

PRELIMINARY

UNEDITED

TRANSCRIPT

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

FOR THE PERIOD:

3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1981

The House met at 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR.SPEAKER (Simms): Order, please!

With respect to the point of privilege raised on Friday by the hon. the member for Carbonear (Mr.Moores), I have given a great deal of consideration to this matter and I thank the hon. member first of all for presenting a number of references in Beauchesne's Fourth Edition in making his case. I have considered these references along with more current references in Beauchesne's Fifth Edition, mostly all of chapter two dealing with privilege. In addition I have researched a number of precedent rulings in our House as well as in the House Commons, which are the pertinent references I must use when our own Standing Orders do not offer guidance and in this case they do not. And I offer as an example a ruling found in Hansard, December 17, 1975 when the Speaker ruled, and I quote, "Members rise on a point of privilege basically in two ways. One, a technical, precisely defined matter of privilege, allegation of breach of privilege. And secondly, members rise on a point of privilege in order to make an explanation or comment or clarification on a matter relating to what they may have said themselves in the House or what somebody else may have interpreted the remarks to have been." It goes on to say, "When both hon. members this afternoon spoke they got the floor by rising on a point of privilege and then made their explanations or remarks or comments with reference to things said and relating to what they, each of them, had earlier said in the House but there was not a point of privilege. In addition the House of Commons has consistently ruled on matters of this nature, i.e., inaccuracy of press reports, etc., that members can

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): express a view or complaint, but that the Chair can take no forward action and in any event such action should not be necessary to send a message such a short distance away." And no doubt they, the press gallery, could hardly help but get the message. That was the gist of a ruling March 10, 1978, House of Commons debate and I draw hon. member's attention to that as well.

In this particular case I have also analyzed the transcript of the member's speech as well as the transcript of the CBC story which was provided to me at my request on Friday and which was, incidentally, a thirty-seven second story. In reading both there appears to be a clear misunderstanding with respect to the use of the term, "the Halfway House Motel," and then later in the hon. member's speech where he says, "I walked out of the Halfway House," between that and the CBC report which used the term "a Halfway House." And it can probably be seen, therefore, how this could have been confused. I am also advised that CBC have since issued a public apology for misinterpreting the hon. member's words. Thus having researched the matter and having referred to a number of precedent rulings both here and in the House of Commons, I would have to be consistent and say that in my opinion it falls into the same category of those precedents where the hon. member has taken the

MR. SPEAKER (SIMMS):

opportunity to clarify remarks reported by the press. This has happened on numerous occasions in the past and, certainly, having had the opportunity now for a number of days to consider this matter thoroughly and seriously, I cannot see where this case conforms to the conditions that are necessary in order for me to allow the matter to be given precedence over all other business of the House. The hon. member may certainly have had a grievance or complaint and he has expressed that, but I would have to rule - and this is the Speaker's responsibility, as outlined in Beauchesne's Fifth Edition, paragraph 80, subsection 3 - that he does not have a prima facie case of privilege in this matter.

ORAL QUESTIONS

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

MR. STIRLING: Mr. Speaker, although the government refuses to give any answers on the depression that we are now facing except the Premier's admission, Mr. Speaker, the question that I have has to do with misleading propaganda -

MR. PATTERSON: That is the meaning of propaganda. all propaganda is misleading.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No, no!

MR. STIRLING: -and we now have the first of the news media who have recognized that and they have in a front page item indicated that the Premier's Office sent them an ad which the staff of that paper considered to be misleading and they refused the ad. The question I have for the Premier is, Was he aware of the ad, was it in fact requested through the Premier's Office and what was the amount of money budgeted by the Premier's Office for the people to spend on this ad, and has he personally approved of the ad?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition will have to provide me with some more information

PREMIER PECKFORD: on what he is talking about. He has made a few general comments relating to the economy and then he went on to talk about matters dealing with an ad. If the Leader of the Opposition would like to provide me with the name of the paper and so on, I would only be too happy to investigate it and provide the information to the hon. member.

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

MR. STIRLING: At the request of the Premier, since he obviously did not hear me say it was the Muse - Memorial University, the Muse.

PREMIER PECKFORD: I did not hear you say the Muse.

MR. STIRLING: The request was made of the Premier by the Premier's Office and they said, because of the Premier's apparent desire to hide something, the Premier's Office requested space in the Muse for a full page advertisement. The staff of this paper, after much deliberation, decided on Monday to refuse the ad. "We could not in good conscience allow this paper to be a vehicle for what we consider misleading propaganda directed at students." And the question I have

MR. STIRLING: to ask the Premier, since he now knows it is the Muse and his office did provide the full page ad, was the Premier aware of the advertisement, does he approve this kind of misleading advertising being sent out by his office?

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

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, a couple of weeks ago when we were involved in the debate over the Established Programme Funding and the cutbacks that Mr. MacEachen announced in his budget, both in his prose presentation in the budget and in the tables which were provided, which have been verified by all the provinces and by all the economists who looked at it, that we solicited or requested space in several papers, I think some of the information appeared in the St. John's Daily News and in the Evening Telegram, and I would assume therefore that we requested space in the Muse in the same way as we requested space in the Evening Telegram and the Daily News so that we could also inform those students who were attending a post-secondary institution of the government's position on this matter and to present the facts as we saw them and as we continue to see them.

So I will take the matter and just check it out, but obviously, if the staff of the Muse have indicated this in their paper, we obviously requested space in their paper as well as requesting space in the Daily News and the Evening Telegram.

MR. STIRLING: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. STIRLING: Could the Premier tell us whether or not that political propaganda was paid for by the Government of Newfoundland in the case of the Daily News and the Evening Telegram? Was that paid for by the Government of Newfoundland or was it paid for by the PC Party?

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

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, it was paid for by the Government of Newfoundland and the government will continue to pay for ads which have to do with the government's business and to do with presenting the facts to the people of this Province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

PREMIER PECKFORD: It is unfortunate that while I presented some information to 600 or 700 students at the university a couple of weeks ago, the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stirling) presented certain information to thirty or forty students a week later, and we wanted to follow through and follow up on that information which we had provided to the students. And the government will continue, as most governments do, to present their point of view and I am sure Newfoundlanders generally would like to know just what the impact of federal budgets are upon the Budget of this Province. And I consider that to be a legitimate expense that will be incurred from time to time by the government.

MR. STIRLING: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. STIRLING: The Premier is saying then that he has now adopted a policy that when he loses a debate in this House of Assembly or through the ordinary news media that what he will do is that he will then use the power of the

MR. STIRLING:

people of this Province, to use their taxpayers' dollars at the same time that you are telling fishermen that you cannot do anything about opening up the fish plants, that people who are unemployed, cannot get jobs are moving away to Alberta, that you are going to spend the taxpayers money of this Province for political propaganda, and interpretation by a political party. Would the Premier tell us how much he has budgeted for this kind of political propaganda to be paid for by the taxpayers of this Province?

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

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, three or four questions in that statement by the Leader of the Opposition. First of all, when it comes to losing a debate, I will let the people of Newfoundland decide who won or lost the debate.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No, you will not.

MR. PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, at the university there are over six or seven hundred people who attended my address and there were thirty or forty who attended the Leader of the Opposition's. Now, I do not know -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD: - what the win or loss is on that. I mean, if the Leader of the Opposition is touchy about that he will just have to improve his image. And I would suggest to him that his line of questioning is going to have to change if he wants to do that. Secondly, as it relates to fish plants closing down, I do not know what that has to do with the government buying a half page or a page in a newspaper in this Province. It just so happens that we do not own the fish plants in this Province and we have about twenty or thirty per cent say in the fishery of this Province, and given that, it makes it rather difficult for the government to be able to solve every fish plant problem that is here. I will say this, though, Mr. Speaker. We are doing a fair job in trying to solve it and we are in there head over heels

PREMIER PECKFORD: in trying to solve it and we have successfully solved some of the problems in the offshore fishery and we are trying to solve the rest of them. And it might be not too long before the Leader of the Opposition might have to eat his words on that score as he has had to do on many others, as he has had to do on the constitution, as he has had to do on the offshore, as he has had to do on the hydro transmission. He will have to do the same thing on the fishery.

The policy of this government, as it is of most governments, is that from time to time there is information that should be disseminated to the people of this Province and will use this House of Assembly and we will use other means to do it. This is legitimate government expense and we intend to use it in the future, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Education (Ms. Verge), but since she is not in her place then I will ask the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins). In the Budget highlights of 1981, the minister told hon. members that a total of \$37 million is provided in capital grants for the building and equipping of schools. I wonder if the minister could indicate to the House whether that means that \$37 million was allocated for the fiscal year for the actual building of new schools and the equipping of new schools?

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

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, there are ongoing

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MR. COLLINS: obligations of the school board
in regard to school construction. In other words, a particular
DEC may undertake

DR. J. COLLINS:

a construction they made from that over a period of time so that all the costs of that particular capital works may not be into one year and some of that amount did take care of ongoing obligations.

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

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

MR. T. LUSH: Now that the Minister of Education (Ms. Verge) is in her place, Mr. Speaker, I will direct the question to her. It seems as though from the statement by the minister that not all of the \$37 million went into capital grants for the building and equipping of new schools in the year ~~1981~~. So I will ask the minister: can the minister indicate to the House precisely just what amount of the \$37 million went into capital grants for the building and the equipping of schools in this fiscal year 1981?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Education.

MS. VERGE: Yes, Mr. Speaker. As I have said in this House of Assembly as well as in the Estimates Committee hearing and to the media on a number of occasions in the present fiscal year of the \$37 million total supplied by the Department of Education for school construction, \$15.8 million were supplied to the Denominational Education Committees for new construction, for future construction. Now that \$15.8 million has already been committed by the denominational committees for new construction projects, some of which are already underway and others of which will be completed over the next number of months. That \$15.8 can be further broken down into two parts; \$10.8 million for ongoing construction needs and \$5 million for high school related needs. The \$5 million being the first in three parts of a high school construction programme to prepare for the expanded high school programme. That \$15.8 million total repre-

MS. VERGE: sents government's contribution to new school construction. For every construction project, the individual school board is responsible for a minimum of 10 per cent of the cost of construction. So that \$15.8 million given by government to the Denominational Education Committees and allocated through the DECs is coupled with, in the case of each individual project, a minimum of 10 per cent contribution from the individual school board. The balance of the \$37 million which is about - I am slow at arithmetic today - is about \$21 million, is applied by government to retiring debt with respect to existing school buildings, previous constructions.

 And government over the last year or so took over the debt of the Denominational Education Committees and in that way took away a considerable burden on the DECs which had become impossible for

MS. VERGE: the church authorities to manage with rising interest rates.

MR. LUSH: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker:

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

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, what we have is out of a total of \$37 million that gave the impression that they were being spent for building and equipping of new schools, really it is only 30 per cent, it is only 30 per cent of that figure that went into building and equipping of new schools.

In that same statement the budget goes on to say that the government would be granting \$20,300,000 to provide facilities for the reorganized high school programme. No doubt the government did this after a lot of study and a lot of projections as to what the cost would be. So over the three year period then they came up with \$20,300,000 to provide facilities for the reorganized high school programme.

Can the minister indicate whether since that time studies have shown that this might not be sufficient funds to bring in the reorganized high school programme?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Education.

MS. VERGE: Mr. Speaker, I have to correct the inference from the member for Terra Nova's question that there was some attempt to distort the amount of funding government has supplied for new school construction this year. The figure which he cites appears in the estimates, it was thoroughly discussed and analyzed by the Estimates Committee, it has been repeatedly said by me and others publicly, through the media, in the House of Assembly, that that amount represents in part retirement of debt for past construction. And the government

MS. VERGE: is proud of its record of past school construction.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MS. VERGE: Since the Progressive Conservative Party has been in power in this Province there has been something like \$200 million spent on new school construction.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MS. VERGE: As for the \$20.3 million programme over three years for high school related construction, \$5 million of which was supplied in this year's budget with \$15.3 to follow over the next two years, the review, which is ongoing, indicates that that is pretty close to what will be required to take care of the needs. This figure was arrived at by officials of the Department of Education who conducted a survey of existing buildings, of existing high school facilities, looked at projected enrollment figures, talked with school board officials, the Federation of School Boards, the denominational education committees. Now that dialogue is ongoing and there are specific school boards who say that they need more for this, that or the other thing. But what we are talking about is precisely those needs which result from the expansion of the high school programme, not a gymnasium that was needed all the time anyway for Grade XI, Grade X, and the lower grades, but needs which are directly resulting from the expansion of the high school programme and the addition of Grade XII, And when you narrow the survey to precisely those needs,

MS VERGE:

it can be shown that the \$20.3 million programme over three years will adequately take care of those additional needs. Now we are committed to providing other funding for ongoing needs.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. LUSH: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Order, please!

Before I recognize the hon. member for a further supplementary, I would normally have interrupted the hon. the minister and asked her to keep her answers a little bit briefer, but the hon. the member for Terra Nova seemed to be sincerely interested in getting answers so I did not interrupt. I would bring that to the attention of hon. members.

A supplementary, the hon. the member for Terra Nova.

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, I have let the minister go because it shows that she is not in touch at all with what is happening in education and does not know the grave danger that the high school programme is experiencing.

Mr. Speaker, on the weekend one of the superintendents of the larger boards in this Province indicated that \$20.3 million was not nearly enough to bring in the new reorganized high school programme, that indeed he was throwing out a figure of \$50 million. Mr. Speaker, there is a large difference in \$20.3 million and \$50 million. So in view of that statement, in view of the statement by one of the superintendents of one of the larger school boards in this Province saying that the Province needed \$50 million, I am wondering how the minister now feels about the allocation of this \$20.3 million to provide facilities

MR. LUSH: for the reorganized high school programme in this Province over the next three years?

