

SECOND SESSION OF THE  
THIRTY-EIGHTH GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY OF NEWFOUNDLAND

PRELIMINARY  
UNEDITED  
TRANSCRIPT

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY  
FOR THE PERIOD:  
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1980

The House met at 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

Mr. Speaker (Simms): Order, please!

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

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

HON. GORDON A WINTER(Lieutenant-Governor):

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

I welcome you to this Second Session of the 38th General Assembly of the Province of Newfoundland.

Since my last speech to the House, we have witnessed the unfolding of events which tell us that we have not only entered a new decade but a new era in the history of both the Province and the whole world.

Events far beyond our shores and beyond our power have conspired once again to place this Province in the vanguard of history.

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

I refer, of course, to developments in Iran and Afghanistan and to the consequent impact upon the world's energy supplies and the cooling of relations between the two great super powers. These events have created a global situation in which the energy resources of this Province have become not merely economically attractive, but the focus of the intense interest of the whole continent.

Given this context, it was perhaps only natural that a major oil find at the Hibernia location in the fall of last year would give rise to tremendous interest nationally and internationally.

As a consequence, this Province and its people will now become subject to economic and political forces unprecedented since World War II when our harbours and airfields were deemed vital to the Allied cause. We must always be aware of the extent and nature of those forces.

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

The social, economic and political challenges which I outlined in my last speech to you still remain and My Government remains committed to the essential program laid out at that time. I would draw the attention of the House to the seven basic strategies which I outlined as the means whereby My Government would seek to meet those challenges. My Government remains committed to the use of those basic strategies.

However, it is apparent that, with the intensification of the interest of industrialized North America in our resources, we must be even more diligent and work all the harder in the protection of our environment, our society and our future. That is not to say that we should in any way be selfish in the management of our resources, and My Government is determined to play a responsible role within Confederation in that respect.

Indeed, My Government is confident that, in seeking to protect the legitimate interests of the people of the Province in the management of their natural resources, we shall have the full support of the majority of Canadians thus demonstrating one of the major strengths of our nation, the ability and willingness of Canadians to recognize the point of view of their fellow citizens in other Provinces.

The policies of My Government on natural resources spring from three essential principles:

First, the fisheries of Newfoundland and Labrador are the backbone of our economy and society and will remain the major component of any permanent solution to our economic problems. The development of our non-renewable resources (especially offshore oil and gas), dramatic as that may be, must be viewed primarily as a short term tool to give us the financial flexibility not merely to pay off past debts and to invest in public services, but more importantly to provide the source of investment in an expanding, dynamic fishery which will be the basis of both a vibrant economy and proud people.

In view of this, proposals for offshore oil and gas development must be carefully analysed and severely tested to ensure that the marine environment and our fisheries are being adequately protected. In this respect, any oil company proposing a particular method of production bears a heavy onus to prove that the suggested mode is environmentally safe.

A corollary to this basic aspect of our future is that My Government recognizes that rural Newfoundland remains, and must continue to be, the major, vibrant and expanding dimension of our social and economic future.

Second, the Province's economic and social destiny is linked directly to the degree of control it has over its natural resources. In this respect, the responsibility of My Government and of all Members of this House is clear.

The people of this Province must not be denied the benefits which can flow from these natural resources and which are morally and legally theirs. It is only by strongly affirming our resource ownership rights that we can ensure that we receive the same benefits that other provinces derive from their natural resources.

Third, the exercise of ownership and management rights over natural resources is a process which requires firm, rational and consistent policies. Our history teaches us that the mere fact of ownership is not enough: that the level of benefits accruing to our people is directly proportional to how their ownership rights are exercised by their Governments.

All areas of natural resource management must receive the most intense attention, both by Members of this Honourable House and by the people of the Province as a whole. The appropriateness of each of our natural resource policies must become the focus of intense debate and study.

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

It is with these three basic principles in mind that I would outline the guidelines which My Government shall follow in formulating its resource management policies:

First, that all My Government's policies will give effect to the essential fact that the people of Newfoundland and Labrador are the rightful owners of this Province's natural resources, particularly its marine resources, and, as such, are entitled to the rightful benefits therefrom. My Government considers this principle to be inviolate and is determined to have this principle recognized.

Second, that the development of our non-renewable resources must always be undertaken in such a way as to protect (and indeed complement) our renewable resources which constitute the long term economic basis of our society.

Third, that the development of our primary resources must be accompanied by the maximum practical level of processing and secondary manufacturing within the Province prior to export.

The true wealth of our resources can only be obtained if they are exported from our shores, not in the raw stage, but enriched by the efforts of Newfoundland workers. In this respect, My Government will place before the House legislation to ensure that a maximum amount of processing takes place prior to the removal of any of our natural resources from the Province.

Fourth, that the net revenues or economic rent generated by resource development will, to the maximum extent possible, be captured and directed to improving the standard of living of our people.

Fifth, that in the development of our resources, we will be aware of the stresses which could be imposed upon our Newfoundland culture, life-style, and society which has been painfully developed through years of isolation and privation.

Throughout the planning of the large scale resource and economic developments which will occur in the next decade, My Government will be ever vigilant to ensure that such developments do not overwhelm those standards and values which constitute, in essence, what we are as a society.

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

The foregoing guidelines will be the basis of all resource development policies formulated by My Government. There are in particular three areas with potential for major expansion to which they are being applied — fisheries, offshore oil and gas, and Labrador hydro. These three sectors will form the leading edge of resource and economic development in this Province in the 1980's and I shall now outline the intentions of My Government in that respect.

As I stated previously, the fisheries are, and must remain, the corner stone of our economy and society. Consequently, it will always receive first priority with My Government.

Indeed, the fisheries of our Province are the *raison d'être* of our people and society and the harvest of these resources has not only been the basis of settlement along our coasts but has permeated every aspect of the social, economic and cultural life of our Province. Control and management of these stocks (particularly of the northern cod stocks) by the government of the Province are imperative.

My Government is determined to achieve confirmation of the Province's special interest in, and rights to, the economic benefits which can be derived from the fish stocks in the seas adjacent to our shores.

The legislative jurisdiction which Canada exercises over these stocks derives solely from the entry of the Dominion of Newfoundland into the Canadian Confederation in 1949. Moreover, it was in reaction to the demands of the people and Government of this Province, and in order to protect the very lifeblood of our hundreds of small fishing communities (particularly on the northeast and Labrador Coasts) that Canada was finally persuaded to claim a 200-mile limit. In international law, the ability of Canada to claim such a limit was based primarily upon the historical and moral rights and the existing economic dependency of the small fishing communities along our coasts.

My Government recognizes that the process of amending the Constitution is a slow one, while the problems of the fishery are urgent. In view of this, My Government will articulate a set of principles which it believes should, in the interim, direct the Federal Government's management of the fisheries resource in the waters adjacent to the Province.

These principles would not violate the historic fishing patterns of fishermen from any other province. Nor would their implementation by the Government of Canada violate any aspect of the Constitution of Canada.

They would, however, protect the interests of the fishermen of this Province, and form the basis of an effective federal/provincial co-operative management process pending constitutional change.

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

There has not been, since Confederation, a full debate on the proper management regime to be applied to this Province's fisheries. Consequently, My Government will be presenting to this Honourable House a White Paper on the development of our fisheries and will invite comments by the various sectors of the fishery and the public as a whole upon the manner in which our fisheries can be best managed.

While the whole area of fisheries management and policy is a complex one, certain features are desirable:

- (1) The fishery resources of the seas adjacent to the Province should be exploited by residents and landed in the Province subject to the historic pattern of fishing by other Canadians;
- (2) that the management and licencing process must proceed from cleared criteria and in a regular manner, with sufficient public input;
- (3) that the Government of the Province must play a major role in such a process to ensure that the interests of the Province are protected;
- (4) that all fish landed in the Province receive the maximum amount of processing possible before removal from the Province; and
- (5) that the structure of the industry favour owner-operated vessels and processing in a multitude of smaller plants to protect the continued economic viability and lifestyle of our smaller communities.

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

Offshore oil and gas constitutes a major challenge to the continued viability, and indeed the very existence, of our fishery and the society upon which it is based.

The challenge to our fisheries may, if care is not taken, come in three main ways:

- (1) damage to our fragile, marine environment itself;

- (2) loss, over time, through excessive industrialization and urbanization, of the basic skills that are so important to the fishery; and
- (3) competition for the labour force upon which fishery depends.

Indeed, if our offshore oil and gas resources are not properly managed, then our efforts to build a long-term, stable economy and society based on our fisheries will be all for naught. It is vital that our offshore oil and gas policies stem from that basic perspective.

In order to protect our society and to maximize our benefits, My Government will take the necessary steps to ensure that the Province's rights with respect to its offshore oil and gas resources are preserved and recognized. In this respect, My Government seeks the support of all Members of this Honourable House.

If we are to manage our offshore oil and gas resources, we must acquire the necessary skills and capability.

During this session, an amendment to the Department of Mines and Energy Act, 1973 will be introduced to formally establish an Offshore Petroleum Directorate. The mandate of this Directorate (which is already in operation) will be to administer the Province's Petroleum Regulations and to play the key role in the management of its offshore oil and gas resources.

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

It is an essential, and the most historic, feature of the province's Petroleum Regulations that for the first time the Province will from the start participate directly in the development of its own natural resources.

This will be accomplished through a 40% share of each and every producing field in addition to our royalties and taxes. This 40% interest entitles the Province not only to 40% of all oil or gas produced but, as importantly, the opportunity to guide and shape investment decisions as the biggest partner in each of the various industry/government consortia which will develop and operate the different fields.

Thus, the Province will be a major participant in all decisions relating to the development of every offshore oil or gas field. In view of the development at Hibernia, My Government will place before the House during this Session a Bill to incorporate the Newfoundland and Labrador Petroleum Corporation (NLPC) and will, if such legislation is passed by this House, proceed with the appointment of the first Board of Directors and Officers so that the Newfoundland and Labrador Petroleum Corporation can be ready to exercise its interest in the Hibernia field if commercial development should go forward.

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

Development of a commercial field cannot go forward until a lease is issued by the Province. Upon the issuance of a lease, NLPC will have the right to sit on the operating committee of the consortium holding the lease, indeed it will be a 40% partner. As such, it will be in a position to influence the hiring and purchasing practices of the consortium.

