

VOL. NO. 1

NO. 5

PRELIMINARY

UNEDITED

TRANSCRIPT

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

FOR THE PERIOD

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 14, 1982

May 14, 1982

Tape No. 203

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The House met at 10:00 A. M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order, please!

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. J. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning on a Ministerial Statement on what we view, as a government here, a very, very serious matter. The provincial government is very concerned and will make immediate representations to register strong exception and objections to the federal government's policy of giving away our fishery resource.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MORGAN: I was astounded to learn yesterday that the federal government had in 1981, for the past number of months of fishing, agreed to give Russian fisherman (the USSR) a direct allocation of 103,000 metric tons of fish, that is 232 million pounds of fish from within our 200 mile limit. I was further shocked to learn that of this total, 10,500 metric tons, 23.6 million pounds, was for the caplin species-

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. MORGAN: - for the caplin species to be taken in 203KL area, in other words off the northeast coast of Newfoundland and Labrador.

And this is very, very serious and disturbing because the taking of the caplin stocks happened at a time when the inshore fishermen in this Province are being kept at a low quota commercial caplin fishery by the same federal government and this was being done because of the concern expressed by thousands of Newfoundland fishermen over the state of the caplin stocks.

MR. J. MORGAN: This past year, for example- not this past year, the past few months, Mr. Speaker, fisherman expressed their concern in no uncertain terms, even to the point of forwarding a petition signed by thousands of fisherman from around our coast to Ottawa. Now we learn that while concern was being expressed by thousands of Newfoundland fisherman and by the Newfoundland Government about the conditions and possible reduction of the caplin stocks off our waters, that at the same time 10,500 metric tons of caplin was being taken and given away at the time, taken by Russian fishermen, within these waters.

This was being done despite statements by the federal minister that were made in the meetings with the provincial ministers, made in meetings with provincial officials and made publically that there would be a total ban on the offshore caplin fishery. Mr. Speaker, it was stated over and over that there would be a total ban in offshore fishing for caplin because of the reduction in the caplin stocks.

MR. MORGAN: This was supposed to have been done, this complete ban, because of concern over the state, as I say, of the caplin stocks. However, the federal government made a deal with the Russians and gave them, as I say, 10,500 metric tons of caplin in these offshore waters as a part of the total allocation of 103,000 metric tons of fish. And one would ask why was all this fish given away. This giveaway to the Russian fishermen, plus the recent deal of giving 5,000 metric tons, 11.2 million pounds, of squid to the Cuban fishermen, and the recent offering, now as of today is still being offered to Japan, of 14,750 metric tons, a total of 33 million pounds of squid to the Japanese fishermen. This was all being done, and is being done right now today in Ottawa at the same time as we are hearing statements regarding policies from Ottawa that there are too many inshore fishermen chasing too few fish.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, despite these direct allocations, or what we would term here a giveaway of the fish stocks by the federal government to the Russian fishermen, the country of U.S.S.R., maybe there was a reason for giving away the fish. They were going to buy bulks of fish from Canada.

Mr. Speaker, the total amount of fish, the total dollar value of fish purchased from all of Canada by Russia last year came to only \$4 million, only \$4 million. \$4 million worth of seafood was purchased from all of Canada by that same country.

Mr. Speaker, we have registered with the Federal Minister of Fisheries (Mr. LeBlanc), in fact on a number of occasions and just recently, our protests

MR. MORGAN: and our opposition to the recent secret deal made by the federal fisheries department with the Cuban government giving Cuban fishermen the right to come and take from our waters this year 11.2 million pounds of squid stocks. We have also put forward our objections and protests in telexes and in meetings at the official level and otherwise, to the deal presently being made by the federal government and Japan giving Japanese fishermen the right this year to come and catch 33 million pounds of squid, 33 million pounds of squid this year from within our waters, just off our coast of Newfoundland and Labrador.

And today, Mr. Speaker, we will as the government here again put forward our strong objections and protests not only to the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. LeBlanc) but to the Prime Minister and strongly object to the Russian deal of the giving away of our caplin stocks because we, as a government here are convinced that these deals of giving away our fish resources

MR. MORGAN: are having and will have a further very adverse affect on our fishing industry and our Newfoundland fishermen.

So today, Mr. Speaker, the telexes will be sent not only from myself to my counterpart in Ottawa, the Minister of Fisheries, but by the Premier of our Province to the Prime Minister on this very serious matter.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): The hon. member for Fogo.

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker, it is probably going to be a very rare occasion within the next three or four years that I am going to find myself in complete, total agreement with the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan).

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. TULK: As I read the minister's statement, its particular concern is with the caplin stocks off the shores of Newfoundland, and those stocks are very vital to the inshore fishery in this Province. As a matter of fact, as the minister says, 'There have been serious discussions this year as to whether we should even be allowing our own fishermen to fish those stocks, perhaps they should be used more for bait for our inshore fishermen'.

Now, Mr. Speaker, if we have doubts in this Province about whether we should fish those stocks, then certainly we should not allow Russian fishermen to catch those stocks offshore. And so I am going to ask the minister if he would make it known to the Minister of Fisheries and to the Prime Minister that our objection is the unanimous feeling of this House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

ORAL QUESTIONS

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

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, I have a question to ask to the Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth (Mr. Simms). First I would like to say congratulations to the minister in his new portfolio. Could the minister advise us when the Green Paper that was presented to his predecessor sometime in early December - at that time the minister promised that it would be tabled in the House within five or six days and as of today we have not seen this Green Paper on sports and recreation - could the minister advise when it will be tabled in the House and the public will know what is in that document?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Culture, Recreation and Youth.

MR. SIMMS: Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his question. First of all I am sure, he being a reasonable person, would want to give me the opportunity to look at the report and study the recommendations myself. But I can tell him that the decision to table the document and to table the report will be made very, very shortly.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. the Premier, I wonder if he is coming back to his seat, the hon. the Premier? My question has to do, Mr. Speaker, with a vicious attack, a vicious assault made on Christine Fagan, the President of the Board of Trade -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

AN HON. MEMBER: A good Newfoundlander.

MR. NEARY: - yes, she is a good Newfoundlander - the President of the Board of Trade, Mr. Speaker, by the Minister of Mines and Energy. I think it was uncalled for and it is unfortunate indeed. I wonder if the Premier condones this kind of activity, this kind of action on the part of his Minister of Energy (Mr. Marshall)?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, as a matter of fact I think I speak for all members on this side of the House when I say that we are very proud of the Minister of Energy and the President of the Executive Council.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD: If there is one man in this hon. House who demonstrates a conscientiousness, hard work, a mastery of the issues that he is now involved in in Energy, it is the hon. the member for St. John's East (Mr. Marshall). And the member for St. John's East, as the minister responsible for Energy, called me when he received this letter from the Board of Trade expressing some of their concerns about our supposed intransigence as it relates to our dealings with the federal Minister of Energy on the question of the offshore. We were highly upset, the minister was and I was, that the Board of Trade, Ms. Fagan, would send a copy of a letter to

PREMIER PECKFORD: the Minister of Energy (Mr. Marshall) on Sunday night, and at the same time as apparently she was about to release it to the press, and I think the wishes expressed, or the ideas and views and opinions expressed in that letter from the Minister of Energy to Ms. Fagan and the Board of Trade accurately reflect the sentiments and feelings of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker, I have to say this that in responding to the Premier's answer there that I think the whole thing was rather unfortunate. I think it could have been handled more quietly and, if the administration wants to continue to have our support on these matters, then they should not be going around picking fights with people. ~~Because~~ I think the Premier will agree, and this is my question, does he not agree, Mr. Speaker, or does he agree that this administration needs the co-operation of organizations like the Board of Trade? We need a united front in this Province if we are going to win the battle that

MR. NEARY: the Premier keeps reminding us that we are involved in. So does he not agree that we need the co-operation of not only the Board of Trade but the trade union movement and all other fraternal organizations in the Province and so on, so why pick a fight unnecessarily with the Board of Trade?

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

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that the Leader of the Opposition wants to have his cake and eat it to. He wants to try to side with all those issues on which they just lost the election, and then he wants to yet try to make some difference between his party and ours through methodology. Well, I mean, the Leader of the Opposition will just not get away with that kind of technique or manoeuvre. The long and short of it is, Mr. Speaker, we not not intend to sit idly by when any organization or group or individual inside or outside of this Province criticizes unnecessarily and unfairly the position that this government is taking on behalf of the people of Newfoundland and Labrador.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Is the hon. gentleman saying then that no individual or no organization has the right to criticize this administration? Is democracy now going out the window, Mr. Speaker? And would the hon. gentleman also tell us whether or not this means now that all-out war is declared on the businessmen in this Province?

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

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, you know, that does not deserve an answer. That is one of the other reasons - when people contemplate in the last month why we won the election and why the Liberals lost the election there are a number of reasons given and one is our position on major issues, the other thing is that we are better organized than the Liberal party. And there is a third reason, which is very attractive to a lot of people who are in the undecided group, and the other reason is this, that too often the Liberal party of Newfoundland and its leadership hit below the belt.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR.SPEAKER: The hon.member for the Torngat Mountains.

MR.WARREN: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries (Mr.Morgan). Could the Minister of Fisheries advise the House how much money his department lost in the operation of the two fish plants in Northern Labrador in the fiscal year 1981-1982?

MR.SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Fisheries.

MR.MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, I would not want to attempt to try to direct the accurate figure. What I would like to do is take the question under advisement and provide the information. I know there were some losses. There are losses every year in the government's operations in Labrador and, of course, that means the government is subsidizing the buying of salmon, and the buying of char in particular, and processing these species in our own government facilities in Labrador, which we operate as government owned and

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MR. MORGAN: government operated facilities including our floating service centre at Smokey. So there are always losses every year in the total operations by government with regard to the fishing industry in Labrador.

MR. MORGAN: The exact amount I would not attempt to guess at so I prefer to take it under advisement and get the information back to the hon. gentleman.

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the minister. Would the minister also advise if the monies received from the federal/provincial native agreement was more money than he lost on the operation?

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

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, I know there is a net loss to the Newfoundland Government every year. In other words, the taxpayers of our Province and the Newfoundland Government using the taxpayers' dollars are subsidizing the operations in Labrador. And, as I said in the House a couple of days ago, it is unfortunate that we cannot attract the private sector, the industry, to go in and establish with regards to fish plants and buying and processing in Labrador. The plants we own now - we have given a commitment to the Co-operative, Torngat Co-op, which is a co-op representing the people along the coast - we have given them the assurance that we will not sell the plants by public auction or tender without giving them the first right to be able to establish an operation of taking over the plants themselves. But we are still concerned, if we pass it over to someone like a co-op in Labrador, it would still take government dollars to keep it operating on a yearly basis. But negotiations are ongoing and they will be ongoing this Summer, and we are looking at the possibility of the co-op taking over these plants,

MR. MORGAN: not this year, 1982, this inshore season, but the possibility for 1983.

MR. WARREN: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): A supplementary, the hon. the member for Torngat Mountains.

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, my final supplementary, Could the minister also advise - probably it is impossible today, but could he get the information - how much money is owed on arctic char and salmon that was bought by his department last year that has been sold, whether on tender or to private individuals? How much money is outstanding? And also could he advise the House if his department has collected \$35,000 that was owed to his department by a company in the United States in 1980 that went bankrupt?