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

MS VERGE: Mr. Speaker, officials of the department have had ongoing contact with that particular school board superintendent - I believe you were referring to the superintendent of the Exploits school board based in Grand Falls - as well as the other superintendents in the Province. Now, in that particular case - and this illustrates what I was referring to earlier - I think you will find that that superintendent is looking for a whole new school, which I am sure he makes a good case for, but most of the cost of that sought for facility is not directly attributable to Grade XII or to the high school expansion; it was a need which would have existed in any case and will be met with funding that will be supplied over the next couple of years for ongoing construction requirements. The \$20.3 million programme over three years, \$5 million supplied this present year, is for precisely those needs resulting from the reorganized high school programme and Grade XII. There will be additional funding supplied for other construction requirements.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the member for LaPoile.

MR. LUSH: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NEARY: I yield, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member yields.

The hon. the member for Terra Nova.

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, the minister mentions that this particular superintendent was concerned because he is looking for a new high school. Mr. Speaker, also

MR. LUSH: in the paper over the weekend was another superintendent looking for five schools, and, Mr. Speaker, I can name other superintendents who are looking for schools. I do not expect there is a Superintendent of Education in this Province not looking for a high school. The question is, Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that school boards are beginning to flex their muscles

MR. LUSH: and have indications that this \$20.3 million is insufficient to bring in the high school programme in a manner that is in keeping with the government's requirements and prerequisites, can the minister assure hon. members, and the people of this Province who are rather concerned, that this \$20.3 million is sufficient to bring in the reorganized high school programme and that there will be no delays in bringing in this programme because of a lack of funds?

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

MS. VERGE: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I take pleasure in assuring everyone, even the doubters and the cynics, that Grade XII will be brought in on schedule and it will be worthwhile, and it will result in improvements in education opportunities for our young people.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear! Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to follow through with a supplementary concerning some of the questions asked by my colleague. I would like to ask the hon. the Minister of Education (Ms. Verge) if Newfoundland and Labrador is the only Province left in Canada where we have public examinations? What will happen in the expanded high school system? Will there be public examinations for Grade XII? Will we continue with the shared evaluation system as now in Grade XI or will Newfoundland join with the rest of Canada in doing away with public examinations altogether?

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

MS. VERGE: Mr. Speaker, Newfoundland and Labrador will continue to be a leader in Canada in evaluating our high school students.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MS. VERGE: As the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) has said, we now have a system of shared evaluation for Grade XI students through which half their final mark is determined by their own teachers in their schools based on their years work; the other half of the mark is determined by public exams, set and administered Province-wide by the Department of Education, to ensure a measure of consistency across the Province. That same system of shared evaluation will be continued when the reorganized high school programme is fully implemented with respect to level three courses.

In the expanded high school programme, courses are no longer linked to grades, but there are levels of courses given through the three years of senior high school. And with respect to the level three courses, there will be shared evaluation with public exams determining half of the final mark.

AN HON. MEMBER: Good move! Good move!

MR. NEARY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: I just want to ask the hon. gentleman a quickie on this, Mr. Speaker, is the hon. -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Gentleman?

MR. NEARY: The hon. minister looks a kind of pale today, she must have heard I was in her district over the weekend, Mr. Speaker. She must have had a hard -

MR. MORGAN: You are beating your head against a stone wall.

MR. NEARY: While I am on my feet, Mr. Speaker, could I send something nice over to the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mrs. Newhook)? It is not dangerous, it is not a Christmas cake,

MR. NEARY: it is a present or a gift from the town of Isle aux Morts. They gave it to me to deliver to the hon. minister to commemorate her official visit a couple of weeks ago to the town of Isle aux Morts.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Order, please!

I want to insure that there is no precedent set here in that this is not an exhibit or anything of that nature. It is simply a package being delivered to the hon. minister. Maybe you could bring it out to her office.

MR. NEARY: It is a plaque, Mr. Speaker, presented to the minister by the community of Isle aux Morts, it was given to me to deliver, to commemorate her visit to the community of Isle aux Morts a few weeks ago. The minister can reply later. This is Question Period.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: I want to get back to the Minister of Education.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

The hon. member for LaPoile has a question.

MR. NEARY: I want to ask the Minister of Education (Ms Verge) if in her answer she means that instead of writing public examinations now in Grade XI that Grade XI will be stretched out to twelve years instead of eleven years, and that public examinations under the shared -

AN HON. MEMBER: (inaudible)

MR. NEARY: No, we will have - what students now have been taught in eleven years they will now be taught in twelve years with the odd change in the curriculum.

MR. MORGAN: Say it again.

MR. PATTERSON: He is having difficulty remembering.

MR. NEARY: No, I am not having difficulty.

The hon. Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) is having difficulty.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Order, please!

MR. MORGAN: It takes twelve years for Grade XI?
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: That is right.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Order, please!

MR. NEARY: In Ontario they have Grade XIII.

MR. PATTERSON: They are going to give that up though, are they not?

MR. NEARY: No, they are not going to give it up.

MR. HISCOCK: Look at the universities and the trade schools and the Fisheries College.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, will the students in Newfoundland schools be doing in twelve years what they are now doing in eleven years? And at the end of the twelve years will they have to write, sit for a public examination which will make us the only province in Canada who does it, under the shared evaluation system? Is that what the hon. minister is saying?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Education.

MS VERGE: Mr. Speaker, the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) seems to have missed the point of the whole exercise of revising the senior high school program.

MR. BUTT: Hear, hear!

MS VERGE: It has been widely discussed for the past two years and, to synopsise in a minute, the point of the exercise is to expand the time for high schools with another year so that over the high school experience students will be required to study a broader range of

MS VERGE: subjects. They will do more work, they will learn more, they will be exposed to a greater variety of subjects in the high school programme after the change than before the change. The public exams will be given to students taking level three courses who may be in Grade XII or may be in Grade XI, or in some cases could be in Grade X, and will continue to be part of the shared evaluation.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: The hon. minister has now added another little bit of confusion. The hon. minister said that the shared evaluation system public examinations may be given at level three in Grade X, XI, XII. Is that what the hon. minister just said?

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

MS. VERGE: Yes, Mr. Speaker, Courses under the revised high school programme, and the change is underway at the Grade X level throughout our Province now, those courses are no longer tied to grades. For example, there will no longer be a course in history which is the Grade X history course; there may be a level one course in Canadian History, a level two course in World History, a level three course in Canadian History, the levels having to do with the degree of skill and knowledge required for mastery of the subject material, the amount of subject material.

MR. NEARY: In what other part of Canada is that being done?

MS. VERGE: That kind of flexible arrangement is used now in high school programmes in a number of other provinces with success. And it is particularly advantageous to our Province of small schools in giving to the administration of a school more flexibility in scheduling so that over a period of a three year high school programme, by staggering course offerings and by doubling up grades or classes studying the same course, a wider selection of courses may be made available to the high school population.

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker.

MR. NEARY: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Bellevue.

MR. CALLAN: I yield, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: He yields.

The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, would the hon. minister tell the House where in Canada the system that she just spelled out for the House, what other part of Canada are using that system? My understanding is that the shared evaluation system in the other nine provinces of Canada did not work so they did away with it. It is either the school decides 100 per cent of the marks or they go back to public examinations. But here in this Province we seem to be developing a system which is unique to the rest of Canada. Could the hon. minister tell us, point to some other part of Canada where the system that she just outlined has been used?

MR. SPEAKER (Simms):

The hon. Minister of Education.

MS. VERGE:

Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) is confusing two concepts. One is evaluation, and the other, which I was talking about, is the credit system where courses are no longer locked into grades. Dealing with his question

MS. VERGE:

on evaluation, it is my understanding that Newfoundland and Labrador's system of shared evaluation in which the public exam is continued to determine half the student's final marks is the envy of many other provinces who, yes, did drop that system and now regret that they dropped it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MS. VERGE: The shared evaluation system offers a blend of evaluation within the schools by teachers who are sensitive to the student's personality, who were present to witness the student's performance throughout the year, who appreciate the student's work habits and have perhaps a greater overall knowledge of the student's ability and performance. But on the other hand, it also allows some objectivity through external exams and -

MR. NEARY: Where else is it being used?

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Order, please!

MS. VERGE: - insurance of consistency across the Province.

MR. SPEAKER: The time for Oral Questions has expired.

I know hon. members will want to join me in extending a welcome to a former minister of the Crown, a former member of this hon. House who is seated in the gallery today, Mr. Harold Collins.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MRS. NEWHOOK: Mr. Speaker.

May I ask leave of this hon. House to respond to the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary)?

MR. SPEAKER: Such a request would require the unanimous consent.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: By leave.

MR. SPEAKER: By leave? There is consent.
The hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MRS. NEWHOOK: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I do thank the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) for this token of appreciation. And I would like to ask him if it is just a plaque, because if it is a gift I cannot accept of the guidelines to ministers that we cannot accept gifts?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER(Simms): Is there leave for the hon. member for LaPoile to respond?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: By leave.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

There is leave.

The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I do not know what is in the box because I have not seen it, I did not open it, I do not open people's mail like the Premier's Office does. It was given to me and I was asked to deliver this plaque to the minister. I understand it is a plaque, because the community of Isle aux Morts is noted for giving visitors, people who sign their guestbook, plaques.

AN HON. MEMBER: They gave it to the MHA to give her a plaque.

MR. PATTERSON: When are you going to get yours?

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, as I understand it, this is a plaque given the minister

MR. NEARY: to hang on our wall to commemorate her first visit to the Town of Isle aux Morts.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Order, please!

MRS. NEWHOOK: I shall express my appreciation to the -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! There will have to be leave again. This could go on forever.

MRS. NEWHOOK: I am sorry.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there leave?

MR. MORGAN: There is a love affair going here.

MR. SPEAKER: If the hon. minister wishes.

Okay.

PRESENTING PETITIONS:

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Eagle River.

MR. HISCOCK: Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition in this House from the residents of Paradise River to Cartwright, approximately 3,000 people, almost half my district. They are rather concerned about the housing situation in that district. And as a result of that the federal government, Canada Central Mortgage and Housing has designated the area as a RRAP programme, and it has been close to two years that it has taken us to straighten out the problem with Newfoundland and Labrador Housing, who became the delivery agents for them.

The federal government pays Newfoundland and Labrador Housing \$450 to process one application. Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation said they could not deliver that on the South and East Coast of Labrador but they would have to charge \$850. As a result of that the federal government has agreed to it, Newfoundland and Labrador Housing has now agreed to become delivery agents even though it is \$850 for each application. But my concern is, Mr. Speaker, now that it has gone into our own responsibility,

MR. HISCOCK: is that we have offices set up in the communities of Mary's Harbour to look after Fox Harbour and Lodge Bay, one in Port Hope Simpson to look after Port Hope Simpson, Charlottetown, Williams Harbour, and Pinsent's Arm, and one in Cartwright to look after Black Tickle and Paradise River. If that is done the programme will be extremely successful like it has been on the lower part of the Coast where over 400 houses are repaired under this programme.

The Premier, I believe it was Thursday, got up and tabled a letter to the Prime Minister basically saying do something for housing, low mortgages, and lower them and that. Here we have an example that we can help a lot of the people, 300 or 400 houses can be rehabilitated under this programme, instead of getting into larger ones and newer houses. And if our Premier is serious about his concerns and it was not just a political letter that was sent to the Prime Minister for political points, then he will inform -

MR. MARSHALL: A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A point of order has been raised by the hon. the President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I refer you to Standing Order 92.

"Every member offering a petition to the House shall confine himself to the statement of the parties from whom it comes, the numbers of signatures attached to it and the material allegations it contains. In no case shall such member occupy more than five minutes."

The hon. gentleman,

MR. W. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, is entering into debate. He says he had a petition, I have not yet heard the numbers of people there and he certainly has not given the material statement in the petition itself or addressed himself to it. Instead he seems to be wandering all over the place in a general debate as to an alleged position taken by the Premier and other members of the government.

MR. J. HODDER: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): To the point of order?

MR. J. HODDER: To the point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: To the point of order, the hon. member for Port au Port.

MR. J. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, I do not know if Your Honour can really rule that the member is not being material or confining himself to the statement of the parties from which it comes since the member has not got to the material part of the petition yet. He was making a few comments, Mr. Speaker, to introduce the petition.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, I do not wish to use up the hon. member's time in making a ruling. The rules are quite clear; the hon. member should not be entering into debate but should confine himself to the statement of the parties of the petition.

The hon. member for Eagle River.

MR. E. HISCOCK: Mr. Speaker, there are over 3,000 people, I said, in the district. I presented at least ten of them last year and we still did not have it straightened out. The point that I am trying to get out is that we need these three local areas. The Premier wrote a letter to the Prime Minister saying, 'Do something about housing!' Now we have done it, the federal government has given the Province \$850 to process each application.

MR. E. HISCOCK: And hopefully, Mr. Speaker, I am impressing upon the ministers here to open up these offices.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. W. MARSHALL: A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER(Simms): Order, please! Order, please!
A point of order has been raised by the hon. the President of the Council.

MR. W. MARSHALL: My understanding, Your Honour, is that Your Honour has given a ruling as to the matter that the hon. gentleman has brought up and directed him to comply with the Standing Order, to make a statement of the material allegation in the petition and address himself to it. Instead the hon. gentleman seems to be wandering in a morass of debate.

MR. SPEAKER: I bring it to the attention of the hon. member again. He has ten seconds to try to confine himself to the remarks of the petition, whatever they are.

The hon. member for Eagle River.

MR. E. HISCOCK: Mr. Speaker, I place this petition to this House and ask the government to take seriously the pleas of these people. We have some of the worst housing in the country and hopefully we will have these three local offices opened up in Cartwright, Mary's Harbour and Port Hope Simpson.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Any further petitions?

MR. L. STIRLING: To the petition, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: To the petition, the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. L. STIRLING: I support the petition, Mr. Speaker, so ably presented, despite

MR. STIRLING:

the interruptions by the President of the Council
(Mr. Marshall), Mr. Speaker.

And I can understand why
he would interrupt and I have no doubt that he will
interrupt me. What we are dealing with is the request
of a group of people looking for housing, a request
from a group of people on the coast of Labrador who
are far removed from St. John's East and far removed
from the arrogance of this government, far removed from
a government that has to buy advertisements to mislead
the people, very far removed, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms):

Order, please!