In view of the speed at which the tentative planning for the development of Hibernia is proceeding, it is the intention of My Government to request that the representatives of NLPC be given observer status on the Hibernia operating committee effective immediately (that is to say, prior to the issuance of the lease) so that the interests of the Province can be more directly reflected in all decisions of the consortium taken prior to application for lease. It is expected that the Hibernia Group led by Mobil Canada will see that such direct Provincial involvement is in the long term interest of both parties.

Offshore oil and gas poses a challenge to every sector of our society, both in terms of its opportunities and its dangers. It has the potential of affecting in the negative way, not only our fishery, but also the social and economic fabric of our society.

Consequently, My Government has established an Offshore Petroleum Impact Committee (OPIC) to co-ordinate the efforts of the Province in managing the social, economic and environmental impacts of offshore oil and gas. The Offshore Petroleum Impact Committee will specifically co-ordinate and plan activities in the following areas: development planning, education and training, fisheries and the environment, social and cultural impacts and financial effects.

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

It flows from the very fact that offshore oil can touch all aspects of our society that the public must be adequately involved in the planning process surrounding such developments. Hearings under the Public Inquiries Act are already mandatory under the Province's Petroleum Regulations with regard to the issuance of further exploratory permits or a lease for say, the Hibernia discovery.

It is the intention of My Government to hold any company wishing to develop a commercial discovery to the strict requirements of the Regulations with regard to public hearings.

Moreover, prior to such public hearings, it is essential that the people of the Province become knowledgeable in the various aspects of offshore oil and gas. Consequently, My Government will ensure that the basic information



surrounding the Hibernia and other discoveries is made public and will co-operate to the full extent possible with all public interest groups who wish to investigate or comment upon the impact of oil and gas. In addition, special Advisory Committees of the public will be established to work with OPIC.

This intensive preparatory work by My Government is based on the very encouraging findings at the Hibernia and Ben Nevis locations. The information from the Hibernia discovery indicates a strong probability that a commercially viable oil discovery has been made. However, this will only be known for certain after several step-out wells have been drilled, extensive production tests conducted and development costs ascertained. It is expected that such information will be available before the end of 1980.

In the meantime, it is prudent to act on the assumption that a commercial discovery has been made. To do otherwise would be to lose what may turn out to be invaluable planning time. Given the vast potential of our shelf, even if Hibernia is not commercial, it is almost certain that such efforts will stand us in good stead when a commercial field is eventually found.

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

The development of the hydro resources of Labrador will constitute the third major focus over the next decade. Indeed, the development of our hydro resources may be critical if our own energy requirements are to be met. My Government's forecasts indicate that, even with the completion of the Hinds Lake and Upper Salmon projects, if we do not obtain additional generating capability, our Province will face an electrical generating short-fall after 1984 and will thus be dependent upon oil-fired thermal generating facilities for more than 40% of our electrical capability; this in a Province endowed with the greatest single hydro source in North America.

Indeed our dependence on unstable and expensive imported oil for such a large portion of our generating capacity is particularly disturbing in view of the fact that in 1979 more than 80% of Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro's sales were to Hydro Quebec upon terms and conditions which make a mockery of the equities which are supposed to underlie our Confederation.

The present situation associated with the long term sale of power generated at the Upper Churchill is one of the most critical issues that My Government expects to face in the coming year.

My Government's determination in this respect is re-inforced by the fact that as each year passes, the contrast between the benefits extracted by our neighboring Province and the need of our own people for the low-cost power at the Upper Churchill, grows starker.

This problem must, and will, be resolved to the benefit of this Province.

It is vital, then, that we have a sound Labrador power development strategy, for without such a strategy we will continue to see vast economic benefits flow to Quebec and will face a growing shortfall in our electrical generating capability and thus an increasing dependence on the vagaries of international oil markets.

The basic objectives of My Government's Labrador power strategy will therefore be to satisfy Newfoundland's needs for stably-priced electricity in the 80's and beyond and to receive fair economic benefits from all hydro power exported as surplus to our needs as determined from time to time.

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

The particular elements of My Government's policy will be:

1. Continuation of the Province's present legal case to challenge the Upper Churchill contract and conclusion of the work of the special Task Force which My Government has set up to examine all other possible legal and legislative means to alter the terms of the Upper Churchill contract;
2. Based on the court case and on the work of the special Task Force, take the steps necessary to gain unfettered access to Upper Churchill power for the needs of consumers in the Province and to raise the price for all power exported out of the Province;
3. Develop the hydro potential of the Lower Churchill River consisting of 1700 megawatts at Gull Island and 600 megawatts at Muskrat Falls.

It should be a stern lesson to this Honourable House and to the people of our Province that we are now subject to a totally unjust power contract at the Upper Churchill. The lesson we draw from our predicament should not be limited to a determination to correct it but should extend to an insistence that in the future the constitutional rights of this Province are to be defended at all costs.

In this regard, My Government is vitally concerned about the whole issue of electrical power costs to the people of the Province given the low cost of our power sold to the Province of Quebec. In addition to the elements of our Labrador Power Policy, other alternatives are being considered, including:

1. An examination of the rate structure now being used;
2. The introduction of enabling legislation in this Session to govern electrical power subsidies to industrial customers;
3. The expansion of Government's program to provide low cost wood to be used as fuel.

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

My Government is deeply concerned about the long term viability of our forest industry. The destruction caused by the spruce budworm and consequent economic results has led to the establishment of a Royal Commission to study fully all aspects of this problem and to make recommendations on what has to be done to ensure that this valuable renewable resource is protected to the maximum degree possible. My Government is also aware of the continued expansion of our tourist industry. With its great potential, it is a valuable resource development tool for our future.

My Government intends to continue its reform legislative program in this Session and has now ready more than a score of new initiatives to place before you.

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

Unparalleled natural resource development and the rapid expansion of our economy will place new and potentially dangerous stresses on both our natural and social environments. Indeed, as resources are developed, it seems inevitable that changes of a physical and social nature will take place. However, we must be careful, in each instance, to first evaluate both the benefits of resource and economic development and the consequential environmental, social and economic impacts. Only then should we decide, on a rational basis, whether the resource or economic development in question is justified.

Insofar as the preservation of the natural environment is concerned, My Government, in this session, will introduce two major pieces of legislation — the Environmental Assessment Act and the Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act.

The new Environmental Assessment Act will make mandatory the assessment of the natural, social and economic impacts of a wide range of proposed undertakings and the involvement of the public in the assessment and decision-making process.

The Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act, on the other hand, will reinforce the concept that we must be willing to forego some economic development in the interests of the preservation of certain of our wilderness areas which are an essential part of the social and cultural heritage, not only of our native peoples, but of the vast majority of the residents of the Province.

Accordingly, this legislation will enable Government to set aside certain wilderness areas in the Province for the benefit and education of our people thus preserving for all times some of the natural splendors which we have inherited from our forefathers.

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

Just as our natural environment is valuable, delicate and worthy of protection, so too is our social environment. Indeed, our social environment is, if anything, more complex and intricate than any natural eco-system, encompassing as it does our heritage, customs, traditions, culture and social institutions. All of these aspects of our social environment will be subject to considerable stress in the coming decade. As I have noted previously, My Government is committed to instituting measures in resource management which will serve to stabilize and moderate the influence of large scale resource development on our life-style as we enter into a new and challenging decade.

In addition to such measures, it is essential that we maintain our collective sense as a distinctive society within Confederation and that we promote a lively debate upon our past, present and future.

In this respect, I note that during the last Session, a Select Committee from this Honourable House was appointed to enquire into and hear evidence on all matters relating to the adoption of a provincial flag and to recommend a specific design to the House. Honourable Members will remember that the Committee is to report back to the House on April 30, 1980.

The cultural significance to any people of a distinctive flag is well known, and I look forward to the day when we, as Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, will be able to link our collective identity with our own distinctive provincial flag.

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

The state of a people's artistic achievements is a good measure of the overall vitality of any society. I would like to re-emphasize My Government's commitment to the support of the arts community in the Province and note that, in this Session, My Government will be introducing legislation to formally incorporate the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council which has already been formed and is actively discharging its vital mandate.

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

It will not be enough for us to build a sound economy through natural resource development if either our present social or economic inequities

continue or if new inequities arise. This attention to the social fabric is inherent in My Government's placing first priority on the fishery and in its determination to control the impact of offshore oil and gas.

It is also vital that Government's relationship with the people reflect our democratic traditions. Indeed in this belief My Government has pursued a policy of free and open access to Government information. The time has now come to expand and give statutory basis to the policy. I am, therefore, pleased to inform the House that My Government intends to introduce a major reform during this Session in the form of a Bill respecting Freedom of Information. The purpose of the Freedom of Information Bill is to give all citizens the legal right to information contained in Government records subject to certain clearly defined and limited exemptions.

One of the exemptions must be personal information. Modern technology, for all its benefits, also permits scrutiny of a person's private life without his knowledge or consent and the individual frequently has no recourse at law against those who may violate his privacy.

In light of this, My Government intends to introduce a Protection of Privacy Bill that will serve to strike a balance between the need for the protection of the privacy of individuals and the public interest in freedom of information and freedom of speech.

These two bills, if passed by this Honourable House, will make this Province the first in Canada to have taken initiatives in both these areas.

In the last Session, this Honourable House approved My Government's legislation on Matrimonial Property Reform. To continue its determination to fully recognize and improve the place of women in our society, My Government will be introducing legislation to establish an Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

My Government's strong commitment to a continuous process of social reform is not limited to these measures nor to the new Elections Act which will be introduced in the present Session. It is also the source of My Government's firm intention to appoint the Law Reform Commission at an early date in order to ensure a continuing program of reform of the law.

This Law Reform Commission will have the mandate to select those areas of the law most desirous of reform and to subject those areas to expert scrutiny in order to be able to recommend to Government and the public the extent and nature of needed reforms.

While we are the inheritors of a noble democratic legal tradition, we must also be aware of the inequities that remain within our legal system and must harbour a deep, abiding desire to constantly reform our legal system to attain a more equitable society.

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

In my last speech to you, I stated: "that the great question posed today is whether we in this Province are ready to move away from a paternalistic centralized federalism. Are we ready to trust more in our abilities as a society than in Federal transfer payments? We are further challenged by the need to ensure that such a decentralization be accomplished without impairing national unity . . . .";

Those questions remain posed not only to this Honourable House but to all our people.

Since my last speech to you, My Government has for its part answered these questions in the affirmative and has taken decisive steps to make self-reliance a reality. Throughout the whole of Canada, we have seen a growing recognition not only of the natural resource wealth and the economic potential of our Province, but also, and more importantly, the cultural and social vitality of our people.

