

VOL. 1

NO. 13

PRELIMINARY
UNEDITED
TRANSCRIPT

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
FOR THE PERIOD:
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 1982

The House met at 3:00 P.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order, please!

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Bellevue.

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point

of privilege. The point of privilege relates to yesterday's Question Period when in my opinion the Premier breached the privileges of this House. Now, Mr. Speaker, this is the earliest possible time that I could bring up this matter since I received the transcript of Hansard just this morning.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I hope to lay out a prima facie case against the Premier as it relates to what happened yesterday in the Question Period. Mr. Speaker, yesterday in the Question Period I asked the Minister of Health (Mr. House) a couple of questions, three actually, but then the Premier got into the act and he answered the third question for the Minister of Health and then I had the opportunity to ask the fourth and the Premier answered that one.

Let me just briefly review as I quote from yesterday's Hansard. I asked the Premier, I said, "Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Health has just finished saying that this decision, the decision to close down the Markland Hospital, has been ongoing for awhile." And I said, "The members of the Markland Cottage Hospital Improvement Committee informed me last Spring, on April 6th., as a matter of fact, four days before a by-election in that area, the Premier told the committee out there that his government is opposed to closing or downgrading cottage hospitals, including the Markland Hospital, and the Premier also gave a commitment at that time to that committee that his officials would research and introduce proposals regarding a new outpatient clinic in addition to maintaining the cottage hospital at Markland." So then I proceeded to ask the Minister of Health the question.

MR. CALLAN: The Premier said, "I will respond to that." And the Premier answering said, "In the meeting that I held with the hospital people at that time, I indicated to them that there would not be both a hospital and a clinic at Markland," there would not be both, I indicated that to the people last Spring. "But," he says, "we were going to phase down the hospital and replace it over time with a new clinic. There was not to be both a separate building called a clinic and

MR. CALLAN:

an ongoing cottage hospital." And so the Premier says, "So I think the hon. member"- referring to me - "has his facts sort of muddled. The situation that we debated at length with the people from Markland and the area was that over a time the cottage hospital would be phased out, that it was quite unreasonable to expect that over any length of time you could continue to have a clinic operating in that old building and that a new clinic would have to be built to have the kind of medical facilities there that were still needed, but that the hospital would be phased down and a new building for a clinic would be built." And the Premier said, "That is what I told the people at the hospital at Markland at the time and that is what they understood. And I have had meetings with them since that time and discussions with them since that time and there was never any indication that there would be both, a clinic and a hospital, but that the hospital as it now existed would be phased down, that that building may be unsuitable for a clinic ongoing for any length of time, and that a new building would have to be built for a clinic for the people of that area." And then I asked the Premier one final question and I said, "Mr. Speaker, I just referred to the meeting that was held with the Premier last April 6, 1981 and now on March 30th of this year, 1982, six days before the provincial election, the Premier attended a public meeting in Norman's Cove and following that public meeting the Premier met with the Improvement Committee again, the Hospital Improvement Committee, and the Premier told the committee at that time, the Premier stated emphatically that the out-patients clinic would be constructed during his term of office. He further stated that the clinic would be constructed adjoining the Markland Hospital, adjoining,

MR. CALLAN: in addition to the Markland Hospital." Now then the Premier in response to that question from me answered, "Mr. Speaker, I can answer that. I do not remember meeting formally", he said, "I do not remember formally with the Committee. There might have been a few members of the Committee present at that rally, but the situation was simply that I indicated to the people there that it was the government's intention if we were elected that the cottage hospital would be phased down," he said, "There would be no longer a cottage there and a new building next to where-and that is where they want it, by the way, that is where the people wanted it. They wanted the new building to be next to where the old building is now and that it would be a clinic." And the Premier concluded by saying, "Now, I do not know how the hon. member interprets adjoining, but it was clear to everybody that the cottage

MR. CALLAN: hospital was to be downgraded or phased out and there would be a new building built which would be the building for the clinic at Markland, to serve that area. That is clearly understood by everybody out there and it is only the hon. member who is confused, Mr. Speaker,"the Premier concluded.

Now then, Mr. Speaker, in a telephone conversation with the chairman of that committee, the Markland Hospital Improvement Committee, in a telephone conversation this morning, the chairman, who has been on the air waves, by the way, the chairman of that committee, who I assume represents the committee and is speaking for the committee - and, by the way, of the six members on the committee, there were three at that rally in Norman's Cove, three who met with the Premier following the rally, so there were not a couple of members or a few or one or two, there were three, there was half. Now, Mr. Speaker, the chairman of that committee tells me this morning that in a brief that was submitted to the Premier and the Department of Health officials last Spring, the words 'adjacent to' and 'adjoining' were both used, the words that I used yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, let me quote now then, from this circular, this newsletter, which went to every householder in Bellevue and Norman's Cove and all of that area just before voting day.

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

The hon. the member for Bellevue (Mr. Callan) - and I have been listening intently - I think is taking an unusually long time to reach his point of privilege. I would ask him to get on with stating what his point of privilege is.

MR. CALLAN: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Let me refer to a newspaper article this morning: " The provincial

MR. CALLAN: government's plans to close down the Markland Cottage Hospital in Whitbourne are not popular with residents of the area. Wendy Murdoch of Green's Harbour said Monday that last week doctors at the sixteen bed hospital, Markland, were told by Cyril Galway, Chief Administrator of the Province's cottage hospitals, that government is going to begin phasing out the Markland hospital. She said, "this nurse,

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MR. W. CALLAN: " she said residents were surprised when they heard that, because in March during an address in Norman's Cove,"that I just referred to, "Premier Brian Peckford said they would not close the hospital down but would add a new outpatient clinic to it. There would be two facilities."

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Hear, hear!

MR. CALLAN: " The hospital would stay and a new clinic would be built."

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion then what I am saying is this, that here yesterday during the Question Period, and I have it substantiated now in conversation with the Chairman of that committee, and with other people through the airways and elsewhere, I have it confirmed that the Premier yesterday deliberately misled this House and, Mr. Speaker, he lied to this House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: Right on! Right on!

MR. CALLAN: So I conclude my case.

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

Certainly there is a strong rule of procedure in this House , and in any other House, that an hon. member cannot accuse another of deliberately misleading or lying to the House and I would certainly ask the member for Bellevue (Mr. W. Callan) to withdraw that statement.

SOME HON. MEMBER: Withdraw.

MR. CALLAN: Well, Mr. Speaker, given a choice between believing the Chairman of the committee and the others that I have talked to, and believing what the Premier said yesterday, Mr. Speaker, I stick by my statement.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. G. WARREN: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order, please!

I realize the situation that the hon. member for Bellevue (Mr. W. Callan) is in, and maybe he did make his comments in the heat of debate, and I would like for him to consider withdrawing his accusation against the Premier and making those unparliamentary comments.

MR. W. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker, I mean no discredit to the Chair whatsoever and, as I just finished saying, that it is in the heat of the moment and the catcalls from the other side, but as I just finished saying that given a choice between believing the Chairman of that committee and the other members on that committee and believing what the Premier said here yesterday, I cannot change my mind, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Bellevue has been given an opportunity to withdraw his unparliamentary comments and it is the Chair's opinion that he has refused to do so and unfortunately the Chair has no other choice but to name the hon. member for Bellevue and I do so name Mr. Wilson Callan.

MR. W. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I move the hon. the member for Bellevue be suspended for the remainder of this sitting, this day.

MR. HODDER : A point of order, Mr. Speaker. As I understand it from Beauchesne, Section 25, page 13, the fifth edition, that when a member is named by the Speaker he has the right to make a statement. The Speaker can then

MR. HODDER : name him. But then he has a right to make a statement to the House and then withdraw while the House makes its judgement. But to my understanding the member has not made a statement.

MR. MARSHALL: To the point of order, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. MARSHALL: If you read the words, it says, "When a member is named he has a right to make a statement to the House" - he has the right to make a statement - "and should then withdraw while the House is making its judgement." The hon. member withdrew and I propose -

MR. NEARY: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MARSHALL: - for the consideration of the House that the member be suspended for the sitting day.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

The hon. member for Bellevue (Mr. Callan) has withdrawn from the House.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, does that mean now that the hon. member is not entitled to make a statement?

Your Honour directed -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: He left his chair.

MR. NEARY: - the member to withdraw, which he did.

Now if the procedure -

MR. MARSHALL: No he did not, he named him.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: Named him and then asked him to withdraw. And the hon. Minister of Justice (Mr. Ottenheimer) told him to withdraw. I heard the hon. minister.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order, please!

MR. NEARY: And Your Honour directed him to withdraw, that is the important thing. So I believe the hon. member is entitled to make a statement, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

The Chair named the hon. member for Bellevue (Mr. Callan) but did not ask him to withdraw. The hon. member rose from his chair and withdrew. And the ruling is that he has lost his opportunity to make a statement.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is that the hon. member for Bellevue be barred from this House for the remaining of this sitting day.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Today.

MR. SPEAKER: Today. Just today.

MR. NEARY: Is this a debatable motion? Can we discuss that?

MR. SPEAKER: No.

MR. NEARY: No. Not debatable.

MR. SPEAKER: Those in favour "Aye", those against "Nay".

MR. NEARY: You talk about a dictatorship. Using brute force

SOME HON. MEMBERS: "Aye".

MR. SPEAKER: The "Ayes" have it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. MARSHALL: If I may, I believe we are still on the point of privilege made by the hon. member and I do want to address the regrettable point of privilege that the hon. member brought up and I hope I can address it from the point of view of Beauchesne and the authorities that are before us. I refer Your Honour to page 11, the oft-quoted passage number seventeen in Beauchesne: "A question of privilege ought rarely to come up in Parliament. It should be dealt with by a motion giving the House power to impose a reparation or apply a remedy. A genuine question of privilege is a most serious matter and it should be taken seriously by the House." And then further on page 12, "A dispute between two members as to allegation of fact does not fulfill the condition of Parliamentary privilege". This is what the hon. gentleman was, first of all, making the basis of his privilege,

MR. MARSHALL: a matter of his interpretation of the facts. Also further on in Subsection 3 of Section 19 "Statements made outside the House by a member may not be used as a base for a question of privilege." Neither, Mr. Speaker, should the statements made by individuals outside the House commenting upon statements made by members in this House, otherwise we are going to get into rather a Pandora's box. It is rather regrettable that the hon. gentleman decided to raise a point of privilege like this because in effect he is offending the privileges of this House by bringing up a matter of this nature that should be reserved for the most serious of situations.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, I will be very brief. I want to say just three things. First of all, the hon. the House Leader (Mr. Marshall), of course, broke the privilege of the House just now in casting aspersions upon the motives of the temporarily absent gentleman from Bellevue (Mr. Callan). Secondly, it is, of course, a matter of the utmost importance when the House is told that the veracity of the Premier is in question. Thirdly, if Your Honour finds there is a prima facie case, which is a condition precedent to a motion being made, I, for one, am prepared to move the appropriate motion which is to the effect that the matter be referred either to the Committee on Privileges and Elections, which has not been struck, or to a Select Committee. But, Your Honour, before anybody can move that Your Honour has to find there is a prima facie case. As I understood it, my temporarily absent friend from Bellevue was making his case in support of the case that there was a prima facie case when he used some words that breached the parliamentary canon, he refused to withdraw them in response

MR. MARSHALL: He did not make a statement
so he did not exercise his right.

PREMIER PECKFORD: He lost his opportunity

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order, please!
The Chair is satisfied that
it did not ask the hon. member to withdraw.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Order, please!
The Chair is satisfied that
it did not ask the hon. member to withdraw.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the member for
Terra Nova.

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, the topic I want
to raise, I do not do it with pride or any particular
delight, and that is to raise the issue of the tragic
sinking of the Ocean Ranger, But hon. members will recall
the circumstances at the time did not give members on
this side any opportunity to ask some questions because
of the election. But it is not the tragedy that we want
to direct ourselves to immediately, we want to ask some

MR. SPEAKER (RUSSELL): hon. members raising points of privilege which may or may not indeed be points of privilege, and in view of the seriousness of the allegation made by the hon. the member for Bellevue (Mr. Callan), I shall take the matter under advisement and hopefully make a decision on it tomorrow.

MR. HODDER: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the member for Port au Port.

MR. HODDER: I would like to quote Section 25, Beauchesne, Subsection 2: "When a Member is named (by the Speaker stating: 'Mr. X, it is my duty to name you for disregarding the authority of the Chair' or some such similar formula), he has the right to make a statement to the House and should then withdraw." Now, my understanding is that the member was asked to withdraw.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No, No.

MR. HODDER: But he had the right to make a statement and then withdraw while the House makes its judgement. Now, I submit, Mr. Speaker, that the member for Bellevue has the right to make a statement. Because, Mr. Speaker, Subsection 3 says that if the member satisfies the House by an apology, no further action is necessary. So I think, Mr. Speaker, that the member's privilege has been breached in that he did not have the chance to make another statement.

MR. MARSHALL: To the point of order, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. MARSHALL: The hon. gentleman is just pressing this to its outer limits. You know, the quotation there, he has the right to make a statement to the House and should then withdraw while the House makes a judgement. Now, he was not asked to withdraw by the Chair, Mr. Speaker. Your Honour did not ask him to withdraw, he withdrew.

MR. ROBERTS: to Your Honour's request that he do so ,and so Your Honour did all that you could do,which is name him,and so be it. But if it will help my learned friend from St. John's East (Mr. Marshall) in the least I am quite prepared to move that motion, Sir, seconded by my friend the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary),that the matter be referred and then we will see, Sir, whether the Premier, in fact, has told the truth in this House or whether he has not. Now, Sir, that depends on a ruling from the Chair that there is a prima facie case, and so if there is I am prepared to move the motion, Sir.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. MARSHALL: It is for Your Honour to decide whether there is a prima facie case or not. I will just leave it to the House from the point of view that a point of privilege did not arise in this particular case. It is rather a serious matter to bring up and I say to the Opposition, if they want to get on with the antics they have already been decimated by 50 per cent ;if they keep on going they will be rubbed out completely the next time.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

The Chair certainly takes a

dim view of

MR. LUSH: questions re the setting up of the commission of enquiry. On that, Mr. Speaker, I want to direct a question to the Premier and the question is, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Premier can inform hon. members just what input the Province had, or what input indeed it has with respect to the appointment of members to the commission and hiring of staff, or additional staff, to that particular commission?

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): The hon. Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, I find the hon. member's question rather odd in the sense that I think it is a matter of public record for several weeks now, if not a number of months, I think all the information was provided to the public, and thereby to the hon. member for Terra Nova, on how the royal commission got established. The two levels of government agreed upon three people from each government, three from the federal government and three from the Province, and the royal commission was established, and like all royal commissions they hire their own staff. They have that power under their appointment, to hire their own staff and I would assume that they about doing that, hiring their own staff and so on, as all royal commissions do. But it is public knowledge that the royal commission was established after consultation and negotiation between the two levels of government, provincial and federal, in which there are three persons representing each government as part of the commission, and then the commission is empowered to go ahead and carry out its work under the terms of reference that were given to the commission and has the power to hire staff.

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

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

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, I wonder again if the Premier can indicate to the House whether there is anybody on that

MR. LUSH: of the North Atlantic? Mr. Speaker, that is not to undermine any of the members. It is just a matter of information to ask the Premier whether there is anybody on this committee with that kind of expertise, this special expertise of working with oil rigs and knowing the conditions of the North Atlantic, the stormy and unpredictable conditions of the North Atlantic?

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

PREMIER PECKFORD: As I say, Mr. Speaker, I continue to be somewhat amazed at the lack of information that the hon. member has at this late time after the commission has been established. The biographies and the work experience of the six members of the commission have been a matter of public record. I can only assume that hon. gentlemen like the member for Terra Nova (Mr. Lush), who before he became a member of the House was an educator in this Province, and now since he became a member of this House is a parliamentarian, and he reads the newspapers and the information on important matters to the Province and to the country and that therefore he must be aware of the knowledge and experience that various individual commissioners have on this Royal Commission.