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

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, I think I answered that question during the estimates last year. Maybe I did not give the full details on it but I will get the full information. I am pretty sure we did get our money back from that company, a company, I think, called Frank Limited, or something, in New York. That was back in 1978. And with regard to the selling of the char and the salmon, any information of that nature, in fact, Mr. Speaker, as of our policy position, all information - I did the same last year - all information pertaining to the Department of Fisheries, and in fact my colleagues in their departments, all information the Opposition wants regarding the spending of government dollars will be available during the estimate time.

MR. HODDER:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell):

The hon. member for Port au Port.

MR. HODDER:

Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Industrial Development (Mr. Windsor). I understand that the minister has been quoted as saying that the two bids for the Marystown Shipyard were not totally acceptable. These two bids, I understand, were from Petro-Canada and from Atlantis Corporation. I would like to ask the minister what was wrong with the two Canadian bids. Why were they not totally acceptable, particularly in the case of PetroCanada?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Development.

MR. WINDSOR:

Mr. Speaker, we did, as the hon. gentleman said, have two proposals for the purchase of the Marystown Shipyard. The one by the Atlantis Corporation we did not deem as being acceptable in that the terms and the conditions of that agreement were not of such a nature that government would be interested in divesting of the shipyard under those terms and conditions. And we have advised the corporation that in its present form that proposal would not be acceptable.

The proposal from Petro-Canada was not acceptable either, Mr. Speaker, in that it depended to a great degree, in fact almost entirely on development of the Spanish Room Point which government has now designated as a preferred site for major oil developments, major construction developments related to oil and gas. And therefore we said we could not dispose of the shipyard with the proviso that that particular piece of real estate would be available to that particular company. Although their proposal in itself as it related to the shipyard was much more acceptable than

MR. WINDSOR: the other, the bid was predicated on having that particular piece of real estate available as well.

We are now going into the process, Mr. Speaker, as we have announced, of identifying proponents who may be interested in doing a major development at Spanish Room Point in Mortier Bay. We are putting together now a package, which will be available this week or very early next week, in fact, to be sent to all of the companies that we have been able to identify that may have an interest in doing a development in that area. That information will go out and we will be allowing a two month period for companies to put in firm proposals for the development of that site.

If, after that time, Petro-Canada, if they submit a proposal, if they are successful in that proposal then we will be only too happy to sit down and negotiate the sale of the Marystown Shipyard with them in the light of an overall development.

MR. HODDER: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, I understand that the minister has said that since those two proposals have been turned down that he will be going international. Mr. Speaker, does the minister see any problem with the Foreign Investment Review agency? If we do not receive acceptable bids internationally, will the government be undertaking to make sure that they continue to operate the shipyard and that the people of Marystown have security in the short term?

MR. NEARY:

Hear, hear!

Good question, good question.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell):

The hon. the Minister of Development.

MR. WINDSOR:

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I have not said that we would be going only internationally. We will be looking at any company,

MR. WINDSOR:

whether it is a Canadian company or otherwise that may have an interest in doing a major development there. Our purpose in the whole thing is to ensure, first of all, that the development is a wise development, that it is in accordance with the social objectives of the Province and of the Burin Peninsula in particular, and that we have the best opportunity for the development of that area before us before we make any final decisions. So we will be looking both in Canada and elsewhere. Obviously our preference will be for a Canadian company, and in particular a Newfoundland company, to have some involvement in any development that takes place there and we will certainly be looking forward to it.

As it relates to a short term future, Mr. Speaker, of the Marystown Shipyard, this government has demonstrated quite clearly by providing funding for two supply vessels on speculation to the value of some \$30 million in total, that this Province, this provincial government alone, with totally provincial funding has put forward. We are building two vessels the first one has been sold, as hon. gentlemen may know, to Petro-Canada therefore we went ahead with the second one and we are optimistic that indeed that one will be sold and that in fact the shipyard is in a very good position for the rest of this year.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD:

Mention FIRA.

MR. WINDSOR:

The Premier reminds me that I have not addressed the problem with FIRA. We have had some difficulties with that, The Province is not entirely happy with that particular situation in that it does, in many cases, prejudice our opportunity to a development because developments have taken place in other parts of Canada. And the federal government is trying to ensure

MR. WINDSOR: that only a certain percentage of any particular industry is controlled by foreign interests. That has no relationship whatsoever to any development that may be possible to take place here. And so we have objected to that. But in the past we have been reasonably successful in assisting companies that are coming here and have given them a tremendous amount of assistance to get through the FIRA process.

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

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): A final supplementary, the hon. member for Port au Port.

MR. HODDER: I would just like to ask the minister if the minister can guarantee the continued operation of the shipyard if those proposals and the divestiture committee, Cooper and Lybrand Limited, have failed to attract someone to take over the Marystown Shipyard?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Development.

MR. WINDSOR: Mr. Speaker, first of all, as I have already indicated, by the construction of these two supply vessels we now have a significant amount of activity in that yard for the balance of this year. Adding that to the normal ongoing repair work that we do for the fishing industry, which was fairly low last year by our normal standards, we are optimistic that indeed this year will be a better year in the repair business and we see no reason at all that there will be any major disruption at the Marystown Shipyard for the coming year. In addition to that our marketing efforts, Mr. Speaker, in many areas, and particularly at the Houston show last week, indicated that there is indeed a tremendous amount of interest.

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MR. WINDSOR: We have indeed identified a good market for supply vessels and we are hopeful that we will be able to secure additional orders in the not too distant future.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): A supplementary the hon. member for Port au Port.

MR. HODDER: A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker.
I hear the minister and I listened very carefully to what he said. The minister continued to say, 'for the coming year.' He did not give any indication that the Marystown Shipyard had a future beyond this year. Could the minister tell the House categorically that this government will stand behind the Marystown Shipyard until such time as the Marystown Shipyard is in private hands?

MR. S. NEARY: Hear, hear! Good question.
Yes or no.

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

MR. WINDSOR: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. gentleman would recall the Royal Commission Study that was completed last year on Marystown Shipyard indicated that indeed there is no danger of a close down of the yard as it relates to the repair facility. That is not a question at all. What we are looking at here is the new construction activity in the shipyard. Government has already shown quite clearly, by the construction of these two vessels and by other financial support that we have given the shipyard, that we do stand behind Marystown Shipyard and that we are doing everything that is within this Province's financial capacity to assist that shipyard and to insure continued operation.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. B. TULK:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell):

The hon. the member for Fogo.

MR. TULK:

Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. J. Morgan) and I think it arises somewhat out of his statement of this morning.

I am wondering just what is - and the minister invited me the other day to learn about his department.

MR. NEARY:

You forgot more than he will ever know.

MR. TULK:

- so I am wondering just where the minister stands what his department's policy is on foreign vessels fishing within the 200 mile limit. Should they be allowed to fish at all? If so, under what conditions? Should we have those foreign vessels inside our 200 mile limit?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

MR. J. MORGAN:

Mr. Speaker, our position was clearly enunciated and put forward to the federal government some ago. Any species fish that is fished by Canadian fisherman, and in particular Newfoundland fisherman, there should no, absolutely no foreign activity within our 200 mile limit in catching these species. There are some species that the Canadian fisherman and Newfoundland fisherman do not fish. Now if he wants to talk trade deals with these species we still have some reservations because we think it is wrong to trade off a raw resource, trade off fish for fish markets, and that is what they have been attempting to do, to try to put together deals for trade purposes and trade off a raw resource that will go over and be processed into a final product to compete with our final products when it is manufactured or processed here in Canada. So we are opposed to that. We are totally opposed to

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MR. J. MORGAN: any foreign activity on ground-fish species like the Northern cod, we are totally opposed to any fishing by the foreigners in our squid species, as I mentioned this morning, and we are totally opposed to any fishing within our waters for the caplin species. That is our position, Mr. Speaker.

MR. TULK: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. TULK: The minister's statement this morning referred to 1981, and as I understand it the agreement with the Russians for 1982 is not yet signed. And I also understand Canada is asking the Russians to buy \$21.5 million worth of fish products from Canada before they will sign an agreement to give them any quotas inside the 200 mile limit. Now I would like to make one other point too, Mr. Speaker, and that is that I understand last year that the Russians fishing inside our 200 mile limit was worth perhaps \$2.25 million on repairs and maintenance to their vessels in St. John's. I want to ask the question, Mr. Speaker, what is his reaction to that situation? Should we allow quotas for use of St. John's? Should we say, "All right, in the case of the caplin that you will not get any quotas on caplin regardless of whether you use our ports or not," or should we say to them, "No, you are not getting the quotas on caplin or certain kinds of species anyway"?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Fisheries.

MR. MORGAN: Well, Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier the policy of this administration is we are opposed to the trading off of fish stocks using a raw resource, using fish for the trading of fish. It should never be done in any time with regards to trade. Now with regards to the Russians and their agreement that was put in place, or somewhat of an arrangement was put in place, if you recall the statement this morning I mentioned there was 103,000 metric tons given the Russians but our concern zeroed in on the caplin stocks. There was 103,000 metric tons but only 10,000 metric tons of caplin.

MR. MORGAN: And the caplin was our main concern. For example, as I mentioned earlier, if the species that is being given away is of no use and not being caught or processed in Canadian waters by Newfoundland fishermen or others, well we still have our reservations. But our main concern is with the giving away - for example, I mean, I did not mention this morning in my Ministerial Statement but it still will await further details of the next three or four days, but Poland last year was given 12,000 metric tons, we have not mentioned that yet because we felt that it was a use of a humane gesture. But this morning I found out that we thought it was going to be a trade deal, we gave Poland 12,000 metric tons of fish but they only purchased \$12,000 worth of fish.

MR. STAGG: \$12,000 worth of fish, \$1 a ton.

MR. MORGAN: They were supposed to purchase around \$20 million and they purchased \$12,000 worth. And that is the information I got this morning. That was brought to light yesterday by my good friend, John Crosbie, member of Parliament up in the House of Commons yesterday, brought out by him. And again now Poland is demanding that the stocks of fish for their fishermen be doubled and they would still not buy any fish from us. So I mean these are the kind of deals that really worry us because the Department of Fisheries should never be involved in trade and commerce matters, in making trade deals with foreign countries like Japan and

MR. MORGAN:

elsewhere. Do not be trading away all our raw resource which is so important to provide jobs for Canadians and Newfoundlanders.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Russell):

The hon. the member for Fogo.

MR. TULK:

I agree totally with the minister that we should not be trading fish for fish. Now would he take one step further and in his telex to the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. LeBlanc) today would he tell him for us that not only are we concerned about the caplin stocks but we are concerned about stocks that could be used in this Province regardless of whether the Russians use St. John's and spend \$2.25 million a year or not? Would he do that?

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY:

Obviously the minister is not going to answer, so just to reinforce the question asked by my colleague from Fogo, Mr. Speaker, would the hon. the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) also inform Mr. Crosbie, the Tory M.P. for St. John's West, whose district the shipyard comes in, would the hon. gentleman inform Mr. Crosbie of the policy of this administration? Because he seems to be very weak-kneed on whether or not the Russians should get their quota; because he is thinking about the CN dockyard for repairs and creating jobs in St. John's. Now what does the minister have to say about that? Is there any liaison between the minister and the Tory M.P.s in the Parliament in Ottawa to let them know what the policy is here so they will not go right off in a different direction and weaken our case?