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

The people of Canada as a whole rejoice in the progress that we have made, and are about to make, for they know that a stronger, healthier Newfoundland and Labrador means a stronger and healthier Canada.

The coming year, indeed this whole decade, will be a momentous one for this Province and its people. I have outlined the program through which My Government proposes to maximize the benefits and meet the challenges associated with the great resource developments which are upon us. Whether we desire it or not, our society is to be put to a very severe test in the coming years. Our ability to meet the challenges that will be presented to us will determine, not only the shape, but perhaps even the continued existence of a distinctive Newfoundland society.

To face such challenges, it will be necessary for My Government to take a strong stand in a number of areas. This will only be possible if it has the cooperation of both sides of this Honourable House and the support of the people of the Province as a whole.

Some of those stands will be taken in order to control the giant multinational corporations which will be involved in offshore oil development.

Other stands will relate to the need for increased fisheries jurisdiction and the recognition of our offshore mineral ownership rights; still others relate to the Upper Churchill. These will, no doubt, give rise to political controversy.

However, no one should misinterpret any aspect of those controversies as evidencing any lack of commitment to the great Canadian experiment which we call Confederation. To raise ones economic sights, to restore ones dignity and to preserve ones heritage is the legitimate right of all peoples. To wish to participate as an economic and political equal with the other nine Provinces of Canada is to be good Canadians.

The year 1980 will see momentous events in the history of our federation. The referendum in Quebec and the debate upon the Ryan proposals for a new constitution will be decisive events in the future of our nation. Indeed, My Government welcomes a chance to participate in that debate and sees it as a healthy sign and evidence of a dynamic society all across the Country.

My Government will, of course, be putting forward to the Government of Canada, and to the other Provinces of Canada, a definite proposal on the constitution which will seek to express the essential dreams and aspirations of all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.

Because of the importance of this issue, My Government's proposals with regard to the constitution will be made public for comment prior to being formally presented to the Government of Canada. It will be an historic debate and one which will no doubt greatly benefit and strengthen both the Province and the nation as a whole.

My Government feels sure that our people will wish this Province's proposal to describe a Canada in which the freedom and right to build a strong Province is not considered inconsistent with a strong, united Canada.

My Government takes the position that these two objectives, far from being inconsistent, are mutually supportive and, indeed, should be our single and ultimate goal. Though sometimes difficult to achieve, that goal is the essence of any Federation and is worthy of our every effort.

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

Let us each re-dedicate ourselves to this great goal and ask for the prayers of our people. I invoke God's blessings upon your labours and may Divine Providence guide and direct you in all your deliveries.

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

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I give notice of the following bill, "An Act To Amend The Motor Carrier Act", and I now ask that this bill be read for a first time.

On motion, a bill, "An Act To Amend The Motor Carrier Act," read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor has been pleased to make a speech to the members met in General Assembly and for greater accuracy I have obtained a copy of the speech.

The hon. the member for Harbour Main - Bell Island.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. DOYLE: Your Honour, it is my privilege today to move that a Committee of the hon. House be appointed to draft an Address in Reply to the gracious Speech from the Throne.

I would also like at this point to welcome to the hon. assembly the most recently elected member of assembly; I refer to the hon. member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Andrews).

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. DOYLE: I would be negligent in my duty at this time if I did not take advantage of the opportunity to offer my sincere congratulations to the newly appointed Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan), the newly appointed Minister of Lands and Forests (Mr. Power) and the newly appointed Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Culture (Mr. Dawe). It is my firm hope that you will each find within the scope of your new responsibilities a measure of reward that will surely come with the knowledge that you have indeed acted deliberately and honestly in all matters pertaining to your respective portfolios.

You Honour, nearly a year has passed since the people of Newfoundland decided to return to



MR. DOYLE: power a P.C. Government under the leadership of Premier Brian Peckford.

During that period our government has been confronted with many a monumental task. We have tackled these problems in a very businesslike manner and as a result we are now, I feel, on a definite course, headed for a definite goal with a definite plan for our future.

Mr. Speaker, I have listened with great interest to the gracious Speech and I am enthused about our future, and I am also very proud of our past. Government has done much to solve our problems. However, much remains to be done. It is at these two levels that I will address myself, both on a provincial and a local nature.

First of all, Your Honour, I am pleased, and, indeed, very pleased to have the opportunity today to address a few remarks on the continuing oil and gas exploration activities off our coast and, in particular, on the social and cultural impact on our people should a petroleum industry become a reality here in Newfoundland. It is a major concern of our people and indeed of our government as it is vitally important that the quality of life in Newfoundland be enhanced rather than desecrated by offshore oil and gas development.

It is true that the development of offshore oil will mean massive new investment, increased employment opportunities and, therefore, the building of an effective economic base upon which our people may achieve financial and economic stability. However, our past has convinced all Newfoundlanders that the manner in which development moves ahead is far more important than the mere fact that it does take place.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. DOYLE: Consequently, I feel it would be erroneous if government did not say at the outset, as we have on many different occasions, that care will be taken in that great

MR. DOYLE: development in order that we may be able to give to future generations an economic legacy that they may be justly proud of.

Now, what will all that mean to people who live in tiny communities along our Newfoundland coast, the people whose way of life, socially and morally, has been the envy of urban dwelling people for many, many years? Temporary work and seasonal employment are no longer acceptable or practical in our Province. Our people need, and they are entitled to, steady jobs on a permanent, year-round basis in order to plan their lives on a sound footing. But by the same token, we must and we will develop that great resource in such a manner as to ensure that our people will not become engulfed in a wave of change such as we have not seen since the coming of the Canadian and U.S. military bases in World War II. That possibility is of major concern to the great majority of our Newfoundlanders, and we as a government, Your Honour, are deeply and are firmly committed to maintaining and improving that particular way of living that has been ours for many hundreds of years.

As a government representative of the oldest district in Newfoundland, Harbour Main - Bell Island, and one that is rapidly

MR. N. DOYLE: developing a great interest in our fishery, I feel that while a great deal of emphasis and importance must surely be placed on offshore oil and gas development, it is my firm conviction also that our Newfoundland fishery cannot, and indeed it must not, take a back seat in importance to oil and gas development.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. N. DOYLE: With a real growth in the value of landings and an increasing world demand for our product, the fishery is no longer a marginal industry. In 1979 the private sector alone invested more than \$25 million in all areas of our fishery. Consequently, offshore oil and gas will most assuredly mean a phenomenal increase in the amount of money available for re-investment in our Newfoundland fishery, and, as a result, a major improvement in the quality of life for our Newfoundland people. However, to achieve the result that will be beneficial for all Newfoundlanders will demand, I feel, a great deal of vision, a great deal of thought.

We as a government are firmly convinced that under the outstanding leadership of our Premier, and with the support of our people, that will be accomplished and development can go forward in an orderly fashion. The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador have the ability to move ahead with the interests of our Newfoundland people at heart, for our people above all else look for reassurance from both government and industry that things will be done carefully and they will be done properly. We are indeed in the middle of a quiet revolution, a revolution of change, a revolution of prosperity, a revolution that will be dedicated to solving our social and our economic problems, a revolution in which all Newfoundlanders can participate.

I am particularly pleased also to see reference made today to our Northern cod and the historic use that we have made of that resource for so many years. Government's position has been indeed made abundantly clear in that regard in that we consider the Northern cod encompassing the entire area from Cape St. Mary's to Cape Chidley to be the basis and the lifeblood of our inshore fishery.

MR. N. DOYLE: No less than undisputed possession of that resource will be adequate or acceptable to the people of Newfoundland.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. N. DOYLE: It is of particular interest to me that this policy be pursued, as its outcome will inevitably mean a great deal to communities like Holyrood, Harbour Main, Chapel Cove and Avondale, to communities like Conception Harbour, Colliers, Marysvale and Bell Island which now want to become involved in our fishery not on a part-time, but, if at all possible, on a full-time basis.

I would also like to add that I am very pleased to announce today that the hon. the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. J. Morgan) has informed me that he will be travelling with me in my district in the weeks ahead to discuss matters that are relative to the fishery in that particular area.

Your Honour and members of the hon. House, I feel I would be remiss in my duties if I did not capitalize on the opportunity to put in a word, if you will, on a problem or two pertaining to my own native area of Harbour Main - Bell Island. As all of you are doubtlessly aware, Bell Island has many problems but none more acute than the problem related directly to transportation, the problem related to the ferry system. In my opinion, Bell Island residents are unknowingly being discriminated against by employers in St. John's who refuse to consider them for employment because of the many deficiencies related to the ferry system. I know of several cases where people actually have lost their jobs because of lateness in arriving at work due to the ferry, a situation, Your Honour, that is not acceptable to me nor to the residents of that particular area.

Now I do not intend to deal today at any great length with constituency matters because I have done so on many different occasions at our last sitting, and the people of my district know by now that I will continue to devote all my time in an effort to

February 25, 1980

Tape 6

EC - 3

MR. N. DOYLE:

solve the many problems both in the  
Harbour Main and the Bell Island portion of the area I represent.

MR. N. DOYLE: That is my job, that is why my constituents sent me here, and I want to assure them that I will not betray the trust that they have placed in me.

In summing up, Your Honour, I want to say that in spite of the many problems facing our country and our Province today that we here in Newfoundland have a future that will surely be the envy of every sector of our great Canadian nation. Our young people, for the first time in their long and their difficult history, are going to be able to say that they believe in Newfoundland with a pride in her past, a fervent belief in her present and a very, very deep faith in her future, for no citizen has a nobler inheritance. But as the Right Hon. Vincent Massey once said, "There is one thing essential to all of these advantages and that is faith in ourselves. In the confused and difficult world we see around us, any province should be pardoned for a moment of hesitation but with all the blessings which providence has given our land we should have no cause for doubt."

In closing, I will take advantage of the opportunity to congratulate His Honour upon the quality of his gracious Speech and to congratulate also the Premier and his administration on the commitments contained therein. I call upon all members for their support in that great effort. Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: (Simms) The hon. member for Fortune - Hermitage.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. D. STEWART: Mr. Speaker, it is a great honour and privilege for me to second the motion so ably presented by my colleague, the hon. member for the District of Harbour Main - Bell Island (Mr. N. Doyle). I have listened to the gracious Speech from the Throne with great interest and anticipation. Being a newcomer to political life, one of the main reasons for

MR. D. STEWART: becoming involved was to try and aid in the social, cultural and economic development, not only of my own district of Fortune - Hermitage but also the total development of our great Province.

