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UNEDITED
TRANSCRIPT

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
FOR THE PERIOD:
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
MONDAY, APRIL 16, 1984

The House met at 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER(RUSSELL): Order, please!

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I have a
statement to make concerning the current situation with
respect to the power outages on the Avalon area of the
Province.

I apologize first of
all to the Opposition, that I have not had the opportunity of
being able to prepare a detailed, written statement to
give them beforehand, because it was only just before the
House opened that I received a briefing, as we have been
receiving them all weekend, from officials of Hydro, the
Emergency Measures Organization and Newfoundland Light
and Power. I wanted to be sure that what I was going to
say to the House represented current information.

As everybody knows,
late on Friday, April 13, electrical services were
interrupted for the majority of the residents on the Avalon
Peninsula. For most of the communities on the Northern
half -

MR. TULK: You are going to tell us about it!

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, the hon.
gentleman is not interested in hearing this.

MR. TULK: Carry on. No problem.

MR. MARSHALL: - of the Peninsula
had power outages. The difficulties resulted from a
massive build-up of ice on the electrical transmission lines
and towers of Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro, and the
distribution lines and structures of Newfoundland Light and

MR. MARSHALL: Power Company, which eventually caused these facilities to collapse.

Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro normally supplies the Avalon Peninsula with electrical energy generated at Bay d'Espoir and Holyrood. This energy is transmitted via a 230KV grid to key points of delivery, where Newfoundland Light and Power receives service and distributes the energy to residents and businesses in the many communities on the Avalon Peninsula.

While Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro is a major supplier to Newfoundland Light and Power Company, that organization, that is Newfoundland Light and Power, also has generating plants located at a number of communities along the Southern Shore, and they have a small, oil-fired steam plant on the Southside of St. John's.

As everyone knows, what occurred the weekend occurred initially on Hydro lines East of Chapel Arm,

MR. MARSHALL: which collapsed on Friday night and early on Saturday morning due to extreme icing. The two lines, which leave Chapel Arm and go to Holyrood and to Donovans both collapsed, as well as the two other lines, one of which links Holyrood with Oxen Pond and the other which links Oxen Pond to Donovans. The effect of these outages was to prevent the Northeastern portion of the Avalon Peninsula from receiving any power from Bay d'Espoir and to prevent the Holyrood thermal station from delivering energy on Hydro's network except to Donovans. In fact, so little load was left on Hydro's grid that the Holyrood thermal unit tripped off the system due to lack of load.

Some areas of St. John's continue to receive service from Newfoundland Light and Power Company's hydro plants along the Southern Shore, and from that company's steam plant on the Southside. Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro and Newfoundland Light and Power Company co-ordinated their actions during Friday night and since that time have striven to restore services as quickly as possible. Saturday morning a meeting had been convened with the Premier and myself between the officials of Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro and Newfoundland Light and Power Company and the Director of Emergency Measures of the Province. It was decided, after discussion and review of the situation, that the Director of the Emergency Measures Organization be put in charge of co-ordination so that dissemination of the latest information would be accurate. And I think this has worked splendidly and I think the Director of E.M.O., as well as officials of the Newfoundland Light and Power and Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro are certainly to be commended for the effective way in which they dealt with this emergency which arose through forces of nature beyond anybody's control but which they strove to bring on a regular basis as quickly as possible.

MR. MARSHALL:

Now at the present time, Mr. Speaker, Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro continues to supply power on Hydro's one remaining 230KV line from Holyrood and through the use of its gas turbine at Donovans. In addition, Light and Power is reviewing energy directly from Hydro's Holyrood station via the 69KV line at Holyrood.

Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro has seen, Mr. Speaker, eighteen of its large steel towers collapse with the weight of the ice along with approximately forty-three large wooden transmission structures, but no significant damage has occurred to its substations or to its Holyrood generating plant. Newfoundland Light and Power Company Limited has seen approximately 1,000 of its poles down over the weekend. So, you can see, the damage is considerable.

MR. MARSHALL:

Of course these are just ballpark figures that both corporations can give at the present time because it requires a fuller assessment, but at the present time Hydro estimates that the damage to its grid is between \$2.5 and \$3 million and Newfoundland Light and Power Company Limited estimates that the damage to its system is at least \$1.5 million. So we are talking about very substantial damages to the tune of \$4 to \$4.5 million on both systems combined. Hydro is facing its greater priority at the present time on the creation of a link between Holyrood and Oxen Pond so that the Oxen Pond substation can be directly connected through to the Holyrood thermal plant. Hydro's heavy line crews from Bishop Falls, from Whitbourne and from Churchill Falls, along with a private contractor, have been mobilized for this effort. Nevertheless, it will not be possible to complete this link, which involves essentially rebuilding all of the structures between the Ridge Road and Oxen Pond, prior to Sunday April 22nd. But I have to emphasize that, through the auspices of the Newfoundland Light and Power and other lines that they have, they will be able to supply this area with power, but not full power, because the lines that they have cannot contain the capacity that is necessary in order to supply the full requirements of power in that area. I will get, in a moment, in my statement to the matter of rationing of power. Until April 22 therefore, it will be impossible for Hydro to provide the Light and Power Company with full service. But, as I have indicated Newfoundland Light and Power

MR. MARSHALL: through its lines
can provide, certainly, partial service. Even at that
time no link will have been established between the
Eastern portion of Hydro's grid in Chapel Arm. Until
that linkage is established, the Eastern area will
remain isolated from Bay d'Espoir and the rest of
the Island's system.

Hydro had diverted two
line crews of private contractor from the Western
portion of the Province where work was in progress on
the transmission line to Cat Arm so that

MR. MARSHALL: top priority can be placed on linking the Eastern portion of our grid with Chapel Arm and the rest of the Island. Nevertheless, it is not expected that this linkage can be achieved prior to April 30, At that time, Hydro will have an operational grid but without the benefit of the security which comes from twin lines between Sunnyside, Chapel Arm, Holyrood and Donovans. Fully complete repairs will take several months.

Mr. Speaker, the Newfoundland Light and Power has also given a full briefing of the situation, some of which is similar to what I have said. Seventy-five crews were active by daybreak on Sunday, and major progress, they say, is expected today. There were ten to fifteen crews of Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro operating. There is a difference in the size of the crews, but in sum total the full complement of the staffs of both Hydro and Light and Power were employed to deal with this emergency.

As I have indicated in the statement, Hydro indicates that it is not possible to provide for full service through the Oxen Pond substation. Power available to the St. John's region from the Holyrood plant is limited to the capacity of two 266KV lines which were repaired and put back into service on Sunday. This, plus the Newfoundland Light and Power's steam system plant and diesel plant on the South Side and hydro plants on the Southern Shore, it is important to note, are not sufficient to enable service to be provided over the peak period to all locations in St. John's where there are no local line problems. A system of rationing from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. is therefore in effect and will continue for several days further. About 75 per cent of the customers in the St. John's region, all of whom, of course, are serviced by Newfoundland Light and Power, will have service restored by

MR. MARSHALL: the end of the day, but service to these will be subject to rationing. During this time all customers are being asked to use only essential power so that service can be supplied to as many customers as possible.

An area particularly hard hit, Mr. Speaker, has been Bell Island, where about 250 poles are down so there is no means of distributing the power which is available there. Service to a small number of residents was restored today and work is continuing on replacing thirty-five poles to enable service to be supplied to the hospital. Service will be available in most areas within a week.

In Conception Bay North, the basic transmission system was restored on Sunday and it is expected that much progress will be made today on the distribution system.

Some areas will not have service restored for a week, but I am informed that, with respect to the Northern part of the Avalon Peninsula, there is a linkage that will be made from the one remaining line coming in from Bay d'Espoir into the Chapel Arm area. But

MR. MARSHALL: as applies, of course, to all areas on the Avalon Peninsula, provided the situation does not deteriorate and we get further icing conditions, and things proceed as normal, with normal weather, we should not have an undue amount of further damage and that we can get by with rationing. But rationing is important, Mr. Speaker, in all areas, I think - I have been instructed that we have to be very careful about our utilization of power. For instance, in the St. John's area, just to try to put it in capsule form, with the line we have in service, that is, Hydro has in service through the Holyrood generating system, we can supply some 158 megawatts of power. Newfoundland Light and Power have about 77 megawatts of their own generation from other sources on the Southern Shore, which I referred to, to serve St. John's. So we have a total there of 235 megawatts of power available. The city peak, this is the peak demand for power, which, of course is dependent all upon weather and the time of day, is 250 megawatts. So, as you can see, the hon. House can see and I hope everybody in the St. John's area will be able to see that we are very tight with respect to meeting those demands despite the gargantuan efforts that have been made by the staff of Hydro and Newfoundland Light and Power. Therefore, I cannot emphasize too clearly and too forcefully, Mr. Speaker, the need for careful use of power by citizens. That not only applies to the St. John's area, but it applies to the Northern Conception Bay area as well. With the more prudent use of power in the Northern Conception Bay area, providing that nothing else deteriorates, there will be less rationing than appeared on the weekend. There will still be the need for rationing, so in all areas I would implore the citizens of the Avalon area to be very prudent in their use of power and not to employ more power for their domestic purposes than is absolutely necessary.

So, Mr. Speaker, that is the

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MR. MARSHALL: general run down of the situation.
We have been in total dialogue with the people concerned ever
since this problem occurred. It was thought better, and it
will still continue to be the case for a while yet, that all
announcements will be made

MR. MARSHALL:

through the director of Emergency Measures so that there can be one concerted source of information and there will be less problems with any inconsistencies that will occur.

Mr. Speaker, before I conclude and sit down, I want to express - and I know I speak not only on behalf of government but all members of this House and, for that matter, all members of the general public - our deep appreciation to the employees of Newfoundland Light and Power Company Limited and Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro, who have worked to the degree that they have all weekend long with very little rest in extremely difficult circumstances. And, as I said before, what they had to face was a gargantuan task. The problems associated with the loss of power would have been infinitely greater but for the dedication and the skill, and the drive and the determination of these employees of Newfoundland Light and Power, particularly but not exclusively those who have worked in the repair areas, as well as the management and staff of both companies concerned. As I said, we are used in Newfoundland to meeting emergencies that are thrust on us by acts of nature and it was only through the really good efforts of **these people that the emergency** - and I do not really like to style it an emergency because, if you do that, you have other connotations that arise - the extreme hardships that were visited on us as a result of this, which would have been made much harder, much more difficult, but for the efforts of those individuals concerned.

So, Mr. Speaker, in concluding this statement, I would like to - I think I would be remiss if I did not - on behalf of this House of Assembly, and I am quite sure the Opposition will join in this, and I

MR. MARSHALL: am quite sure that this reflects the wishes of all of the people of this Province, or the sentiments of them all, particularly those on the Avalon Peninsula - extend a real sincere thank you, a vote of thanks from this Assembly, on behalf of the people of the Province of Newfoundland, to the workers involved who worked so diligently in such difficult and arduous circumstances over the weekend to prevent this emergency from being even worse than it could otherwise have been.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, it is pretty hard to criticize that kind of statement. I might note, though, just as a matter of interest, that I believe it is the first time I heard the hon. gentleman make a statement in recent days in this House when he did not blame something on Ottawa.

Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to deal with the technical information that the hon. gentleman gave the House, but I would say this, that most of it we have heard already, thanks to the media in this Province.

The members of the communication media, the electronic media, especially radio station VOCM, Mr. Speaker -

MR. MORGAN: Let us hear it for the Bobsy Twins, as you would call them.

MR. NEARY: No, not the Bobsy Twins. No, I am talking about that.

MR. WARREN: Do not worry about it. You shut up now, 'Morgan'.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, they performed a great ~~community~~ service, in my opinion, in passing on information, up-dating information and passing it on to the people via their car radios, and via their transistors and portable radios.

MR. MORGAN: The private networks did, yes, VOCM and Q.

MR. NEARY: All the media. I am not trying to single out VOCM, but all the media, CQ and the other media did a magnificent job. And I also, Mr. Speaker, when we are passing along thanks to the people who performed services over and beyond the ordinary call of duty, want to pay

MR. NEARY:

tribute to the members of the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary who were on the job night and day keeping people away from poles that were cracked off and lines that were down across the roads, and looking after the safety of our people. And also the Fire Department, Mr. Speaker, and the people who man the ambulances. But above all, I do want to join with the hon. gentleman, by the way, in saying that I am completely amazed at the speed and the efficiency and the swiftness with which the Newfoundland Light and Power employees and the Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro employees were on the job.

And, Mr. Speaker, just to show you how quickly they moved, the poles up our way went down on Friday night and by Saturday evening they had poles back in place again, believe it or not!

MR. MORGAN:
you were living there.

That was because

MR. NEARY:
because I am living there.

No, it was not

MR. NEARY: I will be one of the last to get the power, by the way, where I live, because, Mr. Speaker, it was just like landing on the beaches of Normandy! The whole area is devastated down Portugal Cove Road and down towards the airport and, unfortunately, I am in one of the areas where I assume it will take a week or so to restore electricity. But, Mr. Speaker, we do not mind - well, it is very inconvenient - but we do not mind at times like this having to bring water in buckets. I myself have an artesian well so I have no water, but I will say this, that the fire departments have been most cooperative. They have allowed me and other people to go in and fill up their water buckets and bring our kerosene oil. And, Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman was almost afraid to call it an emergency, but it certainly was a disaster and it still is a disaster.

Mr. Speaker, above all, I have to say this about the Newfoundland people, it is in adversity when you see Newfoundland people get together and become united, they become almost one, community-minded, neighbours helping neighbours, Mr. Speaker. And I do not think that I could find words to describe how people have helped sick people in their homes, elderly people, senior citizens, people who live in apartments and people who do not have water and this sort of thing. And they want to share! This is a time, Mr. Speaker, when people want to share with their neighbours, and I think that is absolutely magnificent! I know we are not used to it now, those of us who were brought up with the outdoor privy and so forth have gotten away from it; we are almost spoiled, we are too

MR. NEARY: used now to the comforts of home. But we will survive, Mr. Speaker. We will survive. And I know that the Light and Power crews and the Hydro crews will work diligently and they will strive to restore electricity at as early a date as possible to all those who are without power at the present time.

There is not much else I can say about it, Mr. Speaker, at the moment, except that I have the assurance of the hon. gentleman that everything will be done. I know the rationing of power is going to be a problem, because everybody wants to put on all their lights and all their fridges and all their televisions and so forth; it is very difficult to control it. But, I would like to join with the hon. gentleman in asking people to pay strict attention to the rationing.

The current situation is very bad indeed. It is the worst storm we have had, by the way, since 1957.

AN HON. MEMBER: 1958.

MR. NEARY: 1958. And at that time, by the way, I was living on Bell Island, and I think the storm hit Bell Island worse than it did any other part of the Avalon Peninsula and my heart goes out to my fellow-Bell Islanders, but I know every effort will be made to get power back to the hospital over there and to the fire department and to the other essential services.