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, I have always had good liaison, a good relationship with my good friend, my former colleague in Cabinet, Mr. Crosbie, and my good friend, Mr. McGrath. In fact, I have a pretty good relationship with two or three of the Liberal members in the Parliament of Newfoundland as well, two or three who are decent chaps to deal with. Two or three others I would never deal with, but that is beside the point.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, the agreement that was made and arrangements put in place, I am not going to get involved in the arrangements and trade deal made with regard to the Russian ships, but I am sure, I am of the firm opinion, the time it was put in place it was for the servicing of ships. We have many foreign vessels that fish on the very edge of the 200 mile limit, on the very edge outside the 200 mile limit. Now the fishing activity out there - if they are going to come into our ports and get servicing it is one thing, but we are talking about here fishing within the 200 mile limit. And I would look forward to seeing the day, Mr. Speaker, when we are going to be able to be servicing our own Canadian fishing vessels taking our own fish onboard.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker,

MR. SPEAKER: The hon.
the member for Torngat Mountains.

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. the Premier. Would the Premier advise when and if tenders will be called for the construction of an airstrip in Postville, Labrador?

MR. NEARY: Hear, hear! A good question.

May 14, 1982

Tape No. 214

ah-1

MR. SPEAKER (RUSSELL): Hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: I have not got that at my fingertips, Mr. Speaker. I will take the question as notice and get the information for the hon. member.

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

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, I am just wondering what would be the rationale. I think several weeks ago the Premier announced that tenders have been called for the upgrading of the Trans-Canada Highway, improvements and upgrading of the Trans-Canada Highway, but still and all why we do not have an airstrip that is so vitally important for Postville residents. This, I understand, was tied into the same agreement that was signed at the Newfoundland Hotel and in the Confederation Building. I am just wondering what was the purpose of calling tenders for the upgrading of the TCH and not on the airstrips at Postville, Rigolet and Port Hope Simpson?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: The hon. member, if he had given me notice or let me know he was going to ask the question I would have had the details for him in the same way as the members of the Opposition would like to have an advance copy, two or three minutes or five minutes before the House opens on Ministerial Statements, or they complain. Well, if the hon. member wishes to have an answer on a detailed question from me as Premier, when I am dealing with fifteen or sixteen departments, on a detail like the Postville, Labrador landing strip, well then I would say to the hon. member it is going to be difficult for me to have that kind of information at my fingertips to answer in a thirty minute Question Period. It is going to be extremely difficult. I think I know most

PREMIER PECKFORD: of the things that are going on in the Province and through the departments of a major policy nature -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD: - and, unfortunately for me, perhaps to much of the detail of the things, But the fact of the matter is I cannot be expected in an Oral Question Period like this to have that kind of detail. I just say to the hon. member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren) that the kind of comparison he makes that we are not supposed to call tenders on a federal-provincial TCH agreement until tenders are already called on an airport at Postville, Labrador, does not seem to me to be a logical way to do business. We did not wait till all the roads on the Island were ready to be called before we called the Coastal Labrador road there a couple of weeks ago. So I do not understand what the hon. member is trying to say. There is a federal-provincial agreement in place for the TCH, which runs across the Island. That is signed and the money is there. The design is done on the piece of road and then tenders will be called. That is one thing.

MR. WARREN: Give me the answer.

PREMIER PECKFORD: The landing strip in Labrador is another thing and has its own particular problems or its own particular time schedule for the calling of tenders. So we will try to call all the tenders as fast as we can for all the projects that are ready to go but we are not going to hold one back because another is not ready. We will call them as they come and they are ready to go. And so if the hon. member wants to get the detail on things like this,

PREMIER PECKFORD:

well then he will either have to give me notice or direct a question to the appropriate ministry.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. WARREN:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell):

A supplementary, the hon. member for Torngat Mountains.

MR. WARREN:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, apparently the Premier does not understand that the something that was signed at the Newfoundland Hotel and here at the Confederation Building was a transportation agreement, which included the airstrips, the TCH all together. I am just wondering why he would look at calling tenders for the TCH when he should know as Premier of the Province that there is a very short construction season along coastal Labrador, and at least the least thing he should learn from his Department of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development is that tenders have to go out months and months earlier in order to get the materials and equipment along Coastal Labrador. So I am just wondering why the Premier has delayed the construction of the airstrip in Postville this year?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:

It is extremely unfortunate that the member for Torngat Mountains tries to make a mountain out of a big mountain in the sense that, number one, does not the hon. member for Torngat Mountains know that all was signed on the landing strips was a letter of intent? That is number one. It was not an agreement, it was a letter of intent.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Number two, that the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Dawe) for the Province sent the agreement to Ottawa on April 13th., and we are still waiting for them to sign the agreement.

MR. WARREN: April the 16th., it was signed on the 26th. of April.

PREMIER PECKFORD: You cannot call tenders on a landing strip in Postville, Labrador if the agreement for the funding of that -

MR. WARREN: It was already agreed with.

PREMIER PECKFORD: - landing strip is not signed. All was signed down at the Hotel Newfoundland and here in the Confederation Building at the time of that whole thing, as it related to the landing strips, was a letter of intent, not an agreement, And the Minister of Transportation, doing his job for the Province, sent the agreement -

MR. WARREN: The 30th. of January. The 30th. of January.

PREMIER PECKFORD: - after the letter of intent was signed to the federal authorities -

MR. WARREN: The 30th. of January. The 30th. of January.

PREMIER PECKFORD: - in April and it has not been sent back signed by the federal people. So until the agreement is signed, tenders cannot be called. And after the agreement is signed -

MR. WARREN: Two months to write a letter! Two months to write a letter!

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, can I be allowed to be heard in silence if the hon. member would like to hear an answer to my question?

MR. WARREN: Two months answering a letter.

PREMIER PECKFORD: So the agreement went back to Ottawa, they have not signed yet the agreement. After the agreement is signed then the tenders can be called if the interim supply is through and all the rest of the monies available.

So we will move as quickly as we can -

MR. WARREN: Do not blame it on Ottawa.
Do not blame it on Ottawa.

PREMIER PECKFORD: - on calling the tenders, on the landing strip in Postville, as soon as the federal authorities return the agreement, signed by them, so we can go ahead and build a landing strip because of the short -

MR. WARREN: Do not blame it on Ottawa.
Do not blame it on Ottawa.

PREMIER PECKFORD: - construction season in Labrador.
I know just as much about the climate of Labrador as the hon. gentleman.

MR. WARREN: I am afraid you do not.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Oh yes, I do.

MR. WARREN: I am afraid you do not.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Oh I have caught just as much -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order, please!

PREMIER PECKFORD: I have caught just as many salmon -
I have caught just as many salmon in Square Islands and

PREMIER PECKFORD: Tub Harbour and Snug Harbour,

St. Lewis and Fox Harbour and Lodge Bay -

MR. WARREN: Fourteen years.

PREMIER PECKFORD: I do not care if the hon. member spent forty years down there instead of fourteen.

MR. WARREN: There is a lot you do not know, boy, about Labrador.

PREMIER PECKFORD: I am telling the hon. member that I am aware of the problems of Labrador just as much as he is.

MR. NEARY: You do not know anything about Labrador.

PREMIER PECKFORD: I can pack just as much in two years, Mr. Speaker, as the hon. gentleman can in fourteen.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Before we proceed with other business, it is a pleasure for me to welcome to the Galleries today fifty-two grade V students and their teachers from Mary Queen of Peace School on Torbay Road, St. John's, from the area represented by the hon. the Minister of Labour and Manpower (Mr. Dinn). I welcome them very much.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to table the Public Accounts for the Province of Newfoundland for the year ending 31st of March, 1981, and also the Report of the Auditor General to the House of Assembly for the financial year ending 31st of March 1981. And at the same time with the latter report, Mr. Speaker, the departmental observations on the Report of the Auditor General for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1981.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

MR. WARREN: Let me find it now, Mr. Speaker.
Oh, yes.. Here we go.

Mr. Speaker, I have a petition. It is signed by 185 people from the town of Nain and it says, "Whereas it is in the interest of fisheries resource management to develop the Arctic char and salmon fisheries of Nain; and whereas the Torngat Fish Producers Co-operative has incurred significant losses in its 1981 venture in Hebron and Saglek Bays; and whereas the losses may impair the future development of the organization" I wonder is the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) around because it does pertain to his department? - "and whereas access to the char and salmon stocks North of Nain is an essential component of fisheries development and the continued economic well-being of the area residents: Be it therefore resolved that the federal and provincial governments work out a formula to guarantee losses which will assist the co-op in its efforts to continue the operation of this fishery in Northern Labrador until a more economically viable means

MR. WARREN: of operating can be put in place. And therefore we the undersigned ask our elected representatives in the House of Assembly" - and that means the fifty-two of us, Mr. Speaker - "to support the area fishermen and the Torngat Fish Producers Co-op to find assistance for the Co-op to maintain their collector boat service to the North of Nain."

I wish to go on, Mr. Speaker, by saying that last year there was quite a loss taken in by the Co-op and by the Department of Fisheries to prosecute the fishery North of Nain. However, the fishermen in Nain, and each year, Mr. Speaker, roughly eighty or ninety fishermen from Nain take their families and move North to Saglek, Hebron, Okak and the various bays up North of Nain. However, it has been very costly and there we find it is the best fishing for salmon and char, in fact, it is the best char that is found anywhere along the Labrador Coast because the further you go North, according to the biologists with the Department of Fisheries, the better the char is. So I think we have to have the encourage - ment and the financial help from the Department of Fisheries and also from the federal government. I understand last year there was quite a bit of help went to the Torngat Co-op from the federal government and from the provincial Department of Fisheries, but we need to maintain a collector system North of Nain. Or if that is not done, Mr. Speaker, I think that the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) should seriously consider taking the Labrador barge that is in place out around Smokey and placing her up North of Nain just for the months of July and August, and then move her back to Smokey for the main catch of cod in the later part of the fishing season. And I think if the minister would work this out with the Torngat Fish Co-op, probably these could be also a help. And at the same time,

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, I would ask the minister to give his full support in making some kind of arrangements with the Co-op and those families that his department is encouraging to move North to prosecute the fishery. It is pointless, Mr. Speaker, to encourage those fishermen and families to go North unless we can put some finances their way to offset the extraordinary costs that they have to bear in going North to fish.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to lay this petition on the Table and refer it to the department to which it relates.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): The hon. Minister of Fisheries.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, I apologize to the hon. gentleman, I was out of the Assembly when he brought forward the petition. I understand it is from the people in

MR. MORGAN: the Nain area, the fishermen in particular.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I have no hesitation in saying that we will support that petition and do whatever we can to help the fishermen up in the Northern part of the Labrador Coast. I say that sincerely because we understand there is a pretty good Arctic char fish stock North of Nain in the Hebron area and that stock is not being fished by Labrador fishermen primarily because it is too far away to move from Nain. I was down in that area the year before last and saw it myself and, of course, last year we agreed with the application put forward for a freezer trawler to go in there - or freezer vessel, I should say - to go in and arrange to buy the fish up in an area where nobody is living and away from the fish plant at Nain. And they did arrange to go in there with a foreign vessel, a Faroese vessel if I recall, and they purchased the fish from the Labrador fishermen, residents of Nain mostly, and had that fish frozen onboard the vessel. But we are concerned - and the hon. gentleman, I am sure, realizes this - we are concerned about the possibility of that kind of activity having an adverse effect on the fish plant. We would not want to take away any fish stocks that could be processed in the plant at Nain. I am sure the hon. gentleman would agree with that. So we have to watch it very carefully, But I will say without hesitation, Mr. Speaker, that this minister and his department will be working in close co-operation with the Labrador Co-op that is now formed there and the people of Nain to do what we can to assist them with regard to the Arctic char and salmon fishery.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I just want to take a moment to reinforce the arguments made by my colleague in connection with the petition he presented today in the House to try to maintain collector boats, I think, is the prayer of the petition, in the Nain area.