I emphasize, however, that our people are going to have to realize and accept their responsibilities to themselves and their children and make every effort to demonstrate that we are indeed a hard working people with pride in ourselves and our great Province. We Newfoundlanders have, over the centuries, developed spiritual self-preservation in the face of hardship to a fine art. We have developed a peculiar language, a catalogue of colourful expressions, unique mannerisms and looks all pertaining to the hard life. I would, therefore, Mr. Speaker, be remiss in my duty and responsibility as the elected member for Fortune - Hermitage if I did not avail of this opportunity to express some of the concerns of the people who truly live by the sea and from the sea.

Mr. Speaker, my district of Fortune - Hermitage is totally dependent upon the fishing industry and that is why I am proud of this government's plans towards the fishery. Newfoundland is unique in that we have the best location ever possible with regard to the fishery. This great Island is like a large fish plant; we are surrounded by the raw material and we just have to utilize our product to the best benefit of our people. We have to make sure, Mr. Speaker, that controls are enforced and that proper quotas are established so that our stocks are not destroyed or depleted beyond replenishment.

In my district, Mr. Speaker, I have three fish plants, one at Harbour Breton, one at Gaultois and one at Hermitage, and a feeder plant or small type operation at Belleoram. I am hoping that a small plant operation will also be established in the lower Fortune Bay area at Little Bay East. Ninety per cent of the working men and women in my

February 28, 1980

Flag No. 7

SD - 3

MR. D. STEWART: district depend one way or another on the fishery and that is why the fishery is of such a great concern to me.

We need, Mr. Speaker, better landing facilities, wharves and slipways, haul-outs and holding units built, not only in my district but also in



MR. DON STEWART:

a majority of fishing districts throughout the province. In many communities, fishermen have to land their boats on the shore at low tide, fork the fish into hand tubs, carry the fish three to six hundred feet, and then fork the fish into fish bins in the holding sheds. Then the fish is forked into the trucks collecting the fish and then again forked out of the truck at the plant. In our fishery, Mr. Speaker, we have to emphasize quality and we must give our fishermen the facilities and the means to produce a better quality product. The prospects, Mr. Speaker, for Atlantic Canada's fishery are for significant increases in tonnage catch accompanied by rising prices for marine protein. Mr. Speaker, the progress and concern shown by this government, and as a prime example the Northern cod issue, the increased fishery budget over the last years the additional monies for the loan board etc., show that finally the fishermen and fishery are placed in a category they deserve. I might add, Mr. Speaker, this realization has been long overdue. The Progressive Conservative government has jumped in leaps and bounds to improve the fishing industry since we took office. I will welcome all members of the House to visit my district and see the growth in the in-shore fishery that has occurred since the two-hundred mile limit was brought into force.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, Hear!

MR. D. STEWART:

In 1975 from Pools Cove to Gaultois, twelve communities in my district - there were three hundred and twenty seven boats less than thirty-five feet and sixteen boats over thirty-five feet with four hundred and eighty-six fishermen. In 1978, in the same twelve communities, we had four hundred and sixty-two boats less than thirty-five feet and forty-four boats over thirty-five feet, with seven hundred and forty-four fishermen. This is one area that could not have grown so rapidly without the Fisheries Loan Board. These twelve small rural communities landed, Mr. Speaker, forty eight million, nine hundred and ninety-eight thousand pounds of fish in 1978, something they can be really proud of. We as a government realize that the fishery will continue to be Newfoundland's main source of revenue and we will build the

February 28, 1980

Tape No. 8

EL- 2

MR. STEWART: fishery to accomodate that which is truly ours.

Mr. Speaker, the fishery resource will be given top priority always by this government and we will continue to encourage more people to take up this very important profession.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, Hear!

MR. STEWART: I am, therefore, especially pleased that the gracious Throne Speech has recommitted our government to the efficient, reasoned and planned development of our resources on land and under the sea. The fishery must and will be developed in concert within a future petroleum industry and I will certainly congratulate our government for the very responsible steps taken to date to achieve this important goal and for the exciting measures outlined in the Throne Speech.

Mr. Speaker, our government has indicated today that our cultural and social fabric would not be compromised in the face of large-scale development. Our people are proud of the sensitivity, strength and leadership shown by their government and are looking, perhaps for the first time in our long, troubled history, with optimism to the challenging years ahead. Mr. Speaker, much needs to be done on a number of roads in my district. In my district there are approximately twelve miles of paved road in the communities from Pool's Cove to Seal Cove. I have to thank the 1973 by-election for this. In the Terrenceville - Bay L'Argent area, there is no paving other than the community of Terrenceville which has some of the roads in that community paved. Nine communities, Mr. Speaker, in my district have no pavement at all. Can you imagine the children playing in the dust, and the women who have to work so hard trying to keep the clothes clean and the tremendous dust problems they have to cope with, not to mention, Mr. Speaker, the unhealthy situation it creates for the children?

My district needs special consideration

MR. D. STEWART: when it comes to road and road paving. We are about ten years behind the rest of the Province. Just as an example, the road to Bishop's Falls, to alleviate the severe isolation problem on the South Coast, was first surveyed in 1950 by Major Hollett and it was not until a couple of years ago that we were able to drive to Central Newfoundland. I would like to see over the next two years, Mr. Speaker, all the community roads in my district paved and special attention given immediately to roads over which we have to transport fish.

Recreation is another area of major concern in my district. We have absolutely nothing, and I mean nothing has ever been done or any money spent to encourage or promote recreation or recreational facilities in my district. I would venture to guess, Mr. Speaker, that there is not another district in all of Newfoundland and Labrador that has had so little done in the field of recreation as the district of Fortune - Hermitage.

I have a number of communities also, Mr. Speaker, that have no water and sewerage services. The provision of water and sewerage service facilities, I think is every community's right and I am sure that this government will continue to place great emphasis on this problem throughout our Island over the next number of years. We as a government have the responsibility to provide these basic necessities to our people.

My district, Mr. Speaker, is heavily dependent on the CN Coastal Service both for freight and passenger service. And I am sure my colleague, the member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir (Mr. H. Andrews), and the member for LaPoile (Mr. S. Neary) can verify that the CN service on the South Coast is absolutely disgraceful. Again, nowhere else would it be tolerated. It is a common occurrence, Mr. Speaker, for vegetables and meats to take eight to fifteen days to go from Port aux Basques or Argentia to many of the communities in my district. Can you imagine the condition of tomatoes, cabbage or meats after fifteen days en route to a community? The CN passenger service also leaves much

MR. D. STEWART: to be desired on the Coast. At times - or should I say most of the time - people travelling on the CN boats cannot even get a place to sit down, let alone lie down. I think, Mr. Speaker, it is our responsibility as a government to make sure our people get better service from CN, especially if we intend to encourage tourism in rural Newfoundland.

Gaultois, Mr. Speaker, is an isolated community in my district that has little or no unemployment due to the fish plant there. And I know, Mr. Speaker, and this government knows, that it is impossible to build a road to that community. The residents of the community, Mr. Speaker, would like to see a ferry running from Hermitage to Gaultois on a regular basis. Considering the size and population, not to mention the high employment in Gaultois, I think the people are justified in asking for, and they should receive, a ferry service.

Education, Mr. Speaker, plays a very important role in the development of any great Province and the proper education and facilities for education are essential especially in the rural areas of our Province. In my district, Mr. Speaker, at present we are desperately in need of two new schools, one at Harbour Breton due to the lack of space for the children. Members of the Provincial Flag Committee who have recently visited Harbour Breton can verify this need after their recent tour of the school building there. Another school, Mr. Speaker, is needed at Rencontre East due to the deplorable condition of the school in that community.

The Department of Education is looking at the implementation of Grade XII at a tremendous cost to the Province. While, Mr. Speaker, I agree that the implementation of Grade XII is needed, I think first we should make sure that the facilities now available are adequate to accommodate the education programme now in place.

Television reception in my district and all along the South Coast, Mr. Speaker, is absolutely ridiculous. The majority of residents receive only one station CBC, and during the

February 28, 1980

Tape 9

DW - 3

MR. D. STEWART:

Winter months there are days and days when that service is out of order. Newspapers and libraries are very limited throughout my district and therefore people depend heavily on the media, both TV and radio, for their information.

MR. D. STEWART: I think, Mr. Speaker, preference should be given to make sure all of our communities are exposed to as much information as possible and not dictated to by one station. Antennae should be erected along the coast to make sure that our people have a choice in what they see and hear.

While I have dealt with the expectations and problems of the Fortune - Hermitage district in perhaps too great a detail, Mr. Speaker, I have done so recognizing the important task which lies ahead for me during the next number of years.

The most important thing I want to say in seconding the motion proposed by my colleague is the fact that we have been given the responsibility to guide this Province through the very challenging period that lies ahead of us, the exciting period that we are facing in the next year or the next number of years.

I think it is incumbent upon all of us in the Legislature this year to recommit ourselves collectively as a legislative body to the aims and the objectives and the challenges and the goals that have been put forward in the gracious Speech from the Throne. I think the people are expecting us as legislators to set new examples, to paint horizons, to set goals, to state objectives, so that the people themselves can rekindle the excitement that I think all of us are feeling here today.

So it is with a great deal of pleasure, Mr. Speaker, that I have the honour of seconding the statement and the expression of appreciation proposed by my colleague from Harbour Main - Bell Island (Mr. N. Doyle).

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. D. JAMIESON: Mr. Speaker, the opening day of a new session of this hon. House of Assembly is an integral and essential part

MR. D. JAMIESON: of the carrying out of the democratic parliamentary process. By the same token it is, I think, entirely appropriate that the focus and the emphasis of this day should be on the Speech from the Throne itself, and on the speeches of the mover and seconder of the motion to draft the Address in Reply. For that reason, it is not my intention this afternoon - also because indeed, Your Honour, I am looking forward to your hospitality, and I am sure others are - to make a lengthy response or to refer in any great detail to the Speech from the Throne because there will be adequate opportunity when the House resumes on Monday for me and for my colleagues to discuss its contents as well as, of course, to ask and, we are sure, get answers to the innumerable questions that the Throne Speech itself generates but which have also been generated by developments over the past several months and particularly since this hon. House last met.

With your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, there are a few references that I know I make with the total approval of all members of this House. Some of them, regrettably, are sad.