So, Mr. Speaker, there is not much else I can say except this, that on Saturday I went out, I spent two or three hours lined up trying to get a heater and a bit of fuel and a couple of lamps, and I did notice this -

MR. NEARY: but I have to also say that it was not general - but I did notice that in a matter of a few hours the price of kerosene oil doubled. There are a few unscrupulous people around, not too many; I have to say this, they are more of the exception rather than the rule, I am happy to say that. But, Mr. Speaker, you do find that, I hope that the hon. gentleman will advise his people to keep an eye on that sort of thing because that we can do without. But again, by the way, while we are expressing our appreciation, I think that appreciation is due the people who do supply the fuel, the kerosene oil and gas and all the heaters and the lamps and the candles and the batteries: They did open up their stores on Saturday morning, even though it looked like the Second World War when you had to line up for your sugar rations. I spent two and a half hours in the rain and the cold down by one of the stores trying to get a lamp, but we did get in and the owner did supply us all with lamps and so forth. So I think they deserve a little bit of credit too, Mr. Speaker. You know, we are living in an age now where machines are running our lives: The cash registers go out, the computers go out at the airport, the computers go out at the bank, Mr. Speaker, and we are all walking around like zombies; you cannot find out when your planes are leaving, how much money you have in the bank, and you cannot buy anything because you cannot work the cash register. But these business people did manage to control the situation even though they had to write out their sales and their receipts by hand.

MR. WARREN: Then jack it up.

MR. NEARY: No, only a few jacked up the price of fuel, a few unscrupulous ones.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, I just want again to join with the hon. gentleman in expressing

MR. NEARY: our appreciation to the crews, the ones who are up in the front line, in the line of battle, risking their lives, hanging onto the poles. I saw them down our way Saturday night up in their little buckets about thirty-five or forty or fifty feet above ground, Mr. Speaker, in freezing rain and they are the ones, I think, that we have to -

MR. MORGAN: You are taking too long.

MR. NEARY: I am allowed half the time of the hon. gentleman. What the hon. gentleman should do, if he does not want to listen, let him go out and try to get the commercial salmon fishery straightened out, Mr. Speaker, and tell us about the meeting he had on the weekend.

Well, Mr. Speaker, there is not much else I can

MR. NEARY:

say about this except the human element, I think, is what we have to look at more than anything else, and to commend all and sundry, commend everybody, especially the ones that I mentioned for doing such an outstanding job under very difficult circumstances.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Russell):

Before we proceed, I would like to welcome to the galleries today thirty-five students from the Whitbourne Central High School in the district of Bellevue, with their teacher, Mr. Roy Gossa.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

Are there any other Minister Statements?

MR. WINDSOR:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Minister of Development.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. WINDSOR:

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to announce the approval of a federal/provincial grant of \$24,000 to support an industry-government committee that will assist in the organization of the Tourism Industry Association of Newfoundland and Labrador, better known as TIANLAB. This grant will be cost-shared on a 90/10 federal/provincial basis.

TIANLAB is an association of private businesses, municipal groups and individuals who are determined to further the development of tourism as an industry. An organization such as TIANLAB is critical if tourism is to realize its full potential which is forecast to be one of the leading industries internationally in the 1990s. The department envisages TIANLAB to be an avenue through which crucial industry issues are dealt with - issues such as training of hospitality personnel, increased and improved attractions, improved accommodation and restaurant facilities and especially the issue of attitude and awareness. TIANLAB

MR. WINDSOR: will become the single group through which industry voices its concerns and recommendations to government and vice versa - government makes known its policies and intentions to the industry.

To date , approximately \$96 ,000 has been spent under the tourism development subsidiary agreement on organizing regional associations and on building industry organization expertise; the agreement expired this year and some of the remaining funds were committed to this grant.

The department will continue to support this organization's effort and believes that it can become a viable body once it is nursed through the growing pains every organization must experience.

The grant will be administered by a committee of three industry representatives and one representative each from the federal and provincial governments. The committee will oversee the funding of projects that will result in increased membership of TIANLAB, and those that address the crucial industry issues mentioned.

This grant is the government's latest demonstration of its support of the tourism industry and TIANLAB. In January, 1983 the department seconded Mr. Ed Vincent, our Industry Development Manager, to act as Executive Director of the Association for two years; this year we have pledged the provision of essential support services and we continue to communicate with TIANLAB on a regular basis. We are certain that TIANLAB will become the representative of the tourism industry, and a driving force behind its development.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

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

MR.CALLAN: Mr. Speaker, those of us on this side of the legislature join with the Minister of Development (Mr. Windsor) in welcoming any funding from Ottawa. We hear that 90 per cent of the funding is from Ottawa. We welcome any funding from any source that will create jobs for our people in this Province. I did not get a copy of the minister's statement. I did get a copy of the Premier's speech for Moncton today, but I did not get a copy of the statement and, even if I did, Mr. Speaker, all I say it that on this side of the House we are very happy to note that 90 per cent of the money is coming from Ottawa and if it creates jobs, the more the merrier.

MR.SPEAKER: It is a pleasure for me to welcome to the gallery as well a former member of this legislature for the district of Grand Falls, Mr. Aubrey Senior.

SOME HON.MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR.SPEAKER: The hon. member for Fogo.

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Dawe) and it concerns, perhaps, what, if not yet, may certainly turn out to be another disaster in Newfoundland. It concerns the Fogo ferry system. The minister is aware that service to Fogo Island has been disrupted for ten days and he is also aware that this morning the town councils on Fogo Island have declared

MR.TULK: a state of emergency.
He is also aware, I guess, that the federal icebreakers are stuck. I want to ask the minister, in view of all those circumstances, just what his department is doing to see that a service is put back into place for Fogo Island?

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

MR.DAWE: Mr. Speaker, indeed I am aware of all the circumstances that the member for Fogo (Mr.Tulk) outlined. I would also like to make the House aware, of course, that the department is involved in subsidizing air freight and subsidizing personal travel through an aircraft based in Gander to Fogo, have been doing so for some time and will continue to do so until the ice situation is alleviated. The member must also be aware that the responsibility for icebreaking rests with a federal agency.

MR. DAWÉ: As I understand it, the icebreakers are trying to work their way in that direction and free some vessels in some situations along the way. As well, one of the icebreakers is itself stuck and cannot move in the ice. Now if the federal government with all its resources cannot move the ice with the icebreakers, I am a little unsure of just what I can do or the department can do to alleviate that particular situation, but we will continue to provide the air service until such time as the ferryboat can resume its regular schedule.

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker, that is a very cute answer. We are aware that the federal government is responsible for the icebreakers in this Province and we are aware that they are responsible for keeping a channel opened. But the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Dawé) in this Province, I would remind him that the name of his department is Transportation and that he is responsible for a ferry service. He is also aware that there is a boat presently on Fogo Island itself that is owned by Patrick Miller that can possibly open a channel to Farewell. I understand that the sum that it is going to cost him is perhaps about \$2,000 a day. I ask him, in view of the fact that he is responsible for transportation to Fogo Island, has he considered - I know his department is aware of it - or will he consider employing that ice-strengthened vessel to act as an icebreaker for Fogo Island?

MR. MORGAN: Get a federal icebreaker. An absolute shame!

MR. TULK: Be quiet.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

The hon. the Minister of Transportation.

MR. DAWE: Mr. Speaker, I am glad that the member said that he is fully aware that the responsibility for icebreaking is that of the federal government. Some time at the end of last week there were discussions that came forth from Fogo Island as it relates to the use of an existing vessel out there, it is not an icebreaker but it is an ice reinforced vessel, to be used to open up a channel. Now whether or not that particular vessel is suitable for that purpose is, again, the responsibility for an assessment by the federal Department of Transport and the people who are involved in icebreaking. As well, if the ability of the present icebreaking vessels that are employed by the federal government, or owned by the federal government, are not adequate to do the service then perhaps we should again be

MR. DAWE: concentrating some of our efforts in making sure that adequate ice breaking capabilities are restored to the people of this Province. But if, in fact, that vessel is capable of doing the job that the existing icebreakers cannot do, then, Mr. Speaker, it is obvious as well, from the member's own words, that the responsibility to see that that vessel is employed or is adequate to do the service is the responsibility of the federal government.

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. TULK: As I pointed out to the minister, he is the minister -

MR. MORGAN: It is a federal responsibility.

MR. TULK: What is 'Bonavista Slim' doing now? Is he on the go again?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. MORGAN: Let the feds provide an icebreaker.

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker, can you ask 'Bonavista Slim' to be quiet?

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker, let me ask the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Dawe), then, if the federal people are responsible for ice breaking - which is true, although he is responsible for transportation, so there is a dual responsibility - let me ask him if he has been in contact with the federal minister to encourage him to indeed employ the services of Patrick Miller's boat to break that route? Let me just ask him that simple question: Has he done that as the minister responsible for transportation?

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

MR. DAWE:

Mr. Speaker,

departmental officials have been in contact with the Coast Guard and with the people involved in ice breaking. I personally have not been in contact with the federal minister, but I know that staff have been in touch with officials and staff in the federal ministry responsible to ask them sepcifically, I guess, or to indicate to them that that suggestion was put forward as it relates to the capabilities of the boat that is now in Fogo to perhaps do that. Where it has gone from there I do not know. They have been aware of the boat being there and the suggestion from the residents of Fogo, and Mr. Miller himself, that that boat has certain capabilities.

But I understand they are intending to try to do the job with the vessels they have at their disposal presently, and that they are, as I indicated, working their way there. One of the vessels left St. John's this morning, I believe, and others are trying to break free themselves from ice situations.

I might point out as well, Mr. Speaker, that

MR. DAWE:

there are other communities on islands that are in exactly the same situation and my ministry is providing a subsidized air service to the islands - Long Island, Little Bay Islands, Change Islands and anywhere else, Mr. Speaker, where the ferryboats are interrupted for extended periods of time through ice blockages. And we have in place an air subsidy programme that services the people for essential commodities and also to give people who have to get back forth a subsidized form of travel back and forth to the islands.

MR. TULK: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker, let me ask the minister about that air service that he is providing through Gander Aviation. As the minister is aware there are a number of cases where different sorts of foodstuffs have run out on Fogo Island. I understand for the weather forecasting people there is another low approaching and we may indeed have that air service stopped again. But let me ask him a question about his subsidization of the air service to Fogo Island, that is for freight. It is my understanding that the regular cost is \$25 per 100 weight for food to that Island. That is the regular cost by air service. I understand that the minister is subsidizing it perhaps to the tune of seven dollars per 100 weight. That leaves eighteen cents on every tin of milk and every pound of butter and so on, that residents of Fogo Island are going to have to pay if indeed food is transported by Gander Aviation. That is an increase that they are going to have to pay. Now I understand that last year the minister through the water bombers, put a service into effect for Bell Island which was admirable, that was the thing to be

MR. TULK: done. Would he, in view of the fact that those water bombers cannot land on Fogo Island, consider removing that cost to the people of Fogo Island by increasing the subsidy for Gander Aviation to 100 per cent of the cost of transporting food through Gander Aviation? Would he consider that?

MR. MORGAN: Let the feds get an icebreaker, boy.

MR. TULK: Be quiet!

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order, please!

The hon. Minister of Transportation.

MR. DAWE: Mr. Speaker, we have recognized that there is a problem with getting foodstuffs, particularly essential food commodities, to the various islands. This is why we introduced a number of years ago this freight subsidy to air travel in the Winter. It is generally on a very short-term basis. In the Fogo Island situation now, the extended period, I think, has been ten days that the boat has not been able to get back and forth on

MR. DAWE: any kind of a regular basis. But this service is in place from the Northern Peninsula into Coastal Labrador, it is in place, as I indicated, to Little Bay Islands and Long Island, it is in place to Change Islands, it is in place to St. Brendan's if necessary, it is in place to Fogo Island, and it is a service that we have been providing. It is a supplementary service, it is in addition to the regular ferry-boat service. And, Mr. Speaker, I might point out, it was through the initiative of my department and through this administration that the new vessel being designed for Fogo Island has much increased icebreaking capacity

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. DAWE: - and is adequately ice reinforced to handle most of the ice conditions that it will be subjected to in that particular area. And we are doing all that we can. That particular boat will cost in excess of \$8 million and will cost us additional money, of course, in ongoing subsidies. We are very conscious of our responsibility to service the islands around this Province and we are doing all we can. If this goes on for an extended period of time, then we will have perhaps to reassess the situation as it relates to the provision of service, but we will do that on an ongoing basis. Officials of the department are monitoring that all the time.

The member made reference to a situation last year where we provided water bomber service to and from Bell Island. Of course, this was done because of the fact that Bell Island has an airstrip and it could be used. I would also point out, Mr. Speaker, that from the Province's point of view, a priority, as it relates to airstrip development, is an airstrip for Fogo Island to

MR. DAWE: service the people on the island.
I have made representation to the federal minister and have had conversations with him about that particular project, and hopefully, if this can happen in the very near future, some of the problems associated with that, and the possibility of using the water bomber as an emergency craft, are very positive, and I think we would be only too happy to do that kind of a thing. But the building of an airstrip certainly is a prerequisite to that sort of activity happening.

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. TULK: I have asked the minister, and I do not believe he answered the question - perhaps he did not understand it - but I would like to ask him again if, in view of the fact that there is no airstrip on Fogo Island and the water bombers cannot land there, we recognize that; and in view of the fact that if you have to fly those water bombers, they cost you money -

MR. MORGAN: Where are the icebreakers?

MR. TULK: Most of them are stuck.

If the member for Bonavista South wants to find out, most of them are stuck. The Franklin is on its way up there, it may get there.

MR. MORGAN: What a lack of co-operation!

MR. TULK: Anyway, Mr. Speaker, let me come back to a minister with, perhaps, enough intelligence to answer the question: In view of the fact that there is no airstrip, that you cannot send the water bombers there, and in view of the fact that those water bombers cost money, would he now agree to subsidize the extra cost of getting freight to Fogo Island by air? Would he now agree to subsidize that 100 per cent?

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

MR. DAWE: Mr. Speaker, I can very well understand the situation perhaps a lot better in its totality than the member who asked the question. And perhaps he just was not listening to the answer that I gave in response to the same question he asked before. And perhaps, Mr. Speaker, as well, the tone in which the hon. member asked the second question, which was the same as the one before, it really does not deserve a response.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Bellevue.

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins), I want to ask the Minister responsible for Energy (Mr. Marshall), the Government House Leader, a question. Could the minister give us an update on the Come By Chance oil refinery as it pertains to the employees there? Could the minister tell us have any of the employees at the refinery been placed in alternate employment?