I am fairly familiar with that part of Newfoundland, Mr. Speaker, because when I was Minister of Social Services, Northern Labrador Services came under the care of my department. And, as a matter of fact, the first time I ever met my colleague, the member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren), I met him during an official visit -

MR. WARREN: Long before the Premier was up there.

MR. NEARY: - to Northern Labrador where he was in charge of one of the department stores - where was it?

MR. WARREN: Davis Inlet.

MR. NEARY: In Davis Inlet - when I first met my colleague. He spent fourteen years in Northern Labrador and provided yeoman service to the people in that area, Mr. Speaker. I could not find words to speak more highly of the work that the hon. gentleman did in Northern Labrador, outstanding work under

MR. B. HEAR: ~~and difficult and it, but~~
circumstances. Mr. Speaker, you would have to be awfully, awfully dedicated to devote, to dedicate fourteen years of your life to looking after the affairs and the needs of the native population, the Inuit population in Northern Labrador. So, Mr. Speaker, it is only fitting that my hon. colleague should be able to make such strong representations for his constituents, whom he worked for for fourteen years. And I think that it is very unkind and unfair for the Premier to poke fun at my hon. colleague and say that my Premier caught more salmon in Labrador than my colleague.

MR. WARREN: So he did. So he did.

MR. NEARY: Maybe he did, Mr. Speaker, but he was down there as a sports fisherman, but my colleague was down there working very hard for the department and for the people of Northern Labrador.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear! Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, as far as the collector is concerned, I think the Department of Fisheries should develop a collector policy. We have a similar problem in my own district down in LaPoile. Grand Bruit, Petites and La Poile in the wintertime, the fisherman can not fish, the collector is on in the summertime. About seven or eight months out a year they cannot fish, as my hon. friend knows because he has relatives in Grand Bruit, they cannot fish because the processor, the private company, will not put on a collector. And these fisherman should be fishing pretty well year round, certainly ten months out of a year. I believe the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) would be well advised to develop a collector policy. We are talking an awful lot about quality control, the fishery is changing, fish now is going to have to

MR. S. NEARY: be trucked and carried long distances to the fish plants. There seems to be a surplus of processing plants and so forth. So the whole tenor of the fishery is going to change in the next few years and I think that one of the things that the minister should look at immediately is developing a collector policy for the various communities that are not linked by road to the fish plants.

I support the prayer of the petition, Mr. Speaker, and I do hope that the minister will give it early consideration.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. W. MARSHALL: Order 2, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order 2.

On motion, that the House resolve itself into Committee of the Whole on Supply, Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): Order, please!

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren) asked me if I could let him have details of certain departments. If my memory serves me it was Rural, Agricultural and Northern Developments and Culture, Recreation and Youth. What was the other one?

MR. NEARY: Social Services.

DR. COLLINS: Social Services. No, I am sorry. Oh yes, Social Services. Right. So I wish, Mr. Chairman, for the benefit of the hon. member to table the estimates for those three departments and possibly the table would make them available to the hon. member.

Thank you.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. NEARY: First of all, Mr. Chairman, I want to say that we finally dragged the Auditor General's Report and the Public Accounts—and in addition to that this government has developed a new strategy in the last couple of years whereby they also provide their departmental observations on the Auditor General's Report. In other words, they try to neutralize and silence the press from elaborating and commenting on the goodies in the Auditor General's Report. Now, I have only had the report in my hands for a few minutes. I have managed to browse through it and it seems to me, Mr. Chairman, that this year's report is chock-full of

MR. NEARY: all kinds of goodies.
DR. COLLINS: A point of order.
MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): A point of order.

The hon. Minister of Finance.

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, the Committee is sitting on the Interim Supply Bill, is actually sitting on the resolution really. But it is the tradition of the House that when we sit on the resolution, in regard to Interim Supply, we also consider the Interim Supply Bill. And in Committee as opposed, shall we say, to the House itself on second reading or whatever where a fair amount of latitude is given, in Committee we deal precisely with the issue before the Committee. Now, Mr. Chairman, the Auditor General's Report is not the subject for discussion before the Committee. There are times when the Auditor General's Report may be discussed and I am sure will be discussed, but this is not the time. The hon. member is quite out of order if he is going to comment on the Auditor General's Report except, possibly, quite specifically on a matter that is contained

DR. COLLINS: either in the Resolution before the Committee or in the bill that is the Interim Supply Bill that will be considered subsequent to that Resolution. If his remarks with regard to the Auditor General's report deal specifically with matters within that purview, well, that would not be out of order, but from what I heard from the hon. member, he was dealing with the Auditor General's report in total and I submit that that is totally out of order.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN (McNicholas): The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, I understand Your Honour is new in the Chair and I am sure that even Your Honour being new, you know the difference of the remarks just made by the Minister of Finance, who either made them out of complete ignorance of the rules of debate in Committee, when we are discussing a matter as serious as a money bill - he either made them out of ignorance or he does not care about the procedure of this House, as he does not care about spending money without the authority of this House.

Mr. Chairman, in the discussion we are having at the moment, we are allowed ten minutes under the Standing Rules, each side of the House back and forth, and if they do not want to speak for ten minutes we can speak. Everything goes, Mr. Chairman. Everything goes when you are talking about the budget, the Budget Speech, the Throne Speech, Interim Supply, Supplementary Supply. And I think Your Honour knows that and I think all I did in my opening remarks was embarrass the minister slightly. He obviously does not want to talk about the Auditor General's report today

MR. NEARY: but it is not against the rules and I am perfectly in order, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Dr. McNicholas): On this point of order, I do not want to try to get out of making a ruling, and I am not, but I was just on my way in to take the Chair. I would like to point out to hon. members that we are discussing Interim Supply at the moment.

MR. NEARY: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that is probably the easiest way for Your Honour to get out of it, to remind the House what we are discussing. And I can look at my hon. friend, the retired Speaker, who is smiling over there and I am sure -

MR. SIMMS: I am not yet hung.

MR. NEARY: Not yet hung. Is it 'hung' or 'hanged'?

MR. TULK: You will be.

MR. SIMMS: 'Hanged' that is right.

MR. NEARY: 'Hanged', that is right.

I think the proper grammar is that the hon. gentleman will be hanged in due course next to former Speaker Ottenheimer, who is now the Minister of Justice.

MR. SIMMS: You will get to do your term yet.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: And, Mr. Chairman, I would submit to the House that before this session is over, many of the hon. gentleman's colleagues will be hanged. But they will not be hanging on the hallowed walls of this Chamber, they will be hanging out in front of Confederation Building.

Mr. Chairman, let me say this, that the Auditor General's report has just been tabled in the House, and, as I indicated, we have only had an opportunity merely to browse through it. And in browsing through it, Mr. Chairman,

MR. NEARY: I notice that there are all kinds of goodies in there that need to be questioned and commented on, and we will be doing that in due course. But I want to lift out one item now for the hon. gentleman, which has to do with a matter that has been mentioned in the Auditor General's Report before, and that has to do with teachers' payroll.

Mr. Chairman, the Auditor General, pages 36 and 37 of his report, goes into great detail about his audit of teachers' payroll. He noted last year in his report, and I believe the year before and again this year, that are serious deficiencies in the internal control over the payment of salaries of teachers. And he goes on to say that there was a lack of documentation in the files of the Teachers' Payroll Division to support payments made to teachers. There was an inadequate accounting for salary payments.

Now these are pretty serious matters, Mr. Chairman, and I wonder if the minister now could tell us what action the government have taken to remedy these deficiencies, and if the hon. gentleman can also tell us as a result of the internal audit that was done, either by the Department of Education or by the Auditor General's Department, or the Department of Finance, as a result will any charges be laid, or will a police investigation be carried out resulting from any of the audits or any of the internal investigations that have been made by either the Minister of Education's (Ms. Verge) own staff or by the Auditor General's staff? Mr. Chairman, I would like to hear the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) comment on this matter. And we will have a number of other questions probably later on the Auditor General's Report, but for now, because we managed to drag the report out of the minister this morning,

MR. NEARY: perhaps, Mr. Speaker, we might just, if my colleagues have some specific questions to put to the minister - but perhaps the Interim Supply Bill may just slide through to give us a chance to study the report and next week we will be asking some very penetrating questions about the Auditor General's Report. Then the budget will be down on the 27th. and we can get back at it again. But the government now, I believe, is gone past its deadline for paying its bills and unless we approve interim supply in this House today or Monday or Tuesday, the payroll will not be met next week, which means that public servants, nurses, teachers, and so forth could not be paid. I do not know if the newer members are aware of that or not, that interim supply - if we do not pass interim supply before next Wednesday there will be no payday for the nurses and the teachers and the public servants in this Province. And we are not, the Opposition is

MR. NEARY: not going to cause any unnecessary inconvenience or hardship, Mr. Chairman, to people on welfare or people who are waiting for their salaries or companies that are on the brink of bankruptcy who are waiting to be paid their bills. I do hope, Mr. Chairman, that if we pass the Interim Supply Bill in the next hour or so, these companies that have been waiting to be paid their bills that they have sent to the Department of Finance three and four and five months ago, I hope these bills will be paid promptly to save these companies from going into bankruptcy. Because I have had a number of calls, Mr. Chairman, since the election, from businesses, genuine businesses in this Province who have no political axe to grind, who tell me that they cannot get any money out of the government. I have had the same complaint -

MR. TULK: (Inaudible) about two years.

MR. NEARY: - from a lot of municipalities. And town councils are being driven into bankruptcy. And the other day the Leader of the NDP predicted that there will be a lot of resignations from town councils because the administration is putting the squeeze on the town councils. And the mayors and the councillors will not be able to withstand the pressure and the abuse that they will get, because it is going to be blamed on them, they are in the front line of fire, they are out in the line of fire.

And so what I am saying, Mr. Chairman, is that we are not going to give the government the opportunity to point the finger at us and say, 'Well we could not pre-tender or we could not pay our bills or we could not meet the payrolls.

MR. TULK: Pretending.

MR. NEARY: They have been pretending for a long time.

MR. TULK: The great pretender is over there.

MR. NEARY: Yes, that is right, the Premier is the great pretender. Or we could not pay welfare recipients, give them their allowances and so forth. We are going to pass this Interim Supply Bill, I would say, probably in the next hour or so, when my colleagues ask a few specific questions.