Is the hon. the Leader of
the Opposition (Mr. Stirling) now -

MR. STIRLING:

Dealing with the petition,

Mr. Speaker.

AN HON. MEMBER:

You are out of order again, Mr.

Speaker said.

MR. SPEAKER:

Please! Please!

MR. STIRLING:

The petition, which was so
ably presented, dealt with a housing problem and delivery,
which is clearly under the responsibility of this
government. But they are so sensitive, Mr. Speaker, that
they will not allow the latitude to make comments because
they do not want to hear it. We are dealing with a
request from people who have a delivery system delivered
to their area; clearly a responsibility of Newfoundland
and Labrador Housing to go there and deal with the
applications. That is what the petition is all about.

But the President of the
Council, who is so sensitive that he must protect his
leader at all costs, he will be jumping up any minute
now on another point of order, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. STIRLING: Mr. Speaker, on this side of the House we are concerned about people and about the real concerns in this Province, the concerns of the economy, providing jobs and housing, housing as set out in that petition and petitions from all over the Province.

Mr. Speaker, the people of this Province will eventually get their opportunity to tell the government what they think of the arrogant attitude, and, I suppose, we will look for another misleading ad to tell them why it is that the people cannot have the request that they have set out in their petition. And we will have other petitions, Mr. Speaker, and I have no doubt that there will be an attempt to silence us, but we will not be silenced.

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MR. STIRLING: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. STIRLING: Just before Orders of the Day - I think we will have consent from the other side once they hear the opening remarks of the motion that I have here, which I think will have unanimous consent - 'That this House recognizes the courage and integrity of the President of the Iron Ore Company of Canada, Mr. Brian Mulroney, in speaking out publicly with respect to the inequitable contract between Churchill Falls Labrador Corporation and Hydro Quebec by means of which the Government and the people of this Province are deprived of hundreds of millions of dollars a year in economic rental of the electricity produced at Churchill Falls in Labrador; that this House welcomes his intervention - and it was in

MR. STIRLING: a speech, Mr. Speaker,
on November 14 - and expresses the hope that it will
help to persuade the Premier and the Government of
Quebec to enter into meaningful negotiations

MR. STIRLING:

towards revising the contract to make it fair and equitable to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador and to the people of Quebec and this House commends Mr. Mulroney.

Mr. Speaker, I do not think it is any secret that Mr. Mulroney is not of the same political persuasion as this side of the House but when we have a man who has the courage to speak up in Quebec on behalf of all the people, then I would look for the consent of the other side to have this motion made unanimous and that we encourage Mr. Mulroney and others of his stature to intercede and speak on behalf of the people of Newfoundland and Labrador in getting this inequitable contract changed.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Order, please!

Such a motion would require unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent to present such a motion?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: There is unanimous consent. Shall I dispense with the reading of the motion since the hon. the Leader of the Opposition already has read it? Those in favour of the motion signify by saying, aye.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. SPEAKER: Contrary, nay?

Carried.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Along the same lines as the hon. gentleman, I wonder if I could have leave - and I do not have the information with me. I meant to bring it to the House - have leave to get a motion passed here in the House that a letter be written by Your Honour to the Newfoundlanders that participated in the rescue operations of the ship that went aground on Sable Island. I think this was

MR. NEARY: an outstanding feat, Mr. Speaker, and I do not think it should be ignored. I think that the House should recognize this. I am sorry I do not have the names with me, but perhaps Your Honour could get the names. I think there was a Newfoundland company involved and Newfoundlanders were actually directly involved in the rescue, and I think a letter of congratulations should go out from the House.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Such a motion would require unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent to put such a motion?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: There is. Those in favour of the motion signify by saying aye.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Ayes

MR. SPEAKER: Contrary, nay.

Carried.

The 'ayes' have it. It will be done.
Second reading of a bill, entitled

"An Act To Amend And Revise The Law Providing For Accessibility To Buildings For Physically Disabled Persons". (Bill No. 118)

The last day the hon. Minister of Labour and Manpower was closing the debate and he had spoken for approximately five minutes.

The hon. Minister of Labour and Manpower.

MR. DINN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, Just to try to answer some of the questions brought up by hon. members opposite, and I will try to do this as quickly as I possibly can, one question was why was the Department of Labour and Manpower now responsible for this act. As hon. members know, in the division of occupational health and safety in the Department of Labour and Manpower, we have an engineering and technical services division that have quite a bit of

MR. DINN: expertise now in the area of inspection. They have expertise, for example, in administering technical legislation, safety codes, in such areas as elevators, boiler and pressure vessels, refrigeration systems, electrical systems, etc., and it was found that the Department of Labour and Manpower with this expertise would be the department most qualified at this point in time, since it involves not only public but private dwellings, to administer the act and to enforce the act when it comes into place.

With respect to the skywalks at Memorial University, as hon. members know the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador contributed to these skywalks at the rate 75 per cent, the Provincial Government contributions; twelve and a half per cent city, and twelve and a half per cent the university. The government's share was approximately \$640,000 and in lieu of providing accessibility or access to these skywalks to the disabled or handicapped students, the Memorial University have agreed to provide a jitney service or bus service for these students to route them throughout the campus.

MR. DINN: Now, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the fact that the government should get more involved with employing handicapped people, the hon. member who introduced that, I believe, was the member for St. Barbe (Mr. Bennett), he talked about the fact that only four or five such people worked in government service. In doing some research over the weekend, we found that through the Public Service Commission and the people who do the hiring for government that we actually have about eighty people on staff with government at this present moment. Sixteen have been hired recently, Mr. Speaker, in various jobs throughout the public service, a thing I think that we should be proud of, and I think that we should congratulate the Public Service Commission for implementing government policy with respect to handicapped people in an attempt to give them employment.

I think that is it. Well, there was a criticism of doctors in the Province with respect to doctors sending in the information on a timely basis to the Workers' Compensation Board - no, that relates to another bill, Mr. Speaker. I think I have answered most of the questions of hon. members. If they have any other questions, of course, they can bring them up in the Committee stage.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. DINN: I move second reading. Thank you very much.

On motion, a bill, "An Act To Amend And Revise The Law Providing For Accessibility To Buildings For Physically Disabled Persons," read a second time, ordered referred to a Committee of the Whole House, presently by leave. (Bill No. 118).

MR. MARSHALL: Order 9, Bill No. 113.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): It is moved and seconded that Bill No. 113 - I am sorry, this is continuing debate, I believe. The hon. the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) adjourned the debate the last day and he has spoken for approximately two minutes.

MR. NEARY: That is right.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I want to thank the Government House Leader (Mr. Marshall) for accommodating me in giving me an opportunity to speak in this debate because, as hon. members will recall, I had some personal business to attend to and I only got an opportunity to speak for two minutes on this bill before I left the House.

I do want to say this, Mr. Speaker, that I hope that all members on both sides of the House will speak on this bill, because this is a very, very important bill. It is a major change in the Department of Finance and I do not think that it should be treated very lightly by this House.

What the bill is doing, in effect, is dividing the responsibilities of the Deputy Minister of Finance and Comptroller of the Treasury. Hon. members will realize that up to now the Deputy Minister and Comptroller of the Treasury were one and the same, were the same person. Now under this act, the Deputy Minister and the Comptroller of the Treasury will be two separate individuals. The Comptroller of the Treasury will be an entity unto itself and the Deputy Minister of Finance will have his own responsibilities.

Now this change, Mr. Speaker, was brought about mainly through a recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee. The Public Accounts Committee recommended that this change be made because, Mr. Speaker,

MR. NEARY: the Deputy Minister of Finance, who was also Comptroller of the Treasury, could never figure out to which position he owed his loyalty, and as a result, Mr. Speaker, over the last several years, there has been a tremendous amount of wrongdoing in this Province, skulduggery, misuse of public funds, abuse of public funds, and that

MR. NEARY: or more to renovate the building.
But, Mr. Speaker, the irony of it was that the government undertook the renovations of this building before we had a lease on it. When the tenders closed the successful bidder came in and signed the tender document, which really does not mean anything, but no lease was negotiated and the government went ahead and started to occupy the building and spend literally millions of taxpayers' dollars to renovate the building with no lease.

MR. YOUNG: Not true, not true.

MR. NEARY: That is true. Mr. Speaker, it is true, The Auditor General says it was true. And,

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, we will find out in due course. Mr. Speaker, the only thing that was signed was the tender document and that is not a lease, in case the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Young) thinks it is, and he probably does not know the difference between a tender document and a lease.

MR. YOUNG: I know as much about it as you do about Grade XI.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, two or three departments of government then started to move in in April of the following year, March and April. But a whole floor of that building was vacant for almost a year. The government, even though they were paying for the office space, the whole floor was vacant for a year.

MR. YOUNG: We did not pay a cent.

MR. NEARY: They did pay a cent, Mr. Speaker. They did pay for it. A whole floor was vacant, and in the meantime the government is going out renting office space around other parts of St. John's, while a whole floor that they were paying for down in Atlantic Place downtown was vacant, and it remained vacant for almost a year. And the lease - remember, Mr. Speaker, the government rented this office space and then moved in and occupied the building over a period of a year or fourteen months - and, lo and behold, Mr. Speaker, the lease was not signed until 1981, this year. A couple of months ago the lease was finally signed with the owners of that office building. A terrible situation.

MR. YOUNG: No, no.

MR. NEARY: If the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Young) wants to refute that, if the Minister of Public Works wants to get up on the floor of this House and make a fool of himself, Mr. Speaker, then I would certainly invite him to do so because to say otherwise would be misleading the House. It would be untrue. The

MR. NEARY: lease was signed in 1981 , a couple of months ago. The office space was rented in 1978 and the Auditor General brought it to the attention of this House in his annual report for the year ended March 31, 1980. Now, Mr. Speaker, that will be properly and thoroughly investigated in due course. And the minister may be, if my colleagues on the Public Accounts Committee think it is wise to do so, the minister may be sent for and asked to bring the documents. Up to now I understand the minister has refused to provide the lease, refused. And so in due course this matter will be investigated. But the point I am making, Mr. Speaker, is that as a result of the fine work of the Public Accounts Committee we recommended a change in the Department of Finance that I hope will see that this will never happen again. Because one of the provisions of this Act that we are debating at the present time, before the seal of the Province is affixed to an agreement or to a document,

MR. S. NEARY: the minister has to see it, or the deputy. If the minister is not there, the deputy has to see it. And so, Mr. Speaker, that will be a bit of an improvement but it is not going to make amends, to give the government benefit of the doubt, the inefficient, sloppy manner in which the rental of this space was negotiated.

MR. H. YOUNG: I was not there in 1978.

MR. S. NEARY: Listen, Mr. Speaker, listen! The minister says, 'I was not there in 1978', the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) says he was not there in 1978, the President of the Council (Mr. Marshall) was not there in 1978, the Premier was not there in 1978, but nevertheless they look over at us and say, 'You fellows were with Smallwood in 1968 and 1969'. That is different. When it suits them, Mr. Speaker, they throw the dirt at us, but when we identify and associate them with the Moores years they do not want to hear tell of it. They do not want to hear tell of it! How often have they mentioned the Moores administration, Mr. Speaker, since they took over? They are ashamed of it! They are too ashamed to mention it! The minister says he was not there in 1978! Mr. Speaker, the Tories were there in 1978.

MR. TULK: There are a lot of familiar faces over there.

MR. S. NEARY: Yes, there are a lot of familiar faces over there who are senior ministers in that Cabinet who negotiated that contract.

MR. S. NEARY: Now, Mr. Speaker, let us hope that will not happen anymore. But this contract, the people will have to get the rights of this contract.

Now another thing that happened as a result of the two responsibilities being under one deputy minister, Mr. Speaker. It was virtually impossible for that particular deputy minister to determine who was reasonable for collecting the retail sales tax. And, Mr. Speaker, in the last two editions of the Auditor General's Report for the year ended March 31st., 1979 and the year ended March 31st., 1980 the Auditor General has mentioned, referred to retail sales tax in arrears. In the year ended 1979 report, the Auditor General told us that over \$10 million was outstanding, in arrears in the retail sales tax! And at the end of March, 1980 it had gone up over another million; \$11 million was outstanding in retail sales tax!

Then, Mr. Speaker, this government comes into the House and tells the people of this Province that there is a deficit, a deficit of \$10 million, and that they are going to have to tighten their belts, they are going to have to cut back, there is going to have to be restraints, when on the books in the Department of Finance is \$10 million outstanding! \$10 million in arrears going back two, three, four years in the Department of Finance. And \$8 million in mining taxes is owed to this Province as a result of increases in the price of ore that the mining companies are disputing paying royalties on a sudden

MR. NEARY: increase in the price of iron ore. \$8 million in mining tax, over \$11 million in retail sales tax on the books of the Department of Finance that they have not collected, and some of it will probably not now be collected because the companies, the businesses, are gone bankrupt, they are gone out of business and the amounts will have to be written off. And, Mr. Speaker, while they are not collecting this tax, the Minister of Social Services (Mr. Hickey) is sending out statements to welfare recipients, the people on social assistance in this Province, widows and disabled people, telling them - one I was given over the weekend by a gentleman, a constituent of mine, who had three kidney transplants back in 1973. And he needed a special diet and the government would not give it to him. His wife went to work to earn a few dollars to get him all of the orange juice that he needed. He rejected two kidneys and he had a third kidney transplant that, thank God, has been functioning ever since and the man has been able to work. At that time he was the only kidney transplant, I think, in Newfoundland. So his wife got a part-time job so he could get the nourishment that he needed to get him back to good health, and when he did get nursed back to health, CN gave him a job on the waterfront in Port aux Basques and he has been working there ever since earning a livelihood for his family. But he got an ultimatum from the Minister of Social Services the other day saying that he had to pay back over \$1,000 to the Department of Social Services or he would be taken to court.

MR. HICKEY: That has nothing to do with this bill.

MR. NEARY: Yes, it is this bill.