First of all, I want in complimenting the hon. member for Fortune - Hermitage (Mr. D. Stewart) to tell him as a long-time friend and associate of his family how deeply all of us feel in the personal tragedy which struck his family since this House last met. I hope that he will convey to his family not only my own personal and very deep regret, but, I am sure, that of all hon. members.

I also would like to remind the House - and I am sure that it is one that will again be unanimously echoed - that a former Premier, the hon. Mr. Smallwood, has entered the hospital for an eye operation. Happily, he himself says it is nothing too serious and we can, as always, take his word that that is the case. But I know that also all members would wish to join in wishing him a very speedy and total recovery.

MR. JAMIESON:

By the same token I think it is necessary, regrettably, to record that since this House last met two of the original members of this House of Assembly after Confederation have passed on, the hon. Leslie R. Curtis and Mr. Samuel Hefferton, both of whom were, of course, members of the first government post-Confederation and who, in both public and private life, made a very worthwhile contribution to this Province. So, therefore, I know it is entirely in keeping to say that this House sends deepest regrets to the families of those concerned.

Finally, and this is entirely personal, but again I will be forgiven by drawing the attention of hon. members to the presence in the gallery of a former executive assistant, whom I was very unhappy to lose, but who now is the elected member for the district of Humber - Port au Port - St. Barbe, Mr. Brian Tobin. I am delighted to see Brian here.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. JAMIESON:

As I said, Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to go into too much by way of substance this afternoon for all of the reasons that I have mentioned, and it is, I confess, rather difficult to know just how to approach this particular Speech from the Throne; partly, of course, because we received it only a few moments ago, and I am grateful for the courtesy of having received it in advance so that I could follow the text, but even with that it is, of course, a considerable departure from the type of Speech from the Throne, or Speeches from the Throne to which we have become accustomed and which are more or less traditional throughout parliaments in the free Western democratic world. There is nothing, by the way, improper about the approach that has been taken here, and I am aware, as any student of parliament is, that there are always differences of view as to whether or not a Speech from the Throne should simply be what it was historically intended to be, an indication from His or Her Majesty as to the legislative items



MR. JAMIESON: which the elected members were supposed to deal with, and that was the initial start of the whole concept which we are continuing and perpetuating here to this day.

Over the years there has been a considerable transformation from time to time and wide differences of view between authors of speeches from the throne as to how far they ought to depart from the original concept. And I believe that it is fair to say, and indeed I think the hon. the Premier in a sense telegraphed his intentions yesterday in a press conference when he said that he was going to make quite a distinctive departure from what had been the more or less standard routine of the past. One has very little argument with the Premier's or the government's right to do that, but then it means, of course, that one has to go through the speech very thoroughly and very carefully in order to see what the legislative programme is going to be because it is in a sense scattered here, there, and elsewhere throughout the document.

One other point that I want to make with regard to the legislative side of the Speech from the Throne is the fact that with, so far as I have been able to determine, a single exception, all of the legislation that has been in a sense forecast here is unrelated to either of the three initiatives that the government has said it is placing its major emphasis upon not only for next year but for the next decade. We are to get a White Paper on the fishery, but, so far as I have been able to see, unless we are going to bring back the amendment to the Fisheries Loan Act and perhaps that may happen, but in any event, so far as I have been able to determine there is no legislation with regard to fisheries.

Secondly there is, again so far as I have been able to see with one possible exception, no legislation relative to Labrador hydro power development. And finally in looking over this document, I have been able to find only one piece of legislation relating to what is the centerpiece almost, one could say, of the

MR. JAMIESON: Budget for very obvious and very legitimate reasons, namely offshore oil and gas. So what we have, therefore, with the greatest of respect to the authors, and as I said I am certainly not opposed to those who wish to break new ground in the parliamentary process, what we have is essentially not a traditional Speech from the Throne, but fundamentally an essay. It is basically a recitation, rather well written in some respects, which in a sense sets out a philosophical framework, a basic concept of what it is this government proposes to do.

MR. D. JAMIESON: That might have been acceptable eight years ago or whenever it was that the present government began to indicate what its view of Newfoundland in the future was going to be, but today it is, I suggest, inadequate even though there is in the first hearing of it or the first reading of it very little with which any reasonable Newfoundlander or any member on this side of the House could possibly disagree, but I do feel that because of the nature of the approach that has been taken here, and because most of the emphasis in the legislative forecasting is on things other than resource development, which by the government's own admission is the focal point of its effort for the immediate future and that is literally for the next decade, because of that then I believe that we, on this side of the House, and all members, ought to be looking at a quite different approach than has been used in the past in another way. For example, and let me confine myself to this one for this afternoon, it has to do with the commendable, thoroughly commendable references in this document to the provision of information to the people of Newfoundland on any issue, on any serious issue, which concerns them or is likely to concern them and their children in the future.

And all the way through, I found myself looking for the prospect that the government might have indicated its willingness to appoint a Select Committee of this House with adequate power to look at every aspect of particularly the offshore oil and gas issue.

I have had no lack of small pieces of information from various members opposite - the Premier, the Minister of Energy and Mines (Mr. L. Barry), other spokesmen for the government and in many instances officials - all of whom it appears know considerably more about what is happening and what is going on than do the people of Newfoundland. And what more representative of the people of

MR. D. JAMIESON: Newfoundland than this Assembly here?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. D. JAMIESON: And consequently, rather than have, and I am not incidentally critical of the number of seminars that have been held here, there and the other place, I am not critical of whatever government support has been given to some of those. I think that is entirely legitimate. The difficulty and the problem is, I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that almost on an equal with the euphoria, the understandable enthusiasm that we have had within this Province with regard to the prospects for offshore oil and gas, almost on a par with that is a very deep-seated sense of malaise or concern, at least, because some of what might be described as the negative potential of offshore development has not, in fact, been brought together and given the proper prospective along with some of the other more advantageous, more attractive parts. I think the government itself recognizes this in this document and I commend them for the way in which the fishery has been highlighted. I must confess in passing that I am curious to know why we have to go back once more to the creation of a White Paper on fisheries. I do not understand that in light of the fact that it was less, if my memory serves me right, than two years ago that a document was produced which was supposed to have been the, in a sense, comprehensive picture of the fisheries at that time and which was called, I believe, Fish is the Future and which was backed up by the most thorough assessment, with regard to statistics and the like, at least that I have ever seen with regard to the Newfoundland fishery.

Now, if we are going to go to a White Paper on fisheries, it will be interesting to learn just how much, if any, continuing delay there is likely to be as a result of what I assume will be another consultative

MR. D. JAMIESON: process and still more by way of review and assessment and analysis - that kind of thing.

Now, once again, you see, I said at the outset that this is a difficult Speech from the Throne to address because what we have here is a tremendous list of good intentions. It is not at all difficult to say in paragraph after paragraph that it is a supremely sensible kind of comment to have made - the basic points with regard to the fishery, the basic points with regard to maximum processing of raw materials and natural resources. But, Mr. Speaker, I suggest to you as someone who has read, I believe, all ten of the Speeches from the Throne that have originated with the government that a paraphrase of that particular comment

MR. D. JAMIESON:

has been present in every one of them. And what I am curious to know, and of course cannot get the answer to until we see what legislation is going to be brought forward, is what new approach, what new ideas have been developed that will change what has always been a commendable objective and which remains one in this Speech but which to my knowledge is no closer to implementation today than it was when first uttered in 1972 or 1973.

Similarly, and I will end with my examples on this point, with regard to the Labrador hydro power; Once again, I am not in any disagreement with whatever the potential is for the various actions which the government has agreed to undertake, and I have every sympathy with the problems that are involved in such a tremendously complex and difficult project, but it so happens that, in preparation for this session, just three nights ago I read one quote in particular which struck me from the Minister of Finance of that day who said that commercial development would be underway on the Lower Churchill by 1979 - over a year from now; that is, a year has already gone by since the date on which it was forecast that that was going to happen and that came about at the time when there was the so-called nationalization of BRINCO. And so, therefore, I think we can be forgiven for giving the government full marks on the one hand for its ability to articulate, in a sense, the answer to the question, 'What kind of Newfoundland do we want?'. But on the other hand I think we are also equally justified in being suspicious of the capability of the administration to exercise and carry through these projects within the reasonable time frame that had been talked about.

Just two other points that I want to make, and I am not sure, once again, because there is really a correlation between the last paragraphs of the Speech from the Throne and others which relate to fisheries and which relate to offshore oil and gas.

MR. D. JAMIESON:

And here we have, of course, a most difficult question with regard to what is called in one place 'ownership'; which is called in another 'the constitutional issue,' which is called somewhere else 'the direction' or 'the management; and a whole variety of different types of words are employed in support of, in my opinion, a perfectly defensible and justifiable argument that Newfoundlanders, to the maximum extent possible, should be the masters of their own destiny. But, however, having said that, let me go on to emphasize too that I believe that a Select Committee is important for a quite different reason than the ones that I have talked about with regard to the environment, with regard to the various things mentioned in the Speech from the Throne, that if the government, as it has said here, is anxious for and wishes to have the support of all members of this House, if it also wishes the people of Newfoundland to understand what its position is with regard to whether one calls it ownership or jurisdiction or control, and I suggest that they are three vastly different things even though they are frequently used interchangeably, if it wants that, then what this Province needs right now is the most thorough and non-controversial kind of exposé of what the various options are and the various alternatives are. I for one will take a back seat to no one, nor I suspect will any colleague of mine on this side of the House in terms of saying that we in Newfoundland should be able to maximize to the very last penny whatever returns and benefits there are to come out of, whether it be offshore development or resource development of any kind. I have no problem whatever with that particular concept.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. D. JAMIESON:

By the same token, I have no quarrel either with the necessity for the Government of Newfoundland to have the paramount say - I am not sure whether one wants to say the total say because obviously there are various communities involved, there are levels of government other than the federal

February 28, 1980

Tape No. 13

DW - 3

MR. D. JAMIESON: government involved. But certainly  
the paramount say in terms of the social impact that oil and gas  
development is likely



