

PRELIMINARY  
UNEDITED  
TRANSCRIPT

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY  
FOR THE PERIOD  
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 1980

The House met at 10:00 A.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Order, please!

ORAL QUESTIONS:

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. JAMIESON: Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Mines and Energy. Last Autumn, I think it was, he indicated a certain timetable with regard to the report of the Lower Churchill Development Corporation. It was I think at that time suggested that it would not necessarily all come in one piece but that there would be parts of it ready by March, as I recall, and the entire job probably would be completed by April. Is that timetable still in effect? And the second part of the question, so that perhaps he can answer them both at the same time, as these reports are concluded, are any of them or all of them going to be made public?

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

MR. BARRY: Mr. Speaker, the timetable seems to be still adhered to. We are still expecting the final report, complete report, to be considered by the Board of Directors of Hydro in late April and then to come to government with recommendations from the Board of Hydro. In the meantime, I have been getting interim reports with respect to various aspects of the studies as they are completed. I believe that the best way of dealing with the matters will be to have the complete report presented and made public when it has been completed rather than have bits and pieces of it come out.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary. The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. JAMIESON: Well, if that is the case, and I suppose it is logical to say that all the evidence or all the documentation should be in at the one time, what is the date when the public is likely to get its first look at it? And the second point, which really in a way relates to the Environmental Bill which we discussed yesterday, and on

MR. JAMIESON: which the Premier spoke, and of course this would obviously be one of those major undertakings, what is the linkage between the submission of this? Will decisions have been made by the time it becomes public? And what about the environmental elements of it and how will they be considered?

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

MR. BARRY: Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member should know, having been in government federally, we did not wait for the Environmental Assessment Act in this case, and particularly because it was a federal/provincial undertaking we have had an ongoing environmental assessment by the Federal Environmental Assessment Board, together with our people since—I think it started in 1974, and there have been a number of interim reports made public to my knowledge, as I understand it, over the last several years. And that board is still working to finalize recommendations for proper environmental protection as a result of the Lower Churchill Development.

MR. JAMIESON: A supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary, the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. JAMIESON: This is the point I was getting at, that we have spent much of this week discussing an environmental act, and it was one of my colleagues, I believe from Windsor-Buchans (Mr. Flight), who made the point that projects in progress would not in fact come under this environmental act. Is the minister now saying to me that the Lower Churchill Development, which probably has greater environmental implications than virtually anything else that could be conceived of, is not going to be subject to the Environmental Act, which presumably we will give a second reading to today?

MR. JAMIESON: Is that the impression that he has left?

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

MR. BARRY: Mr. Speaker, I did not say that. I said that we did not wait for the act in order to commence environmental assessment with public input, I might add, and, Mr. Speaker, the question of whether in fact there will have to be another assessment under the Provincial Environmental Assessment Act, I think can only be considered once we have received a final report of the Environmental Assessment Board which has been set up and which must scrutinize all projects of this nature in which there is federal participation. So if we have an adequate environmental assessment carried out before the act, the provincial act is ever in place, we will have to ask is it necessary and we will be perfectly interested in receiving suggestions from hon. members opposite on this point and from the general public. We have an open mind on the question.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Tourism (Mr. Dawe), Sir, and it has to do with a film that was allegedly not produced, undelivered, by Mr. George McLean even though the government had paid for the film. Would the hon. gentleman tell the House the status now of this situation?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Tourism.

MR. DAWE: Mr. Speaker, we have received the film and in the judgement of officials of my department there were some colour corrections that needed to be done to the film and subsequently we got in touch with the firm that did the film and they are in the process now of making the necessary colour corrections at no additional cost.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary.

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

MR. NEARY: In view of the highly suspect dealings between Mr. McLean and the former Premier of this Province and the former administration, has the hon. gentleman undertaken in view of the disclosures that have come out in this House recently and mentioned previously in the Auditor General's Report involving Mr. McLean, has the minister undertaken to have a thorough accounting done of the McLean errors, and the final days of the Moore's administration especially, to see if the money was spent properly and if we have any cases similar to the one that arose this year in the Auditor General's Report?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Tourism.

MR. DAWE: Mr. Speaker, as the accounting procedures relate to the expenditures on that particular film, officials of my department are, in fact, and have in the past made adequate enquiries and so on into the dealings and the actual cost of that film, and as soon as the film is available to us and the final costing has been tabulated then we will make that information available to the House.

MR. NEARY: A final supplementary.

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

MR. NEARY: The hon. gentleman probably understood my question. I was asking, and I think it should be done and I believe the Premier should issue instructions to have it done, that the Auditor General

MR. S. NEARY:

be called in to do a complete accounting of all the transactions between George McLean and the former administration. I would also like to ask the hon. gentleman if he is going to table in this session of the House the expenses involved in the Norma and Gladys charade for the last several years?

MR. J. MORGAN:

Did you read Wick Collins?

MR. S. NEARY:

Yes, I have, and as a matter of fact -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. S. NEARY:

- as a matter of fact, I did, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms):

Order, please!

MR. S. NEARY:

And I agree with him.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. S. NEARY:

And I think it is time that the government produced expenses of the Norma and Gladys, especially her trip that she made across the Atlantic and to the West Indies a few years back. We are entitled to have an accounting. So far, the government have refused to give it to us. Will the minister table the expenses in the session?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. R. DAWE:

I will take that question under advisement, Mr. Speaker, and get back to the hon. member in due course.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Bonavista North.

MR. L. STIRLING:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I have a question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications. I received a call last night from people involved in snow clearing, the second shift in snow clearing in my district, and they advise that they have been given their layoff notices and they are going back to one shift. Would the minister confirm or clear up that question?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Transportation and Communications.

MR. C. BRETT: Yes, I would have to confirm that, Mr. Speaker, that we are laying off a lot of our second shift workers in some parts of the Province. In some parts we are not, but apparently, up in the hon. member's district, we are.

MR. S. NEARY: And in my district.

MR. C. BRETT: Of course, they are being laid off according to seniority. Actually, we do not have too much say in who goes and who stays - depending on seniority in the union agreement, that is the way they are laid off.

MR. NEARY: Do you have a say in

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

MR. L. STIRLING: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You anticipated my supplementary.

I have been told - and I would ask the minister if he would investigate this - I have been told by the people who are directly involved that the same thing happened to them last year and those who were laid off kept track of the overtime. And they are of the impression that for the balance of the snow season that it costs the government more in overtime than it would have cost to keep this second shift on at regular rates. I realize he may not have the answer off the top of his head, but would the minister agree to investigate that and report back to the House?

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

MR. C. BRETT: Mr. Speaker, that has come to my attention before, last Fall, in fact, before we put on the second shift, and I have asked the staff to monitor that very, very closely. I think at times it has come close but it has not reached the point where it would have been cheaper to take on the extra staff. But we are monitoring that all the time.

MR. L. STIRLING: A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. L. STIRLING: In view of that, and I take it the minister has agreed that he will table that information based on last year.

MR. C. BRETT: Right.

MR. L. STIRLING: In view of that, would the minister table for the benefit of the House and specifically for the people in my district the anticipation, because obviously whether you select the 23rd of March or the 15th of April there must have been some projections done as to what the cost would be of keeping that second shift to a certain date versus putting on the overtime, Would the minister table for the House their projections of what the savings are going to be by putting these fourteen or fifteen people out of work?

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

MR. C. BRETT: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will but I should point out that it is very difficult because it depends on the weather. I mean, if we do not get any more snowstorms, obviously, you know, the cost will be insignificant but if we run into three or four snowstorms then the cost will go up but I will gladly table the information.

MR. J. HODDER: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary, the hon. member for Port au Port.

MR. J. HODDER: My supplementary is on snow clearing but not on this particular aspect of snow clearing. A couple of years ago the Department of Transportation and Communications published a pamphlet which listed numbers which people could call in order to get road information during snowstorms. I would ask the minister why was this plan allowed to lapse, particularly in



MR. J. HODDER:

Western Newfoundland, this year?

In some of our worst snowstorms you could not get a road report and it was my understanding from the previous Minister of Transportation and Communications that some of the snowplows would be equipped with radios which could radio back so that people could get first-hand information of what the roads were like, because in two snowstorms on the West Coast this year the roads were blocked, cut off completely for a long time and people could not get information from the RCMP or from the Department of Highways. I tried to do it myself but there was no way, there was no answer within the Department of Highways. Why has the minister let this plan elapse and does the minister intend to go through with the plans of his predecessor?

MR. SPEAKER: (Simms)

The hon. Minister of Transportation and Communications.

MR. C. BRETT:

Mr. Speaker, that was not dropped intentionally. I think at most times you can get an answer from the depot or the sub-depots to road conditions and most times you can get it from the RCMP. Probably in some very extreme circumstances you can not, but I still believe that most times you can. I have had no difficulty in getting reports from this part of the coast and I am sorry if the hon. member ran into difficulty over there. I will look into the matter.

With respect to radios, in the trucks or the plows, we do have radios in our snowplows and trucks in some sections of the Province.

MR. C. BRETT: I know we do on the Northern Peninsula, for example, and we would like to extend it to all of our vehicles, but it is very costly and it is something that has to be done over a period of time.

MR. L. THOMS: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): A supplementry, the hon. the Member for Grand Bank.

MR. L. THOMS: Mr. Speaker, the problem on the Burin Peninsula in the crisis just recently, the the snowstorm, and I have been in contact with their superintendant there and asked him what the problem was and he said to me, he said "Look, the whole problem, Les, is this," he said, "Every piece of equipment I have on the road is broken down." And is there any plan to replace any of the equipment, and I am thinking particularly now in my own district area?

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

MR. C. BRETT: Yes, Mr. Speaker, every year there is an allocation of funds in the Budget to purchase new equipment and I suppose the Budget will be coming down in the House in the next two, three or four weeks or couple of months, or whatever, and then it will be obvious to the hon. member just how much money will be made available to my department for replacement of equipment next year. Obviously, there is going to be some - a lot.

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

MR. B. TULK: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Mines and Energy and it relates to the exploration for offshore oil and gas and particularly the supply bases for drilling rigs. And my question to the Minister is could he give us some idea whether the offshore supply companies intend to use the ports in other areas of the Province other than St. John's and, if so, what ports will be used?

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

MR. L. BARRY: Mr. Speaker, this is an example of the type of decision which makes it very important for this Province to have jurisdiction over offshore oil and gas matters. And we would have, if the Federal Government's, Mr. Trudeau's position -

MR. NEARY: You have it (inaudible).

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Order, please.

MR. L. BARRY: - were to prevail, we would have very little ability, very little control over directing where this type of activity should take place.

MR. S. NEARY: (Inaudible) what he is talking about.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Order, please!

MR. L. BARRY: Mr. Speaker, I am really sorry, saddened and shocked to hear the response of the hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. S. NEARY: We have the control.

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

The hon. member has asked a question. I think the Minister has the right to respond without interruption so that we can all hear the answer.

MR. L. BARRY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am shocked to get the response of the member for LaPoile because it points out the sad lack of understanding, the sad lack of understanding as to what is at stake with respect to control of offshore oil and gas developments. We expect, Mr. Speaker, this season, that there will be some activity at Botwood.

MR. L. BARRY: There has been a company that has been operating out of Botwood and we understand there will be activity again out of that port this season.

There will, Mr. Speaker, be other areas of the Province that will benefit as exploration becomes directed further North. Petrocan is concentrating again this year off the coast of Labrador, There will be three drill rigs in operation, three drillships, and its main base will be out of St. John's but there will be secondary bases along the coast of Labrador. Other possible areas, possible ports on the Northeast coast may see additional activity once exploration is renewed off the Northeast coast. For this year we anticipate that it will primarily be seismic work that will be carried on out there, but there should be some requirements for the use of supply bases and it is possible, I understand, for example, that the town of Lewisporte is actively out promoting the potential of its harbour facilities, and other communities around the Province should be doing the same thing, other communities that have potential to get involved in the oil industry should be making that known to the oil companies directly and we will do whatever we can to assist them in seeing that their potential is realized.

MR. B. TULK: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. B. TULK: Mr. Speaker, I think the minister is probably aware of an item that has been carried in the news media for some time concerning a community in my district, namely the community of Carmanville. It has been suggested that there is a strong possibility that Carmanville may indeed be such a supply base. I am sure the minister appreciates

MR. B. TULK: that there has been a great deal of speculation and arising expectations in that community as a result of those news reports. So I wonder if the minister would confirm or deny as to whether there is any foundation to those rumours and, if they are true, can he give us some indication as to when the intention will become a reality?

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

MR. L. BARRY: Mr. Speaker, I have to say that again, if our government can sustain the jurisdiction which it claims and it is now exercising over the offshore, we intend to see that the benefits are distributed as widely as possible throughout the Province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. L. BARRY: What is happening at Carmanville, as I understand it, is that there are certain private interests which have recognized that there could be a potential for offshore oil and gas involvement as far as those harbour facilities are concerned. This is the way we hope to see other things developed, that private enterprise will see initiatives and

MR. BARRY:

will promote them, with, of course, the assistance of government, and again we will do all we can to ensure that Carmanville has its place in the sun. And we expect that there will be other areas as activity increases, and there will, once commercial production takes place, there will be other places but we can see certain potential for Carmanville. It is not possible for me to lay on hands and say, 'Carmanville, you are it. You have it.' It is a question of what the economics of the situation are, where the base will be servicing, what area, whether it is Labrador, Northeast Coast, Southern Grand Banks. The further South they are the greater the advantage for the Avalon Peninsula, the further North they are the greater the advantage for Labrador. The Northeast Coast obviously will benefit from activity that takes place off the Northeast Coast. But we can see potential for Carmanville. We understand that you have a very vigorous and aggressive private initiative underway there and we wish the town of Carmanville all success, and we will do whatever we can to help them.

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

MR. TULK: I thank the minister for his answer, Mr. Speaker, but in view of the minister's answer I would like to ask him have any of the local organizations in that community been contacted or have they had any input into the decision making process as to the special impact that it could have in their community? And furthermore I would ask him if he would perhaps delve a little farther into the Carmanville situation and either privately or in the House tell me exactly what the score is at this point.

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

MR. BARRY: Mr. Speaker, this is a private initiative, as I have said, it is not a government initiative, so the information that is available as to what the plans of these private groups are will

MR. BARRY: depend upon their willingness to pass the information onto government. I have not indicated any hesitation on the part of these particular individuals to do that. I expect I will be able to get information for the hon. member to pass it on.

