed by this Honourable House also reflects my Government's determination to obtain confirmation of the Province's ownership of offshore resources, shared jurisdiction in fisheries and the right to freely transmit hydro electric power through sister provinces.

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

Among the other significant legislative measures enacted during this Session were The Fisheries Loan (Amendment) Act, The Burgeo Fish Plant Amending Agreement Act, The Public Service (Pensions) (Amendment) Act, The Generic Dispensing of Prescription Drugs (Amendment) Act, The Landlord and Tenant (Residential



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LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR: Tenancies) (Amendment) Act, The  
Municipal Grants (Amendment) Act and The Bay St. George  
Community College (Amendment) Act.

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

I thank you for the large measure  
of supply you have granted. I assure you that the  
appropriations that you have granted will be expended by  
my Ministers with care and efficiency.

It is my pleasure that the Second  
Session of this Thirty-Eighth General Assembly now be  
prorogued and it is prorogued accordingly.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR: Mr. Speaker, as I take my leave, may I wish you and all hon. members of this House a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Order, please!

Before proroguing, may I take this opportunity on behalf of all hon. members of the House to express appreciation to all of those who have assisted us during this Session. In particular, I would like to mention the Sargeant-at-Arms, Mr. Hemmens, as this will be his last Christmas serving us and I know that we will all surely miss him. As well as to all the staff of the House, the clerks and officers at the Table, the Pages, the tape and sound operator, the staff in the Speaker's office, the Clerk's office, the constables, the commissionaires, all of the staff of the Government and Opposition offices, the Legislative Librarian and her staff, the Editor of Debates and the Hansard Staff, particularly the Hansard typists who sometimes have a very difficult task, I am sure. As well, I would be remiss if I did not thank the members of the Newfoundland and Labrador Press Gallery Association and anyone else who I may have missed. All members, I am sure, would like to thank all of these people for their assistance and co-operation.

If I might finally thank all hon. members of the House for their co-operation to the staff and to me and the Deputy Speaker and the Deputy Chairman of Committees in particular. We thank you for your patience and your understanding with respect to the decisions that we have had to make during the eighty-one sitting days of this Session. To all of you and your families I extend best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable Festive Season.

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MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Pursuant to the speech of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, this Second Session of the Thirty-Eighth General Assembly now stands prorogued.