And, Mr. Speaker, there are dozens and dozens and hundreds of examples of where the

MR. NEARY: Minister of Social Services (Mr. Hickey) is sending out statements and ultimatums to welfare recipients for overlapping, for over payments going back as far as twenty years - under the instructions of the minister - while at the same time, his colleague, the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) is failing to collect the retail sales tax in this Province, \$11 million in arrears. And, Mr. Speaker, this sales tax, by the way, does not belong to these people who collect it. Under the law of this Province they are compelled to collect that sales tax in trust for the people of this Province. They only hold it in trust for the people, for the Public Treasury. And while the Minister of Social Services is turning the screws on the welfare recipients in this Province, the Minister of Finance is turning a blind eye to the mining companies - that, oh, the Provincial Treasury; \$8 million up to March 31st, 1980.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that hon. members realize what I am saying.

AN HON. MEMBER: You are not getting through.

MR. NEARY: I am not getting through?

AN HON. MEMBER: Not over there.

MR. NEARY: No. I know. It is like water on a duck's back. They have no feeling at all for people. What I am saying, Mr. Speaker, is that this government, who are asking the people of this Province to exercise a little restraint and belt tightening, who are turning the screws on the students, the welfare recipients, the widows and the cripples and the disabled, and the unemployed, and making it difficult for unemployed people to qualify for social assistance with their ninety day waiting period, that they have imposed on them, while this is all happening, Mr. Speaker, all members have to do is to pick up the Auditor General's Report for the end of March, 1980, which is the latest report. We will not get another one until the end of March, 1981, when the House reconvenes next year, if it ever reconvenes. In that report, Mr. Speaker, over \$11 million in arrears in retail sales tax. It is incredible. It is astonishing. It is outrageous.

MR. MORGAN: Watch your hearth.

MR. NEARY: And the minister coming in with his ministerial statement moaning and groaning and asking the people of this Province to tighten their belt. Most of that money, I would submit, Mr. Speaker, most of it has come from bistros of this Provinces, the cabarets, the cabarets and the night clubs and the bistros. And some of the companies, I would submit, that have contributed heavily to the Tory Party in this Province over the years, walk gingerly with some of these companies, that is what the minister is doing, walking gingerly, walking on egg shells with some of these companies, afraid he might offend them.

There is no excuse for this, Mr. Speaker, not excuse in this world, for not enforcing the law as far as that retail sales tax is concerned. It

MR. NEARY: does not belong to these companies, these corporations and these businesses. It does not belong to them. It was collected from the people to be held in trust for the people of this Province. And the \$8 million owing as of the end of March, and the mining tax the same way.

I do not know how the minister is going to answer this. I cannot anticipate how he is going to answer it. He has made so many blunders in that department, Mr. Speaker, the only thing that I can see that he might try to do is to bluff his way out of it.

AN HON. MEMBER: He is good at that.

MR. NEARY: The hon. gentleman is good at that. He might be able to bluff his way out of it. He might get up and say we did not have the staff or we have stepped up our collections. He might tell us since the Auditor General published his report that a more strenuous attempt is being made to recover this money.

I would submit, Mr. Speaker, that that would be a very weak defence. I would suggest to the House that a lot of that money will never be recovered. It will have to be written off. It will have to be written off, Mr. Speaker. Some of these companies are gone into receivership, or into bankruptcy, or closed down. The bistros and the taverns and the night clubs and the dives and the joints, some of them have lost their licences.

MR. MORGAN: I got my taxes paid.

MR. NEARY: The hon. gentleman says he has his taxes paid. Well I hope the hon. gentleman -

MR. MORGAN: Every month on the dot.

MR. NEARY: -I hope the hon. gentleman is a good corporate citizen. Because the hon. gentleman knows as well as the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins), that that money that is

MR. NEARY: collected in retail sales tax is not his, does not belong to the owners of these dives -

MR. STIRLING: And joints.

MR. NEARY: - and joints and discos and carbarets, does not belong to him, it belongs to the people of this Province. Over \$11 million in accounts receivable. No wonder the Auditor General is frustrated and confused and bewildered. Mr. Speaker, there is no excuse for it, there is no excuse for the government not having the mining tax up to date, up to date - that is as far as you can get it. And I am talking about retail sales tax and mining tax that goes back three, four years, two years. That is what the Auditor General is talking about. It is an absolute disgrace while students are being asked to tighten their belts, welfare recipients are getting the gears put to them by this government for overpayments going back as much as twenty years, unemployed are being forced into misery and suffering because of that 90-day waiting period, because of that ninety days you have to wait because of your earnings in the last three months. And I ask a question of the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) that I asked in this House before, did these men and women who are economically marooned, unemployed through no fault of their own, did they know that the carpet was going to be whipped out from under their feet rather suddenly? Did they know that?

AN HON. MEMBER: No.

MR. NEARY: No, they did not. If they did they might have saved for a rainy day, but they were led to believe by this government that they had security.

AN HON. MEMBER: They were not even told. They did not know what to expect.

MR. NEARY: That is right. And now they have to wait. They did not save anything. In this inflationary period that we are in they are lucky to be able to make ends meet and pay their rent and pay their mortgages and buy food

MR. NEARY: and clothes for their children and their transportation back and forth to work - they were lucky to be able to do that. But now the Minister of Social Services (Mr. Hickey) says no, you have to wait ninety days. Mr. Speaker, the minister surely knows - he was a welfare officer at one time - surely he knows the hardship and the suffering that that is creating and the havoc in homes in this Province. But the minister was out when I said this, while this is happening, the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) has on his books over \$11 million in sales tax that has not been collected and almost \$8 million in mining tax on the books as of the 31st of March, 1980. Was the hon. Minister of Social Services aware of that fact? If the government wants money let them go after it, let them go after the retail sales tax.

Mr. Speaker, let me repeat, that that money does not belong to these individuals and they cannot argue, they cannot come back to the government and say, 'Well, give us a chance'. They cannot come back and say that. The money is not theirs to give them a chance, they cannot use money they collected in retail sales tax to keep their business going. They were only holding it in trust for the people of this Province. Now that is just a couple. These are three examples, Mr. Speaker, of what has happened in this Province as a result of the position of Deputy Minister of Finance and the Comptroller of the Treasury being one and the same job. Let us hope that that will change, Mr. Speaker. I support the bill. I want to thank my former colleagues on the Public Accounts Committee for bringing it to the attention of this House by recommending it in their annual report to the House. Already we can see the value of the Public Accounts Committee, I hope the government will not

MR. NEARY:

start stonewalling in the future as a result of changes made on the Public Accounts Committee and make it difficult for us to get information.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Oh, they will.

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, I hope when we send to the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) for information in connection with the retail sales tax, as a result of the Auditor General's comments, that he will instruct his officials to lay out all the information we want just the same as the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Dawe) will give us the logs of the government aircraft, the use of the King Air. I hope they will not stonewall, Mr. Speaker, or try to impede or obstruct us in the carrying out of our duties and responsibilities to this House and to the people of this Province. I support the bill, Sir, and I look forward to improvements in the Department of Finance in the future.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms):

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. STIRLING:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to make a few comments on this bill, or if you would like, to use the opportunity permitted under this bill to make a few comments on a debate that we should be having on the requirements under this act for a full and public disclosure of our revenues, of our expenditures and any variations in the budget.

Mr. Speaker, it is probably a very historic day today, because on this day the students of the Province, through the Muse, have shown the way. The student paper was the first paper, and let it be recorded that this was the day on which a newspaper refused a misleading ad from this government.

MR. CARTER:

This is not relevant

MR. STIRLING:

Mr. Speaker, I am dealing

MR. STIRLING: with the financial administration of this Province, and the financial administration of this Province, at this present time, is being covered up -

MR. HOUSE: Who is editor of the Muse? Who reads the Muse?

MR. STIRLING: I would note with interest the hon. the Minister of Health (Mr. House) saying, 'Who reads the Muse?'

MR. HOUSE: No, I never said that, I said, 'Who edits the Muse?'

MR. TULK: Yes, you did.

MR. STIRLING: You first of all said, 'Who reads the Muse?'

MR. HOUSE: No, I did not.

MR. STIRLING: Then you said, 'Who edits the Muse?'

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

MR. TULK: Who reads it? About 25,000 Newfoundlanders. A good superintendent become corrupt.

MR. STIRLING: Mr. Speaker, we have seen this government set out a great public relations appeal two years ago. We saw this government, two years ago, set out a new look in government. Somebody was finally going to stand up for Newfoundland, we were finally going to come into our own, we were going to get some dignity.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. STIRLING: Mr. Speaker, the difference between the promises and what we have now seen in the, for example, administration of this Province, financial administration of this Province, is worlds and worlds apart, and we see by this government an attempt, by the use of advertisements, paid advertisements, paid for by the people of this Province, to try to use political propaganda to cover up the facts. Mr. Speaker, you cannot do it. The people of this Province are not going to be

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MR. STIRLING: fooled any longer. The
financial administration of this Province is being
covered up and being concealed from the people of this
Province and from this House of Assembly.

MR. STIRLING:

We did not have a mini-budget.

We have not had the government tell the truth about why in October the Treasury Board of this Province, the people covered under this Financial Administration Act, the Treasury Board of this Province produced a report to the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) indicating that we were \$50 million down. \$10 million surplus that had been budgeted had disappeared and we were now \$40 million in the hole, so much so that the Minister of Finance invited in the TV cameras - I am sure it had nothing to do with the fact that the hospital workers were trying to negotiate a fair settlement at the time. I am sure it had nothing to do with that- Prime Time TV News with a television camera following the Minister of Finance around, bringing in his deputy minister, acknowledging they were down \$50 million and they were going to do an in-depth study.

Mr. Speaker, that in-depth study was done but it was never revealed to this House of Assembly or never revealed to the people of this Province. The missing \$40 million was never brought in; the figures, the detailed explanation, the detailed examination is being concealed from the people of this Province. It is being concealed from this House of Assembly. And we saw for the first time one of the media, one medium in this Province stood up and said, we will not accept misleading advertising.

Mr. Speaker, everybody else in this Province, every business that wishes to advertise has to follow a standard, the same standard, Mr. Speaker. A business has to follow a standard which is approved by the Consumer Affairs and the Better Business Bureau that advertisements cannot be misleading.

Mr. Speaker, what has happened in this Province is the government has taken a deliberate

MR. STIRLING: decision to try to confuse and mislead people. The first time that they tried it, they tried it on the great issue, the great issue which was the question of our Labrador boundary, then our denominational system of education. People did not believe it so they did not do anything with it.

So then, Mr. Speaker, they went out into every liquor store, into every place where the public has to come to in this Province and they bought and paid for pamphlets, misleading pamphlets, Mr. Speaker, And now the Muse has the courage to reject a misleading advertisement, but it cannot be rejected in the liquor corporation or in Workers' Compensation or in any of these other public areas. They cannot be rejected.

Mr. Speaker, this government is carrying on with the worst of deception and is showing it every time they turn around. They have had ministers refuse to tell what the cutbacks are. They have ministers refuse to tell what the belt tightening is. They have had ministers refuse to give any of the most basic information. Now the people cannot get from this government under the Financial Administration Act the information that they are entitled to. This government can keep it back. They can conceal it. But once in a while, Mr. Speaker, they have to show their hand because the requirement of the Act requires for them to bring in special warrants when it is not provided in the budget.

Mr. Speaker, what was the special warrant that they brought into this House without comment, tried to slip it through on the 27th of November? Not provided in the Budget, \$500,000, Mr. Speaker, \$500,000 not provided in the Budget under a special warrant. \$350,000 was for consultants, \$350,000 for consultants. \$50,000 for computer services and \$100,000 for travelling for the province's offshore

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Tape No. 3878

EL - 3

MR. STIRLING:

negotiating team.

Mr. Speaker, when the hon. Leo Barry resigned from this House he said our case was not ready. He said there was a lot of work to be done. And Mr. Barry resigned as Minister and now we are

MR. STIRLING:

rushing, the final days of this deliberation, to spend \$350,000 on consultants. What consultants, Mr. Speaker? Where are they coming from? Is it in fact true that what Mr. Barry said when he resigned from the government, when he resigned from the Cabinet, that our case was not ready, that we were not prepared, that we were a bunch of amateurs dealing with Ottawa with a loose committee that was not under the direction of a minister? Do we have a Minister of Energy (Mr. Marshall) in an acting capacity today, a Minister of Energy who is a full-time lawyer, a Minister of Energy who does not give his full time to that ministry? Is that why we need \$350,000 in consultants? Mr. Speaker, who are those consultants? Are they lawyers? Are they people brought in from other provinces? What is their role? Mr. Speaker, the people of Newfoundland and Labrador have been told that this is the most important set of negotiations we have ever had and we are going about it in a cloud, in a mystery. All we know is that we had, maybe, the most competent person in the whole of Newfoundland and Labrador, Mr. Barry, resign on a question that we were not prepared, that the Premier was not going about it in a proper manner, had not given the direction in charge of a full-time energy minister, had taken it away from Mr. Barry. Now, Mr. Speaker, we see tabled in this House a special warrant not subject to debate, not brought in for debate. The only reason we can debate it is the accident that they brought in this Financial Administration Act. Mr. Speaker, \$350,000 for consultants, \$50,000 for computer services and \$100,000 for travel.

AN HON. MEMBER: Travel?

MR. STIRLING: Travelling, \$100,000 for travelling.

Mr. Speaker, the people of this Province have not been given the most basic information. They have not been given

MR. STIRLING: a clue as to what is needed in this negotiation. Mr. Speaker, we have seen the Premier of this Province, here in this House of Assembly, get up one day and say it was not in Newfoundland's best interests financially to recognize native rights, he went on television and sounded so convincing, and within twenty-four hours he had done a complete about-face, a complete about-face, Mr. Speaker, saying, that oh, yes, he was in favour of that all along. And now we have a government that is refusing to give us the basic financial information, refusing to give us the information that people are entitled to in this Province, to know what happened to the \$50 million deficit that was brought out in October. Is it that the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) would not accept the recommendations of the Treasury Board? Have things been altered, as they were when the Treasury Board's secretary did not accept a political poll, would not agree to a political poll? It went beyond Treasury Board directly to Cabinet. That has been documented, Mr. Speaker. That was documented by the Public Accounts Committee, that a political poll that was done by the government and the Premier of this Province at the time agreed that it was a political poll and that it should be recovered. We now have this same Premier gone of into political advertising paid for by the people of this Province to cover up the truth of the situation as to what kind of state this Province is in.