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

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I do not think there is anything further to give an update on than what the Minister of Finance gave when he was in the House about a week or ten days ago. You know, he announced the situation with respect to the refinery as it had been imparted to us by Petro-Canada. As he knows, every effort will be made by all concerned to see what possibly can be done with respect to alternate employment for the employees there. But I have nothing further that I can add to what the minister already

MR. MARSHALL: informed the House when he gave a more detailed presentation of the facts.

MR. CALLAN: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Bellevue, a supplementary.

MR. CALLAN: Perhaps the minister can tell the House whether or not the employees at the refinery, at least nine of whom are employed with a security company, once their jobs are terminated, which I assume they will be, will they be receiving servance pay?

Could the minister tell the House that?

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

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, there are normal laws that apply in this Province with respect to termination of employment of employees of this nature and I would assume that the employees will be able to avail of that. I am not in a position at the present time to respond accurately and definitively to

MR. MARSHALL: the amount of any severance pay, if any, that will be paid. But I will certainly take notice and we will look into it for the hon. gentleman.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, if I can get the attention of the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Dawe) for a moment I have a question to direct his way. We all heard the announcement today that Eastern Provincial Airways had been purchased by Canadian Pacific. Would the hon. gentleman tell the House if there was any prior consultation with the administration before the transfer of ownership was discussed with Canadian Pacific?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Transportation.

MR. DAWE: No, Mr. Speaker, there was not.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I would assume, then, from that answer that the hon. gentleman is not in a position to say whether the takeover by Canadian Pacific will be beneficial to the Province or not, whether it will mean improved service to Newfoundland and Labrador or not. Does the hon. gentleman have any knowledge of that or is he just completely in the dark as far as the airline is concerned?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Transportation.

MR. DAWE: Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for the question because it perhaps provides me with an opportunity to outline the whole situation.

MR. DAWE: Since we first learned that Eastern Provincial Airways were moving, initially, some of its staff to Nova Scotia, and then a number of months later it indicated to us that it would consult us on the results of an internal review process, which they did not do until the eleventh hour, and subsequently announced that the airline operation would be moving holus-bolus to Nova Scotia, the Province made some requests through the Premier's office, through my office, through personal conversations that I had with Mr. Steele, the president of Eastern Provincial Airways, asking for specific information and rationale for their move. None of that information was forthcoming, Mr. Speaker. I guess, now today, with the announcement that CP have taken over Eastern Provincial Airways, we now know for sure what a number of us suspected.

We now know for sure that the reason we were not getting the information is because there was no way that the company was going to let that kind of information go, because this was part of a plan to take over Eastern Provincial Airways. This, Mr. Speaker, is my assessment of it; Eastern Provincial Airways were to do the dirty work and move EPA out of Newfoundland and into Nova Scotia, where it would be perceived as being a more viable operation and more centrally located for the purposes of an eventual CP takeover, which occurred today. I was called by a member of the board at about five to eleven this morning and was informed of the pending announcement that CP were taking over Eastern Provincial Airways.

MR. DAWE: I was also informed that the corporate structure would remain intact in that Eastern Provincial Airways would still be a separate company; it would retain its present staff, its present administrative structure, and would essentially operate with no known changes as it relates to scheduling or operations within this Province or elsewhere in Atlantic Canada for any foreseeable future that the member of the board knew about.

I have subsequently Mr. Speaker, telexed the President of CP and asked for a meeting with him and members of his staff to discuss the takeover, to discuss the implications for this Province, and to find out whether in fact there would be any changes, and to try and encourage, Mr. Speaker, the new operators of Eastern Provincial Airways to make a more direct commitment to this Province than has been the case with the present EPA.

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

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

MR. NEARY: I am glad the hon. gentleman is establishing some kind of a dialogue, communications with Canadian Pacific, because hon. members are aware that there has been a complete breakdown in communications between the minister and Eastern Provincial Airways. Can the hon. gentleman tell the House if the boycott of EPA has been lifted? And if so, why does the hon. gentleman now have to charter airplanes at tremendous cost to the taxpayer?

MR. MORGAN: There was never a boycott.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman can also tell the House why the administration there opposite gave up the final say, gave up control of EPA, gave up having ministers on the Board of Directors of EPA two or three years ago, why these things happened. Now, it is like the offshore, they have to sit there and watch it like a football game.

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

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

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, this is Question Period. The hon. gentleman is on a supplementary question, he is making a speech, he is out of order.

MR. SPEAKER: I want to refer to a reference that I indeed made on Friday, that the purpose of the Question Period is to gather information and not to provide it to the House.

MR. NEARY: I just want the hon. minister to reassure this House, Mr. Speaker, that there will be dialogue with the new owners and they will not sulk and pout like they did with Eastern Provincial Airways and get on with these silly boycotts. I am asking the hon. gentleman if the boycott has been lifted yet and, if so, why are ministers using government aircraft and chartering airplanes from Labrador Airways to fly around the Province? And why did they give up control two or three years ago? That is the most important question of all, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. DAWE: Mr. Speaker, first of all, as it relates to dialogue, I carried out an ongoing monthly, sometimes weekly dialogue with the President of Eastern Provincial Airways and members of his staff.

MR. DAWE: I had meetings in Gander with him, as a result of their move of some personnel to Nova Scotia, and was assured by the President of Eastern Provincial Airways, in the presence of a staff member, that he would consult with me specifically and with the Province as it relates to the results of that internal study and he subsequently refused to do so. I Telexed, on a number of occasions, the president trying to locate him on his travels and could not do so, but was able to reach him by telephone on one occasion and was essentially told that the information was none of my business and that ended the dialogue between my department, or me personally, and the President of Eastern Provincial Airways. I was more than willing to carry on discussion and tried on several other occasions to do so. But as I indicated, Mr. Speaker, what has transpired today, the takeover by Canadian Pacific of Eastern Provincial Airways, is only proof of the reason why we could not get the information and why there was no dialogue from the President of Eastern Provincial Airways. The only boycott, Mr. Speaker, that I am aware of imposed upon Eastern Provincial Airways was done, so I believe, by NAPE, which called for a boycott of Eastern Provincial Airways because of labour problems that the airline was having with its employees. The Province and the provincial government never had a boycott, never indicated that it would boycott Eastern Provincial Airways. What it did was rescind a preference order that was issued to staff saying that, where they had a choice of airlines, they try and choose Eastern Provincial Airways. That particular Minute-in-Council was rescinded, which gave the individual staff member of government the choice of making a decision on which airline they chose, but in no way it represented a boycott. Mr. Speaker, the use of charter aircraft and government aircraft to carry on government business has been explained

MR. DAWE:

several times in this House,

It was an ongoing practise and is an ongoing practise in all governments across the country, and is a necessity because of the size and the geography particularly of this Province. As it relates to the control over Eastern Provincial Airways from a financial point of view, that matter

MR. DAWE:

was adequately explained on several occasions in this House, most recently by my colleague, the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins).

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: The problem is that nothing has been adequately or satisfactorily explained, Mr. Speaker.

Now, let me ask the hon. gentleman about the rescinding of the Cabinet directive that the public service travel on Eastern Provincial. Has that been reinstated? Has that silly, foolish nonsense on the part of the Premier, when he sulked and pouted and got contrary, Mr. Speaker -

MR. TOBIN: Brief questions! Brief questions!

MR. DAWE: If you would ask the question I would be glad to answer it.

MR. NEARY: - has that order now been reinstated, that public servants are once again permitted to travel on Eastern Provincial Airways and stay at hotels that are owned by Newfoundland Capital Corporation?

MR. BARRETT: He has already answered the question.

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

MR. DAWE: Mr. Speaker, really, I have trouble trying to answer the questions that are put forward by the Leader of the Opposition, especially as it relates to this: An announcement was made, I believe officially at noon today, or at 11:00 a.m., as it relates to a take-over of the regional carrier in this Province; at 4:00 in that same afternoon, the Leader of the Opposition, the member for LaPoile, stands up and asks if we have

MR. DAWE: rescinded or reinstated a Cabinet directive that requires, first of all, Mr. Speaker, unlike the Cabinet that the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) used to take part in, where orders appeared out of the blue without proper and adequate preparation or consultation, that is not the case here. After such time as we have an opportunity to sit down and talk with Canadian Pacific as to their working relationship with the Province and their service to the people of this Province, if they prove to be better corporate citizens that we have been dealing with over the past number of months, if that is the case then we will certainly consider a number of aspects, a number of ways of trying to support and encourage a better transportation network, a better air service in this Province for any corporate entity that comes in and wishes to provide it. But until such time as we have an opportunity to sit down and look at what is being offered and what is being suggested, until we have an opportunity to discuss that collectively around the Cabinet table, then certainly, Mr. Speaker, I am not in a position, nor would I even suggest I am in a position to rescind or reinstate a Cabinet order on two hours notice without Cabinet meeting on it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. 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. Morgan). It concerns the salmon management plan that has recently been put out by the federal minister (Mr. De Bane). We were informed last week by the minister that he was going to have a meeting with the federal minister this weekend. I would like to ask him

MR. TULK: if he has had any meetings this weekend with the federal minister. If he has not, has he held any conversations with him? I would also like to add one other question for the minister, since I understand Question Period has just about gone. Did the provincial minister (Mr. Morgan) request, and is it correct that the federal

MR. TULK: Minister of Fisheries (Mr. (De Bane) refused to involve the Fishermen's Union in this Province in a meeting with the federal minister?

AN HON. MEMBER: What! Is that true?

MR. TULK: I am asking him is it.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): The Question Period will be over in two minutes.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, the answer to the first part of the question is, no, we did not meet for obvious reasons, because of weather conditions. Mr. De Bane flew into St. John's or over St. John's on Saturday evening, because of weather conditions, a bad sleet storm, etc., he could not land. So we have not met over the weekend. As we know, on Friday afternoon the policy was changed and a major announcement made with regards to compensation for fishermen. The Fishermen's Union and ourselves discussed that statement of Friday from the federal minister. This morning we discussed that statement. We have now telexed the federal minister in a joint Telex, Mr. Cashin and myself have forwarded a Telex to Mr. De Bane's office pointing out our position, an agreement we have reached here, the Union and myself. And until that has reached Mr. De Bane's office and until that is discussed with Mr. De Bane by telephone tomorrow, there will be no further comment.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order, please!

The time for the Question Period has expired.

PRESENTING REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

MR. DINN:

Mr. Speaker, I have a report to table that will be of much interest to the hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary). It is the annual report of the Workers' Compensation Commission for 1983. And I point to page 11 for the hon. Leader of the Opposition's information, just to give a brief understanding to the hon. Leader of the Opposition about deficits. He is very interested in these things. In 1981 we had a surplus \$4,775,496, which surplus is carried over into the next year. So in 1982 there was a deficit of \$10,108,000, and if we subtract the \$4,775,496 it comes out to \$5,332,000 for 1982. So if you carry over the \$5,332,000 and add the \$5 million deficit this year, note now, a decrease of \$5 million rather than \$10 million, we come out with a total of \$10,986,406. That is on page 11, for the hon. Leader of the Opposition's information. I am sure he is going to be scrutinizing that and he will be asking me questions on it.

And I would also like to inform him that on page 3 he will see, effective January 1, 1983, all the increased benefits that we came to the people who get Workers' Compensation in the Province. Let me note, for example, the burial allowance gone to \$1,120 from \$1,000; the widow's monthly allowance to \$459.20 from \$410.00; an increase in dependent children monthly allowance from \$100 to \$112; an increase in the minimum weekly payment for temporary and total disability from \$122 to \$137.

MR. NEARY:

of order.

Mr. Speaker, on a point

MR. SPEAKER (Russell):

Order, please!

on a point of order.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition,

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, I believe Your Honour called under the Standing Rules of this House, Tabling of Reports. Now, Mr. Speaker, it is very uncommon, indeed, in this

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MR. NEARY:

House, as a matter of fact it is
not permitted under the rules, to get up then and read a report.

Your Honour asked ministers to

MR. NEARY:

table reports. We can read. All the hon. gentleman has to do is put the report on the table of the House as Your Honour asked him to do and forget about his harangue and his rudeness and his insults, Mr. Speaker, and put the report on the table where it is supposed to be.

MR. DINN: To that point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): To that point of order, the hon. Minister of Labour and Manpower.

MR. DINN: Mr. Speaker, the reason why I gave a brief explanation of the annual report of the Workers' Compensation Commission was simply because the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) for the past two years did not understand the report and I was attempting to make it a little clearer to him. Because I am sure he will not come to me to get clarification, he will go on with his usual misinterpretation of the report or lack of understanding of the report. So I table the report, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: To the point of order raised by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, the Chair called 'Presenting Reports of Standing and Special Committees,' and it has been, from time to time, the Chair has given some leeway to ministers to take a minute or two to make some points. Certainly I do not think it should be a custom of this House to read reports and get into great detail with them.

MR. DINN: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker,
I table the report.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Concurrence Motion, Order No. 3, Social Services Committee. The debate was adjourned last day by the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary).

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. Minister of Fisheries has scooted out of the House again. The Premier is away today, gone on his little jaunt across Canada. No doubt now with the Easter recess coming up he will find his way to sunny climes. He does not seem to want to be in the Province when we have problems, Mr. Speaker. Somehow or other, every time we have an emergency in the Province, every time we have a disaster, every time there is bad news, we find that the Premier is absent from his office. And as I have said before, Mr. Speaker, not only will the hon. gentleman go down in history as the greediest negotiator in our history, but also as the laziest Premier. Any excuse at all to get out of the office, to get out of the House of Assembly! He is gone off now to spend \$100,000 of taxpayers' money.

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

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): A point of order, the hon. Minister of Fisheries.

MR. MORGAN: The hon. gentleman is standing up and he is deceiving the House, he is trying to mislead the House, because the fact is the hon. gentleman is quite aware, despite any complaint he may have of the Premier, there is one thing we know, the Premier is not a lazy man. He is not lazy. He works night and day, as long as sixteen or seventeen hours a day, and he is presently working now on behalf of this Province. What is he doing? He is out putting forward the case of our offshore to other parts of Canada. He was doing it in Moncton over the weekend, he is doing it today in other parts of New Brunswick. So he is not out just wasting time to be away from the House, he is out working for the Province of Newfoundland.

MR. NEARY: To that point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): To that point of order, the hon.
Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, if one were to log the amount of time that the Premier spends in his office and in this House, then you could only come to one conclusion: The hon. gentleman is lazy, he does not have the energy, he does not have the capability, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman does not have the energy -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. WINDSOR: That is an outright lie and you know it!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: The hon. member has to withdraw that.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. WINDSOR: You know that is not true.

MR. NEARY: The hon. gentleman has to withdraw that remark, Mr. Speaker, before I proceed.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

Are you finished with that point of order?

MR. NEARY: No, before I proceed I want the hon. gentleman to withdraw his unparliamentary language, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

There was reference made that 'it is a lie', and it has been ruled many times in the past that this is not permissible parliamentary language. I would ask the hon. member if he would withdraw that.