I believe we have had a communication from the council at Carmanville, or development association, I forget which, and I have put them in touch with the officials of my department to supply them with the information that they are seeking as to the plans of the oil industry that might impact upon their area.

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

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Justice. In light of the fact that a news report yesterday from Happy Valley-Goose Bay stated that a worker with Native Court Workers Service in Labrador has tendered his resignation because of lack of finances from the provincial/federal government, which I understand is shared on a fifty/fifty basis, does the minister foresee any extra monies coming out in this budget allotted to the native court workers in Labrador?

March 21, 1980

Tape No. 539

AH-1

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

MR. OTTENHEIMER: Mr. Speaker, I think what the hon. member is referring to is the organization known as Labrador Legal Services which is cost shared by both federal and provincial and which performs certain services especially to native population in Labrador, people in conflict with the law or who have business before the courts, and certainly that cost sharing and the policy of cost sharing will continue. The Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) is looking at me very aggressively and would be very upset if I were to anticipate the Budget that he will be bringing down, but certainly the principle of cost sharing and providing these services is a government policy on a continuing basis.

MR. WARREN: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary. The hon. member for Torngat Mountains.

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, I understand that in 1979 there were some 107 files opened up by a particular lawyer with the Labrador Legal Services. There were 107 cases or 107 files opened and not all were taken through the courts, but this particular lawyer was involved with 107 cases. Now as a result of his resignation, does the government have any plans of having some other lawyer to represent those cases or other cases that conceivably will occur in the year to come and at no great cost to the native population?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. OTTENHEIMER: Mr. Speaker, actually a few weeks ago I met with representatives from Labrador Legal Services, approximately three or four weeks ago, and actually the possibility or indeed likelihood of that gentleman's resignation has been apparent for some time. I could probably point out that I was actually invited to go up this week to a meeting with Labrador Legal Services but with the House open I did not.



MR. OTTENHEIMER: and also not only with the House open, but also with certain Cabinet matters going on and Budget meetings, etc., I did not wish to be away. I am represented by the Deputy Minister of Justice and also a solicitor with the department, Mr. Buckingham, who has worked with Labrador Legal Services and they will be meeting during the next couple of days. Obviously for a continuity of the service we will be seeking means to provide a means of continuing legal service. Now what that specific methodology will be will be difficult to say. Also, of course, there is an important role played in that area by Legal Aid and this organization is different from Legal Aid and during our discussion there certainly could be perhaps an increased role for Legal Aid as well.

MR. SPEAKER (SIMMS): The hon. member for Humber West, followed by the hon. member for St. Barbe.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. BAIRD: Mr. Speaker, I feel I have as much right in this House to ask a question as anybody else.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. BAIRD: I have a question I would like to direct -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. BAIRD: If I can be heard in silence, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms):

Order, please!

MR. R. BAIRD:

I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. J. Morgan). I understand that in the licences for the commercial fishermen there are no changes this year. As there is considerable concern on the West Coast due to the number of fishermen and the rivers we have, are there any changes, or could you indicate if there are any changes contemplated with regard to sports fishermen?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

MR. J. MORGAN:

That is a good question. I am surprised that nobody has asked it to date. It is a major concern in the Western part of the Province, because I have been receiving a number of 'phone calls the last few days regarding the same matter. The situation is that, according to the indications from the officials in Ottawa, there will be no curtailment or restrictions on the sports fishery this year, the same as last year, and, of course, there is no restriction on the commercial fishery as well. I am hoping that the situation will be as such, because poaching is a major concern in the reduction of salmon stocks and we feel that the people with licences on the rivers can carry out surveillance for us - and when I say 'us', in this case, both levels of government with regard to conservation of the stocks. So we are hoping that there will be no restrictions this year in the sports fishery the same as there is in the commercial, no restrictions there as well.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. R. BAIRD:

Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER:

A supplementary, the hon. the member for Humber West.

MR. R. BAIRD:

Again with regard to the sports fishery, there have been some promises and talk of a salmon hatchery on the West Coast. I wonder if, where and when that might come about?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

MR. J. MORGAN:

Mr. Speaker, I think these questions should more appropriately be put to the federal minister - it is a federal matter. However, when the former Minister, Mr. McGrath, was

MR. J. MORGAN: there, we had some discussions on the possibility of establishing salmon hatcheries in the Province and indications then were that there were three locations chosen and out of these three locations, two of them were in the Western part of the Province. So I am hoping that Mr. LeBlanc will follow in the same guidance as Mr. McGrath had in that direction and will hopefully get to work in establishing a hatchery in the Western part of the Province sometime this year.

MR. T. BENNETT: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. T. BENNETT: Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Consumer Affairs and Environment (Mrs. H. Newhook) and it is a follow-up to a question that was asked by my colleague a few days ago. I have a letter from a constituent and I have had numerous telephone calls on discrepancies in the cost of heating fuels. I have with me here a bill for January which is 69.35 gallons and in March it is 85.37 - this is on the Northern Peninsula. Due to the fact that there are no deliveries over the Winter period, I am wondering if the minister -

MR. NEARY: All in storage.

MR. T. BENNETT: It is all in storage, there are no deliveries. It has all come from existing storage tanks like Imperial and Golden Eagle and all the rest. I am wondering if the minister is

MR. T. BENNETT: aware of this and if she is not aware of it would she have an investigation instituted into it and get the answers?

Mr. Speaker, rather than a supplementary I would also like to at the same time ask the minister if there is a justification, if she could determine if there is a justification for the discrepancy in oil costs between the Avalon Peninsula and the Northern Peninsula - there is a discrepancy of at least ten cents per gallon to the consumer.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): The hon. Minister of Consumer Affairs and Environment.

MRS. H. NEWHOOK: Mr. Speaker, in response to the question put by the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) our department and the Department of Mines and Energy and our Department of Newfoundland Statistics, they have had a meeting. I think they met yesterday, and they are now setting up guidelines under which they will operate this type of survey. I think the Department of Mines and Energy did start a survey of this kind about three years ago and it was not completed and they will be looking at their files to determine exactly how much data they did compile on it. I think they will also be contacting the Department of Mines and Energy in Ottawa to see what they have done and the types of surveys they have made and what assistance they can give. They will be talking with Nova Scotia. They do monitoring, I think, in the supply of oil to the utility companies there. And then, of course, there are so many levels that they are going to have to explore - then would be, I guess, the price of the oil at the wellhead and the price of the oil at the refinery level, the price then to the wholesalers and then the wholesalers to the distributors and then the price at the retail level, at the tanks. So they right now

March 21, 1980

Tape No. 541

DW - 2

MRS. H. NEWHOOK: are setting up guidelines under which they will operate and will determine whether it is going to be province-wide or not. I think they will be contacting our hon. Premier to get some indications from him as to whether it has to be province-wide or for specific areas. So this committee has already started, they will be continuing on, they will have another meeting now in a few days, I think.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms):

Order, please!

The time for Oral Question

Period has expired.

MR. L. STIRLING:

A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms):

A point of order, the hon. member for Bonavista North.

MR. L. STIRLING:

The first time that this happened, Mr. Speaker, could be by accident but I think you should note to me as a member of this House something that has happened. It certainly is not in agreement with any rules of debate that have been established, the new rules for the efficient handling of the House. We have now a situation where the government either intentionally or accidentally is using up the Question Period by individual members. And the point, Mr. Speaker, is that -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. L. STIRLING:

- an officer of the House has used up part of the Question Period on essentially federal questions. Now, there is nothing that says that an individual -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please! The member is on a point of order.

MR. L. STIRLING:

On the point of order, Mr. Speaker, that Question Period traditionally is the only time in the day when the Opposition has any control over questions that come up. The rest of the day is controlled by the government. And if you are going to -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. L. STIRLING:

- abuse the technicalities that a member is allowed to speak on a question, no question that an individual can not, but if this <sup>is</sup> intentional on behalf of the government and if this is going to continue, then you can expect the Opposition to express its concerns using whatever rules can be used in the House.

I bring this up as a point of order so that the House can be aware. and the government can be aware of the problems that they may be bringing up.

March 21, 1980

Tape No. 542

SD - 2

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. L. THOMS:

Abusing a member's privileges -

MR. SPEAKER(SIMMS)

Order please! To the point of -

MR. S. NEARY:

As a member of the House.

MR. L. THOMS:

(inaudible) cannot ask questions.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order please!

MR. BAIRD:

If you are representing Humber West.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

To the point of order, the hon. the

President of the Council.

MR. W. MARSHALL:

Mr. Speaker, you know you can be

motivated to great heights after hearing a point of order, made by the hon. member, of that tenor. What the hon. member is doing, Mr. Speaker, when he gets up and makes a point of order is two things: First and foremost, he is challenging a ruling made by Your Honour with respect to the termination of the Question Period which is a half hour.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Right on.

MR. W. MARSHALL:

Now, I was about to say when the

hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. D. Jamieson) wanted to ask a question by leave, at that particular time, you would allow him to go on and I would certainly extend that to the hon. Leader of the Opposition who has shown such co-operation but when he goes and the hon. member seeks the leadership of the Party, God help this House, if this is the type -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear.

MR. W. MARSHALL:

- of way the hon. member -

that is number one, Mr. Speaker. But number two, first and foremost, I can tell the hon. member that any member of this House, on any side, can ask the ministry, and have had this right ingrained since the days of the inception of British democracy to ask questions of the ministry, that is number one. And number two, in the days when the hon. member was glorifying the first Reich after Confederation and could think of nothing else, there was no Question Period. This

MR. W. MARSHALL: Question Period has been brought in by this Party and government -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. W. MARSHALL: - for the benefit of the hon. gentleman in the Opposition, for the benefit of the hon. members in the government, backbenchers, and for the benefit of the furtherance of democracy in this Province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! To the point of order, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. D. JAMIESON: First of all, Mr. Speaker, I do not know why on a simple procedural point which the hon. member for Bonavista North (Mr. Stirling)) had every right to make to get clarification upon, I do not know why it suddenly has to deteriorate once again with the member for St. John's East (Mr. W. Marshall) getting into what I described before as a confrontational stance.

MR. S. NEARY: (Inaudible) your own mind.

MR. D. JAMIESON: I think, Mr. Speaker, that you would know and the hon. member knows and all of us here know that private members of this House have the right to ask questions to the ministry. That is a standard practice. But it is also and my hon. friend should look this up and I hope you will, Mr. Speaker, that there are also certain constraints which are placed upon the rights of members on the government side in all parliaments of which I am aware, to ensure that there is not an abuse of this particular technique which is essentially and historically, Sir, I am sure you would agree, designed for the Opposition. A couple of those constraints and my hon. friend - I call him the word 'friend' in the most open fashion - I suspect is probably in a way restrained in his capacity to ask questions for one reason at least that I would like to see some



MR. JAMIESON: check on the rules on, because he is, in fact, an officer of this House and that there are limitations upon him. There are certain other limitations -

MR. BARRY: No. No.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Order, please!

MR. JAMIESON: Once again I find, Mr. Speaker, you see this is the point. I am not arguing this question. I am asking can we have a ruling on it. In some jurisdictions, and I cite if I may, New Zealand and Australia I believe are two, if a person has a special status on the government side, either as a parliamentary secretary or an assistant to a minister, or as an officer of the House, they are restricted very clearly in their ability to ask questions. Mr. Speaker, I cite another example, and that is that there are jurisdictions, I believe the majority, in which private members on the government side may ask a question, are not, however, permitted a supplementary question. I believe Your Honour will find that there are plenty of examples where that kind of thing is in force and understood, and clearly the reason is what my hon. friend from Bonavista North (Mr. Stirling) properly brought up, namely, that if indeed by its very presence as the government there are more members on the government side and if they should, Sir, have unrestricted ability in the Question Period to be recognized, let us say on an alternative basis, then, of course, it reduces at the very least by half the amount of time that is available to the Opposition.

May I also point out, Sir, that there are jurisdictions where, in addition to the restrictions that I have mentioned, the limitation is put on the number of questions, either per day, per session, or per week, which exclusively private members on the government side may ask. So I think it is appropriate, in making this comment I say that it has not been abused by hon. members opposite up to now, and I am making these points because I think it is - it will be helpful to have a ruling as to whether or not, or under what circumstances, for example,

MR. JAMIESON: that members opposite who are private members may ask questions. I think the precedents are there, Sir, and I think it would be helpful if you were not necessarily immediately but perhaps after examining the precedents, to give a ruling on just exactly what the situation is.

PREMIER PECKFORD: To that point of order.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): The hon. the Premier to the point of order.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, I think this is a mountain, you know somebody is making a mountain out of a molehill. What bothers me most about this point of order, and I would have said exactly the same thing and perhaps more in response to the point of order if I had gotten up at the time that the Government House Leader got up, because the hon. member for Bonavista North (Mr. Stirling) albeit that he was trying to make a clear point about government members getting up, did imply that there was some deliberate attempt on behalf of the administration to take time away from Opposition members in asking questions.

MR. NEARY: All true.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

PREMIER PECKFORD: Now the hon. member for Bonavista North did imply that, and anybody who has an ear to hear in this hon. House that is what the hon. member was saying.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD: So first of all, let us clearly understand what the hon. member for Bonavista North said in his point of order. Now, if the hon. member for Bonavista North wants to get up and make a point of order, obviously, it is the right of any member, but let us not as members lower the dignity of this institution by implying certain things on which there is no evidence to show that such is the case. I did not know in my wildest dreams yesterday that the member for Stephenville (Mr. Stagg) was going to ask a question. I did not know in my wildest dreams that the member for Humber West (Mr. Baird) was going to ask a question, nor should I know, Mr. Speaker. These members

PREMIER PECKFORD: in the backbenches here have a right to ask questions of the ministry on things that are important to their districts.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD: But I can also go on to say, and I know I speak for every member on this side of the House, we will not, and this backbench will not abuse the Question Period to cut off members on the other side from having their legitimate questions asked.

And thirdly, as evidence for that, let me point to this House and the Question Period in this House since this administration took office.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, if I may.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): With respect to the point of order, I believe I have heard enough debate at least at this point in time to make a ruling. First of all, in my opinion there are probably two matters raised here, one is with respect to an officer of the House or somebody who performs the duties of an officer of the House. That I will check and make comments on at a later sitting.

