

PRELIMINARY
UNEDITED
TRANSCRIPT

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
FOR THE PERIOD:
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 1980

The House met at 3:00 P.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Order, please! Could I have the attention of hon. members? I have a number of matters which I would like to raise. First of all, I am prepared to make a ruling on the point of privilege raised by the hon. member for the Strait of Belle Isle (Mr. Roberts), but seeing another member involved is not in attendance at this particular moment I will give that a little later on.

I have received a communication which I have been asked to pass along to members of the House of Assembly. It is addressed, "Dear Mr. Speaker, I would be very pleased if you would extend my thanks and gratitude through the House of Assembly, to the hon. Charles Power, and the other members of the search party who were instrumental in saving my life and the life of my brother-in-law, Thomas Mahoney. Were it not for the perseverance and strength of Mr. Power and the others our lives would certainly have been lost as the RCMP officer in charge was reluctant to permit anyone to begin searching at the time because of weather. These courageous individuals chose to begin on their own and despite extremely adverse conditions were successful." And I have an outline of the story which I will table for any hon. member who wishes to read it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. members will also recall that during yesterday's sitting a matter of concern was raised relative to Question Period. The matter of procedure during Question Period, and the framing of questions, and I might add answers to questions, have come up on a number of occasions since I have been Speaker. As well I note from Hansard that the matter received a fair amount of attention during the tenure of the last Speaker of this House.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): First of all I shall quote from the Standing Orders. Standing Orders 31(c) "In putting any oral questions, no argument or opinion is to be offered nor any facts stated except so far as may be necessary to explain the same; and in answering any such question, the Minister is not to debate the matter to which it refers.

"(d) Oral questions must not be prefaced by the reading of letters, telegrams, newspaper extracts or preambles of any kind.

"(e) A Minister may in his discretion decline to answer any question.

"(g) A Member who is not satisfied with the response to an oral question may give notice that he intends to raise the subject matter of his question on the adjournment of the House."

I would also refer hon. members to pages 129 to 134 of Beauchesne and I quote specifically, paragraph 358,

"In 1964, the Special Committee on Procedure recommended the following guidelines, which were subsequently concurred in by the House, to be used by Members in asking or answering oral questions:

- (1) Such questions should:
 - (a) be asked only in respect of matters of sufficient urgency and importance as to require an immediate answer;
 - (b) not inquire whether statements made in a newspaper are correct;
 - (c) not require an answer involving a legal opinion;
 - (d) not be asked in respect of a matter that is sub-judice;
 - (e) may not be of a nature

MR. SPEAKER(Simms):

requiring a lengthy and detailed answer; and (f) not raise a matter of policy too large to be dealt with as an answer to a question.

(2) Answers to questions should be as brief as possible, should deal with the matters raised, and should not provoke debate.

Paragraph 359, which reads in part: "(1) It must be a question, not an expression of an opinion, representation, argumentation, nor debate.

"(2) The question must be brief. A preamble need not exceed one carefully drawn sentence. A long preamble on a long question takes an unfair share of time and provokes the same sort of reply. A supplementary question should need no preamble.

"(8) A question that has previously been answered ought not to be asked again."

Paragraph 363: 'A Minister may decline to answer a question without stating the reason for his refusal, and insistence on an answer is out of order, with no debate being allowed. A refusal to answer cannot be raised as a question of privilege, nor is it regular to comment upon such a refusal. A Member may put a question but has no right to insist upon an answer.'

Paragraph 371: "Although there may be no debate on an answer, further questions, as may be necessary for the elucidation of the answers that have been given, within due limits, may be addressed to a Minister. The extent to which supplementary questions may be asked is in the discretion of the Speaker.'

As I have stated, I have on numerous occasions made the ruling that both

MR. SPEAKER(Simms): questions as well as answers should be brief, to the point, and that questions should contain very little preamble and that answers should not give rise to debate.

Hon. members will realize, I hope, that I have attempted to be fair and flexible at the same time. I have no desire to continuously interrupt members on a regular basis.

The final comment I would like to make is that while I have an obligation to quote and enforce the rules as they relate to Question Period, hon. members, too, I believe, have an obligation to adhere to those rules.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: I refer to the ruling I mentioned a few moments ago, which I am now prepared to give. Hon. members will recall that during yesterday's sitting, the hon. member for the Strait of Belle Isle (Mr. Roberts) raised a question of privilege on which I reserved a decision. I am now in a position to give a ruling.

The matter pertained to remarks made by the hon. the Minister of Mines and Energy (Mr. Barry). First I would like to point out that I give this decision under the general framework of order rather than privilege, understanding that the gist of the submission of the hon. the member for the Strait of Belle Isle to be his allegation of imputing motives by the hon. minister.

I do not believe it is necessary for me to repeat those remarks, as they are contained in Hansard which is available for anyone who wishes to see them. In reading over that particular section I find myself in a somewhat difficult position

MR. SPEAKER(Simms): in the literal
understanding of the words. In the overall context,
which I have to consider, I find the remarks to be
somewhat ambiguous.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms) They are, I believe capable of being interpreted as unparliamentary but they are also capable of being interpreted as not being unparliamentary. So given the ambiguous nature of the comments what I will do is call on the hon. Minister of Mines and Energy (Mr. Barry) to clarify his position in informing the House and I would like to ask him to state to the House that it was not his intention to impute motives and I think that will dispose of the matter.

MR. BARRY: Mr. Speaker, if I could remember what I said I would clarify it but of course I had no intention whatsoever of imputing motives. I am sure that if I go back to Hansard and look at it, it will be obvious what my intent was but at the present time I will say that obviously there was no intent to impute motives and if there was any such impression in the ambiguous words there, Mr. Speaker, they are completely withdrawn, unequivocally withdrawn.

MR. SPEAKER: I thank the hon. minister and I think that will dispose of the matter.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Labour and Manpower.

MR. DINN: Mr. Speaker, we have had some reports in the press of late, and every once a month Statistics Canada and the typewriter at Central Statistics here in Newfoundland gets a nervous breakdown and starts spewing out paper and giving various statistics on the employment, unemployment and participation rate of Newfoundlanders in the labour force, etc., I thought I would make hon. members aware that the unemployment rate in Newfoundland today, actual figures is 15.9, which is a 2.9 per cent better figure than last year. In the last month, January 1980 to February 1980 the labour force increased by 4,000 people and the people employed increased by 5,000 people so it is the continuing

MR. DINN: effort of government to improve the statistics with respect to unemployment and employment in Newfoundland. And the adjusted figures - I will also that hon. members in asking questions at the last sitting of the requested of me some information with respect to what I thought the unemployment rate would reach this year, and I indicated to hon. members that we assumed and we thought from our various statistical data that the unemployment rate would not be as bad as last year and that we would be within the two percentage range, other words, this year it would be two percentage points lower than last year: As usual, Mr. Speaker, I was conservative with

MR. J. DINN: my figures and, indeed, we have improved even over that percentage point. And I would think that for the rest of the year that these figures would improve even more. One would also note that from March of last year, including every month up to this point in time, the figures have been better. We would hope that they would continue to improve, and I am sure all hon. members will be aware when the Budget is brought down later on this month that the programmes as outlined in the Budget will also improve the statistical figures. Albeit they are Statistics Canada figures, they are not as accurate as they should be. If they are taken on a month to month basis and over a one year period, then we can say that at least they are as accurate now as they were last year and the situation is improving.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR. T. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, it is a new thing for the minister to re-inform us of the labour force statistics as compiled by Statistics Canada, but let it be said that we on this side of the House naturally welcome any improvement in the unemployment rate in this Province. However, let it be said that we still stand at a ridiculously high level of unemployment, at approximately 16 per cent in the actual figures. But as the minister said, it represents just about a 3 per cent improvement - 2.9 per cent - and we certainly welcome that.

Of course, there are several things that one could comment on with respect to these statistics. We hon. members are all aware of the point that is made of how accurate the figures are and that there are many hidden numbers of unemployed, but, be that as it may, I suppose they are accurate insofar as the criteria that is used. We could use any set of criteria and come up with a different set of figures. But, as I said, let it be known to all hon. members - and particularly the government - that we are pleased with any reduction in the unemployment rate in this Province and glad to see that the unemployment rate is going down. What we would look forward to, of course, is some continuity in this, and

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MR. T. LUSH: we will have to wait over another year to see that this trend continues. If it does, it is going to be not only welcome to hon. members, but a welcome bit of news to all people in this Province to know that we are making

MR. T. LUSH: some progress, that we are making some progress towards reducing the atrociously high rate of unemployment in this Province and we hope that next year we can see naturally a continuing trend and by the way this is going that over a period of three years then we will get it down at least to the national average.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): The hon. member for Windsor - Buchans followed by the hon. member for La Poile.

MR. G. FLIGHT: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Mines and Energy (Mr. L. Barry), and if Your Honour will permit a very short preamble, the minister is aware, as all members of the House of Assembly are aware, of the very grave sense of insecurity or insecure sense or uncertain sense, atmosphere that exists in Buchans today with the town living with an impending mine shut-down. The latest projection the company will make is August. The House will also know that over the years I have indicated the short term solution to this problem is for the companies concerned to bring into production some of the ore bodies that they have been sitting on that have been discovered, and if brought to production would have the effect of prolonging the life expectancy of that mine and shoring up the economy of the whole central area. The ore body I am think of specifically, which the minister is familiar with, is the Tulk's ore body, fairly high-grade concentrates and a quantity that would warrant production under the circumstances.

Would the minister indicate to the House if he is aware of what the companies concerned, Abitibi Price and ASARCO, present intentions are with regards to the Tulk's deposit? Is it their intention to bring that ore body into production in time to prolong the life expectancy of of mine?

MR. SPEAKER (Simms):

The hon. Minister of Mines and

Energy.

MR. L. BARRY:

Mr. Speaker, I am aware of what

the companies are proposing. I have requested officials of the companies to come in and explain within the next few days in more detail, more fully, their plans and I will be making further statements at the appropriate time and specifically I refer to the fact that within the next ten days I will be having a further meeting with the Buchans Action Committee. And as soon as we have firm information as to the companies' plans I shall be bringing them to the attention of this hon. House and the people of Buchans. We are doing everything possible to see that whatever in the way of viable industry, whether it be continued mining operations at the Tulk's deposit, whether it be developing barite operations, whatever might be feasible and viable to reduce unemployment in the Buchans area, we are seeking to have carried out.

MR. G. FLIGHT:

Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, the hon. member

for Windsor - Buchans.

MR. G. FLIGHT:

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Minister,

there are indications in Buchans; meetings have been held in the past day or so whereby, as I understand it, that the companies have indicated their intention and their ability to develop the Tulk's mine, and

MR. G. FLIGHT: the rarifications of that are immense for the Buchans area and the whole central area - the Buchans, Buchans Junction, Millertown area. The indication is that the quantity of ore required is there, that markets are assured and the grade of ore is acceptable, and they have apparently indicated to very concerned groups that they are looking at bringing that ore body into production.

However, there may be other factors that would stop or would have some effect on whether it went into production or not. And the companies concerned may want to take advantage of programs that are already in place; access roads, the ore body is twelve or thirteen miles -

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Order, please! I think the hon. member's preamble is a little too long. If he has a question, I would direct him to ask it.

MR. G. FLIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, The ore body is well removed from Buchans and access roads would have to be a consideration and I would want to ask the minister - and I am not talking about subsidies to a mine, because I do not believe in subsidies unless the mine can stand on its own feet. But if, for argument's sake, the company can bring that ore body into production, but government assistance, under existing programs is desired or necessary, Will the minister assure the House that whatever government assistance by way of infrastructure that is required to get that mine into production, will indeed be made available to those two companies?

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): The hon. the Minister of Mines and Energy.

MR. L. BARRY: Mr. Speaker, if the company has made a public statement as set out by the hon. member, it has not

MR. L. BARRY: been brought to my attention and I will be quite interested in seeing a copy of the company's statement. I suspect that the hon. member, what he is setting out is somewhat premature.

When I have information, firm information which can be released, it will be released, Mr. Speaker. I can say we have had ongoing discussions and I am having, as I just mentioned, within the next few days, further discussions to see if we can have, at the earliest possible opportunity, the development of any deposits which might be economically developed in the Buchans area.

With respect to the provision of infrastructure, this government has made it clear that before the taxpayers' dollars are put into any industrial enterprise, we have to be shown the economics of the particular situation and we have to be shown that the infrastructure, the taxpayers' investment, is necessary in order to make a project viable.

And if, in fact, it is the case that we are shown that government assistance with infrastructure is necessary to make it viable, then we will be very sympathetic in looking at any such proposal.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): A final supplementary, the hon. the member for Windsor - Buchans.

MR. G. FLIGHT: For the information of the House, Mr. Speaker, I did not indicate nor did I intend to indicate that the companies concerned, Abitibi Price or ASARCO, had made a public statement. I said that they have, the principals of the companies have had meetings with very interested groups in Buchans who have vested interests in that mine site, that those meetings have been held. So I would like to ask the minister if he would be more

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MR. G. FLIGHT: **definitive**, be prepared to be more
definitive and indicate when exactly the meetings that he refers to
are taking place between his department and the principals of
the two mining companies concerned, when exactly those meetings
are taking place and what are the purposes of the meetings?
Are they simply for the minister's

MR. G. FLIGHT:

edification as to what the company's intentions are or will there be an announcement? Is the minister aware now that as of those meetings being held there will be an announcement that that ore body is indeed going into production? Just specifically when will those meetings be held, Mr. Speaker, and when does the minister feel he will be in a position to clarify the situation?