Mr. Speaker, it will be too late when it eventually comes out, it will be too late. What else, Mr. Speaker, have we seen brought into this Province? We have seen not provided in the budget another document, Mr. Speaker, another special one looking for \$546,000 for legal assistance, \$546,000 for legal assistance.

MR. STIRLING:

Now, Mr. Speaker, what kind of a requirement could we have for legal assistance that was not provided for in the budget, that this House of Assembly has not been given the information on, that they will refuse to give the information when they table the statement, the conflicting and misleading statement? Mr. Speaker, what is \$546,000 not provided for in the budget, for legal assistance? What are we getting into that requires \$546,000 worth of legal fees, and who are the legal firms being retained, Mr. Speaker? What legal firms are being retained and what are they to do? This is information which the people have a right to know.

The Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) simply said, "In the requirements of Section 23 of the Financial Administration Act, I hereby table this warrant," no explanation, no information. And I would expect that when he does get up to talk about how great this bill is, separating out the two, that he will explain to us what all of these things are for.

Mr. Speaker, my colleague, the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) was on to another interesting series of questions having to do with public examinations. We have had a special warrant for \$75,000 dealing with public examinations, \$75,000 not explained, not called for in the budget - do not want to let the people of Newfoundland and Labrador know. This is all tabled in the last couple of days, Mr. Speaker. Because this government has made a determination, they have made a decision. They know that they are going to get an agreement on the offshore gas and oil - after two years of confrontation, two years of having the financial state that this Province is in, because people have left, investment is dried up, you cannot raise money in this Province; there is no confidence;

MR. STIRLING: they cannot manage the affairs of the economy; they cannot tell businesses what they can expect, they write them off as a bunch of nuisances.

MR. MOORES: Right.

MR. STIRLING: We had the example earlier today of a minister introducing a piece of legislation after giving his word to the Construction Association that he would delay it for two or three days so they could consult. This is a government, Mr. Speaker, which has made the conscious decision that they will get an agreement on the offshore oil. They made a complete about-face, they abandoned everything that they said was important on the ownership. They have now come to the point

MR. L. STIRLING:

where they are negotiating and they have given up. will get the agreement because all of the provinces have agreed, and within a couple of weeks after getting that agreement, at the end of February or March, we will be into an election, Mr. Speaker, an election -

MR. W. MARSHALL: A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. W. MARSHALL: I have listened to the hon. gentleman throughout his whole remarks and he is being totally and absolutely irrelevant. First of all, when he talks about special warrants he must know that these are debated in the supplementary supply bill that will have to come before this House in due course.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, we have a bill before us dividing the functions of the Deputy Minister of Finance and the Comptroller of the Treasury and the provision with respect to the general organization of the department.

Now, the hon. gentleman is on offshore negotiations and what-have-you, and continuing to voice his fear that he lives with daily that this government will call an election. He gets up and every word that comes out of him is as to whether or not the government is going to call an election. All of these things, Mr. Speaker, are totally irrelevant to the principle of this bill which pretains to the organization was re-organization of the Department of Finance.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. J. HODDER: To the point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Butt) To the point of order, the hon. member for Port au Port.

MR. J. HODDER: To the point of order, Mr. Speaker. What the House Leader opposite has done is taken the opportunity to get up and try to take some of the stinging blows, which the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stirling) has been slinging across the House, to try to put the record right and which he has been very unsuccessful in doing.

But, Mr. Speaker, the Act which we are debating right now is the Financial Administration Act, 1973. And this deals with the financial administration of this Province and I would say, Mr. Speaker, that any member speaking on this bill would have the widest latitude possible, because anything that deals with the financial administration of this Province can be brought up under this bill, I do submit, Mr. Speaker.

But I will say, Mr. Speaker, that I do detect that the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. Marshall) is just trying to get his few words in to try to divert the attention of the people listening.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, to the point of order, relevancy is always difficult to rule on. In this bill the Finance Department is bringing on an additional deputy minister. I think, because it involves financial administration, it would lead to a wide-ranging debate. But I would ask hon. members if they would confine their remarks to that bill. I will rule that there is a point of order.

The hon. leader of the Opposition.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

AN HON. MEMBER: A good ruling. You should be in the Chair more often.

MR. L. STIRLING: Mr. Speaker, the President of the Council (Mr. Marshall) is terrified! Absolutely terrified that the people of this Province may get to know the true decision made by this government to confuse and mislead and use the public purse to buy advertisements - Mr. Speaker, they bought -and it has to do with the Financial administration - I would have no argument with them if they did the proper thing which was pay for those advertisements by the PC party.

Well.Mr. Speaker, having found that confederation Trust is in the hole \$750,000, and,therefore,they cannot use that, they are now using the people's money.

MR. STIRLING: Mr. Speaker, they have made the decision, the conscious decision, to try to confuse people, and look for an opportunity to slip in an election on an emotional issue like, for example, the offshore, or the constitution.

Mr. Speaker, they are not going to get away with it. Even though they are spending the people's money, we now have evidence that at least one organization, the Muse, has rejected a paid advertisement, a full-page advertisement -

AN HON. MEMBER: One rejected you last week.

MR. NEARY: And they need the money. They need the money.

MR. STIRLING: Mr. Speaker, it may be worthwhile having a look at why they rejected it.

MR. WARREN: (Inaudible).

DR. COLLINS: I table it. I do not read it. I table it.

MR. STIRLING: Sure he does not read this stuff.

MR. HOLLETT: There are 30,000 copies in circulation, 'John', you can get one.

MR. MOORES: He does not read that stuff.

MR. HODDER: That is a St. John's answer to the member for Stephenville (Mr. Stagg).

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker, it was bad enough when we had one overgrown galoot, now we have two overgrown galoots -

MR. SPEAKER (Butt): Order, please!

MR. CALLAN: - sitting side by side.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, order him to sit down.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CALLAN: Two overgrown galoots.

MR. STIRLING: Mr. Speaker, what we have going on is a government which is trying to hang on for dear life and trying to confuse, trying to not let the people see the facts. We cannot get the information from the Department of Health. The Department of Health has not tabled any of the information indicating what kind of a freeze they have put on hospitals, what kind of cutback in services have had to go to hospitals. We cannot get information from the Minister of Finance as to where the missing \$11 million is, even from his own figures. The Minister of Finance has refused to tell us whether the \$34 million was a total increase from Ottawa. He has forgotten to tell us. He will not tell us.

MR. TULK: He did not know.

MR. STIRLING: He is refusing to tell us. The Department of Education will not tell us what programmes are being cut back and standing up to say that they have no information from any of the school boards that are screaming out to them because they do not have facilities. And they think, Mr. Speaker, that they can get away with that. They think they can get away with it by running advertisements.

MR. BARRETT: - the Financial Administration Act again.

MR. TULK: How would you know? You bankrupted Crosbie. How would you know? You bankrupted Crosbie, boy.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. BARRETT: You belong over there, boy. You are really sharp.

MR. TULK: About the same as yourself.

MR. SPEAKER (Butt): Order, please!

MR. STIRLING: One of the things that has not been reported to this House, and has been concealed from this House, has to do with Advocate Mines. We have been told in this House, Mr. Speaker, that the first notice that this government got, the first notice that this government got was the close down of Advocate Mines.

Mr. Speaker, the minister has now told us, the Minister of Mines and Energy (Mr. Marshall) told us that Newfoundland, the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, was one of the creditors, one of the creditors of Advocate mines for several million dollars.

Now, Mr. Speaker, if, under the Financial Administration Act, the Department of Finance, the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) was doing his job, he would have known in the last couple of years that Advocate Mines had not been paying their sales tax, that Advocate Mines had not been paying what they should be paying in mining tax. They would have told this House what kind of a desperate situation was already foreseen, or he would have talked to his colleague. Now, is the Minister of Energy saying that the Minister of Finance did not let him know that Advocate Mines was in such a shaky position, such a shaky position that they did not even have the money to pay the taxes that they should have paid? Several million dollars in taxes is a lot of money, Mr. Speaker, and Adocate Mines obviously has been getting away for years with not paying their share of the taxes.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what kind of a mismanagement is going on in this Province.

MR. STIRLING: You cannot bluff your way through, sooner or later that has to be caught up with, and you cannot take an advertisement and just try to bluff your way through in all of these areas.

Mr. Speaker, we have an abuse of public money, we have an abuse in the question of what has happened in rural Newfoundland. This government got elected, Mr. Speaker, talking about building rural Newfoundland and in the last few years over 25,000 people have left rural Newfoundland - in the last couple of years alone - looking for jobs in Alberta because this government has not performed. They make a great speech, they make great public relations, great advertisements, Mr. Speaker, but they do not tell the full story. And I am glad that the Minister of Labour has come back in, because I understood that he was not going to have second reading of his bill this afternoon, that he was going to consult with the Construction Association before bringing in his bill this afternoon to be finished.

MR. DINN: Do you have misunderstandings all the time?

MR. TULK: (Inaudible) you and the Construction Association.

MR. SPEAKER (Butt): Order, please!

MR. STIRLING: Mr. Speaker, there is no question, this government has misunderstandings with everybody they deal with.

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

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stirling) is now really straying somewhat from this Department of Finance Act.

MR. STIRLING: Straying somewhat? I had to get in the record, Mr. Speaker, that we had no control over the fact that the minister brought in his bill for second reading this afternoon that he had promised not to

MR. STIRLING: bring in.

MR. HOLLETT: It is worthy to note though that he did (inaudible) from stray.

MR. NEARY: Double-cross! Double-cross!

MR. DINN: A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Butt): A point of order, the hon. the Minister of Labour and Manpower.

MR. DINN: My point of order is that the Leader of the Opposition is stating information in this House which is not accurate. I did speak this morning with a representative of the Building and Construction Trades. At that point in time I said that I would be going through third reading today - or through second reading today and that if they wanted to come in to speak to officials of the department they were quite welcome to do so. I would be willing to do so at any time.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

That, obviously, is not a point of order, but the hon. the Minister of Labour and Manpower (Mr. Dinn) took the opportunity to clarify remarks attributed to him.

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition has about four minutes to conclude his remarks.

MR. STIRLING: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

What I want to say in summary then is that this is a very historic day, this is the first day in which one of the news media in this Province said to the government, 'We will accept no more misleading advertising'.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

STIRLING: No more misleading advertising. I hope it will be an example so that other media will have to use the same standards that they would apply to business; if a misleading add came in they would not accept it.

MR. STIRLING: Well, Mr. Speaker, in the state that this economy is in, in the state that this Province is in, very few people can do what the Muse did, and that is reject a misleading piece of advertising.

MR. NEARY: Hear, hear!

MR. STIRLING: Mr. Speaker, I was over to the West Coast on the weekend and they are not getting all of the news of what comes out of this House of Assembly. They should be getting all of this news. But some of these papers are full of paid political propaganda, paid for by the people of this Province. And it is the most insidious form, Mr. Speaker, because it is half true. In dealing with the financial administration, I hope that the person responsible for financial administration under the new division of duties, having no responsibilities to the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) and working with the Auditor-General, will be able to bring out these cases where this is an abuse of the people's money. And it has more to do with the whole attitude of this government which is attempting to conceal, to confuse and to give half truths, Mr. Speaker. When they cannot get away with it in the direct media - they refuse to debate - the Premier of this Province blames his staff for three times turning down a debate with me, it is up to the staff to settle that. But on the question of the financial administration of this Province, Mr. Speaker, let it be recorded that today was the day that one of the media said no.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. SPEAKER (Butt): Order, please!

MR. STIRLING: Mr. Speaker, the arrogance of the government will eventually get put to the test and they will send a telegram complaining of a headline with a full-page ad just in case somebody does not get the message. But, Mr. Speaker, they are not going to get away with it because the news media of this Province, no matter how financially strapped, will reject that kind of misleading advertising. And now that they have been given the warning, where they cannot take part in debate, where they will not bring into this House of Assembly a mini-budget subject to debate, where ministers refuse to answer questions, where a Minister of Finance will not give the full information, the Auditor-General and the person responsible for

MR. STIRLING: the financial administration will bring it out after the fact. There is no question the truth will eventually come out, but it may be too late, Mr. Speaker, too late for the people who are being hurt in this Province, the people who are suffering, the people who cannot get jobs, the people who have moved away, the people in Grand Bank who have been put off from week to week, saying we are going to give you a decision in two weeks, somebody who can take a full-page ad to distort the information on the federal budget, cannot sit down with a Cabinet until next Thursday- hopefully we will get there by next Thursday.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. TULK: Go away, boy, distortion.

MR. SPEAKER (Butt): Order, please.

I must inform the hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stirling) that his time has expired.

MR. STIRLING: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It will not change things, but this will be a day when they will note that the government of this Province tried to hide and they could not hide, and we will eventually bring out to the people of the Province that this distortion that this government is getting away with at the present time, they will eventually have to answer for to the voters, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Carbonear.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. MOORES: I am not prepared to speak, Mr. Speaker. How long do I have?

MR. SPEAKER: Half an hour.

MR. MOORES: I will be half an hour if you want to go for a coffee.

MR. STIRLING: (Inaudible)

MR. MOORES: Sure, sure.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

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SD - 3

MR. TULK:

How obliging are you at all.

MR. MOORES:

Very polite of the man. It would do some of the other Cabinet ministers well to take a lesson from him.