With respect to the original point of order raised by the hon. member for Bonavista North (Mr. Stirling) let me say this; first of all it is my clear understanding, and I am sure it is of all members of the House, that any private member of the House has a right and a privilege to ask a question of the ministry. I think the rules are quite clear, the Standing Orders do not disallow a member on the government side asking a question. So in that respect any member may ask a question.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): While it may appear to be unusual, it certainly is not improper nor out of order and there are other precedents in many legislatures across this country, the House of Commons in particular, where government members do frequently ask questions of the Ministry, albeit, they may be questions pertaining to their own area and that is probably the reason why they generally do seek the floor. So with those few comments, I would have to rule that there is no point of order on the point of order raised by the hon. member for Bonavista North.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. W. MARSHALL: I just want to add, if I could, just one thing because the hon. Leader of the Opposition, you know, pointed out as he understood the procedure in other jurisdictions, in New Zealand, Australia and Canada, etc., and I would just like to put this to Your Honour for your guidance in addressing the question that Your Honour has indicated he is going to take under advisement. I refer to Beauchesne, page 134, paragraph 370 and this is the only reference I can see in Beauchesne having any prohibition with respect to answering questions of the Ministry. "Those such as Parliamentary Secretaries who are clothed with the responsibility of answering for the Government ought not to use the time of the Question Period for the privilege of asking questions of the Government."

AN HON. MEMBER: Purposes

MR. MARSHALL: - for purposes of asking questions of the Government. Now, I think that is the line of reasoning that the hon. the Leader of the Opposition was referring to when he rose.

The fact of the matter is, you have two functions in this House, either to answer questions or to ask them. And if somebody has the duty to answer questions from time to time, obviously they cannot ask them. But if the corollary applies, if they have not got a duty they have, not only a duty but a

MR. W. MARSHALL: responsibility to ask questions at the interests of the constituencies. So I just pass that quotation on to Your Honour so you can consider it -

DR. COLLINS: And therefore clear it for the hon. member for Humber West.

MR. W. MARSHALL: - to clear the point brought out by the Opposition. And the hon. member for Humber West, of course, is not -

PREMIER PECKFORD: A Parliamentary Secretary.

MR. W. MARSHALL: - under any obligation nor can he answer any questions on behalf of the Ministry at any time, so therefore he can ask questions.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear.

MR. W. MARSHALL: I would hope that would assist Your Honour in his deliberations.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): I will accept that submission and I will accept the submission from the hon. the Leader of the Opposition then we will dispose of the matter.

MR. D. JAMIESON: Well, I agree, I really did not have any intention of getting up again and I do not know why, again, the hon. member for St. John's East did not leave it to Your Honour's discretion. What I said and there seems to be a lot of confusion this morning about motives and all the rest of it - is there are two governing things. There is Beauchesne and I said that there is no argument on that score that members have. I said by practice, in a variety of jurisdictions, that speakers use a particular kind of discretion. And what I am saying is that it is, I submit, Sir, your responsibility, and I am sure you recognize it and have carried it out impeccably, that the Question Period is basically for the members of the Opposition.

I would agree with the Premier, incidentally, that we are not talking about orchestrated responses or anything of that sort but it is to avoid that kind of thing, I think, that the speakers generally make the Question Period primarily available to the Opposition, that is all I was saying.

MR. SPEAKER: (Simms) ? I thank the hon. members for their submissions. I think I have heard enough to enable me to make a further ruling. I have allowed one from each side.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Another point of order?

MR. S. NEARY: Well, you can call it a point of order, if you like Sir, but when my hon. friend stood up -

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. S. NEARY: - the hon. President of Council stood up, Sir, he rose on a point of privilege. And I believe Your Honour has to deal with that. This is the technique that he used to make the submission. He said a point of privilege, Your Honour, and I am not telling Your Honour how to run the House but I believe Your Honour has to deal with the point of privilege.

MR. SPEAKER: I appreciate the hon. member's submission. I will have to check Hansard. I assumed he stood on a point of order.

MR. NEARY: No, a point of privilege.

AN HON. MEMBER: He said privilege.

MR. SPEAKER: Your ears are sharper than mine this morning and I appreciate your comments.

MR. S. NEARY: It was a foolish point of privilege but he did say point of privilege.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees? The hon. the Minister of Justice.

MR. G. OTTENHEIMER: Mr. Speaker, it will be recalled that a few days ago I tabled a poll referred to in the Auditor General's Report. Since then I have had a chat with the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee to make sure what I tabled and what was in the hands of the Public Accounts Committee was the same thing because obviously the House should have what the Committee of the House has and there are some, I am not sure what you would call it, ancillary material or

March 21, 1980

Tape No. 544

EL - 4

MR. G. OTTENHEIMER:                    whatever it is which the Public  
Accounts Committee has and so that everybody has the same thing, to  
avoid confusion I think I should table this as well. I think the  
cost of mimeographing all of this for all hon. members might cost more  
that the poll did - or reproduct it.

MR. D. JAMIESON:                    Making copies for all the members, I  
do not believe it is necessary.

PREMIER PECKFORD:

No.

MR. D. JAMIESON:

I think it is a waste. I agree with

that.

MR. W. MARSHALL:

Okay, well, could we have one copy each?

MR. OTTENHEIMER:

A copy or two copies for each side,

something like that.

MR. W. MARSHALL:

If members want them they can ask for

them.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms):

Order, please! I would like to welcome

to the galleries on behalf of all hon. members, the Mayor and four members of the Bell Island Town Council.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

PRESENTING PETITIONS

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Baie Verte -

White Bay.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. T. RIDEOUT:

Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to

present a petition signed by 102 residents of the community of Nipper's Harbour in Green Bay in my district. The prayer of the petition is: "We, the undersigned residents of Nipper's Harbour, respectfully request that the ten miles of gravel road to Nipper's Harbour be upgraded and paved. The development of industry, fishing and shipbuilding, in particular, is being hindered by road conditions and there is also the problem with the busing of students from Nipper's Harbour to attend school in LaScie."

Mr. Speaker, in supporting the petition, just let me say briefly that I cannot think of any other community in the Province where the people are so reasonable in requests that they make to government. I remember only three or four years ago that the community council of Nipper's Harbour came in here and just asked for a few loads of gravel. I believe the hon. the member for Bonavista South (Mr. J. Morgan) was then the Minister of Transportation and Communications. They have not been an unreasonable people at all. The request is very reasonable.



MR. T. RIDEOUT: National Sea Products, the operators of the parent fish plant at LaScie, are now proceeding to, I understand, open a semi-processing unit in Nipper's Harbour, so that will mean the quality of fish that must be brought from that community to the parent plant is going to be very important for the future development of that industry.

The busing of students, again, as I have mentioned, from that community to LaScie is certainly a factor. Those people are very reasonable, they do not expect that this is going to be done overnight, but I do believe that they expect, rightfully, Sir, that the government heed their concerns, that some attention be paid to doing something with that road. It is a very long, narrow, winding road going through very difficult terrain. I believe it is imperative that government put it on its priority list.

On behalf of the people of Nipper's Harbour, I support the petition, table it and ask that it be referred to the department to which it relates.

MR. J. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. J. MORGAN: I would like to say a few words in support of that petition.

Just recently, I was in Nipper's Harbour and met with the Fishermen's Committee down there and a number of other fishermen besides the committee. And I met with the owner and operator of the shipyard and saw the operations there being carried on by Mr. Tony Noble and company. It seems like a very progressive little community. I know one thing, it is a very scenic and very beautiful little community. The people there, as mentioned by the hon. gentleman putting forward the petition, are not really demanding people. They are not really aggressive in demanding but they are merely asking for consideration in the upgrading and paving eventually of that road.

As mentioned, there are plans now by National Sea to build a new fish plant, to establish an operation this year. We just recently - in fact, the last couple of weeks - gave

MR. J. MORGAN:

National Sea a processing licence

to operate in Nipper's Harbour this year and we will be doing everything possible to assist <sup>them</sup>in regard to getting the operation going.

So this petition from the residents of Nipper's Harbour, I think, is a petition we should look at.

I know that there are going to be lots of demands this year on my colleague, the Minister of Transportation (Mr. C. Brett) for road work, as every year. There are lots of gravel roads around the Province that need upgrading and paving. But I am sure that my colleague will give the petition every consideration. However, one thing I would like to see in the future - and I have discussed this with my colleague, the Transportation minister, and, in fact, previous ministers - I think that we should look at giving some kind of priority in upgrading and paving of roads that lead to resources or lead to a place of employment and lead to potential development. In this case, we are talking about the road to Nipper's Harbour.

Mr. Speaker, I support the petition and I am sure that this administration will give the petition every consideration.

MR. S. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker.

March 21, 1980

Tape No. 546

AH-1

MR. SPEAKER (Simms):

The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, I third the petition and I hope we will not have to wait for the oil to come ashore before the people down in Nippers Harbour get their road.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. SPEAKER:

Order 11: Second reading of a bill,  
"An Act To Protect The Environment Of The Province By  
Providing For Environmental Assessment." (Bill No. 13)

If the hon. minister speaks now she will close the debate: I am sorry, the hon. member for Kilbride.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. AYLWARD:

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. First I wish to congratulate the minister on the introduction of Bill 13 to this House. It is a bill which I consider to be long overdue and I am quite happy to see that it has been introduced in this House. The government's position on this type of bill has been clearly outlined in the Throne Speech on page 10 and it reads; "Unparalleled natural development and rapid expansion of our economy will place new and potentially dangerous stresses on both our natural and social environments. Indeed, as resources are developed, it seems inevitable that changes of a physical and social nature will take place. However, we must be careful, in each instance, first, to evaluate both the benefits of resource and economic development and its consequential environmental, social and economic impacts. Only then should we decide on a rational basis, whether the resource or economic development in question is justified.

Insofar as the preservation of our natural environment is concerned, My Government, in this session, will introduce." And this is one of the bills which was mentioned in the

MR. AYLWARD: Throne Speech. This government's position is a position which I am very proud to be able to support in this House, Mr. Speaker. I would like to also congratulate the hon. member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren), who is not here right now, on his excellent speech yesterday, a speech which I certainly have a feel for. I had the opportunity this year to visit a great deal of the hon. member's district while travelling throughout our Province with the Flag Committee and I can see that a development to such an extent as the uranium development in Makkovik would have great a social impact on this area. The people - I would be able to only phrase it as 'they have a world of their own' and they seem to be quite happy in this world. They have their own environment and they are afraid that it is going to be destroyed by any type of development such as this uranium development. The hon. member for the Torngat Mountains suggested that the Powell Report was brought on more by public pressure from residents of the area than by the government bringing it on. I am not sure if this is the case but I would like to say if it is, how lucky we are as a Province to have a government who will listen to people when they bring their concerns before the government and will act upon them.

MR. PATTERSON: Hear, hear!

MR. AYLWARD: The hon. member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren) also quoted from a report, I believe it was from BRINEX, and he was noting that this report pointed out several places of concern and they said that it is unsafe, certain things were unsafe and certain things were going to be looked at as much as possible. Now, this phrase 'as much as possible' is not satisfactory in my mind and I am certain that the hon. member for Torngat Mountains would not say that it was acceptable and he did not. But as far as the report is concerned, a

MR. AYLWARD: report that points out difficulties and points out dangers is much more important to me than - I would be more concerned about a report that did not show any dangers and did not show any points of possible danger to the society.

Mr. Speaker, I have, ever since I began to work when I got out off high school, had quite an interest in the environment mostly because of my own association with the environment. Being a land surveyor I have spent more of my working life outdoors than inside. I guess you might say that I have been in the woods a great part of my life but not in the dark.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to relate an instance which happened to me since I started to work in 1965 or 1966 when I was a student surveyor. The first major job on which I worked was the job for the planning and preliminary survey work in the Victoria Lake-Howley Lake area which is a part of the great Bay d'Espoir development. On my first visit to this Victoria Lake area, although it was not what I would call virgin country, there was limited development, there were some forest access roads, some cut-over areas and yet it was still a very beautiful country.

MR. R. AYLWARD:

After working in this area we went by sea plane and canoe into an area which I would call the Burnt Pond, Spruce Pond Granite Lake area. In this area there were many caribou. quite a lot of partridge, ducks, geese, moose, marten, beaver, very good fishing and most of all, the countryside in this area was untouched and unscarred, by any human activity. I would say that I walked areas that Summer that had never been visited by humans before. Maybe some of the Micmac Indians from the South coast had been in this area, but not very many of European descent. Some of the Micmacs did use this area for hunting, I understand, and trapping.

Everything in that country, Mr. Speaker, that late Summer and Fall seemed to be alive. The rivers, the barrens, the trees, they all seemed to be in harmony with each other. I suppose if there is anything on this earth that I would consider to be as close to Heaven as possible it would be that part of the country when I visited some ten - fifteen years ago. It was extremely beautiful. Five years ago I was fortunate enough to be chosen for a big game hunter's licence and I was lucky enough to get it in this same area, the first time I had been back to this area since before the development. The first thing I noticed when I got to Red Indian Lake was that compared to the first time I was there it seemed to me like it was almost dried up. There was quite a change in this lake. Some of the effect was the diversion of Victoria Lake, Howley Lake water. I guess there were other effects. It happened to be a dry Summer so this was also one of the effects. We went from Red Indian Lake, 100 miles, by woods roads and construction roads. These roads were littered with car wrecks, garbage buckets or oil drums, abandoned construction sites, certainly not what was there when I was in this area before. We came to

MR. R. ALYWARD: an area which is known as Burnt Ridge near Burnt Pond, whole country was changed. There were huge sides of mountains taken out and quite a bit of the country was flooded. Huge canals were built, mountainsides were left as open-pits and gravel pits, the gravel was being used to build dykes and the like. There were many dead trees littered around the edges of the shores because there was no cutting before the areas were flooded. And all of the area had changed drastically from the time I was there. Now, this area of our Province is still one of the most beautiful parts of Canada in my mind, and there are still some caribou there and some moose, some partridge, water fowl are there at times, but, Mr. Speaker, it is not nearly what it used to be. The most drastic change is the scarring of the countryside.

How fortunate this Province would have been if a bill similar to Bill 13 had been introduced some fifteen years ago because there are steps in a development such as the Bay D'Espoir development - and I would like to make it clear now that I am not against development. I certainly think that the Bay d'Espoir development is necessary and if it had not been done at that time it certainly would have to be done now. But there are steps that can be taken to protect our environment while we develop our Province to protect the general well-being of our Province, our environment and the whole people as a society.