Suffice it for me to say in trying to enlighten the hon. member to some information that obviously he has forgotten that I have not, that there is one gentleman, and others of course on the commission, but there is one gentleman a man by the name of Mr. First, Tom First, who is extremely well qualified in this whole business of the conditions of the North Atlantic and of technological problems towards exploration and development of hydrocarbons. He had been head of NORDCO where a lot of work was done in this sphere. Additionally, of course, as with all

PREMIER PECKFORD: Royal Commissions, what you need is competent, open-minded people of integrity who when they do not have themselves within them the expertise that is necessary, seeks, finds and hires and gets the expertise necessary to make the kind of judgements that they will have to make.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. LUSH: Of course, because an hon. member asks a question it is not because he is not aware

MR. T. LUSH: of what the circumstances are and what the information is that he is soliciting, Mr. Speaker. It is a matter of ensuring that matters are the way that they should be in the public interest of the people of this Province, and indeed of Canada. Mr. Speaker, I understand that the gentleman to whom the Premier refers is - I have read the qualifications, remember them well; I am not sure that I know what they are - for example, indicates that the hon. gentleman is a marine engineer and is a naval architect. Now, I do not know what that does, Mr. Speaker, you know, with respect to familiarizing the gentleman with oil rigs and working in the conditions of the North Atlantic, which are quite unique. The question then, Mr. Speaker, is was there not any consideration given to appointing a master mariner, a mariner who knows the North Atlantic and knows the conditions of working on oil rigs, and particularly oil rigs in the North Atlantic, intimately?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, number one, I find this highly, highly unusual at this point in time. First of all the hon. member, when he got up to ask a supplementary question, said he knew all the information that I was giving. So, my question is, then, why did he ask the first question if he knew all the information? There seems to be seeping into the questioning some question and doubt as to the competence of the six people who are now serving as a Royal Commission into the Ocean Ranger disaster. I would just say to the hon. member for Terra Nova (Mr. T. Lush) if he is I would ask him to state his complaint or criticism I just cannot for the life of me believe that the hon. member for Terra Nova would use as a preamble to his question marine engineer and architect, and somehow not go on to expand the experience that this gentleman has had - and I hate to get into individuals who are commissioners -

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PREMIER PECKFORD: the experience that this gentleman has had in cold ocean research through a Newfoundland Crown Corporation in which their specific applied research in the last ten years has been into oil and gas developments of one sort and another and into applied research through contracts in the Beaufort and Artic Islands as well as off Newfoundland and Labrador. It was a joint royal commission recommended by all. This is the first time I have heard

PREMIER PECKFORD: any suggestion whatsoever that the commission lacks the depth, the experience, and the competence to deal with this very unfortunate tragedy.

MR. LUSH: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, again there was no indication that anybody has questioned anybody's competence, Mr. Speaker. The nonsense that the Premier gets on with! There is nobody questioning competence. We are just questioning, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that there was somebody on this commission that understood those circumstances, and if in the Premier's view it is covered, that is fine. That is fine. But, Mr. Speaker, to suggest that we are questioning their competence! The Premier is dismissing this, Mr. Speaker. The Premier is dismissing this in the same way that he has dismissed other questions that we have asked about this incident. Mr. Speaker, when we raise questions about the offshore, this is the way the Premier behaves. But anyway, Mr. Speaker, the other question that I -

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

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! The hon. President of the Council, a point of order.

MR. MARSHALL: The hon. gentleman is asking a supplementary question and he is preceeding it with a speech. He should get on to his question. He is not allowed to be making speeches under the guise of asking questions.

MR. NEARY : He is allowed a preamble.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order, please! As all hon. members know, there is only thirty minutes allocated for the Question Period and I would think that hon. members to my right, other hon. members would like to ask a question and indeed the questions should be brief with not very much of a preamble. I would ask the hon. member for Terra Nova (Mr. Lush) to be very precise with his question his supplementary.

MR. LUSH: The question, Mr. Speaker, while we were bickering and squabbling about which way we would go about setting up a royal commission, the US acted very promptly and practically had hearings set up before we got off the ground. I am just wondering if the Premier can indicate now, Mr. Speaker, where we stand with respect to having staff and office space and all of this sort of thing, because I understand there was quite a problem with respect to getting these things in gear, getting staff, and getting office space and all this sort of thing. So can the Premier indicate whether this is all in gear now and whether the commission has gotten down to business to do the things that of course they are required to do under the references given them ?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, I mean the hon. the hon. the member for Terra Nova (Mr. Lush) cannot preamble his question with a

PREMIER PECKFORD: preamble his question with a description of what has happened in the United States, and then go on to ask a question about ours without bringing into question and without me having to raise the issue that the hon. member is indirectly, if not directly, questioning what the royal commission is doing, and is somewhat concerned about how long it is taking the commission in doing its work and is bounding upon the circumference of that area which talks about them not getting on doing their job properly.

All I can say, Mr. Speaker, is that we have appointed a royal commission, the federal government and the provincial governments, that we have given them terms of reference which are extremely broad, may I say, much broader than what the United States Coast Guard or certification group had to contend with. And, you know, the United States Government is not going to operate the offshore of Newfoundland and Labrador. It is going to be the Government of Newfoundland with assistance from the Government of Canada. Therefore we have a greater obligation.

So to somehow hint or suggest or imply in the preamble to the question that a speedy inspection process than can occur in the United States of America somehow must be the kind of speedy process that has to occur in a royal commission on the tragedy, perhaps it is not the kind of linkage that we should entertain. Because the Governments of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Government of Canada are the ones who are ultimately going to be

PREMIER PECKFORD: responsible for all that goes on offshore, the kinds of rigs that are used in the exploration, the kind of rigs and platforms are used in the production, the subsea systems to be used on the ocean floor and all the rest of it. And so it gets far more complex and therefore our responsibilities as governments responsible for the exploration and development are far wider than those that the United States were responsible for in the certification of that

PREMIER PECKFORD: particular platform or that particular rig. And so I do not, for a moment, entertain any suggestions that because the United States did it in that time frame it is therefore mandatory that the governments of Newfoundland and Labrador and Canada do it in that time frame. So all I can say to the hon. member is it is established, I understand that they have acquired office space, that they have already taken a number of important excursions around the world investigating rigs, talking to experts in the field of rig construction, talking to all sorts of experts around the world, and are now about to hire other staff and getting on with wading through the evidence and holding hearings. And I think that will be forthcoming very, very soon when they get into that position. But they are about their work as they perceive their work to be, and I am not one to question the Commission with those terms of reference suddenly saying to them that they are perceiving their work in a wrong or incorrect manner.

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell):

The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, I think my hon. colleague raised a very interesting matter and one that has been neglected in this House up to now in connection with safety of these rigs. And I wonder if the hon. Premier, Mr. Speaker, would tell the House what safety regulations were in place at the time of the Ocean Ranger tragedy? What safety regulations - I am talking about provincial regulations now - were in place, and what safety regulations are now in place governing safety on board the rigs and the seaworthiness of the rigs themselves? And if there were safety regulations in place and are now in place, could we have a copy of these regulations tabled in this hon. House?

MR. WARREN:

Hear, hear! A good question.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:

Mr. Speaker, we were

PREMIER PECKFORD: in the process of developing our own specific safety regulations through consultation with the industry and others in the field around the world. And we were applying at the time the regulations that the federal government had already adopted until such time as we brought in our own. And we will be only too happy, very shortly, to table our own regulations that we will be applying in the future. No problem.

MR. NEARY: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Supplementary, the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: I am not quite sure if I understood the hon. Premier correctly. He does not give a straight answer and it is hard to follow the hon. gentleman. Did I understand from his answer that there were no provincial

MR. NEARY: regulations in place regulating the seaworthiness or safety onboard these rigs, that the provincial government was merely following federal regulations? Is that the understanding I get from the answer given by the hon. the Premier?

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

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, there were two sets. I am sorry that the hon. the Leader of the Opposition has great difficulty in understanding what I say. I find that he is one of the few people who has difficulty understanding what I say and I do not know what the reason for that is, but it is a little bit odd and a little bit unusual; he is one of the few.

Two things, Mr. Speaker; number one, as I said, the specific technical regulations that were being followed and enforced by the Province were those that had been adopted by the federal government, and we were applying them to the offshore here until we had our own specific regulations on it that were being developed at that time; and secondly, under the general provisions of the petroleum regulations, we still had the authority at any point in time to shut down any rig offshore if, in our opinion, through the inspections that our people made on the rigs from time to time, there was any danger that we could perceive. So we were following under two sets of regulations, the general petroleum regulations which were promulgated a number of years ago under which we had the power to shut down the whole offshore if we so wanted to, and, secondly, we were applying the federal regulations on safety in the absence of our own which were being developed by the Petroleum Directorate and which will now be operative very soon.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I am afraid that up to now I have not been able to find any regulations that would involve the seaworthiness of rigs drilling off our coast, either provincial or federal. And the hon. gentleman can slough it off all he wants about following federal regulations.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Question ! Question !

MR. NEARY: In actual fact, the provincial government had no regulations and the federal regulations could not be enforced because the rig was flying a United States flag.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what I want to ask the hon. gentleman is this: First of all, I would like to ask him if he intends to table copies of these provincial and federal regulations, as I asked him a few moments ago, and then when we get the regulations we will be able to have a look at them to see if, in actual fact, there were any regulations in place. I say no, there were not. But, Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the point my hon. colleague raised, that one of the big problems on the Ocean Ranger and on the oil rigs was who had the responsibility of the rig, whether it was the tool pusher or the captain, would it not have been in the best interests of this Commission of Inquiry to have a master mariner, a man who is familiar with the savage storms and conditions of the North Atlantic, would it

MR. NEARY:

not have been to their advantage to have a master mariner on that Commission of Enquiry?

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

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, all I can say to the hon. member is, one, I mean, if he does not believe that there were any regulations around or there are not any regulations around on safety that is up to the hon. member to decide. I mean -

MR. NEARY: Well, you are going to give it to me tomorrow, are you not?

PREMIER PECKFORD: - he can say what he likes and that is all I can say. And as I indicated already, and he did not hear that either, that answer, or did not understand it, that we have no problems in tabling information as it relates to regulations that are in effect in the Province and that apply to various parts of the Province.

The other point is, Mr. Speaker, we believe we have six very competent individuals who form that commission. And, you know, I am not going to try to prejudge whether another person with other qualifications should be on, and then another person if there was a master mariner or somebody and then you need somebody else with another bit of expertise. You might need somebody else there. There was a line of authority over which there was some confusion. The commission is going to report on all that and indicate what the story was in that particular tragedy and what recommendations should be put in place for any other developments or exploration. So, you know, I do not know what the hon. member wants me to say about that. All I know is that we have a competent commission and that commission, I think, can handle the kinds of problems that the hon. member is now bringing up. If you had to have, as I say, somebody of

PREMIER PECKFORD: expertise all the way through the development, well, then you would have innumerable, you would have many, many individuals who have specific functions to perform on that rig, all of whom should be commissioners to the Royal Commission. Obviously anybody who is competent and intelligent and experienced will access all of that expertise in the course of the hearings of the Royal Commission itself and get all of that.

May I read to the hon. member, seeing this has been tabled a long time ago - this is the Newfoundland and Labrador Petroleum Regulations, 1977 - may I read for the hon. member's benefit, and this was tabled a long time ago, I think when I was the Minister of Energy, "The minister may intervene directly in a licensee's, permittee's and leasee's petroleum operations and may take all necessary measures including ordering

PREMIER PECKFORD:

a permanent or temporary halt to the operations where the licensee or permittee or leasee is causing serious damage to the environment, renewable resources or property, or is carrying out its operations in such a way that there is a reasonable probability that such damage might occur. Or (B) is carrying out operations in such a way that they could cause or are causing serious injury or debt to any person. Or because of force majeure or any other reason, not able to properly manage the operation or any other reason, has repeatedly or seriously failed to comply with the act, the regulations or his licence, permit or lease." So here right under the petroleum regulations themselves, in addition to the other safety regulations that were being applied to this development, the government was proceeding to monitor and inspect and to ensure to the best of its ability that all the provisions of the various regulations were being carried out.

I would commend to the hon.

member, the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) in the House to get together with the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stirling) outside of the House and together read through these petroleum regulations so that questions in the future will be asked on the basis of these and in the absence of them.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear !

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the hon.

Premier can treat this matter as lightly as he wants to.

He can treat it as lightly, Mr. Speaker, as he likes. But

I can guarantee you that no royal commission is going to let

the administration off the hook as far as the Ocean Ranger tragedy is concerned.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, let me ask the hon. gentleman, is the hon. gentleman prepared, if he is as sincere as he says- and the regulations he just read, by the way, do not mean a thing, Mr. Speaker, unless -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: - unless, Mr. Speaker, unless the hon. gentleman can produce the back-up material. And what I am going to ask the hon. gentleman now to do in man-fashion, if he has the courage to do it, and I doubt if he has the courage to do it, is to lay on the table of this House all the inspections, and all the data, and all the information that is available in connection with the Ocean Ranger from the time she sailed to Newfoundland waters and started drilling until the time she went to the bottom? If the hon. gentleman is man enough and he has the courage let him produce and put the evidence on the table of this House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, if you just look back at the trend that this Question Period has taken, obviously up to this point in time the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) and the member for Terra Nova (Mr. Lush) feel, somewhat inadequate. Now what happens to the Leader of the Opposition near the end of the Question Period, when he is getting nowhere, is then he starts to get flamboyant and starts either to make charges or innuendo or to now lay it all on the table of this House. Mr. Speaker, the hon. Leader of the Opposition is not the royal commission on the Ocean Ranger tragedy.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD: The hon. Leader of the Opposition, you know, does not bestride the world like a huge colossus. I mean, there are other people around who have a little bit of expertise too. That is why both levels of government have appointed a royal commission to look into this

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Tape 755

PK - 3

PREMIER PECKFORD:

very serious incident.

And all of the inspections, documentations, investigations
that the Petroleum Directorate

PREMIER PECKFORD:

entered into, and other people in the Department of Labour and Manpower, and others who were involved. All of those documents and those inspection reports will be given to this independent, objective royal commission, and it is on the basis of those inspections and examinations and evidence that will be brought forward by those inspectors that an objective decision will be made as to what happened in the Ocean Ranger disaster and to make recommendations so that it is less likely to happen in the future. So that, therefore, that is why the royal commission was established, Mr. Speaker, and I do not think for the life of me, with all due respect to the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) inside the House, that he suddenly is going to be the examiner and the final arbitrator on what actually happened on the Ocean Ranger disaster.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WARREN: The people of this Province - will want to know why -

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, no royal commission supercedes this House. The royal commission is set up as a result of a joint participation by this House, by this administration, but that does not mean, Mr. Speaker, that questions should not be asked in this House.

PREMIER PECKFORD: You ask them.

MR. WARREN: Right. Right. Right.

MR. NEARY: I am merely asking the hon. gentleman some questions in connection with this tragedy.

PREMIER PECKFORD: No problem.

MR. NEARY: And the hon. gentleman, as I say, can treat it as lightly as he wants and try to slough it off on a royal commission, but he will not succeed, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WARREN: The same as he did February 14th.

MR. NEARY: He will not succeed.

Now let us get back to the question I put to the hon. gentleman. The question has to do with information for this House. Will the hon. gentleman undertake to get for this House all the data, information, reports, inspections on the Ocean Ranger from the time she sailed into Newfoundland waters to start drilling and exploring off our shores for gas and oil, if the Premier will lay that information on the table of this House?

MR. WARREN: No way, no way.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): The hon. The Premier.

answered that question

MR. NEARY: Or will he try and weasel his way out.

PREMIER PECKFORD: I have already answered that question, and I am not, Mr. Speaker, trying to shy away from anything, and I do not look lightly upon this matter and I do not know why the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) says I do. I have been answering questions that he has been posing.

MR. NEARY: The tone of your answers.

MR. NEARY: The tone of my answers! Oh, here we go. Here is the subjective man again. He is bestriding the world like a Colossus again, is he? The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) is just not the final decision maker now in this hon. House, Mr. Speaker. We will let him know. He might be feeling his oats a bit because perhaps he thought he would be the only leader of the Liberal Party after the weekend and, I mean, that is not my fault. I was not out there.

PREMIER PECKFORD: I was not out there. Perhaps he is a tiny bit jittery. He is only half a loader, Mr. Speaker. I do not know why he is so jittery, why near the end of every Question Period he gets so jittery. You know, I cannot answer that. All I know is that we have, as two governments, established a Royal Commission which is going to place the matter outside of politics, which is going to give an objective assessment of what happened at the Ocean Ranger tragedy and try to make recommendations so it does not happen again. And to me that sounds like a reasonable and sensible way to proceed on this very difficult matter.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): A final supplementary, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, we have a whole raft of questions to ask on this subject, but I will ask what I consider to be one of the most significant questions as my last question to the hon. gentleman. Could the hon. gentleman tell the House if there will be a preliminary report submitted by the Royal Commission before next Fall and next Winter, before we get into the stormy conditions of the North Atlantic? Will there be a preliminary report made that would indicate whether or not we should allow these rigs to continue drilling during the Winter months or if they should only drill at certain times in the year? There are time restraints here, Mr. Speaker. I would like for the hon. gentleman to put people's minds at ease as to whether or not a preliminary report or any report will be made in time to take that very important

MR. NEARY: decision as to whether or not these rigs can drill safely in the Winter months off our coast.