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): The hon. Minister of Mines and Energy.

MR. L. BARRY: Mr. Speaker, this government has never adopted the philosophy that we should make announcements with respect to announcements. And all I can say is that when we are in a position to make a statement as to the plans of the companies in the Buchans area, I will be making that statement. And my meetings with company officials will be within the next several days.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. S. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice (Mr. Ottenheimer), Sir. Would the minister tell the House in the absence of an invasion of privacy act in this Province, if it is legal for anybody to set themselves up with a telephone and a computer I think they call themselves 'Cheque Alerts'-and have all the business people in various parts of the Island call in when somebody comes in to cash a cheque, when somebody makes a purchase and wishes to cash a cheque, call into this centre and the person at the other will tell the business people whether or not they can cash the cheques? Is this legal, this kind of operation? Is it an invasion of privacy?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. G. OTTENHEIMER: Mr. Speaker, my answer will be quite general. Certainly after passage of the right to privacy legislation, a quite different position could be created because that will create a statutory delict. But there is now a consumer - I forget the exact title of the Bill enforced; a consumer - it is administered by the Department of Consumer Affairs and it is called 'The Consumer Credit Reporting Act' or something like that. And it could be an infringement of that Act, but I could not say yes or no. But there is an Act governing the method and revelation of consumer credit rating and related matters.

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

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

MR. S. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, these operations, as the minister knows, are quite frightening. These people can keep records as far back, I understand, as ten years and if somebody goes in to cash a cheque and he happened to have made a little mistake ten years ago, these cocky individuals are saying, 'Get you bank manager to call us and we will wipe out the record'. Now is the Minister of Justice going to allow this kind of operation to function in this Province where people's privacy is being invaded or will the minister undertake to investigate these companies to see if they are functioning within the law?

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

MR. G. OTTENHEIMER: Mr. Speaker, I will certainly check on the provisions of the Consumer Reporting Agency Act or what exactly it is called - it governs that - and certainly inform the hon. gentleman and the House with respect to that tomorrow or, if not, certainly the day after.

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

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

MR. S. NEARY: Did I understand the hon. gentleman to say that there would be a Right to Privacy bill brought into this House? And did the hon. gentleman say it 'could' contain provisions to make these operations illegal or 'would' contain provisions to make these operations illegal and run them out of business and out of the Province?

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

MR. G. OTTENHEIMER: Mr. Speaker, essentially the bill would create by statute a civil wrong for use of information of a private nature and it is related to matters of surveillance, illegitimate or unjustified, unauthorized surveillance, use of computerized personal information and areas of linkage from one purpose to another, impersonation and use of private documents, diaries, letters. So I would say that certainly an improper use of this information would be so covered, but it may well be already covered under legislation of the Consumer Affairs Department. It is that matter which I will check and inform the hon. gentleman.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the member for St. Barbe.

MR. T. BENNETT: Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transportation and Communications. While it is certainly delightful to see such a beautification programme being administered along the Trans-Canada Highway and I am sure everybody appreciates the efforts being put into it, would the minister tell the House of Assembly how much it might cost per square yard, or, if you will, per square mile for such a beautification programme, for the landscaping and seeding along the

MR. T. BENNETT:

Trans-Canada?

MR. SPEAKER (Simms):

The hon. the Minister of Transportation and Communications.

MR. C. BRETT:

Mr. Speaker, no, I do not have that information at hand, but the seeding that was done along the Trans-Canada Highway was part of the upgrading and came under the TCH agreement, so whatever it cost, the Province, of course, would have to pay 50 per cent of it. But I do not know the exact cost per square foot or square mile. I will say, Mr. Speaker, that it is an excellent job and I have had many, many letters and telephone calls, and in private conversations people have complimented the government on the job of seeding the Trans-Canada Highway. It certainly makes things look a lot better.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. C. BRETT:

I will endeavour to get that answer for the hon. member.

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MR. BENNETT:

A supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms):

A supplementary, the hon. member for St. Barbe.

MR. BENNETT:

I am wondering if the minister could tell us at this time if it will be an ongoing programme and if indeed it might spill over into other areas of the provincial highways of the Province, you know, the same programme?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Minister of Transportation and Communications.

MR. BRETT:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, that will continue to be a part of our programme as we continue to upgrade the Trans-Canada Highway. Whether or not it will extend to other roads I would say pretty well depends on the amount of money that is available.

MR. BENNETT:

A supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER:

A final supplementary, the hon. member for St. Barbe.

MR. BENNETT:

Mr. Speaker, I am wondering how our local contractors can go about looking to get contracts of this sort and what degree of assurance they might get of being able to qualify after they do submit a desire to do the contract work that comes about by the beautification of the Trans-Canada and the other areas? And what priority, if any, Mr. Speaker, might we expect with beautification programmes as opposed to new road construction or paving of the existing roads?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Minister of Transportation and Communications.

MR. BRETT:

The seeding programme last year was carried out by a company based in Quebec and the reason for that is because there was no one in the Province that had this machine. I do not know if the hon. member has

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MR. BRETT:

seen it or not.

AN HON. MEMBER:

(Inaudible)

MR. BRETT:

Yes, hydro something. There was no machine in the Province, there was no company able to handle it, but I understand that a company has been formed and that a machine has been bought and I would assume that this company, if we do any more seeding, would be tendering, and, of course, being a Newfoundland company, a local company, then they would get a ten per cent local preference and of course that also applies to paving providing, of course, it is not a DREE contract. If it is DREE, then local preference does not come in. They do not accept the local preference policy, DREE does not.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. member for Terra Nova.

Mr. LUSH:

Mr. Speaker, I want to direct a question to the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Neil Windsor) relating to the Municipalities Act. Mr. Speaker, specifically there appears to be a lot of confusion particularly with smaller councils, councils in the rural parts of Newfoundland and just how this Municipalities Act will affect them in this fiscal year. First, I want to ask the minister whether indeed there have been budgets returned this year to councils? I understand some years ago that there

MR. LUSH:

were procedures and mechanisms made whereby councils would get their application in early for their funds for that particular fiscal year. Now they have done the same thing and it has been brought to my attention that many of the budgets have been returned; so the question is, is this so and how will it affect councils in terms of knowing what fiscal arrangements they make for the year 1980?

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

MR. N. WINDSOR: Mr. Speaker, first of all, the hon. gentleman is obviously very confused as to the whole process. First of all, requests that come from municipalities for funding for any particular year - I am sure he is referring to capital funding, which has nothing at all to do with the budgetary process of compiling the operational budget, the utility and general budgets for municipalities.

The situation as it relates this year, because of the new Municipalities Act, obviously, there is, indeed, some confusion. What we have told municipalities is that they should proceed along the lines of previous years. However, those municipalities which have not yet financed their budgets, now that the Municipal Grants Act has been made public, and the allocations to municipalities under that Act have been made public, we are suggesting they revise it for the amounts. They use the same procedures. The amount of funding to be received from the Province should be adjusted in accordance with the Municipal Grants Act. Nevertheless, the procedures that are used, the compilation of the budget, the two separate budgets as opposed to the one single budget under the new Municipalities

MR. N. WINDSOR: Act, and the requirement to submit that to the minister for approval is still being followed as in previous years.

The only thing we are suggesting that change, if budgets have not been finalized and finally adopted, is that they make adjustments for the amount that they will actually receive from the Province.

But the actual requests from municipalities that are common this time of year really do not relate to that at all; you are talking about capital funding which does not reflect on the current year's budget other than, perhaps, in the interest rates.

I might say, Mr. Speaker, while I am on my feet, if the hon. gentleman will allow me, that just yesterday I did receive the first 100 copies of the Municipalities Act from the Queen's Printer. It has taken some time because of mechanical difficulties, apparently, in printing it. I do have the first 100 copies and expect the balance of 5,000 copies within a week, so that ten copies will be mailed to every municipality together with a covering letter outlining the highlights of the Act and how it relates to the municipalities, and I will make copies available to hon. members opposite tomorrow.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. LUSH: The minister did not answer the question specifically. I know of councils that were told to file their budgetary requirements for operation grants, road grants, whatever things councils

MR. LUSH: apply for, to do
them the same as they have done them in the years
previous, and they did this only to have them returned.
And now are

MR. LUSH: following another procedure, according to the new Municipalities Act, and those are the facts. That is what happened. My question to the minister is, what delay will this cause? Because as I have said before, the government have attempted to speed up this process and here we are now into the month of March and councils have just received their budgets back. How long will the delay be? When will they know what precisely they are getting?

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

MR. DINN: Mr. Speaker, they know exactly what they are getting. I had a major press conference several weeks ago and outlined to each municipality, and indeed wrote every municipality in the Province outlining the provisions of the new Municipal Grants Act, which is different from the Municipalities Act, the Municipal Grants Act, which outlines how much fundings the municipalities will get from the Province. Each municipality was written by me personally outlining the amount of the allocation from the Province for this year. All we are saving is that in preparing a budget under the Municipalities Act, or under for this year the Local Government Act, the act which is in existence until April 1st., we are saying, "Prepare your budget in accordance with the Local Government Act, but if you are now just preparing it or if we have not yet finally approved it, then the amount of provincial funding that you put in your budget should be in accordance with the Municipal Grants Act, which we have announced."

MR. LUSH: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary, the hon. member for Terra Nova.

MR. LUSH: Then on to the larger issue, which the minister alluded to earlier and that is with respect to capital funding, particularly with reference to monies for water and sewer. How is this going to affect councils, again particularly the smaller councils, that

MR. LUSH: do not yet have a property tax in place because the Municipalities Act does require that before getting these funds that a property tax be in place? So what is going to happen to those councils that have ongoing water and sewer systems, or that have the studies all done and are making applications for monies, capital funding for water and sewer, are these councils going to be discriminated against now? Or what procedures will the minister use to get over this requirement of the property tax when it is not yet in place?

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

MR. DINN: Mr. Speaker, far be it from this government to discriminate against any council. The act is very clear. It requires that when any municipality is serviced fifty per cent by water and/or sewer, then they shall be required to impose the property tax system. All that we are saying is that for this year municipalities which are applying - that they must know and they know very clearly, and it is the law of the land, it is approved by this hon. House - that property tax shall be required and they must know when they apply that once fifty per cent of the homes in that municipality are serviced they shall be required to bring in the property tax system. We are using a little bit of discretion this year, obviously, in phasing in this thing because, first of all, assessments cannot be done in one year. It is not something that can happen as of April 1st. because we cannot assess all the municipalities in this Province as of April 1st. to bring property tax in place. It is going to be phased in over probably four or five years. We will be proceeding with all due haste in assessing municipalities and bringing the act into full being as quickly as possible. But in that interim period we will be using a little bit of discretion.

MR. LUSH: A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. T. LUSH: The question relating to the unincorporated areas which have over the past few years set up water committees, these committees have been ongoing, I am just wondering what the status now of these water committees is? Will they be eligible for funding in this particular fiscal year? Just how do they fit into the general scheme of things, communities that are in dire need of water and are unincorporated, how do they fit into the scheme of things this year? Are these committees now gone by the wayside?

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Hon. minister.

MR. N. WINDSOR: Mr. Speaker, obviously unincorporated areas are not affected in any way by the Municipalities Act which applies to incorporated communities.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Burin - Placentia West.

MR. D. HOLLETT: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Industrial Development (Mr. Barry) if the Board of Directors of Marystown Shipyard has completed the internal examination of the operation of that yard as directed by the minister last year?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Industrial Development.

MR. L. BARRY: Mr. Speaker, we have had a preliminary survey of the operations of the yard and we have received certain projections with respect to what the position is going to be as of the end of its financial year, which is really the end of this month. And as I have mentioned before, the acid test of performance is going to be the bottom line in the financial statements and we will be looking very closely at the financial statements of the yard to see whether in fact the projections have been borne out. Indications are that

MR. L. BARRY: there have been improvements with respect to the number of man hours per ton of steel installed which indicates improved productivity. Indications are that the new accounting systems and cost estimating systems are helping management to avoid surprises. I still have some concerns, some serious concerns as to whether in fact the systems will work out as completely as expectations have it but at the present time it appears that the yard is moving towards a satisfactory position. It is not out of the woods by any means yet in terms of having to improve performance, but we will have a better picture when we get the financial statements as of the end of this fiscal year.

MR. D. HOLLETT: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): A supplementary, the hon. member for Burin - Placentia West.

MR. D. HOLLETT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am happy to hear that and I can assume that the minister is at least partly pleased by the changes that have been made and implemented. I am sure a lot of people will be happy to hear it also. And just to dispell the current rumour - where it started I do not know - I would like to ask the minister; is there any truth to the rumour that the government is either contemplating or has decided to place the yard for sale?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Industrial Development.

MR. L. BARRY: Mr. Speaker, I believe in the last session of the House I referred to the fact that that was one alternative that obviously has to be considered by any government in terms of looking at the operations of any Crown corporation. We have had expressions of interest

MR. L. BARRY: from a number - and a number, not just one - but a number of interested groups. We have made it clear that we have no intention, - this was at the time, by the way, when indications were that there had been serious problems with the Norwegian contract - we made it clear we were not inclined to sell the yard at a fire sale, but we are not writing off the possibility or we are not foreclosing the possibility of looking at proposals. If it were done it would be done on an open basis where there would be public invitations issued to have any interested parties come in and look at the yard and make us a proposal. But it is premature for us, until we see just where the yard stands at the end of this fiscal year, to give any indications as to how we are likely to move on this point.