MR. D. JAMIESON:

to bring. I think it would be a classic error, a grave mistake, for us to allow, as Newfoundlander's, anybody other than our own people and our own government and our own House of Assembly to start dictating how our way of life is going to be affected by off-shore development. And I repeat once again that given those two basic premises, and I think I could have, in fact, had I remembered to bring it with me, have used a phrase of the Premier's which stated exactly the same position that I hold and that my colleagues hold, but I think the most important thing for us to do, and I urge it upon the government, and incidently if some of it has to be in camera there is no problem so far as I am concerned in that regard, but obviously in terms of this particular issue of how we are going to maximize, how we are going to control, I think it does not, I suggest, advance the cause to anticipate some kind of basic or fundamental disagreement or to go at it in a combative kind of way until you have discovered what it is that the other side or, if you wish, the other parties have in mind also. I admit to a good deal of knowledge on this subject but I also admit to a continuing degree of confusion and I think, too, that if any member opposite says anything different then I believe that he is just either closed-minded on the subject or at the same time perhaps is simply not willing or prepared to look at various options and alternatives that may be available. I say that because while I thoroughly subscribe to what is said in this document with regard to the identity of Newfoundlanders whatever other charges may be laid at my feet or whatever charges or whatever comments may be said when someday in this House people talk about my passing, one thing for sure, I do not believe there is a single Newfoundlander from the top of Labrador to the foot of the South coast who would ever question my bona fides as a Newfoundlander or who would ever underestimate my awareness of and my commitment to the development and the preservation of our heritage and our culture and our distinctive lifestyle. . With the greatest of respect, Mr. Speaker, I think I do

MR. D. JAMIESON:

not need to take second place to anyone in that regard. But I do believe that it is important, and I urge upon the House and upon the government the necessity for a sober, thorough, analytical look so that those different points of view which have come to me, for example, from very impressive sources that are perhaps to some extent different in nuance or subtly different in any event from those as expressed by some spokesmen for the government, so that these can be examined. I do not believe there is any necessity, and certainly I think it would be a retrograde step, if we were to launch into or to continue into, and I emphasize the word continue because there has already been conflict between the government of Newfoundland and the government in Ottawa over certain matters such as fisheries. I believe that there are practical answers, practical solutions to all of these questions and I say that that is especially important in view of the Speech from the Throne's very clear reference and acknowledgement that the constitutional process is going to be an enormously slow one and that I do not believe that we can afford to wait around for that particular kind of answer because too many things are going to overtake us in the interim and on that basis I also agree that a modus operandi, some mechanism through which the manifestation of our personality as Newfoundlanders, that our objectives as Newfoundlanders, can be put forward, has to be found.

Finally, let me on the part of the Speech which talks about the way of life of Newfoundlanders and the social aspects of our lives, let me say that no one is happier than I at the degree to which our people have moved ahead economically. It has been, for someone who saw the worse, perhaps, parts of this particular century, the change and the transformation on the economic side has been profound, it has been something which I doubt very much if there is a single Newfoundlander alive today would have dared to forecast thirty years ago in terms of the economic change. What is, however, not anything like as clear is whether or not there has been a simultaneous increase in the level of well-being of our people, in their sense of themselves and indeed in what I might describe as their feeling of satisfaction. Indeed, I would suspect from my travels about the province that the opposite may well be true, that we need and this government has made

February 28, 1980

Tape No. 14

EL - 3

MR. D. JAMIESON:                   some good steps in this direction  
with the support of the opposition, we need more of that kind of thing,  
so that we need to instill, and I do not propose here to usurp

MR. JAMIESON:

the right of the reverend gentlemen present, but the moral questions have to be addressed. There is too serious an increase in this Province in a lack of respect for law and order. There is a growing amount of vandalism. There is a shameful disregard for other people's property. There are a whole range of things happening in this Province which are, at this moment at least, cause for very deep-seated concern on my part and I suspect that it is shared by most of the people in this House. Consequently, although it is a kind of vague issue, one not easy to address in the sense of saying that this is the way to legislate that out of the way, I believe that as we are, I hope, on the brink of this new kind of economic breakthrough that we will address ourselves perhaps more to that issue almost than to any other, as to how we are going to be sure that we will not wind up with a society which is infinitely better off, which may indeed in a decade's time be able to be among the residents of a have province of Canada with a good deal of surplus, a good deal of wealth, but which may, at the same time, be a society which has lost not only some of its more distinctive characteristics, but has also lost some of its respect and understanding of the very things that have made life tolerable here in Newfoundland: Our compassion and concern for one another; our respect for law and order indeed in communities where, if there had not been that respect, there would have been chaos because we simply could not cope with it otherwise. And I think hon. members on both sides will know that what I am speaking here is a serious truth about Newfoundland. It is not to suggest that anything like the total population of this Province has become less lawful than it was. It is to suggest that there are new strains on some numbers of our population, particularly our young people, and I would certainly assure the hon. members opposite and the government in its

MR. JAMIESON: efforts that we will do everything we can to support anything that is put forward with regard to not merely our culture and our heritage but also to our general sense of ourselves and to the making of the kind of better Newfoundland that I think we have the opportunity to have.

I believe I asked the question once some ten or fifteen years ago, What kind of Newfoundland do we want? And of all the parts of Canada, I suppose there is nowhere where a wider range of options is open to people than here in this Province, that we have the capacity, and we now have, I hope, the opportunity to choose the kind of Newfoundland we want. I think in many ways this is what this Speech from the Throne is trying to say. And while I am unhappy with some of its, as I said, generalities, nevertheless I cannot quarrel with the general thrust of what it sees ahead for us.

So on Monday, or some day next week, I will have an opportunity to be much more specific and indeed to be much more critical, if you wish, but for this afternoon let me end, Mr. Speaker, by saying that I believe that this is going to be one of the most important sessions of this House in a great many years and that I think we have our work cut out for us. We undertook at the beginning of the last session to co-operate and we did. I make the same commitment to you now because in the interests of Newfoundland we must get on with the job.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. ROBERTS: That was really great.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, first of all let me share with the Leader of the Opposition his sentiments to a number of people whom he mentioned in his opening remarks; to the member for Fortune-Hermitage (Mr. D. Stewart) and his family. Interestingly enough on the second point of the Leader of the Opposition's remarks, the fact that the Only Living Father is entering hospital today, I think it is a fitting tribute to Mr. Smallwood that on the day I guess that he enters hospital for an eye injury, or an eye disease or whatever, there is a letter in the paper from the same hon. gentleman. I guess that is the kind of person we have known him to be since this century began. Also, of course, let me join with the Leader of the Opposition in his sympathy towards Mr. Curtis' family and Mr. Heffertson's family and I congratulate also the MP for Humber District, Mr. Tobin,

PREMIER PECKFORD: whom we all know in this hon. House and who served a number of Leaders of the Opposition very well.

MR. D. JAMIESON: Yes.

PREMIER PECKFORD: And I guess all of us who know him personally here congratulate him on a very dynamic and energetic campaign and I trust that he will bring the concerns of the Province of Newfoundland to the House of Commons with the same deal of gusto and energy that he brought to his campaign.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD: Now, Mr. Speaker, I believe I should take up my remarks from where the Leader of the Opposition left off. I firmly and honestly believe that this session of the House and this Throne Speech and this year will go down in the annals of history for Newfoundland and Labrador for centuries. The reason why the Throne Speech was structured the way it was is because I think this government accepts and recognizes some of the responsibilities that are upon us as legislators and as leaders as we enter a new decade and as we enter a year in which we are going to see momentous things and decisions and events occur, hopefully for the benefit of all Newfoundlanders in the long-term. It was for that reason, Mr. Speaker, that it was decided to move away somewhat from the tradition of the past in the sense of having just a Throne Speech which would indicate a number of legislative measures that we would be taking. Let me say, Mr. Speaker, that the government are very proud of the legislative measures that we will be taking in this hon. House, and this afternoon before we finish - we will try to finish quickly - a lot of legislative measures that were not mentioned in this Speech will be given notice of by the ministers here today.

I think it is opportune to say, Mr. Speaker, that perhaps for the first time in the history of this Legislature and, I would hasten to add, in the history of many legislatures in the free world, that this government is ready with perhaps more legislation for this session than this House is going to have time to deal with between now and Christmas, 1980. I think we will demonstrate

PREMIER PECKFORD: beyond any reasonable doubt that we are prepared and that we have our legislative programme ready. But we thought, and I think - in my own view, of course, partisan though it may be - rightly thought that this Speech must be given over to setting a firm course on which Newfoundlanders want to go this year and in this decade. We are entering a new year, we are entering a new decade, and three major areas of concern to the government and to the people of Newfoundland take precedence over everything else, and it is to try to outline, and I agree, somewhat of a philosophical base for those approaches; so that therefore, that is why the legislative part of it did not have the same content. But the legislation is available and will be coming forward today and in the next number of days - many, many major pieces of legislation and reformed legislation.

Mr. Speaker, let me deal with one thing the Leader of the Opposition said. The hon. member indicated that we had not - on the one hand we had outlined a programme and a philosophical base for the fishery, we outlined a programme and a philosophical base for offshore oil and gas, and we outlined the same thing for hydro, but we did not follow that up with legislation, Mr. Speaker. And the reason for that is because, number one, on the fishery, we have no jurisdiction or very little jurisdiction, and it is one of the arguments that we are making in the Speech from the Throne that if the people of Newfoundland and Labrador are to truly have control and have some say in the economic vitality of the next number of decades, there is going to have to be that kind of control. And one of the principles outlined in the Speech is an attempt and a desire and an aim by this government to work towards a shared jurisdiction as it relates to the fisheries and complete control over the Northern cod issue so that we will have an opportunity this decade to do those kinds of things and to bring in legislation. Right now the power is not with us so to do, but we are expressing the desire that we want to have that kind of power shared with the federal authority so that that kind of legislation can be under the purview of this Legislature and this Parliament.



PREMIER PECKFORD: Secondly, why it was not brought in on oil and gas is because, Mr. Speaker, we proudly claim and we proudly exclaim to the people present here and the people of Newfoundland that we have the best resource management regime in legislation and regulation anywhere in the world as it relates to our oil and gas -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD: - in place and working and which is the envy of just any other jurisdiction in the world and which, by the way, Mr. Speaker, was done through a public process, through a White Paper process, through public input, and which, as the Speech most accurately points out, means not only did the policy come not just from the government but from the people of Newfoundland. But the exercise of that policy must go back to the people of Newfoundland through public hearings. So, therefore, the legislation is in place on offshore oil and gas if, in fact, nobody seriously challenges our jurisdiction thereto; otherwise that legislation gone through that democratic public process will mean nothing and it will be naught to any Newfoundlander or Labradorian.