MR. WINDSOR: Certainly, Mr. speaker, I will accept your ruling and I will withdraw it. But the point I am making is that when an hon. member knows something not to be accurate, he should not be allowed to stand in this

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MR. WINDSOR:

House and say it.

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, is this permissible?

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please!

To the point of order raised by the hon. the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan), I rule that there is a difference of opinion between two hon. members. But I would like to remind hon. members once again, Beauchesne, page 103, rule 316., "Besides the prohibitions contained in S.O. 35, it has been sanctioned by usage that a Member, while speaking, must not:" - and there are several things there - "refer to the presence or absence of specific Members."

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker,

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, that is not what I am referring to. That particular part of Beauchesne does not apply. We are talking about the Premier and the amount of time he spends in his office, the amount of time he spends working for the people of this Province.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Order, please!
A point of order, the hon. the member for St. John's North.

MR. CARTER: We are so used to these McCarthy-like tactics in this House that each time the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) gets up one tends not even to notice it, but I think he should be drawn to order, Mr. Speaker. He is not allowed; (a) to comment on the absence or presence of members or their attendance in this House, neither is he allowed to insult deliberately, personally abuse another hon. member, and I think he should be brought to order.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

To that point of order, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, Your Honour will of course rule that that is merely a difference of opinion between two hon. gentlemen. There is no personal abuse. It so happens that the Chief Executive Officer of this Province is absent every time we have a crisis in this province. Now, Mr. Speaker, that is too much of a coincidence. What I am saying, Mr. Speaker, is if you were to log the amount of time the hon. gentleman spends in his office and here in the House working for the people of the Province, you could only come to one conclusion, that he has to be the laziest premier in our whole history.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please! Order, please!
To that point of order, I rule there is a difference of opinion between two hon. members.

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) somehow or other seems to think that going off on a little jaunt across Canada and reading a prepared speech is arduous, that it is very tiring. The hon. gentleman said to look how hard he worked in Moncton the other night making his speech. I consider, Mr. Speaker, making speeches, in my opinion, a pleasure and, Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that the hon. gentleman is looking for any excuse to get away from the Province, to get away from the heat of the day, to get away from the problems confronting our people, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MORGAN: Where are your colleagues? They are all home today.

MR. CALLAN: They are at the airport greeting the next Prime Minister.

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

MR. NEARY: The Minister of Fisheries seems to

MR. NEARY: be awfully testy today for some reason or other, Mr. Speaker. Somebody has walked on the hon. gentleman's toes today.

MR. MORGAN: Oh, they are out meeting Turner! That is where they are!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, our fishery is in trouble, our forest industries are in trouble, we have the worst federal/provincial relations we have ever had in our whole history, the mining industry is in trouble, industries are shutting down right, left and center, no new industries or businesses are opening up, not one in the last twelve or thirteen years since the Tories took over in this Province, and where is the Premier? Half of the time he is out of his office, he is gallivanting across Canada wasting

MR. NEARY:

taxpayer money. It would be far better he stayed here and used that \$100,000 to subsidize the air service to Fogo Island so that people would not get an increase on the commodities, their groceries that are being flown in there.

As I said to the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan), Mr. Speaker, making a speech is the easiest thing in the world, especially if you have a speech writer and you have your chief advisor and an entourage with you, compliments of the taxpayers of this Province, to prop you up and to try to bolster your ego for you. Because that is all he is on, an ego trip. He is out now going across Canada, spending \$100,000, to prove that he is not sulky or greedy, or that he does not pout, Mr. Speaker, that he is not aggressive, he is not a confrontationalist. That is what he is trying to do now, trying to change his image. He admitted the other day in one of these silly documents that was circulated in the House. 'I admit', he said, 'that it is my style, that I am partly to blame, it is my own fault, so I am going to take \$100,000 taxpayer money now to try to remedy that, to try to correct that.' He spent the last four or five years attacking everybody in sight, frothing at the mouth, waving his arms, wild-eyed and glassy-eyed, and now he is going to spend \$100,000 of taxpayer money to try to show that he is not the kind who rants and raves and who sulks and pouts and gets contrary and snooty and arrogant. He is going to spend \$100,000 of taxpayer money now, Mr. Speaker, to prove that that is not so. That to my estimation and in my opinion is shameful, when the money could be better used for some other purpose.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would like to come back to the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) for a moment about the famous meeting that was supposed to

MR. NEARY: take place on the weekend.

MR. WARREN: Oh, yes. What about that meeting?

MR. NEARY: Well, it did not take place.

MR. WARREN: Oh!

MR. NEARY: We are told now that Mr. De Bane was overhead in his jet, I presume an MOT jet -

MR. MORGAN: The same one Chretien came in at the taxpayers' expense.

MR. NEARY: The hon. gentleman should know the difference of that.

MR. MORGAN: It is the same plane.

MR. SPEAKER(Aylward): Order, please!

MR. NEARY: The hon. gentleman should know the difference of that.

MR. MORGAN: It was the same plane that Chretien came in, came looking for votes at the taxpayers' expense.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. MORGAN: He came here at the taxpayers' expense, on a government aircraft.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman can shout now all he likes, he can try to shout me down all he wants, but, Mr. Speaker -

MR. MORGAN: What are you saying!
Chretien came in on -

MR. NEARY: He came in on an Air Canada flight.

MR. MORGAN: - a government aircraft for his leadership campaign on a 714.

MR. NEARY: No, Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman is talking through his hat.

MR. MORGAN: He did! The taxpayers paid for his trip to Newfoundland.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chretien came in on an Air Canada plane, a regular flight on an Air Canada plane.

MR. WARREN: He is talking about the provincial Minister of Transportation (Mr. Dawe).

MR. NEARY: No, the Minister of Transportation is the one who charters the planes.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please! The hon. member's time has expired.

The hon. Minister of Fisheries.

MR. MORGAN: I think, Mr. Speaker, I will have a few words to say in this debate to point out quite clearly that if the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) worked one-tenth, not one-fifth or one-third or one-quarter, but one-tenth as hard as the Premier of our Province, he might be, one of these days down the road, in five to ten years or fifteen years, become Premier of our Province. If he worked only one tenth as hard his chances could be there of becoming a permanent leader and carrying on to become Premier of our Province. He stands up to condemn the Premier for travelling across the country—doing what? If we had had some fair treatment from Ottawa today, or the last six or seven months in this Province, we would not have to have the Premier travel across the country spending \$100,000 — if we had got a fair deal from Ottawa. But his own colleagues in Ottawa would not give us a deal on the offshore to the satisfaction of Newfoundlanders in general, not just the Newfoundland government. There may be a few people who would disagree, like the editorial board of the Daily News who are out campaigning for the Jean Chretien types. There are a few of them around, sure they are, but the general populace? I travelled this weekend down in Harbour Breton, for example, and spoke to a capacity crowd on the offshore and pointed out our stand. What did I get? A standing ovation! Over the weekend in Harbour Breton on the

MR.MORGAN: South Coast, where offshore really is not that important to them, their industry is fishing. My colleague was down with me, the member for the area, and my colleague for Burin - Placentia West (Mr. Tobin) was with me as well.

MR.TOBIN: And we are going to LaPoile district.

MR.MORGAN: And if the government today in Ottawa had given us a deal on the offshore to the satisfaction of Newfoundlanders, we would not have to have the Premier of our Province having to travel across the country of Canada to explain to the rest of Canadians the manner in which Ottawa, the central government of Canada, is treating its smallest province - well, its second smallest Province, PEI is the smallest, but the newest Province in this great Confederation. Here we have to go across the country to explain to the rest of Canadians in our great Confederation why people like Jean Chretien and Prime Minister Trudeau and others in Ottawa are being so unfair, and to quite clearly show how they are being unfair to little old Newfoundland here. Now if the hon. gentleman as the temporary leader, interim leader, House Leader or otherwise - we cannot call him a permanent leader of his party because he is not. He was not elected to that position.

SOME HON.MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR.MORGAN: But he is a non-elected leader at the present time of his party. If he had had any influence at all with his colleagues in Ottawa, and if people who are now out campaigning with some of the ministers who are running for the Liberal leadership, like, for example, Mr. Callahan - I have seen all kinds of editorials in his paper condemning the Peckford government and their policies, condemning

MR. MORGAN: our stand on the offshore and at the same time agreeing that we had to get a fair deal; now he is out supporting the same man that would not give us a fair deal, supporting him and, I understand, is his campaign manager in the Province. I am not going to attack him as an individual because I know Mr. Callahan is a fine man, a fine individual, a fine gentleman. I have known him over the years, a three-time loser in the last election, a three-time loser in the provincial elections now in a row. But, Mr. Speaker, if we had support from his paper in his editorial policies, and the support of his colleagues, like the Liberal party today Mr. Peckford and his government's stand on the offshore, we would not have had the Premier speaking in Moncton last night, I think today he is in Fredericton and on from there across the country, and we would not have to spend \$100,000 to explain to the rest of the great country of Canada why and how we are being so unfairly treated by the government in Ottawa today. That is why that is happening.

MR. MORGAN:

And now he is going to condemn the Premier for spending that amount of money to make sure the rest of Canada, all the provinces, are going to understand. Obviously, the Government of Canada today, I would not say they do not understand, they clearly understand, they know what it is all about, they clearly understand that, but they are simply refusing to be fair to us. And last week in this same debate, the hon. gentleman stood up and taunted us with a letter that he had from Mr. Chretien, some statement he had, which Mr. Chretien, when he was here, was going around passing out to all his supporters and saying, 'Here is my stand on the offshore. It is even better than the Nova Scotian deal.' Now, that is absolute rubbish and nonsense! Because all we have received from the Liberal Government at Ottawa to date is no better than the Nova Scotian offshore agreement, and we are not going to accept that Nova Scotian agreement that was put forward to us. Already we have had federal/provincial studies carried out by the Nova Scotia government and the Government of Canada, and these studies alone quite clearly state clearly state there is very little tangible benefit with regard to revenue from any development of the offshore gas finds in Nova Scotia. That is clear evidence alone that it is a bad agreement with Nova Scotia and it is the kind of agreement we in this Province are not going to accept.

I think the Premier will be very, very successful in his tour across the country, in explaining and getting people to understand. I am convinced when our Premier has finished his tour across the country that

MR. MORGAN: practically all Canadians will understand that what we have been offered for our resources, in this case: the offshore oil and gas resources, is just not a good deal or a fair deal for the 500,000 Newfoundlanders living in this part of Canada. It is just not a good deal. Now, why would I say that? It is because the majority of Newfoundlanders think the same thing. The Liberal Party may think that suddenly the people of Newfoundland no longer are supporting the Premier's policy and the Premier's position on the offshore. Oh, how they are going to be let down! The people throughout this Province today are just as firmly behind the Premier -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Right on!

MR. MORGAN: - just as firmly behind the Premier now as they always were!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MORGAN: And even moreso, because they see now the arrogance of people like Mr. Jean Chretien. He came with us not merely discourteously but arrogantly - just pure arrogance - by announcing he had issued seventeen drilling permits for our offshore without even the courtesy of telling our minister. Now, that is what turned Newfoundlanders off just recently. He thought he was going to be a big hero! He is looking for votes in Newfoundland, looking for votes for the Liberal Party to help him become leader of the Liberal Party in Ottawa, and he thought it would be a great deal! Smart-ass type tactics! Excuse my language!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. MORGAN: I should not say 'ass', I guess, because an ass is a donkey.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please!

MR. WARREN: The hon. member should withdraw.

MR. MORGAN: He is not a donkey. I withdraw that word. I will say he is a smart donkey - smart donkey tactics. He came down he and said, 'Oh, we have some good news for Newfoundland! We have seventeen new permits to be issued!' But in my travels, and I have done a fair amount of travelling around the Province since that time, I have found that Newfoundlanders are saying, 'Oh, is that the kind of man we want in Ottawa, to come down and just run roughshod over Newfoundlanders in such an arrogant way? Oh, no! Mr. Trudeau was bad enough! But surely, Mr. Chretien, we expect more of you than that!' Newfoundlanders are saying they expected more of Mr. Barry when he crossed the floor and joined the Opposition than what they have seen so far. All over the Province they are saying that.

MR. MORGAN: The man whom most influential Newfoundland Liberal Party people, like the Leader, I understand, and a number of MHAs in the House and Mr. Callahan and other prominent Liberals have gotten behind - they may all show up tonight just to show a little Newfoundland party for Mr. Turner but that is our own natural hospitality of Newfoundlanders - But they are all, behind the scenes, working for Mr. Jean Chretien. And when Mr. Jean Chretien becomes leader, Newfoundlanders will say, My goodness, we are never going to vote for that man the way he was so discourteous to our Newfoundland Minister of Energy (Mr. Marshall) and to Newfoundlanders in general.

So all of these messages are coming across the country and they are all tying in to what the Premier is now doing. I again take strong exception, as one minister in Mr. Peckford's Cabinet to those charges. I think there is not one member of our caucus but will agree with what I am going to say now, that there was never, including Premier Smallwood who worked hard as a Newfoundlander for his country, for his Province, but even then there was never a Premier of this Province who works any harder or worked harder than the Premier Peckford we have now.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MORGAN: So when someone stands in the House and says the Premier is lazy, I hope that is carried in the media tomorrow, that the leader of the Liberal Party of Newfoundland says that the Premier is a lazy Premier, because I will tell you that the people of Newfoundland, indeed they know different.

MR. NEARY: They sure do.

MR. MORGAN: They stand behind him on his policies, they stand behind him on his work, and I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, in a year or two years, whenever a general

MR. MORGAN: election comes around, they will clearly show that they believe in Premier Peckford.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I should not lower myself to reply to the hon. gentleman because, as I said the other day in this House, it seems to me that every time the administration wants to lower the debate in this House, they want to get low-class and low level debate, they put up the most crude members they can find in their ranks, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: They put up those who are uncouth.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

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

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I do not need to quote to Your Honour the passages in Beauchensne about insulting remarks. I realize the hon. gentleman finds it difficult to speak without insulting people, but it is a matter of degree, Mr. Speaker, and he I think he is going over the line right now and he should be asked to curb his remarks.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

To that point of order, although I have been listening to the debate, I do not know that what the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) said could be ruled unparliamentary but it does not do anything to add to the level of debate.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, so what they do is put up the most crude and uncouth members in their ranks. You see, the whole idea is to try to get the Opposition to get down and

MR. NEARY: roll in the mud with the low level of debate. Now, Mr. Speaker, what is their strategy? What tactics do they use? Well, first of all let me deal with the Premier and his laziness. Mr. Speaker, I again say, and I repeat what I said, that he has to be one of the laziest in our whole history, getting aboard of a plane jetting off over to New Brunswick and making a speech, Mr. Speaker, in my opinion is a pleasure; but staying in your office and trying to solve the unemployment in this Province, or trying to get the fishery back in shape, or trying to get jobs for young people who graduated from the College of Trades and Technology and the University to get jobs for our young Newfoundlanders or trying to do something about the forest industry, Bowater and that sort of thing, now, Mr. Speaker, that is what I call hard work.