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

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, that is a decision that will have to be made by the Royal Commission.

MR. NEARY: Four years from now.

We could have another tragedy.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, I never opened my mouth when the hon. the Leader of the Opposition just asked his question, and now I would appreciate the courtesy of being able to respond to his question without him opening his mouth.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD: I think that is one of the rules of the House. If hon. members want answers, well then, they must listen. Otherwise, how can they get answers, Mr. Speaker?

That is a question that will have to be answered by the Royal Commission in the knowledge that they have before them and the amount of work that they can do up to the end of the Fall, and ultimately, that is one consideration. The Royal Commission might consider it appropriate if they have enough information. If they do not have enough information, they might consider it inappropriate. The other point of it then will have to be whether the government, the Newfoundland and Labrador Government or the federal government, independently or together, wish to consider that issue later on this year, separate from the Royal Commission preliminary report or in addition to the preliminary report from

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PREMIER PECKFORD:
fact one is submitted.

a Royal Commission, if in

AN HON. MEMBER:

Right on!

MR. SPEAKER (Russell):

Order, please!

The time for Question Period
has expired.

REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

MR. SPEAKER:
Public Works.

The hon. the Minister of

MR. YOUNG:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to
table a directory of government offices located in
St. John's and the area. During the Estimates this
morning, Mr. Speaker,

MR. H. YOUNG: the hon. member for Terra Nova (Mr. T. Lush) claimed that he could not find out where the office spaces that are in St. John's are rented. The following directory gives the mailing address and the walk-in locations of the divisions of government departments located in St. John's and area.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. YOUNG: It is only a matter, Mr. Speaker, of just going in and asking and you will get all the information. That has been done since 1981.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

ORDERS OF THE DAY

On motion, a bill, "An Act To Amend The Livestock (Community Sales) Act", read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow. (Bill No. 30)

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order, please!

On motion, a bill, "An Act to Provide For The Appointment Of Parliamentary Secretaries To Ministers Of The Crown", read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow. (Bill No. 45)

On motion, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on Ways and Means to consider the raising of supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

MR. SPEAKER: The debate was adjourned yesterday by the hon. member for Port au Port (Mr. J. Hodder).

MR. J. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, when I adjourned yesterday I was making a few comments about the sawmilling industry and

MR. J. HODDER: I would like to quote from a section of the budget. It says, "As a boost to the sawmilling industry, a retail sales tax exemption is being provided for capital expenditures made by sawmill operators and used directly in a manufacturing process."

Now on the surface, Mr. Speaker, this would sound like a very good move by the government. Because as we know, Mr. Speaker, the sawmilling industry in this Province has been in financial difficulties for quite a long time. Mr. Speaker, I do not know if hon. members and the general public when they saw, because I did see some comments as to this being a very good thing, but I do not know if the general public and hon. members realized that what was given with one hand

MR. HODDER: that what was given with one hand was taken away with two hands because, Mr. Speaker, the Budget went on to say that pulpwood stumpage on Crown lands, the rate would be raised from fifty-five cents to eighty-three cents per cubic meter to \$1.40 to \$2.25 per cubic meter, which is almost triple, Mr. Speaker, that commercial firewood would be raised from fifty-five cents to \$1.10 per cubic meter, that the rate for construction timber would be up thirty cents to \$2.70 per cubic meter, which is about three times again, Mr. Speaker, over three times, and that cutting permits were raised from \$2.00 to \$5.00.

Now, Mr. Speaker, when we look at the sawmilling industry in this Province, there has been much debate about the sawmilling industry, because the sawmilling industry could be a very healthy industry, but we have had more sawmills go bankrupt and we have more sawmillers who are in financial straits in this Province, particularly in a Province which could supply all of its own timber, so I think it is a travesty of justice and that as well it is ludicrous, that in the same Budget as one of its stimulative measures that the government would claim that they are boosting the sawmilling industry by giving a retail tax exemption for capital expenditures made by sawmill operators, and at the same time the timber which the sawmill operators must take in order to pursue their livelihood, they would triple the stumpage rate.

Mr. Speaker, the forest industry represents Newfoundland and Labrador's greatest single potential for import substitution. It is an industry that can create local jobs rather than relying on the heavily imported wood products which we have the resources on this Province to provide and to create ourselves. Newfoundland and Labrador uses about 80 million to 100 million board feet of lumber a year,

MR. HODDER: but it provides only 33 per cent to 50 per cent of this itself, the rest comes from as far away as British Columbia. In actual fact, we really, in this Province - the only wood we should be developing in this Province is timber of larger dimensions and specialty wood such a mahogany, oak, and some of the woods which we do not - redwood - provide here in the Province.

It was also understood, Mr. Speaker, that the minister, in Committee this morning, the Minister of Forest Resources and Lands (Mr. Power), had indicated that there would be a cut back in the number of licences issued in the Province as well. So here we have a budget with one of its stimulative measures the decrease of retail sales tax, an exemption of retail sales tax for capital expenditures to small sawmill operators, to be used in the manufacturing process, we have a cutback in the number of licences and we have told the sawmillers now that you have to pay three times as much for stumpage as you did before.

So, Mr. Speaker, it boggles the imagination that the government could on the one hand say they were stimulating the sawmill industry and on the other hand would triple fees. And I might say, Mr. Speaker, to explain some of those fees, when the budget says that, for instance, the rate of construction timber will go up thirty cents to \$2.70 per cubic meter for timber, and from \$3.50 to \$4.00 for stacked lumber, that the \$3.50 is, I understand, for those areas where there are no forestry access roads and the \$4.00 would be for areas where there are access roads.

Now, I can understand, Mr. Speaker, where the government has to put in expensive access roads

MR. HODDER: that there perhaps would be a higher stumpage fee but, Mr. Speaker, to up the stumpage fees for small sawmillers, an industry, Mr. Speaker, which could be self-sufficient in this Province - and I might say something else about that industry, Mr. Speaker. When we talk about what could happen to the sawmill industry - Mr. Speaker, I am told that the problems the sawmillers have in this Province is that many of them are very small and their problem is that they cannot - when some of the large lumberyards here in the Province are looking for timber, they are looking for a guaranteed supply from a particular sawmiller for a long period of time.

Now, I have talked to a number of sawmillers across the Province and I am told what they are looking for - and it makes a great deal of sense to me - what they are looking for is some sort of a co-operative movement so that the small sawmillers can join themselves together in a co-operative and perhaps have a common storage place in various areas of the Province whereby you can have a -

MR. TOBIN: Where are your buddies?

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, I do not have to preach to the converted.

MR. TOBIN: You look kind of lonely. Come over.

MR. HODDER: Oh, Mr. Speaker, I am quite happy where I am. My colleagues know that I need no support when I stand here to speak on this particular budget.

Mr. Speaker, what is needed is a co-operative movement amongst the small sawmillers

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MR. HODDER:

which should be headed by

this government, one so that members in

a particular

MR. HODDER:

geographic area can bring their lumber to a centralized yard where there would be a kiln for drying that lumber, because I am told, Mr. Speaker, that the long grain fibre, the type of timber that we produce in this Province, is superior to the timber that comes in the Province. But very often, Mr. Speaker, if some one goes to a local sawmiller and there are no facilities in the area for drying, and they are expensive facilities, that you get what is known as green lumber. And very often people, the large companies in the Province, would prefer to buy their lumber from outside the Province because it is in a better situation.

So, Mr. Speaker, unless we start to take initiatives such as this we may as well kiss the sawmill industry goodbye. And do not forget, Mr. Speaker, that we use eighty to one hundred million board feet of lumber per year but provide only thirty-five to fifty per cent of this timber. And now, Mr. Speaker, we have a Budget that has told the sawmillers that they would give them, provide them with a retail sales tax exemption, but then has tripled their stumpage rates which, Mr. Speaker, the retail sales tax exemptions of eleven per cent will not go close to the extra cost. I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that this move will put sawmillers, more sawmillers, out of business. And on top of that, Mr. Speaker, the minister has announced to a committee this morning that there will be cutbacks in the number of licenses. Now, Mr. Speaker, that is development; that is the way this government is developing the Province. Increased output, Mr. Speaker, of Newfoundland and Labrador lumber could create more jobs for a given amount of wood used than would pulp and paper production. If we took this particular

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MR. HODDER: aspect of the forest industry,
and we have been watching for ten years while sawmillers
in the Bay D'Espoir area have been going bankrupt, sawmillers
in the Hawke's Bay region have been going bankrupt, sawmillers
right across the Province have not been able to make it.
And, Mr. Speaker, perhaps this is one of the harshest moves
that this government has made, to limit the number of
licenses in the Province, to raise the stumpage fees and
to destroy the sawmill industry. So that what we have
done, Mr. Speaker, what we have done is to destroy the
forest industry in this

MR. HODDER: Province, and now we have to depend only on imported wood. And, Mr. Speaker, this Province has enough wood if used properly to be able to create jobs, as many jobs as there are in the forest industry.

Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to this government that they adopt a strategy for the Province's forest industry that would strive to achieve some goals. We have done nothing in this budget. I said yesterday that it was not a stimulative budget. I think what has been done to the sawmill industry in this budget probably typifies more than anything else, perhaps even more than the raising of loans to farmers and fishermen, because this one has gone to the heart of development in the Province.

Mr. Speaker, it is time we found out in the Province how imported lumber could be replaced by local suppliers at comparable cost. And it is time we started to perhaps look into ways in which we can get a greater volume of timber with less wastage.

Some of our small sawmillers, Mr. Speaker, have equipment which should be upgraded. Perhaps the lowering of sales tax could help that, but the government has again taken away with two hands what they gave with one when they increased the stumpage fees.

Mr. Speaker, another suggestion I would give to this government is to use present cuts of wood for higher value products, including, Mr. Speaker, the expansion of white birch, the white birch hardwood production for local use and possibly for export, from this Province, Mr. Speaker, the United States and the European countries are crying out for hardwood and yet, Mr. Speaker, you can go in any part of this Province and you see birch dying. Very often, Mr. Speaker, the birch is a by-product of

June 1, 1982

Tape No. 763

NM - 2

MR. HODDER: the operations of the paper
companies. And that birch is left there to -

MR. TULK: The beautiful stands are dead.

MR. HODDER: The beautiful

MR. HODDER: stands across this Province, as my colleague, the member for Fogo (Mr. Tulk), who is the spokesman on forestry and agriculture, says, "The beautiful stands are dead." In the Birchy area, Mr. Speaker -

MR. TULK: The Gander Bay road.

MR. HODDER: - and the Gander Bay Road, my hon. colleague tells me, and right across the Province, you have beautiful stands of birch which are not being utilized by this government and which are dying.

Mr. Speaker, another move that this Province might have made is to better integrate the pulp and sawmill operations so that the waste wood from the mills could become pulp chips. Mr. Speaker, where is the imagination of this government?

Mr. Speaker, the first thing we have to do is to improve the Forest Land Management and Taxation Act. We have to increase attention to conservation practices, particularly where fuel wood cutting is threatening valuable stands. And, Mr. Speaker, we have to develop a small log sawmill technology as is incurring in most other jurisdictions in this country. Mr. Speaker, perhaps most important of all, we must continue the encouragement for community management of the forests.

Mr. Speaker, this particular industry, the beleaguered sawmill industry which was struck a blow in the heart by this budget, is on its last legs; it is dying, Mr. Speaker. And I feel that the move in this budget to raise the stumpage fees to those people who are trying to make their living

MR. HODDER: from the forest industry will destroy what initiative is left in that particular industry, and these are people, Mr. Speaker, who love the work they have and are asking for some planning. I have mentioned here in this House before that we should start trying to supply our own suppliers. The only way we can do it is if we form those small sawmillers into co-ops. We do not, Mr. Speaker, raise their stumpage fees, we do not triple their stumpage fees and drive them out of business, but we try to make their operations profitable. Mr. Speaker, that has not been happening in this Province.

Mr. Speaker, while I am on this particular subject, a piece that I saw in the paper, I think it was in yesterday's paper, mentioned that Newfoundland was the only Province undecided on joining the federal forestry programme. Here we have, Mr. Speaker, a

MR. HODDER: There we have, Mr. Speaker, a government that cares for the forest industry. Newfoundland is the only Province which has not decided whether to participate, to create jobs for unemployed forestry workers. "Fred Pollett of the Canadian Forestry Service said Thursday, "Proposals have been developed with the other provinces which only require the approval of Treasury Board before they go into operation. The government has made about \$170 million available to hire unemployed wood workers and mill hands to improve forests. The money is used to supplement unemployment insurance payments the workers now are getting," Pollett said. The programme is one of a number of federal plans to create jobs for workers laid off because of the slow economy."

Mr. Speaker, it says, "After the agreement is signed with a province on what projects should be undertaken, private companies or government agencies can oversee the work. In some provinces workers could earn \$300 a week plus fringe benefits." Now, Mr. Speaker, there is a programme that sounds like we could use it here in this Province. But, Mr. Speaker, this Province is the only province that is undecided to join. I could not understand, Mr. Speaker, I still cannot understand, and I will ask and I will again someone who stands to speak on that side of the House to explain to me, why it is that we are the only Province undecided on joining the federal forestry programme, a new programme to create jobs, when this government brags and talks about the number of jobs that will be created. How many, Mr. Speaker, are we losing because of lack of foresight and the fact that we cannot get along with our federal counterparts in Ottawa? But, Mr. Speaker, just to recap, we have a dying industry in the sawmill industry. We have a government who brought in a Budget which purported to help the sawmillers on the one hand and on the other hand tripled the fees for which they

MR. HODDER:

would have to cut their wood.

Mr. Speaker, that to me is no way to try to correct a dying industry.

Mr. Speaker, another point that I would like to mention, I would like to refer to the Auditor General's Report. Mr. Speaker, I took the trouble to add up the amount of money mentioned in the Auditor General's Report which was either mismanaged or lost or uncollected. Mr. Speaker, would hon. members believe that the total money that has been mismanaged in this last Auditor General's Report was \$332,004,205. Now, Mr. Speaker, that is not money lost to the Treasury, some of it is, some of the money is lost to the Treasury, but that is the total amount of money when you go through, and I did it as a little exercise after I received the Auditor General's Report, and wrote down the amounts of money

MR. HODDER: which the Auditor General had listed out, which had been misappropriated or had been spent incorrectly.

Mr. Speaker, that is one-third of our provincial budget. Approximately one-third of the provincial money that was spent in the budget last year in some way or other had been mismanaged by this government.

Now, Mr. Speaker, how can we trust the government?

DR. MCNICHOLAS: That is a very strong statement.

MR. HODDER: Well, Mr. Speaker, if the member opposite would like to get the Auditor General's Report for this year, and sit down and total up the amounts of money that the Auditor General mentions, because he mentions it at the end of each section in his report, if he would like to sit down and total up the amounts of money that have been either misappropriated, dealt with improperly, or plainly lost to the Province, or which is outstanding to the Province, the total amount, when you sit down with your pencil and you total up the amounts, the total amount is \$332,004,205.00.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I did another little exercise with the Auditor General's Report.

AN HON. MEMBER: (inaudible).

MR. HODDER: Oh, yes. Mr. Speaker, when it comes to the Auditor General's Report, and let me tell hon. members opposite we are not finished with the Auditor General's Report, the Auditor General's Report has not been put away, we have not forgotten it. There are more little goodies in the Auditor General's Report. The more we read the more amazed we become.

MR. BARRETT: Why not read this one?

Why do you not be amazed and read this one?

MR. HODDER: If the hon. member would like to send me over that copy I will read it. I read everything, Mr. Speaker, that comes in front of me.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, most reports that come from this government , their Five Year Plans and everything else, I have yet to see anything come that has impressed me about this government in the seven years - almost eight - that I have been standing in this House of Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, in the Auditor General's Report, forgetting that there was mismanagement of one-third of the budget, \$332,004,205.00 - anyone in this Province can take the Auditor General's Report and just total up how much money was spent incorrectly, mismanaged. But, Mr. Speaker, of this amount I checked through the amount of money that this Province is not receiving, the amount of overpayments which have been made, the SSA tax which the Department of Finance - \$2 million worth of SSA tax which the Department of Finance is thinking about writing off. Uncollected mineral and mining taxes, Mr. Speaker,

MR. HODDER: which we have not collected in this Province is \$6,378,800.18.