PREMIER PECKFORD:

And thirdly, on the hydro development side, we did, in the last Session, bring in legislation dealing with the Lower Churchill Development Corporation and we are now, as indicated subtly, obliquely in the Speech, considering other pieces of legislation as they relate to Labrador power developments in Labrador. They will await further study. But the fact of the matter is as it relates to hydro developments in Labrador, there is, outside of the Lower Churchill Development Corporation, very little legislative clout, very little legislation that can be brought in at this point in time to give effect to something that we are trying to do. It awaits the co-operation of industry, it awaits the co-operation of Quebec, it awaits the co-operation of the Federal Government, and hence the initiatives that we will be taking in the next two or three months to ask for that kind of co-operation and that kind of financial support that will be needed. So, hence the reason for no legislation on those three most important points is because, for one reason or another, as I just explained, legislation was irrelevant, legislation was redundant, it was not appropriate. Where legislation is needed, it is there; where legislation is wanted it can not be put there because it is not now within the purview or power of the Legislature so to do.

But let us get on, Mr. Speaker, to the main thrust of the Speech, let us get on to what this administration and this government is really saying. And there is no, Mr. Speaker, I say, there is no confusion in the minds of this government and I will try to articulate it, as it relates to where we stand on those three most important matters, where the Leader of the Opposition gives the impression there might be some confusion and misunderstanding. As it relates to offshore oil and gas, it is absolutely essential, and you can not talk about retaining your way of life, you

PREMIER PECKFORD: can not talk about retaining the fabric of Newfoundland and having the cultural lifestyle and the distinctive personality of Newfoundlanders if you do not have control over that resource, if you do not have jurisdiction.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Now, Mr. Speaker, that is clear; I will say the words again, jurisdiction and control. On offshore oil and gas, we take the position that the offshore oil and gas on our continental shelf has the same power, the Government of Newfoundland has the same power as we do over our trees, as we do over our iron ore and as we do over the other resources that are on the land of this jurisdiction. So that there is no question about that. And there is in place therefore, an Oil and Gas Act and the regulations to which we want to apply that kind of power which we claimed by legal right as well as by moral and every other sensible right that one could possibly imagine. That is on the offshore oil and gas.

Not only for its own sake, Mr. Speaker, and not only because we have a legal argument that we can hang our hats on, even if that legal argument was not there, Mr. Speaker, even if it was not there, we would be just as adamant on the moral side, we would be just as adamant on the economic side. Because there is no way, number one, that we will ever rise above the plateau of public services and the financial capabilities that we are now placed on unless we have access to additional financial revenues and they can only come from two sources in the short or medium term - offshore oil and gas or a change in the Upper Churchill contract. So now we are dealing with the offshore oil and gas. We can not get otherwise, under the present federal regime it would be twelve or thirteen cents of every dollar, under the provincial regime it would be forty-five cents of every dollar, and the other fifty-five cents would be shared between the federal

PREMIER PECKFORD: government and the companies. And number two on that, Mr. Speaker, if you are going to keep it you can not have your cake and eat it too, Mr. Speaker, and that is why this Speech is phrased the way it is and why this is so momentous an occasion for every legislator here, regardless of political stripe, because we are going to have to say as this Speech says, 'take some strong stands' and let no man or woman or person muddy the waters to not to understand what it is we are asking for. On offshore oil and gas it is clear, crystal clear; the same power over oil and gas on our continental shelf as we have of trees on land. And that is clear, that is easy to administer and there is no confusion over that one. And then, Mr. Speaker, if you do, then you not only have some financial capability with monies flowing in to help relieve the highest per capita debt, to help provide all the public services that we so desperately need, to reduce our sales tax in 1996 from eleven to eight and to perhaps get our unemployment rate down to about only three or four per cent more than the national average, but more than that,

PREMIER PECKFORD: then you will effectively be able to control the rate of that development and give meat and substance to the theory that we want to retain our own collective lifestyle and our own distinctiveness, so I can continue to go out and snare me rabbits and cut me thumb, Mr. Speaker. That is the only way it can be done.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD: Secondly, Mr. Speaker, on the question of fisheries, The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador are asking through this Throne Speech for the support of Newfoundlanders and all members of this House as it relates to shared jurisdiction on fisheries, shared jurisdiction; that there must be in some areas of that power paramountcy on the federal side, in other areas paramountcy on our side. But we are willing to sit down and negotiate a shared arrangement, not all in one court or all in the other. We have that in environment now, Mr. Speaker; the environment of Canada is a shared jurisdiction under the division of powers of the constitution of Canada; some of the authority lies with the Federal Government, some of the authority lies with the Provincial Government, That is what we are asking for on fisheries, number two. And along that line on fisheries, on the Northern cod stock if we are, Mr. Speaker, to have a chance to make LaScie permanent jobs or ten or eleven month jobs rather than six month jobs, or Fogo or Twillingate or Conche or Croque or Englee or anywhere on the East coast, than you have access to more fish. Fish plant workers cannot keep working unless they have more fish and the only way you can get that fish is have control over or access to more of the Northern cod stock. And see, Mr. Speaker, it makes sense that we can apply the traditional and historic right principle to this cod stock, not to be selfish Canadians, but the better off somebody is in LaScie the less money in UIC comes from Ontario. And that is being a good Newfoundlander, that is

PREMIER PECKFORD: being a good Canadian. That is where we stand on the fishery.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD: And on Hydro development, Mr. Speaker, we are saying and giving notice in this Speech on two points specifically. One, we are seriously considering bringing in legislation as it relates to subsidies to industrial customers, that is number two in the second part of the power policy in that Throne Speech. That is number one. And, number two, every effort is being taken and we predict that it will come to fruition this year that some moves will have to be taken on the behalf of this government to get a better deal on the Upper Churchill. The Upper Churchill contract must remain the cornerstone of our Labrador power policy. We cannot ignore it and then allow the Lower Churchill to be developed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD: So these points are clear. Offshore oil and gas the same as the trees; the fisheries, let us share it like environment and the Northern cod must be ours. And, thirdly, the Upper Churchill contract must be changed both as it relates to the price and as it relates to recall so that we will have a chance with the resources that were always ours. So if anybody, Mr. Speaker, wants to - we have talked about it, I have read about it, I have read the Throne Speeches since we became a Province, and some of the speeches that were made in the colonial days, if you will, or in our dominion days as a Province or as a colony or as a dominion. And we can talk about it until we are blue in the face, but this is quite possibly the year when all the chicken are going to come home to roost and when every person in Newfoundland is going to have to stand up and take a stand, because you cannot talk about our collective lifestyle and wanting us to remain as we are and to continue to go out and shoot our

PREMIER PECKFORD:                    moose and to jig our fish-which we cannot do anymore, by the way, only some species. The day has come when those platitudes and those statements are going to take legislative action, when people are going to have to stand up and be counted. That is what is so important about this Speech, that is why it was changed, and that is why it is so important that we not get bogged down in a litany of legislative measures, some important and some unimportant, and leave the Speech to that. Because we are establishing a course, make no bones about it, Mr. Speaker, this government is establishing a course that every Newfoundlander here in this Legislature and watching on television is going to have to take a stand on it. And as is indicated in the Speech, in the gracious Speech, there is going to be political controversy and there is going to be disagreement. And every single soul will not be able to hide behind, 'I do not know what you mean,' 'I am not sure whether you mean this or that.' It will be clearly articulated what we mean so that we have an opportunity. I do not know, Mr. Speaker, whether it is

PREMIER PECKFORD: clearly understood by Newfoundlanders that there is no more place for us to raise money. There is no more. We are 11 per cent sales tax, we are at 58 per cent of the federal, the highest sales tax in Canada, you name it. You can go out now to shoot a caribou and you have almost got to buy the thing. There is no other capacity for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador to sustain themselves. It is not there. Meanwhile, there is this expectation as Canadians that we should have the same opportunities right across the spectrum as any other Canadian. But under the system, the Confederation that we live under now, Mr. Speaker, that is not possible, and that plateau that we have now reached, there cannot be another slope over which we can rise to a higher plateau. Given the present status of everything, unless and until we can get a better deal on the Upper Churchill, we can get some revenues and control over off-shore, and unless and until we can increase our catches on the northern cod to expand our fishery on the Northeast and East coast, there is no other way. And in the short or medium term, the only two of those that make any financial sense are the Upper Churchill and the off-shore oil and gas. There is no other way. And you cannot do it, you see, Mr. Speaker, you cannot do it by saying that we will agree to have some and you have some. It does not work, it does not work, unless we have the control and the say over it, over the off-shore oil and gas, St. John's is gone bad enough right now on housing prices and a whole bunch of other things.

And I am not against, as the Leader of the Opposition mentioned, a Select Committee on the off-shore oil and gas or on anything else. The only thing I would hasten to add to the Leader of the Opposition on this point is, I guess, most people recognize that this thing is moving very fast. This thing is moving very, very fast. And just imagine if we did not have any control today or we did not say that we are going to confirm our rights, what-



PREMIER PECKFORD: ever that means. Just say we did not ever say that we did not have any legal right and we are in the position that Nova Scotia is or New Brunswick. That Speech from the Throne would never be able to say we have a 40 per cent interest as soon as they take out a licence. Forty per cent, we will own 40 per cent of an oil field and even before that, Mr. Speaker, we are saying we want observer status on that operating consortium committee even before they apply for a licence so that we know what is going on.

That is how you get control. That is how you ensure that your society is not destroyed. That is how you ensure that you still have a Newfie around fifteen or twenty years from now who is still proud of his accent.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, I wish we could do it some other way. And I would say to the Leader of the Opposition, and to all members opposite as all on my side, I would say I wish we could do it another way. I wish that the various ministers and myself did not have to take the stand that we have got to take on the Northern cod, or on off-shore oil and gas, but I would suggest to the hon. Leader of the Opposition his support - not suggest, ask and solicit his support because there was a time, you see, Mr. Speaker, there was a time and now it is too late.

It is like so many things in history. I read too much history, that is what is wrong. There was a time when we sat down with the Federal Government and said to Mr. Trudeau, "Let us have some degree of control. Let us see if we can work" with Mr. Trudeau's government, with the people who are handling the whole question of the jurisdictional dispute between Newfoundland and Labrador and Ottawa and there was not one budge, there was not one inch given. And there was absolutely no way for us to go.

And now we are into it. Now we have a Hibernia which any day will be declared commercial, with massive other probabilities on the horizon, house prices going wild in St. John's and Nova Scotians getting sent home and more Newfoundlanders

PREMIER PECKFORD: looking for jobs, fifty-seven hundred of them.