Mr. Speaker, I just have a few remarks to make on this particular bill. I am glad, Mr. Speaker, that your previous

MR. MOORES:

ruling has indicated a wide and broad debate. Because I think that is so when there is ever an amendment to the Financial Administration Act of this Province of the importance and the significance as this one in the appointment of a comptroller, etc., etc., and I believe it is incumbent upon all members of this House, not only on the Opposition side but on the government side as well, to get up and inform this House how they feel about such a major change in the administration of finance in this Province. Because, Mr. Speaker, if there is ever once in this Province's little history that we need a comptroller, it is right now, right now when the economy and the finances of this Province have never been in a worse state. In all our history we have never seen an economic condition as dismal as we see right now.

My colleague, the Leader of the Opposition, and my colleague the member for LaPoile, (Mr. Neary) in one of his landmark speeches as usual, brought to the forefront a number of very, very amazing, saddening states that exist within our economy right now.

The fact last year, Mr. Speaker, that the Canada Manpower Centre in Harbour Grace, in my district, gave out 125 mobility grants to young people in my district and their families to mobilize them, to take them out of this Province and send them off to Alberta or British Columbia, that is something significant, Mr. Speaker. That is something that all of us should sit down for a moment and take a good hard look at. And there have been 25,000, there have been 25,000 such people, such young people and their families in this Province who have been forced to leave because of the lack of employment, have been forced to leave due to this

MR. MOORES: seven, eight, nine, ten years, and a significant increase in that deceit, that misleading has occurred in the last two years under this present administration. And it is only now, as my colleague, the Leader of the Opposition, points out, it is only now that the public, the media in this Province, is catching on. But I stand - my conscience is clear. I stood in this House two years ago and told the media and informed this House that there was deceit going on of the worst kind. What other Premier in all of Canada would go to Memorial University in front of 600 students and tell them that this Province is number one in its per capita spending on education in the nation of Canada? What other Premier would do that? Such a bald falsehood! And that type of deceit and misleading has gone on, it has filtered right down through everything that this administration has done in matters relating to the economy, the deceit that has gone on with regard to production of hydro-electricity in this Province, how we are being told that the Upper Salmon and Hinds Lake and Cat Arm are necessary when they are only pacifiers. They have been caused by inactivity, caused by inaction over seven or eight years of mundane and impotent government.

I commend the staff of the Muse, a paper that is too often taken too lightly in this Province, I might add. But I recall back in 1970 and 1971 that it was that newspaper, the Muse, the student newspaper, which was primary in the overthrow, the inevitable and eventual overthrow of the Smallwood regime. And it is starting now, again. This is not just one isolated incident. They have caught the Premier at his game, and the game is up, boys. All over this Province the game is up, and if you do not believe it then you are living in some abyss somewhere. You are living in a vacuum. And that is quite

MR. MOORES: true, because there is a vacuum of political intellect that exists here in this city. If you go by what you have been told in the city of St. John's, you would not know but the 'Peckford' regime is going to be swept back into power with fifty out of fifty-two seats.

AN HON. MEMBER: I am not even sure that that is not the answer.

MR. MOORES: Well, I have news for you.

MR. SPEAKER (Butt): Order, please! Order, please!
The hon. member is straying

somewhat now.

MR. MOORES: Now, Mr. Speaker, I am interested in the economy of this Province. I am interested in the future that this Province is going to take. And I believe, to speak fairly and justly, most hon. members in this House are equally concerned. But our perception of the events that are unfolding are somewhat different, depending upon where we sit.

For instance, last year, the then Minister of Mines and Energy for this Province, (Mr. Barry) who, I might add, was the fifth column of the present government and now has been relegated to the back seats because of another confrontation with the Premier - last

Mr. MOORES: year he stood in his place and he and I were involved in a verbal interaction and he stated uncategorically at that time that the economy of Newfoundland has never been in better shape.

MR. NEARY: Remember what they said, they did not want to overheat the economy.

MR. MOORES: Two weeks ago the Premier of this Province in a letter to the Leader of the Opposition said, and I quote, "It is appalling that you could support such cutbacks for a province as fiscally strapped as ours." And the next day the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) made a statement that we were \$40 million in deficit. Now, what a flamboyant, energetic, vital economy. What man in his right mind would get up and defend the likes of that? We have the highest unemployment in Canada. Hospitals, roads, water and sewerage have never been worse. My ear is talked off by people in my district who do not have a sensible road to drive on, who have to wait -

MR. NEARY: One crew this Winter for snow clearing.

MR. MOORES: - who have to wait days and days to get into a hospital, who have no water and sewerage. You know, I can mimic this all day, where it has been said thousands of times in this House and I do not want to get into the specifics. I do not want to get into Advocate Mines at Baie Verte and the sham that is going on in regards to that operation, what I want to keep plugging away at is what I have been plugging away at for two years in this House, that the problem is not that we have economic problems but that they are being deliberately concealed, that the message is going out to the people of this Province, like the former Minister of Mines and Energy conveyed, that our economy has never been more buoyant. That is the problem. And our role as an Opposition, and my role as an Opposition

MR. MOORES: member is to point out to you that that is the problem. Everybody in Canada knows that this little Province is fiscally strapped, that we have nothing here, nor have we ever had anything in 400 years, on which to build a vibrant economy except for a few fishermen who are now being plagued to death by federal and provincial authorities. If it is not National Revenue on one side it is the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) on the other. We have a forestry industry in this Province that is almost on the brink of oblivion because of spruce budworm. And we have a mining industry in this Province that is gone, effectively gone. And we have a Provincial government that is too lazy to get working on the Lower Churchill and develop some hydro industry. And the Minister of Rural, Agricultural Development, the Member for Naskaupi, talks about aluminum smelters - what other dream, what other fantasy is he engaged in? If the aluminum smelter comes about as fast as the Lower Churchill did, I will be old and gray before any jobs come out of it.

Any member on the government side of this House who participates in that kind of deception will also be held accountable for it, in my opinion, in my books. There is no reason why you have to be led like seals, like lambs to the slaughter, you are individuals with your own personal constitutions on which to stand. And that is my position. Whether it is a public statement on the legalization of drugs, or whether it is a condemnation of the government economically I am an individual and I have a

MR. R. MOORES: responsibility. And whether I sit in Opposition or whether I sit on the government side, that will be my stand and I will take whatever comes my way as punishment or the expense for it. Now, name any two men on the government side who could stand up and say the same thing. Any two.

It is pathetic, Mr. Speaker, pathetic to see what is going on in this little Province today. And if the government would only admit, if the Premier would only stand in his place and admit that he is human, that he is capable of making a mistake- you know, for my part, I was never deceived by his qualifications to be Premier. I knew the man ten years ago, I knew what his qualifications then were to be Premier.

MR. SPEAKER (Butt): Order, please!

I believe the hon. member once again is straying somewhat.

MR. R. MOORES: Mr. Speaker, thank you.

The administration of finances in this Province, albeit the authority is delegated to the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins), the administration of finances in this Province is a direct responsibility of the Premier and his Cabinet, his administration in total. Although the drab, day-to-day gray matters of finance and the administration thereof fall within the Department of Finance, the real administration of the economy rests with the Premier and the Cabinet. It is important, Mr. Speaker, that we realize that. Because it has not been the PC administration that has subdued, oppressed and suppressed the economy of this Province, it has been one man with one or two of his cronies who have led this Province to the

MR. R. MOORES: brink of economic destruction
by confrontation with Ottawa, endless confrontation with
Ottawa, that has pretty darned near bankrupt us, whether
it is on offshore oil and gas or DREE agreements. And I
do not believe the people of this Province realize that
at the present time there are eleven DREE agreements in
this Province that remain unsigned because of some child-
ish quibbling between the Premier and Ottawa.

MR. STIRLING: He just does not understand.

MR. MOORES: He just does not understand,
this man. You would need to take a sledge hammer and
strike him with it. He just does not seem to understand
that this stupid, insane policy of confrontation with
Ottawa is costing

MR. MOORES: this Province, is costing the people of this Province millions of dollars and hundreds of jobs.

MR. MORGAN: (Inaudible).

MR. TULK: Be quiet, Chubby.

MR. WARREN: What did you call him, Chubby?

MR. TULK: Chubby Charlie.

MR. MOORES: If the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) would like to go for another coffee, he is quite welcome to.

MR. MORGAN: I will not be going for a toke, I can tell you that.

MR. MOORES: Well, it might clear your head.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. LUSH: That is impossible.

MR. SPEAKER (BUTT): Order, please!

MR. MORGAN: That is Liberal strategy (inaudible) marijuana.

MR. STIRLING: What a dispicable -

MR. SPEAKER: Order!

MR. MOORES: I need the time to collect my thoughts.

Let me give you, Mr. Speaker, let me give you a perfect example of what I am talking about. Well, I can give you two perfect examples, but I will deal with one, the instance now of the big fiasco, the big racket, the big argument that is going on about transfer payments, equalization payments from Ottawa to Newfoundland. Now, I remember when this Premier, particularly, came to power in 1979, it was no more going to Ottawa with cap in hand. 'Forget it, forget it. We are not into that. This government is going to stand on its own two feet, four square. No more talk about going to Ottawa and begging for what is rightfully ours.' And now, Mr. Speaker, when there is a difference of a few dollars, quibbling dollars of transfer payments, equalization benefits

MR. MOORES: to the Province, he is up in arms, up in arms that Ottawa has not given us enough, up in arms because Ottawa has not transferred enough money down to pay off the deficit on the current account that exists in this Province of \$40 million. Because if we could get it from Ottawa in equalization payments, then we could go on then and deceive the people of Newfoundland again into believing that our current account is balanced, there is no deficit. The same old thing, Mr. Speaker, over and over, we need \$500 million a year from Ottawa and we need \$500 million more if we can get it, we need \$1 billion more if we can get it, we will take all we can get from Ottawa and we will be thankful to the people of Canada that we can get it. And what is wrong with that? That is the spirit of Confederation. When we joined Confederation in 1949 we knew what was coming, we never had a road nor a hospital worth talking about. You would not know but the people of Canada were all in favour of sending equalization payments down, you would not know but there is nobody in Ontario or Alberta who does not like the idea, you would not know but they were up there prepared to give all their income taxes, all their income to the people of Newfoundland. Do not be so foolish! There are people in Ontario now who would like to see us starve if they could, because they are taxed to the burden now, taxed right to the hilt.

MR. NEARY: Ontario even qualifies for equalization grants.

MR. MOORES: This is a very real problem in this country. You would not know but there was a financial pipeline from the three or four 'have' provinces in this country. We should be thankful that Confederation, the whole concept of Confederation, is as it is.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on -

MR. NEARY: Carry on, keep her going.

MR. CALLAN: You were promised a half hour, you know.

November 30, 1981

Tape No. 3889

SD-3

MR. MOORES:
half an hour yet?

Have I not been speaking for

MR. SPEAKER (BUTT):
minutes left.

The hon. member has about seven

MR. STIRLING:
secondary education?

How about the need for post-

MR. HODDER:

side, it probably sounds like an hour.

To the crowd over on the other

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. MOORES:

My colleague, the Leader of the
Opposition (Mr. Stirling), just mentioned to me -

MR. MOORES: one of the difficulties, Mr. Speaker, in dealing with specifics in a speech like this, it is like a preacher who is giving a sermon - if he gets into facts he misses the main thrust, If you get into specifics- the main thrust of what I want to give to you is what is going on in this Province in terms of how the Premier is misleading the people on the economy, not only the economy but hundreds of other things, whether it is a strike with the NAPE employees, the College of Trades and Technology or anything, they will come out and they will give you figures and facts that are absolutely designed to mislead, to give a false position so that the people of Newfoundland who are listening on television or in the papers or something like that, will be green enough to follow it.

Well, the Memorial University students caught up on it. On the front page of the Muse this week they caught up on it, they caught the Premier at his goodies and goodies. And I am so proud of them. Take nothing back, Mr. Speaker, I am as proud as a peacock that the staff of the Muse, Memorial University students, the so-called un-adults, the immature, the inexperienced, anyone is supposed to be able to pull the wool over their eyes, so proud of them that they have come to the forefront once again and they have seen what hundreds of thousands of Newfoundlanders have been, to this point, unable to see. Now, I could tell you why the people of this Province have been unable to see it, but we will get into a very delicate condemnation of an aspect of society which I dealt with Friday morning in a point of privilege, and I do not want to get into that today. But that is- I have always said, and I can sum it up in one sentence, that the single most important obstruction to good government in this Province right now is the media. And I am glad to see that one medium, the Muse, has been responsible enough to call a spade a spade and say it to the Premier of Newfoundland, and they put it in writing - do you have that paper there, 'Len'- they put

MR. MOORES: it in writing, they never minced any words, they never pulled any punches, they said very clearly, Mr. Speaker, 'The staff of this paper, after much deliberation, decided on Monday to refuse the ad. We could not, in good conscience, allow this paper to be the vehicle for what we consider misleading propaganda directed at students'. Now, there it is, Now, that is it, Now, there it is, straightforward, a spade is a spade. And if there is any newspaper -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. MOORES: - that is a fact, Mr. Speaker, no question about it, anyone who has deceived themselves in believing that these are not the leaders of the Province of tomorrow, then just look around you. There are a dozen of us here who are former Memorial graduates, and every town council and school that I know of, and almost every Crown corporation in this Province, managers of stores like Woolco and The Bay right now, were the graduates when I went to university.

MR. WARREN: Right on.

MR. MOORES: And these young people, seventeen and eighteen years old, have been able to do in a mature, adult, responsible manner what the media, the so-called mature media, the professionals, have not had the courage to do, have not had to guts to stand up and do.

MR. MOORES: And they called a spade a spade. And I have been calling a spade a spade and so happy, Mr. Speaker, that after two years - I remember when Mr. Jamieson was the leader of this party, I met out in the corridor with him one Friday morning. He asked me to speak - when the Premier was in preparation of a Premier's press statement he asked me to speak and I said, "Mr. Jamieson, I am going to have to call a spade a spade, boy. If you are expecting me to go in there, withhold punches and cower down, then I cannot do it'.

MR. HOUSE: Did you say 'boy' or 'Mr. Jamieson'?