Mr. Speaker, accounts receivable, pupil/teachers, accounts receivable student aid, poor cash management resulting in unnecessary cost to the Province, \$11,662, Not much, Mr. Speaker. Overpayments of social assistance - \$3,697,960, Mr. Speaker, and I could spend an hour talking about the efforts of this government when they started to try and collect in 1982 back to 1974, which shows Mr. Speaker, and this government has been in power for ten years, and they are now trying to collect from social service recipients back to 1974 and 1975 and 1977. Overpayments lost to the Province \$3,000,697.

Mr. Speaker, complimentary tickets at the Arts and Culture Centre - \$20,717; gratuitous payments of public funds and deficiencies in engineering design estimates, this is money lost, Mr. Speaker, to the Province - \$12,500; failure to reconcile payments of \$516,750 with the actual charge incurred and, Mr. Speaker, I understand with all that we have collected on that, we still have \$48,000 outstanding.

MR. WARREN: Shameful.

MR. HODDER: Payment of \$374,196 in rental and related expenditure for unoccupied space - \$374,000.

MR. NEARY: Oh, that is the Premier's buddy, his pal. That is the Premier's pal.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, an overpayment of -

DR. COLLINS: I dealt with that the other day. Did I not?

MR. NEARY: I beg your pardon?

MR. HODDER: - of 1980 general municipal -

MR. NEARY: No, you have not dealt with it.

June 1, 1982

Tape No. 767

NM - 2

MR. HODDER: - overpayment of 1980 general
municipal assistance grant -

MR. NEARY: You talk about scandals.

MR. HODDER: - not recovered - \$23,600.

Now, Mr. Speaker, would you
guess how much this adds up to, this . money not collected?
Now what I told you before, the money that I mentioned by
just going through the Auditor General's Report was money
that was mismanaged. That was \$332,004,205. That was the
mismanagement. But the money not collected, Mr. Speaker, the
money that this government even with its - that the Department
of Justice cannot get its hands on and the Department of Finance
cannot get its hands on, comes to \$26,588,270, Mr. Speaker,
and that would pave a lot of roads.

MR. NEARY: And keep a lot of hospitals
open.

MR. HODDER: And keep a lot of hospitals
open.

MR. WARREN: Yes. Even the one in Markland.

MR. HODDER: And I would say to the minister

MR. HODDER: say to the minister again, and I said it yesterday, but he was not here yesterday, until you bring in some legislation which will - because when I pay my SSA tax and when any person in this Province pays their SSA tax they may not like it, they may not like it -

MR. WARREN: That is right.

MR. HODDER: - but they certainly do not want it to go into the hands of private businessmen, they want it to come into the Public Treasury.

MR. NEARY: Right on.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HODDER: And, Mr. Speaker, in the Auditor General's report this year \$26,588,270 is owing to the Public Treasury either from mismanagement or the inability to collect.

MR. WARREN: Poor management.

MR. HODDER: And I would urge the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins), and I will be on my feet supporting him -

MR. WARREN: Yes, that is right.

MR. HODDER: - the day he works out a scheme whereby when SSA is paid to a businessman that that SSA comes into the Treasury, that it is put into a special account, regardless of what accounting procedures, and it can be worked out that that SSA comes to the Provincial Treasury and is not written off in bankruptcy.

MR. WARREN: Right on!

MR. MARSHALL: Perhaps you could hire Mr. Romney and some of his collectors.

MR. WARREN: What was that?

MR. NEARY: No we will hire the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan).

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. WARREN: No, we will hire you.

MR. HODDER: No, Mr. Speaker,

MR. WARREN: You work for the Bank of Montreal.

MR. HODDER: No, no, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member opposite can throw his dirt and his bile across. I have no -

MR. NEARY: He can be as nasty as he likes.

MR. HODDER: - and be as nasty as he likes.

MR. WARREN: He works for the Bank of Montreal himself.

MR. NEARY: People are getting fed up with him.

MR. WARREN: He can collect it for the Bank of Montreal, see.

MR. HODDER: But, Mr. Speaker -

MR. NEARY: They recognize him for what he is.

MR. HODDER: - I will tell the member opposite that if he really cares for what is happening -

MR. NEARY: The symbol of nastiness.

MR. HODDER: - in this Province, he will bring in legislation, he will bring in legislation which will cause this problem which we have seen over the years to stop businesses from collecting retail sales tax and we saw in the Auditor General's report where a business went bankrupt, did not remit its taxes, then went and got another licence, went into business again, went bankrupt again, it did not remit its taxes. Mr. Speaker, there must be a way, and there is a way,

MR. J. HODDER: in which we can ensure that when this SSA taxes are collected that they go into an account, that they not be thrown into the business and paid out at the will of the businessman. There are too many people in this Province paying their taxes which never arrive to the government. And, remember, Mr. Speaker, those taxes come back to provide services. And when I say, Mr. Speaker, and I -

MR. S. NEARY: One company went bankrupt, there taxes were written off, then they formed a new company and then they got a new licence.

MR. HODDER: Yes. That is the one I was referring to.

Mr. Speaker, \$26,588,270 is owing to this Province either from total mismanagement or the total inability to collect or because of bad legislation which does not enable the Province to collect. And I would say to the Minister of Justice (Mr. G. Ottenheimer) if he were in his seat that there would be no uncollected mineral taxes in this Province.

DR. J. COLLINS: There is no mismanagement.

MR. S. NEARY: Yes, there is no doubt about that. The best managed public debt too, I suppose.

DR. COLLINS: Those procedures (inaudible).

MR. NEARY: The best managed public debt, that is what you will be telling us next.

DR. COLLINS: The best in Canada.

MR. NEARY: Yes. There is no doubt about that. When you start borrowing from your own sinking fund, that is the best managed Finance Department in Canada.

MR. G. WARREN: Yes, Sir. The worse Finance Minister ever in Newfoundland history.

MR. NEARY: That is a sign of bankruptcy.

MR. WARREN: Yes.

June 1, 1982

Tape No. 769

MJ - 2

MR. J. HODDER:

Mr. Speaker, we should not tolerate the continuing misuse of public funds by the retail tax collectors. We should not tolerate, Mr. Speaker, the misuse of public funds in this Province by retail sales tax collectors. And, Mr. Speaker, we must bring in legislation to make sure that this does not happen and I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that

MR. HODDER: I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that such legislation will be brought in and it will be applauded by all people in this Province.

Mr. Speaker, to turn a moment to one of the other parts of the Budget where the people of the Province got knifed in the back.

MR. HOUSE: How much longer?

MR. WARREN: Two more days you will have this.

MR. HOUSE: I have an Estimate Committee.

MR. NEARY: Go down and open your hospitals, boy. Close down the jails you are building and open up the hospitals.

MR. HODDER: We knifed the little children in the back with the one dental treatment when we have less - and I would like to say it again because some people still do not realize it - we have less dentists per population than any other province in Canada, and there are dentists in this Province that do not agree with the minister.

MR. NEARY: Ophthalmologist, we have less.

MR. HODDER: But besides some of those, you know, what can you say about hospital beds? I said, I suppose, what I could say about it yesterday. But I want to say something that I did not say yesterday. I want to talk about the only thing complimentary about this Budget, Mr. Speaker, is that the minister had the -

MR. NEARY: We kept it off the television. That is the only thing we could say about it.

MR. HODDER: - he had the face of a robber's horse to bring it in, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NEARY: How fortunate the people of the Province were that we would not allow live broadcasting.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, there was a task force report.

MR. NEARY: They would not forgive us for

June 1, 1982

Tape No. 770

ah-2

MR. NEARY: taking off Another World and
The Edge of Night.

MR. HODDER: To think about the other group
besides the fishermen and the farmers who were started in
the back in this Budget, I would like to talk about the
vocational school students who went into the -

MR. NEARY: Now you are into an area
of incompetence.

MR. WARREN: Are they not giving them
free tuition or something like that?

MR. WARREN: Oh, yes, Mr. Speaker, they
gave them free tuition, but if the hon. member had been
in the House yesterday I certainly blew apart that
particular -

MR. NEARY: Education now is for the
elite. It is back to those days again.

MR. WARREN: I see.

MR. HODDER: But, Mr. Speaker, I would like
to recommend to members, and I am sure members have not read
it and if any member on the other side would like to
borrow my copy I certainly would let him Xerox it. I
will not let him have it because I may not get it back.
But, Mr. Speaker, if any member on the other side of the
House would like to -

MR. NEARY: Oh, you are in the House
today for half an hour, are you?

MR. HODDER: - would like to see a volume-

MR. NEARY: Is that the kind of attendance
we have in this House, the half-hour day? The half-hour a
day Premier.

MR. HODDER: The Premier was not here
yesterday.

June 1, 1982

Tape No. 770

ah-3

MR. NEARY: He spends half an hour a day
in his seat and then he has the gall to criticize the
member for the Strait of Belle Isle (Mr. Roberts).

MR. HODDER: I might add to the Premier that Beauchesne does say that it is unparliamentary to refer to the absence or presence of a member, particularly when the Premier was not in the House himself yesterday, and he just drops in and drops out.

MR. NEARY: He does not know the difference. He is completely ignorant of the rules. He spends a half an hour a day here, and sometimes less than that.

MR. HODDER: He is only here when he wants to get his old anti-Confederate bill out.

MR. NEARY: One half hour every day and then he has the gall to criticize some other member.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, I want to refer members to a report which was published about six months ago, which was entitled, Work for Tomorrow. This was a federal task force that travelled the country. I happen to have something to do with that particular task force because I presented a brief to it, and perhaps some other hon. members in the House presented a brief as well. I know that there were a number of briefs on the West Coast that were presented. I do not think the Minister of Health (Mr. House) presented a brief to them, but the Abitibi-Price group presented a brief, there were the Bay St. George Community College, the vocational schools, they went right across this Province, Mr. Speaker. And one of the recommendations from right across the Province - and these briefs are available. Any member of this House of Assembly, I am quite sure, who would contact the chairman of the task force in Ottawa and indicate to him which he wants - and in the back of the report are all the briefs. They come from every section of this Province, because

MR. HODDER: the task force travelled everywhere.

Mr. Speaker, one of the recommendations that came from educators -

MR. NEARY: There he goes, finished now for today, got his half hour punched in the House.

MR. HODDER: He is finished for the day, Mr. Speaker. He is gone back down to his office and out to Mount Scio House -

MR. NEARY: A half-an-hour Premier.

MR. HODDER: - to sit back and enjoy his -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, this particular task force -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. HODDER: Would my own colleagues let me get on with what I am trying to say?

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please!

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, this task force

visited every part of this Province and received briefs from just about every educational group in the Province. And one of the things that the briefs asked for in this task force report - now remember it was a federal task force report, so that it is not mentioned in the report itself, but if members were to get the report and look at the briefs that were presented from Newfoundland, and perhaps one of the members on the other side were to summarize, you would find that right across the Province, from St. Anthony to St. John's to Stephenville and in Labrador, was the request that the \$100 tuition fee - or not tuition fee, but the \$100 grant per month which

MR. HODDER: the \$100 grant per month which vocational school students were getting be raised, and that it be raised because it had not been raised since 1968. Now I would like to say something about that task force report, Mr. Speaker, because the biggest concern of the task force was to obtain good accountability for some \$600 million which is spent by the federal government, and that is the Department of Manpower and Immigration in their job creation programmes. Now while it is the federal government that pays a large share of the bills for training in our vocational schools in the Province, they pay for the seats and they pay for the training, it is the provincial government -

MR. HOUSE: Manpower students only.

MR. HODDER: - Manpower students only, yes, the minister is right, but the majority of students are Manpower students, and the minister would also -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. HODDER: - Mr. Speaker, the provincial students now will have to pay \$800 a year; the Manpower students get in and they are being paid. Now what kind of a situation is that?

MR. WARREN: That is right.

MR. HODDER: They are being paid by Manpower. So now you have the inequity - the minister just raised a point that I had not thought of - now you have an inequity of two people doing the same course, one who has a Manpower seat who gets his allowances paid for, his books paid for or he may be able to take that seat if he is directed by the Department of Manpower, may be able to take his seat and draw unemployment insurance, whereas before you had him sitting next to a provincial student who is only getting \$100 a month. Now, Mr. Speaker, you have that Manpower student sitting next to a provincial student who is trying to get ahead in the same way who will be paying \$200 tuition per year, plus the fact he will not even be getting

MR. HODDER: the \$100 a month which came to \$900 a year before. So the inequality between the federal and the provincial student in our vocational schools is far greater than ever before. And I am glad the minister opened his mouth because I had not thought of that. I had not thought of that and I must compliment the minister.

MR. WARREN: He has more brains than we thought he had.

MR. NEARY: The height of stupidity.

MR. HODDER: Anyhow, Mr. Speaker, it was clear during the course of the hearings that the task force had throughout this Province, that in Newfoundland the instructors at the trades schools, and these were from briefs from instructors at trades schools, they were very concerned not only with the poor quality and in many cases

MR. HODDER:

the outdated teaching equipment which they had, not only with the poor quality of the teaching equipment, I am told that the Fisheries College still uses tubes in their equipment, Mr. Speaker, whereas when they go out the type of equipment uses transistors. We are still back in the 1950s, Mr. Speaker.

DR. COLLINS: The federal government will come along one of these days with a new institution.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, the other - now -

DR. COLLINS: Use your influence with your friends in Ottawa.

MR. HODDER: When the minister gets up will he tell the House how much money is being spent in the vocational schools by the federal government and how much by the provincial government?

MR. NEARY: Right on.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HODDER: And would he also tell me, when he stands on his feet to close the debate, and I suppose he does - I do not know if he does or not - but sometime during this sitting of the House would he tell me about the programmes that have been designed by the Department of Vocational Education where they have no longer students? And would he tell me about the programmes which we have in our schools which are designed by the Province and are the total responsibility of the Province for which no jobs are available when these people get out. Because that situation has not changed.

MR. WARREN: Ha, ha!

MR. HODDER: But, Mr. Speaker, when that task force went throughout the Province looking into this matter, again I ask members on the other side to read the briefs that came in from this Province, the teachers themselves were concerned because they are not even keeping up, and this certainly is not a federal responsibility, they are not keeping up with

MR. HODDER: the latest technological trends. They cannot get away as often - there are some provisions for some people to get away, but they cannot get away to upgrade themselves either in industry or by going back to school to upgrade themselves. And they themselves are asking, and perhaps this government, if they are trying to improve the education calibre of this Province, to try to improve the productivity of the Province, then, Mr. Speaker, perhaps we should start looking at just what is happening in our vocational schools.

Mr. Speaker, the provincial government does not have any provision to allow the people to go out from time to time to upgrade their skills, either by going back to school or going out into industry to see what the latest trends in industry are and what the latest technologies are. Mr. Speaker, the equipment in our schools is outdated and the instructors, through no fault of their own, are falling behind the times.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have a recommendation for this House and for this Province for the Minister of Education (Ms. Verge). My recommendation, Mr. Speaker, is that each member on that side of the House look at the task force report by the federal government.

MR. J. HODDER:

Because, Mr. Speaker, that task force was completed by federal M. P.'s of all parties. When I appeared before that task force, there were members from the Progressive Conservative Party, there were members from the NDP Party. It was an all-party effort. It was not something from the Federal Liberals. It was an all-party effort and I would advise members to read it and for the minister to make up his mind whether it is a political document or not. But what the report did -

MR. HOUSE: I know what the result was.