And now the time has come for us to act responsibly and reasonably as much as is humanly possible but there must be that control and power exercised by the government in Newfoundland and Labrador, otherwise we are lost. We not only will not have a chance to go to a new plateau, Mr. Speaker, we will be going down to one below that than where we are right now.

And that is the reason for this kind of speech, a deliberate approach to it and this is what aggravates me. All the member for Bonavista-North (L. Stirling) is interested in is whether he gets

PREMIER PECKFORD: a Select Committee on the offshore so that he can say that on this day something -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD: Let us get above that now. We will talk about the Select Committee. I am not against it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD: If anybody is going to accuse me of anything over the next two or three years, it is that 'he is committee minded'. If anybody is going to accuse me of anything, it is that I shove everything off in committees. But the fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, let us try to get to that other plateau not only as it relates to making the society better off but making this Legislature better off in how we move from one plateau to another in our debate and in our banter back and forth as we move into a new session and a new decade.

Momentous! Fantastic!

The opportunities and the challenges are there. We have to have, first of all, confidence in ourselves that we can handle this - and when I say this I mean all of it - and be pretty responsible as legislators as we move ahead to do that. There are trying times, there are big times and there are going to be challenges right around the corner within the next month that are going to challenge our own honesty and integrity and our desire to look at the long-term rather than the short-term. That is the kind of thing that we have to look at.

I am ready and I think the members of this government are ready. We are ready to stand up as Newfoundlanders, confident of still having a Canada but having a good chance to be real partners in 1990, better than we are now in 1980.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER(Simms): Order, please!

It is moved and seconded that an address of thanks be presented to His Honour in reply to the gracious Speech and that a committee be appointed to draft such an Address in Reply. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt this motion? Those in favour "aye", contrary "nay", carried. The committee will consist of the hon. the member for Harbour Main - Bell Island (Mr. Doyle), the hon. member for Fortune - Hermitage (Mr. Stewart), and the hon. the member for Fogo (Mr. Tulk).

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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

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

A bill entitled, "An Act Respecting The Protection Of Personal Privacy". (Bill No.1).

A bill, "An Act Respecting Elections, Controverted Elections And Elections Financing." (Bill No. 17).

A bill, "An Act Respecting The Freedom Of Information". (Bill No. 21).

A bill, "An Act To Amend The Human Rights Code". (Bill No. 19).

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

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

A bill entitled, "An Act To Provide For Natural Areas In The Province To Be Set



MR. WARREN:

following resolution:

WHEREAS there is a lack of specialized medical expertise in Labrador and on occasions patients are required to receive medical attention from Specialists on the Island portion of the Province which is only accessible by air and which is also extremely costly;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador make available ambulance services for patients in Labrador comparable to the services provided to the Island portion of the Province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir.

The hon. the member for

MR. ANDREWS:

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

WHEREAS the Northern cod stocks have historically been fished exclusively by fishermen from the Northeast Coast and Labrador Coast of this Province, and have been the lifeblood of some 500 communities along these coasts;  
AND WHEREAS the fishery, and the communities upon which it depends have suffered drastically from overfishing;  
AND WHEREAS there exists high unemployment and under-utilized plant capacity along these coasts;  
AND WHEREAS the level of benefits accruing to this Province will be directly determined by the management principles applied to this resource;  
AND WHEREAS the Federal Government's freezer trawler policy, if implemented, would seriously undermine the economic benefits flowing to our fishing communities;  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House unanimously supports the position of the Province, which recognizes the exclusive right of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians to fish Northern cod;

MR. ANDREWS:

AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED that this Honourable House supports this Province's position of shared resources management jurisdiction with the Federal Government;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Honourable House urge the Federal Government of Canada to accept the position of this Province in regard to these vital matters.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER(Simms):

The hon. the member for

Trinity - Bay de Verde.

MR. F.B. ROWE:

Mr. Speaker, I give

notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce the following motion:

WHEREAS the proper development of our fishery is of paramount importance to the economy of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador and the well being of our people;

AND WHEREAS offshore oil and gas exploration is a reality;

AND WHEREAS offshore oil and gas exploitation appears to be a certainty and there of great importance to the economy of our Province;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House fully debate both developments for the purpose of ensuring that the fishery will not be endangered by offshore oil and gas exploration and exploitation and the renewable fishery and the non-renewable oil and gas resource will be developed in a strategy of compatibility for the maximum benefit of our people;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Select Committee of this House be appointed to meet throughout the Province to hear and seek advice and recommendations, and to call on outside experts, for the purpose of ensuring the successful co-development of the fishing and offshore oil and gas industries and that a Committee report to the House before

MR. F.B. ROWE: the end of 1980.

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

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

WHEREAS the health of the Forests and the people of this  
Province is of concern to the Government; and

WHEREAS serious questions have been raised as to the danger  
to human health of chemical spray programs to control the  
spruce budworm; and

WHEREAS sufficient research and public debate has not taken  
place with regard to the resolution of this critical issue;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this Honourable House  
supports the establishment by the Government of a Royal  
Commission to analyse and make recommendations as to  
the course of action to follow in the protection of our  
forest industry and the health of our people so far as  
it relates to measures to be taken to control the spruce  
budworm.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

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

WHEREAS the economic well-being of many of our people is  
dependent on the utilization of non-renewable resources;

AND WHEREAS companies and corporations can and do reap  
profitable benefits from exploitation of these resources;

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



MR. RIDEOUT:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House cause to be established a Select Committee on Resource Management and that this Select Committee be empowered to advise the House on the advisability and feasibility of:

1. The Province becoming a partner in the development of all non-renewable resources;
2. The establishment of a Non-renewable Resource Fund to be funded by the industrial exploiter. One of the chief purposes of such a fund would be to provide financial relief to areas where non-renewable resources have been exhausted and to help in attracting alternate industry.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee have power to sit in and out of Session, to send for papers and other documents, and generally to exercise the powers which may be conferred upon Commissioners under the Public Enquiries Act, Chapter 314 of the Revised Statutes of Newfoundland, 1970;

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

MR. SPEAKER:  
Placentia.

The hon. the member for

MR. PATTERSON:

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

WHEREAS, before Confederation, this Province owned its offshore minerals and did not relinquish the same under the terms of union, and

MR. PATTERSON:

WHEREAS, the revenues, employment and industrial benefits which will result from offshore development will flow to the Province only if its ownership and control are confirmed, and

WHEREAS, if the Province does not control the rate and type of development, many negative impacts will occur in our Province, and

WHEREAS, if certain proposed offshore development plans are permitted to go ahead, few employment or industrial benefits will accrue to the Province,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House unanimously support the Conservative Administration in its effort to preserve this Province's historic, moral and legal claim to own and control its offshore mineral resources.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): The hon. member for Port au Port.

MR. J. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce the following motion: WHEREAS the Newfoundland Education System is not fully geared to the future development of this Province AND WHEREAS new developments are taking place in the fishery, forestry and in offshore oil development BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that a Select Committee be formed to look into all aspects of education in Newfoundland and Labrador and to recommend changes so that Newfoundlanders may best be able to take advantage of future job opportunities.

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

MR. WOODROW: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce the following resolution: WHEREAS because of world-wide energy developments, consumers in this Province are faced with ever rising electrical rates and WHEREAS it is vital to lessen the burden on consumers of the Province in this regard, and WHEREAS Government has proposed legislation to ensure that large industrial consumers are not subsidized by consumers of the Province, and is determined to examine the rate structure to encourage conservation and has established a programme to ensure that the public has free access to a supply of low cost wood for fuel purposes, THEREFORE be it resolved that this hon. House supports the initiatives of the government in this regard.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR. THOMS: Mr. Speaker I hereby give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce the following resolution: THAT this House set up a Select Committee to investigate the cause of increasing vandalism in Newfoundland and Labrador and recommend ways and means of curbing same.

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

MR. P. WALSH: I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce the following motion:

WHEREAS the people of this Province cannot be dispossessed of their rights to their hydro resources;  
AND WHEREAS in 1967 Quebec, in violation of the Canadian Constitution, forced the sale of Upper Churchill hydro power over the Quebec Labrador border under unfair terms for 65 years;  
AND WHEREAS the federal government has both the right and the duty under the Canadian Constitution to protect the right of one Province to transmit any of its goods or people across the territory of another;  
AND WHEREAS this Province has both the need of and the right to access to its own hydro resources for its consumers and to a fair return on any of its hydro resources exported;  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this hon. House urge the Government of Canada to discharge its duty to this Province and to the spirit of our federation by passing such legislation as may be necessary to prevent Quebec from controlling for its own benefit the interprovincial transmission of hydro power across its territory.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

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

WHEREAS the Newfoundland railway is a vital part of the transportation of the Province and provides employment for thousands of our citizens,  
and

MR. BARRETT:

WHEREAS under the terms of union the Government of Canada undertook to continue to operate the Newfoundland Railway, and

WHEREAS the government of the Province is determined to see the Newfoundland railway preserved and upgraded,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this hon. House support the continued upgrading and operation of the Newfoundland railway, and urge the government of the Province to require the Government of Canada to discharge its obligations under the terms of union to maintain the Newfoundland railway as a viable and vital part of the Newfoundland transportation system.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): The hon. member for Humber West.

MR. R. BAIRD: Mr. Speaker, I hereby give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce the following resolution:  
WHEREAS unemployment is the most important problem facing the Province today, and is the highest in the nation;  
AND WHEREAS many employment and business opportunities are being lost to locations outside the Province;  
AND WHEREAS business growth and increased employment opportunities are possible if proper policies are adopted by the government;  
BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this

MR. R. BAIRD: hon. House urge the government to adopt such local preference policies as are necessary to ensure that the benefits of its expenditure programmes and the development of the Province's natural resources flow, in the first instance, to the people and businesses of this Province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: (Simms) There being no further Notices of Motion that I see, and before the motion to adjourn is made, I would like to remind members and guests that there is a reception in the main foyer of this building immediately following the adjournment.

MR. W. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. W. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, before proposing the notice of adjournment, I would like to inform the House that we will be adjourning until Monday afternoon next and I would advise members of the House that the House will be concerned with the Address in Reply for certainly Monday and Tuesday and for days thereafter, but certainly Monday and Tuesday.

With those words, then, Mr. Speaker, I move that this House at its rising do adjourn until tomorrow, Monday, at 3:00 P.M. and that this House do not adjourn.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

On motion, the House at its rising adjourned until tomorrow, Monday, March 3, 1980 at 3:00 P.M.