MR. NEARY:

Now is that what the Premier spends his time at, or does he get aboard of a plane, where you have lunch served, Mr. Speaker, and then you land and you go to a cushy hotel on the Mainland and you have somebody carry your bags for you and you go down and you make a speech? Now is that hard work, Mr. Speaker? That is what the hon. gentleman is trying to persuade us, convince us is hard work. Now, Mr. Speaker, knocking on doors is hard work, yes, but the Premier is not going to knock on any doors, Mr. Speaker. So I hope I have laid that to rest, Mr. Speaker.

Now let us get back to the strategy and the arguments of the administration there opposite. They will condemn the proposals, the package that was on the table, but they do not tell us what it is they want. I have yet to hear one member, including the Government House Leader (Mr. Marshall), Mr. Speaker:

MR. MORGAN:

Have you read the document?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward):

Order, please! Order, please!

MR. NEARY:

The Premier is now gallivanting across Canada, he has not told us what he wants. Now, let me read Mr. Chretien's statement that he made at a news conference and this is the package that is on the table. Let me read parts of it to the hon. House, Mr. Speaker, because I am sure hon. gentleman have not taken the time to read it. And then, once I read these paragraphs, then hon. members should ask themselves, what they want. Forget this nonsense of getting up and saying they are trying to steal something from us, they are trying to take something away from us: Let them say what it is they want.

Now, Mr. Speaker, let me read from page 2 of this statement. 'First let us look at

MR. NEARY: the financial provisions. There has been a good deal of talk by the Newfoundland Government and some others that Newfoundland should have the same rights to offshore oil and gas as the provinces have for onshore resources. The argument makes sense but there is a twist to it. In fact, for the foreseeable future' - listen to this, Mr. Speaker - 'for the foreseeable future the Province would be in substantially better financial situation under our offshore proposals than it would if it owned the offshore or if the same resources were on land.' Mr. Speaker, after reading that, do you not have to ask yourself a simple question, why are they turning that down and what is it they want in its place?'

MR. WARREN: They do not know.

MR. NEARY: No, they do not know that is for sure.

That is one paragraph, now listen to this one: 'To start with, under a Nova Scotia type agreement the Newfoundland Government would receive more oil revenues in the early years of offshore development than if it owned the resource. The province would receive all provincial type taxes and the largest remaining federal tax, the petroleum and gas revenue tax, the PGRT. No one can seriously question the generosity of this proposal. When would the provincial government be expected to share some of these revenues with other Canadians? Not until the Newfoundland Government's fiscal capacity reached 110 per cent of the national average with the adjustment for regional unemployment that would now raise this to about 125 per cent. In relative terms, Mr. Speaker, this would mean that the

MR. NEARY:

Newfoundland Government would not be asked to share any revenue until it was the second richest Province in Canada.' Listen to that. The hon. gentleman says they are trying to take something and they they do not want to give us anything. They want to make us the second richest Province in Canada, second only to Alberta, Mr. Speaker, about 40 per cent richer than Ontario. Listen to this, Mr. Speaker, about 40 per cent richer than Ontario and twice as rich as your neighbours in Atlantic Canada are today. They want to make us, under this very generous offer, the second richest Province in the whole of Canada next to Alberta, and 40 per cent richer than Ontario. 'Hibernia development, or even two Hibernias would probably not provide enough revenue to reach the trigger for broader sharing, leaving almost all' - listen to this, Mr. Speaker - 'leaving almost all offshore revenue with the provincial government.' Now how can the hon. gentleman with a straight face, Mr. Speaker, get up and say that they are offering us nothing and then walk away from the negotiating table.

MR. MORGAN: They are offering us the Nova Scotia deal.

MR. NEARY: I will come to that shortly.

Listen to this paragraph, 'Some concerns have been expressed about the effect of the equalization formula on the Province's net gain from the offshore. How much would the new offshore revenues be offset by a one for one loss of equalization payments? The equalization programme is one of the great achievements of Confederation in modern times. To be fair, any province's equalization payments would reflect new additional revenues. But we have a provision'- listen to this - 'under the current equalization formula that in the Nova Scotia agreement there is a provision that guarantees the province will receive payments to offset the reduction in their equalization payments. These payments will decline

MR. NEARY: over time but provide major protection in early years. I have always been willing to include some such arrangement in a Newfoundland deal to ensure that the Province had a real net increase in revenues from the offshore in the early years when it was still a 'have-not' Province.' Now what does the hon. gentleman have to say about that? The trouble is, Mr. Speaker, that I am convinced the hon. gentleman does not understand what the package is that is on the table. They think it is to their advantage to stay on the attack.

MR. MORGAN: Did you read our document?

MR. NEARY: I am reading the answers that the hon. gentleman chose to ignore in the document.

MR. MORGAN: How do you know what we asked for if you have not read our document? You quote Jean Chretien's statement but you will not read our statement.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, this is the package that was on the table, this is the package they walked away from, and they cannot deny that they will never get a more generous package put on the table, Mr. Mulroney will not even make a commitment. Mr. Mulroney will not even discuss the matter with the provincial government.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please!
The hon. member's time has elapsed.

MR. NEARY: I will have to get back at this now again shortly, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, having heard the hon. gentleman speak a few moments ago, is it any wonder that the mainlanders think that they can walk all over Newfoundlanders? They seem by the way in which they have reacted towards

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MR. MARSHALL this Province and the people of
this Province, to believe that the more that they trample on
Newfoundlander's the better Newfoundlanders like it. The hon.
gentleman there opposite,

MR. MARSHALL:

by his speech, is a living example of why they think that. The hon. gentleman has been called by me, varying terms, such as 'a handmaiden of Ottawa', a 'lapdog', 'a mouthpiece for Ottawa', and the words that he uttered just a few minutes ago indicate why those descriptions are so apt and apply to him. He brings up Mr. Chretien's statement and he trumpets the generosity of the proposal. He talks about all revenues go to Newfoundland. Well, you know, I say over and over and over again, and it has been proven by a study made by the Nova Scotia Government and the federal government, with respect to the application of the Nova Scotian agreement, which is the only one that Mr. Chretien is offering us, that all that is to be returned in revenues is going to be the sum total of our equalization payments.

The hon. gentleman talks about fiscal capacity reaching to 110 per cent. Is not the hon. gentleman aware of what is meant by fiscal capacity? The very definition of fiscal capacity and its application to this Province constitutes proof in sum total of what we have said; because it means that when we get up to our fiscal capacity, we have enough fiscal capacity with the rest of the provinces of Canada, so we no longer receive equalization payments and we get nothing. So it is all related to equalization payments.

As I said, Mr. Speaker, make no wonder that the people on the mainland and the federal government think they can walk all over this Province when you get people like the hon. gentleman getting up and making speeches like he has with respect to emoting what Mr. Chretien says as if it were the living gospel and that every word was true, without even enquiring

MR. MARSHALL: into what fiscal capacities meant and what the agreement means. I mean, why does he not address the fact that there was a study made by the Government of Canada and the Government of Nova Scotia, with respect to this very agreement that he now says is suitable and so good for us, which says that there will be a small to negligible benefit to the Province of Nova Scotia? Now, if that is the conclusion, does the hon. gentleman think that the application of that agreement is going to bring us more than a small to negligible benefit? How come that agreement, entered into by mistake, obviously, by the Province of Nova Scotia, now condemned by their own study and condemned by the federal government, is the panacea for this Province? Yet the hon. gentleman continues to get up and make statements of the nature that he does. It goes to show, Mr. Speaker, that the hon. gentleman, as I said before, is a living example of somebody who can reside in Newfoundland but not be for Newfoundland.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we have sat here and listened to the Opposition discuss this present phase that we are in now, which is the Concurrence Debate on Social Services, and they talk from time to time of why the procedures do not work. The hon. gentlemen there opposite have not mentioned a word since this debate commenced about any of the social services departments. The social services departments are the Departments of Education, Health, Justice, Culture, Recreation and Youth, and the Department of Environment.

AN HON. MEMBER: No, we are on the Resource Committee.

MR. MARSHALL: No, we are on the Social Services Concurrence Debate. I can excuse the hon. gentleman for thinking that we are on Resource, because

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MR. MARSHALL: if you listened to members
opposite, you would come to that conclusion, because
they are not talking about the departments concerned.
Now, why do they not talk

MR. MARSHALL:

about a few things that the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) indicated in his budget and debate some of the implications and aspects of it? For instance, in Education; since this administration has been in power, the total expenditures on education have risen from \$344 million to approximately \$530 million, that in five years, which is a very, very substantial increase in the expenditure in estimates on Education. Now, do not the hon. gentlemen there opposite, when we are discussing Social Services think that that is relevant? Again with respect to Education, Mr. Speaker, why do the hon. gentlemen not point out that the capital grants to the Province's Denominational Education Councils for this year will be increased by 25 per cent, by one quarter, to \$13,500,000. All this assistance, Mr. Speaker, provided this year and the past five years to the social programmes of this Province, comes from a government that is forced to rely on revenues that are marginal revenues when considered in relation to the rest of Canada. Why do the hon. gentlemen not refer to our hospital construction programme? Are they too embarrassed with respect to that? Here in this budget, Mr. Speaker, we have provision for the hospital in Clarendville and the hospital on the Burin Peninsula. There is a provision of \$9,400,000 for expenditures on the hospital in Clarendville alone, and a further \$3 million for the Burin Peninsula hospital. That is the same hospital, Mr. Speaker, I might point out, this government delivered to the Burin Peninsula which, when the member for the Strait of Bell Isle (Mr. Roberts) was Minister of Health he went to the Burin Peninsula and swore to them

MR. MARSHALL: that it was not appropriate for them to have it and they would never have it and what have you. But it took this administration to do it. Why do the hon. gentlemen, if they want to talk about social matters, talk about the new Arts and Culture Center for Labrador at a cost of \$1.8 million. Again in the health field, Mr. Speaker, why would they not talk about the extension to St. Patrick's Mercy Home, to the Bella Vista Home in Springdale, the Lakeside Home in Gander, the Harbour Lodge in Carbonear? The Bay St. George Senior Citizens Home will commence this year, and a seventy-five bed home which will be commenced in Placentia. The truth of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, that the hon. gentlemen from time to time decry the procedures of this House, but the fact of the matter is they do not know how to use this House, and they are not acquitting their obligation to the people of this Province by debating in an orderly fashion the matters that are brought up to them. It is for the government to bring up these measures, which we do, but, Mr. Speaker, you can bring horses to the water but you cannot make them drink. And the hon. gentlemen there opposite seem to be absolutely incapable of doing anything but hurling, in most cases, personal insults, getting onto areas not connected with the matter before the House, talking in generalities, saying exactly the same thing year after year, Mr. Speaker. We might just as well have had Hansard for 1979-80 tabled in this House as a representation of what the Opposition's current position on matters were because they were banalities, generalities, insults and not of any substance whatsoever,

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MR. MARSHALL: as indicated, Mr. Speaker,
by the fact that here again I say we are talking about
the Social Services area. What have the Opposition got
to say about

MR. MARSHALL:

the current expenditures made and proposed by the government of this Province with respect to Justice, Health and Education, those three departments? Certainly the government of this Province would like to have the constructive views of the hon. gentlemen there opposite, but, as I said, Mr. Speaker, they do not have the wherewithal, I do not think they have the intelligence, they do not have the knowledge, they do not have the capacity, they do not have the ability, neither have they the will, Mr. Speaker, to get down to debate the matters that have been brought before them by this government in a constructive manner.

And, Mr. Speaker, we want these things discussed and we want these things debated because it is only through constructive debate and constructive discussions that we can best administer the affairs of this Province.

There might be eight in the Opposition, which is a sizable Opposition comparatively speaking, but I would say that the hon. gentlemen there opposite are the worst Opposition that this government and this Province has ever seen.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. MARSHALL:

Because the hon. gentlemen there opposite are not interested in issues, Mr. Speaker, they are interested, as I say, in banalities, irrelevancies, in not discussing on point. The only thing, Mr. Speaker, that they are savage about is protecting the present administration of the federal government, which is the same administration which is precluding this Province from getting its rights to its resources which, if we had attained these rights in the same way as other Canadian provinces, we would be much better able, Mr. Speaker, to be able to meet the crying needs in the social service area of this Province. We are very proud of this Budget, that we are able to

MR. MARSHALL: provide what we can for social services with in the very limited means available. But we do not for one minute indicate that we think that this is panacea and this is absolutely sufficient for the people of Newfoundland. Their services, particularly in the social area need, to be increased immeasurably and that is what the hon. gentlemen should address when they talk about offshore agreements, Mr. Speaker, because that was one of the elements. We said in that settlement that Mr. Chretien agreed with me on to deliver, but it was precluded by Mr. Lalonde, and not very directly does he deal now with an even hand, because he did not have the courage to come out and say that he did agree with it, but that was one of the elements, Mr. Speaker, that we agreed on. We agreed that the people of this Province would get a greater share of the total government revenues from that resource until one of the elements- what was one of the elements? - our services equal to the rest of Canada's. Now what is wrong with that Mr. Speaker? Instead of acting as the hon. gentlemen do, I suggest they address -

MR. WARREN: Your time is up.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please!

MR. MARSHALL: - the matter in a meaningful manner and address the means by which we can get more revenues to satisfy those needs.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, the hon. minister said that you can lead a horse to a well but you cannot make him drink. With that in mind, Mr. Speaker, I would like to call for a quorum and lead the members into this House.

MR. SPEAKER: Call in the members.

Order, please!

There is a quorum present.

Is it agreed to continue?

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SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward):

Agreed.

The hon. member for Torngat

Mountains.

MR. WARREN:

Mr. Speaker, after hearing

that lecture from the hon. minister -

What audacity! He had ; only eight or ten people in the

House listening to him. What a minister, Mr. Speaker!

MR. DAWE:

We have a better percentage

in the House than you have over there.

MR. WARREN:

Now, Mr. Speaker, the minister

said we do not discuss the estimates.

MR. WARREN:

The minister also mentioned about the Arts and Culture Center for Labrador West. This is where the government put their priorities, Mr. Speaker, in an Arts and Culture Center for Labrador West which has lost something like 2,000 people during the past year, and they go ahead and build an Arts and Culture Center in Labrador West. This is where you see the government putting their priorities.

Now, Mr. Speaker, if the minister wants to answer some questions concerning the spendings of the different departments, maybe the minister can get up after I am finished and tell why the Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth (Mr. Simms) has spent more money -

AN HON. MEMBER:

That has nothing to do with the resource departments.