MR. L. BARRY: I made the point, I think, earlier in this House that should it appear that the yard was going to be a continuing financial albatross around the neck of the Province, that any responsible government would have to look at the possibility of divestiture. At the present time it appears that that will not be the case. I do not want to minimize, however, the fact that - and there is a danger of people assuming, "Oh, the problems at the yard are cured," you know, overnight. And I know the hon. member would say that that is not the case. I know the people in Marystown on the Burin Peninsula realize that you do not solve problems of a shipyard overnight. And there are still serious problems that have to be dealt with so I do not want to minimize those at all. But in terms of our approach to divestiture of the yard, if it were ever contemplated it would only be with respect to seeing the continued viable operation of the yard.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear

MR. L. BARRY: That would be the foremost principle.

MR. SPEAKER: (Simms) Order, please!

MR. L. BARRY: I am finished.

MR. SPEAKER: The time for Oral Questions has expired. If the hon. Minister would like to continue by leave?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: By leave.

MR. SPEAKER: By leave, the hon. Minister of Lands and Forest.

MR. L. BARRY: I will just finish my remarks. We would only contemplate proposals that would improve the operation of the yard. And it would only be if it were seen that it was not the best way to go to have a continued heavy financial involvement by government. So maybe as time goes on and we see the financial statements, we can have further discussion on this point. I do not want to give the impression that it is not a possibility but,

MR. L. BARRY: at the present time, there has been no government decision to do it.

MR. SPEAKER: (Simms) Order, please! Time for Oral Questions has expired.

I would like to welcome to the galleries today on behalf of all hon. members, council representatives from the Town of Twillingate, in the district of Twillingate, who are in the gallery, and also a delegation from Colinet, North Harbour and Harricott from the district of St. Mary's - The Capes. We trust your visits will be productive and informative.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): The hon. member for St. Mary's - The Capes.

MR. D. HANCOCK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. D. HANCOCK: I should not have to rise to present a petition of this magnitude, Mr. Speaker, in this day and age but on behalf of the people in the following communities, the 350 voters of Colinet, North Harbour and Harricott, I will do so.

The prayer of the petition is a bit lengthy so if this House could bear with me for a few minutes - I think I have five minutes. "Areas of concern," this is the prayer of the petition, Mr. Speaker, "The areas we are talking about are located approximately fifty to sixty miles from St. John's, an entirely gravel road section of St. Mary's Bay." I might add, Mr. Speaker, it is one of the oldest roads on the Island of Newfoundland. "Poor roads have been a major drawback and difficulty for the residents of this area for many years. Gravel roads, you will admit, are far from ideal in this day and age at the best of times, However, there are times during the year when these roads are literally impassable, considering the condition of the Falls Bridge." I

MR. D. HANCOCK: might add, Mr. Speaker, that bridge was built in 1924. It was last inspected some five years ago and I predict with the ice that has gone underneath that bridge in the last four or five years that it is unsafe to go over that bridge today or any other day. "You must also keep in mind that the centralization of schools in the area was carried out on a promise to residents that the roads would be paved in the near future and made safe for busing. This was some thirteen to fourteen years ago - no pavement to date. Every school board as well as government has given up in this area, although each year children experience lost school days due to poor road conditions. The kids' futures suffer, are discriminated against as a result of poor roads in this area. They can not take part in any sports because they have to travel over a section of dirt road and they have to go to such places as Placentia, Kelligrews and Whitbourne. Why should our future adult generation be as much deprived of these and other essentials as I and my colleagues here were in our youth?"

"We were resettled to be given a chance to share in the same things that we are inspiring you and our government to do something about. We do pay taxes like any other urban or rural peoples of this Province."

"Health care in our area is deplorable due to road conditions and the hazardous

MR. D. HANCOCK:

"travel to nearest hospitals, etc.

It is of little help or comfort to the sick to realize that there are even times when travel will be impossible due to breakdown of snow removal equipment or lack of obsolete equipment. Need we say more?

"This area, we believe, has much to offer in the tourist section of our economy, but very few travellers come to our area in campers, etc., over such gravel roads, which does little for business in our area which could thrive on such movements of people and equipment. You must remember we are in the heart of the salmon, moose and other wildlife areas attractive to sportsmen and tourists alike, but very few people take advantage of the things we have to offer because of the road conditions."

"Another point to bear in mind is that the upgrading has been done in the past few years. Slow as it was, most surely we did not let it go to waste because of inaction of our government to provide funds for the blacktop." They are talking about the section of road that was upgraded last year where Class 'B' was put on the Mount Carmel to North Harbour - a section of nine miles of road which was upgraded and still no call for pavement. The upgrading has deteriorated in the last year and I am afraid that if it continues over this Summer that there will be very little crushed stone left on the road.

"In closing, I would like to mention that this is not the first time these conditions and problems have been brought to the attention of the minister and government. Some three or four years ago, a similar delegation from Colinet met with Mr. Carter and Mr. Morgan and outlined the same things we have been told here today. Things looked brighter for a short time with the promise of upgrading and paving in the near future. False promises again. Who pays?" For the minister to stand up today and say that he is going to beautify the Trans-Canada from one end to the other with a 50/50 sharing with Ottawa, I assume, and the people in my district have to drive over this section of road, and I might add, the bus that leaves North Harbour has to travel twenty miles to the school in Mount Carmel. Kids have to get up - it took a bus only as early as yesterday two and

MR. D. HANCOCK:

one-half hours to reach Mount Carmel.

So, Sir, I am in support of this petition, and I think members on this side and the opposite side should be also.

I would request that this petition be placed upon the table of this House of Assembly and directed to the department to which it relates.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Simms):

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

MR. E. ROBERTS:

My friend from LaPoile (Mr. Neary) has been kind enough to accede to the request which my friend from St. Mary's - The Capes (Mr. Hancock) made that I say a word or two in support of it, and I am delighted to.

I thought the member for St. Mary's - The Capes, who is the second most junior member of the House, spoke with eloquence and with effect when he presented the petition.

The prayer of the petition is clear-cut and it does not need any words of embellishment from me, but I do want to say that I hope it commends itself to the minister, who apparently is not even sufficiently interested to pay attention.

The road conditions up in that part of our Province are hard to credit in this day and age. I know there are many areas of the Province where roads are less than perfection. My own district is no stranger to bad road conditions. But last Fall during a certain democratic exercise that was underway in the electoral district of St. Mary's - The Capes, I had the great pleasure of accompanying the gentleman who is now the member for St. Mary's - The Capes - he was not at that time, he was in the process of becoming the member - on a drive over this road in question. And, Sir, over the years that I have been involved in public life, I have been around the Province once in a while and I have seen some bad roads, and I have had occasion once in a while to wonder whether my life insurance was paid up, but I do not think I have ever encountered roads quite as bad

MR. E. ROBERTS: as the roads on which we drove that day. It was a Sunday, as I recall it, and if ever there was a reason for being in church, the reason was not simply the hon. gentleman's driving, but the roads in the district. The road in question, Sir, is shocking; it is deplorable even by the standards of roads in rural Newfoundland. I would hope the government will find the money to do that road this year. I have no doubt it was promised. I have no doubt when the Premier spoke in Mount Carmel a day or two before the election when he told people that he controlled the money, that he said he would have that road upgraded and paved, and I sincerely hope it is this year. The road serves the people of a wide area; it serves them in a number of vital and important functions and I would hope that now the people have spoken by means of a petition through the agency of their member in the House that the minister and his colleagues will heed that prayer and we will see the work done this year.

You know, Mr. Speaker, when we look at some of the road projects that are done,

DR. MCNICHOLAS:

Now, on the last day a number of hon. members spoke about the desirability of having specialists in Labrador rather than flying people out of there to the Island, and I am with that one hundred per cent too. Unfortunately, I do not think we are going to get that for some time. Not only is there a shortage of specialists in Labrador, there is a shortage on the Island of Newfoundland, there is also a shortage here in St. John's, although some people might not believe that.

I will give you two examples: Take the specialty of obstetrics and gynaecology. There was one new chap who came to St. Clare's a few years ago, and in his place, one of the gynaecologist left and went to Saudi Arabia. Now, before that we did not have one new specialist in that field for fourteen years.

Take my own specialty of ophthalmology, and I am not referring to optometrists, I am referring to a medical doctor with an M.D. who goes off and does at least a four year's specialists course in eye surgery and eye medicine and gets his fellowship at the College of Surgeons, then he is classified as a specialist. Now, there has not been one new person in that field, in private practice, for about fourteen or fifteen years.

Since I came to practice here, in that field, one of the men died and one has gone to the mainland. I read just around Christmastime a statement by the Administrator of the Health Sciences Complex, a Complex that cost \$55 million, who said we would have to send patients from there to Toronto for kidney transplants because we could not find the medical or nursing personnel to staff a unit which

DR. MCNICHOLAS: was there before in
the old General Hospital.

I do not want to dwell
on this, Mr. Speaker, and I will not, but I think we
should note that in our medical school here, less than
50 per cent of the Newfoundlanders who have qualified
in medicine are practicing in Newfoundland, they have
gone elsewhere. And of the 335 medical graduates who
have finished there since the medical school opened,
335, only ninety-one of them are now practicing in
Newfoundland.

Mr. Speaker, this
ambulance service is very necessary, but where is the
money? The hon. the Premier stated some days ago that
we have the highest sales tax in Canada, we have the
highest income tax in Canada, we pay the highest interest
on our loans and bonds.

DR. MCNICHOLAS: There are only two ways we can get that money; new revenue, or we will rob Peter to pay Paul. Where do we get the new revenue? I make no apology, Mr. Speaker, to say the way we can get that for ambulance and medical services and other services is by owning and controlling our offshore oil. I make no apology at all about saying that.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

DR. MCNICHOLAS: I am very glad to have heard the hon. member from Grand Bank (Mr. Thoms) yesterday agreeing with that philosophy completely, agreeing that we do own and control the offshore oil. And I was very pleased to hear also the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary), who is gradually coming around to the same way of thinking, if he has not completely come around.

MR. NEARY: Are you sure?

DR. MCNICHOLAS: And I hope all the other hon. members on that side of the House will very rapidly come around to that way of thinking also.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in the interim we have to rob Peter to pay Paul, and I want to see this ambulance service and I want to see a better medical service. How are we going to do it? I have been told that a mile of highway, to upgrade and pave it, costs \$1 million. Maybe we should cut down a bit on that and devote it to our medical services. Maybe we should fine comb the estimates and see if we can come up with that money now or in the immediate future.

An obvious one, Mr. Speaker - and I do not want to be misunderstood in this; I think and I believe that particularly out of town members in this hon. House are poorly paid for their services but let us get our priorities straight - if we are going to have an ambulance service for Labrador or an increase in our salary, I would say let us postpone an increase until the oil starts to flow. I support the resolution, Mr. Speaker. I do not want the remarks

DR. MCNICHOLAS: I made to be taken as a reflection on the Department of Health, or the officials there, or the minister. I think they are doing a first class job with the funds that they have available for them. But I would say this, we do not have a first class medical service in Newfoundland, we have a second rate one; and as long as I sit in this House my ambition and aim will be to seek and do everything in my power to provide a first class one.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Butt): The hon. member for Trinity-Bay de Verde.

MR. F. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, first of all I would like to commend the member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren) for introducing this particular private member's resolution into the House, and I would like to mention also that his absence today from the Assembly is because of a death in his family and obviously this takes precedence over the situation as it exists here today. But, Sir, he is to be congratulated for the very eloquent and passionate way in which he did present the case for Labrador and he also mentioned in the introduction of his private member's resolution that if he had his time back he would have rephrased the actual resolution to include other remote and rural areas of Newfoundland and Labrador as well.

Sir, I was going to congratulate the member for St. John's Centre (Dr. McNicholas) but I will get back to the member a little later on because he said something towards the end which really destroyed the basis upon which I was going to congratulate him for his speech. But, Sir, the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary), the member for Naskaupi (Mr. Goudie), the member for Bonavista North (Mr. Stirling), the member for Exploits (Dr. Twomey), the member for Baie Verte-White Bay (Mr. Rideout) have spoken in support of this resolution and for all intents and purposes

MR. F. ROWE: the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) and the member for St. John's Centre (Dr. McNicholas) really did not give any great indication that they were speaking in support of this resolution, and, in fact, I was extremely disappointed in their reaction to this particular resolution, because I would have expected that the two gentlemen, being medical doctors themselves, would have had a very strong feeling and would have gone all out in support of this particular Private Member's Resolution.

Instead, Sir, they did see fit to indicate support, but raise the question of where is the money coming from.

DR. COLLINS: We are very practical people.

MR. F. ROWE: Very practical people! Well, Sir, I will have something to say about very practical people -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. F. ROWE: - when it comes to the health of people in this particular Province.

But, Sir, the one thing that really bothered me was this, that both hon. gentlemen used the same phrase, 'where is the money coming from,' and 'we have to wait for the oil flow.' Now, Sir, this government and this administration appears to be completely preoccupied with oil and gas off our shores. And we have all said, on this side, that we hope, and we indeed hope that oil and gas do flow out of these wells that are presently being explored.

But, Sir, how can we place a dollar sign on the life and health of the people in the remote areas of this Province, especially in the section of our Province called Labrador? There is no way in this world, Sir, that we should place a dollar sign on the life and health of these particular people. I can only mention, Mr. Speaker, this, is that out of a one billion dollar budget, approximately, rounding off the figures, surely heavens we can

MR. F. ROWE: find another \$250,000, which is the estimated cost I understand of providing this necessary ambulance service to the Northern region of our Province, namely Labrador and I would suspect the Northern Peninsula itself.