I do want to thank the Premier, by the way, who is the man responsible for getting the Auditor-General's Report on the table of the House. I made a statement a few days ago that the Auditor-General's Report had been in the hands of the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) for at least six or seven weeks if not longer. And the hon. gentleman, we finally dragged it out of him today, and we would not have gotten it today only the Premier and I had a chat here before the House met yesterday on the Interim Supply Bill and I said, 'Well, how do you expect us to do our job and to ask questions, the right questions, if we do not have the information in front of us?'. And the Premier said, 'I agree'. He said, 'I will go see the Minister of Finance'. And that is how we got the Auditor-General's Report on the Table today.

So, Mr. Chairman, we want to study it. We will be back at it again next week, and we will be having another go at it when the Budget is brought down. And perhaps if my colleagues have some

MR. S. NEARY: specific questions they want to ask, well, we hope we get the co-operation of the minister. And after that I think we will just let the Interim Supply Bill go through, although we are not happy about it. A record amount, and in Interim Supply new capital works projects that has never happened before, unlawful spending and so on. I do not want to repeat that all over again, Mr. Chairman, I think that message has come through loud and clear.

MR. F. STAGG: Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN (McNicholas): Before recognizing the hon. the member for Stephenville I would just like to say a word for the benefit of the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. S. Neary), as far as I know, criminals are hanged but Speakers are hung.

The hon. the member for Stephenville.

MR. STAGG: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, Mr. Chairman, I would like to compliment you on your appointment to your position and obviously the sense of humour that you have already displayed will be quite an assist in getting the procedures of the House carried on in proper style. Now I hear a little bit of caterwauling over on the other side but I will not let that detract me. Mr. Chairman, obviously we are asking for an awful lot of money here, \$674 million. I would just like to zero in on one of the departments and that would be the Department of Fisheries. I would like to see in the future when the government is coming back to the House, probably in the year 1985 after the Liberals in Ottawa are defeated as is inevitable just as the Liberals in Newfoundland were defeated recently the Liberals in Ottawa will be defeated, that the vote for the Department of Fisheries in this House will be very, very large. Because we are looking for concurrent jurisdiction in the fisheries so that the kind of travesty - can I say criminal? I suppose it is "criminal", in quotes at least, activity that the federal government has perpetrated upon

MR. F. STAGG: this Province in the allocation of the fisheries resource within the 200 mile limit to other countries, particularly Russia, the 103,360 metric tons. This is not an academic question, Mr. Chairman, this is not something that just appears in books, this is something that gets us right in the pocketbook. We have small fish plants throughout this Province that are bankrupt. We have banks that are foreclosing on businessmen. These banks are not run by the local managers, these banks are run by the corporate authorities are in Montreal and Toronto and they say, 'You have outstanding loans in Newfoundland, get the

MR. STAGG: money in, realize on your security and so on. Well how can that be changed? And I say it can be changed, Mr. Chairman, by turning around our economy, turning around our economy so that we export the 103,000 metric tons of fish, either in fresh or processed form. And that changes your balance of payments. You are sending products out and the money is coming back into the country and it fights inflation and it lowers your unemployment rate. And that is what countries are all about.

I do not know what kind of a country Canada is. Canada is the international benefactor of the Eastern block countries. It is almost an economic unit, an economic part of the Warsaw block. But if you see who is catching the fish off the coast of Newfoundland, who is catching the most fish, you find the Russians and the Poles and the Bulgarians, all of these regimes, all of these regimes that stand for everything that we do not stand for, all these so-called left wing which are really right wing, far right wing regimes, and there is our Minister of Fisheries (Mr. LeBlanc) and our Prime Minister cozying up to these people and, in effect, giving away our resource. I do not know what the reason is.

But is the fact that the Japanese voluntarily, and I put that in quotes, 'voluntarily' agreed to restrict their export.

MR. HODDER: A point of order, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN (McNicholas): A point of order, the hon. member for Port au Port.

MR. HODDER: The hon. member on the other side is speaking but his own members are not here. There is no quorum in the House, Mr. Chairman, even with the two of us.

MR. STAGG: Mr. Chairman, that is not a quorum call, that is an observation that there may not be a quorum in the House.

MR. HODDER: There is no quorum in the House,
Mr. Chairman. Quorum call.

MR. NEARY: Shameful! Forty-four members and
they cannot keep a quorum in the House. That is shameful.

MR. STAGG: Mr. Chairman.

MR. NEARY: Sit down, now. You have to wait
for five minutes. How long do we have to wait, Mr.
Chairman?

MR. STAGG: I will wait until the quorum is -
I think we have a quorum now, Mr.
Chairman.

MR. HODDER: No, you have to wait two minutes,
or three minutes.

MR. STAGG: I have to wait until the Chair-
man gives me the floor. And I would like to have the floor
rather than being interrupted by spurious and foolish points
of order by the member for Port au Port (Mr. Hodder) who
lives in a fishing district -

MR. NEARY: A point of order, Mr. Chairman.

MR. STAGG: - who does not want to hear about
the fishery.

MR. CHAIRMAN: A point of order, the Leader of
the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: From my understanding - Mr. Chair-
man, the hon. gentleman was Deputy Speaker of this House
at one time, so he should know the rules. But obviously
he does not, and that is frightening when you think there
was a gentleman sitting in the Chair who does not know the
rules of the House.

When the Clerk counts the House,
Mr. Chairman, if there is no quorum, if fourteen members
are not in attendance, then you have to ring the bells for
three -

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EL - 3

MR. BAIRD:

You are out of order.

MR. NEARY:

I am not out of order.

MR. BAIRD:

Yes you are.

MR. NEARY:

You have to ring the bells for
three minutes and

MR. NEARY: I believe that is the proper procedure. Perhaps the former Speaker could supply us with a little bit of information on that.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Dr. McNicholas): To that point of order, we will wait three minutes unless there is an agreement to commence right away.

MR. WARREN: Is that not shameful?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Learn the rules.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do we have an agreement?

Is it agreed?

MR. STAGG: At least five minutes have passed, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it agreed that we commence?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The three minutes are now up. Before recognizing the hon.

the member for Stephenville, I would like to welcome to the galleries from New World Island East Elementary School, Newville, Twillingate district, sixty-three students accompanied by teachers, Mr. Hamlyn, Mr. Woolridge, Mrs. Mehaney, Mr. Greene, Mrs. Coish and Mr. Sansome.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. the member for Stephenville.

MR. NEARY: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: On a point of order, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if Your Honour could inform the House whether or not the three minutes that we had to wait comes out of the hon. gentleman's time, and if so, would the Chairman or the Clerk inform the House how much time the hon. gentleman has left?

MR. CHAIRMAN (Dr. McNicholas): The three minutes
does not come out of his time.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has six minutes left.

MR. BUTT: Now come on 'Fred' give it to them. Give
it to them old buddy.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. the member for
Stephenville.

MR. STAGG: Thank you very much,

Mr. Chairman.

Now, I do not want anybody
in the House to think that the member for Port au Port
(Mr. Hodder) was spurred

MR. F. STAGG: on by any motive other than purely partisan motives to call for a Quorum. This is the sum and substance of the intellectual activity that he puts into his representation as Opposition House Leader. Now, what I was talking about, Mr. Chairman, I was talking about one of the most momentous things that has happened in this House in some time, in that the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) this morning got up and revealed the stark reality of the policy that is being followed by the federal government as far as one of our main resources is concerned, that main resource being the fishery. While the federal government holds these magnificent conferences, while it appoints Mr. Kirby to a Task Force and employs thirty-two people in his Task Force, I can tell Mr. Kirby one of the main solutions to the fishing problems in Canada, let the Canadians catch the fish. Let the Canadians catch the fish, and among those Canadians are a half million people called Newfoundlanders. Let the Newfoundlanders catch the fish. I believe there are people here from New World Island. Did I hear that, Mr. Chairman, there are people here from World Island? Well, what better group of young people whose whole futures are tied up in the resolution of this issue, where this House unanimously, this morning, passed a concensus resolution that we would send a telegram to the federal Minister of Fisheries (Mr. R. LeBlanc) and to the Prime Minister expressing our outrage and our contempt for this kind of use or misuse of our resources. Mr. Chairman, it is the sort of thing that has put forty-four members on this side of the House and eight members on the other side.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. STAGG: That is the reason. The people of the Province realized that the former Liberal caucus did not

MR. F. STAGG: stand as one with us on this. And I am very pleased this morning that the member for Fogo (Mr. B. Tulk), who is a neighbor of these people from Twillingate, spoke clearly, without equivocation that he stood as one with us on this, and the members of the Opposition stood as one with us on this issue.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. STAGG: Now that is the type of thing that this House should stand for. This House must have unanimous opinions on something. There must be other things that we all stand together on as Newfoundlanders, and this is one. We disagree with the Russians having 103,000 metric tons of fish taken from within our 200 mile limit. 103,000 metric tons of fish. Sure there would hardly be a person unemployed in Newfoundland if that resource were properly utilized. How did the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) get it? He has not revealed to us how he got this information. It was probably sent to him in a brown envelop, because it is the sort of thing

MR. STAGG: that the federal government would do surreptitiously behind closed doors in their dealings with - obviously the Eastern bloc countries are not going to tell about it, because they do not have any freedom of information in their countries.

So, Mr. Speaker, we are dealing with an Interim Supply Bill and I, for the sake of making my arguments relevant, I am directing my comments to a head of expenditure VIII, Fisheries, and I am hoping that in 1985, after Mr. Trudeau and Mr. Lalonde and Mr. LeBlanc and Mr. Rompkey, and Mr. Tobin - that is the Mr. Tobin on the West Coast, not the Mr. Tobin on the Burin Peninsula - and Mr. Baker, and Mr. Rooney, and whoever the other one is, Mr. Simmons, after they have all bitten the dust because of their stand with the federal government, and their unwillingness to stand up for Newfoundland, after they have all bitten the dust, after we send seven PCs back to Ottawa in 1984 -

MR. BUTT: : Right on. Let her go.

MR. STAGG: And let me tell you right here and now that I will be out campaigning night and day, door to door for whoever is the PC candidate in the district that I represent.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. STAGG: I will be out door to door because this is the sort of thing that we are - we are getting off the fence on this, Mr. Chairman. And the member for Twillingate (Mrs. Reid), let me tell you young people up there, the member for Twillingate will be down - she may even be the candidate, who knows? She may even be the candidate. If she is the candidate she is going to be the winner.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. STAGG: And in 1985, after we obtain concurrent jurisdiction with the federal government over fisheries, Head VIII in our heads of expenditure, Fisheries, is going to be an awful lot more than \$12 million. We are going to need the money to look after it.

Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CHAIRMAN (McNicholas): The hon. member for Torngat Mountains.

MR. WARREN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) for giving me a copy of the expenditures for the Department of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development, Culture, Recreation and Youth, and Social Services. However, I do have some questions to ask the minister concerning the Department of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development.

To beg the difference from the other two estimates that he gave me, it is all written in like it was written very fast by pen or pencil yesterday evening, or after hours last night, and I do have some questions to ask concerning those written in figures.

Like, for example, April 1st., to May 15th., \$270,000 has been placed in there for depot buildings with the Department of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development.