MR. MOORES: Mr. J. I said, 'A spade is a spade and I have to call it that, and I came into this House and I made what I thought to be one of the finest speeches I have ever made, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Butt): One minute.

MR. MOORES: No doubt about it.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. MOORES: No. Mr. Jamieson came out afterwards in the corridor and tapped me on the shoulder and he said, 'Boy, that was as fine a delivery as I have ever heard'. Mr. Speaker, that morning I condemned this administration for exactly the same thing as I am doing now, deceit, misleading the people of this Province, trying to conceal and cover up their waste, their skulduggery of the worst kind.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here now with a clear conscience, that is the third time in a year and a half that I have said it, that I have done my part in effectively bringing this deceit and misleading to the attention of the public of this Province. Thank you very much.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Butt): The hon. the member for Grand Bank.

MR. THOMS: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

MR. CARTER: (Inaudible).

MR. THOMS: Oh, no. No, I have not progressed to the same state as my hon. friend from St. John's North (Mr. Carter), I am still incapable of spewing out the poison and the -

MR. NEARY: And the hatred.

MR. THOMS: - and the hatred and the vindictiveness -

MR. TULK: The viciousness.

MR. THOMS: - the viciousness, and a few more adjectives that I can use here that are the trademark -

MR. CALLAN: And the unsavoury remarks.

MR. SPEAKER (Baird): Order!

MR. THOMS: - of my hon. friend from St. John's North.

MR. NEARY: When he is here.

MR. THOMS: When he is here. Well, I guess we will see more of him now. Because, I guess, the savoury season is over now, we will see more of him in the House of Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I guess simply what this particular act does is separate the Comptroller of the Province, or the Comptroller General of the Province - the two positions, Comptroller General and The Deputy Minister of Finance, making them two separate positions. It is unfortunate that we cannot bring an act into this House, or have the proper deed done by the Premier of this Province, to separate this administration from the people of this Province. Because I think it is about time we had an act, we had a deed from the Premier which would

MR. THOMS: accomplish that, and that, of course, would be calling a general election and then, maybe, we could do something about the financial situation in the Province of Newfoundland.

But I am afraid that as long as we have a Premier of this Province and an administration in this Province that are going to insist on fiddling while Rome burns, or while Newfoundland goes down the economic drainpipe, then there is not much hope. The economy of this Province today - I came back from university some sixteen years ago and I have been working in St. John's during that period of time and, Mr. Speaker, I have never, never seen the economy or the depression, and the depression of the people as bad as it is today.

There is so little hope, Mr. Speaker, in Newfoundland today that it is frightening, it is absolutely frightening. One cannot put all the blame on the provincial government, and I would not want to put all the blame on the provincial government. I have had my few words, I tried to slap the odd wrist as far as Ottawa is concerned, but, Mr. Speaker, what I cannot

MR. THOMS:

take, what I cannot stomach, what the people of this Province cannot take - and I would suggest that if hon. members opposite want to get the same reading, they should try going outside the overpass one of these days and finding out what the people are saying.

MR. NEARY:

Right on, Sir!

MR. THOMS:

It is a fact that as far as the finances of this Province are concerned, as far as the economy of this Province is concerned, as far as the social well-being of this Province is concerned, this administration is doing nothing. We have a Premier of this Province who shrugs his shoulders and says, 'What can I do about it? What can I do about the economy of this Province?' Mr. Speaker, the Premier of this Province and the Cabinet Ministers opposite are conclusive proof of the 'Peter' principle, you know, incompetence plus incompetence equals incompetence, and everyone in the administration on the other side has reached that level of incompetence. They can no longer perform. The government of this Province can no longer perform. They are doing nothing. The best thing that the Premier of this Province could do today, this minute, is to call an election and let the people of this Province elect somebody, elect a party that is prepared to do something.

You know, one of the classic differences between a Tory, like the member for St. John's West (Mr. Barrett), and a Liberal, is the Liberals are doers. They do things.

MR. SPEAKER (Butt):

Order, please!

The hon. member is now straying.

MR. THOMS:

I am certainly trying to show that the administration of this Province could and should be

MR. THOMS: in better hands.

MR. POWER: Who do you suggest as an alternative?

MR. THOMS: As an alternative?

MR. POWER: Yes.

MR. THOMS: We have a leader, we have a party.

All we need, Mr. Speaker, is an election. That is all we need.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. THOMS: And we will let the people of Newfoundland decide.

DR. COLLINS: Point them out to us.

MR. THOMS: Yes, I think my hon. friend from the Strait of Belle Isle (Mr. Roberts) is a much more competent individual to be the Minister of Finance than the present Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins).

MR. CARTER: Sure he never comes to the House.
MR. NEARY: Or Justice.

MR. THOMS: Or Minister of Justice.

My friend from Terra Nova (Mr. Lush) - I could not think of a better Minister of Education.

MR. SPEAKER (Butt): Order, please!

The hon. member is straying from the bill that we are debating, which is "An Act To Amend The Department Of Finance Act".

MR. THOMS: Mr. Speaker, one gets carried away when people on the other side ask what can be done to straighten out the finances in this Province, the mess we are in, the depression of the people. Now, I know what depression is like. Last Thursday I went to the district of Grand Bank.

MR. CARTER: The firsttime this year.

MR. THOMS: No, it is not the first time this year and it is not the twentieth time this year. I will tell the hon. the member for St. John's North

MR. THOMS: that I have been in my district ten times more than he has been in St. John's North.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. THOMS: They have not seen you since you were elected. Now, it just proves one thing, it proves how Tory St. John's North is, that is all it does.

MR. CARTER: Did you see anyone down there you knew?

MR. THOMS: Yes, indeed I did.

Mr. Speaker, I was talking about the economy of this Province, and certainly the finances of this Province are tied in with the economy of the Province. Why is not the road - why do we have the farce from Lawn to Lord's Cove, Mr. Speaker?

MR. CARTER: Because it is a Liberal district.

MR. THOMS: Ah! Ah! Now, finally, we get a little bit of honesty from the hon. member for St. John's North. Because, Mr. Speaker - and let the records show - he said, "It is because it is a Liberal district".

MR. L. THOMS: Now, how cruel and callous can a member of the government be when he admits in the House -

MR. CARTER: (Inaudible).

MR. THOMS: Well, I will remind the member for St. John's North (Mr. Carter), Mr. Speaker, that it is a long road that has got no turning. But, Mr. Speaker, it is because of the financial situation in this Province today, it is because we do not have our DREE agreement signed, it is because we can turn down \$178 million over three years. And that is what this Premier has done. Over three years he has turned down \$180 million. 'We do not want your dirty old money Ottawa, take it and stick it. We do not want it. While construction companies in this Province are going bankrupt every day, while stores are closing up -

MR. WARREN: The stores are not fit (inaudible).

MR. THOMS: - while we have thirty or forty thousand people unemployed, this is the attitude that this administration is taking.

MR. LUSH: Those are only the ones that we are aware of.

MR. L. THOMS: This is why a proposal from the Lake Group Limited has been taken, in a sense, out of the hands of the provincial government and sent to Ottawa for assistance. Now, we need the formality of an approval by the provincial government -

MR. NEARY: Five million.

MR. L. THOMS: - because it is their jurisdiction. But, Mr. Speaker, do not anybody in this House ever doubt - it should take the Minister of Finance and the Cabinet, on Thursday, about five seconds to approve the proposal.

MR. NEARY: Then they can start bashing Ottawa again.

MR. THOMS: Because all the money that is

MR. L. THOMS: being asked for is being asked to come from Ottawa.

MR. S. NEARY: How much from Ottawa?

MR. L. THOMS: From Ottawa!

MR. NEARY: Twenty million from Ottawa?

MR. THOMS: And that is from an administration.

MR. POWER: Inaudible.

MR. THOMS: What is the hon. minister for Ferryland (Mr. Power talking about now?

MR. POWER: (Inaudible) federal government (inaudible)

MR. L. THOMS: Okay, but this is an administration that can turn down \$180 million in a transportation agreement. They do not want it.

MR. S. NEARY: Five million from Newfoundland, twenty-five million from Ottawa.

MR. L. THOMS: The finances of this Province, Mr. Speaker, are what is depressing the people of this Province. If this Province had a good financial base, if this Province was administered properly, we would not have the situation in Grand Bank and Fermuese and Gaultois that we have today. We would not have it, but because the Province is being mismanaged, absolutely, totally mismanaged by this administration, then we have a very depressed economy.

MR. CALLAN: The member for Mount Scio does not want any.

MR. L. THOMS: For the first time, Mr. Speaker, in my life, I think there are people in this Province who do not have food on the table.

MR. NEARY: Right on.

MR. THOMS: They do not have food on the table.

MR. NEARY: It is outrageous.

MR. THOMS: I ran across a situation like that in my district where, prior to the close of the fish

MR. L. THOMS: plant, a man in August took his wife on a holiday. He had a few dollars in the bank and he took his family on a vacation never dreaming that the fish plant, when he came back from his holiday, would be closed. He took the few dollars he had and he went on vacation and he spent it. Now, I was surprised too, I was told by the Lake Group, Mr. Speaker, seven days before the fish plant in Grand Bank closed up that was no way in the world that the Grand Bank plant or the Fortune fish plant were going to close. I was told that seven days before the Grand Bank plant and the Fortune plant closed their doors. So can you blame this man who goes on a vacation, and spends the few dollars that he has got to have a vacation? He comes back expecting to go to work and get a paycheck the week after, But when he got back the fish plant was closed. He is now there, he has got no money, he has no food on the table and he calls the welfare office -

MR. TULK: He has some chance there.

MR. THOMS: - he called the welfare office, and the welfare office said -

MR. NEARY: Ninety days.

MR. L. THOMS: - there is nothing we can do for you because there is a ninety day regulation, that if you have made so much money in a three month -

MR. HODDER: It does not matter if you are hungry.

MR. THOMS: - three month period, that if you made so much money in a three month period then you could not receive welfare. So he called me, Mr. Speaker, and I called the welfare officer and I explained the situation again to the welfare officer. And I am going to tell you, Mr. Speaker, what this welfare officer said because I think it should be told.

MR. NEARY: Sure.

MR. THOMS: I explained the situation to him and he said, "But I cannot give him welfare, I cannot give him any assistance". And I said, "Why not?". He said, "Because there is a policy -

MR. NEARY: The minister told him not to.

MR. THOMS: - "that if you made a certain amount of money in the three months previous to your requesting the assistance, if you made so much money during those three months you could not get welfare, you could not get assistance".

MR. TULK: Give the amounts (inaudible).

MR. THOMS: And I said to him, I said, "But - calling him by name - this is an emergency. The man has got no food on his table". I said, "You cannot do this to him". Do you know what the answer was? Would the Minister of Education (Ms. Verge) like to guess what the answer was that that welfare officer gave me? Would the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mrs. Newhook) like to guess what the answer that welfare officer gave me over the phone was? He was lucky it was over the phone. He said, "Les, you just watch me". That was his answer, "You just watch me". I said, "You cannot refuse him assistance". He said, "You just watch me".

MR. NEARY: Acting on instructions from the minister.

MR. THOMS: That was his answer to a family that did not have anything to eat.

MR. TULK: It is not the first time.

MR. THOMS: Now, for the first time - you talk about the economy of this Province -

MR. CARTER: (Inaudible).

MR. THOMS: It is not funny. If the member for St. John's North (Mr. Carter) thinks it is funny, it is not. If the member for St. John's North thinks that the situation in Grand Bank today is funny, let him stand on his feet and say so. But for the first time, Mr. Speaker -

MR. CARTER: How do we know this is true? What document have you got to back it up?

MR. NEARY: I have got a letter down here from (inaudible) who had to go away for a kidney transplant.

MR. SPEAKER (BUTT): Order, please!

MR. THOMS: For the first time in this Province, Mr. Speaker, there are people who are hungry, there are people who do not have food on the table.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

I do not wish to interrupt the hon. member but he is drifting away from this bill, "An Act To Amend The Department Of Finance Act".

MR. THOMS: Mr. Speaker, it is about time in this Province, and in this administration's term in office, that they start doing something or trying to do something. All I would ask is that there be an attempt, there would be an attempt to do something.

MR. CARTER: What did the member do after he (inaudible).

MR. THOMS: Oh, do not you worry, the member had a few choice words to that particular person and that family got assistance.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it is not easy to keep, you know, to the topic of your debate with the member for St. John's North interrupting all the time. But, Mr. Speaker, this is one of the problems and

MR. THOMS: this is one of the great disappointments in this administration, it is one of the great disappointments in this Premier (Mr. Peckford), that he is not taking any action, that he is not doing anything, that he is putting all the blame for the financial situation of this Province on Ottawa. In one breath he is blaming Ottawa and in another breath he is refusing to accept money from Ottawa. At least he should be consistent. If nothing else he should be consistent. But I wish he would be consistent in accepting money from Ottawa. Because, Mr. Speaker, I can assure you that the only dollars that are being spent

MR. THOMS: in the District of Grand Bank are monies that come from Ottawa. I think an awful lot of people criticize the make work programs, the Canada development program, or community programs, a lot of people criticize them, but when I go in to Lord's Cove and I see sixteen or twenty people working, building fishermen's sheds and slipways and -

MR. MORGAN: In Lawn.

MR. THOMS: No.

MR. HOLLETT: Lawn is a special one.

MR. THOMS: That is right. And I am telling you that every dollar that is going into the fisheries in that particular district, as far as construction of sheds and slipways and so on is concerned, is federal dollars.

MR. MORGAN: That is bull.

MR. THOMS: They are federal dollars.

MR. MORGAN: Lawn is getting money from us. Lord's Cove is getting money from us.

MR. THOMS: Who?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. THOMS: Where is the money, where, where?

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

MR. THOMS: Where is the province putting money into Lord's Cove?

MR. MORGAN: Ask Mr. Edwards in Lawn he will tell you.

MR. THOMS: Yes, okay. I will ask Joe. Anytime Joe Edwards wants to tell me, he can tell me where it is coming from. Anytime Peter Hennebury in Lord's Cove wants to tell me, but there is no money going in to -

MR. HOLLETT: Tell us the amounts.