Sir, I would have really expected two medical doctors occupying seats in this hon. House to have taken a more humane view with respect to the health and welfare and the medical needs of the people in Labrador and not look at dollar signs, and saying that they are very practical men.

We can uncover, Sir, hundreds of thousands of dollars-and I do not want to get into this-hundreds of thousands of dollars have been misspent and spent unwisely by this administration over the past number of years. I will not get into the details of it, I do not want to lower the quality of the debate in that particular respect.

Now, Sir, what are we talking about exactly here? The member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren) has mentioned the lack of specialized medical expertise in Labrador, and the hon. member for St. John's Centre (Dr. McNicholas) did mention that this problem does in fact exist throughout the whole of the Province. That point is very well taken and I was quite amazed, actually with the statistics that he presented before the House with respect to the number of medical students coming out of our medical school who are actually staying in this Province. That is a horrifying story and it is quite a surprising story. I would have expected the percentage to be quite a bit larger, the retention of our medical students and our graduates from the medical school here in this Province, I would have expected it to be up somewhere in the 90 per cent area. Instead of that we have, I cannot remember the exact figure, less the 50 per cent being retained in our Province and, to compound the problem, we have the situation where we have a lack of specialists in the Province, period. And that compounds the problem even

MR. F. ROWE:

more with respect to Labrador.

But, what is the resolve of this particular motion? That the government of Newfoundland and Labrador make available ambulance service for patients in Labrador comparable to the services provided on the Island portion of the Province.' Now, Sir, the member for Torngat Mountains (G. Warren), speaking on behalf really of all of Labrador and the other remote areas of this Province, is asking for nothing more, nothing less, just comparable ambulance service in that portion of our Province. And, Sir, if ever there was a need

MR. F. ROWE:

for an ambulance service - if we do not have enough nurses, if we do not have enough doctors and if we do not have enough specialists in that area of our Province—that is reason enough alone for providing a better ambulance service for that region of the Province. So I cannot see how we can debate this bill in this House and not have unanimous support of it before the afternoon is out, and I would expect that this bill will get the unanimous support of every member of the House and I sincerely hope that both hon. members opposite, whom I have been a little tiny bit critical of because of their remarks in their speech, will indeed see fit to stand up in support of this bill because I can assure hon. members that if you are looking through a billion dollar budget you can surely scrape up a quarter of a million dollars in terms of the health and safety of people in the remote areas of our Province. You cannot, I repeat, place a dollar sign on the health and welfare and medical needs of people in Newfoundland and especially in the remote parts of this particular Province.

Sir, I myself really do have a special interest in Labrador itself. As a matter of fact, if I can reminisce for just a moment, it was my first political experience, was Labrador. In 1951 when my father decided to run in politics he ran in the district of Labrador, period, one whole district, all of Labrador. There was no Churchill Falls, there was no Wabush or Labrador City, no Twin Falls. The innermost occupied area at that point was the North West River, Happy Valley, Goose Bay area, and I had the tremendous experience at the age of thirteen of being the cook on the chartered boat that my father toured that particular district in during that Summer. We visited every single community from - I guess the most Southerly community

MR. F. ROWE: is L'Anse-au-Clair, to Hebron at that time and inwards up Lake Melville into the inner parts of Labrador. We visited every single community, some of which do not exist at this present time. But that was a tremendous experience for me, Sir, because I had the privilege of meeting hundreds of Labradorians at that time and without downgrading, without belittling the people of that particular area of the Province I would like to relate a story that indicates in a certain way the alienation that the people of Labrador even felt at that time, the isolation that they felt at that time, the misunderstandings that they had at that time. My father happened to be a doctor of pedagogy, a doctor of education, and we had - the campaign manager at the time was Captain Sid Hill, the famous sealing captain, and he would introduce, you know, Doctor Rowe as the Liberal candidate in that particular election. I can remember the quite - nothing at all humorous about it - the quite sad story of meeting a lady, a lady actual coming down to me and asking for Doctor Rowe because she figured or she thought that he would be able to solve her medical problems at that particular time. But, Sir, things have improved immensely on the Coast of Labrador and in the interior of Labrador quite a bit since that time. But we still have that sense of alienation, that sense of not really belonging to the Province or the Island portion of the Province, the feeling by the people up there that tax dollars are being taken out and they are not seeing their returns for it. I know that is an argumentative statement but there is still that feeling, that impression that somehow or another and in some sectors of their social life the people of Labrador are being discriminated against and this is the very reason why we have this separatist feeling coming to the surface every now and

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MR. F. ROWE: then, why we have people in Labrador
sometimes looking to Quebec every now and then, sometimes
looking

MR. F. ROWE: to having their own identity separate from the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, it is things like this, this obvious disparity, this discrepancy in terms of medical service being provided to the people of Labrador. And I thought that everybody who has spoken so far, particularly the member who represents the Torngat Mountains (Mr. G. Warren), has made a very good case for increased expenditures for purposes of the provision of proper ambulance services to equalize, to bring some equity between Labrador and the Island portion of our Province when it comes to the provision of ambulance service or certain medical services in this particular case; and we are not, of course, excluding other remote areas of the Island portion of our Province which have very similar problems indeed.

Sir, I should not let the time pass without really paying tribute to the International Grenfell Association and the doctors and the nurses and the personnel of the International Grenfell Association who have done tremendous work over the years on the Great Northern Peninsula and in Labrador. They have been subjected quite often to very, very harsh criticism by people on the Island and people in Labrador. Needless to say, every institution, whether it is the Grace Hospital, the Health Sciences Complex, St. Clare's Hospital or any hospital, cannot be perfect, and the International Grenfell Association has not been perfect, but they have provided a tremendous medical service to the people who reside in the Northern portion of the Island portion of our Province and also to the Labrador people themselves.

So I repeat once again that I hope that the impression that was left by two hon. members opposite, and to my deep disappointment coming from two doctors sitting opposite, that the only indication that I have had from the other side of a lack of complete and undiluted support for this particular resolution has come from two members opposite who are themselves in the medical profession. I find that terribly disappointing and terribly surprising, and I hope it will be remedied at the end of the day when these two hon. members will get an opportunity to stand and be counted, as we have heard so often expressed in this House since the

MR. F. ROWE: recent Throne Speech, that these two hon. members will stand and be counted and will, indeed, support this particular resolution when it comes to the vote.

DR. J. COLLINS: (Inaudible) a question.

MR. F. ROWE: I do not know what the hon. the Minister of Finance (Dr. J. Collins) is -

DR. J. COLLINS: Would the hon. member permit a question?

MR. F. ROWE: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will permit a question.

MR. SPEAKER (Butt): By leave, the hon. the Minister of Finance.

DR. J. COLLINS: Perhaps I could put a question to him, because I think he may well have a lot of insight into this matter that perhaps other members would not have, and I really would just like his opinion on it.

We are talking here to some extent about the transfer of patients from peripheral areas to, shall we say, core facilities - not totally; I mean, you know, in some instances there are no facilities so it is a case of getting patients into some facilities, not necessarily core facilities. But to some extent we are talking in that vein. I would like to get the hon. member's opinion on what he would think about where there are no core facilities in the Province for a particular matter and you have to have transfer elsewhere for those core facilities - you know, how would he react to expanding if we did this to cover that side of things? Because I think that is a legitimate point too. And I do not say that to try to be argumentative with the hon. member, I think that it is all part of the same picture in a way. I think the hon. member would understand that.

MR. F. ROWE: I think the hon. the Minister of Finance realizes why I do understand that particular problem, because I have a personal problem in my own family in this particular case. That does not distract whatsoever from the argument

MR. F. ROWE:

argument, the fact that, okay, Mr. Speaker, I realize in the medical profession that there is always this one major problem, if you are going to have a major core facility in some area of the Province, or even in the Province itself, this automatically takes away from the provision of peripheral services effort throughout the Province, whether it be on the Great Northern Peninsula, or in Labrador. I realize that medical reality, that in order to get that basic core facility - I have often heard criticism of the IGA because of the so-called empire building in St. Anthony, but you have got to have that great institution there to perform the kind of medical services that are required so that you would not have to do the type of thing that the Minister of Finance indicated, and that is ship them out of the Province altogether. But in answer to the hon. minister's question, the answer is taken care of by Medicare because in my particular instance, where surgery had to be done on the heart of my son, it could not be done in Newfoundland, as a matter of fact the problem could not even be diagnosed in Newfoundland, as the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) well knows. The particular problem could not even be diagnosed. It took twelve days in Sick Children's Hospital to diagnose the problem. But in my particular case, and in the case of every other individual in Newfoundland and Labrador, transportation from the Province to another core unit or area somewhere in North America, England or Canada or the States is taken care of by Medicare because somewhere in the act or the regulations something that cannot be done in Newfoundland or Labrador, any surgery or treatment that cannot be carried out in this particular Province, is paid for by Medicare because of the referral by the doctors on the scene. So that is not the problem that we are confronted with here.

In summary, Mr. Speaker, it is very, very simple. We are asking the administration opposite to look at their - which it should be this year; I think it was last year in round figures a \$1 billion budget - look for approximately

MR. F. ROWE: one quarter of a million dollars to provide - \$250,000, a quarter of a million dollars, out of \$1 billion surely could be scraped out of that budget, to give the people of Labrador an ambulance service and a medical service that is equivalent to, equal to, the medical services that are provided on the Island part of our Province, or in certain parts of the Island part of our Province.

So I hope I have answered the Minister of Finance's question adequately but it really does not distract, nor really does it have anything to do with the particular resolve called for in this particular resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I thank hon. members for listening to what I had to say on this particular motion and I do hope, and I sincerely hope, that every member of this House will see fit to stand up and vote for or support this particular resolution and I hope that my few comments of mild critical nature will not be taken in such a way that the two hon. members to whom I referred will not see fit to stand up and support this particular resolution.

Thank you very much.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR. HOUSE: Mr. Speaker, I want to make a few comments on this resolution and I want to thank hon. members for their comments. First of all I might say I want to thank the member for Torngat Mountains for bringing this resolution and I do want to say that I had hoped that he would be here today but I do know why he is away and I extend my sympathy also. I do have some knowledge of the situation because I did visit the Janeway when the young boy was there. A member of my family was a close friend there. So I pass my personal condolences to him today.

The other reason why I want to

MR. HOUSE: thank the member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren) is because he brought to us a good compassionate Tory policy, one that I thought that he knew what we were talking about and doing some work on. I will say this at the outset, as my colleague behind me said, certainly I am going to support this resolution.

The couple of points I want to make are; I was away last week when the resolution was presented, and I was away for a very particular reason. I have been so busy since I have been back I have not had a chance to read all of the comments that were made about the resolution last week. But I was reading the paper, I guess on last Thursday, and I got the impression that the people on this side were not for the resolution. I did read up on what they had to say and I could not figure out how anybody could get the impression that what the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) said was against the resolution. I thank him for filling in for me, as the second speaker after the mover. As the Minister of Health, I guess I am supposed to make a response to this, and the Minister of Finance, of course, is the acting minister when I am away and I thank him for his comments.

I am not going to cover all the details that he covered because he did mention a lot of things that we are doing in the Labrador area. Now, I want to say a few things about my association with Labrador. Unfortunately, I have not travelled extensively. I have been in Cabinet five years and I have been in Labrador four or five times. Perhaps as a minister I have most frequently visited Nain and Makkovik, Hopedale and Davis Inlet. I have been there three times in

MR. HOUSE: a five year period.
MR. GOUDIE: Hear, hear!
MR. HOUSE: I have been to Western Labrador and, of course, to Goose Bay - Happy Valley. Unfortunately, I have not been to any place south of Cartwright. I was trying to get there while I was Minister of Education, but things worked against my getting there. But I might say that I have travelled enough there to get an appreciation of the problems and to perhaps gather some of the feelings about what people think about Labrador.

Yesterday I picked up a document in the back of the room there, I believe it was the report of the Snowden Commission, which was a commission that was set up to look at the problems in Labrador, and to look at the basic needs and so on. That document, there in the back of the Assembly, points out what has been done to date on the resolutions. There were five or six resolutions there which pertained to health. I am happy to say that practically - I believe all of them, all but the one related to transportation, or ambulance services, are in the process of being carried out or have been completed, and I think that is very good.

When we think of the ambulance, and I will say something further on this, I will elucidate when I get down into the meat of what I have to say, that we cannot forget that there is a fair measure of ambulance service there now.

Now, I just want to talk about the last couple of times I have been in Labrador, when I looked at the facilities we have there. As I have said, some of the results of the Snowden Commission pointed out what things were needed and, of

MR. HOUSE: course, as I looked at it, we are getting these clinics, stations along the coast in practically every small community in the Labrador area, and these are only good, obviously, to bring what I call the primary services. If you go to places like Nain, for instances, I will use that as an example, and other places where we are building new clinics, you will find out that we are putting facilities there to give primary, what I call, life-saving services.

And, of course, there is transportation to get to other centres in the Province, particularly from the coast of Labrador. That is being done, but we recognize that it is not

MR. W. HOUSD: specialists going in. I was in Labrador City some time ago and I was very pleasantly surprised to go to the hospital and see a team of our professionals, I suppose, physiotherapists and occupational therapists, there working with the doctors and these went from there into Huppy Valley - Goose Bay and, of course, providing that kind of special service. Now what I am leading to is that I think we are improving continuously but we know we cannot and we are not giving an adequate service, but we are making improvements all the time.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we hear a lot about the idea of Medicare and there are two of three terms in Medicare that we talk about. And one of the terms is 'accessibility', 'every person in Canada should have reasonable access to medical services' and of course, we are asking Judge Emmet Hall to define that more fully for us because if there are all kinds of medical service^s in Montreal or here, if I am outside of here it is not so accessible, the Medicare that I require is not so accessible as it would be if I were here. And the same thing applies to Nain or Jackson's Arm in my district or in any other community in remote Newfoundland. What we think we have to do and what we think we should be doing is trying to at least make it as accessible as possible and consequently that we should be looking at some kind of an ambulance programme like we have, and I say on the Island portion of the Province or in Newfoundland and Labrador we have one of the better ambulance services.