MR. WARREN:

We are discussing the Social Services Committee Estimates. In case the hon. member does not know, that is what we are discussing, and Culture, Recreation and Youth does come under this. And if the hon. member does not realize it I should also remind him that the Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth was the highest spender of the Cabinet ministers during the past year. Now, Mr. Speaker, just imagine! We were talking about how much travel our Premier does, but last year the Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth overspent his travel budget and in fact he spent more in travelling than the Premier or any other Cabinet minister. Now was that necessary in a time of restraint? I am sure the hon. the minister is going to get up and say, yes, he had to look after Sir Humphrey Gilbert and that is a good reason, that is a good answer for the Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth to travel throughout the world at the government's expenses.

Mr. Speaker, for some reason lately there has been a real tense feeling on that side of

MR. WARREN: the House over there and I gather - and it is nothing concrete or anything like that - but I gather the Premier is planning a Cabinet shuffle and it looks, Mr. Speaker, as if one of the recommendations that I have been making since 1979, it looks like finally the Premier is going to believe in it, the Premier is going to make the decision and he is going to have a Minister responsible for Labrador all by itself. I gather, through the grapevine, that there will be a Minister responsible for Labrador and let us hope, Mr. Speaker, that the minister, whoever he may be, will do justice to that position. I understand, furthermore, that the second row of seats there that the hon. lady is sitting in, it looks like there might be a clean sweep in that area right there and it looks like some of those ministers may have seen the light for the last time. And, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Andrews), for example, we are discussing his estimates, and it looks like next year the present Minister of the Environment may not be able to do too much spending in the department that he is presently associated with. So you see, Mr. Speaker, that there is trouble, there is only eight of us and the hon. minister just said that we are the worst Opposition he ever saw. Well, Mr. Speaker,

MR. WARREN: if we can keep this government on the run, then I would say we are doing our duty.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to be obliged to call a quorum again if the hon. members do not stay to keep a quorum in the House. It is ridiculous when you cannot keep thirteen members in the House, especially the member for Placentia (Mr. Patterson). He is supposed to be the Party Whip over there and therefore he has a duty to keep his colleagues in the House when an hon. member is speaking.

Mr. Speaker, in the Department of Education, the hon. member who just spoke thinks everything is rosy. Grade XII was brought in last year by a government which was not properly prepared and what has been the result? The result has been that two or three of the high schools in this Province are overcrowded and major capital works will have to be carried out in order to accommodate those students.

Mr. Speaker, I think if we asked any of the former teachers who are here -

AN HON. MEMBER: It is a good programme.

MR. WARREN: Yes, I agree with the hon. member that Grade XII is a good programme, but it should have come in due course. It came in too fast. It was too fast for the teachers, it was too fast for the students, because we do not have the infrastructure to accommodate Grade XII adequately.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I suppose you can always forgive an individual who appears to be just out in left field and does not know half of the time really what he is talking about. All the minister was concerned about was poor opposition.

MR. WARREN: He did not talk about the four social workers who were fired down in Labrador, he did not talk about the directives that come out from the Minister of Social Services (Mr. Hickey) to some people in the Province but not to others, he did not talk about discrimination as it applies to the people on Fogo Island which is practically in a state of emergency and, Mr. Speaker, he did not talk about the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Dawe) not saying that he would contact Paddy Miller to ask him to try to get some food supplied to Fogo Island, he did not say he was going to get the Minister of Transportation to assist the people on Fogo Island.

Where was the minister when the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) sold the salmon fishery down the drain?

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

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

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, here is the point that I am speaking about: The Department of Transportation and the Department of Fisheries: Now, the Department of Transportation is in Government Services and the Department of Fisheries is in the Resource Policy. We are now considering the estimates of Social Services.

MR. TULK: No? You would not believe it.

MR. MARSHALL: Now, if the hon. gentleman wants to ask questions, there is the Question Period. They were considered in the Concurrence Debates. But what he is being, Mr. Speaker, is completely irrelevant to the motion before this House at the present time. As I have said, Mr. Speaker, this Opposition is the

MR. MARSHALL: worst Opposition that
this Province has ever seen, and if they are not going to
be relevant, we will do our best to keep them relevant.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. WARREN: To that point of order,
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): To that point of order,
the hon. the member for Torngat Mountains.

MR. WARREN: You know, there is no
point of order, Mr. Speaker. For the last two or three
weeks all we can get from that side of the House are
ministers getting up and talking about everything the
government does. I was just emphasizing the fact for the
hon. minister that the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Dawe)
did not come to the assistance of the people of Fogo,
and the same thing applied to

MR. WARREN: the Minister of Fisheries
(Mr. Morgan) for the salmon fishermen; he sold them down
the drain. That is why there is no point of order,
Mr. Speaker.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, to that point of order.
MR. SPEAKER (Russell): The hon. the Minister of Fisheries,
to that point of order.

MR. MORGAN: It is very interesting with the
kinds of phone calls I am getting from the Labrador Coast,
which the hon. gentleman represents, saying, 'Keep up the
fight, Mr. Morgan! Keep after that federal man up there,
Mr. De Bane, because he is taking away our salmon fishery.
Our member will not say a word about it.' That is the
quote today by phone. That is the quote: 'Our member will
not fight for us against Ottawa, and we are mad about that.
But, Mr. Morgan, we are counting on you, and the union and
Mr. Cashin, to keep on fighting Mr. De Bane and the policy
on Atlantic salmon because it is going to hurt our fishermen
along the Coast down here.' That is the issue. So,
Mr. Speaker, when the member stands up and says we are
giving away our salmon and we cannot get service to Fogo
Island, both are federal issues. We cannot get an icebreaker to get
the ice broken up to get the boat back and forth to Fogo
Island, a federal matter, and the salmon issue, a federal
matter. So why does not the hon. gentleman have the
courage of his convictions and stand up and condemn or
try to influence his own colleagues in Ottawa with the
bad policies they have in place in Newfoundland?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

To that point of order, I would
remind hon. members that we are supposed to be debating
the Concurrence motion on the Social Services Committee.
Members should be as relevant as possible to that motion.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): The hon. the member for Torngat Mountains has one minute left.

MR. WARREN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Instead of continuing in the debate, I have a point of order, which is that the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) just made an unfounded and incorrect statement, Mr. Speaker, concerning the member for a district in Labrador. I ask the minister either to withdraw that statement or confirm for the House what he just said, because, Mr. Speaker, it is a downright - I will not say 'lie', but it is a downright intruth. It is downright untrue what the minister just said.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, I did not say anything that was untrue - 'intruth' as the hon. gentleman referred to it - anything untrue about the hon. gentleman at all; I merely said that I am getting calls from the Labrador Coast, from areas which the hon. gentleman represents, and they are saying, 'Keep up the fight!'

MR. WARREN: That is not true! You are a liar!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. MORGAN: That will have to be withdrawn, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Order, please!
I have to ask the hon. the member for Torngat Mountains to withdraw that statement.

MR. WARREN: I withdraw the truth.

MR. MORGAN: Well, Mr. Speaker, all I am saying is that these issues result from federal government policies in both cases, the lack of ice breaking

MR. MORGAN: services and facilities here in the Province, that is one issue, a policy of the federal government; and the policy on Atlantic salmon is a federal policy. And all I say to the hon. gentleman, again, is that I am getting these calls from his district, in fact I am getting them from all over the Province. I met with scores of fishermen along the South Coast all weekend. I was not home all weekend and, of course, I was fortunate not to be home because there was no power on in my home anyway. I was on the South Coast all weekend, travelling the whole coastline.

MR. TOBIN: The first time ever they have seen a Minister of Fisheries.

MR. MORGAN: The first time ever they saw a Minister of Fisheries. And they were glad to see me and my colleagues with me from the House. They all said, 'Keep up the fight! Keep the pressure on the federal government, they have bad policies!'

MR. WARREN What about the point of order?

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, the point of order that I am addressing is that there was nothing said that was untrue, nothing said that was malicious or untrue about the hon. gentleman. I am merely quoting the facts, and the facts are that fishermen around the Province, including those in his own district, are saying to me, 'Keep up the fight to try to condemn that bad policy from Ottawa.'

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order, please! Order, please!
The Chair has heard enough argument on that point of order. It is not, indeed, a point of order but a difference of opinion between two hon. members.

April 16, 1984

Tape 1045

EC - 4

MR. TOBIN:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell):
Burin - Placentia West.

The hon. the member for

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. TOBIN:

Thank you very much,

Mr. Speaker.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that at this point, we are involved in the Government Services Estimates, including some very important departments as they relate to the Province of Newfoundland, particularly rural Newfoundland, which so many of us sitting on this side of the House are proud to represent.

MR. TOBIN: Mr. Speaker, we have heard some of the comments coming from the hon. member opposite a few moments ago. I see he is one of those people who likes to make his attack on the various ministers and then hide when the rebuttle or the reaction is about to be implemented. But I can say that I had the honour this weekend, along with my colleague for Fortune - Hermitage (Mr. Stewart), to travel with the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) from Friday, Mr. Speaker, until late yesterday evening, and I can say to this hon. House that I was indeed proud to be a member of the Progressive Conservative Party and to be associated with such a gentleman as the hon. Minister of Fisheries.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. TOBIN: Mr. Speaker, we left here on Friday and we had meetings with the Fisheries Committee in Baine Harbour, in Rushoon, in Red Harbour. Saturday, Mr. Speaker, we were down in Monkstown, Petite Fort and Southeast Bight, and it was the first time, Mr. Speaker, that the people in these communities -

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

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order, please!
The hon. member for Eagle River
on a point of order.

MR. HISCOCK: Mr. Speaker, we are supposed to be discussing, if I understood the President of Council (Mr. Marshall) correctly, the Concurrence Motion for the Government Services Committee Services Committee and here is the member for Burin - Placentia West (Mr. Tobin) getting up and talking about the trip that the Minister of Fisheries made. I find it not in keeping with the rules. And I am also a little bit amazed that the member and the provincial Minister of Fisheries can say, this is the first time they have had a Minister of Fisheries down in that area. After thirteen years, this administration is admitting they never had a Minister of Fisheries visit

MR. HISCOCK: that area. It is ridiculous.
Keep to the point on the estimates of the Government Services Committee.

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

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): To the point of order, the hon.
Minister of Fisheries.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. gentleman who is now on a point of order would have given the hon. gentleman, my colleague, the time to carry on with what he was trying to say it was not because the Minister of Fisheries went in all was talked about was fisheries. We talked about every aspect of their communities because most of them are isolated. We talked about all issues, all the problems they had. My colleague represents all problems in his riding, not just fishery matters. I happened to be a minister with him so they brought all their problems forward. So, Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman is quite in order to talk about a trip that we had this weekend about how the problems were addressed, how the problems were put forward. So he is quite in order in talking under the estimates of the social policies and the social departments.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

To the point of order raised by the hon. member for Eagle River (Mr. Hiscock), it was not a valid point of order. It is difficult at the best of times to rule on relevancy, I suppose I can only remind hon. members that we are on the Concurrence Debate on the Social Services Committee.

The hon. member for Burin -

Placentia West.

MR. TOBIN: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker,
As was so

MR. TOBIN:

ably pointed out by my colleague, the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan), obviously we know what we are dealing with, but as government, we on this side of the House are more concerned with creating long-term employment for the people of Newfoundland than we are with the efforts presented by the member for Eagle River (Mr. Hiscock) relating to social services programmes.

Mr. Speaker, as I was saying, this past weekend I had the opportunity to travel through my district with the hon. the Minister of Fisheries, as well as my colleague, the hon. the member for Fortune-Hermitage (Mr. Stewart). I might add as well, Mr. Speaker, that we went into my colleague's district, in Hermitage, Belleoram, and Harbour Breton.

Mr. Speaker, we had the opportunity to deal with all issues and all the concerns of the people of these communities. I can tell the hon. member opposite, who dropped in, the second time I have seen him this session, who got up on a point of order and then ran again-

MR. MORGAN: It is the second time since the House opened that he has been in the House.

MR. TOBIN: That is right.

Mr. Speaker, in communities such as Petite Forte we dealt with some of the needs that relate to the Department of Culture, Recreation and Youth, we dealt with needs in other communities that relate to Municipal Affairs. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order, please!

MR. TOBIN: As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, tomorrow morning I will be getting together with

MR. TOBIN: the hon. the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) to discuss these problems and to set up meetings with the appropriate ministers over the next few weeks to deal with problems not relating to the Department of Fisheries. So I can assure the member for Eagle River (Mr. Hiscock) that the Minister of Fisheries here is not a very small-minded individual who deals specifically with the problems of his own department when he is travelling in rural Newfoundland. He can take on the problems relating to any department for the people and in co-operation with the member for the respective area make representation to the various departments.

Mr. Speaker, I can assure you that from all the dealing I have had with him, that is the way we get results. Probably the members opposite want to deal with the Department of Health for a few minutes.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell):

Order, please!

I am sorry, but I must interrupt the member for Burin - Placentia West (Mr. Tobin).

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS:

Mr. Speaker, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor has arrived.

MR. SPEAKER:

Admit His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): May it please Your Honour, the General Assembly of the Province has at its present Session passed a certain Bill, to which, in the name and on behalf of the General Assembly, I respectfully request Your Honour's Assent.

A bill, "An Act Respecting The Commission Of Offences Against The Laws Of The Province By Young Persons". (Bill No. 11).

HON. W. A. PADDON (Lieutenant-Governor): In Her Majesty's Name, I Assent to this Bill.

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

R. TOBIN: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I was speaking about the estimates of the Department of Health, and having the budget before me, Mr. Speaker, and looking at the amount of dollars involved in the Department of Health for my district as well as several other districts in this Province, for new hospital construction, I can say that we are indeed fortunate that we have a government that is so committed to rural Newfoundland and health needs.

This year there is committed for my district \$3 million for the Burin Peninsula hospital, \$9,400,000 for the hospital at Clarenville, and also, Mr. Speaker, funding is included for the upgrading of the Bonavista hospital. The hospital at Port aux Basques was just recently opened, and it is my understanding that there is money included in the budget for an extension to the hospital at Grand Falls. So, Mr. Speaker, what we are saying is that we have in the Province today a government that is committed to the betterment of rural Newfoundland in all aspects, including health needs.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. TOBIN:

For too long we

had in this Province a government that was not committed to the health needs. During the latter days of the party opposite being power, the people of the Burin Peninsula had then been trying for years to get a new hospital built there. They invited the then

MR. TOBIN: Minister of Health, who is now the member for the Strait of Belle Isle (Mr. Roberts), down to a meeting. And that minister, Mr. Speaker, representing the Government of Newfoundland of the day, representing and formulating the policies of the Government of Newfoundland that day, told the people of the Burin Peninsula that you will not receive a hospital, all you need down here is an improved ambulance service.

MR. CALLAN: 'While the light holds out to burn/
The vilest sinner may return.'

MR. TOBIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, 'While the light holds out to burn.' And I can assure the hon. gentleman that the light is holding out to burn very well in Bellevue. I happen to travel through that district twice a week and I have developed many contacts there through Swift Current and Garden Cove and North Harbour. I can assure the hon. gentleman that the light indeed is burning in Bellevue with great enthusiasm and eager for the next elections to be called.