Mr. Speaker, there are some questions I have on Bill 13 just as points of clarification. I will just list them and the minister when she is clueing up this date might be able to answer them, Some of the questions I have undoubtedly

MR. AYLWARD: are caused by my inability to read an act and understand it perfectly. I can read the purpose in the explanatory notes of these acts but sometimes when one section relates to another, and another and another, you want to memorize it to understand it. So some of my questions are probably answered in this act, but just as a clarification.

One of the things that I would like to know is how does this act affect the developments that will take place within a city, not a big large development, or in the jurisdiction of a town where the town might have jurisdiction to control or to give a permit, would these cities, or the developers - I know it says everyone has to apply here - but would these developers still have to check with the Department of the Environment to see if this assessment will be necessary? Particularly with towns and the like, I would be concerned about certain projects, even a project such as installing water and sewer and having the effluent go into a pond or a lake, or somewhere. Maybe treatment plants could come under this here. I think if we had more treatment plants in our Province it certainly would be a great thing although I realize that there is an expense. One of the failings of most Newfoundlanders to date, in my mind, is that the general population seems to think that we have lots of water, and we have lots of vacant land, and we have lots of wildlife, we do not need to be as strict as sometimes government regulations make it. Sometimes our wildlife regulations seem to be unnecessarily limiting traveller access to the country. Generally we think that we have a lot but it does not take long to spoil our environment unless we have bills such as Bill 13.

If the impact statement is prepared, and this also might be a misunderstanding on my behalf, but if the impact statement is prepared and a group or a person disagrees with the findings of this impact statement it would be a substantial expense for them.



MR. AYLWARD:

to prove their part of the argument.

I could not see anything in the act that would help them, maybe financially, to prove their point of the argument, similar to what was done for the mayors and municipalities, I believe when they tried to intervene against a hydro rate increase. I think there was some money allotted them, and paid for by Hydro, I believe, when they tried - Maybe sections 27 and 26 would deal with this but I am not sure now.

There is one thing in section 13 (3), (c) and (d), the word "reasonably" is used several times. Section 13 (c) says; "the present environment that will be affected or that might reasonably be expected to be affected," is one area where it is used. And "the effects that would be caused or that might reasonably be expected to be caused." This word "reasonably" is not defined in section 1. I would like to know, who is this 'reasonably' supposed to refer to because I might consider something reasonable and the developer of a parcel of land next to me might not consider it to be very reasonable, if I happen to have a different point of view than he does. So if these things are reasonable to the environment, or to the commission or board that is being set up, maybe that would solve it, or if they are reasonable to the minister, But if they are reasonable to anyone, such as a developer, certain developers would take a different point of view on certain projects rather than a position which would be taken by a conservationist or a wildlife group.

In section 18 (1) (a), while I was skimming through, I noticed another section that I think dealt with this; "Upon receiving the impact statement, the minister shall direct that copies"- people get a chance to answer the impact statement and to make comments on it, I just want to know if there is a time limit suggested or will be suggested in the regulations as to how long they will have to reply?

Section 21, which is a very minor concern of

March 21, 1980

Tape No. 548

NM - 3

MR. AYLWARD: mine, it would depend on how many applications with regard to this act that the minister might have, but section 21 is a section which similarly exists now in the Crown Lands Act where if you make an application for Crown lands

MR. R. AYLWARD:

you have to submit your application to Crown Lands and they distribute it to all other government departments. Now, I would say that this distribution between all departments is one of the major causes of delays for Crown Lands applications although they are getting better in the past couple of years, but this is one of the delays because each department has so much to do, the Crown Lands application might be sitting on the desk for quite some time.

Maybe I also misunderstand this but I would say that if there is a large development and there is an assessment to be made of this development that it be the responsibility of a department which this would effect to come to the minister or come to the Department of Environment and then any departments that this assessment would not have any bearing on would not have to be bothered or would not necessarily go to the department. It might be eliminated sometime.

Another thing, I wonder what volume of assessments is anticipated, what is the scope? I know it says here, again, that everyone has to apply to the minister and the minister might decide that there are some exemptions. I would like to know what volume is anticipated of applications? Will this be on projects of over a certain dollar value in development or will, say, a 100 lot subdivision which happens to be close to Rennie's River in St. John's, will this also have to be submitted to the Department of Environment and either the minister would suggest that an impact statement would be necessary or she could say that this was exempt. I just wonder how many applications are anticipated?

The hon. member for Port au Port

(Mr. J. Hodder), he is not here now,

MR. J. MORGAN:

Yes, he is over here, he is over

on this side now.

MR. AYLWARD:

Oh!

MR. R. AYLWARD: He made some comment yesterday on the new Access Road to Burgeo and it is interference with or disturbing of the caribou population down there and I certainly would like to agree with his idea that we have to educate people to make them aware of these caribou herds on such roads as the Burgeo road. There is another area of our Province where the caribou come quite close to the highway and that is on the Southern Shore near St. Shotts. The caribou come very close to the highway there in the summertime. They are not poached or disturbed very much, maybe because this is a busy area and more likely you would be caught. The fact that we have a road going near or through a caribou herd could be used to our advantage because people who are not hunters and who probably would never see caribou might like to take a drive down there or maybe some tourist tours - some out-of-Province people - could be taken into areas like this so that they can see our wildlife. I am certain it would be a novelty for someone from New York to drive along one of our highways and see such great herds of caribou or any wildlife.

The member for Port au Port (Mr. J. Hodder) and also our Premier yesterday made reference to highway development. Now, I certainly would like to see highway development come under this, or recommendations be made that when our highways are being developed that our countryside is not left scarred by open gravel pits and the like. There are steps being taken and I notice on our rebuilding of the Trans-Canada Highway last year that you said Atlantic Hydro Seed people were re-seeding some of these gravel pits and I must say it really improves the situation. Another example of an excellent highway project, as far as I am concerned, is this downtown Arterial Road which runs along the Southside Hills. There was a lot of thought put into it and it did not leave the countryside damaged or scarred for the rest of time.

March 21, 1980

Tape No. 549

SD - 3

MR. R. AYLWARD: I guess I will clue up my  
remarks on this Bill right now but once again I would like to  
congratulate the minister and the government for bringing in such  
a bill as Bill No. 13.

Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Butt):

If the minister speaks now, she

closes debate on the bill.

The hon. the Minister of Consumer  
Affairs and Environment.

MRS. H. NEWHOOK:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank all the hon. members of the Opposition who have responded to this bill, who have expressed their concerns and who have expressed a desire to support this bill. And, of course, I do appreciate the response from my hon. colleagues on this side of the House who have stressed the virtues of the bill. They have spoken on the benefits it will bring to the people of our Province and the protection that it will give to our environment. And, of course, I wish to thank our hon. Premier, who has described the scope and the flexibility of the bill.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the main thrust of this bill is that environmental assessment is required for virtually every type of public or private undertaking which has the potential of causing significant environmental impacts. And, of course, Mr. Speaker, all hon. members know and I know that there are some projects which have never caused any environmental problems and which we know, never will, and which can be exempted from the provisions of this act. These can be taken care of by being listed in the regulations which will be drawn up under this act and which will be approved by Cabinet, not just the minister, Mr. Speaker.

There are classes of small projects which require to be licenced for various departments and by departments of government interested in this particular project. These are being controlled now by an internal deferral system whereby the undertakings coming under the jurisdiction of one department are referred to other departments having an interest in that particular undertaking, and, of course, approval from all departments has to be obtained before a licence is given. I do not see anything wrong with such undertakings being taken care of in this way in the future.

MRS. H. NEWHOOK: Again, Mr. Speaker, as our Premier pointed out, there are undertakings no matter how small, which may be subject to environmental assessment under certain circumstances, and, of course, all of these have to be registered.

I do not agree with the hon. the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary), that the minister is all-powerful.

MR. S. NEARY: There was another group said that (as well.

MRS. H. NEWHOOK: Mr. Speaker, I would wish to point out to him that the minister has an assessment committee to advise her on the evaluation of the environmental impact study which has been prepared by the proponent. This committee consists of biologists and environmental technicians of our department, resource people from provincial and federal departments of government having a concern in the particular undertaking -

AN HON. MEMBER: Right.

MRS. H. NEWHOOK: - and other expertise people with professional knowledge pertinent to the undertaking. For instance, our presently working assessment committee consists of representatives from the Department of Mines and Energy, from the Department of Lands and Forests, from the Department of Wildlife, Tourism, Department of Industrial Development, Economic Research and Analysis, Fisheries, Department of Health, Department of Manpower and Labour and, of course, our own biologists and our own environmental technicians. And in addition /

MS. H. NEWHOOK: to this, to these people rather. We do have on this committee a doctor from the Department of Biology, Memorial University, we have a representative from the Canadian Forestry, Environment Canada. We have a representative from the Atomic Energy Control Board, a doctor from the Department of Sociology at Memorial University and we have the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Environment. And I feel this is a Committee which is a very, very strong backup to the Minister.

MR. NEARY: Would the hon. minister permit a question?

MS. NEWHOOK: I would further - Yes, go ahead.

MR. SPEAKER (SIMMS): The hon. member for LaPoile, with leave.

MR. S. NEARY: I would like to ask the minister if all the representation that was received from the various biologists that the minister is referring to, their regional biologists and so forth, if their recommendations were accepted by the minister and by the Department before this Bill was brought into the House or were their recommendations that I have here in front of me that are not in the Bill, were they just ignored by the minister, including too much power in the hands of the minister, by the way.

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

MS. H. NEWHOOK: I have missed the point.

MR. SPEAKER (SIMMS): The hon. the Member for LaPoile.

MR. S. NEARY: After presentations were made to the minister, before the Bill came in it was circulated to the biologists who were asked for their recommendations and their comments. And they made recommendations and comments that were not incorporated into the Bill. Why were they not listened to? If the minister said 'we had these people on the committee', why were not their recommendations incorporated into the Bill?

MS. H. NEWHOOK: Well, Sir, this Bill was drafted before we had the Advisory Committee, I think, This is the Advisory Committee I am talking about now, which has been assessing the BRINEX proposals and this was written before. Mr. Speaker, I would



MR. H. NEWHOOK:

further emphasize that

the power of the minister is mostly in ensuring that the assessment process is carried through to completion and when there is sufficient public interest in the undertaking and in the assessment, the minister recommends to Cabinet to appoint an impartial Public Assessment Board to conduct public hearings. And the report and the recommendations of the Board are submitted to the minister and then by the minister to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

And I might also stress, Mr. Speaker, that this report is made available to any interested persons and recommendations of the minister as to the environmental acceptability of the undertaking are considered by Cabinet and it is Cabinet and not the minister which makes the final decision.

Mr. Speaker, to further respond to the hon. member for LaPoile (S. Neary), I would like to say that actually it is the public who will make public hearings mandatory and even before the hearing takes place, the public or the Fishermen's Union or all kinds of groups and organizations may participate in the environmental process of any undertaking by meeting with or writing to the proponent or by contacting the minister, expressing their concerns, asking questions of the proponent and actually receiving and supplying information.

MR. S. NEARY:

Where do they get the money to

prepare their case against -

MS. H. NEWHOOK:

I think we have given money already

to interveners to go ahead and participate.

MR. S. NEARY:

Will you be making funds available

in the future for groups who want to -

MR. H. NEWHOOK:

That is something, Sir, that will

have to be a policy of government and I really cannot -

MR. S. NEARY:

There is no policy.

MS. H. NEWHOOK:

- give, there is no specified policy on it

at the moment.

MR. S. NEARY:

Right on.

March 21, 1980

Tape No. 551

EL - 3

MS. H. NEWHOOK:

In reply to the hon. member from the Strait of Belle Isle (E. Roberts), I wish to say that, of course the minister must use discretion - all ministers do. There will be undertakings which can be exempted from the provisions of this Act. For instance, supposing an undertaking similar to one which has already gone through the environmental assessment process and we have all the necessary

MRS. NEWHOOK:

information, and all this has been gathered, surely it would not be expected to have to go through the exact same process again. Also, there will be some classes of undertakings where the impact upon the environment is already known and an environmental impact study and assessment would not be necessary and the undertaking could be allowed to go ahead subject to conditions and stipulations. And these would be defined, of course, and anti pollution equipment would have to be installed and monitoring take place. I am thinking now of such things as possibly a gravel pit or fish plant or it could be a hennery or these types of things, all of which now, at the present time, are subject to the provisions of our Consumer and Environmental Act.

Another point raised by the hon. member was the terms of reference. This Act clearly states that the proponent is first given guidelines, and that is under section 10 (2) and section 12, for the preparation of a preview report or for the preparation of the terms of reference for the preparation of the environmental impact statement. And such terms of reference have to be consistent with the guidelines and are reviewed by the Assessment Committee to ensure that they are and this is the procedure which we have been following.

And, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member made reference to section 24. Section 24 states, and I understand it to mean, that the minister has a clear obligation under this Act to inform Cabinet of strong indications of public interest in the undertaking and Cabinet may appoint a public hearing board or an impartial environmental assessment board, more precisely described this way in the Act. Also, Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member mentioned or he had some concern in section 36. Now, section 36 is to cover

MRS. NEWHOOK: some very unusual situations or some emergencies of vital importance to the Province which cannot wait for an environmental assessment. While we recognize that this provision may at some times be necessary, I am sure the government of this Province has no intention of using this clause improperly and the minister will not abuse the authority given under this section.

I quite agree with the hon. gentleman that if the minister takes it upon herself to accept undertakings she must be responsible for her actions, must be responsible to the public. And I hasten to point out that such a decision by the minister has to have the approval of Cabinet, she just cannot make it on her own.

MR. S. NEARY: Cabinet could overrule it.

MRS. NEWHOOK: Yes, I guess that is correct, Sir. And, Mr. Speaker, with regard to the development of oil and gas off our shores, our oil and gas regulations definitely state that any development which might take place out there has to go through the environmental assessment process.