Right now, for instance, the member for Trinity - Bay de Verde, (Mr. F. Rowe) I think, mentioned putting dollar signs on people's lives. The fact is -

MR. F. ROWE: (Inaudible) putting a price tag
on them.

MR. W. HOUSE: The fact is where people are not
able to pay their way, of course, right now we do have people getting
free ambulance service. There is no question about that and they
are getting the same service as we are getting here on the Island.

AN HON. MEMBER: That is not true.

MR. W. HOUSE: Yes, they are.

AN HON. MEMBER: No, they are not.

MR. W. HOUSE: Yes, they are. The government plane will go in and if they are indigent people, the Welfare will pay for their ambulance service if they have to come out.

MR. S. NEARY: But they are indigent people. How about the working class people?

MR. W. HOUSE: If they are working class people right now and the plane goes in for them, they do not have to pay either, but if they come out on E.P.A., they do.

MR. S. NEARY: How often does the government plane (inaudible)

MR. W. HOUSE: Well, she has gone in in emergencies.

MR. S. NEARY: There are only a few places she can get in now. Do not be talking such foolish nonsense.

MR. W. HOUSE: Mr. Speaker, she can get into two places and, besides that, on the Labrador Coast there are planes on charter for that very purpose, to bring them in to Happy Valley - Goose Bay or in to St. Anthony. And that is a service, of course, that is not in any other part, but we recognize that is a very necessary service and one that we are happy to be part of.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot let this go without, of course, making some reference to the International Grenfell Association and the service they have given there, and, of course, the other hospital in the Western part, the Jackman Hospital, and the service that board is giving.

One of the recommendations of the Snowdon Commission was to have more local input into the administration of the health system in Northern Newfoundland and Labrador, and that is, of course, more or less setting up, perhaps, a local board.

We have been in negotiations with the International Grenfell Association and the people in Northern Newfoundland and Labrador with respect to that particular proposition. We made an announcement a month ago that we are in the process of setting up a board that will have representation from all the areas served by the International Grenfell Association, and there is a task force set up looking at the

MR. W. HOUSE: holdings of the I.G.A. and we are in discussion about what will be done with that. So that particular resolution, then, of the Snowdon Commission will be completed. The board is just about in place, and I am sure that will give the local people more input and more a feeling of being part of their own government.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as I said, I think it is reasonable. I think the member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. G. Warren) was aware of the fact that some time ago when I was in Labrador, when we were there as a Cabinet -

AN HON. MEMBER: Yes.

MR. W. HOUSE: - there was a brief presented and I responded to the brief there, stating that we are looking at some options to try to bring more equality of ambulance services to the Province, particularly as it pertains to Labrador. I talked to, I believe, the members for all the districts in Labrador and told them the same thing. So I was kind of surprised to see the resolution come up. But I am very happy to see the resolution on the Order Paper because it gives us a chance to point out some of the things that we are doing in Labrador and gives us a chance to say that we are looking at this particular kind of programme, some kind of programme to be able to make ambulance services more accessible.

I have had cases where people have told me, and one particular case where a fellow told me that he had to have, I believe, something like five seats on Air Canada from Wabush out and he had some escort service, and it cost him, I believe, in the final analysis, something like \$2,200. I think that is the most exorbitant one. Some of that was offset, of course, by some kind of insurance, but the fact remains it was too costly. We recognize this.

And I had a number of cases where they talked about the \$1,000 costs and so on.

So, Mr. Speaker, we are very happy to associate ourselves with this resolution because we want to see that kind of thing immediately.

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MR. S. NEARY:

resolution?

Are you going to vote for the

MR. W. HOUSE:

Oh, yes, I am going to vote for the resolution.

Am I going to vote for the resolution?

I just want to make one little comment
with respect to the medical school before I -

MR. W. HOUSE:

there is some reference that only ninety people are practising, as my good friend behind me spoke about that - that is true but the last two classes have not got the ability to - they can not practice yet because they are interning so there are ninety-five of the graduates who are actually working in the Province under certificate and there are fifty-five others who are interning. So we can not say that these fifty-five are not still in the Province; some of them may not return to the Province but certainly a percentage of these will be back.

The other thing, this is

some information -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. W. HOUSE: I do not know I just got to pass it along here that the member for Trinity - Bay de Verde (Mr. F. Rowe) spoke about MCP picking up costs of out of province, I guess.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. W. HOUSE: Yes, but not in transportation.

That is only in the -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. W. HOUSE: Yes, not in transportation. That is only in the actual medical costs and the hospital insurance.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am not going to say much more about this because I think all I wanted to do was reiterate that we have talked about this, we are looking at programmes, we know that there are some inequitable situations, and I do not know what time anything could happen but certainly we favour this. It is a good, as I said, compassionate resolution, one that I want to associate myself with and I think we all associate ourselves with it. So I will just say that I am going to support the resolution. Thank you very much.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. SPEAKER (Baird):

The hon. member for Eagle River.

MR. E. HISCOCK:

I am very pleased to be able to talk on behalf of the motion sponsored by the member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. G. Warren) and again I express my sympathy to him and to his family of the death in their immediate family.

This is a proposal that is really long overdue, the air ambulance service in Labrador. It has been pointed out that anywhere in the Island part of our Province, Newfoundland, that if you need to be transferred from a hospital in Roddickton to St. John's it is only fifty dollars.

A couple of things have been mentioned, and I was going to speak in a little bit more (inaudible), but there are couple of things that I want to bring up in particular that I found a little bit disturbing. One was the member for St. John's Centre (Dr. P. McNicholas); basically he ended up saying that with our priorities and getting our priorities right that basically we, as the members of the House of Assembly, should not accept a pay increase until the oil flows. I would give the member from St. John's Centre of having that basically in his mind and really feeling that it could be done. But I regret to say that in serving in my district of Eagle River, which is one of the largest in land mass, not in population, that I can not do it on my salary. I was making the same salary as when I was teaching and yet now I am expected to visit, I am expected to pay air fares, I am expected to pay transportation by boats and getting me from A to B. So the member from St. John's Centre who has a thriving business and I am sure a salary well in excess of what most people make in this House, and maybe with some other members could easily do away and say, "Okay, I will not accept the increase." But again we must come back to the realities that it is not being realistic.

Another point I am concerned about is of the attitude the Province is taking, 'Wait until the oil comes.' What are the people in my district going to do when they

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MR. E. HISCOCK: want an increase of money so that they can get a motor, so they can get their boat? The oil is not going to affect the people in my district. The only way it is going to affect the people in my district in Labrador is that the provincial government is going to be taking money that needs to be spent in my district and in other rural areas of Newfoundland and taking it

MR. E. HISCOCK: and bringing in the infrastructure of the oil here in St. John's and on the Avalon Peninsula. So that is all the oil is going to affect us. We are going to see a downgrading of services before the services actually come up because-

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible) do not think so.

MR. E. HISCOCK: We just heard from the member from St. John's Centre (Dr. McNicholas) saying you cannot have your ambulance because we cannot afford it, but when we get the oil you can afford it.

So I will go on and point out that basically if government had its priorities right and had an efficient form of government, that we could easily well afford two hundred and fifty thousand dollars for the air ambulance service. We could easily afford maybe ten million or twenty million or twenty-five million if the government itself had an efficient form of government and efficient form of tax collection.

AN HON. MEMBER: Come on now (inaudible).

MR. E. HISCOCK: Well, I only will be reporting what the Auditor General will say, so you can say about the Auditor General that. Do not complain to me, complain to him.

The other one I am a bit concerned with is that the Minister of Health (W. House) said sparse population and I have spoken in the House before and I will continue to speak in my term, as long as I am elected in this House, that this is an attitude that we have to overcome. If we continue to look at services to be given in this Province in sparse population, then a good many of our rural areas of Newfoundland and Labrador are not going to get the facilities that they deserve because they do not have the populations.

The Minister of Mines and Energy

(L. Barry) ended up saying that the people in Pinsent Arm, basically

MR. E. HISCOCK: cannot have power because they do not have the number of houses, they do not have their whatever and we cannot afford, as a Province, to start encouraging small places, independent that are self-sufficient.

Roads to various communities cannot be built because they are excessive of the amount of money that is needed and available to this Province. Schools, hospital construction or clinic construction, you do not just have the population to warrant it. And I can go around the South Coast, the South Coast of Gaultois, Hermitage, basically cannot have it. Why? Because the population. And yet Gaultois is one of the most paying towns in this Province, and yet it cannot have the facilities because the government says that it cannot afford it.

The attitude, as I said, towards Labrador and towards rural areas is that if you have the population you can have it. If you do not have the population, then you cannot have it. We have heard that, if I may say, from the past Liberal Government also, as well as the Conservative Government for the past seven years, and it looks like that we are going to have it for the next three or four years according to the ministers that are standing up, and the civil servants. When I write the civil servants and the ministers asking for various things in my district, I am told, "You have too sparse a population and we cannot afford it." And yet we are reaping the benefits of Labrador by way of taxation from Iron Ore Company of Canada, increase of taxation of minerals of revenue by Brinco. The Minister of Finance (Dr. J. Collins) basically asks where would the money come from? And the member for St. John's Centre (Dr. McNicholas) as well as most of the government officials asks, where will it come from? We have oil rigs drilling of Hopedale and also off Cartwright. I would assume that they pay a royalty or they pay an exploration fee, Could we not take a little bit away from that and put it towards the air ambulance service? We end up getting annually \$24 million dollars from the Upper Churchill - even though we should be getting \$500 million - but we get \$24 million or \$25 million, Could we not take a quarter of a million away from that and give towards air

MR. E. HISCOCK: ambulance? We also have the Iron Ore Company of Canada in Labrador City and Wabush Mines in Wabush. Could we not take a bit of the taxation that they end up paying to the government and give towards air ambulance? We have our fish products, the fish plant here in St. John's depends on fish that it gets off the Northern cod, also places on the South Coast, Harbour Grace and various other areas. Could we not take a little bit of revenue that they pay in and give towards air ambulance? Mining exploration in Labrador, each year I believe it is at least two or three million dollars in mining exploration and most of this itself takes place in Labrador. As a result we have the find of Kitts-Michelin. Here we have the Kitts-Michelin projects which is going to be coming on stream and the taxation is paid, maybe we could take a small taxation from that and give towards the air ambulance service. The fish products itself are having fishermen coming from

MR. HISCOCK: Conception Bay and coming down to Labrador. Maybe the payments that they give in to the government, we could have it. In the Auditor General's report he ended up mentioning the various expenditures in this area - that if the government - the collection of Rural Development, for example, on pages ten and sixteen, the collection of Rural Development Authority loans are not being pursued - over \$7 million and these loans are not being pursued, and we are talking about \$250,000. That is only one - \$7 million. Collection of the receivables is not being pursued. The Department of Municipal Affairs, \$1,781,500.63 are not being pursued. The Department of Finance, taxes of \$3,712,192 not paid, \$3 million, almost \$4 million not being paid. Non-collection of certain forest management tax not being pursued, not being collected, not even organized. Retail sales tax not paid to the Province: It has increased in 1978, to March 31st, 1978, to the 31st of March, 1979 - \$10 million. So, if you take the \$10 million and the \$3 million and the \$7 million and the \$1 million, I think I am almost up to about \$30 million, and we are being told that we cannot afford \$250,000. Surely we have a much to be desired (Inaudible) efficient form of government, of taxation and that. Maybe this form of government that we have now is that the government is so concerned with getting the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow that we are not concerned with running our house in an efficient form of order that we should be doing now, that come in the future we will have so much that we can afford to get rid of \$10 million. We can afford to get rid of \$6 million or \$3 million, but I say to you and I say to the government and I say to the people of this House, that when I have fishermen in my district who have to go out to Petty Harbour and Triangle and various other areas on the coast, who do not even have a phone, in the Summer and yet they go out and fish there and bring in new dollars to this Province and cannot even get as much as a phone, they basically ask the question - \$30 million not being collected because of inefficiency of government. How can I explain that to them, when I have a place down in my district, a school, a one-room school, kindergarten to Grade 10 with two teachers in it and only one exit and a wood stove in the middle of the centre; and another school, from kindergarten to

MR. HISCOCK:

Grade 10 with one teacher? It is supposed to have another teacher but because of accommodation, cannot get one. Another classroom down there the same way. Basically, what I am told about this with the Auditor General of almost \$30 million is not being collected, I can easily tell you what could be done with \$30 million in my district. Another one that was pointed out is that where could we get the money. If this government had been planning and had the correct type of people and advisors, we would not have lost \$150 million of trying to get a tunnel across the Strait of Belle Isle and had a big blow-up in Flowers Cove and another one in L'Anse-Amour and now it is all there and what is there is a hole in the ground. That is where you could get \$250,000, from that.