MR. HODDER: Yes. But what the report did, it looked at education from the federal point of view. The thing of which I am talking - and of course that was their mandate - the things of which I am talking are the reports that went in which are available to the minister, the Minister of Education (Ms. L. Verge), if she ever come into the House, Mr. Speaker, to read those reports and see what the educators were saying across the Province. Because, Mr. Speaker, the only way we are going to have a decent education system in our vocational schools, in this Province - and I forget the day schools altogether now - the only way we are going to do it, and I will recommend this to this House of Assembly, that the Province should form its own task force to dovetail with federal study. Because if we are going to get the full picture, and we did not get the full picture from that study because it was a federal study done for federal purposes; the interesting part about the study was what came from the educators in this Province, and there was some thirty or forty briefs presented from all segments of the educational community and from all segments of the business society. And, Mr. Speaker, what I am asking this House is that we start doing something concrete. That we stop our fight, at least on this particular ground, and appoint a task force to look at the situation in this Province and

MR. J. HODDER: in the vocational schools because, Mr. Speaker, I am told now that there are courses which will be closed next year for lack of people, courses that were designed recently. I am told as well that the majority of our courses - I am not told I know, Mr. Speaker; anyone who wants to go to Manpower and find out-and there are charts-and find out courses for which there are needs across the country and then look at the courses that we have in our vocational schools, anyone can do it at a minute's notice. No problem with research; any member of the press, any member of the House of Assembly, any member who would like to can go down to Manpower

MR. HODDER:

and get the charts as to what jobs are most needed, then go look at the courses which we are teaching in our vocational schools and they will find, Mr. Speaker, that we are turning out students in this Province for whom there are no jobs. And we are wasting our money, because -

MR. HOUSE: Which ones are Manpower supporting?

That is a question I would like answered, which ones are Manpower supporting?

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, the programmes are designed by the Province. Well, my goodness, if they are not designed by the Province, what in goodness have we got this big broad - where is the budget so I can list out the number of people down in the Department of Vocational and Technical Education? What are they all doing down there, Mr. Speaker, if these courses are not being designed by the Province? Because there must be 50,000 people down in the Department of Technical and Vocational Education who are running around this Province designing programmes.

And if I did not hear the Minister of Education (Ms. Verge) on her feet on numerous occasions here telling me about all the wonderful offshore courses that she is putting into the vocational schools, and the minister over there tries to tell me that these courses are being designed by the federal government. No, Mr. Speaker, they are being paid for by the federal government.

MR. WARREN: That is right, paid for.

Right on. Paid for.

MR. HOUSE: Manpower only support certain courses, there are others they will not support.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, one of the things, when the task force travelled the province, they called for was the fact that they felt that this \$100 a month allowance should be increased because it had not been changed for thirteen years and they saw a decline.

Now, Mr. Speaker, who are we trying to get into the upgrading schools in this Province, and who are we trying to get into the vocational schools? Now I know that hon. members may have sons or daughters who will go to vocational schools, and you will think that is fine, that is good. It is not too bad, if they decide to go that route, to the College of Trades and Technology that they pay \$200 tuition fee and they do not get the \$100 and they can apply for their student loans. But, Mr. Speaker, there

MR. HODDER: a great many people in this Province who, I would hope, we are trying to encourage to get into the schools. And, Mr. Speaker, these people whose grades are low and whose finances are very low and who are on social assistance, or U.I.C. social assistance, Mr. Speaker, my job or the job of any manpower counsellor now, or any counsellor in the schools themselves, and there are few of them, the job of those counsellors to try to get people into those courses will be much more difficult now with that \$100 gone, Mr. Speaker, and the knowledge that they must pay \$200. And I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, mark my words, watch the enrolments drop. They may not drop immediately but, Mr. Speaker, in the next session, in the next year, the Bay St. George Community College enrolment will drop, the enrolments will drop in vocational schools across this Province.

Mr. Speaker, during the campaign a few weeks ago, Premier Peckford held news conferences on what he called his Economic Recovery programme. This amounted to a number of already announced DREE agreements, a few loan guarantees and a number of political handouts that were already slated in the Capital Works budget for the new fiscal year. Again, Mr. Speaker, we see them trotted out as a new economic outlook in this Province. And if you look at the tables from the 4th of April, there is a list of transportation projects which are the DREE agreement projects signed in March.

AN HON. MEMBER: Where are your buddies?

MR. HODDER: That is fine, Mr. Speaker. They are out getting ready their speeches, Mr. Speaker.

MR. TOBIN: I hope they make more sense.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, I just hope the hon. member from - where is it? Down somewhere - Burin - Placentia West, is it? I do hope that when he gets up to speak that he has something worthwhile to say.

MR. NEARY: They are so insignificant, the new members, they have not made any showing worthwhile. Completely insignificant. Nobody will remember who they are four years from now. They will not know who they are.

MR. TOBIN: They will remember, you, buddy.

MR. NEARY: Oh, they will remember me but they will not remember the hon. gentlemen.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, even the subsidized housing project, this is a federal/provincial cost sharing agreement on public housing, and that is an agreement, Mr. Speaker, that could have been in place last Fall, this great subsidized housing project, but instead of being in place last Fall, contrary to that and contrary to the wishes of the home builders in this Province, the tenders were not called until Spring. I wonder why, Mr. Speaker? I wonder why they were not called until Spring? But this was part of the so-called early tendering programme,

MR. HODDER: and it actually ended up as a bunch of pre-election goodies that had been delayed so that they could be used for election fodder, and now we see them trotted out in the budget again as another thing to stimulate the economy.

Those monies, Mr. Speaker, they monies for land development and building lot subsidies, were of very dubious value. The money for the Mount Pearl sewer and traffic exchange were part of the year's capital works budget, and the land development is part of the CMHC scheme. The building subsidies, Mr. Speaker, are actually a decline in the price of the lots. They are a decline in the price of the lots which were overvalued. Because their value has declined, the government have been having a hard time trying to sell them.

MR. NEARY: That is terrible.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, these lots, some of them have been in the Province three or four years. I think some of them were built around 1975 and they have been sitting there, and the Premier says he is going to create 6,000 jobs by lowering these lots to close to the rate that they should have been.

Mr. Speaker, how much did we lose? How much did the Province lose by having these things sitting there for four or five years?

MR. NEARY: He cannot appoint 6,000 parliamentary assistants, can he? That is the only way you will get jobs, 6,000 parliamentary assistants.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, we have subdivisions like that in Stephenville, we have them in Gander -

MR. TOBIN: Marystown.

MR. HODDER: Marystown, the hon. said.
Has either one been used in Marystown yet?

MR. TOBIN: They are starting
(inaudible) government policy.

MR. HODDER: Oh, I see. Very good,
after five years. But in eighteen locations across the
Province, they have been sitting there empty because
of the high cost of building and industrial rates, as
well as the overpricing, Mr. Speaker, of many of the
lots.

The the Premier says that
this will create 1,000 jobs. Mr. Speaker, they will only
create 1,000 jobs if the people buy the lots.

MR. NEARY: And the member for
Twillingate (Mrs. Reid) wants to do away with Canada Works.

MR. HODDER: And I will tell you, Mr.
Speaker, in many, many of those cases people will not
move into those areas, how ever well services, because
they were ill-conceived, ill-planned and in the wrong
places. Now some of the lots -

MR. NEARY: Do away with Canada Works.
Put all the people on the dole. Put them all on the
dole, according to the member for Twillingate. Put all
Newfoundlanders, and put her constituents on the dole.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, it is really
a pleasure for me to be speaking in this debate on this
side of the House on a budget brought down by the hon.
gentleman from St. John's South (Dr. Collins).

MR. HODDER: You know, I have always had high regard for the minister because I think he is a man of ability and I think he is a man who has sacrificed a lucrative career and a man of great integrity. But, Mr. Speaker, the good doctor has somehow lost touch. And in this budget he used a meat cleaver rather than his scalpel.

MR. STAGG: How do you spell that?

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, the member for Stephenville (Mr. Stagg) just returned to the House.

MR. NEARY: Yes. Absent all day.

MR. HODDER: Absent all day.

MR. NEARY: We are going to start commenting on absent members now. The hon. Premier started -

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please!

MR. NEARY: - it. Now we are going to keep a daily attendance.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: Especially the member for Port de Grave (Mr. Reid).

MR. HODDER: Nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, I have known the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) ; the member for St. John's South, since he came to this House. I have known him for a long time -

AN HON. MEMBER: I have the (inaudible).

MR. NEARY: We have got the record too.

MR. HODDER: - but I am astonished, Mr. Speaker, I am astonished by the kind of language used in this budget speech.

Mr. Speaker, while lip service is being given in this Budget Speech to being Canadians, there is more

MR. HODDER: anti-Canadian rhetoric in it than is good for the Province. Of course, no doubt, Mr. Speaker, that the anti-Canadian rhetoric in the Budget Speech was fueled by the man who probably sometimes, rarely, sits across from me
Rene Peckford -

AN HON. MEMBER:

He is gone.

MR. HODDER:

- Rene Peckford.

MR. WARREN:

Rene. Rene.

MR. NEARY:

Do you mean we have two in Canada?

MR. WARREN:

Levesque is a separatist, is he not?

MR. HODDER:

Mr. Speaker, what he has been trying to do is to cover up his own mistakes and now the Finance Minister (Dr. Collins) is using the same kind of rhetoric to cover up his failings in trying to put together a budget.

MR. NEARY:

At least Rene is colourful.

MR. HODDER:

You know, Mr. Speaker, who was it? Was it Samuel Johnston, Mr. Speaker? Samuel Johnston, I believe, said that - I believe it was Samuel Johnston-said that 'Patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel!

MR. NEARY:

- of a scoundrel.

MR. HODDER:

I believe that was Samuel Johnston, Mr. Speaker.

MR. STAGG:

I probably said that.

MR. NEARY:

Yes, you did, but you were only quoting

MR. HODDER:

Mr. Speaker, it is a sad day for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador when the Finance Minister

MR. HODDER:

cannot tell it like it is on the state of the economy, and he did not tell it like it is on the state of the economy in this Budget. Mr. Speaker, I do know that John F. Kennedy, after the Bay of Pigs fiasco, said that victory has a thousand fathers but defeat is an orphan. Obviously, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance, the Premier and all his henchmen did not have the guts to tell the people what the Budget really meant for them despite the enormous mandate which they received on April 6th. And they are still, Mr. Speaker, shifting the blame. But, Mr. Speaker, you know, somebody, I believe it was Abraham Lincoln, said that you can fool some of the people all of the time but you cannot fool all the people all of the time. It is a good thing, Mr. Speaker, that you have over here on this side of the House a band of men -

MR. NEARY: Dedicated.

MR. HODDER: - dedicated to keeping this government honest -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. NEARY: If we could only get a chance, if we could only get them to accomodate us on these committees.

AN HON. MEMBER: You did not attend last year.

MR. NEARY: I beg your pardon?

MR. TOBIN: It is not our fault there are not enough of you over there.

MR. HODDER: But, Mr. Speaker, despite the Alice in Wonderland -

MR. NEARY: Oh, that is the answer, is it? Is that the government policy?

AN HON. MEMBER: Are you going to vote for the budget?

MR. HODDER: Am I going to vote for what?

AN HON. MEMBER: The budget.

MR. HODDER: The Budget.

MR. NEARY: Is that the philosophy now?

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, there is not one thing in this budget I could vote for

MR. NEARY: Because the people voted a certain way now you punish them. Is that the philosophy now? You ride roughshod over them now, that is the philosophy, is it?

MR. TOBIN: Who said that? Did you?

MR. NEARY: No, you are saying it.

MR. WARREN: Bring it back into the House, boy, bring it back into the House where it belongs.

MR. NEARY: Bring the estimates in here in the House.

MR. HODDER: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I agree with my colleagues. Yes, the only place to deal with the estimates, is in here in the House, in the House of Assembly.

MR. WARREN: Right on.

MR. HODDER: Not in the dungeons and board-rooms around this city.

MR. NEARY: Hear, hear! Right on.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker-

MR. DINN: There was 18 of you hear last year and you did not attend them.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, if there is one member on the other side that I would - Mr. Speaker, I am never going to get through this speech, you know that -

MR. NEARY: Take your time. Take your time, Jim. Take your time.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, I may be here for a week if this keeps up. Especially if the Minister of Labour and Manpower (Mr. J. Dinn), who should have been flung out of the Cabinet last year by the Premier, and

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MR. HODDER: who was not flung out of the Cabinet by the Premier, just as the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) and, Mr. Speaker, who now, who now has to go and grapple with all the public unions in this Province. Because of the inflammatory exercise of this budget, and who the unions had no respect for, Mr. Speaker, who have demanded his resignation, union after union-

MR. NEARY: Right on right on.

MR. DINN: Tomorrow.

MR. HODDER: Well, you had better speak well, because

MR. J. HODDER: you are going to have to do a lot of convincing to convince them that -

R. J. DINN: Come over and listen.

MR. HODDER: Oh, I might take the Minister up on that.

Mr. Speaker, despite the Alice in Wonderland nature of this budget we are going to try and inject some reality into the Minister of Finance's (Dr. J. Collins) warped exercise in budget making.

Mr. Speaker, look at some of the highlights of this budget. I have here, Mr. Speaker, anybody who wants to look at their budget, the highlights. Budget Highlights 1982.

MR. G. WARREN: Sock it to the people another one, is it?

MR. HODDER: Yes. It is sock it to the people. Government is projecting current account surplus in 1982 of \$3,406,000 with current account expenditures forecasted at \$1,009,718,730. I think I am a thousand off there. Anyhow, Mr. Speaker, that current account surplus is due to extra borrowing.

AN HON. MEMBER: Because of (inaudible).

MR. S. NEARY: Figures do not lie but liars do figure.

MR. HODDER: The next one, total capital expenditures for 1982-83, I am reading the government's budget now. Total capital expenditures for 1982-83 are forecasted at \$253,670,000 with related revenues of \$80,016,000. Mr. Speaker, that leaves a \$175,654,000 shortfall. Mr. Speaker, the combined impact of the provincial public investment and financial support of all forms by government and its agencies will benefit

MR. J. HODDER: the Province's economy to extend to almost \$500 million in 1982. The effect of this stimulus will be more pronounced in the construction and fishery sectors.

Mr. Speaker, that was the capital works budget dressed up. Mr. Speaker, the next one; A total of \$47 million has been provided for capital expenditures on overall costs of buildings and equipment in schools. Mr. Speaker, that was money already planned and, Mr. Speaker, it still is not going to be enough. And there is another question too, Mr. Speaker, on that \$2.5 million for assisting of school boards, I would like for someone when they stand and speak on the budget, and I hope every member over on that side of the House will speak on this budget because they have got a lot to answer for, will tell me -

MR. NEARY: They certainly have.

MR. HODDER: - will tell me if this money is already spent or what? And I have another question, that brings me to another point. I understand that every school board in this Province, except one, except for one school board is in financial difficulty.

AN HON. MEMBER: Yes, that is right.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, what will \$2.5 million do? Will it just bail out the Vineland School Board?

MR. NEARY: No.

MR. HODDER: Will it bail out two school boards?

MR. NEARY: No.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, will it bail out three school boards?

MR. NEARY: No.

MR. HODDER: What about, Mr. Speaker, the Bay of Islands Integrated School Board, the one I used to work for? Mr. Speaker, that is the only financially solvent school board in the Province. Now, Mr. Speaker, how will that particular school board feel when they see that there are other school boards across the Province who have gone down the drain? Will they not say, 'We can do nothing but be bailed out? Whatever we do we will be bailed out?' Is this what the government has now told school boards? Why did not the government come out and say which school boards they were bailing out?

MR. NEARY: Man-fashion.

MR. HODDER: Man-fashion, and tell us which school boards they were bailing out. Because now the government have left the impression, they have left the impression that they have a big fund for all the school boards in the Province. Well, they all need money, Mr. Speaker, every single one of them except for one. And where are you bailing them out, and which ones? Tell us, Mr. Speaker -

MR. NEARY: Two and one-half million dollars is a joke.

MR. HODDER: - when you stand to speak.

MR. NEARY: Two and-a-half million dollars, huh.
Two and one-half million dollars is a joke.

MR. HODDER: Two and one-half million dollars
is a joke, Mr. Speaker. I would suggest -

DR. COLLINS: I would never think that two and
one-half million dollars was a joke.

MR. NEARY: Do you know, how much you are
spending on -

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, I would suggest -

MR. NEARY: Do you know how much you spent on
jails in the last four years?

MR. WARREN: That is right.

MR. NEARY: \$13 million dollars on jails and
court houses in the last four years.

MR. WARREN: Is that a joke? Is that a joke?

MR. NEARY: And closing down hospital beds.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that,
that two and one-half million dollars has already been spent,
that the school board has been bailed out, or the school
boards have been bailed out, and it is pushed in the budget
with the indication that this is for all school boards in
the Province. We will wait and see, when they line up with
their hands out, Mr. Speaker, because there are a lot of
them.

MR. WARREN: That is right.

MR. HODDER: And there is only one that is financially
solvent and if I were a member of that school board I would
be upset because - perhaps we should give money to school
boards who maintain a good fiscal policy within their board.