MRS. NEWHOOK: Whether or not, of course that is before it commences, before they get approval to operate, and whether or not this be done under our federal government or provincially is probably not, perhaps, too important. Certainly the protection of navigation and fisheries and creatures of the sea has been a federal role. Preferably I would see it as a joint, or a co-ordinated effort. But we must ensure that oil development does not have a detrimental effect on our fishery resources and on our land resources, and that the developers have the latest technology and the most up-to-date equipment to prevent and to take care of spills and any other types of problems which might arise.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with the hon. member for Windsor-Buchans (Mr. Flight) that if we had had this act in place years ago, quite a number of disastrous environmental impacts by various industries in this Province could have been prevented. And I regret Mr. Speaker, that this bill died on the Order Paper last year because this hon. House chose to use its time debating other matters.

However, although the hon. member is concerned about section 36 (2) whereby undertakings already in existence are exempt, it does make sense that they cannot undergo assessment before commencement takes place because they are already in existence. I would assure the hon. member that such undertakings are subject to restrictions under our anti-pollution regulations, and all of them have been improved during the last few years and most are on a compliance schedule.

I have personally, with the officials of my department, visited various fish meal plants around the Province and a few other of the industries, and we find that it does work very well indeed to be able to sit down and talk to these operators face to face and we are hoping to continue to do this this year.

Mr. Speaker, I do advise the hon. member for

MRS. NEWHOOK: Windsor-Buchans (Mr. Flight) that new extensions to existing undertakings will have to be registered under this act and will be subject to the environmental process. For instance, a new mine in Buchans, or the development of the barite from tailings already stockpiled, these would have to be included. I would also advise him that operating on new rivers for which the companies have no water rights would be another, and that cutting and flooding and silting, all these complaints are investigated now by our environmental officers.

Mr. Speaker, answering the hon. member on spraying. I would like to confirm for him that the spruce budworm spray would require environmental assessment under this act. But I would add though that with a royal commission, with public hearings and recommendations, surely it would not be necessary to have to go through the process again unless some obvious aspect of the spray had not been covered and of course, this would have to be dealt with. Where all kinds of data are available, we could justify that we already know what the impact is and, perhaps then, all that would be necessary would be the public hearings part of the requirement of this act.

Also, Mr. Speaker, to the hon. member from Windsor-Buchans (Mr. Flight), I wish to point out that a notice of the commencement of an environmental assessment has to be published in the newspapers and in a public place by the minister so that the public may be informed, and this is specified under the act.

The hon. member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren), expressed some concern about the BRINEX public hearings. And I would like to point out to the hon. member that our government has been very responsible with regard to this uranium operation.

MRS. NEWHOOK: If it had wanted to go ahead and push it through, it could have gone ahead and not have had to adhere to the guidelines of this proposed bill, but government chose to do that. And, also, I would like to say that that company had requested to go ahead with the access road, and government refused until the report from the Public Hearings Board had been received. And naturally I cannot make a report or give you any information on the BRINEX hearings, because the assessment board's report has not been received yet. I understand the delay has been that they have not been able to get the transcription done on the tapes from the Indian language into English, but they do expect to have that now very shortly, and the report, of course, will have to be made public.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member from Bonavista North (Mr. Stirling) has expressed, also, some concern about the meaning of section 36 (2).

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, I am just wondering if this bill is passed within the next few days and the report from the Powell enquiry is not received in your office in due course, and the report does state, when it is received, that everything is okay for BRINEX to go ahead, although there are things in your bill that BRINEX has not done, will that have any effect on whether that project will go ahead or not? Will the passing of the your bill change the mind of the Powell enquiry?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Consumer Affairs and the Environment.

MRS. NEWHOOK: What will happen, Mr. Speaker, is that when we receive the report it will be assessed and evaluated by my assessment committee. They will make recommendations to the minister. The minister

MRS. NEWHOOK: then will make recommendations to Cabinet as to whether or not the operation is environmentally acceptable or not, and then it will be Cabinet which will make the decision as to whether or not it is going to give approval. So I really cannot answer that question.

AN HON. MEMBER: That is right.

MRS. NEWHOOK: I was referring to section 36 (2) which says an undertaking that is in progress before this act comes into force is exempt. In the definition section of this act it explains this to be in an undertaking which has begun or has already occurred. And I think we could probably add to that, an undertaking that has already been approved prior to the coming into effect of this act.

MR. STIRLING: Mr. Speaker.

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

MRS. NEWHOOK: Mr. Speaker, the hon. -

MR. STIRLING: Would the hon. minister permit a question?

MRS. NEWHOOK: Yes. Go ahead.

MR. STIRLING: That last comment that you made, are you proposing to change the act to include that definition that you just made? You said, "I think we could also say anything that has been approved." Are you going to change the act there?

MRS. NEWHOOK: No. That is just a personal observation. There are no plans to put that into the act at this time.

The hon. member for Bonavista North (Mr. Stirling) seems to be worried about the oil companies exploring and drilling off our shores and I commend him for this concern and I wish to assure him that all development offshore, and onshore, will be subject to environmental assessment.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the environmental concerns expressed by the hon. member for Port au Port (Mr. Hodder), and like him I regret that this bill will come too late for the Burgeo Road. The hon. member has called this bill a progressive piece of legislation. I think this is a very co-operative statement from a worthy member of this House.



March 21, 1980

Tape No. 554

NM - 3

MRS. NEWHOOK: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for  
Kilbride (Mr. Aylward) has expressed some concern about  
developments in cities and in towns, and I would like to tell him  
that town plans and city plans, these have to be approved by  
our Department of Environment before they are approved by the  
cities or the particular municipality. It is a part of the process  
~~of developing town plans~~

MRS. H. NEWHOOK: of developing town plans to have the Department of the Environment involved in that particular plan. And, of course, water and sewer systems come under our waste and disposal regulations and under our civil sanitary grants, and approvals have to be given by our department before these plans are finalized.

With regard to people disagreeing with the undertaking and this sort of thing, this can be taken care of in public hearings. The public can intervene and I think, unlike in the past where there has been no money for intervention, I am sure that the government will be receptive to providing monies for this purpose.

He referred to Section 21. He was concerned about the co-operation of departments of government, and I think this Section 21 says that the minister may ensure that the co-ordination and the co-operation does exist between departments.

The hon. the member for Kilbride (Mr. R. Aylward) also mentioned about the different kinds of undertakings and how they would be classified. I would like to advise him that every undertaking has to be registered. These registrations are reviewed by a committee in our department and are referred then to the minister, and these are placed in three categories; those undertakings which do not require an assessment, those undertakings which may require an assessment and those undertakings which must require an assessment. In the case of where it is a 'maybe', then the proponent has to submit a preview report under certain guidelines and then a further assessment is made as to whether or not environmental assessment must go ahead.

I think I have probably addressed all the concerns mentioned, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say that this is a progressive piece of legislation, as some members have agreed. We are ahead in Canada. Even Ontario has proclaimed only part of its act and it is that part pertaining to the public sector. So, really, our proposed bill here is an improvement to the Ontario act and, Mr. Speaker, I think we are perhaps number one in Canada.

MR. S. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Butt):

The hon. the member for LaPoile.

MR. S. NEARY:

Before the minister takes her chair

I wonder if the minister would tell me, when the bill was circulated before it was approved to be brought into the House, how many people were contacted? - how many biologists, how many departments? And is the minister prepared to table the responses? Because I think the minister asked for recommendations from the biologists. For instance, I have here in front of me letters from a regional biologist, from an environmental biologist in the Department of Consumer Affairs, a Chief Biologist, Department of Tourism, Regional Biologist, etc., etc. These are all responses to the minister's request for recommendations and suggestions. Is the minister prepared to table these letters?

MRS. H. NEWHOOK:

I would think that probably quite a few of these recommendations can be taken care of in the regulations which we have drawn up under this act. I know some of them will. I cannot tell you if a copy of this act was circulated. I think that would have been before our -

MR. S. NEARY:

You are the minister and you

do not know whether the act was circulated before it was brought into the House?

MRS. H. NEWHOOK:

Well, that was before I became a

member of government.

MR. S. NEARY:

No, Mr. Speaker, it was only recently

this was done. The minister did not know the act was being circulated?

MR. S. NEARY: 1979, was the minister in the department then?

MR. H. NEWHOOK: Yes, that was in July of '79 but this Act was drafted previous to that time.

MR. S. NEARY: But will the minister table the responses? I mean, I could table them myself but it is not my place to do it. Would the minister table them because none of the recommendations are included in that Act?

MR. H. NEWHOOK: Well, I will have a look at that, Mr. Speaker, and I will sort of take that under advisement. Thank you.

On motion, a bill, "An Act To Protect The Environment Of The Province By Providing For Environmental Assessment", read a second time, ordered referred to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow. (Bill No. 13).

Motion, second reading of a bill, "An Act Respecting The Establishment Of A Newfoundland And Labrador Arts Council". (Bill No. 16)

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. R. DAWE: Mr. Speaker, hon. members of the House of Assembly, this is indeed a historic occasion for the Province because today it is my privilege to introduce in this hon. House Bill 16, "An Act Respecting The Establishment Of A Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council". With the introduction of this Bill the government is continuing to fulfill yet another promise, that is, to ensure the arts community of this Province be given every opportunity to develop and flourish in a meaningful and rational manner.

This Bill further demonstrates this government's desire to involve the general public to a significant degree in formulating policies that will affect future developments

MR. R. DAWE:

in a particular area of concern.

The introduction of this Bill

very graphically demonstrates the genuine interest and concern that this government has for the encouragement, the preservation and the stimulation of individual artists and other arts organizations either amateur or professional in all parts of Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Cultural Affairs Division of

my department has been doing a most commendable job in assisting and promoting a wide variety of arts and cultural activities throughout this Province. The five provincially owned and operated Arts and Culture Centres around the Province are a credit to us all. The management and operation of these centres is a very significant contribution to the development of the arts in our Province. Only last Summer in the Arts and Culture Centre in Stephenville there was a significant revelation, if you will, within the Province with the establishment of a drama school headed by Mr. Maxim Mazumdar. The success of that school and the ultimate support of both my department and the Department of Education - Mr. Maxim Mazumdar and his school are back in Stephenville this year.

MR. F. STAGG:

Hear, hear.

MR. R. DAWE:

I understand from my colleague from Stephenville (Mr. F. Stagg) that the anticipated results will be even bigger and better than last year and I look forward to my department being involved in probably other centres around the Province in promoting that kind of activity.

The management and operation of these centres is a very significant contribution to the development of arts in our Province - the Cultural Affairs division - excuse me. Our department is involved in a number of ways and will continue to be involved in a number of ways in financially supporting organizations and groups outside of what will

MR. R. DAWE: be the control and jurisdiction of the Arts Council, specifically the National Theatre School of Canada, the National Youth Orchestra of Canada, the Canadian Conference of the Arts and other organizations and agencies which provide varying degrees of service to citizens of this Province through the various programmes in which they are involved. To provide an example of this, in the case of the National Youth Orchestra annual auditions are held and should a Newfoundlander be accepted for the season in the National Youth Orchestra, the Province financially assists on a pre-organized per capita basis the number of students participating. A grant is also provided for the Youth Orchestra to assist them in defraying the cost of auditions, either in Newfoundland or bring Newfoundlander students to some other central point for audition purposes.

A similar situation exists with the National Theatre School where auditions are held annually within the Province and a contribution is made to assist in offsetting some of the costs involved in such programmes.

As a matter of interest, last year the Province assisted in a Canada Day Programme in Paris in which the famous Newfoundland pianist, Karen Quinton, took part. From all reports that was an excellent programme.

The Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council, whose members were appointed by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor in Council and announced in this hon. House November last,

MR. DAWE: will be responsible for the dissemination of funds devised to aid and assist in the development of Newfoundland amateur and professional artists and arts organizations. The members of the council who have agreed to serve will do so on a voluntary basis and will also, from time to time, be expected to advise government by making suggestions for the future development of the arts within the Province. If I might I would like to draw a parallel to a number of other organizations which are now operating and are under the ambit of the Department of Tourism, Recreation, and Culture. They are ones which I am proud to be associated with, having been in on the fledging years or the beginning years of each of these organizations, and they relate because of my past history and so on to an involvement in the sports area, specifically, the Newfoundland and Labrador Amateur Sports Federation which because of a need that grew out, partially, of government's involvement in supporting individual organizations and sport's groups and encouraging the development of coaching local and provincial organizations in particular sports there was a need for these sports groups to get together and to form a federation or an association that would allow them to have more professional and individual input into decisions that were probably being made by, at that time, government officials. Since that time the organization has gone through a number of growing pains and stages but has developed now into a very worthwhile and very informed organization which does much to promote amateur sports in this Province, In the same sort of a light the high schools around the Province in their sports programmes were being funded in sort of an ad hoc manner. They were forced to organize and operate independently, not with a unified voice or a unified organization and government saw fit to encourage the formation of the Newfoundland and Labrador High School Athletic

MR. DAWE: Federation. At this point in time that particular federation is probably the most used or participated in agency that we have in this Province. Last year alone there were 300 provincial tournaments held in this Province as it related to that particular activity. To try and put this in some perspective, for those 300 tournaments to take place students in schools and teams and so on had to compete in twenty-eight separate zones. The zone winner then went on to a regional competition in the five specific regions of the Province and from there came on to a provincial tournament. So you can see the wide range of activities that occurred in order for someone to actually get to a provincial tournament. I believe the statistics involved in provincial tournaments at this time was some 1600 boys and girls who participated. This is the kind of thing, the kind of support that government is giving to these organizations that it is now giving to the arts community and I see no reason, and indeed I am very hopeful and after having met with the members of the Arts Council, who were appointed last November, I am sure that this committee will go forward and will produce results for us as citizens of this Province that will far outreach any expectations that we may have had for them and I look forward to this happening. The other organization which I refer to is the - and I know hon. members opposite and hon. members on this side have been associated from time to time with an organization known as the Newfoundland and Labrador Parks and Recreation Association. In their capacity as people who represent the municipal recreation authorities around this Province, they themselves have been involved in sometimes limited and sometimes not so limited experience in the arts community. They have been organizations which have developed in smaller communities an interest in drama, an interest in the arts and arts and crafts activities and so on, and they



MR. DAWE: have been very supportive of the idea of the establishment of a provincial arts council. That organization too, had its beginnings in a very modest way and since that time the membership has grown as well as the representation from around the Province. Each municipality now and a number of unincorporated areas in the Province are participating in this particular organization. And again I look forward, because of the structure of the Arts Council, I look forward to the various regions, the geographic regions of the Province being well represented and their interests and concerns being expressed through the Arts Council and in turn to government who may have some input in changing either policies or programmes that relate to the

MR. R. DAWE: the arts world. The Arts Council will be set up and those of you who have taken the time to go through the particular piece of legislation will see that the Arts Council will have the responsibility of disseminating funds to organizations and to individuals. And not only that, they will also have the responsibility of soliciting from other areas of the population, from private and corporate interests, funds that can foster their particular activities and assist young Newfoundland artists and not so young Newfoundland artists in developing their particular talents or interests, both provincially, nationally and internationally.