So when we hear the governments and the various ministers talking about we cannot afford it, we cannot afford it, I basically really have to ask the question, can we not afford it or basically that we do not want to. We do not want to give the Opposition here any credit that, yes, this is a very, very good private member's motion. The Minister of Health (Mr. House) said himself, "I talked with the member from Torngat (Mr. Warren) and I am surprised he brought it in". He is surprised that he brought it in. The member from Torngat is surprised he also brought it in. He felt that the only way of bringing it in we may get it, but yet the government is basically saying, yes, it is a good motion but we really cannot afford it because if it goes through, then the member from Torngat and this side might get a little bit of credit. But I would say to the people and the government and also the people in my district and in Labrador, they do not care in the long term who gets the credit,

MR. HISCOCK: who gets the credit as long as that family who needs to get five seats to go to St. John's with their child, or with their complication in pregnancy or whatever. We are not that small. In the short-term, sure, we will try to make political points, but in the long-term what will it do to us? We are here basically to give a betterment service to our Province and to our people.

I regret that the Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development (Mr. Goudie) - yes, he is. In the speech last week the Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development looked at me and basically ended up saying the salmon lodge on the Eagle River, that was operated by the armed forces, and here they had a helicopter stationed there at all times taking the salmon away and not doing anything, and basically it was supposed to be a survival camp. I was a little bit surprised, really, when he directed his question at me. I travelled on the Eagle River, yes. I made it a point of going through the full district. But I was amazed that the minister would direct the question at me and more or less almost say, basically, 'You are responsible for that lodge down there, and if you had any choice in that you would get rid of it'. But it is the Departments of Lands and Forests and Tourism which gave them the lease. And the criticism, if I may say that, the criticism that the member had of the Royal Canadian Armed Forces, who have their lodge there - and there is salmon fishing there and from what I can gather, there is some abuse of power too, but I am not in a position to say. I mean, the government has to investigate it, they have the people to classify that and say it.

MR. HISCOCK:

But basically what ends up happening, as I was told by the people from Paradise River and Cartwright, is that the helicopter is there, stationed at all times, and they have had search and rescue efforts and those helicopters which were based there by the armed forces actually did go and deliver people to Goose Bay or ended up delivering to various other areas. So I am not pro or con towards the lodge there itself, but I am - seeing the minister brought it up, I will bring this up publicly now in the House. There is another lodge down on the Eagle River that never even had a licence, and never even had a grant to operate, was down the river three or four miles and by squatters' rights moved up to the main part of the river and is still operating without a licence and without a grant and is complaining that this armed forces lodge is over there and they are taking away all the credit, and they are taking away - and they have the best salmon holes and that. So when the minister turns around and gets up and talks about Eagle River, I suggest to him to look into the other areas there are operated by Mr. Power from Goose Bay. Can we really, when we talk about salmon conservation, have lodges that are operating that really do not have licences and that? So I think if we are going to criticize we should criticize on both sides.

The resolution itself, air ambulance into Labrador to provide services to other parts of the area, there is no question about it and I will be an extremely surprised and an extremely disappointed person in this House if, when the budget is brought down - and after pointing out that over \$30 million of non-collected money, of the inefficiency of this government, that I would say that the government will have to do some

MR. HISCOCK: explaining after, why they cannot afford \$250,000. Our budget is \$1 billion and here we are asking for \$250,000. It is the equivalent of twenty-five cents of a thousand. If somebody had one thousand dollars and asked for twenty-five cents, you would turn around and you would just give it like that. And yet, here we are talking about \$250,000 out of \$1 billion, we have over \$31 million or more not collected, so I would turn around and recommend to the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) to get a better form of efficient government, of collecting taxation. To the Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development (Mr. Goudie), get his department in shape. To the Minister of Lands and Forests (Mr. Power), get his department in shape.

MR. E. HISCOCK: Basically by doing that we not only have \$250,000 for our air ambulance service but we would have \$25 million for school for hospitals, maybe the school out in Grand Falls could be built if we had a more efficient form of taxation. Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear,hear!

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. W. PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the mover of this motion. It is certainly an excellent motion and I have learned about Labrador, I must say, listening to the various speakers. But this savage, unwarranted attack on the government a few minutes ago by the last speaker, the member for Eagle River (Mr. Hiscock) telling us where we can get the money, I can tell you where we can get the money; with \$650 million going into Hydro Quebec because the Giveaway Boys the Jack in the Beanstalk BOYS give away everything over there.

AN HON. MEMBER: We had to do with that.

MR. W. PATTERSON: I can tell you if we had the \$60 million out at Come by Chance, we certainly could provide the ambulance services and much more that they are asking for.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. W. PATTERSON: If we had the \$250 million that the Liberals wasted out in Stephenville we certainly could provide that.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible) going to do (inaudible)!

MR. W. PATTERSON: If we had the millions that went into the hoskey stick plant, the electric light plant, and the chain link fence plant and the magnesia plant all put there by the Liberals, we could do it. I would say that you are distorting and maligning this motion. It is an excellent

MR. W. PATTERSON: motion and we are going to support it on this side of the House. But all this trash! If you are looking for something from somebody, you do not go around insulting them or using the people sick in Labrador as hostages for your cheap political well-being.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. W. PATTERSON: You talk about government planning. We just look back a few years, and we have seen all the planning all the plans go up in smoke.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. W. PATTERSON: The \$670 million as I mentioned that is going into Hydro Quebec and we are getting \$7 million. Where were your priorities then, you were not there but it was a Liberal philosophy, a giveaway philosophy.

AN HON. MEMBER: You have been in nine years. Do something about it.

MR. W. PATTERSON: We are going to do something about it but you do not do everything the first few days you are in there. And if you had stood up here today and supported that motion, as your hon. friend who introduced it would like you to do and forget your partisan politics! Do not put the sick of this country, do not use them as hostages. Do not push them ahead of your forces, the crippled and the dying just because you think they are going to earn you a few votes. You will get your number in the next election. I am going to support this motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR. SPEAKER (Butt): A point of order, the hon. member for Trinity - Bay de Verde.

MR. F. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, we have had a very good debate up until this point and I think the hon. member presently speaking is definitely out of order. I do not know which edition of Beauchesnes I have here but it is on page 130 that, "The imputation of bad motifs, or motives

MR. F. ROWE: different from those acknowledged, misrepresenting the language of another, or accusing him, in his turn, of misrepresentation, charging him with falsehood or deceit; or contemptuous or insulting language of any kind; all these are unparliamentary and call for prompt interference." Now, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member presently speaking said that the hon. member who had last spoken, the member for Eagle River (Mr. Hiscock), was pushing the dead, the dying and the sick for his own political gains. I would suggest, Sir, that that is certainly imputing motives in this House and I would ask the hon. member to withdraw and refrain from making these kind of inflammatory remarks.

MR. SPEAKER (Butt): To the point of order, the hon. President of the Council.

MR. W. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, in the first place the hon. member does not ask the other hon. member to withdraw and apologize; any withdrawal has to come from the Chair. That is number one; number two, the point of order is specious, it is without foundation and it is got no validity whatsoever.

AN HON. MEMBER:

MR. W. MARSHALL: It is a waste of the time of the hon. member to bring it up. Certainly you can get up and you can cite Beauchesne all the hon. gentleman wishes to, and you are not allowed to ascribe motives to people, you are not allowed to insult people. The hon. gentleman was not ascribing motives, the hon. gentleman was not insulting people. What the hon. gentleman was doing, he was responding in the debate to the charges made by the hon. gentleman - and the hon. gentlemen actually because they have been emanating from that side of the House in this debate to the effect that there would be more money available if the government found it, and referring to the Auditor General's report and what have you. Now

MR. MARSHALL:

all I heard the hon. gentleman say was not a matter of insult or imputing motives or anything, he was engaged in rational debate, Mr. Speaker. All he was doing was speaking the facts.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (BUTT): To the point of order, the realm of discussion during a Private Member's motion is rather broadening out and going beyond the barriers, we will say, and I would ask the hon. gentleman from Placentia (Mr. Patterson) to confine his remarks to the motion.

The hon. member for Placentia.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would not have drawn politics into this debate but for the unwarranted and savage attack made on the government. It is a motherhood issue. They know we are going to support it over here. There is no doubt at all about that.

AN HON. MEMBER: Then Bring it in.

MR. NEARY: We do not know that.

MR. PATTERSON: Oh, you can be sure of that.

The Minister of Health -

AN HON. MEMBER: Put it through.

MR. PATTERSON: You will see when the vote comes on it. It is not a matter of money. It is certainly not a matter of money. It is a matter of analyzing the facts of it and I must say that I have learned quite a bit about the conditions in Labrador, although I spent considerable years in the North, in Greenland where things were much worse. And I lived in Newfoundland in the 1930's when things were 10,000 times worse and we all know there is need for change, but there is not enough money in the world to bring about all the changes that are necessary. But I am going to support the motion and I am sure that most members of this House will support it. Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR. BENNETT: Mr. Speaker, I would like to have a few words of support on the resolution put forth by my colleague from Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren). Actually I am myself disturbed to think that we have in the past up until this time, in the last good number of years, seen fit to neglect such an needy thing as an ambulance service in the Labrador. It seems to me that we have reasonably good ambulance services in our Province at this time. I represent a district on the Northern Peninsula that is the gateway to Labrador. We have a ferry boat there which, mind you, leaves much to be desired but it is all in the system, a network of transportation, mind you, that leads to the facilities that we have on the Island part of the Province. Sometimes we are unhappy with the ambulance service that we have because of the strategy in which it is placed, like sixty miles away from the emergency that might arise, but we can usually overcome it. I am very anxious myself and probably I should not even be taking up the time of the House of Assembly at this time because I understand now it looks like we are going to have full support of this resolution.

So probably I am wasting the time of the hon. House, Mr. Speaker. I would like to remind the hon. House, Mr. Speaker, that the cost of living in Labrador is, I feel, much, much higher presently than on the Island portion of the Province, the cost of living is higher. Before we start on the non-existent ambulance service, the tax structure in itself generates, I would suggest, probably enough revenue to support an air ambulance service, just the SSA tax probably, possibly in itself in the inflated cost of living in Labrador.

I would also like to remind the hon. gentlemen, Mr. Speaker, in this House of Assembly that Labrador is made up basically of people who have gone across there from the Island and they are all the same people, really

MR. BENNETT:

and truly they are all the same people. They are Islanders first of all and then they have moved over to make a living in Labrador and up until this time we have seen fit to deny them a lot of the services, a lot of the benefits and privileges

MR. BENNETT:

that we take for granted. We take it for granted on the Island. The longer we take the people of Labrador for granted, if indeed we do, the easier it makes for them to be unhappy and disgruntled and the easier it makes for our neighbors to the South to infiltrate the ranks. The greater the wedge of division becomes between the Island part of the Province and the Labrador part of the Province, the heavier that wedge gets driven home. I think everybody in this hon. House would be reluctant to widen the gap of unity and compassion that we presently have for the people in Labrador. We are all the same people. We have all, I feel, unanimously agreed that we have to provide the service. If we cannot provide it in the form of specialized personnel on the Labrador, I feel myself it probably might cost a lot less money to provide a service of transportation so that the people in Labrador could come to the Island portion. It would cost a lot less money, I feel, to bring people from Labrador to the specialized services that we have in every form, medical and many other forms of service. So I think it is a saving on the part of the government to introduce an ambulance service for Labrador in lieu of having to provide the service in Labrador itself.

I think at this time we dare not not recognize the plight, I think we dare not not recognize and support this resolution—and this I feel is one of many resolutions that might very well see fit or see a need of support from the hon. House. I feel that we need say very little more in support. I feel that a lot has been said in support of an air ambulance service and I question now if we will accomplish a lot more. I think the mind of the minister and the minds of the rest of the representatives in this hon. House of Assembly, Mr. Speaker, are made up. I think they are going to support this bill and I would like to congratulate them and thank you for bearing with me. Thank you very much.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (BUTT): The hon. member for Menihak.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. WALSH: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I most certainly support this motion and I do not think it just applies to Labrador. There are other areas of our Province where it can be instituted. I am sure other members of the House will go along with that. I did not bring my six-shooters. I am not a believer of this shooting back and forth across the House. I think we should get on with the business of governing the affairs of this Province, what we were elected for. We can go back into time: I have been a resident of Labrador for twenty-one years and to say, who should have instituted what, I have been informed by my colleague, the Minister of Health (Mr. House) that they are working on this situation. I have every confidence, and like my colleague from Eagle River (Mr. Hiscock) I will be rather disappointed if there is not something there dealing with this situation. So in concluding very shortly, Mr. Speaker, I do support the motion but not just on the Labrador region. I think this applies to a lot of other areas in the Province, the Southern Shore. My friend from up the Northern Peninsula, I am sure it comes in effect there and different other places. Anyway I do support the motion wholeheartedly.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. THOMS: A royal commission would certainly be a good idea, Mr. Minister.

MR. L. THOMS: Mr. Speaker, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to support this resolution calling for, basically I guess you could call an improved ambulatory service in Labrador. I know Labrador fairly well, I have made several visits to the South Coast of Labrador - Forteau, Pinware, Adlatok - and also, of course, I worked for quite some time in the Labrador City area with the Iron Ore Company of Canada. It is a matter that to a certain degree I have had some personal awareness of and that is the inadequacy of the ambulance service in Labrador. This past, I guess, eight or ten months ago my niece had to be flown from Labrador City to a hospital here in St. John's. In order for that to happen they had to take up some, I believe, ten seats with Eastern Provincial Airways. Coming along was her husband, doctor, and the nurse, and they took the milk run from Labrador City. I am surprised they got here in time for the baby to be born at all. But, Mr. Speaker, that particular trip cost those two young people, about twenty-four, twenty-five years of age, first child, some \$3,000, some \$3,000. Now, as far as my district is concerned, the district of Grand Bank, of course, we have a pretty good ambulance service. For a minimal cost a person can be transported from Lawn, or St. Lawrence, or Grand Bank, or Grand Beach into St. John's probably under three hours, that is when the Department of Transportation and Communications, of course, can get the road clear. A short time ago, of course, we could not get a patient from Lord's Cove down to St. Lawrence because of the road conditions. So from a point of view of my own district that is one complaint that I have not had since June 18, is a complaint about the ambulance services. But I think the people of Labrador -

MR. STAGG: Have you been there since?