DR. COLLINS: What page is it on?

MR. WARREN: Well, I cannot see from here what page it is on, and I cannot even say what subhead because it was so bad when it came off. But it is close to the end, about the last eight or nine pages towards the end of the department.

MR. WARREN: Also, under subsection, I think it is 14-02, \$11,500 for Grants and Subsidy, recreational funding, I am just wondering if this paid out during the election campaign? Also, under depot buildings, this \$270,000, I noticed during the election campaign that there was a lot of furniture for a particular community went into the district and I noticed that on crates of furniture that came in there it came from the business that my opponent was operating. I am just wondering now was any tenders called for this furniture. It was ironic to see this furniture being shipped into Coastal Labrador during an election campaign and coming from the business that my opponent operates.

Also, I would like to ask the minister - I would like to have more details because this is only just partial, I would like for it to be itemized, what this \$270,000 has been used for. And also there was \$475,000 used for supplies for the operation of the five stores in the district. I understand that very little purchases are made by the Department of Rural Agricultural and Northern Development before the requisitions are placed. And I happen to know, because I did work with the Rural Development for X number of years, that requisitions by the depots are not placed before some time in mid-April and by the time the tenders are called - in fact, there are no supplies as of now, or very little supplies I should say, as of now that have been purchased by any of the major suppliers. So I am just wondering if this \$475,000 is being used to pay last year's bills. I am just wondering if this is being used to pay companies that the department purchased from last year but were not paid out of last year's vote. And it does sound, probably, that that is what it could be and if it is, it is very poor budgetary planning on the part of the Department of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development.

Also, I would like to ask the

MR. WARREN: minister while I am standing,
in the Department of Culture, Recreation and Youth,
and again I know the minister is new in that position,
Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth (Mr. Simms)
however, I do notice that there has been quite an outstanding
amount of money paid out in community grants for small
sports and recreation facilities. I am just wondering
how many of those grants were issued and given out to the
various communities between the dates of March 11th and
April 6th? Those are two familiar dates

MR. WARREN:

in my mind and, I would venture to say, when the minister can come back with that information we will find that most of those grants were given out during the period of March 11th. to April 6th. when incidentally, an election campaign was held in that period.

DR. COLLINS:

Could you give me the subhead numbers there on that one?

MR. WARREN:

Okay. Under Community Recreation, 1803-03, Grants and Subsidies \$150,040. And I am just wondering how many dollars of this was spent between those famous twenty-two days of an election campaign.

Mr. Chairman, I am still not satisfied with the response that the minister gave yesterday on the famous Murray Premises. The Murray Premises as we know have been paid \$163,000 per year for rental space. as the minister said yesterday. Multiply that by four years - that is for a museum - multiply that by four years and it comes to roughly \$650,000. The minister has also said that roughly around \$500,000 has been spent on renovations for the museum. Now we are talking about May 14, 1932, and there is nothing done in the museum, and here we have over \$1 million, \$1.25 million paid to Murray Premises by the taxpayers of this Province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. WARREN:

And who was it paid to and who owns the Murray Premises but the co-ordinator, the PC co-ordinator for Newfoundland and Labrador. Now, Mr. Chairman, is not the PC campaign co-ordinator a very highly influential person in the PC party? That is who owns and operates the Murray Premises and we have seen \$1.25 million of taxpayer's money

MR. WARREN: being paid to that company and as of now you cannot see anything at all concerning the museum down there. So I am just wondering how much longer do the taxpayers of this Province have to wait before they can go down to the Murray Premises and view what their \$1.25 million have paid for. So, Mr. Chairman, I believe it is ridiculous for the Department of Public Works and its minister to allow such a thing as this to happen, paying \$500,000 for renovations to a building downtown and it is not even ready, plus paying \$163,000 a year for rent for such a building

MR. WARREN: that the government is not even using. So, Mr. Chairman, I was thinking, whoever did up the contract with the individuals concerned with that company must be very closely connected with the individuals, and I would venture to say that the monies paid out have really helped the Progressive Conservative Party of this Province.

MR. NEARY: Right on there! Right on!

MR. SIMMS: And also tell us about the teachers' payroll here in the Auditor General's Report.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): The hon. the member for Culture, Recreation and Youth.

MR. SIMMS: Mr. Chairman, there have been a number of comments made in the hon. member's remarks that are not quite accurate and I think some clarification is required.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMS: Keeping in line with the new plan of hon. members opposite to be reasonable and approach things reasonably, I am prepared to try to give a reasonable explanation of the entire situation.

First of all, the hon. member says that the building is owned by the campaign manager of the Progressive Conservative Party or whatever. The fact of the matter is that the complex is owned by the St. John's Heritage Foundation.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SIMMS: Atlantic Leasing acts as a collection agency for all the tenants down in that particular complex, all the tenants, not simply the museum. So that is a bit of an inaccuracy.

MR. WARREN: Mr. Ryan is involved.

MR. SIMMS: I just explained that Atlantic Leasing is the collection agency. Now if the hon. member is reasonable -

MR. NEARY: Who is Atlantic Leasing?

MR. SIMMS: That is irrelevant.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SIMMS: We are talking about who owns the building. The building is owned by the St. John's Heritage Foundation, in any event.

MR. WARREN: Mr. Ryan is involved.

MR. NEARY: Do not confuse him with facts.

MR. SIMMS: Yes, my mind is made up.

The other inaccuracy in the hon. member's comments is that the building is not being used at all. That is obviously incorrect because the building is used by several tenants down there, and in addition to that, the Historic Division of my department already occupies a couple of offices down there. But the real thing that needs to be cleared up in this particular matter is the fact that the facility that is available down there to be renovated for the use of a museum has gone to tender. The tender has in fact been awarded. The tender was awarded about two months ago, in fact, and there are some preliminary renovations now taking place.

MR. WARREN: It was awarded to whom?

MR. SIMMS: It was awarded to a company called Marco Limited, who was the low bidder of nine or ten bidders. The Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) has the list there. So we are occupying two offices presently.

The other thing is that the preliminary planning and design work for the museum itself has been ongoing

MR. SIMMS: by the department for the last couple of years. And hon. members, I am sure, with the full knowledge of how museums operate and are designed and so on, would be aware that it is not unusual at all to take a couple of years to plan and design such a facility. In fact, I just have as an interesting note that the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic located in Halifax was in the planning stages for over twenty-two years. There is a newspaper clipping there that will describe that if anybody is interested in reading it. So it is not unusual, it takes up to two years, at least, to design and construct the dioramas they are called, which is the display of the exhibits and so on, and other complicated displays.

The rationale, of course, is as follows: By agreeing to rent the space in the Murray Place, the Historic Resources Division provided the St. John's Heritage Foundation with the triple A tenant that was required to enable it to obtain the necessary financing to rehabilitate the whole of the Murray Premises. And the decision of the day was to do that and therefore prevent losing a building that is known as a very historic premise and prevent it from being destroyed and whatever.

The other thing, of course, is that even though it has been some time since the department has been able to move in there with the Naval and Military Museum, the fact government provided the mechanism whereby those renovations could take place to accommodate the museum, I think, was a good decision, otherwise we would have lost the entire facility.

So those are a couple of things that I wanted to say to clear up some inaccuracies for the hon. member and hope that it will be helpful in the discussion at least, the debate.

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Alyward): The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, that is a nice try on the part of the new Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth (Mr. Simms). It was a nice try but it will not wash, it will not fly. The hon. gentleman is not convinced himself, Mr. Chairman, he is not convinced himself. The hon. gentleman now is new - the hon. gentleman was the Speaker up to a week or ten days ago - I am not going to condemn the hon. gentleman but I am going to condemn the administration. And the hon. gentleman should have more sense than to start off his career as a minister in the department by trying to cover up for incompetence, mismanagement on the part of the administration.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. NEARY: The hon. gentleman should start out with a clean slate.

MR. SIMMS: A point of order, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: A point of order, the hon. Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth.

MR. SIMMS: I believe the hon. member accused me of covering up and I am sure the hon. member would want to withdraw that comment. That certainly is not a parliamentary comment or parliamentary way of addressing another member in this House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. NEARY: No, Mr. Chairman, I am not accusing the hon. gentleman of covering up.

MR. SIMMS: I accept the withdrawal.

MR. NEARY: Well, you can call it what you like but there is no - what I said, Mr. Chairman, was this - well, if you want to deal with the point of order first.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): Yes. I rule that there is no point of order, that it is a difference of opinion between two hon. gentlemen.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, let me put it another way, that the hon. gentleman attempted to find an excuse, and it was a feeble excuse.

MR. HODDER: You can use cover-up too.

MR. NEARY: Yes, I know you can use cover-up but I am not going to use it because it offends the hon. gentleman and it is not the hon. gentleman I am after. But what I am saying is that the hon. gentleman starting out a new career for himself as a minister of the Crown should not attempt to come up with such feeble excuses to cover up for mismanagement - now that is perfectly in order, the hon. gentleman knows that - mismanagement of the administration.

Let us see what the Auditor General says about the matter. Now as far as Atlantic Leasing is concerned, the only thing that I can say to the hon. gentleman is a rose by any other name smells just as sweet, and he can excuse the Tory campaign co-ordination, or campaign manager or whatever he calls him, all he likes but, Mr. Chairman, the deal smacks of a goodie, a goodie that was passed over on a silver platter.

MR. BARRETT: You would like to think so, would you not?

MR. NEARY: No, Mr. Chairman, the Auditor General, as a matter of fact, draws attention to it.

MR. BARRETT: Does he?

MR. NEARY: Yes, he certainly does, on page 52 of his annual report.

MR. BARRETT: He does not mention anything about the person you are referring to?

MR. NEARY: He does not mention anything about the person. I have not named the person I am referring to, but perhaps the hon. gentleman would care to do that.

My colleagues tell me that the person involved in this little goodie that was passed over by the administration that was not going to do any of these things at all when they came in 'Mr. Clean' there a couple of years ago, no goodies for their buddies.

MR. TULK: Mr. Pretender.

MR. NEARY: The 'Great Pretender' of this Province told us that there was going to be nothing like this going on. Well, let us see what the Auditor General says in Item 68: Payment of \$374,196 in rental and related expenditure for unoccupied space.

MR. WARREN: Wow! Three hundred and -

MR. NEARY: Three hundred and seventy-four thousand dollars. I am not saying this, this is the Auditor General, the man who is the watchdog over the public treasury. That is up to January of this year, Mr. Chairman - page 52 - up to January of this year, \$374,000 paid out for unoccupied space.

MR. NEARY: Now if that is not looking after somebody I do not know what is. And the minister told us yesterday it is going to cost \$516,000 to renovate the place.

MR. WARREN: \$1 million.

MR. NEARY: One million dollars, Mr. Chairman. We are talking about \$1 million.

MR. YOUNG: Well spent.

MR. NEARY: Well spent the hon. gentleman says. Well spent no doubt. And well-heeled too.

MR. WARREN: I would say a lot of it was spent on the PC campaign.

MR. NEARY: Listen to this. It was disclosed that the Department of Public Works and Services signed an offer to lease 13,352 square feet of space on June 5, 1979 for a proposed museum. Now remember, Mr. Chairman, this is the hon. crowd that are talking about developing billion dollar resources offshore and they cannot even get a museum open in three or four years.