MR. WARREN: Ask the minister did he consider the
\$5 million dollars that George Baker brought down to his
department the other day, too, federal money, \$5 million dollars.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, reading from the governments
own budget highlights - 'Governments has provided \$2,100,000
for the acquisition of land to finalize planning for a

MR. HODDER: new campus.' I understand, Mr. Speaker, that that is Pippy Park, that we are talking about here. And that two and one-half million dollars will be going to buy some homes and I do not know what. Perhaps when one of the people stand up - but, Mr. Speaker, never forget that that fisheries -

MR. WARREN: Watch out boy.

MR. HODDER: -that, that fisheries college will be built through federal money. Even though -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HODDER: - the minister, when he announced it in his budget, took a backhanded slap at the federal government.

MR. WARREN: Hear, hear!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, no!

MR. HODDER: It will be built with federal money. Oh, no! This crowd over here could not raise two cents to rub together.

MR. NEARY: Which is coming first, the Fisheries College or the polytech?

MR. HODDER: I will not go through the next one, Mr. Speaker, because I have already dwelt on it, the \$200 tuition fee, and the cutting out in the nineteen vocational schools and the vocational school students in this Province.

Mr. Speaker, an amount of \$1.5 million has been provided for incentives to businesses where manufacturing equipment - that is a drop in the bucket, Mr. Speaker. That will not even start to stimulate the economy in this Province.

Now, I will come to a good one, Mr. Speaker, one of the few good things that I have seen in the budget. 'The government is introducing a programme which will, on an individual basis, consider applications from small businesses for exemption from retail sales tax for capital investment in machinery and equipment when local employment is increased and goods are locally manufactured.' Good, Mr. Speaker, a good measure. A good measure, something I can agree with you on.

Now, I may withdraw those comments. You know, we have to see what the criteria are.

MR. NEARY: There may be too much politics involved there.

MR. HODDER: The type of politics that are involved and the type of criteria that will be used.

MR. NEARY: Right! The guidelines.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, again on the Budget Highlights, and one I will not bother to refer to, where we have taken the retail sales tax from the sawmill operators for capital equipment and then stuck them with three times the stumpage fees. That, Mr. Speaker, was a backward trend and the retail sales tax will, particularly -

MR. DOYLE: (Inaudible).

MR. NEARY: Go out, boy, and get your crab licence for Bell Island.

MR. DOYLE: (Inaudible)

MR. NEARY: You did not have the guts, the courage.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: You got it all right, you got it right up your - the federal Minister of Fisheries.

MR. HODDER: And then we come to, 'Effective May 1st, 1982, an average increase of 10 per cent will be applied to public service pensions'. Mr. Speaker, that is not even as high as the rate of inflation. Effective May 1st. social assistance rates will go up. That is not as high as the rate of inflation. It means a decrease in real terms.

Mr. Speaker, I notice here, as well, that there is completion of planning and a start on construction of the new hospital at Clarendville. Mr. Speaker, that is in this budget, completion of planning and start of construction of the new hospital at Clarendville. It is in this budget. And do you know something, Mr. Speaker? It was in last year's budget too.

MR. WARREN: Yes.

MR. HODDER: The hospital was promised last year, in last year's budget. So will it be a promise again in next year's budget?

MR. DINN: The Five Year Plan.

MR. HODDER: Oh, you just keep promising it each year. Mr. Speaker, is that not pulling the wool over the eyes of the public?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. HODDER: They have got a good member out there boy. He fights for his district. A good member in Port aux Basques.

MR. WARREN: Read it. You read it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. HODDER: By the way, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to talk about - Mr. Speaker, with the concurrence of my colleagues - the last particular part of the Budget Highlights. It says that the rate of provincial income tax will increase by 2 per cent effective July 1st. Mr. Speaker, this makes us have the second highest rate of personal income tax of the provinces, just below Quebec. Quebec is the highest. We already have the highest sales tax, Mr. Speaker, now we have the second highest personal income tax. So, Mr. Speaker, the government has a lot to be proud about.

MR. WARREN: Yes, It is a good government.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, now let us look at some of the things that the Budget did not tell us which is -

DR. COLLINS: Would you call it a nice budget?

MR. HODDER: Oh, no, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) knows that I did not like the Budget. But let us look at some of the things that the Budget did not tell us, which are perhaps even more frightening, Mr. Speaker, the things that the Budget did not tell us. The fishery is acknowledged as being one of the most important industries in the Province for its people. It is the most labour intensive industry in the Province. And the government is constantly talking about the lack of jurisdiction that it has. Always we hear, the lack of jurisdiction. But, Mr. Speaker, what has happened is that the government has actually cut the Budget for the Ministry of Fisheries for this year over last. The Budget for the Ministry of Fisheries is cut this year over last. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NEARY:

Is that right? I see!

MR. HODDER:

Perhaps that shows the confidence that the Premier has in the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan). Does that show confidence, that for one of the primary sectors, the primary industry in this Province the Budget has been cut, Mr. Speaker. But that is not the first time the Budget has been cut. Last year's budget was \$19,447,000 on Fisheries.

MR. DINN:

Nineteen and one half million last year.

MR. HODDER:

Last year's. Now perhaps hon. members might like to listen to this, if the yahoo from somewhere in Pleasantville would keep his mouth shut for a second so I could say a few words.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. WARREN:

He is always gabbing. Gabby Haves.

MR. HODDER:

Mr. Speaker, the last year's Federal Budget was \$19,447,000. But in the cutbacks ordered by the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) last Fall and Winter, the two most important areas of

MR.J. HODDER provincial expenditure, loans and incentives, this is in the Department of Fisheries, grants and quality control were cut back \$3 million-

MR. WARREN Wow! Now, is that a joking matter?

MR. HODDER - so that a final revised total came to \$16,335,000.

MR. WARREN Now, is the Minister of Finance(Dr. Collins) saying that is a joke? Is that a joke?

MR. HODDER Now, this year's budget, Mr. Speaker, is said to be an increase, said to be an increase, but that increase is \$2 million less than last year's budget. Now, can I say that to members again?

MR. WARREN Yes, say it one more time.

MR. HODDER And, Mr. Speaker, this is our primary - this is the primary most labour intensive industry in this Province. Now let us look at the fisheries estimates.

MR. NEARY The member for Twillingate (Mrs. Reid) should listen to this. Listen now. Listen.

MR. HODDER Last year's budget was \$19,447,000. That was spent on fisheries. But then the Minister of Finance(Dr.Collins) ordered cutbacks,

MR. WARREN: Ah, ha! Cutting corners.

MR. HODDER That was last Fall. And the cutbacks were in the two most important areas of provincial expenditure. Loans and incentives and grants and quality control were cut back by \$3 million.

MR. WARREN: And not the interest rate.

MR. HODDER: So the final revised total came to \$16,335,000. Now this year's budget is supposed to be an increase and we are \$2 million less than last year's budget. Now that is where this government's priorities are. The fishery, Oh my goodness!

MR. WARREN: I noticed the Minister of the Privy Council reading about the (Inaudible).

MR. HODDER: The Minister of Fisheries(Mr. J. Morgan), and the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins), the Premier and the Government House Leader, they should all resign.

MR. WARREN The House Leader is really (Inaudible), he should take it easy though.

MR. HODDER Mr. Speaker, a few years ago, that is about 50 per cent in inflationary terms, the budget for fisheries was \$21 million.

MR. WARREN : See, boy, that shows that Canada(Inaudible).

MR. HODDER: \$21 million, which would be equivalent to about \$32 million in 1982 dollars.

MR. WARREN : Common sense, common sense on all that.

MR. NEARY : The lowest form of life. They have a backbencher on that side of the House that is the lowest form of life in this Province.

MR. HODDER : Mr. Speaker,

MR. WARREN : 4 per cent of the offshore.

MR. NEARY: A backbencher trying to prop up the administration, the lowest form of life.

SOME HON. MEMBERS Oh, oh !

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker,if hon. members would let me get on with my speech.

MR. NEARY: Take your time, 'Jim'.

MR. HODDER: You know, it is a quarter after five.

MR. WARREN: (Inaudible) And you will be back.

MR. HODDER: Oh, no, no, no, if this continues I am going to be here tomorrow until 5:30 -

MR. NEARY: Well, take your time then.

MR. HODDER: - or Thursday, I may not be in the House on Thursday and I would certainly like to get all this out.

MR. NEARY: Take all the time you want.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, a few years ago the budget for fisheries was \$21 million which, in 1982 dollars would be \$32 million. And this year's is half, if you look at it in those terms. So, Mr. Speaker, maybe what we are saying is that, you know, attracting industry or trying to build up the fishery or to try and improve quality control, maybe we do not want that, Mr. Speaker, maybe that will interfere with our quality of life, you know, who wants a few jobs? That has been the thrust, that has been the thrust. Mr. Speaker, what about money for research? What about NORDCO? What about NORDCO? They get \$200,000 this year, NORDCO, research, research into the fisheries. They get \$200,000 this year. That is a lot of money you might say, \$200,000 for NORDCO. Would members on the other side think, would the member for Fortune Bay, wherever it is down there, Fortune - Hermitage (Mr. Stewart), would he agree that \$200,000 is a lot for NORDCO for research this year.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. HODDER: Well, Mr. Speaker, that is down \$100,000 since last year, Down \$100,000 since last year.

MR. SIMMS: (Inaudible) our research.

MR. HODDER: Now what is going to happen to our scientists, Mr. Speaker? I suspect, Mr. Speaker, that they will be in Halifax. They will be where the economy is good, where things are going good, they will be in Halifax.

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MR. HODDER: Where have they all gone, Mr. Speaker, where have they all gone?

MR. HODDER: Will the government ever learn? Will it ever learn? Mr. Speaker, we cannot help but get excited about the vast increase for offshore business development, from \$157,000 to \$295,000, but there is no offshore oil and who knows how long it will take for the whole wrangle to be straightened out. Meanwhile, we will finance activities to get them going and other activities to get them going and abandon them.

MR. J. HODDER: Because in the Premier's words in this House, they were just nooses around our necks. He said, Mr. Speaker, he said that he would rather let a few businesses go down the drain than lose the offshore oil war, to save his own face. How do we know that that money will be spent on offshore development? We do not. Mr. Speaker, I predict and I believe that there will be a mini budget in the Fall.

AN HON. MEMBER: A mini budget in the Fall?

MR. HODDER: Yes. A mini budget in the Fall.

Mr. Speaker, and then everything is going to be cut back again.

MR. J. DINN: We are not going to have to do that.

because we are going to have an election in the Fall.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, I would say by the time the Fall rolls around, that you can call your election and you will be over here and we will be over there.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HODDER: Because, you know, Mr. Speaker, I have never seen a group of people who have gone downhill so fast. I have never seen a group of people who have become so arrogant so quickly and who have gone downhill so fast. Everywhere I go in this Province today, Mr. Speaker, they are talking about the topless bar which the President of Treasury Board closed down. They are talking about the St. Anthony fish plant, they are talking about the day of mourning. Mr. Speaker, we have so much that we cannot get through it in Question Period. We have not even gotten back to the Ombudsman Report yet. We have not gotten to the Auditor General's Report. I mean there is just so much. Mr. Speaker, this little group of men are going to have to keep the House open until August or September just to ask all the questions that we have right now.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. G. WARREN: Hear, hear!

MR. J. HODDER: August or September. Unless hon. members on the other side will extend Question period for about two more hours each day. And then we might be able to get all of the questions that we have, asked.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. G. WARREN: So we will be here for August and September and we will do shift work, too.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

AN HON. MEMBER: Are you giving up your trip?

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, when we do get the mini budget in the Fall all the brave promises, all the brave promises will be thrown out the window, Mr. Speaker, like a pile of old cod's heads.

MR. WARREN: That is right.

MR. SIMMS: Do not forget the tongues.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation will receive \$8,373,000 to build new homes and cover the debt on its current holdings. But last year's budget called for \$7,104,000 for the same capital spending and \$5,800,000 was spent. Now, Mr. Speaker, we saw the budget, we saw the amount, but how much is going to be lopped off this year? Mr. Speaker, the budget is rife - rife, I should say, with examples such as this of how the government seems to have a very strange relationship with the truth. And the going fact is that the - and as we look at it page after page of failure and mismanagement. But,

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, there is no apology from the Premier or the Minister. What do we get? We did not raise the sales tax, we did not raise the gasoline tax! Mr. Speaker, and there is another one of those little slight of hands that this government has performed. They did it, and I think it was in the last budget. Or was it in the budget before? They have got it fixed now, Mr. Speaker, they have never got to put up the price of gasoline again. I did hear somewhere on a report that the price of gasoline did not go up this year. No, Mr. Speaker. Because a lot of people in this Province do not realize that every time the price of gasoline goes up it automatically goes up by this government, so that the price of gasoline now, in this Province, is being constantly - so you do not have to put it in your budget any more.

That is one thing that this government is good at, being able to hide how they raise taxes. But the budget had to refrain, we did not raise the sales tax, we did not raise the gas tax like everybody else did. Mr. Speaker, you can not get blood from a turnip. And the sales tax is already the highest in Canada. And the gas tax is more that our fishermen and farmers can bear. Mr. Speaker, this government is raising the tax. The budget, Mr. Speaker, tries to put on a brave face for the coming year. And my question is whether this is really a cynical attempt to pull the wool over the eyes of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians?

MR. H. YOUNG: What about Graham Flight and them? Now where are they going? See if that is taxpayers' money wasted.

MR. HODDER: What is the Minister of Public Works (Mr. H. Young) saying about one of his departed colleagues from the House of Assembly? Would the Minister of Public Works -

MR. WARREN: What happened to the hon. the member for Bonavista (Inaudible)

MR. HODDER: I hope, Mr. Speaker, I hope Mr. Speaker, that when I leave this House of Assembly, or when the hon. member, the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Young) leaves this House of Assembly, that members will cease to malign him. Is the vitriol of the minister of great, that he must malign members who are past and gone? Now, what did the Minister have to say about the former member for Windsor-Buchans?

MR. YOUNG: I asked you to tell us about where he is situated now and what kind of a job he has.

MR. HODDER: The member for -

MR. YOUNG: And is it taxpayers' money.

MR. HODDER: The member for Windsor - Buchans is sitting at home and he is looking for a job.

MR. WARREN: What happened to the member for -

MR. YOUNG: I understand he is (inaudible)

MR. HODDER: No. Well, the minister is wrong. Well, the minister is wrong. You may have heard - I am sure the minister hears all kinds of dirt and scandal and I have no doubt that the minister believes it. Because that is the kind of a mind that minister has.

MR. WARREN: What happened to the member for -

MR. NEARY: A real newsbag.

MR. HODDER: Newsbag.

MR. WARREN: What happened to the member for Bonavista North during the last election?

MR. HODDER: If there is any old dirt that the minister can hear or any old dirt that he - that minister - What never ceases to amaze me is how that minister got in the Cabinet. What did he do to the Premier to allow him to stay in the Cabinet?

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MR. NEARY:

What has he got on the Premier?

MR. HODDER:

What has he got on the Premier?

MR. WARREN:

He and the member for Bonavista

South (Mr. Morgan).

MR. NEARY:

Him and the Minister of Fisheries

(Mr. Morgan) and the Minister of Social Services (Mr. Hickey).

MR. HODDER:

The Minister of Fisheries, the

Minister of Public Works (Mr. Young) and the Minister of Social

Services must have something on the Premier. Mr. Speaker,

when I stand here in the House of Assembly and

MR. HODDER: I hear the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Young) talking about a colleague of mine who is now departed -

MR. WARREN: Where is Harold Collins now?

MR. HODDER: - you know, and spouting-untruths, I suppose is the word.- dirt and gossip.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. WARREN: Where is Harold Collins now, 'Jim'?

MR. HODDER: Now, Mr. Speaker, I have to stop and take exception.

MR. NEARY: Where is our protocol officer?

MR. HODDER: Yes, Mr. Speaker, where is our Protocol Officer and the Chairman of the Workers' Compensation Board? The Chairman of the Workers Compensation Board and all the other people? Where is the former member for LaPoile?

MR. NEARY: That is right. He is buried, buried out in Isle aux Morts.

MR. YOUNG: He is retired. He is retired.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Evans, where is he?

MR. YOUNG: Retired, retired.

MR. HODDER: Retired is he? I hear he is still looking after fish plants.

MR. NEARY: He has got a telephone, an office in his house plus a big salary. And has not lifted a finger since 1975.