MR. L. THOMAS: Yes, I have been there since. Going down on the twenty-first, Are you coming along? I hope all hon. members on the other side of the House will take advantage of the Mockey Night in Newfoundland to be staged in Fortune on the twenty-first of this month.

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MR. L. THOMS:

If you get hurt, if my friend the member from Stephenville (Mr. Staggs) gets hurt, then I will make sure there is an ambulance to bring him back to St. John's.

Well, Mr. Speaker, as I said the ambulance services in my district, we have nothing to complain about. But obviously,

MR. L. THOMS: the ambulance services in Labrador are not what they should be. For a minimum of fifty dollars a person can be transported from Grand Bank to St. John's where the hospitals are here to take care of their particular needs. But as an example that I stated -

MR. S. NEARY: Do not let that deter you.

MR. L. THOMS: - ambulance services from Labrador City to St. John's can cost a working couple on fixed incomes in Labrador City or Wabush or Goose Bay or Happy Valley or Hopedale, or Nain some \$2,000 or \$3,000 and it is not covered, as I understand it, by MCP.

It disturbs me, Mr. Speaker, though, to hear the Minister of Finance (Dr. J. Collins) speak - I guess he is speaking in support of this particular resolution - to hear him say that he agrees with the resolution, it is a good resolution, the people of Labrador deserve what they are asking for, deserve what this resolution is calling for but we have to wait until Hibernia and Ben Nevis come ashore before we can give them those minimal services.

MR. S. NEARY: There is a price tag on the health of our people.

MR. L. THOMS: Mr. Speaker, I mean, that is real rank Tory thinking.

MR. S. NEARY: Blue bloods.

MR. L. THOMS: Rank Tory thinking. Out of a budget of \$1 billion, if my friend from Menihek (Mr. P. Walsh), Naskaupi (Mr. J. Goudie), my two friends on this side of the House from Labrador, Torngat Mountains (Mr. G. Warren) and Eagle River (Mr. E. Hiscock); if they can not haul or drag a mere \$250,000 out of a \$1 billion budget -

MR. STAGG: What is a million?

MR. L. THOMS: - to provide minimal services to the people of Labrador -

DR. J. COLLINS: Where did you get the figure, by the way?

MR. L. THOMS: Was it you who mentioned the \$250,000? That is the figure that is being tossed

MR. L. THOMS: around - \$250,000. It certainly came from the other side of the House anyway. It is a mere pittance. No wonder that we go into Labrador and hear people talk of separatism, no wonder! All they are asking for is a mere \$250,000 out of a budget of \$1 billion. Surely, the government of this Province -

MR. F. STAGG: (Inaudible)

MR. S. NEARY: 'Frank' could squander that much in one day.

MR. L. THOMS: If the cap fits, I say to the member from Stephenville (Mr. F. Stagg), wear it. If you are a separatist why do you not come out and admit it.

But, Mr. Speaker, the people of Labrador deserve that service. They deserve it.

MR. S. NEARY: Right on.

MR. L. THOMS: They should have it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. L. THOMS: And there are plenty of places that you can take \$25,000 here out of the budget or \$50,000 there and give the people of Labrador an ambulance service.

MR. S. NEARY: That is \$44,000 right there they can save, look, four security guards.

MR. L. THOMS: Oh, the four security guards, yes. And there are probably a lot more like that hidden away we know nothing about. But surely nobody in this House can say that the people of Labrador do not deserve a better ambulance service than they have.

MR. F. WHITE: Hear, hear.

MR. L. THOMS: No one.

MR. S. NEARY: Right! Right on!

MR. L. THOMS: And all it needs is just a

MR. L. THOMS: sharp pencil come Budget time, Mr. Finance Minister, just a little sharp pencil and you can give to the people of Labrador something that they deserve. And if members on the other side of the House stand up today and are counted and are in favour of this resolution and then they fail to come up with the \$250,000 -

MR. NEARY: It will just be show, that is all.

MR. L. THOMS: That is all. It will just be show. You might as well stay in your seats and vote against it.

MR. NEARY: Right, Right on! Insincere.

MR. L. THOMS: If you are for it, do it. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear;

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear;

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to be able to rise in my place and to participate in this debate on Private Member's Day on a very, very important resolution. First of all, I guess, Mr. Speaker, I should say I am very pleased that the hon. member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren) - who I do not think is around today, is he?

AN HON. MEMBER: No, there is a death in the family.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Who for very legitimate reasons is not present today, I want to compliment the hon. member for moving this resolution. I think it is a very, very important resolution for us to consider. And I suppose if we do nothing else in this House but to recognize these kinds of social problems that we have in various regions of the Province, we have done a great service just by so doing. I was not here, Mr. Speaker, earlier this afternoon when the Minister of Health (Mr. House) spoke or other members from this side, but we want to go on record as linking ourselves with this resolution both in spirit and in

PREMIER PECKFORD: substance. We believe it is a resolution that needs to come before this hon. House and that the government intends to act on the spirit and substance of this resolution. I suppose there is only a few of us in this hon. House, Mr. Speaker, who can speak with some degree of authority on Labrador and the services that should be provided therein. I think last year at one point in time I did, during a resolution, speak on Labrador in general terms and there are some of us here who recognize that there are four or five Labradors. And when people talk about Labrador it sort of colours things because you hear hon. members getting up and talking about - well, the Island of Newfoundland got this, and the Island of Newfoundland got that, or this part of the Island of Newfoundland has this, but Labrador does not have, or whatever, and they lump all parts of Labrador into that same scenario, into that same spirit, into that same substance and that is doing a disservice to the people of Labrador. There is the Labrador in the Western part - Churchill Falls, Labrador City - Wabush area which is mineral-resource development orientated - will, Churchill Falls is a sort of a company town sort of speaks for itself - and then Labrador City-Wabush, with its own problems and advantages is one thing, and hospital and services that are provided and they still need and want more. They are looking for an Arts and Cultural Center, they are looking for a number of other important assets, important things that they need socially to their community down there, very important. Then you have the Labrador which is North of Rigolet; let us include Rigolet in it. You have Rigolet itself, and you have Makkovik, Postville, Hopedale, Davis Inlet and Main, that is the Northern Labrador which is more Native, Inuit-Naskaupi-Montagnais orientated than anything else and which has its own particular problems. I suppose in some ways, in some senses, one can classify now the native communities of Labrador as having per capita more money coming to them than another part of Labrador I will speak

PREMIER PECKFORD: of in a few minutes, that there are more dollars per capita now going directly not only going into Nain and Davis Inlet and Makkovik and Postville and Rigolet, but going in there in a block form; there is block funding going on. We always talk about this Province in Confederation. We only wish that the day will come that not only on certain of the things we have now, cost sharing with the Federal Government, that there was block funding so that we would have the decision-making power because we here in the Province have a better understanding of the problems so that, therefore, we should prioritize where the money goes, project wise. Well, the Northern communities of Canada and of Labrador already have that kind of power, municipally, on their own local level. There is block funding and per capita funding going on in Nain and Makkovik that we do not get in municipalities in other parts of Labrador and on the Island. So that there is that second Labrador, which is the Native communities and Northern Labrador, which have not done all that bad in total dollar terms. One can argue with the qualitative part of it and whether they have done well that way or not in relation to their own lifestyle and in relation to their own land claims and other factors, but if one has to just cut out of that qualitative thing and just put a quantitative measurement on it there is no question that right now not only are there

PREMIER PECKFORD: substantial funds going in, but they are going in a block funding way which allows discretionary powers on the local level: This much of it will go into housing; this much will go into the water system; this much will go into this kind of centre and so on. There is a fair amount of that going on, and there are a lot of new facilities being provided ongoing, both from block funding and other ways. Then you have the third Labrador, which I would classify as the Happy Valley-Goose Bay area, which is in a very, very, very, very depressed state today. The base is closed down, phased out; you have a few Americans still there, I suppose; not very many. The Canadian government is there, MOT, some of Public Works Canada, Labrador Linerboard closed down and you had 500 or 600 or 700 more jobs than you can handle by Labradorians who wanted to go in the woods, and so they were brought in from the Island, from my district, a lot of them, and other districts around the Province where there was a surplus of loggers or people looking for work who did not mind going into the logging business. Now that is a very depressed area, a more semi-urban, urban kind of setting. They are starting to move out of there with the Lower Churchill kind of thing trying to come on, and North West River, geographically located to Happy Valley-Goose Bay but more attached to Rigolet or Davis Inlet than to Happy Valley-Goose Bay. What a sociological problem we have there! Sure we can pave the road or build a new road and put it there. Sure we can put a fantastic new bridge across the gut and link up the two and here they are, both of them want to separate municipally. How ironic is it, Mr. Speaker, that here we are - we have right now one municipality in North West River, Mr. Minister, we have one municipality on both sides with a bridge being established, a tangible, concrete - no pun intended - bridge to go across the gut and at the same time as that thing is happening we have the North and the South sides of the municipality unanimously agreeing to get out of one another's hair. Here there are public funds, Canadian and Newfoundland public funds going into linking so that you do not have the cable car. I am told by the member

PREMIER PECKFORD: there are some people present in the gallery from North West River -

MR. GOUDIE: Chief of the Band Council and the Mayor.

PREMIER PECKFORD: - Chief of the Band Council and the Mayor

in the gallery, and I am very happy that they are in the gallery.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD: So you have that thing happen. You have

the whole question, not only from the Inuit people but from the Naskaupi-Montagnais people as it relates to land claims and what we, as white Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, are going to do about that. I had a meeting yesterday with the Micmacs of Conne River and area about the whole question of land claims. Here you have it. So, Happy Valley-Goose Bay is a third Labrador if, in fact, we say that North West River is a part of that second Labrador which is more attached to the Rigolet and Davis Inlet, Makkovik and Postville, Hopedale, Main part. A fourth Labrador is that group of communities that stretch from Cartwright to the Summer Henley Harbour, because there is nobody there in the Wintertime now. That is a fourth Labrador. That is the Labrador, Mr. Speaker, that I know very, very well, that I have travelled in boat many, many times. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, I think I could take a boat, a skiff now from Henley Harbour and leave me alone and I could bring her in to Rigolet or Cartwright over four or five or six days - no sweat - and go into every community along the way without any charts except the stars any time.

MR. JAMIESON: (Inaudible) right now.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Well, if it did, give me some oars and it would take me two or three weeks longer. Give me a July day or a July month to do it in.

So the fourth Labrador is that area that stretches - which is no man's land in my view of how I perceive the people of Newfoundland to understand Labrador. They do not know that that area exists hardly at all, the Cartwright area and South to Charlottetown and Square Island area and on into Port Hope Simpson, George's Cove and Sandy Hook and Williams Harbour, that whole area there that hardly anybody knows,

MR. E. HISCOCK: The hon. member for Placentia
(Mr. Patterson) accused me of killing the dying (inaudible)

MR. PATTERSON: (Inaudible) into the House.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Order, please!

PREMIER PECKFORD: down to Mary's Harbour and
Fox Harbour or St. Lewis, it is in Battle Harbour, Indian
Cove, Lodge Bay, Cape Charles on into Henley Harbour.

The tableland going into Henley Harbour, I remember going
in there one night, Mr. Speaker, when it was not fit for a
dog to be out in boat and we missed it, as a matter of fact,
and had to come back and find it later on that night. That
in the fourth Labrador. Then the fifth Labrador is the area
in the Straits which again is totally different from Mary's
Harbour, which again is totally different than Rigolet, which
again is totally different than Happy Valley/Goose Bay,
which is totally different than Labrador City/Wabush. And
what we have to try to do is, first of all, before we start
delivering services to an area is to understand the area.
And I think this resolution, Mr. Speaker, reflects a concern
that the hon. member has for the Straits area and for that
number four area, from Cartwright to Henley Harbour and to
some degree, obviously in the northern area and that is what
we are talking about. We are talking about those areas of
Labrador which are isolated and which have not the capacity
within themselves right now medically to respond in a
competent fashion.

MR. E. HISCOCK: I only hope that your ministers
will understand Labrador and that fourth area as you do.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Well, I think the hon. member
for Labrador understands it pretty well, understands it a
lot better than I do. But the first thing, Mr. Speaker, is
my point is to understand Labrador and that there are

PREMIER PECKFORD: many Labradors, and after understanding that to try to develop policies, medical, educational which we will respond to the peculiarities of the various areas because they are all different.

Now, I have, Mr. Speaker, over the last number of months, and the government has over the last number of months, been trying pretty, pretty hard and we will continue to do over the next number of weeks and months to put in place, which is very important for Labrador, that Coastal Labrador agreement. That is a substantial effort by the Province and by the people of Labrador. Because that - I remember very clearly, I think I was Acting Minister of Rural Development at the time when we started that paper and then we sent it to the Labrador Resources Advisory Council and they went out and had their public meetings around the various communities in Labrador. After they came in with their - it was only after they came in with their responses that we developed our proposal to DREE for the coast of Labrador. So there was a total input from the people in the area.