MR. TULK: Going on four.

MR. NEARY: Going on four years.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: These are the people that are talking about more control over the fisheries, more control over our resources. Give us Hibernia. And here they are, they sign an agreement on the third of June 1979 for a proposed Museum and it is still down there unoccupied, and it has cost the taxpayers so far about \$1 million.

MR. WARREN: Not bad. Not bad at all.

MR. NEARY: The department also signed a lease with the landlord but the lease was not dated. On September 19, 1979, the landlord advised the department

MR. NEARY: that a sixty day period allowed in the lease for fitting up the premises -

MR. WARREN: Sixty days he said, yes.

MR. NEARY: -sixty days by the tenant- would be begin on October 1, 1979 and rental payments would commence on December 1, 1979. Now what does that actually mean? That means that sixty days after the agreement was signed the accommodations should have been ready to be occupied. And why were they not? Here it is, as my hon. friend says, May one. This is the middle of May.

MR. TULK: There is 625 square feet (inaudible)

MR. NEARY: The middle of May 1982, almost four years later, and the building is still not occupied.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: From December 1979 - this is the Auditor General I am quoting -

MR. WARREN: The Minister of Public Works (Mr. Young) should resign right away. He should walk out.

MR. NEARY: This is the Auditor General I am quoting and just listen: From December 1979 to January 28th 1982 the Department of Public Works and Services paid \$350,000 in rent.

MR. TULK: \$300 a square foot.

MR. NEARY: \$323,000 in taxes for the premises. But only fitted up - listen to this- but only fitted up, during the time they had, and occupied approximately 625 square feet of space as of November 1981.

MR. TULK: \$600 a square foot.

MR. NEARY: That is \$600, my hon. colleague reminds me, a square foot. And here is what the Auditor General says about it, not the Opposition, not

MR. NEARY: the Liberals. The Auditor General, servant of this House, the watchdog over the Public Treasury, what does the Auditor General say? "In my opinion the department should have ensured that the rental space was fitted up as quickly as possible rather than pay \$374,196 for space which was essentially unoccupied for a twenty-six month period."

Now, Mr. Chairman, that in my opinion, smacks of political - what? - patronage? Mr. Chairman, would you put that item in the category of political patronage?

MR. WARREN: How much -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No. No.

MR. WARREN: What? You would not?

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, did the man who has been the whipping boy for this administration, the man who has been the whipping boy for so many years when he was Premier, did he do anything worse than this?

MR. WARREN: No. No. He would not do that.
No.

MR. NEARY: Show me. I do not think he could do anything worse than this.

MR. CALLAN: Big fisherman.

MR. TULK: \$600 a square foot.

MR. WARREN: I think the Minister of Finance should resign, should walk out today.

MR. NEARY: And here you have, as I told the new member for Burin-Placentia West (Mr. Tobin) yesterday, you have young Newfoundlanders who need wheelchairs, you have Newfoundlanders who need crutches, you have Newfoundlanders who need eyeglasses, you have Newfoundlanders who need dentures -

MR. CALLAN: Operations.

MR. NEARY: - you have communities that need water and sewerage. You have Newfoundlanders who cannot go away for medical attention to see specialists, you need water and sewerage in communities. Down in Sops Arm they need their road fixed up.

MR. CALLAN: Pollards Point.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, what do we have? We have \$1 million, \$1 million cold cash of taxpayers' money spent out for accommodations for a museum in 1979 and it is still not occupied. And I do hope, Mr. Chairman, I do hope that the CBC will take their cameras and the NTV take their cameras and go down and take a picture of that \$1 million white elephant down in the Murray Premises.

MR. TULK: How much did the member for Twillingate (Mrs. Reid) -

MR. NEARY: And I hope that the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) will be able to tell us how long more we have to continue to pay out money for an unoccupied space? When will the place be opened so that the public of this Province can have a look at it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): The hon. Minister of Education.

MS. VERGE: Mr. Chairman, I want to comment just briefly on some of the remarks made earlier this morning by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) about the Auditor General's Report provisions about the teachers payroll.

MS. L. VERGE: The teacher's payroll is administered by the Department of Education. It is a very large amount of money, since this year we will be paying teachers a total of something over \$200 million. I just received the Auditor General's report this morning, Mr. Chairman, as did all other members of this hon. House. I have not had an opportunity to read it carefully or to prepare the detailed responses, however, I am aware of efforts that are ongoing to improve internal control in the teachers' payroll system. I would like to quote from the Auditor General's Report. At the top of page 37, he says:

" Since the last Report of the Auditor General to the House of Assembly, the Department of Education set up a Steering Committee" -

MR. NEARY: (Inaudible).

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): Order, please!

MS. VERGE: - "and a Project Team to review the findings as disclosed in the Auditor General's letter of the 12 December 1980 and also to review the Teachers' Payroll System. While I acknowledge that the Department of Education has acted upon the major recommendation in the Auditor General's previous report,"- and I think that has to be emphasized, Mr. Chairman, - " I must state that I believe that much of the work to date " - and he was writing this as of 14 September 1981 - "has been of a preliminary nature. In actual fact, very few specific improvements have been made to the Teachers' Payroll System since the letter of 12 December 1980." And then he goes on to -"I urge that the Department of Education(with assistance from Treasury Board, the Department of Finance, and Newfoundland and Labrador Computer Services Limited) take immediate action to correct the deficiencies which exist and

MS. L. VERGE: have been reported to the Department of Education concerning the Teachers' Payroll System."

Mr. Chairman, I can assure hon. members that the Auditor General's recommendation, though the report was released and distributed only this morning, has been acted upon. The agencies and departments indicated have been enlisted to assist with the effort of improving and tightening internal control in the Teachers' Payroll System.

MR. S. NEARY: Are the police investigating this?

MS. VERGE: Mr. Chairman, yes the police were called in by the Department of Education this Winter to investigate certain irregularities which were uncovered, particularly in the payroll system for substitute teachers, and at that time, as the police were called in, changes were made, improvements were made in the procedure for accounting for payroll for substitute teachers. I can personally assure hon. members of that and

MS. VERGE: the internal auditors with the Department of Finance have aided that process and are continuing to oversee ongoing improvements in this system. What is needed is a major improvement in the computer programme for the teachers' payroll. It is a huge task and it is now in the process of being done with the Newfoundland and Labrador Computer Services Limited. So, Mr. Chairman, I can report that while agreeing with the Auditor General's remarks about the need to make improvements in internal control for teachers' payroll, a lot of efforts have been exerted and, particularly, since the time he wrote this report, improvements have been made and will be made once the computer programme is revised and implemented.

MR. NEARY: Were any charges laid?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: I would ask the minister if she could give us a little more information on why it was necessary to call the police in, and were charges laid as a result of their investigation?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister of Education.

MS. VERGE: Mr. Chairman, as I indicated before, irregularities were uncovered by Department of Education personnel managing the teachers' payroll system about payments made to substitute teachers and the procedure for accounting for substitute teachers' pay. That was early this Winter, at the beginning of 1982, and upon the immediate action of the supervisor of the payroll office, the senior personnel in the department, in consultation with me as the minister, contacted the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary and requested that they immediately become involved and investigate.

May 14, 1982

Tape No. 237

NM - 2

MS. VERGE: Mr. Chairman, I cannot state with certainty whether any charge was laid, however, that is something that I could ascertain and report to the Chamber at a later time.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): The hon. Minister of Finance.

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to make some comments on some points that were raised. Firstly, the hon. member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren) asked a few questions. In regard to some of the questions he asked on the Department of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development, he was enquiring, what was the expenditure on depot buildings in the amount of \$270,000? I think that was one of his questions. That

DR. COLLINS: expenditure was to provide funds to complete the Davis Inlet retail store and oil storage tanks at Postville. The total cost is estimated at nearly \$700,000 and the work was scheduled to begin this Spring so that this was a preliminary - started that funding so that the work could be planned and get underway as soon as possible.

MR. WARREN: You made available that \$700,000 but no work has been happening for the last five months.

DR. COLLINS: It was allocated so that the work could be planned so that there would be an early start in the Spring.

MR. WARREN: Has the contractor been paid?

DR. COLLINS: I do not know if the contract has actually be let yet or not, but anyway, that amount of money was allocated for that purpose so that the work could get underway as soon as possible.

The hon. member also asked in regard to depot operations, and I think the total amount there was over a million and a half dollars, but I think he was particularly concerned about a \$475,000 expenditure for the purchase of supplies from the 1st of April to the 15th of May period. Those are supplies to allow the five retail stores to operate. Of course, the retail stores have to -

MR. WARREN: But they do not buy anything this time of the year.

DR. COLLINS: - purchase goods fairly early in the year -

MR. WARREN: They do not buy anything now.

DR. COLLINS: - and then they retail those to the individuals in the area. And that was what that \$475,000 was for, it was for inventory.

MR. WARREN: But they do not buy it until the last part of May.

MR. HODDER: In one word it is pork barrelling.

DR. COLLINS: Well if the hon. member thinks it is pork barrelling to buy supplies for people in Labrador, you know, that is his problem. I do not have any problem. I think the people in Labrador deserve to have supplies.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

DR. COLLINS: But if the hon. member feels that that is wrong, perhaps he could write me a letter on it and I will see if I can get it corrected.

MR. HODDER: Were there any barrels of pork in the supplies?

MR. WARREN: They did not purchase anything?

DR. COLLINS: But I would like to have it laid out that he wants it corrected. He does not want the people in the Labrador communities to have supplies.

MR. WARREN: They have not purchased anything.

DR. COLLINS: What are they supposed to do, are they supposed to eat wild berries or something.

AN HON. MEMBER: Let them eat cake.

MR. WARREN: Let them use the money.

DR. COLLINS: Let them eat cake, he says.

Alright anyway, -

MR. WARREN: Tell the truth.

DR. COLLINS: About the recreational grants, that was in 1803-03, I think the hon. member says, I have not found anything under that subhead there, 1803-03 refers to Transportation and Communications.

MR. WARREN: No, no. On the same page you were on just now, I cannot read the number there, you see - \$11,500.

DR. COLLINS: \$11,500.

MR. WARREN: Yes, on the same page you were on just now. See it down there - Recreational Funding. On the same page.

DR. COLLINS: Under Community Recreation?

MR. WARREN: Recreation funding, yes, grants and subsidies.

DR. COLLINS: Oh, grants and subsidies, \$150,400?

MR. WARREN: No, \$11,500. This is in Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development now.

DR. COLLINS: Oh, I am sorry, I thought you were in Culture, Recreation and Youth.

MR. WARREN: No, well, the one in Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development first.

DR. COLLINS: I see. Well possibly I will certainly get the hon. member the details on that. I do not have it right at my fingertips.

The other comments I should make refer to the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) who made a statement that government was not paying its bills and people were going into bankruptcy. Now I wish the hon. Leader of the Opposition would send me some names and I would certainly have them investigated. There is no doubt about it government owes monies to certain firms.

MR. NEARY: How much, Mr. Chairman?

DR. COLLINS: Government is a very large business. We have payables like any business have payables. We have been making special efforts, knowing the economic situation in the Province, we have been making special efforts to try to expedite our payments and this has been a special effort put on at each departmental level. Treasury Board gets reports on this on a monthly basis, and we are trying to concentrate in this area so that payments will be made just as quickly as possible.