And I am very, very pleased to be associated with that kind of an awareness among the Arts community.

As I said, I had lunch with the particular organization, the twelve members of the group and their executive secretary and I must say I was very impressed with their interest, their enthusiasm and their obvious dedication to make this council and this advisory board work.

Later on, in session, we will be carrying on this idea of allowing people in the community at large, in the various areas of the Province to become involved in advising the Province, in advising the government in a direction it should take in a particular area. We will be establishing a youth advisory council and this in itself is a very significant development. It is in response to a number of youth organizations around the Province who have suggested from time to time that they would like to become involved, they would like to have an input into decisions that are made at all levels of government. And we as a government are very proud that we will be able to establish, hopefully in this session, not only the Arts Council but also the Youth Advisory Council, to be

MR. R. DAWE:

set up in the very near future.

The members appointed to the council are people from all parts of Newfoundland and Labrador and will therefore be able to represent and support, will be able to make representation in support of the cultural needs of the areas they represent. Bearing in mind, of course, that their acts and actions will be for the greatest good of all those people who are interested in the preservation of our distinctive Newfoundland culture and heritage.

There are none among us, I am sure, who would question the invaluable contribution that is made to the social and moral fibre of our great Province by those who create for us all, through an artistic talent. Certainly, in the initial stages, because of the necessity to practice economic restraint, the funding for the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council will be limited. There is no question, however, that even with limited funds, the launching of this initial council is significant in its ability to invite applications from the amateur and professional artists and cultural community for assistance with current and continuing programs, as well as assistance for new and specific projects.

Perhaps it is not generally known that many arts organizations throughout the Province have worked diligently for years to maintain our heritage and traditions without remuneration and have been dedicated solely to the provision of entertainment, particularly in the performing arts, in areas where because of our geographic size and small population, it would have been impossible to support professional companies and organizations. In many cases, these existing organizations need only seed money to help them offset some of the ever-increasing costs involved in presenting public performances for the entertainment of their fellow citizens in their own communities and perhaps to other locations, that

MR. R. DAWE: could be made accessible with a small amount of assistance for travel.

In the same way, it is hoped that the council funds may be used to augment funds received by our professional arts organization from federal agencies such as The Canada Council. Similar systems, hopefully, may also be available to encourage and assist individual practicing artists who have chosen to work and live in Newfoundland.

As I mentioned before, Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to be able to introduce this Bill into the House today. I look forward to members on both sides of the House coming forward with their support for this Bill, those who have taken the time to speak to the artist community, or people involved in the arts around the Province, who have taken the time, probably, to attend some of the functions that have gone on, both in their local area and as far as the regional Arts and Culture Centres are concerned.

After you have done this over a number of years, you will realize that the quality, the enthusiasm and the dedication of people involved in the arts

MR. R. DAWE: has certainly improved. We have developed, with the introduction of the Arts and Culture Centres, to a level and this level is now to be passed. With the introduction of the Arts Council I think we will go on to the next plateau. I think their involvement, their independent advice will do much to help government in promoting the arts and cultural activities around the Province. As I was mentioning, those of you who have seen this development over the years, I am sure you could do nothing but support this particular Bill, support the thrust that government has made in this direction to involve people outside who will be giving advice, who will be acting as independent voices for whatever activity but in this case, more particularly for the arts community.

In conclusion, therefore, Mr. Speaker, and hon. members of the House of Assembly, I earnestly request your wholehearted support for the passage of this Bill thereby enabling the members of the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council to get on with the business of carrying out the objectives that have been set forward for them in the contents of this Bill.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, I believe that both sides of this hon. House should take great pride and pleasure in being associated with the passage of the Bill in this session. I would like to reserve further comments until the end of the debate at which time I will respond, of course, to any specific items that members on either side of this hon. House would have for me and to take all these things into consideration. But, I feel, Mr. Speaker, that I will not have to respond in any sort of a way to negative comments because I believe this Bill is the type of legislation that cannot be refuted, it is the kind of positive, definite,

MR. R. DAWE: forward-thinking legislation that this government is proud to be associated with, and I look forward to hearing other members of this hon. House debate this particular Bill.

MR. ROBERTS: Well said! Well read!

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

MR. S. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, how could we on this side of the House resist the temptation to vote for this piece of legislation after the most eloquent, school teacherish -

MR. ROBERTS: Heartfelt.

MR. S. NEARY: - heartfelt, tugging at the heart strings of all members for this piece of legislation when it was introduced by the hon. minister.

MR. D. JAMIESON: We should have had a symphony in at the time.

MR. S. NEARY: That is right, we should have had the violins playing in the galleries, Sir, as the hon. gentleman got up and trotted out the Newfoundland and Labrador Amateur Sports Federation, the Parks Federation, which was an indication to me that the hon. gentleman did not know very much about the Bill or did not know very much about the arts of this Province. The hon. gentleman spent very little time dealing with the Arts Council itself and the kind of work that it would do. So the responsibility of trying to deal with the local, provincial Newfoundland situation, the responsibility falls on my shoulders. I was hoping that the hon. gentleman would be able to enlighten us.-

AN HON MEMBER: (Inaudible) arts and crafts.

MR. S. NEARY: Arts and crafts is my specialty. So, Mr. Speaker, I will say at the outset that anything but anything that the government brings into this House that is motherhood, whether it be resolutions, legislation, recommendations, anything that is motherhood

MR. NEARY: I am going to vote for it, and I believe my colleagues will do the same thing.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: So this is a motherhood issue, Sir, a motherhood issue that I am sure all members are going to vote for even though, Mr. Speaker, having said that, having said that, I do not believe there will be any rejoicing or dancing in the streets of LaPoile, or the Great Northern Peninsula, or parts of Newfoundland where you have high unemployment, where you have low wages, where you have inflation, where you have no fish plants, where you have no water and sewerage. I do not believe there will be any rejoicing in the streets in these communities and towns and villages and settlements where they cannot find jobs for their young sons and daughters. I do not believe they will be rejoicing over this particular bill. But nevertheless, it is probably not fair of me, Sir, and I am not going to, I am going to resist the temptation to say that, it would not be fair because after all, Mr. Speaker, man cannot live on water and sewerage alone.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: Man cannot live on oil alone. Man cannot live on paved roads alone, and man cannot live on outdoor privies.

MR. JAMIESON: He sure as Hell cannot live on gas.

MR. NEARY: And he cannot live on gas alone. So it is not fair. It is not fair, Mr. Speaker, for me to say that the people of Newfoundland would prefer that their government and their elected representatives dealt with problems that are of a more serious nature, problems that are tearing the hearts out of Newfoundlanders such as electricity rates, that Newfoundlanders, I believe, would feel much more comfortable, much more relieved, much happier if we were debating in this House bread and butter issues that affect the daily lives of our people.

AN HON. MEMBER: Unemployment.

MR. NEARY: Yes, unemployment, inflation, low wages, electricity rates, the cost of living, crime in this Province. I believe, Sir, that people would feel much happier if we were debating these matters but nevertheless, as I said, man cannot live on wine alone, he has got to have his cake. So it would not be fair, Mr. Speaker, it would not be fair for me to condemn the government and condemn the minister for having their priorities all upside down, for having their priorities out of kilter by bringing in a bill to establish the Arts Councils when we should be debating other more serious matters in this House. So I am going to forego, I am going to forego that temptation, Sir, and I am going to talk about some of the things that are very dear to my heart in this Province and I am going to talk about Newfoundland talent especially. And, Mr. Speaker, I might say in that regard, right at the outset, that as a result, not of this bill but as a result of volunteer organizations getting together, as a result of the Mummers Troop, the Mummers Group that are now occupying the old LSPU Hall downtown, St. John's, where I went down last year and enjoyed one of the most commical skits, I think, I have ever seen in my life, and I have seen some dandies. I enjoy the live theatre. I really like the live theatre. And if I do not get to New York once every two or three years to see the live theatre I nearly go out of my mind. The last time I went there, by the way, and I recommended it to my hon. friend, the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Jamieson), he was then Minister of External Affairs, I said, "The next time you go to New York be sure to go and see 'The Nicest Little Whorehouse in Texas'", and my hon. friend went and saw it, it was one of the most popular comedies -

AN HON. MEMBER: I saw that.

MR. NEARY: Yes, and did the hon. gentleman enjoy it?

AN HON. MEMBER: I enjoyed it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!



March 21, 1980

Tape No. 560

NM - 3

MR. NEARY:

Yes, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely fantastic.

AN HON. MEMBER:

(Inaudible) to see the play.

MR. NEARY:

Pardon?

AN HON. MEMBER:

I told you boy, I went to see the play.

MR. NEARY:

That is right. The play off Broadway was one of the funniest I think I have ever seen.

MR. JAMIESON:

It was so good it was moved down to Broadway.

MR. NEARY:

As a matter of fact it was sold out for two or three years in advance and you had to go in the afternoon. You could not buy a ticket at night. But I like the live theatre and I must say that apart from that play that I saw off Broadway there last year, I think the next best one I saw was down at the LSPU Hall, when they

MR. S. NEARY: put on the skit down there,

Some Slick. The hon. gentleman - well, I am not allowed to use the nickname they put on the hon. gentleman, it would be unparliamentary, but I believe they put an 'r' in there somewhere into the 'Peckford'.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. S. NEARY: Some Slick - and it was some slick, Sir. It was really great. I went there one night and I must say that I saw the hon. the Minister of Tourism at the time. He had a reserved seat and he was ushered into his seat. And I believe they were looking for a little handout at that time because they were having their financial problems. I had to sit in the back with me bottle of wine, in the smoke-filled room. But I still enjoyed it. It was one of the funniest things I think I have ever seen in Newfoundland - it is Newfoundlandia! That is Newfoundland at its finest!

And, you know, Mr. Speaker, what I started to say about Newfoundlanders doing well - one of the people who started out - I am not sure if he was an original or not - but one of the young Newfoundlanders who started out with the Mummers group is now down in New York - Dr. Joy's son, who is so talented the talent just flows out of him, the likes of which I have never seen. He has now hit the big time and I am sure that we all wish him every success in his chosen profession.

You know, I had to laugh. I remember when that young fellow started out everybody was saying, 'Oh, poor old Dr. Joy's young fellow is down there with the 'arty' type, he is down there with the long hair and the beard,' and all this sort of thing, 'My god, you know, it must be shocking to raise a young fellow like that!' And here he is now gone to the big time. I think it is wonderful that it could happen here in Newfoundland and I am sure that they must be proud of that young fellow today.

Out in my own district, Sir, there is a young man, his name is Keith LaRiche.

PREMIER PECKFORD: He is related to me by marriage.

MR. S. NEARY: Is he? Well, that young fellow started dancing at the Wreck House and he broke the world's record for disco dancing

MR. S. NEARY: in Newfoundland. I was there and I made my little contribution - I put my little contribution in the hat. But, Mr. Speaker, lo, and behold- the Guinness Book of World Records would not recognize the fact that this young fellow had danced for three or four weeks and ended up in the hospital, and said, 'No, I am sorry, but you did not play by the rules and we are not going to recognize this as being the world's record.' So they had to do it over again. Mr. Speaker, it is absolutely incredible! It is unbelievable! I had a call from the owner of the Port Club - and I have to give him a plug - in Port aux Basques, and he said, 'Would you mind coming out and officially opening the provincial Disco Dance?' And I said, 'What do you mean? There a few weeks ago, I was down to the 'Wrech House and this fellow danced for three or four weeks and ended up in the hospital, and you are going to have another one?' 'But,' he said, 'they would not recognize it and we are going to now have a provincial disco dance right across Newfoundland - Corner Brook, Grand Falls and St. John's. Would you come out and officially open the Provincial Disco Dance?' And I said to myself, 'Well, now, here I am up in the House day in and day out talking about inflation and talking about unemployment and talking about low wages and electricity rates and I am getting myself in the blues. it might be a good idea, it might be a change of pace.' So I accepted the invitation and I went out and launched the Disco Dance. And lo, and behold for the second time, Keith LaRiche beat the world's record. And this time there was a little bit of a dispute, somebody in Grand Falls said, 'Well, there was an Englishman who came over from England to dance,' - and there was a fellow who flew over to dance. Anyway, he said that he was the world champ.

MR. STURLING:

Send him back because he was not a

Newfoundlander.

MR. STAGG:

And there was a girl, Campbell,

from Stephenville.

MR. S. NEARY:

Yes, that is right. I believe that was

Keith's partner, I am not sure.

MR. STAGG:

I believe she was, yes.

March 21, 1980

Tape 561

EC - 3

MR. S. NEARY:

Yes. But anyway, Mr. Speaker, the net result was that the fellow in Grand Falls broke the rules, he did not follow the rules and regulations and Keith LaRiche was declared the World Champ Disco Dancer!

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY:

And in case hon. gentlemen think - and he brought honours to Port aux Basques - but in case hon. gentlemen think that that is the first time that Port aux Basques has been entered into the Guinness' Book of world record, I have news for them.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Tell us.

MR. NEARY:

I have got news for them. And I can tell the hon. gentleman, this is the second time - here we have fifty-one hon. members in this House and I will bet you a dollar, Mr. Speaker, that I am the only member -

AN HON. MEMBER:

Mr. Kettle.

MR. NEARY:

- hold on now, I am the only member who has the honour of representing a district where you have two world records. Two!

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY:

And what is the other one? In case hon. gentleman do not know I will tell him what it is, it is a married couple that had the most offsprings in the world. They are in Port aux Basques and their names are Kettle., living offsprings in the world.

MR. JAMIESON:

Ma and Pa Kettle.

MR. NEARY:

That is right.

AN HON. MEMBER:

How many?

MR. NEARY:

I do not know how many. I believe it is 122 or something.

AN HON. MEMBER:

185.

MR. NEARY:

One hundred and eighty something.