MR. PATTERSON: They are not burning their boats.

MR. TOBIN: That is right. Now, Mr. Speaker, that was the philosophy of the Liberal Party in this Province and that still is the stand of the Liberal Party in this Province. Last year when we approved millions of dollars, Mr. Speaker, for hospital constructions, everyone over there, to a man stood, and voted against the dollars to be spent for that new hospital.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please! The hon. the member's time has elapsed.

The hon. the member for Eagle River.

MR. HISCOCK: I just want to speak very briefly on the Government Services Committee estimates, which include Health, Education, Social Services and Culture,

MR. HISCOCK: Recreation and Youth. One of the things I would like to speak on in looking at the budget is the revenue from the Lotos in this Province. Last year it was \$3.1 million and this year it is estimated it will be over \$7 million. I would like to know why the jump in this expected revenue? Have we created an economy so depressed that the only hope in this Province is for the people themselves to get their hope from buying Loto tickets thinking that that will solve their financial problems and give them the lifestyle that they had in the past? Also in that doubling of revenue, I cannot understand why we are using revenue coming from the race track in the Coulters, revenue coming from Loto tickets to finance general revenue? When these Loto tickets were brought in in the first place, it was from the point of view of recreation. I cannot understand why this government expects to raise \$7 million this year from a source that yielded \$3 million last year. If this year they expect to get \$7 million, I would say they are cooking the books somewhere. We will find out that we will have an even larger current account deficit than has been forecast. I would like to ask why government does not take this expected \$7 million and put it into Culture, Recreation and Youth and train our people for the Summer games in the Province as well as the Olympics in Canada, in 1984, in Calgary? Why are we not doing those things? Why are we not taking this money and developing our students in cross-country sports, in soccer and swimming and other competition? The answer is, of course,

MR. HISCOCK: Mr. Speaker, these funds go into general revenue to pay for the \$100 million current account deficit this year, to pay for heat and light. I say, Mr. Speaker, we have our priorities wrong. That is one thing that concerns me about our revenue. We are trying to get revenue now not only from smoking cigarettes and drinking alcohol, but we are turning our people into gamblers to make sure that they buy more Loto tickets so we can then turn and use this money to pay for the running of government, for heat and light and transportation vehicles and plows etc. And I say there is something wrong, Mr. Speaker, the priorities are put in the wrong place. And I for one do not agree with Lotos. I think they should be done away with. I think it gives false hope to our people. For the person who wins it is okay, but I do not agree with the philosophy that you can get something for nothing. I do not agree with a government, either provincially or nationally particularly, using this for general revenue.

The reason why the Lotos came into our Province in the first place was to stem the flow of money that was going to Ireland for the Irish Sweepstakes which raised hundreds of millions of dollars for their hospitals. Millions of dollars left Canada over the years. But with the Olympics scheduled for Montreal, the federal government decided a Loto would be a good way to help finance the games. After that, of course, the Provinces saw this as a great source of revenue and ended up putting it into general revenue. Now we find the federal government getting back into the Loto pool, and now we have Atlantic Loto, we have Provincial Loto, we have Super Loto and now we have something like a Sports Loto. So where is it going to end? We find out now that

MR. HISCOCK: this government has even taxed Bingo in this Province.

So with regards to the Lotos in our Province, if they were taking it and using it for some social means putting it towards building schools, putting it towards building hospitals, putting it towards recreation programmes in this Province, if they were doing it from a constructive point of view, trying to build a better quality of life for our people, then I could understand it and I would support the Lotos. But when it comes to raising Lotos and putting it on television, creating the good lifestyle image that by buying those tickets you are going to become a millionaire, you are going to have your yacht, you are going to have your houses, you are going to be travelling around the world all of the time, the good life that it paints, that I object to. Here we are now with a government that encourages this lifestyle on television, yet it is proven that the ones who buy those tickets are the ones who can least afford them. But what they are buying, Mr. Speaker, is not a ticket; they are buying hope, since this government cannot give them hope, this government cannot give them jobs. As I said, the Minister of Social Services (Mr. Hickey) - and the member for St. John's North (Mr. Carter) knows it better than I - the Minister of Social Services

MR. HISCOCK: should not be called the Minister of Social Services, he should be called the Minister of Development. Because more money is being spent by the Department of Social Services to get people off welfare and get them on UIC, than there is almost in the full budget of the Department of Fisheries and the budget of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Youth. Here we have people in St. Lawrence, people in Labrador West, people in Corner Brook, people in Bell Island, people in Goose Bay, people in Fermeuse, people in Harbour Breton, places where people were never on welfare in their lives, who find themselves on welfare because of the economic situation in this Province. So as I said, Mr. Speaker, he should not be called the Minister of Social Services (Mr. Hickey), he should be called the Minister of Development, because the main priority of this government is getting people off welfare and getting them on UIC so the Province does not have to pay. And I think, for one, that it only points out the sad state of the economy that we have in this Province. The member for Burin - Placentia West (Mr. Tobin) ended up talking about the past administration hospital policy. Does he not realize that this government has been in power for thirteen years, that the people in Clarendville and the people in Burin have been waiting for twelve years for the hospitals they had been promised? The Health Sciences Complex was negotiated and built as a result of the efforts of the former Minister of Health, now the member for the Strait of Belle Isle (Mr. Roberts), and it is one of the best hospitals in Canada. And when it came to social policies, which we are on now, the Liberal Party of Newfoundland and the Liberal Party of Canada does not have to take a backseat or second place to anybody. What we have seen in this government in the past twelve years has been a continual

MR. HISCOCK: erosion of the standards of education, of health, of social services; we have seen a continual growth of user fees and, if it was not for the federal government saying that they were going to take back dollar for dollar, then we would have this extra billing fee that was instituted by the government but dropped as a result of pressure from the federal government. With regards to schools it is the same thing. What a great university we have as a result of the foresight of Mr. Smallwood and his Cabinet, his administration, and what a great health system we have in the Province. But like everything, Mr. Speaker, things need to be improved and replaced and what we now see, we see governments cannot operate hospitals in this Province, are putting freezes on

MR. HISCOCK:

them for three years. They cannot operate the ones they have, they are closing down clinics and hospitals and hospital beds throughout the Province, and yet they are building hospitals in Clarenville and Burin. So obviously one has to ask if it is political.

It is like the railway. When the railway line was built across this Province it was a good idea and probably we would still have the railway operating in this Province as a passenger service, but when the Morris government got in and started building the branch lines to Placentia and to Carbonear and to Bonavista for political reasons, that is what interfered with the economic viability of running that railway. And what is happening now is we are seeing this administration hoping to stay in power until the oil comes on stream, and then they can have their Swiss bank accounts, I suppose, as well as their friends, and they are hoping to accomplish this by building hospitals and arts and culture centres in Conservative districts, and not necessarily because they are needed. I think the people in Burin and Grand Bank and Fortune and Clarenville -

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward):

Order, please!

The hon. member's time

has elapsed.

MR. HISCOCK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker -

would prefer to have the money in other industries.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member

for St. John's North.

MR. CARTER:

Mr. Speaker, I was going

to say that listening to members opposite was cruel and unusual punishment. It is cruel punishment, but, unfortunately -

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

MR. SPEAKER(Aylward): A point or order, the
hon. the member for Eagle River.

MR. HISCOCK: The member for St.
John's North (Mr. Carter), is speaking, and I commend him
for speaking after me, but his voice seems to be rather
hoarse and I think for medical reasons he would be doing
himself a service, as well as this House, if he would
only rest his voice. Because we would not want him to
come down with pneumonia or any other ailment, so I think
we can forego this little speech that he was going to
give. We would not want to have the Minister of Health
(Mr. House) have to get an ambulance to come to the
House of Assembly to take him off.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!
To that point of order,
there is no point of order.

The hon. the member
for St. John's North.

MR. CARTER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
I was going to say
that listening to members opposite is cruel and unusual
punishment but that statement is really not correct. It
is cruel punishment but it is not unusual, we have it
every day. I think it is unfortunate that members do not
try to stick to the Social Services Committee estimates. This
opportunity -

MR. HISCOCK: I stuck with Social Services.

MR. CARTER: Social Services covers
the six departments: Health, Education -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, it does
seem a pity that members have not tried to stick to these
six headings, because there are some very good questions,

MR. CARTER:

good topics that

could be raised.

The Minister of the Environment (Mr. Andrews) did not take up too much of our time, and it is unfortunate, because there were a couple of topics that could have used up several hours of debate. One I was thinking of was the problem of car wrecks that are littering our countryside. I attended a meeting with the hon. gentleman some months ago where this was discussed, and it was suggested that possibly these wrecks could be disposed of in some deep part of the sea. Now I do not know whether that is ecologically justifiable or not or wise, and I would certainly -

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

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman
has driven everybody out of the House again. We do not
have a quorum.

MR. SPEAKER: Call in the members.
Order, please!
We have a quorum present. Is it
agreed to continue?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!
The three minutes have passed.
There is a quorum present.

MR. CARTER: The hon. member for St. John's North.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
The hon. Leader of the Opposition's
(Mr. Neary) nose is obviously out of joint because the Opposition
has finally accepted the thirty pieces of silver that I sent
across to them.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Have they?

MR. CARTER: Yes. And the member for Bellevue
(Mr. Callan) has counted it out very carefully and I am sure
it has now gone to the credit of the Leader of the Opposition.
This donation is from all of us, unfortunately it is not from
all of us because there are more than thirty members here on
this side, but as many members as possible contributed to this
purse. And it is sent over in full payment for the
Leader of the Opposition, especially considering his remarks
earlier this afternoon.

MR. REID: The minister cut him down.

MR. CARTER: I believe he did. So the Minister
of the Environment (Mr. Andrews) has more than adequately
dealt with those particular remarks.

MR. CARTER: I was discussing car wrecks when I was so rudely interrupted, Mr. Speaker. It was suggested that perhaps car wrecks could be disposed of in the ocean depths and I would certainly bow to any environmental assessment that would disagree with that. Nor did we have the time to get on to the topic of acid rain which is becoming more and more of a problem.

MR. NEARY: You are wasting time.

MR. NEARY: We perhaps should deal with the acid tongue of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary). If acid rain is not dealt with, I think that we may see more damage done to our forests than this weekend's sleet storm did. I am glad to see that some power is being restored. I was afraid that the proceedings of this House of Assembly would perhaps have to be interrupted by power outages but I see that there is enough power at least to keep us going.

On that point, Mr. Speaker,
while we were

MR. CARTER: having our deliberations in Committee down at the Colonial Building, it was suggested that perhaps we should have T.V. in the House. And in fact each time that silent footage was taken I had to ask, you know, for unanimous consent, otherwise it could not have been allowed.

I think we dealt with this in a debate last year quite adequately. And I am glad to see the member for the Strait of Belle Isle (Mr. Roberts) back in the Chamber because I would like for him to clarify or to comment perhaps on the problem of freedom of speech in the House and legal liability for anything that may be said. If debates are to be carried live and if we are to remain protected in this House of Assembly for what we say, then I cannot see how the T.V. station could be adequately covered for anything that it may carry.

MR. ROBERTS: Does the hon. gentleman want a response?

MR. CARTER: Well, when I sit down I am sure the hon. member will get up and give a very excellent response.

MR. ROBERTS: Give me time to get my wife on the telephone and farm out a request for an opinion.

MR. CARTER: I will try to keep going until the hon. member -

MR. ROBERTS: Would the hon. member just yield for a moment?

MR. CARTER: I will yield for a moment then.

MR. SPEAKER (Mr. Aylward): The hon. member for St. John's North yields to the hon. member for the Strait of Belle Isle.

MR. ROBERTS: I thank my friend and I shall only be a moment. The answer is what is known in law as qualified privilege. It is the same legal doctrine as gives protection to the press now if they report accurately and fairly. It is in the new Defamation Act as well, if they

MR. ROBERTS: report accurately and fairly what is said in the House, even if that is defamatory no action lies against the newspaper nor would one lie against the television or radio stations. The hon. gentleman or any of us could defame somebody in the House and there is no action. If the press reports that accurately, no action lies against the press.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): The hon. member for St. John's North.

MR. CARTER: That is a very good explanation and I appreciate it from the hon. gentleman. But I would like him to further comment perhaps sometime.

MR. REID: It is no question about it, he is a better lawyer than he is a politician.

MR. CARTER: I would like him to comment on how would he deal with someone like the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) who decides at a mere whim to get up and blackmail or abuse someone, to personally abuse someone in the general public who has no right of reply, whereas there might be no legal liability either by the Leader of the Opposition, because he is protected in the House, or by the press, which might carry it, certainly it would be a most unfortunate thing to allow anyone to be so defamed in public. Knowing the Leader of the Opposition and, you know, using his past behaviour as a guide, I would have to say that this is a very grave danger. So I would have to say as long as I have any say in it I would have to disagree with television in the House. And, of course, quite apart from the problem of liability is the problem of television itself. I am sure that T.V. in the House would get us all to put on nice clean shirts and well knotted ties and get us all to our seats in the House and we would all sit quietly, but this is not what a House of Assembly is like. No Legislature in the world is like that, it only happens on T.V. or in the

MR. CARTER: movies. The real legislatures in this world are more like bubbling pots where an awful lot of stuff is going on in the background, where members are conversing one with the other, the members of the Opposition are plotting the downfall of the government, members on the government side trying to get something for their districts, officials coming into the Common Room and

MR. CARTER: phone calls being made and generally a beehive of activity, and I think generally a useful beehive of activity. But bring a TV camera into the House to observe all of that and, of course, all of that will stop and we will all sit like stones and we will play act being a House of Assembly and that is not what a House of Assembly is about anyway.

Another topic we could discuss, and I think should be discussed, and again I am glad to see the member for the Strait of Belle Isle (Mr. Roberts) in his seat because I know that he takes a personal interest in this particular topic, and that is the one of medicare. Now, I do not know if I have time enough to finish but if I do not I can always get up and finish it another time, but I really think members should ask themselves whether they feel medicare provides decent coverage.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please!

The hon. the member's time has elapsed.

MR. CARTER: By leave?

MR. SPEAKER: Does the hon. member have leave?

MR. NEARY: No leave.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. gentleman is not granted leave.

MR. CARTER: Okay, I will get back to it.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: Now, Mr. Speaker, that we have disposed of the garbage, let us get on to some pertinent matters in connection with the Social Services Estimates. Again I have to draw to the attention of the House the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) is absent, the Minister of Mines and Energy (Mr. Dawe) is absent, the Minister of Development (Mr. Windsor) is absent, the Minister of Rural, Agricultural

MR. NEARY: and Northern Development (Mr. Goudie) is in the House, and the Minister of Forest Resources and Lands (Mr. Power); four out of the five ministers are absent from the House while we are discussing matters that apply to their departments, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): On a point of order, the hon. the President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, we are not discussing matters that are relevant to those ministers departments. The hon. gentleman said the ministers are out while we are discussing matters relating to their department. I mean, the fact of the matter is we happen to be talking about Social Services departments. The hon. gentleman does not even know what we are talking about.