MR. MORGAN: (Inaudible) all out there.

MR. THOMS: Mr. Speaker, without those federal dollars, there would be nothing happening whatsoever, and these are the type of dollars that this administration is

MR. THOMS: turning down -

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. THOMS: - day in an day out in this Province, while unemployment - there are 12,000 more out of work now than there were a year ago.

MR. NEARY: Shocking! Shocking!

MR. THOMS: 12,000 more people out of work in Newfoundland today than there were a year ago.

MR. NEARY: Shocking!

MR. THOMS: Companies are going bankrupt, individuals are going bankrupt, stores are closing. And do not forget, Mr. Speaker, when we look at the statistics of bankruptcy, for every company or every individual who goes into official bankruptcy. in other words, there are receivers appointed, there are another ten or twelve or fifteen where there is no official bankruptcy at all -

MR. NEARY: Horrible, horrible, horrible!

MR. THOMS: - so you can take the figures -

If they say there were 5,000 bankruptcies across Canada in a particular month, you can multiply that by 10 or 12 or 15 if you want to get the true figure.

Mr. Speaker, it is not very often that we get a chance now - it is a strange thing, you know, everybody that I meet in Newfoundland is talking about the economy, how bad it is, how depressed they are

MR. HISCOCK: It is not Peckford's fault though.

MR. THOMS: Okay. No, this present government is not taking any of the blame. It is the only administration I have ever seen, Mr. Speaker, that can take credit for doing nothing and try to blame it on everybody else.

MR. MORGAN: Does the hon. member (inaudible) that the most recent statistics show that 88 per cent of small businesses across Canada failed in the past twelve months.

MR. THOMS: 88 percent!

MR. MORGAN: 88 per cent across Canada.

MR. THOMS: Yes, well, are we proud of that? Am I supposed to be proud of that?

MR. ROBERTS: About 100 per cent here, I am afraid.

MR. MORGAN: So the economy is only bad here in Newfoundland, is it?

MR. THOMS: I am not saying, never said, never said - you see, the hon. the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) is not getting my point.

MR. MORGAN: (Inaudible) two months.

MR. THOMS: He is not getting my point.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Order!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. TULK: Blame it on somebody else.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. THOMS: I am not saying the economy is not bad anywhere else, what I am saying is that the economy is bad in Newfoundland -

MR. MORGAN: It is worse in (inaudible).

MR. THOMS: - and this administration is doing nothing about it.

MR. NEARY: It is worse here because of the -

MR. THOMS: And not even attempting to do anything about it.

MR. ROBERTS: Not even aware there is a problem, really.

MR. THOMS: Not even aware there is a problem. And the Premier of this Province goes on radio and television, shrugs his shoulders and says, 'Our only hope is in oil and gas'.

MR. THOMS: Well, the only hope, Mr. Speaker, for the people of Grand Bank is not in oil and gas.

MR. NEARY: A change of government.

MR. THOMS: It is not oil and gas, it is the fisheries.

MR. WARREN: It is cod-liver oil.

MR. THOMS: And what are we trying to do about it? We have a situation in Grand Bank which is purely, totally, totally provincial jurisdiction.

MR. HOLLETT: (Inaudible) the Northern cod.

MR. NEARY: Separate from Canada (inaudible).

MR. MORGAN: (Inaudible).

MR. THOMS: I am not being silly and the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) knows I am not being silly. It is totally -

MR. TULK: Oh, listen to Chubby Checker.

MR. THOMS: And that is why the proposals from the Lake's have been going to the provincial government.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. THOMS: That is why we need a decision from the provincial government, because it is the provincial government's sole responsibility.

MR. WARREN: Where did you get that name for him?

MR. TULK: He likes to be called Chubby Checker.

MR. THOMS: Now, after having made a decision the Province may not have the capability of solving the problems in the fisheries on the South coast of this Province -

MR. TULK: Chubby J. Charlie Morgan.

MR. THOMS: - so this is where, Mr. Speaker, this is where the Premier of this Province and the Minister of Fisheries turn to Ottawa looking for help. Now, I know

MR. THOMS: it must be very, very difficult for the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) of this Province to turn to anyone, let alone Ottawa, for help, because he is the best example of negativism that I have ever seen in my life.

MR. ROBERTS: (Inaudible) of negativism.

MR. THOMS: That man, it is impossible for him to be positive about anything that Ottawa does. He is not satisfied unless he is on the radio and television six or eight times on a weekend.

MR. WARREN: Making a fool of himself.

MR. THOMS: But what is he doing?

MR. MORGAN: (Inaudible) next Monday in Ottawa with Romeo.

MR. ROBERTS: Keep your back to the wall.

MR. THOMS: Oh, yes.

MR. TULK: Chubby J. Charlie, will you be quiet.

MR. MORGAN: Come on! Come on!

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

MR. THOMS: Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that this Province is taking a do-nothing attitude. I am getting sick and tired of hearing members on the other side get up and talk about the Upper Churchill and the giveaway programmes of the previous, previous, previous administration. The campaign slogan of the Premier of this Province in the last election was: 'Step Forward Into The '80s with Peckford'. Now, we have done nothing since this House opened except look backwards to the '60s with Smallwood. Now, when, in what period of this present administration's terms of office, are we going to start looking forward into the '80s and try to do something about the economic situation of this Province today?

MR. THOMS: There is no member in this House, Mr. Speaker, no one, who has the problems facing him as a provincial member of this House than I do.

MR. MORGAN: (Inaudible).

MR. HOLLETT: He is being sane and rational about it, that is more than some people are doing.

MR. THOMS: I would like to know what the hon. minister is doing about it, who has had several proposals in for a long time, and we are waiting for replies or waiting for decisions? The Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) indicated that we may finally get a decision this coming Thursday when Cabinet meets and hopefully approves it.

MR. NEARY: Five million dollars from the Province, \$20 million from Ottawa.

MR. THOMS: But, Mr. Speaker, I would ask the minister

MR. THOMS: what they have been doing for this last five or six months, not what I am doing. On the 21st. of August I was assured that the plants were not going to close, and they closed on August 28th. But the people of Grand Bank are not interested in the Premier of this Province going on radio and television day in and day out fed bashing, lambasting every minister from the Newfoundland representative, whoever happens to be there that he wants to blast at the time. The people of Grand Bank, who are 100 per cent directly dependent on the fisheries, Mr. Speaker, are not interested in turning on their radios or televisions or picking up the newspaper and seeing the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) time in, time out, day in, day out fighting with Romeo LeBlanc.

MR. MORGAN: I have not had a fight with Romeo over the last few months.

MR. THOMS: Yes for the last few days.

MR. MORGAN: The last few months.

MR. SPEAKER (SIMMS): Order! Order!

MR. THOMS: You have not had a fight with Romeo since the last time you opened your big mouth.

MR. SPEAKER: Order! Order!

MR. MORGAN: (Inaudible) to him any more.

MR. THOMS: Not since the last time you opened your big mouth.

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

MR. NEARY: Wait until we get Cashin up there as Minister of Fisheries.

MR. THOMS: Mr. Speaker, as I was saying, what concerns me is the number of Newfoundlanders who are leaving Newfoundland. What concerns me is the number of people

MR. THOMS: in Grand Bank who think that if a decision by this government is not made pretty soon, they are going to be leaving Grand Bank and going looking for jobs in other parts of the Province and other parts of the country. What concerns me is the dissipation of a good, good work force. There is none better in this Province than in Grand Bank.

MR. BARRETT: (Inaudible).

MR. THOMS: And if the member for St. John's West (Mr. Barrett), who would not know a sculpin from a flatfish, thinks that is funny, then let him talk about it again. If the other side of this House thinks the situation in Grand Bank is funny, let them have the guts to get up and say so.

MR. WARREN: All he is interested in is DAC.

MR. THOMS: But why do you not try going down there? Why do you not try going down and spending a day down in Grand Bank and talking to people -

MR. NEARY: They are too cowardly for that.

MR. THOMS: - and find out what they think of the economy of this Province?

MR. MORGAN: (Inaudible) tomorrow. They are all coming in tomorrow.

MR. THOMS: Yes, they are all coming in tomorrow. This administration is doing a great favour.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

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

MR. THOMS: I was talking to those who were sneering about the situation. So, Mr. Speaker, I would like to see this administration do something, not just to throw up its hands and say, There is nothing it can do. As I said, this Province is wasting away. Newfoundland is burning while Nero is fiddling and it is about time that they accepted their responsibility,

MR. THOMS: either accept their
responsibility and govern this Province or let the
Premier call an election and let the people of Newfoundland
decide whether or not something should be done about it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR. HISCOCK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I,
in speaking on Bill 113, An Act To Amend The Department
Of Finance Act, am rather concerned that not only is
the state of the economy in such a way but the real
question that I think is before our Province is what are
we doing with money that we do have, what is the quality
of life that we want to provide for our people, and what
are we going to do with that in the future? And what
are we going to do with the potential development of
Hibernia and the course that we are going to lead this
Province on?

 It will only be a couple of more
years and we will be 400 years old, this Province, the
beginning of the Empire. And here we are sitting here -
here we are sitting in this House and sometimes children
is not the attitude we are acting because at least
children have the excuse of being that age. We
being adults are supposed to be adults and

MR. HISCOCK:

provide leadership and I believe very strongly at times we have a tendency to lose sight of the goal and the goal obviously is to provide a better economic, social quality of life for our people and enhance this area of the world. And in that regard the Liberal Party in this Province, through its centuries whether it be Bond, Whiteway or Squires or Smallwood, have laid great, great foundations for this Province. We have laid the foundation of Health, we laid the foundation of Education, we laid the foundation of Transportation, of the Fisheries, of economic viability of the Province. Now we have seen a period of ten years, basically got in power on an anti-administration platform, got in there and, as the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) often says, 'They got in there but they had no philosophy, they did not know where they were going. They found out that they had two or three Conservatives, a few turncoats and a few other people who latched onto the bandwagon, and hence they are in power for ten years. But now, Mr. Speaker, what are we seeing happening to education? The Minister of Education (Ms. Verge) is saying we are spending more money than ever before in the history of our Province on education, that has been the record or the history of this Province ever since it had a history.

MR. MARSHALL: A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Order, please!

A point of order has been raised by the hon. the President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL: The hon. gentleman is not being relevant to the bill, Mr. Speaker. This is not the Address in Reply, this is a bill with respect to the re-organization of the Department of Finance. It does not touch upon the Minister of Education's estimates and it does not relate to the last -

MR. HISCOCK: What do you do with the money after you collect it?

MR. SPEAKER (Simms):

Order, please!

MR. MARSHALL:

- election, neither does it relate to the next twenty years of Tory administration.

MR. HISCOCK:

To the point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

To the point of order, the hon. member for Eagle River.

MR. HISCOCK:

Mr. Speaker, with regard to the point of order, I am quite aware that I am having a wide range of latitude and I will confine myself to the points, but I was only going by what members of the opposite side were doing, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

To the point of order, there is a legitimate point of order. Obviously the hon. member has acknowledged it himself and I would ask him to try to contain his remarks as best he can to the principle of the bill that we are now debating.

The hon. member for Eagle River.

MR. HISCOCK:

Mr. Speaker, the question that I asked and the question I will ask again, what is the philosophical base of this Province, this government of ours? What are we going to do when we re-organize the Department of Finance or Fisheries or anything else and collect all the taxes and collect all the money? What are we going to do with it then? Is that what we are doing, setting up the bills and re-organizing them and bringing in money? Is that the only reason why we are elected to this House? I am asking the question, what are we going to do with it after? And this government has no policy, so much so that we are having to put an extra dollar on the Grade XI results - get it from children. We are finding out that we are putting rabbit licences up to five dollars, motor registration is going up. This is the administration, Mr. Speaker, that said that there were going to be no increases in taxes. So with regard, Mr. Speaker, to this bill -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh.

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MR. SPEAKER (Simms):

Order, please! Order, please!

MR. HISCOCK:

- we have seen great advances -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. HISCOCK:

- in education. And now, Mr.

Speaker, I believe very strongly we are going to see them stripped

MR. HISCOCK: like they have never been stripped before. The Minister of Education (Ms. Verge), Mr. Speaker, when she said Grade XII, does she realize, or does this government realize that it was almost into November before some of the schools had their supplies for some of these courses?

But with regard to another part of education, we are talking about equalization and how the new federal budget is cut down, I had the privilege of talking with the Secretary of State for Canada about post-secondary education, Mr. Regan, down in Grand Bank, and I asked him two things: Number one, where he is the Minister of Post-Secondary Education, can he look into the possibility of doing away with interest rates for the students, on student loans, so that it can become tax deductible - and they are looking into that. The other question I asked: What about - with regard to this finance bill that we are talking about - post-secondary education, cost sharing with the provincial government?

The federal government said they are looking at the possibility of providing more money for Memorial. And the reason why they are providing more money is that the Atlantic Provinces have a lower per capita national student enrollment than Canada and he, being a former Premier of one of the Atlantic Province is basically saying, 'We need to improve, and if I have anything to do with these negotiations we will have more money'. But is the Premier saying this? Is the Minister of Education (Ms. Verge) saying this? No, they are not. The only one who is saying this is the Secretary of State for Post-Secondary Education, Mr. Gerald Regan.

MR. HISCOCK: Here we are as a Province, again as to the member for Carbonear (Mr. Moores), it is deception, downright deception. And I, for one, Mr. Speaker, will be voting against this bill if we are not going to collect the money the right way and spend the money the right way. Mr. Speaker, we are not spending it the right way. And the same thing can be said for Health, Social Services, Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, as it is now getting near to six o'clock I move the adjournment of the debate.

MR. ROBERTS: Well said.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): The hon. member adjourns the debate and wishes to call it six o'clock. Is it agreed to call it six o'clock?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Agreed.

The hon. the President of the Council.

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

On motion, the House at its rising adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, December 1, 1981, at 3:00 p.m.