MR. L. STIRLING:

Boil the kettle again.

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, if you do not think -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (Butt):

Order, please!

MR. NEARY: If Your Honour does not think, Sir, that we do not have talent in this Province -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

AN HON. MEMBER: Let us call it one o'clock.

MR. NEARY: No, we will not call it one o'clock. I am just getting warmed up now. I want to talk a little bit because I -

MR. THOMS: Break that record.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate, by the way, I appreciate the Premier's, especially the Premier's concern, because I do not believe that this bill would be brought into this House today but for the efforts of the Premier who believes in the arts. And I admire him for that.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. JAMIESON: Are you **thinking** more about him in terms of Mr. Kettle when you say that?

MR. NEARY: No. I mean I do not always agree with the hon. gentleman but I certainly agree with him on this, that we should make every effort in this Province to protect our heritage and to further the arts in this Province. Only recently, Mr. Speaker, we observed St. Patrick's Day here in Newfoundland. And I will bet you if you were to make a list of all the talent that was on stage on St. Patrick's night in this Province, you would not believe it. You would not believe it. A nice play in Harbour Grace, and I bet you they had the accordian there, they had the old squeeze box. They had the violin. They had the singers and they had the dancers. And tap dancing, Mr. Speaker, is an art that is dying in this Province. And thank God for the St. Pat's Dancers. They are reviving **it**.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: They have now gone from - they have gone from the bigger young fellows down to the little fellows. I do not know if anybody has seen them. I believe the government - I am not sure if the government had them at their functions recently or not but I saw the bigger fellows at government functions. But the little guys. Well, Mr. Speaker, I am telling you it would do your heart good to see them.

MR. THOMS: We had some in Gambo just like them.

MR. NEARY: That is right. But there is an art that we should revive in this Province.

I hope, Sir, that as a result of this Arts Council -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: That is a little bit hard to say.

MR. JAMIESON: Maybe we should change the name.

MR. NEARY: - that it will not just be a mechanism, that it will not just be used by government to disburse funds. I hope the government - it is always walking the tight rope, any government, not only this government but any government walks the tight rope when it comes to disbursing funds, nobody seems to get enough. One becomes jealous of the other and it is always a good way to get off the hook to set up an organization of some kind and say, "One of your jobs is just to disburse funds." Well, I hope that the government will give the Arts Council enough funding to disburse and that they will not get bogged down in in-fighting and jealousy amongst the various groups, and that there will be no cut throating going on.

MR. S. NEARY: This is going to be one of the problems. Because I can foresee, Mr. Speaker, when government funding becomes accessible and available, well, then, some of the volunteer groups who have done so much for the arts in this Province, who have accomplished so much have a tendency to say, 'Well, let us get aboard the gravy train, we are no longer volunteers. By God, if they can get it we can get it'. And that would be a pity, in my opinion, so I am hoping that the minister and the government will not sit idly by and watch that happen.

Mr. Speaker, I forgot, when I was talking about Newfoundlanders who have done so well in the performing arts sure I forgot all about my old buddy, Harry Hibbs from Bell Island. Harry is now a national figure and has probably sold more records than any other accordion player on the face of the earth today.

AN HON. MEMBER: Dick Nolan.

MR. S. NEARY: Dick Nolan is another one who has national prominence.

MR. D. JAMIESON: Flo Patterson is taking Vancouver.  
(inaudible)

MR. S. NEARY: And we have Minnie White out in the Codroy Valley, Minnie plays -

AN HON. MEMBER: Gordon Pinsent.

MR. S. NEARY: I am coming to my old buddy, Gordon Pinsent.

AN HON. MEMBER: Gerald Mitchell in Lamaline.

MR. S. NEARY: Yes, I did I saw him. I go to the Holiday Inn as the hon. gentleman knows for my cup of coffee and for the newspaper. We have over there what I call a Holiday Inn caucus and Gordon was there about a week and a half ago or two weeks, he came there for a full week. He was there doing something called 'Up-

AN HON. MEMBER: 'Up at Ours'.



MR. S. NEARY: 'Up at Ours': And you know, Mr. Speaker, talking about Newfoundlanders -

MR. L. THOMS: Do not forget the one that L'il Abner now.

MR. S. NEARY: Well, I will tell you there are, by the way, Newfoundlanders married to very famous people in Hollywood and in the United States, married to musicians and some of them got married during the war and some have gone down there since and got married. But, right now I have to mention this; when we were talking about Gordon Pinsent I do not know if he is playing any part in this new movie that is coming up, I just got the script of it yesterday, I am looking it over to see if there is anything - the leading character, I believe, in that new movie that is going to be made in Los Angeles his name is 'Steve', 'Steve' believe it or not, very masculine name, Mr. Speaker, and one that I am proud of.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

AN HON. MEMBER: (inaudible) Rocky now.

MR. S. NEARY: This new movie that is going to be made by this company in Los Angeles is being made based on Farley Mowat's book, A Whale For the Killing and as I was one of the ones who was very critical of Farley Mowat when he took to the airwaves and he is not a Newfoundlander, thank God, and said so many things that were detrimental to the people of Burgeo that I was very concerned a year ago when I heard there was going to be a movie made based on that book. But fortunately, in their wisdom the people who are responsible for making that movie lifted out all of the things that could be detrimental to Newfoundlanders and to the people of Burgeo. And my understanding, Mr. Speaker, although I have not read the script in any great detail, I brought it home last night and I will read it over the weekend if do not go down to Fortune with my hon. friend here -

MR. L. THOMS: Bring it with you.

MR. S. NEARY: - my understanding is that there will be a number of Newfoundlanders appear in that film, that film will be circulated around the world.

AN HON. MEMBER: The Newfoundland parts will be shot -

MR. S. NEARY: The Newfoundland parts will be shot where?

AN HON. MEMBER: (inaudible) where the (inaudible)

MR. S. NEARY: In Los Angeles, I suppose. My hon. friend says they are going to shoot the Newfoundland parts in Tilt Cove.

AN HON. MEMBER: Planning to now.

MR. S. NEARY: Planning. Well, we had a movie made there a couple of years ago that was shot down in Bay Bulls.

AN HON. MEMBER: Petty Harbour.

MR. S. NEARY: Not Bay Bulls but Petty Harbour.

And so, Mr. Speaker, we hope that these Newfoundlanders who will be acting, whether their part be a minor one or a major one we wish them every success in this movie.

AN HON. MEMBER: (inaudible) give Mitchell (inaudible)

MR. S. NEARY: And that is why I want to read the script. Well, let us hope that there will be nothing in that script or in that movie that is detrimental to Newfoundlanders, especially the good people of Burgeo.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. S. NEARY: I understand that Ted Henley is going to be one of the principals in that movie - Ted Henley. And another Newfoundlander, by the way, another outstanding Newfoundlander that played such a prominent role as the policeman in the Rowdy Man and that is the film that made Gordon Pinsent.

Mr. Speaker, you know, it is absolutely amazing, I said, to Gordon Pinsent when I met him at the Holiday Inn. "We are all proud of you down here." And we are proud of him and we should be proud of him. Can you imagine a Newfoundlander going off in a country where you have 28 or 30 million people and becoming one of the top actors. I suppose you could find a few in the House that might outdo him but -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. S. NEARY: - Mr. Speaker, one of the top actors in the whole of Canada. And his latest series now is - what is that one on TV? - A Gift to Last.

AN HON. MEMBER: He wrote that.

MR. S. NEARY: Yes, wrote it. I mean it is absolutely fantastic, I mean it - Mr. Speaker, it never ceases to amaze me and I said to him, "We are proud of you", and I say it here, that we are proud of Gordon Pinsent and people like him. And we are proud of Newfoundlanders who have kept the arts alive, kept things going in this Province, that we have not lost our heritage. And the only thing that worries me about gas and oil, Sir, that worries me about the oil boom and about all the influx of outsiders, that five or ten years from now it may be very difficult to find a Newfoundland dialect, to find somebody who you can say is a real Newfoundlander, five or ten years from now it will be a job to find one especially on the Avalon Peninsula and what a shame that would be. What a shame it would be - my hon. friend is not sitting in his seat - if you could not always detect that lingo of the people in Upper Island Cove, the people who have, I suppose, the best sense of humour of anybody that I have ever met in this world. But, Mr. Speaker, we have so much talent

MR. S. NEARY: I do not know where to start talking about it. People in Newfoundland, so many people can do things with their hands. We have a fellow over on Bell Island by the name of Paddy Murphy; if Paddy Murphy had been born in Los Angeles or in Hollywood he would have been in the movies. He is a combination of Groucho Marx and Bob Hope. Absolutely fantastic; wherever you went, I mean this man just radiated humour, it just flowed out of him, always had a joke.

AN HON. MEMBER: Al Clouston

MR. S. NEARY: Al Clouston is another one but there are so many, where do you stop? But the point I am making, Sir, is that these things have to be not only preserved but they have to be developed. Newfoundlanders have so much talent with their hands it is incredible, it is unbelievable! I know a fellow who can take old newspapers and you would never believe what he could do with the old newspapers, making things. And he used to give them away and I said, "Why do you not make them and sell them to the tourists." "No," he said, "There would be no fun in that." He enjoys making them, old newspapers - make anything out of them. And on and on and on it goes - the musicians. The number of musicians in this Province. I suppose per capita we have more than any other province of Canada or probably any state in the United States. Every community practically has its own band. I know we have got two or three out in Port aux Basque. There is a fellow out there who plays the spoons. The next thing, I suppose, he will be trying for the Guinness Book of World Records. But he is good, he is really good at it. I mean, the spoons, that is an art that you do not see very often today.

And not only do we have to protect these arts but we have to develop them. And I do not know whether this Arts Council will do that or not. I have a feeling that they will, they will try if they can get the backing of the government, if they can get their message through to the government

MR. S. NEARY:

and get the funding that they

require.

Another art, Sir, that we have in Newfoundland and I say, "God bless Clyde Rose for trying to keep her going in the face of difficulty," and that is writers. I said before in this House, Mr. Speaker, and I believe now hon. gentlemen might think that there is some merit in what I am saying, everybody in Newfoundland wants to write a book, everybody. We have got the former former Premier of the Province

MR. NEARY:

out writing. That is all he does now, write books and write papers. And we have a former Leader of the Opposition in his young and tender years going to write a book. We have the former Premier going to write a book - yes, the hon. -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible) former, former Premier.

MR. NEARY: Is he well?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: On, Mr. Speaker, when you are talking about talent, when you are talking about talent, my God I would love to have the man's memory. I would love to have his vigor and his memory and his energy and his wealth of knowledge that he has stacked away in that little computer inside of his skull. It is absolutely fantastic! You can run him down to the dirt all you want, Mr. Speaker, you can condemn him all you want but he is a talented man, he is one of the most outstanding talented Newfoundlanders that you have ever met and he proved that recently when he made a record, when he made a record that sold, I suppose, a record number of copies in this Province, "Like You Would". So the man not only has a retentive memory, the man is not only a gifted writer, he is one of Newfoundland's outstanding writers.

MR. L. THOMS: Which former Premier are you talking about?

MR. NEARY: I am talking about Mr. Smallwood and I look forward to the day in this House, Sir, when I will see hon. gentleman stand up - if I can last long enough, stand up and pay a tribute to the hon. gentleman without being nasty or rude or make snide remarks about him.

MR. H. YOUNG: Wait until he dies first.

March 21, 1980

Tape No. 565

AH-2

MR. NEARY: Well, when he dies - I tell you, that is another thing -

MR. L. STIRLING: That is the undertaker.

MR. NEARY: I tell you -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: I had a call -

MR. STIRLING: He has his bid in now.

MR. NEARY: He cannot get his mind up out off the little four by six or whatever it is.

MR. JAMIESON: He can never look at any of us except he sees us all on a slab.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: I tell you, I like this bill because it gives us a chance to loosen up and unwind a little. But I have to tell the House - I had a call one evening from the hon. gentleman -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. NEARY: No, from Mr. Smallwood and he said-

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: I know the hon. gentleman is taking my measure over there. But he said that he would like for me to come over to CBC where he had done an interview with one of the CBC people to be shown after his death. I drove him down, as a matter of fact, and he was having trouble with his eye then.

MR. H. YOUNG: Did he mention the last -

MR. NEARY: No. I will tell you what I said to him though. We went over and the CBC - the only people who have seen this are the ones that did the interview, the people who operated the cameras and the ones that operated the projectors that night and myself and Mr. Smallwood, so I know what is going to be shown on CBC after he dies.

AN HON. MEMBER: This is one CBC made?

MR. NEARY: CBC made it, yes, and they have it, I presume, locked away in a vault somewhere. It is an extremely good programme. It is non-political. It is very, very good. It is well done but the only thing is it would tear the heart out off you when you think about this man, this wonderful Newfoundlander having -

MR. STIRLING: It will never be shown.

MR. NEARY: May be it will never be shown, I am sure that -

MR. STIRLING: It will never be shown.

MR. NEARY: May be he will have to change it, he will live so long that he will have to change it and I hope that he does. But on the way back I remember he said to me, he said to me, "What do you think of it?" Well there was silence in the car, you know, and I think he was very nostalgic and I was very sentimental and I said, "Boy, I thought it was great." And I said, "Mind you, I have to tell you now that there was nothing new in it that we did not already know here in Newfoundland but I thought it was great." And he said, "You liked it?" and I said, "Yes, I liked it," but I said, "Do me a favour will you?" I said, "If you are going to die, die in the middle of a provincial general election because that is the best time I have ever seen you. If they show it then we will be guaranteed to win."

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: "Well," he said, "I will see if I can accomodate you." And he said, "You know, I will not be around to see that." And I said, "No, that is right." That was the first time it dawned on him that he would not be there to see this.

And, Mr. Speaker, talking about talent, why we have right here on my left a man who, I suppose, is outstanding. We do not have his equals in Newfoundland.



March 21, 1980

Tape No. 565

AH-4

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: We do not have his equals when it comes to doing stories of Christmas and recollections of old Newfoundland. I tell you, you do not have his equals and he has the voice for it, I think.

MR. S. NEARY: one of the man's, if you do not mind my saying this, greatest attributes - and I wish I had your voice and Joey Smallwood's memory. My God, I am telling you I would be a whiz. But the hon. gentleman is very talented indeed.

MR. YOUNG: (Inaudible) one day (inaudible).