MR. NEARY: To that point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: To that point of order, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I want to carry on and then go into the departments we are debating at the moment. The Minister of Social Services (Mr. Hickey) is out of his seat, the Minister of Education (Ms. Verge) is out of her seat -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Order, please!
I wish to remind all hon. members once again of Beauchesne, page 103, order 316, "Besides the prohibitions contained in S.O. 35, it has been sanctioned by usage that a Member, while speaking, must not:" - and there are several references there that he must not, but (c) says, "refer to the presence or absence of specific Members."

MR. MORGAN: You have been put in the corner twice today.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I have to ask a question: How can we debate Education, Health, Social Services, Culture, Recreation and Youth, and the Environment, Mr. Speaker, how can we debate these matters, how can we raise these matters, Mr. Speaker, when there is nobody on the government benches to answer our questions?

MR. TOBIN: They all have acting ministers.

MR. NEARY: I think they are all acting over there if you ask me, Mr. Speaker. They are all a crowd of actors.

MR. WARREN: Maybe the member for Burin - Placentia West (Mr. Tobin) is acting (inaudible).

MR. TULK: He is usually acting.

MR. NEARY: Now, Mr. Speaker, I am going to rhyme off a whole list of questions

MR. NEARY: I have here and I hope I will get the answers. Who is going to jot down the questions?

MR. MORGAN: You will get all the answers you need.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: No. The ministers who I am directing the questions to are not in their seats.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I know they are trying to get a short session in the House. I know they are all booked for warmer climates, but surely they can spend another day. Mr. Speaker, surely they can prop themselves up for one more day because I understand that the Government House Leader (Mr. Marshall) is going to shut her down. Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the Government House Leader, or at least I have heard is going to shut her down tomorrow evening for Easter, and we will not be back any more until around the end of the month.

MR. DINN: That is agreed to.

MR. NEARY: What is agreed to? Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman says it is agreed to. What is agreed to?

MR. DINN: I do not know, what?

MR. NEARY: We have not heard a thing about it. Mr. Speaker, they are going for a short session of the House, but it seems to me that the ministers cannot wait, they cannot stay in their seats long enough to answer questions. But it is going to be a long hot Summer. Do not worry about it, it is going to be a long hot Summer.

Now I would like to know from the Minister of Education (Ms. Verge), for instance, if it is moral or if it is ethical for the government to send these propaganda pamphlets around to high school students, these -

MR. TOBIN: The answer is yes.

MR. NEARY: No, it is not, the answer is not yes. The answer is no unless they send the other side of the story. Mr. Speaker, is it ethical, is it proper to send pamphlets around to the high schools - pamphlets like this, look - without sending around this letter to show the other side of the story, this statement, yes? Is that right and proper? Is it fair, Mr. Speaker?

MR. DINN: What? Chretien's letter?

MR. MORGAN: It is not even signed

MR. NEARY: This is not signed either.

MR. MORGAN: The document is signed.

MR. NEARY: The document is signed? By whom?

MR. MORGAN: The document put forward to Ottawa is signed.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, this statement is just as valid as this one.

MR. MORGAN: There is nothing from Ottawa signed.

MR. DINN: You think so do you?

MR. NEARY: Yes. And what about the Trudeau letter?

MR. DAWE: And that is the reason you are over there, and you will always be over there if you are ever elected again -

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please!

MR. DAWE: - and this group will be on this side.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

SOME HON. MEMBER: Oh, oh.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: I ask the protection of the Chair, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: Now, Mr. Speaker, why do they not send this statement, the Trudeau letter in connection with the

MR. NEARY: statement he made at the university back in 1981? Why only send their side of the story? Why not send both sides of the story to the high school students and let them make up their own minds, or are they afraid of the truth? Are they scared of the truth, Mr. Speaker? Are they afraid that they might be exposed for what they are, Mr. Speaker?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: And so, Mr. Speaker

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: I wonder what is happening over there, Mr. Speaker? They are getting rather rowdy and loud over there, and rude, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: The Speaker wanted order in the House.

Could I be heard in silence? I would ask for the protection of the Chair.

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Tape No. 1057

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MR. SPEAKER (Aylward):

Order, please!

I wish to remind all hon. members
that the hon. member has the right to be heard in silence.

The hon. Leader of
the Opposition.

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, I would
submit that the reason they do not send out these
other documents to show both sides of the story is
that they are scared to do it. They are afraid that
the high school students, who are thinking Newfoundlanders,
will make up their own minds and they will be exposed
for the bluff that they are.

MR. TULK:

They are not sending them to
the schools, are they?

MR. NEARY:

Yes, to high school students.
So I would like to get the
Minister of Education's views on that. I think it is
grossly unfair, Mr. Speaker, it is unfair to try to
load the dice, to stack the cards, with high school
students in this Province.

MR. DAWE:

A propaganda lesson

MR. NEARY:

Yes, it is a propaganda
lesson. There is no doubt about that. What Goebbels
did in Nazi Germany, Mr. Speaker, is only minute,
small potatoes to what this crowd are doing, trying
to brainwash -

MR. TULK:

He was an amateur.

MR. NEARY:

He was a rank amateur.
They are trying to brainwash the high school students.
Well, expose them to both sides of the story and let
them make up their own minds.

MR. DAWE:

They have their minds made up.

MR.NEARY: Who have their minds made up?

MR. TULK: I heard that the best thing they said that happened down in Grand Bank was when he quit teaching and went into politics.

MR.NEARY: Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of thinking Newfoundlanders , who, if they read this document they would have to ask themselves a simple question, what else is it that the Premier wants? What does he want? If the answers are all in this document and in the Prime Minister's letter and in the package,what else do they want?

Now, Mr. Speaker, we would also like to have some answers to questions in connection with the overcrowding down in the high school in Mount Pearl. In Mount Pearl, we are told,an additional 225 students are to be expected to be enrolled in the high school in September 1984. There is no idea as to how the students presently in the elementary system will be accomodated in the high school in the next couple of years. And in connection with Conception Bay South, Mr. Speaker, the school board has taken a decision on their own without the approval of the DEC.

MR. DOYLE: We will have anarchy.

MR.NEARY: Anarchy,that is what they are going to have. In Conception Bay South,in one school there is a cafeteria built to hold 300 students that must now accomodate 700. And I think we are all familiar with the conditions in the schools in Conception Bay South. Mr.Speaker, where do we go from here?

MR. TOBIN: When you were in government,

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MR. TOBIN:
washrooms.

we did not even have

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward):
hon. member's time has expired.

Order, please! The

and Manpower.

The hon. Minister of Labour

MR. DINN:

I defer to the minister.

MR. SPEAKER:

to the hon. Minister of the Environment.

The hon. minister defers

MR. ANDREWS:

Mr. Speaker, a few remarks regarding the few things that have been said about my department. And, of course, they had to come from this side because the Opposition does not seem to be interested at all in some of the

MR. ANDREWS: important issues of the day. The member for St. John's North (Mr. Carter) referred to the problem of car wrecks. There is no doubt that there is a problem in Newfoundland, as there is in many places in North America, and, indeed, I guess, the industrial world.

One of the big problems that we have in Newfoundland is the fact that we are an island and at this present time the cost, the value of scrap metal is so low that it just does not pay a private entrepreneur to collect the automobiles, and to crush them, and to take them out of the Province. It is possible that this situation will change over the next few years, but in the meantime, we are making every possible effort to collect the cars in central locations.

The member for St. John's North referred to the possibility of ocean dumping. There is one serious problem with that, that the car would have to be stripped and all the oil and gasoline and grease removed from it. I believe that would have to be done before they could be dumped at sea, because we would have protests from the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and rightly so.

Mr. Speaker, one of the most important and potentially serious in North America and, indeed, in Europe today, and we are affected by it, is this whole problem of acid rain. As hon. members probably know, some work is being done and some progress being made. The ten provincial governments and the federal government have agreed to a reduction of 50 per cent over the next ten year period. Incidentally, Newfoundland will not be affected, I do not think, at all because our level of emission is so low at this point in time.

MR. ANDREWS: The Government of Canada recently signed an agreement with nine European countries to reduce by 30 per cent over a ten year period, and the Europeans consider the 30 per cent to be satisfactory right now, because they have decreased their own emissions of sulphur and hydrogen oxide over the past few years themselves.

But three of four years ago we were mainly concerned about the issue of acid rain affecting waters, lakes, streams and rivers. We do know that there are thousands of lakes and rivers and streams, particularly lakes in Northern Ontario and Northern Quebec and, indeed, in places in the United States, where these lakes are dead, there is no fish life in them, there is no flora or fauna living in these lakes. Indeed, in our neighbouring Province of Nova Scotia there are seven salmon rivers dead now, that are devoid of their native runs of Atlantic salmon.

Fortunately, at this point in time we can say that that situation does not exist in Newfoundland. But our lakes and rivers and streams are very, very marginal and any significant increase in the amount of deposition on our lakes and rivers could be very, very harmful.

Within the past year we have discovered, and when I say we the world as a whole, that in Europe, particularly in Western Germany, the forests have been affected by acid rain. Two years ago 6 per cent of the West German forests were dead or dying of acid rain, and within a twelve month period over 30 per cent of the forest is now dead or dying. The Europeans are very concerned about it and this is why they agreed to sign this agreement with the Government of Canada and with the nine European countries.

MR. ANDREWS: the forest industry is very important to Newfoundland. I do not know how far along this road to destruction we have gone in Canada or in Newfoundland, but with what has happened in Europe, the potential for disaster is certainly there, and all the more reason why we should rush as quickly as possible to reduce the emission of acid rain.

The Americans, as most hon. members know, have refused at this point in time to go along with the reduction theory, they want to study the subject longer, but we know or we feel, Canadian scientists and European scientists feel, that the issue has been studied to death.

So these are some of the things that I think concern us. And, from the environment point of view, you are going to constantly have problems with car wrecks, with local waste disposal sites and so on, and these are issues that we can, generally speaking, handle at a local level or provincial level, but this one is much more far-reaching and it needs international co-operation at the highest possible level and a political will and a commitment to do something about it.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell):

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, the point I was making a short while ago, I will pursue tomorrow when we come back to the debate, but I just wanted to say that I was hoping when the hon. gentleman was on his feet that he would tell us what the proposals were to fight the spruce budworm in the atmosphere, in the sky, over the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Like the Battle of Britain

MR. NEARY: was fought over the English Channel, they tell us that in Newfoundland the battle of the spruce budworm should be fought over the Gulf of St. Lawrence, because the budworms blow over to Newfoundland when the weather is warm. Now, Mr. Speaker, I would like for the hon. gentleman to elaborate on that a bit. The great fight against the spruce budworm is now going to be fought in the skies over the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Could he tell us if that recommendation has been accepted? What are they going to use? Are they going to use the water bombers? Are they going to use the government air force?

MR. DAWE: That suggestion from the scientists has been made for a number of years.

MR. NEARY: Yes, I know, but, Mr. Speaker, the budworm is here now, they are here by the trillions. The spruce budworm epidemic came to Newfoundland, by the way, the same year the government changed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. DAWE: Let me tell you something now: The budworm did away with the trees on Nagle's Hill seven years ago.

MR. NEARY: The first outbreak of spruce budworm was detected in the Codroy Valley down in the hon. gentleman's district in 1972, the same year the government changed. Now, I know it is a coincidence, Mr. Speaker, we cannot blame hon. gentlemen for the budworm, but I am curious to know, and I am sure my colleagues - I do not know if the member for the Strait of Belle Isle (Mr. Roberts) heard the statement, he was away on the weekend - but some scientists who did a report for the government said that the great fight now to combat the spruce budworm will have

MR. NEARY: to be fought over the Gulf of St. Lawrence. They blow over to Newfoundland when the weather is warm, so the battle will have to be fought in the skies over the Gulf of St. Lawrence the same as the Battle of Britain was fought over the English Channel. Now, what are they going to use? Is it a chemical? Or are they going to train all the hon. gentlemen there opposite to be fighter pilots?

MR. ROBERTS: Mad bombers!

MR. NEARY: What is it they call the Japanese, the suicide pilots?

MR. ROBERTS: Kamikazes.

MR. NEARY: Kamikazes. Are they all going to be Kamikazes, suicide pilots?

MR. ROBERTS: The Kamikazes were on a divine mission, just like the member for Stephenville (Mr. Stagg)

MR. NEARY: That is right. Get in the water bombers and get in the government aircraft and go over and zero in on the spruce budworm. Mr. Speaker, the scientists may have been serious, but to me as an ordinary lay person, who does not understand these things, in my ignorance, perhaps the hon. gentleman could tell me, now that we have the budworms here on the Island in trillions, what would be the point? If we wiped them out in Newfoundland and we wanted to stop any new ones from immigrating across the Gulf, coming across from New Brunswick to Newfoundland, Mr. Speaker, perhaps it might be a good idea to put something in the atmosphere to stop the budworms. But now that they are here should we not concentrate on trying to wipe them out in Newfoundland first and, if we succeed at that, then we can put a barrier or put something in the atmosphere, in the skies, over the Gulf - the Berlin Wall or the Great Wall of China - put a great wall around Newfoundland to stop the budworms from getting in, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ROBERTS: It is all a Canadian plot to do us in, you see.

MR. NEARY: I know we are spraying the cars now, the cars going out of the Province are being sprayed against the disease in the potatoes. But surely we do not have to put up a wall to stop the budworms from coming from New Brunswick. And if we do, if we have to fight the battle, fight this fight over the Gulf of St. Lawrence, would the hon. gentleman tell us if New Brunswick will help pay the bill or do we have to go it alone? Now, Mr. Speaker, I eagerly look forward to Chapter 2, to the answers to my questions to the hon. gentleman.

MR. NEARY: Well, seeing it is near 6:00 p.m., I would like to move the adjournment of the debate, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): It is noted that the hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) has adjourned the debate.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. MARSHALL: What I figured we would do tomorrow, Mr. Speaker, of course always with the concurrence of the House, is that we would go through the Question Period and we would finish the Concurrence Debate on Social Services and then I think it is probably wise to rise for the Easter Break.

MR. ROBERTS: For how long? When do we come back?

MR. MARSHALL: We come back on April 30, 1984. April 30, 1984 is the Monday, I believe, is it not? Is April 30, 1984, Monday? It coincides with the schools, anyway. I think it is April 30, 1984 but I will find out.

MR. TULK: Are you going to Florida this year?

MR. MARSHALL: No, I cannot afford it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

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

On motion, the House at its rising adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, April 17, 1984, at 3:00 p.m..