MR. HISCOCK: (Inaudible) education left out.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Well, for obvious reasons there was not that much put in there for education.

MR. HISCOCK: (Inaudible) got out there (inaudible)

PREMIER PECKFORD: Yes, exactly, exactly, but for obvious reasons. One had to draw the line somewhere. The first thing DREE did was to laugh at our proposal, in any case, when we had it up around \$50 or \$60 or \$70 million, to try to taper it to what they would responsibly negotiate on. You just cannot include everything as much as you would like to, somewhere you have to get realistic. Besides which, there is always this argument over education in any case,

PREMIER PECKFORD: that DREE does not sort of get involved in it now and then you can push a few medical clinics and other things under the umbrella of DREE and perhaps get away with it. You know, road connections, you can logically put up an economic argument under which they can garner funding. But somewhere there has to be that line and the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Jamieson) knows ten times better than I do, the hon. member for Burin - Placentia West (Mr. Hollett) knows exactly what I am talking about because I talked to him about it years ago, and we both know we are on the same wavelength on that, that is not an easy process. It is not an easy process for the new minister in Ottawa now, the former ministers, or when the Leader of the Opposition was there. That is a fight! That is a fight! And you have to power and you really have to have leverage in order to hammer those things through. And the Leader of the Opposition in his time did a pretty good job on fighting that battle as did the member for Burin - Placentia West, no question and I know it to be true. They fought pretty hard and lots of times they tried to put in under some of those agreements stuff that if somebody else came in with it it would have a pretty remote chance of getting approved, let me tell you. Really, really something else! And some day those things will come out and somebody will say, 'Holy smoke, how did that ever get in under a DREE agreement? Who was the crazy president of treasury board that allowed that to happen? It should not happen, it did not happen, it is illegal! Send the man to court, whoever allowed that to happen!' And I appreciate that and I know that to be true. And that is what we are involved in again now as it relates to the Coastal Labrador agreement. We solved a lot of those problems which can be legitimately and peripherally illegitimately put under the DREE agreements for the Island. We are involved in

PREMIER PECKFORD:

trying to do the same kind of game as it relates to Coastal Labrador and other parts of Labrador. But we are serious when we support this particular resolution and I simply got to my feet and got back here in time enough, because I had been down dealing with the Fifth Estate people, who are in town to do interviews, and other people, and I wanted to get back here, for good or for ill, to address myself to this resolution only in the spirit, Mr. Speaker, of saying that we appreciate this resolution, that we understand it and for me to tangibly, physically, personally stand on my feet and say, 'Yes, I understand a lot of the particular social problems that Labrador has as it relates to the geography and so on, especially in that no man's area from Cartwright to Henley Harbour which nobody seems to know about, where there are still people. I think it is one of the things I did when I was Minister of Mines and Energy and, of course, not only for the member for the Straits (Mr. Roberts) but for the member representing William's Harbour, was to ensure that they had some electricity in William's Harbour. I did that, that was a unilateral, personal decision on behalf of the minister at the time and told them and ordered them to do it simply because I understood a little more about William's Harbour and George's Cove and Fishing Ships Harbour and that area than the people in Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro did and I am proud of that.

MR. HISCOCK: And I assume you got full credit.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Oh, I do not want any credit.

Forget the credit. All I am trying to do is -

MR. HISCOCK: I was only hoping that

(inaudible).

PREMIER PECKFORD: Exactly. All I am saying, Mr.

PREMIER PECKFORD:

Speaker, is that I am trying to demonstrate that by way of example, not by way of credit, that we understand that there are particular, unique, social problems in different parts of Labrador which are not necessarily the same but by the same token have to be addressed. And we intend and we assure members of the Opposition that on this particular resolution we shall deliver and try to bring to the people of Labrador the same kind of services that we have on the Island medically.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD: And hopefully I will get time during this Summer to visit some of my friends down in that part of Labrador and perhaps I will be able to announce at the same time a whole new system of ambulance service to ensure that those individuals who also contribute to the coffers of this Province are given the same kind of treatment as somebody who lives on Elizabeth Avenue, St. John's.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, under the Standing Orders of the House the member who moves a motion of this nature, a Private Member's motion, at twenty to six on the second day, and this is the second day, the debate is interrupted and that member has the right to reply. Now the situation is this: my friend and colleague from Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren), in whose name this resolution stands, is not with us. There has been a death in his family, a young nephew of his died, and that is why the hon. member has not been in the House these last two or three days. He asked me if I would speak in his behalf to close the debate but in so saying I am in the hands of the House. I have not spoken in the debate. It is not in order for me unless it is agreed, if it is agreed, well -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER (SIMMS): Agreed.

MR. ROBERTS: Well, I thank my hon. friends on both sides, Sir. I will be quite brief because I think the Premier's speech was not only to the point and well said but was most welcome and I think the assurances which he has given are sufficient onto themselves. The resolution itself, Mr. Speaker, has been thoroughly aired and I think that this debate has been one of the debates that shows the value of Private Member's Day in this House and I would suggest also shows the merit of the new procedure which was adopted a year past, or in the session a year ago, that allows only two days for Private Member's debate. Some people felt that was not time enough but I think this debate has shown it is ample time to debate an important topic and this one is such a topic.

 My friend from Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren) is not with us, as I have explained, but if I had spoken in the debate other than as I am speaking now I would have congratulated him for bringing this in because I think the subject matter of this resolution is not only important in itself, and it is

MR. E. ROBERTS: important in itself, it is important to all of the people who live in the Labrador and particularly to the people who live along the coast of Labrador and particularly to the people who live in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, North West River, Mud Lake, communities that are not on the coast but communities that are not in Western Labrador. And why do I draw the distinction? Well, it is quite simply that in Western Labrador there are at present two very large mining companies each of which has entered into an agreement with its employees and under the terms of those agreements substantial benefits, as my friend from Menihek would confirm, are made available to people seeking medical care which must be obtained outside of Labrador West. I am not saying the benefits are adequate, I am not saying they are complete, but they are far greater than those available to people living in Goose Bay-Happy Valley, and in turn those are far greater than are available to people living in either of the three areas of coastal Labrador of which the Premier spoke. The area to the north of Lake Melville, I think the Premier called it Rigolet and North, the area which is now coming to be known by the name of Eastern Labrador, the area from Henley Harbour, St. Mary's Harbour these communities going down as far as Paradise or Paradise River and Cartwright and then of course the area in the Straits. So it is important to all of the people of Labrador in the sense that they are not receiving a level of service comparable to that available to almost every other citizen of this Province without exception. And that is important, Sir, it is important that thirty or forty thousand people do not have access to decent and adequate medical services. The Minister of Health (Mr. W. House) has spoken, the Minister of Finance (Dr. J. Collins), who is a doctor in his private career, has spoken, and I think each of them has said, and I certainly will not be challenged when I say that the numbers of people in Labrador are not sufficient to justify the provision of a full range of specialist facilities. In fact, some types of specialist

MR. E. ROBERTS: facilities in the medical world, you know, we have barely enough people in the entire Province to justify the provision of the facilities within the Province. We cannot bring services to the people, therefore we must bring people to services. And I am not speaking of the ordinary common variety of services. I am speaking of some of the more specialized services, services for which people must now travel. People in Labrador must travel for a very wide range of services, either to St. Anthony, to St. John's, or people in Western Labrador, I believe many go to Quebec City or to Montreal. That is because they are either Francophone or because it is physically closer and much easier to get back and forth because of the transportation facilities offered by the Iron Ore Company and by the Wabush Mines Consortium. But for the rest of the people in Labrador, travelling for medical facilities is not an option, it is a necessity. So it is important that we provide our people with those services. That is important in itself.

Mr. Speaker, I would suggest there is a further reason which is even more compelling to me than providing something as important and as vital as medical facilities, and that is the equity of it - I think the Premier would concur - the fairness of it. We are all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, we are all one. We all have the same needs, we all have the same aspirations, we all have a right to expect the same response from the government of the Province in respect of those needs and in respect of those aspirations. And I think it is intolerable in this day and age that we have in the Province geographic discriminations that are avoidable. There are some that are not avoidable. I doubt if we will ever live to see a bridge built to the Ramea Islands down in Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir district. That is unavoidable. I doubt if we will ever live to see a causeway to Bell Island, although there are some who say that is feasible. Perhaps it is. But the kind of discrimination that exists in the Labrador medical services and its supply that is dealt with by this resolution, Mr. Speaker, that kind of discrimination can be

MR. ROBERTS: cured by the application of money and of reasonably small sums of money. I do not know what the cost would be. I suppose in large measure the cost is a truly uncontrollable one in that one must meet the need, but it is no greater than the cost of providing the helicopter that is available down in the community of St. Alban's to serve the people of the Southwest Coast, and that is a good idea. It is no greater than the cost of providing the air ambulance services that are available generally throughout the Island portion of this Province and available without direct cost to the sick person who needs that transportation facility.

So I would say that the major reason why I support this, and why all of us support it, is the straight question of equity.

MR. ROBERTS: We ought not to discriminate against people because of where they live. I can talk about hydro rates because we have the same problem there, but that is a separate issue altogether and it is not on a par with medical services. But where it comes to the question of providing health care, which is surely one of the basic functions of government - this is not a treatise on philosophy - but, you know, government's first duty is surely to preserve order. Its second duty is nearly as great and that is surely to enable people to have access to medical care. We have taken that on in Canada - what? - thirty, forty years ago it became recognized as the responsibility of society to provide medical services.

Mr. Speaker, the fact remains that today in Newfoundland and Labrador we do not have equal access to services, and that is what this resolution is all about. My friend from Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren) is not asking for anything over and above services available elsewhere in this Province, he is asking for services comparable. That means the provision of a service and that has largely been done. I think the air ambulance services, as I understand them - and I have some knowledge both from my years in public life but also I have some friends and perhaps even some family members who are not uninvolved in the provision of health services in the Labrador portion of the Province and in the Northern part of this Island - the services are there; they may need to be improved and extended but basically they are there. There is no question on that. What is not there is the financial side of it. Now, I will leave the matter simply by saying that we welcome the Premier's assurances. The Premier did not say, nor did he intend to say, I venture to submit, that the government would provide this, but he certainly went a long way towards saying that (a) the government are sympathetic, and (b) they are prepared to do what they can. The results will speak for themselves. We will know, hopefully, in the Budget or in a statement by the Premier or by the Minister of Health (Mr. House) or by even the minister who represents

MR. ROBERTS: the district of Naskaupi (Mr. Goudie), the only Labradorian and the only Labrador member, equally, in the Cabinet at present. I do not care when the announcement comes, that does not matter. What matters is that the action - I do not even care if it is announced or not - what matters is that the action is taken.

The amount of money involved, however much it may be - and I do not know how much it is - but however much it may be is relatively small, and we do not stint health care services elsewhere in this Province for want of money. I know we could use more money. I am sure the Minister of Health (Mr. House) is bombarded daily by hospital boards and by medical associations, all of which have legitimate cases, but I will say, Mr. Speaker, that elsewhere in this Province we are not seeing any lack of medical services comparable to that which is reflected in this resolution. We are not seeing any lack of them for want of a few dollars. If it is \$250,000, I am quite sure the Minister of Health and his officials can find \$250,000 elsewhere in health services, if it came to that, that is being spent for objects less worthy than this question of providing a measure of equity to the people in Labrador. We cannot change the geography. If a man or a woman is living in Charlottetown now and the weather comes down, as has happened time and time again, they will have to stay there until the weather lifts and an aircraft can be got in. There is no question. No man, no government can do anything at all about that, but, Mr. Speaker, what we can do is provide the means of removing the financial barriers. That is all this resolution is about, really. It is about money. It is about financial barriers. What it boils down to, Sir, is whether the government of this Province are prepared to find the relatively small sum of money that it will take, that it will cost, that must be spent to remove these barriers and to provide the people of the Labrador portion of this Province with ambulance services, air ambulance mainly, but ground transportation where that is needed and available, to make those services available to the people of Labrador on the same basis

MR. ROBERTS: as they are available to the people elsewhere in this Province. All it takes, Sir: money and a relatively small amount of money. We are encouraged by what the Premier says. The Premier not only understands the situation, I think he has made that amply clear. We did not doubt it but it is good to have him say it and make it clear.

MR. NEARY: It is too bad he did not speak first before the Minister of Finance.

MR. ROBERTS: Well, it certainly would have been better. It would have been better but, in any event, you know, at least he did speak and cleared up the situation that the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) had somewhat muddled. The fact remains that the Premier -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible) you going.

MR. ROBERTS: I said that the Premier spoke - I think my exact words were, at least the Premier did speak and cleared up the situation that the Minister of Finance had somewhat muddled. I think that is a fair comment and I certainly mean it to be a fair comment and nothing more than a fair comment. The point I was making is that

MR. ROBERTS:

the amount of money involved is reasonably small. The Premier has shown a comprehension of the problem. He has shown a sympathy with the problem. All that I need to say is that we on this side and the people of Coastal Labrador, in particular with the people of all Labrador, will await the event. We hope, Sir, the government will do what we believe they ought to do. We hope that they will make available to the people of Labrador ambulance services, in the words of the resolution, comparable to the services provided on the Island portion of the Province. Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (SIMMS):

Is the House ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Ready.

MR. SPEAKER:

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion? Those in favour, "Aye". Contrary, "Nay". In my opinion the 'Aye's' have it. I declare the motion carried.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

Is it agreed to call it six o'clock?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER:

It being six o'clock, then I do leave the Chair until tomorrow, Thursday, at three of the clock.