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. S. NEARY: You know, Mr. Speaker, I will tell you one thing that I have always been sorry about, if that is the right way to put it, I have always really felt bad about it, is that I do not have a musical note in me body. I would love it - how many times have I tried to play the harmonica and the piano.

MR. THOMS: But everytime you speak it is music to our ears.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. S. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, they say confession is good for the soul. Well, Sir, I cannot play a musical instrument. I do not know how many members of this House can but I cannot, sorry to say. I would love to be able to rattle her out like Bob McLeod on the piano and how often have I sat down. I love piano music and I love the harmonica. I remember I used to say to myself, when the old Maneco was operating between Bell Island and Harbour Grace, when she used to go on these excursions, and you would go over to Harbour Grace on the Maneco on a moonlight night, and I used to say to myself how nice would it be if I could sit down by the lifeboat with a beautiful young maiden sitting beside me, playing the harmonica.

SOME HON MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. S. NEARY: I always managed to get the beautiful maiden but I could not play the harmonica.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR.D. JAMIESON: And that was before Disco.

MR.S. NEARY: That is right. We did not have

MR. S. NEARY: television or radio in those days,  
Sir.

MR. STIRLING: She played the harmonica, did she?

MR. S. NEARY: No, well that is a sign you are getting old when you start reminiscing. But, Mr. Speaker, we have so much talent in this Province. I think it is just great and I would like to see it developed. I would like to - you talk about Canadian content on television and you see some of the foolish trash, the stuff that they have on there. All they have to do is come down to Newfoundland. We can give them all the Canadian content they want. You do not have to go to another part of Canada. You will find in Nova Scotia, where they have exceptionally good talent, you will find that there are a lot of transplanted Newfoundlanders over there. They are very musical, they can dance, they are very witty, good writers, good actors. We have it all here, Mr. Speaker, and I hope that the oil or the developments that take place in this Province will not spoil it all.

I wish the Labrador and Arts Council all the best in their endeavors. I hope five years, ten years down the line, that our children will be able to say "Thank God, thank God that the members of that House of that day were not swept off their feet by the material things of life." There is a little more to life, a little more to life than paved roads and water and sewerage and a big job and being a bigshot and driving around in a big car. There is a little more to life than that and thank God, thank God that our people, that we elected that day, in their wisdom had sense enough to set up an arts council to protect the arts of this Province, to further the arts in Newfoundland and Labrador and to make sure that our heritage was not lost in any oil booms, or any other industrial development that may have taken place in this Province.

SOME. HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Butt):

The hon. the Member for Stephenville.

MR. F. STAGG:

Mr. Speaker, now the hon. member

for - what is he? - for LaPoile, it used to be Bell Island, used to be Burgeo-LaPoile, he is a hard act to follow but I must say this is one of his most entertaining speeches and there was a lot of good content there as well and I was delighted to sit here and listen to him and, as a matter of fact, I did not leave the Chamber once while he was speaking. Quite enjoyable! And his recounting of the Disco dancer in Port aux Basques was quite good and to get it on the record, there was a young lady from Stephenville, a Miss Campbell, who was disco dancing with Mr. Leriche, at the time, and I understand they were quite a good couple.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in my lengthy preparation for this speech, I was forced to go to my archives, which are - most of them are here on my desk and the rest is underneath-

MR. STAGG: and I trotted out last year's Throne Speech. Last year's Throne Speech was delivered July 12th., 1979 and I recall that in that Throne Speech there was a commitment to the arts generally.

With the indulgence of the House I will read a portion of that into the record. "Our people's readiness to embark upon this next and," yes that is it, "this next and perhaps greatest stage of development has already been foretold by our artists whose telling pride in our past has helped preserve our heritage. By artists I include the artists in all of us" - and this was a very poignant part of the Speech from the Throne - "The wistful singer of an old song. The teller of an old tale and the dreamer of old dreams. However, the professional and serious amateur in our arts community must now be encouraged more **than** ever to chronicle our past, analyze our present, and portend our future. It is vital that they be assisted so that the energies of our arts community, young and old **alike**, can help propel our society as a whole towards our mutual goal of an economically sound and socially just society." This is last year now, Mr. Speaker.

"In recognition of this critical role, my government will be introducing in the present session," well maybe it was introduced in that session, "a bill to incorporate the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council. The mandate of the Arts Council will be to advise government on **its arts policy and to take a direct** role in funding the arts community throughout the Province in areas such as traditional music, dance, painting, writing, drama and folk arts." That is drama, or drama, depending on where you come from. We call it drama on the West Coast.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. STAGG: "Private contributions to the arts will be encouraged" -

March 21, 1980

Tape No. 567

NM - 2

PREMIER PECKFORD: That sounds like on Ohio Drive, Stephenville.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. STAGG: I am on Russell Heights those days, Mr. Premier.

" - through an Arts fund to which the Province will make an initial contribution."

So that is what happened last year and I am delighted that this morning I am able to give a few brief remarks on this bill and also to read into the record a few accolades to some people in my own district, and to some people within government who, in the past year, have been doing this very thing.

Earlier last week I was moved to write the Minister of Tourism (Mr. Dawe) a letter outlining in some detail the progress of the Provincial Drama Academy at Stephenville and something on Theatre Newfoundland and Labrador, the inspiration for which really is the people of the Bay St. George area. The individual who is associated with it mostly, is the internationally renowned artist Maxim Mazundar. But last year Maxim Mazundar came to the Stephenville area, at our magnificent Arts and Culture Centre, built in 1973 and 1974, while in my previous incarnation as the member for Port au Port, and he came there and was the adjudicator at the drama festival. And for some strange reason or other there developed at that school, at that festival, a movement whereby the artists of Newfoundland who were present in that gathering decided that they would like to have further instruction in the arts and a practically spontaneous movement resulted. And you have to remember that the drama festival only lasts for about a week so these things had to happen quickly. I happen to know a fair amount about it because my wife was very much involved in the formation of it and consequently, there was a lot of work done at my office by photo copy machines and all the sorts of things that people do in trying to get things done for nothing. Anyway, over that week or so the idea was

March 21, 1980

Tape No. 567

NM - 3

MR. STAGG: brought forward and lo and behold,  
in June of last year, while the provincial election was on,  
I was pleased to see within the community of Stephenville,  
and generally Bay St. George, this provincial drama school.

MR. F. STAGG: coming into its own and really having a most successful year. They later put on two plays, The Man Who Came To Dinner and Macbeth and both of these were very professional productions. What happened in Stephenville last year is largely attributable to Mazundar and his efforts and the kind of inspiration that an artist of his calibre can bring into people. But it is also a great tribute to the Newfoundland people and those who were in the Stephenville area for the provincial Drama Festival, and they decided that they wanted further instruction. Now, the kind of instruction that they received is more in the classical arts. It is not the Newfoundlandia that we all know and love, it is more in the classical theme - Shakespeare and matters of that type. So this year it is going to be bigger and better.

Before I go on, Mr. Speaker, I must commend -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. F. STAGG: There are some members on our side, Mr. Speaker, who, while they have a great interest in salmon fishing - and I commend them for that - their interest in the arts is somewhat minimal. I have an interest in both the arts and the salmon fishing, Mr. Speaker.

I want to commend the Minister of Education (Ms L. Verge) for her involvement in this matter in the Stephenville area.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. F. STAGG: It has been most satisfying to me. And we West Coasters have not always pulled together. There have been times on the West Coast when certain schisms have arisen.

MR. E. ROBERTS: Schisms. ("Shiz'ems").

MR. F. STAGG: Well, you can "shiz'em" if you wish - I am going to "skiz'em"!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. E. ROBERTS: The hon. member went to school and not shool.

MR. F. STAGG: Now, Mr. Speaker, I am doing alright.

The member for the Strait of Belle Isle comes in here in his striped pants



MR. F. STAGG: and he has obviously been making money for his great corporate clients that he has acquired since he has gone off into the practice of law - he is coming in here trying to interrupt my speech and trying to get on the record. I will get him on the record but he is going to have to contend with the fact that I have the microphone.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. E. ROBERTS: If the hon. gentleman was coming home this morning (inaudible) in the neighbourhood, he would have been right at home!

MR. F. STAGG: Such sarcasm, Mr. Speaker! I hope he does eventually become Leader of the Opposition again.

Now, what was I saying, Mr. Speaker? He has succeeded in getting me - I was commending the Minister of Education (Ms L. Verge).

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. F. STAGG: When we all got elected in June of last year it was something that was quite an exhilarating experience for us - I doubt if it was such an exhilarating experience for the members opposite. But we came in here, some of us as political veterans, others as political virgins, and eventually, the Cabinet was constituted, and lo, and behold - the Minister of Education is as she then was, the Minister of Education.

MR. ROBERTS: I am not sure I know (inaudible).

MR. F. STAGG: Yes, I am digging a bit of a hole here for myself, I must admit!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. F. STAGG: Anyway, we arranged a meeting with the Premier and there was considerable assistance, both financial and otherwise, from the Department of Education towards this drama school in Stephenville. What has been the result of that? - to try to dig myself out of this hole - What has been the result of it? Well, this year, things are bigger and better. We now have in Newfoundland, the Theatre of Newfoundland

MR. F. STAGG: and Labrador, a group of artists who came from that school who toured many of the high schools in Newfoundland, who have brought to high school students who would not otherwise be interested in the arts, especially in the classical arts - who have brought to them the realization that Shakespeare is fun. Shakespeare has been traditionally associated with things that are stuffy and classical in the sense that 'classical' means uninteresting. Well, they have brought arts to our schools, they have held the interest of thirteen, fourteen and fifteen year old boys who had been notably

MR. F. STAGG: anything remotely resembling something artistic. I believe that the Minister of Education (Ms. Verge) when she directs herself to this Bill, and I know she is going to speak on it, she may indicate some of the responses she has received from schools around this Province on theatre Newfoundland and Labrador, which came out of this drama school in Stephenville last year. Well, I would like to announce here this morning to all of you gentlemen, and you are all invited to Stephenville during the Summer where we are going to have a Festival of the Arts in Stephenville, in July of next year. The school which lasted for three weeks last year is going to last for six weeks this year and I think the school is going to ask for some money from the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council, just to make sure that my remarks are relevant, and I certainly hope that this Bill is passed and the kind of funding that should be made available to it will be made available to it. I have a lot of other remarks on the Festival of the arts but I think I will skip them to get on to some other things that I want to get in because I doubt if I will be able to get my remaining ten minutes next week.

Also in our area we have notable musicians who have made their presence felt, certainly on the provincial stage but also nationally. The Clode Sound recording studio at Stephenville -

MR. D. JAMIESON: I did my record there.

MR. F. STAGG: The hon. Leader of the Opposition did his record at Clode Sound. They have recently been assisted by the Department of Rural Development who came through very nicely for them. They have done a number of very good records, TNT, a rock band from the Stephenville area but comprising some

MR. F. STAGG: of the best musicians in that kind of music, rock music, some of the best musicians Newfoundland has produced, I think a couple of them are now playing with Iceberg Alley which gives the backup music for Some Slick. TNT recorded a very good couple of records at Clode Sound. So they are contributing in their own way and they are doing a highly professional job in making sure that -

MR. S. NEARY: A. Frank Willis has done some work there.

MR. F. STAGG: A. Frank Willis has done some work there. He may have decided to go to Nashville - I know he has been doing some work down in Nashville as well. A. Frank, by the way, was suggesting that I go and sing with him but he found out that I could not play the guitar so I am not unlike the hon. member, I do not play any instruments -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. F. STAGG: Like I said before, if I could have only played a guitar I would be a millionaire today with a voice -

MR. JAMIESON: A TV'er.

MR. F. STAGG: J. Terry Hynes and Scrunchins'. Who has not heard of J. Terry Hynes and Scrunchins'?

MR. HODDER: From Port au Port.

MR. F. STAGG: From the district of Port au Port, excellent musicians. And anyone who goes to Stephenville, who would like to see the West Coast live it up, should drop down to Stan's Place and White's Hotel where -

MR. DAWE: Or to the Admiral.

MR. F. STAGG: And the hon. minister says, "Or to the Admiral Hotel in Stephenville Crossing."

AN HON. MEMBER: Do not forget (inaudible).

March 21, 1980

Tape No. 569

DW - 3

MR. F. STAGG:

I am going to leave Emille Benoit to the member for Port au Port (Mr. Hodder) today. I represented him for a while and I got some mileage out of him. Now, the member for Port au Port attempts on many occasions, quite successfully, to ingratiate himself with the populous there by associating himself with Emille Benoit so I will allow him to do that again. In the Stephenville area we have an excellent choral group called the Saunatinas under the direct of Jean House who, last week in the Rotary Music Festival, won many awards. And they have also been selected to represent the Province

MR. F. STAGG: at an Atlantic Provinces' competition in Prince Edward Island sometime this year, I believe it is in June, and they too will be looking to the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council for some significant contribution towards their travel time. So, Mr. Speaker, these are a few of the items that I would like to bring to the attention of the House and maybe to clue it up, I am not going to move the adjournment of the debate, I am going to finish my remarks.

I would sincerely like for hon. gentleman, when they are making their holiday plans this year, to consider the Festival of the Arts that is being planned for the Stephenville area. It is being internationally advertised, there are going to be international stars who are coming to the area to teach at the drama academy and this year they will be producing a number of plays, The Shakespearean play "Hamlet", will be produced and I believe that we may be on the verge of having something that will be similar to Stratford. Stratford started off, as far as the arts were concerned, as a community of 2,500 people, somebody decided that they would have some Shakespearean plays and now Stratford is internationally renowned.

Do not underestimate the possibility of there being such a movement on the West Coast - right?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. F. STAGG: Do not underestimate it, it may just happen. If it happens, it will certainly be assisted by any hon. gentlemen who might like to come over there. So you are welcome there, and while you are there we can always have you take in White's Hotel and the Admiral Hotel as well. Thank you very much.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR.D. JAMIESON: Mr. Speaker, may I adjourn the debate?

March 21, 1980

Tape No. 570

EL - 2

MR. SPEAKER (Simms):                   The hon. the President of Council.  
MR. W. MARSHALL:                   Mr. Speaker, I move that the House  
at its rising                   do adjourn until tomorrow, Monday, at  
3:00 P.M. and that this House do now adjourn.

On motion, the House at its rising  
adjourned until tomorrow, Monday, March 24, 1980, at 3:00 P.M.