Now there has to be processing of invoices and validation that the supplies, or whatever they are, have been received and so on and so forth. So there is a time lag. What we are aiming for is to get payments made at

DR. COLLINS: least within a fifty day period, which is not too bad in many cases. And I might report to the Committee that pretty well each month is showing an improvement and the vast majority of payments are now made within a thirty day period.

Now we are anxious of course to get our payments made early, because hon. members will remember that government has undertaken to pay interest on outdated accounts if it can be shown that the reason for the delay is because of some government cause.

The hon. member then, of course, told us a little fairy tale, he told us a fairy tale about the AG's Report, that he was instrumental in getting it on the table and so on and so forth. Now he says that I had the thing in my hand for weeks and weeks. I have to report to the House that I was on holdiday after the - what happened there earlier on? Oh, yes, there was an election on. There was an election on and I think there was a very good result from the election. I took some part in that, so I decided to take a little holiday and I did not get back from that holiday until just about the early part of May. I can assure the hon. member I did not take the Auditor General's Report with me on holdiday. I certainly did not see the Auditor General's Report until I came back from holiday around the early part of May. So I could not have had it in my hands much longer than two weeks. In actual fact, if I remember correctly,

DR. COLLINS: I got it around the 3rd or 4th of May, sometime like that. And as I pointed out to the Committee yesterday, an obligation is laid upon me to table it within a week - within a week, and I tabled it within five days. My God! I think that is tremendous performance. What performance!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

DR. COLLINS: So, you know, it was just a little fairytale. There were some children here earlier on. It is too bad they left because they would have liked to have heard the end of that little fairytale the hon. the Leader of the Opposition told.

Then we got back, I think, on to the Murray Premises again and the hon. the Minister for Culture, Recreation and Youth (Mr. Simms), I think, gave a beautiful exposition of that and there hardly needs to be another word said on it. But nevertheless, it did come up later on so I do have to just say a word or two.

Firstly it was suggested that the space had been unoccupied for four years, in other words, that government was paying rent for four years for unoccupied space. Well, now, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition himself pointed out that we did not have an obligation to begin paying rent until the 1st of December, 1979. Similarly, he refers to 1979 to 1980 to 1981 to the early part of 1982. It is at the most two and one-half years, a bit less than two and one-half years. So I think someone's addition is a little bit wrong over there.

The other statement was made that \$1 million had been paid out. That is not so. In actual fact, rents to date on a two and one-half year

DR. COLLINS: basis works out at about \$282,000.

MR. NEARY: The Auditor General says \$374,000.

DR. COLLINS: I said a two and one-half year basis at \$113,000-odd.

MR. NEARY: Are you calling the Auditor General a liar?

DR. COLLINS: I am just saying the rent we pay. We pay \$113,492 in a twelve-month period and we have been paying rent for a little bit less than two and one-half years, so if you multiply that by two and one-half it comes out to be \$282,000.

Now as far as the fitting up costs go, there has not been all that much payment yet. There has only been a cash outlay, I think, of something of the order of about \$150,000. There has been a contract entered into. It was only entered into in the early part of February of 1982, so there has been very little expenditure between the time that we took occupancy of the property down there and the present date. I think it is about the order of - the cash flow is about \$150,000 only. So that is considerably less. The amount of rent paid and the actual outlay of cash for the fitting up to date is considerably less than \$1 million.

Now the hon. the Leader of the Opposition said we should have got the place fitted up within that 60-day period. Well, you know, the hon. the Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth (Mr. Simms) just handed me this thing here and, you know, here is someone who worked through

MR. NEARY: there are outstanding bills. And I am talking about bills now outstanding over and above the ordinary couple of months. It usually takes a couple of months to process invoices, to process invoices that come to the government for work and service provided. Now the hon. gentleman is admitting that the government does owe money. And do you know why, Mr. Chairman, the hon. gentleman is admitting it? It is because the government is broke. That is why he is admitting it. This government is broke and cannot pay their bills. They cannot afford to pay their bills. Mr. Chairman, all you have to do -anybody in this House who has any sense at all, any common sense, who wants to read between the lines, all he has to do is to look at the Auditor General's Report just tabled in the House today and read about the Department of Finance and read the comments of the Auditor General on the public debt of the Province and the sinking fund. And read the comments of the Auditor General on the weaknesses in procedures for recovering of debts that are overdue by the government. And read about the overstatement of

MR. NEARY: \$19 million in net debenture and other debt, overstatement. Read about some of the items - I must say, Mr. Chairman, I have to comment the Auditor-General. For the first time in recent years that I remember, at least, the Auditor-General is paying particular attention to the public debt and to the handling of the finances of this Province. And reading between the lines, Mr. Chairman, it is frightening, the observations of the Auditor-General are frightening; the lack of control, the lack of statements, true and accurate statements on the financial position of this Province, the state of the financial debt, the state of the finances of this Province. And we will have more to say about that next week when we can analyse the Auditor-General's Report in more detail. But I could not let the remarks of the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) go by without raising this matter now, briefly, Mr. Chairman, while we are still on Interim Supply. And I have to say again, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister of Finance is either ignorant of the way that the finances of the Province are run and controlled, or he does not care, he does not care. He makes irresponsible statements, he makes statements that are gobbled up by certain newsmen without question. They take his word for it. They do not look beneath the surface, they do not get the other side, they just say, 'He has a legal opinion; they just take it hook, line and sinker. I would not trust too many on that side very far.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, either the Minister of Finance is making these irresponsible statements in ignorance of his responsibilities and his job as the protector of the Public Treasury, which he is not, or he is uncaring, he does not care. He just makes the statements Mr. Chairman, in an irresponsible manner. And, Mr. Chairman,

MR. NEARY: I will say this, that when the word goes out in the Auditor-General's Report, if I was the Minister of Finance -

MR. BARRETT: Which you will never be.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. NEARY: I can only remind hon. gentlemen Mr. Chairman, that I have sat in just about every seat in this House except one and that one is right across there - look. That is the only seat - I started down there where the member for Humber West (Mr. Baird) is, I started twenty years ago, I believe I sat in every seat on

MR. NEARY: that side of the House.

And I sat in just about, I think, every seat on this side of the House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): Order, please!

MR. NEARY: I have occupied every seat except one and I have my eye on that. I have my eye on that one over there, Mr. Chairman.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: It may take a couple or three years for me to get over there.

MR. BARRETT: You could not sit in that seat if you changed to P.C.

MR. NEARY: One thing about politics, Mr. Chairman, in an election there are no semi-finals, there are no playoffs, you either win or lose. And sometimes even in hockey, games have been won by one goal in overtime. But that does not apply to politics, in politics there are no playoffs, there are no semi-finals. Although now I hear they are going to try to use the courts to cut down on majority.

MR. TULK: The Martin Tag team.

MR. NEARY: The Martin Tag team. They are going to try to use the courts to get me out of the House. Is that not wonderful? That is just great! How wonderful!

MR. BARRETT: That election must have been close.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: How many votes?

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, I am happy to be able to say that in that election I psyched the Premier out.

MR. TULK: (Inaudible) like the oil barrels on Fogo Island.

MR. NEARY: No, he was too concerned about chasing the oil barrels around Fogo Island to come down

MR. NEARY: to Port aux Basques.

And the poll that was done in LaPoile was done early in the election, fortunately -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: - and we psyched him out.

They figured, 'Well, 67 per cent, there is no way we can knock that.'

But anyway, Mr. Chairman, getting back to the serious business -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, getting back to the serious business, I hope that the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) will take steps to see to it that as a result of the comments of the Auditor General, which are quite justified - legitimate, factual and justified, will not undermine the credit of this Province or will not shatter the confidence of the financial community out there in the government of this Province. It could, Mr. Chairman. The Auditor General is to be congratulated and commended for concentrating so much of his report and his efforts on the finances of this Province. And there is a message -between the lines. There is a message

MR. NEARY: between these lines -

MR. WARREN: Yes.

MR. NEARY: - written by the Auditor General and the message is this, Mr. Government beware, be careful, take a look at your public debt and take a look at your collection of money, and take a look at who controls the money and take a look at possible conflict of interest in various positions and the sloppy way the finances of this Province are handled. That is what the Auditor General is telling us. The message is there loud and clear. And I hope next week, when we get back at this that the Minister of Finance will reassure the people of this Province, the financial community, the bond holders, the people who set our credit rating, will try to take steps to reassure these people that they should continue to have confidence in the administration, that it will not be shattered. Because there could be an awful lot of damage done if the government does not act on the recommendations made by the Auditor General in his annual report.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): Before we get on with this I would like to welcome to our galleries ten students from grade VI from Little Catalina Integrated Elementary School, from the district of Bonavista South.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CALLAN: Where is their member? Where is their member?

MR. WARREN: Gone fishing.

On motion, resolution
carried.

On motion, short
title carried.

On motion, clauses
2 and 3, carried.

Motion, that the
Committee report having passed the resolution and
a bill consequent thereto, without amendment, carried.

On motion, that the
Committee rise and report progress, Mr. Speaker
returned to the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER(Russell: The hon. the Chairman
of Committees.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has considered the matters to them referred and has directed me to report that it has adopted a certain resolution and recommends that a bill be introduced to give effect to the same.

On motion, report received and adopted.

On motion, the following bill was read a first, second and third time, ordered passed and its title be as on the Order Paper:

A bill, "An Act For Granting To Her Majesty Certain Sums Of Money For Defraying Certain Expenses Of The Public Service For The Financial Year Ending The Thirty-First Day Of March One Thousand Nine Hundred And Eighty-Three And For Other Purposes Relating To The Public Service". (Bill No. 1).

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

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Admit His Honour the Administrator.

It is my agreeable duty on behalf of Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, Her Faithful Commons in Newfoundland, to present to Your Honour a Bill for the appropriation of Interim Supply granted in the present session.

A bill, "An Act For Granting To Her Majesty Certain Sums Of Money For Defraying Certain Expenses In The Public Service For The Financial Year Ending The Thirty-First Day Of March One Thousand Nine Hundred And Eighty-Three And For Other Purposes Relating To The Public Service". (Bill No. 1).

HIS HONOUR THE ADMINISTRATOR(A.S.Mifflin): In Her Majesty's Name, I thank Her Loyal Subjects, I accept their benevolence, and Assent to this Bill.

MR. SPEAKER(Russell): The hon. the Minister of Finance.

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, may I just say first of all I thank hon. members of the House for their co-operation in enabling the first bill of the Thirty-ninth General Assembly to be passed with such expedition. At this point I would like to say that there is an agreement that we would not go into any new proceedings at this time.

MR. NEARY: What are we doing on Monday?

DR. COLLINS: Could I inform the hon. the Leader of the Opposition at a later date and in good time?

MR. NEARY: Will it be the Throne Speech on Monday?

DR. COLLINS: It probably will be. It probably will be.

By that agreement we decided we will not get into some new proceedings. So with that in mind I move that this House do now adjourn until tomorrow, Monday, May 17, 1982 at 3:00 p.m.

On motion, the House at its rising adjourned until tomorrow, Monday, May 17, 1983 at 3:00 p.m.