MR. HODDER: No one on that side of the House has any right, Mr. Speaker, no one on that side of the House has any right to talk about what happened to the people who were defeated on this side. There has never

MR. HODDER: been so many people in the history of the Province who have been looked after as have been looked after by this government -

MR. YOUNG: He is retired.

MR. NEARY: He is retired alright on full salary, thanks to the taxpayers.

MR. BARRETT: He is the only one (inaudible).

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to say that -

MR. MORGAN: He looked after the people in his district.

MR. HODDER: - in closing, Mr. Speaker, -

MR. NEARY: Is that right? How about the hospital?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HOUSE: It was announced before he was defeated.

MR. NEARY: I see. I see.

MR. WARREN: Oh. Yes, that is how long it takes you to do it.

MR. YOUNG: (Inaudible).

MR. WARREN: That is how long it takes you to do it. Announced before he was defeated, eight years ago.

MR. NEARY: You will have to send out bigger than the Martin tag team.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) did not write this budget with a pen, he did not write it with a pen, he did it with a shovel.

MR. WARREN: Yes, shovel the dirt right on top.

MR. HODDER: The first thing that you would expect that he would try to develop, try to figure out industrial strategy to hire the people to get this Province moving again.

MR. J. HODDER : And what better place to look than the Ministry of Development? What better place to look than to the Department of Development.

MR. S. NEARY : He is too busy going to California.

MR. HODDER: Well, there have been some - oh, yes, we will get to that too- some brave Promises some \$360,000 for the Newfoundland and Labrador Development Corporation. In the budget there is \$360,000 for the Newfoundland and Labrador Development Corporation. That sounds like quite a bit, Mr. Speaker. Would hon. members think that that was quite a bit, \$360,000 for the Newfoundland Development Corporation? Well, you know, Mr. Speaker, that is down from \$900,000 last year, down from \$900,000 last year, in last year's budget. Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, the reason that it is down is that no one has confidence to start up a business with the anti-industry climate that has been created by this paranoiac Premier and government. Or is it that the budget for industrial incentives is not considered important enough by my esteemed colleague from St. John's South(Dr. J. Collins)? Mr. Speaker, I would certainly like to know when he stands, why it is that the Newfoundland and Labrador Development Corporation have reduced - their budget is reduced down to \$360,000 from the \$900,000 which was in last year's budget? Why, Mr. Speaker? What has happened to that Corporation that we have reduced their budget from \$900,000 down to \$300,000?

MR. NEARY : And record unemployment in the construction industry.

MR. HODDER : Mr. Speaker, if we look at the Auditor General's Report on how this government managed the accounts of this Province from 1980 to 1981- or should I say mismanaged?

MR. HODDER: If you look at the funds mis-appropriated, the procedural and legal matters, mistakes, monies not collected, wasted tax dollars, it comes to \$332 million dollard, fully a quarter of last years' budget. The incompetence, Mr. Speaker, of the ministers in the cabinet - I regret to say, my colleague from St. John's South (Dr. Collins) has to take the brunt of it, but he is the Minister of Finance.

MR. NEARY: He is the king of the incompetent ones.

MR. HODDER: Perhaps it is because he has not been keeping a close eye on that nursery which passes for a cabinet room.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HODDER: And he has not been watching the outrageous antics of the Premier, and how every time he opens his mouth the stock of Newfoundland declines.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HODDER: It declines another notch.

MR. NEARY: They are pretty strong words, boy. Those are pretty strong words.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, how can we get any confidence in our future when we have a chip on our shoulders - there is a chip on the shoulder of the Premier and the Minister of Finance, who blame all their miseries on someone and provoke battles where there are none. Mr. Speaker, can we really, can we really expect the Canadian and the United States business community to be favorable to our efforts to develop when we offer cuts in research and development, token support for technological assistance in the fishery? Only \$1.5 million for that, Mr. Speaker.

MR. YOUNG: Let us call it six o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, that amount for the fishery is enough for a few conferences, a study and a few plane fares for this particular government.

MR. NEARY: Especially for that minister.

MR. HODDER: And that is the government's approach to development.

MR. NEARY: He is the most travelled minister in the whole Cabinet.

MR. HODDER: And on top of that, Mr. Speaker, combined with the anti-business attitude -

MR. WARREN: Yes. He will be sicker before we are finished with him.

MR. HODDER: - they increased the tax on corporations. Not the best way to win friends and influence people.

MR. YOUNG: He has malaria now.

MR. NEARY: Pardon! He got what?

MR. HODDER: Meanwhile, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Development (Mr. Windsor) -

MR. WARREN: He must have got it down in Porto Rico.

MR. HODDER: - the Minister of Development who is not here today, is busy chasing around

AN HON. MEMBER: Are you nearly finished?

MR. HODDER: If you had television in the House, I would have finished this speech two hours ago. Meanwhile, Mr. Speaker, the -

MR. NEARY: Country and Western songs.

MR. HODDER: The Minister of Everything, the Minister of Development, the Don Quixote of the House -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. BARRETT: It is better than nothing.

MR. HODDER: - the Minister of Development, has been chasing around, tracing around the world -

MR. NEARY: Chasing rainbows.

MR. HODDER: - in pursuit of an aluminum smelter.

MR. NEARY: All eight of us are potential leaders, the whole eight.

MR. HODDER: Do you know, Mr. Speaker, that the only single development that this government and that minister

MR. HODDER: this government and that minister are pursuing is the aluminium smelter? And, I would ask, Mr. Speaker, I would ask for the minister, and someone can report my words to him, to table or to tell us what other development plans that that minister has?

MR. NEARY: Tell us about the crab licenses.

MR. BARRETT: You are all with 'Jims' voice.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure if this aluminium smelter may not have been a cruel joke that has been played on the people of the West Coast and the people of Goose Bay.

AN HON. MEMBER: Over the hill.

MR. NEARY: You cannot do anything because you have not got the courage.

MR. HODDER: Because, Mr. Speaker, it is the first time I have seen an interested company having to be bankrolled to come in and do a study. Mr. Speaker, I would like to see what their half - I would like to see tabled in this House how much this government put into that study and how much they put into the study. Because it just happened to happen before an election.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. HODDER: Sure, we would like to see an aluminium smelter, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NEARY: That will be the same as the dust in Labrador city.

MR. HODDER: But, it is very interesting, Mr. Speaker. You give me \$1 million to come in and do a study for you, I will come in and do a study for you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. HODDER: And, Mr. Speaker, it is a cruel joke.

MR. NEARY: That is right.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, the Premier played another

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Tape No. 791

RA - 2

MR. HODDER: cruel joke on us during the election campaign.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HODDER: That was his so-called economic recovery plan. Mr. Speaker, that was nothing new. Just some old songs with new words.

MR. YOUNG: (Inaudible) with your 45 votes or 41 votes.

MR. BARRETT: How much?

MR. NEARY: So did he win?

MR. HODDER: What we saw, Mr. Speaker, during the election campaign and again -

MR. NEARY: It is not like NHL you know, there are no semi-finals, no playoffs, you either win or lose.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. HODDER: What we saw, Mr. Speaker, in the election campaign and again in the budget, was a normal capital works budget dressed up in different clothing, a new suit of clothes for it, Mr. Speaker. That particular amount of money has had three suits of clothes now. First it was a federal/provincial agreement, then it was an economic recovery plan and now low and behold it is in the budget as something to stimulate the economy. So, that particular -

MR. HODDER: amount has had three suits of clothes.

MR. BARRETT: You must feel Garfield Warren (inaudible)

MR. HODDER: Now, Mr. Speaker, what about the promise to keep the salaries in line for the civil service? Let us all look at that one for a moment Mr. Speaker. Ours are frozen. Is that not something? Our salaries are frozen. A joke, Mr. Speaker. But what a wonderful promise. But, Mr. Speaker, was anybody in the public service called upon to ask their opinion? This government is not going to have any problem getting the Chief Minister's assistants to accept a 5 per cent hike for senior civil servants, because they are controlled by the top. They are controlled by the top. What about the unions Mr. Speaker? What about the unions? Will we be asked in this House - in the coming session or the next session of the House - will we be asked to send striking workers back because the government cannot negotiate, like we did last year? Will we be asked to do that again this year, Mr. Speaker? To send the low income, the support workers and the others, will we be asked to legislate them back again like we did last year? Will the government force lay-offs? Will they blackmail the public sector unions into submission? Is that what they plan to do?

MR. STAGG: Blackmail?

MR. HODDER: Yes, blackmail.

MR. SIMMS: Strong words!

MR. HODDER: Or will they finally relent -

MR. NEARY: Strong words but true words.

MR. HODDER: - and this is why I say we

will have a mini budget Mr. Speaker, we will have a mini budget - in a brand new budget in the Fall? And then, Mr. Speaker, after they bring in the mini-budget, because they are not going to be able to negotiate, they are not in a position, - this government is not in a position to

MR. HODDER: negotiate with any service union. Not after its actions, Mr. Speaker. This government is a joke.

AN HON. MEMBER: MacEachen over here, boy.

MR. HODDER: But Mr. Speaker, I predict that the actions of this government will be to bring in a mini-budget, and then, Mr. Speaker, what will they do? They will blame their own incompetence on the public employees refusal to accept pay cuts. That is the plan of this government, Mr. Speaker, mark my words. We will have another budget, because you cannot hold it. You cannot hold it.

MR. BARRETT: We did not hear you. Say it again! Go through it again.

MR. HODDER: No, Mr. Speaker. But that is what you will do, Mr. Speaker, there will be a mini-budget because you are not going to be able to keep the salaries down.

MR. BARRETT: Give us a shot at it again. Come on, say it one more time. Say it again.

MR. STAGG: Is this the same old stuff you said yesterday?

MR. HODDER: If the member would - Mr. Speaker, I am hoping to clue this up by six o'clock.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. HODDER: And, Mr. Speaker, even though I have enjoyed myself thoroughly,

MR. J. HODDER: I will not let the member for Stephenville (Mr. F. Stagg) -

MR. NEARY: Intimidate me.

MR. HODDER: - intimidate me.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, now I am not disputing in any way, I am not disputing the need for cutbacks, as the Auditor General's Report shows that the government is pretty bloated as it is.

MR. STAGG: Tell us a few things about the NTA.

MR. HODDER: When I spoke about retired teachers, I did not speak of the NTA, I spoke of retired teachers. And I think it is a shame that the NTA has paid so little attention to retired teachers in this Province who have put in twenty to thirty years of service in the worst days of teaching in this Province. Do you want to hear me say that again?

MR. STAGG: (Inaudible) that too?

MR. HODDER: Oh, Mr. Speaker, I have said it twice in the House now - I am sure the hon. member will pass my comments along.

MR. STAGG: (Inaudible).

MR. HODDER: Yes. Anyway, if the hon. member would like to say it again, if he thinks it will get me in some trouble with the NTA I could not care less, Mr. Speaker.

MR. STAGG: I admire the hon. gentleman for it.

MR. NEARY: They just treat everything so lightly over there on that side of the House. We had the Ocean Ranger today and the Premier treated it lightly. Everything is treated with a joke.

MR. HODDER: Yes, Mr. Speaker. But as far as I am concerned, Mr. Speaker, the NTA has not done well by its retired teachers. They are very good at getting their own salaries,

MR. J. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, but they have not done well by their retired teachers. Now let the word go out from here. Now if the member wants me to say it ten times, I will say it ten times.

MR. STAGG: I was surprised to hear you say that because it is very unusual for an Opposition member to -

MR. HODDER: Oh, Mr. Speaker, wait until the teachers come up for negotiations for salaries and see what this hon. member might say about that.

MR. STAGG: (Inaudible).

MR. HODDER: No, Mr. Speaker, I am not going to prejudice any negotiations.

MR. S. NEARY: No previews.

MR. HODDER: No previews, Mr. Speaker.

AN HON. MEMBER: Just in case you will though that you are going (inaudible) the department saying that they have got lots of money.

MR. HODDER: I just said wait until the member sees what I had to say. I said what I had to say.

MR. STAGG: (Inaudible) had to say (inaudible).

MR. NEARY: Go out boy and dig your hole. Crawl down in one the next time you dig one, will you. Roll over and play dead.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, the minister spent a lot of time cutting down the federal government's increased amounts of revenue for the people of the Province. Of course, that is not new, Mr. Speaker, because every speech that is made over on that side of the House, and they do it every year in the Budget Speech, they cut down the federal government, they spend time criticizing the cutting down of the federal government's amounts of revenue for the people of the Province.

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Tape No. 793

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MR. J. HODDER: But, Mr. Speaker, last year we were told - and members might want to listen to this figure - last year we were told that the federal government would contribute 48.3 per cent of our current revenues and we would contribute 51.7 per cent. Oh, the terrible federal government. But, lo and behold,

MR. J. HODDER

Mr. Speaker, low and behold, the revised estimates show that the federal government share was 50.1 per cent and the Province's share was 49.9 per cent.

MR. NEARY: Now, what do you make of that?

MR. HODDER What do you make of that,

Mr. Speaker? Now this year we have the promise that the provincial government will contribute 51.2 per cent. But can we depend on that I will say it again, Mr. Speaker, because the member for Stephenville (Mr. Stagg) did not hear me. But last year, Mr. Speaker - I have here somewhere a table which I would like for the Member for Stephenville (Mr. Stagg) to look at

MR. WARREN: But you know he cannot read.

MR. HODDER Although he probably would not understand it, Mr. Speaker,

MR. NEARY He cannot read, show him the coloured pictures.

MR. HODDER But, Mr. Speaker -

AN. HON. MEMBER Here you go, look.

MR. HODDER Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member for Stephenville (Mr. Stagg) if one of the pages are willing to carry this over-

MR. NEARY No, do not give it away, I want it.

MR. HODDER No, we have other copies.

MR. NEARY Oh, we do, Okay.

MR. HODDER But this is a total value of federal transfers to Newfoundland taking us up to 1986-87, Mr. Speaker, if the member of Stephenville (Mr. Stagg) would like to have that to refer to it.

MR. NEARY: A short fall at \$ 20 million, how are you, an extra \$100 million next year.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, you might carry this document over to him too, because I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that he - and then perhaps, Mr. Speaker, he can go and find somebody who understands it and will explain it to him in baby talk.

MR. WARREN: Now, maybe he will want a meeting with you tomorrow.

MR. HODDER: But, Mr. Speaker, last year we were told the federal government would contribute 48.3 per cent of our current revenues and we would contribute 51.7 per cent. And when the revised estimates came up it showed that the federal government, in fact, gave us 50.1 per cent. And the federal government - that is what we got 50.1 percent from the federal government and a 49.9 share from the provincial government. So this year, Mr. Speaker, can we believe, can we believe what the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) has to say?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No way. No way.

MR. WARREN: No, we cannot.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker-

MR. NEARY: Because last year you were (inaudible) too.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, it is very embarrassing to me as a proud Newfoundlander, when we have to try to one up the Government of Canada in a budgetary exercise, when its contribution is almost always 50 percent or more than the Province. What a shame, Mr. Speaker, what a shame! And if we got down to work, Mr. Speaker, if we got down to work to build up this Province with the resources we have, instead of living with pipe dreams, perhaps, Mr. Speaker, we would have a better showing on those budget tables.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, but the fact is that this government has never been able to develop an industrial strategy.

MR. NEARY: Right on!

MR. HODDER: Has never been able to develop an industrial strategy, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NEARY: They are too stunned for that.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, in the -

MR. WARREN: More brains in a turnip.

MR. HODDER: - seven years that I -
over seven years that I have been in this House of Assembly,
I have heard nothing that would show me that this

MR. HODDER:

government has a clue to where it is going, and particularly in the last three or four years. All we have heard -

MR. WARREN:

He is going to be here longer than you will.

MR. HODDER:

- all we have heard is, 'Blame it on the federal government, blame it on the federal government. Slough it off on the federal government. Do not give us any new programmes, do not come up with any imaginative ideas, we can just slop her through, we can just go our merry way, waltz along'. And when somebody says, 'You are not doing anything', 'C., it is Ottawa's fault'.

MR. WARREN:

What about the trans-Pacific? Are they going to start up (inaudible) I wonder?

MR. HODDER:

Mr. Speaker, this government has only been against something, against something. Some times I think, Mr. Speaker, that the Opposition here are more positive than the government.

MR. WARREN:

You know we are, You know we are.

MR. HODDER:

Because the governments main role is opposition to the federal government. Mr. Speaker, what would happen I wonder, what would happen I wonder if the government were to change in Ottawa? What would this government do then? Who would they blame it on?

MR. WARREN:

Cuba.

MR. HODDER:

Would they be able then to blame it on the big bad wolf?

MR. NEARY:

Argentia then.

MR. WARREN:

Fidel Castro, in Cuba.

MR. HODDER:

Mr. Speaker, we received \$115 million more under the new arrangement announced and, you know, we are not going about - it is crazy to say.

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MR. HODDER: to go ahead talking about losing money on the EPF, because their revenue guarantee is gone. Mr. Speaker, we never spent the money on education anyway. The Premier admitted that with all the other Premiers, when he was in Victoria last year, they did not think the money was for education, so they spent it elsewhere. Now they are crying because they had their hands in the cookie jar.

MR. WARREN: After two hours you are coming back, watch it now.

MR. HODDER: Just as a brief that was presented, Mr. Speaker, by the MUN Faculty Association, it proved that the provincial government has not increased university spending in years. The federal government is almost the only source, the only source of funds for the university which, along with our vocational training schools and our colleges, are the only hope for our young people. What a travesty, Mr. Speaker. The Memorial University even went as far as to recommend direct federal input, and the Faculty Association went as far as to recommend direct federal input to bypass the provincial skimming off of revenues. Mr. Speaker, I might tell this group on the other side as well, that when the DREE group came from Ottawa,

the task force on DREE came from Ottawa, a number of submissions on the West coast told DREE that we would rather you came directly to the Province than have this provincial / federal agreement and confrontations, that DREE become a federal agency and give directly to the Province.

MR. WARREN: We would be much better off.

MR. HODDER: Brief after brief, after brief.
And briefs from the member from Stephenville's (Mr. Stagg)

MR. J. HODDER: own area, from the Chamber of Commerce in Stephenville said, 'Do away the provincial government's involvement in DREE, it is only hanging everything up. Do it properly.' In other words, they were saying, we trust Ottawa better than we trust this crowd over here.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. G. WARREN: Right on, right on. Hear, hear!

MR. STAGG: It was set up by the Liberal members and they all went forward and they (inaudible).

MR. HODDER: Yes. It was a three party committee, Mr. Speaker. There were more Tories and NDP's on that particular committee -

MR. STAGG: The whole Liberal caucus was there.

MR. G. WARREN: You are in trouble now. You are in trouble now.

MR. STAGG: And Ed Roberts and the whole Liberal party.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, those recommendations came from the St. John's area as well as from the West Coast area, perhaps the member should do a little bit more research.

MR. STAGG: (Inaudible) I do not know about St. John's, but I know who set them up on the West Coast, I was there.

MR. HODDER: Oh sure, Mr. Speaker. Oh, yes, yes, yes. Mr. Speaker, that is the trade mark, pin him in the corner and he comes back with slander. He slanders whoever is closest. And if you really nail him, Mr. Speaker, he will even slander his own side.

MR. STAGG: (Inaudible) Mr. Tobin and all the others.

MR. HODDER: Oh, Mr. Tobin. The only problem that the hon. member has with Mr. Tobin was that the hon. member

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MR. HODDER: for Stephenville (Mr. F. Stagg)
elected Mr. Tobin to the House of Commons.

MR. G. WARREN: Hear, hear!

MR. HODDER: That is how Mr. Tobin got there,
through his stupidity.

MR. WARREN: That is right. Tell him about
the speech too. Tell him about answer in Question Period
in Stephenville.

MR. HODDER: Oh, he knows it.
(Inaudible).

MR. HODDER: Well, I will tell you the federal
member, Mr. Tobin is far better than the provincial, Mr. Tobin.
Now, now.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, the fact is that we are
getting -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, if I do not finish
by 6:00 p. m., if I do not finish - if I have to adjourn this
debate I may just get up and go for another day. And I do
not want to, Mr. Speaker.

Who cares.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, I care and the hon.
member cares, or he would keep his mouth shut.

MR. NEARY: Right on. You are getting to him,
boy. You are getting to him

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. HODDER: And especially, Mr. Speaker,
up and praised his
today I mentioned Mr. Tobin. I mentioned something he had
something to do with and he goes berserk. I wonder why, Mr. Speaker,
wonder why?

MR. STAGG: I did not want (inaudible).

MR. J. HODDER: Oh, yes, Mr. Speaker.

I did not put in that type of brief, Mr. Speaker, it was the Chamber of Commerce. Oh, I do not think, Mr. Speaker, that the Chamber of Commerce particularly -

MR. STAGG: (Inaudible) you invited them down there to Port au Port (Inaudible) I know, I was there.

MR. HODDER: The member is so wrong because the Chamber of Commerce, the President was the Chairman of the Harmon Corporation, put in a brief.

MR. S. NEARY: What?

MR. HODDER: Oh yes, put in a brief, saying bypass DREE.

MR. NEARY: You mean Mr. Cochrane.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Cochrane, yes.

Now, does the member for Stephenville (Mr. F. Stagg) believe that Mr. Cochrane was intimidated by Mr. Tobin.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. HODDER: The member should get his facts straight.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, we are getting more money in taxes and equalization from Ottawa than ever before.

MR. NEARY: That is right.

MR. HODDER: And if we manage to get through this tough recessionary period, this tough recessionary year -

MR. WARREN: And Trudeau gets re-elected.

MR. HODDER: - it will be on the backs of our Canadian brothers -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, Hear!

MR. HODDER: - and sisters from coast to coast. If we get through this tough recessionary period in this Province, it will be on the backs of our Canadian brothers and sisters from coast to coast. I said it

again. Now did you want me to put it in baby talk?

AN HON. MEMBER: No, we cannot stand it.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, he is dreaming about savory down there.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, we on this side, have our complaints about our federal brethren as well. We have our complaints about the federal government as well. But we have them when they are justified. We do not have them when they are bailing us out, as we see with the St. Anthony Plant, and I would like to see the Premier get over that one.

MR. STAGG: You said that before.

MR. HODDER: Yes, Mr. Speaker, and what I referred to before, perhaps the member for Stephenville (Mr. Stagg) was not here then. Newfoundland, the only Province undecided on joining federal forestry program: They are trying to create some jobs in Newfoundland and the Newfoundland Provincial Government is the only Province undecided on joining the federal forestry

MR. HODDER: - program. You would think we would be in there as quickly as possible.

MR. DINN: That was said by an official who apologized later.

MR. HODDER: Well, I have not seen the apology yet, Mr. Speaker, I have not seen the apology yet

PREMIER PECKFORD: No, I know that.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker -

MR. DINN: You only look at the

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, and then we have

the sight -

MR. NEARY: We have the minister, who did not know that Price was going to close down, when he was asked this morning.

MR. HODDER: - of the Premier -

MR. NEARY: Did not know, did not know that they were going to close down.

MR. HODDER: - when a community with 600 jobs at stake, says: No, we are going to take away their licence! Childish, Mr. Speaker, It is not a cabinet room, Mr. Speaker, it is a nursery.

MR. NEARY: He did not know. They just treat the minister and the government as a joke.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, now, on the most amazing feat of all, a reduction of \$100 million in our financial requirement. Or so I thought listening to the Minister speak. He talked of \$168 million borrowing this year, but that is on current account, Mr. Speaker. The total is actually \$336 million, up from \$266 million last year. \$70 million dollars more. And how much will they require

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MR. HODDER: when they bring the mini budget down in the fall? Or will that be a full-fledged emergency budget. How much, Mr. Speaker? We have a cosy little current account surplus thrown in. That is a neat trick too, Mr. Speaker, if you ignore the fact that the

MR. HODDER:

borrowing has increased so much, there is capital account funds used to pay for current account items. And how do we know that we will not have more cutbacks in the Fall, like we did last year -

MR. NEARY: Bankruptcy.

MR. HODDER: - to get the current account in line with the projected estimates. How do we know that, Mr. Speaker? The Fisheries Loan Board, for example, interest rates have been increased for fishermen and farmers in Northern Development from 8 to 12 per cent.

MR. WARREN: \$60,000 revenue

MR. HODDER: How many of those will be able to take advantage of those loans at those rates?

MR. WARREN: \$60,000 revenue.

MR. HODDER: This government, Mr. Speaker, have been caught borrowing money for the groceries.

MR. WARREN: That is right.

MR. HODDER: Have been caught borrowing money for the groceries! And a squeeze, Mr. Speaker, is going to kill it.

MR. NEARY: Ha!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HODDER: That is an item, Mr. Speaker, that should be part of departmental current account budgeting -

AN HON. MEMBER: They have to sale on -

MR. HODDER: - and instead it is lopped in with the capital account borrowing.

MR. WARREN: At the Fieldian Gardens

MR. HODDER: But when the government needs to save a pile of money, Mr. Speaker, off comes the number of loans, like last year. Or the other choice that the government will have, up the rate of interest. So to say, Mr. Speaker, that the budget is a phony -

MR. WARREN: Here comes the Minister of Education.

MR. HODDER: - is an enormous compliment.

MR. WARREN: Watch out now, the Minister of Education is coming.

MR. HODDER: It purports, Mr. Speaker, the budget purports to deal equally with the little guy while increasing the cost of the few pleasure he may enjoy. We have increased the cost of hospital beds, we have forced industries to lay off or increase prices, to manage an increase in their own taxes. We have raised hunting fees, we forced away the tourists, we have closed down cottage hospitals, which are the mainstays of some of those small communities. And I am told, Mr. Speaker, that that hospital at Markland, which is on the Trans-Canada Highway, had a tremendous record of saving lives.

MR. NEARY: It did. It did. That is right.

MR. HODDER: It had a tremendous record of saving lives.

MR. NEARY: An excellent reputation for saving lives in accidents.

MR. HODDER: An excellent reputation.

MR. NEARY: In accidents.

MR. HODDER: Because there has been an awful lot of accidents on the Avalon Peninsula, because this is where the big traffic flow is.

MR. NEARY: Right on! That and Come-by-Chance.

MR. WARREN: And now the government wants to get rid of that kind of facility.

MR. NEARY: That is right. Close her down now, and let people die on their way to St. John's.

MR. WARREN: No respect for the dying.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, I began by saying that I am disappointed, and I am. I am really saddened.

MR. YOUNG: What are you saddened about?

MR. HODDER: I am really saddened that the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) sought to blame the only real source

MR. HODDER:

of revenue in this Province -

MR. YOUNG:

You and your leader gone to sleep, Look!

MR. HODDER:

- in order to keep -

MR. NEARY:

You need not worry, the leader is
wide awake.

MR. HODDER:

- in order to keep on theme, Mr. Speaker,

MR. NEARY:

He is making a good speech.

MR. HODDER:

I am ashamed of my hon. friend.

I am ashamed because he did not have the courage to tell it
like it is. Mr. Speaker, even the language of the budget
covers up. The language is deceitful.

MR. YOUNG:

(Inaudible).

MR. HODDER:

And, Mr. Speaker,

MR. HODDER: I am ashamed of my friend from St. John's South (Dr. Collins). I am ashamed that there was nothing in the budget that would even half-way stimulate the economy of the Province. Mr. Speaker, I never thought we would be on the verge of the day when it looks like all of the people are being fooled all of the time.

MR. WARREN: But the day is coming.

MR. HODDER: But, Mr. Speaker, this budget does not deserve the support of the people of the Province. It does not deserve the support of the people of the Province. Mr. Speaker, it was a nice try but perhaps the member for St. John's South will do a better job in the Fall, when the next budget comes down. Thank-you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (RUSSELL): The hon. President of the Council (Mr. Marshall).

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, there are only a few moments left but there are a few comments I want to make. I do not suppose that there is anybody who could be more disappointed with a speech than any of the former supporters of the hon. gentleman there opposite. This budget happens to be probably the best budget that was brought in in the history of Newfoundland -

SOME HON. MEMBERS. Hear, hear!

MR. MARSHALL: - in the most difficult times that this Province is experiencing, in large part due to the support that the hon. gentlemen there opposite are giving the people who are trying to assault this Province daily, and assault the resources and the capacity of this Province to be able to pay. Over the last few hours, five or six hours, the hon. gentleman has been speaking, we have heard a lot of negativisms. There is not a single, hardly a positive thing. He did not mention the fact, Mr. Speaker, that this Province is the only province in Eastern Canada that, not only this year, but last year, managed to balance its budget

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. MARSHALL:

on current account. They did not mention, Mr. Speaker, that Nova Scotia, this year, is budgeting for a \$129,000,000 deficit on current account. That New Brunswick is budgeting for \$164,000,000 on current account. That Quebec is budgeting over \$2 billion on current account and their borrowing \$2,900,000,000. Not a word of that about this being the Province with the lowest per capita income, struggling daily to survive, and this Province comes up with balanced budget of \$4,000,000. Then the hon. gentleman there opposite sneers at this and says that that is fabrication. So was it fabrication, Mr. Speaker, that we were going to bring in a balanced budget last year.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. MARSHALL:

But what happened last year?

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, a point of order.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (RUSSELL):

Order, please! The hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary).

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, I wonder if we could have the guidance of the Chair, or the Table in this particular question I want to ask Your Honour. How much

MR. G. NEARY

time does the hon. gentlemen have in his speech?

MR. MARSHALL:

Half an hour.

MR. DINN:

That is not a point of order,

Mr. Speaker

MR. YOUNG:

We know that.

MR. SPEAKER (Mr. Russell)

Order, please! It is obvious the hon. member has more than five minutes. I will check it out and advise the hon. Leader of the Opposition tomorrow.

MR. NEARY

Okay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. W. MARSHALL

The hon. gentlemen are now going to get up on points of order because they do not like to hear this Mr. Speaker. Last year the hon. gentleman from Port Au Port (Mr. J. Hodder) said that it was a fabrication, the surplus projected. Well, what about last year? There was a surplus provided as well last year, Mr. Speaker, by this Province and, again, it was the only Province in Eastern Canada that could maintain a surplus on current account.

SOME HON. MEMBERS

Hear, hear!

MR. MARSHALL

And that is one of the biggest things that the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) has been able to achieve, and it is a singular accomplishment when you consider the resources that this Province has. That is why that this budget is one of the best budgets that has ever been brought in in the history of this Province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS

Hear, hear!

MR. MARSHALL

Not a word, Mr. Speaker, everything negative, not a word about the \$5 million spent on a hospital in Channel-Port Aux Basque this year. It is going to be interesting to see if the Leader of the Opposition is going to vote against the budget once again this year, and thereby vote against the hospital in Channel-

MR. MARSHALL

Port Aux Basque, Not

a word about the \$2 million being provided for the hospital in Clarendville, not a word about the hospital being provided from our meager resources, all of these with our meager resources, the planning going ahead with respect to the hospital on the Burin Peninsula. Not a word do they utter, Mr. Speaker, about the extra monies to school boards, not a word of praise with respect to the Fisheries College; heaping ridicule on items such as the Correctional Centre in Happy Valley - Goose Bay in his Speech, and that is the whole tenor and nature of the speech of the hon. gentleman, Now, I will have more to say about this later, Mr. Speaker, but in the meantime, we have witnessed probably the most negative speech that has ever been delivered in this House, by the hon. gentleman there opposite, as representative of the Liberal Party. All

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Tape No. 801

MJ - 1

MR. W. MARSHALL: we have heard has been negativisms while the people of this Province wholeheartedly endorse this budget -

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. MARSHALL: -see it for what it is, see that this government is managing the meager resources of this government properly. We remember, do we not, during the election the statements made by the counterpart of the hon - the other half- wit, the other half Leader of the Opposition and the Liberal party, predicting all sorts of doom and gloom. The election had to be held because of the budget. They were predicting taxes going up. They were so sad, Mr. Speaker, that taxes did not go up that on budget day, you could only get just barely over fifty per cent of them in here to hear it. And to sit on this side of the House and see their faces, you could see the way that they regarded it. Mr. Speaker, they got a death wish for the Liberal party and they can have their death wish for the Liberal party, but they should not transfer it as a death wish to the people of this Province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MARSHALL: So, Mr. Speaker, we will be continuing this anon, but for the present I move, in view of the hour, that the debate adjourn.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): It has been noted that the hon. the President of the Council has adjourned the debate.

The hon. the Present of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL: I move that the House at its rising - I might say tomorrow, Mr. Speaker, to advise the House with respect to Committees, which is our practice, that the Social Services Committee - there will be only one meeting tomorrow, and I do trust the two Liberal members on the Committee will be there - will be meeting at 9:30 a. m. in the Colonial Building to review the

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Tape No. 801

MJ - 2

MR. W. MARSHALL:

estimates of the Department of
Health.

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

On motion, the House at its
rising adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, June 2, 1982, at 3:00
p. m..