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Speaker: Honourable Patrick McNicholas

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The House met at 3:00 p.m.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):
Order, please!

MR. SIMMS:
A point of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

The hon. Minister of Forest Resources and Lands.

MR. SIMMS:
Mr. Speaker, I want to raise a point of privilege today. This matter has just come to my attention, therefore it is the earliest possible opportunity for me to raise this matter. I hope that you will allow me just a couple of minutes of preamble as I attempt to present a case which I think will clearly indicate an abuse of the privileges afforded to members of the House of Assembly.

I say that, Mr. Speaker, having occupied the Chair myself, which Your Honour now occupies, for a period of nearly three years. I suppose that more than the average member I would have a considerable amount of respect for the privileges which elected members have and which have been protected for centuries. It is the reason, mainly, that offends me when I see an obvious breach of these privileges and rules.

Mr. Speaker, I listened with some amusement to the reaction of the member for Menihek (Mr. Fenwick) a few days ago when the Premier exposed the holier than thou attitude of the member by contradicting him when he said that NDP governments do not practice patronage. The Premier, of course, has clearly shown and provided dozens of examples of patronage being practiced by NDP governments in other

jurisdictions. I also listened with some amusement to the member try to indicate that this party had received major contributions to its political campaigns and had spent a lot more money, of course, than the other parties, whilst at the same time I noticed he was unable to unequivocally say that the salaries of high powered NDP organizers from Ottawa, who were sent down to campaign, were also included in the NDP expense statements.

The tactics being used by the member, I think, are rather obvious to all observers of politics in this Province. I do not think those types of attempts to fool the people will go unrecognized, and so they can continue to use organizers from the mainland to try to help them gain members in the party, that is fair ball. The way they are doing it now, for example, they are phoning people and inviting them to get involved in their party, but, at the same time, they then send the mainland organizer around to the households to have personal interviews with them. That is fine. Those types of tactics, I suppose, are evident to anybody to observe.

Mr. Speaker, there is one thing that came to my attention today that really irks me and offends me and which I find rather repugnant, and that is when a member of this hon. House uses the taxpayers' money, money which is provided to him or to her to operate his or her office, to try to promote his or her particular party at taxpayer's expense.

As a specific example I want to refer to you, Mr. Speaker - and I will table a copy of it - the stationery which the member for

Menihek uses, which is paid for by the taxpayers one way or the other, and which advertises the NDP logo. And what I find particularly offensive, Mr. Speaker, is that on the reverse side of the envelopes in which the member sends out his correspondence, postage paid for by the taxpayer, the return address is, 'Office of the NDP, Fifth Floor, Confederation Building.'

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

What!

MR. SIMMS:

Now, Mr. Speaker, to my way of thinking this is an abuse of the privilege that this hon. member has been afforded. No other member of this House, to my knowledge, abuses that kind of privilege nor so flagrantly spends the taxpayers' money so brazenly to promote his own party. I submit to Your Honour that all members who occupy offices in the Confederation Building or elsewhere, occupy those offices as an elected member for a particular district, they do not occupy those offices to represent their particular party in a government building paid for by taxpayers. And surely to heavens, Mr. Speaker, we cannot allow this type of abuse to fester, nor can we allow hon. members to abuse the privileges of the House and to waste taxpayers' money to promote their own specific individual concerns and their own specific parties.

I think I have given an example, Mr. Speaker, which shows that these tactics, similar to those used by the member in the past, smack of hypocrisy. I venture to say, Mr. Speaker, that if the shoe was on the other foot and if,

indeed, government members on the fifth floor, or Opposition members for that matter, sent out their stationery and envelopes which said the PC Party of Newfoundland and Labrador, Fifth Floor, or the Liberal Party of Newfoundland and Labrador, I would venture to bet that the hon. member for Menihek (Mr. Fenwick) would be the first one to charge us with abuse of privilege.

I trust that Your Honour will take this particular matter that I raise under consideration and respectfully report to the House at the appropriate time.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. BARRY:

Mr. Speaker, to that point of privilege.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition, to the point of privilege.

MR. BARRY:

If I could just briefly speak to that. The minister makes a good point. From time to time, I suspect, members will slip into using - I know I have - stationery of the Liberal Party, paid for by the Liberal Party. In my office from time to time, if I am sending out a quick note I will send it out on that paper. Occasionally, I might say, I have had to send letters back because the secretaries hauled out the wrong piece of stationery. It is something that can happen.

But, I might say, it is something that is encouraged by the process which we have seen exercised on the eighth floor of this building, the Premier's Office, where we

have these little pamphlets, Mr. Speaker, which, for the last several years, have been purely political in a partisan sense, which have not been dealing with anything relating to government policy but have been dealing with promoting the political interests of the Tory Party. Those pamphlets are printed at the taxpayers' expense. They are mailed out. I think the Minister of Education (Mr. Hearn) indicated that the propaganda was sent out to the schools in this Province and, as well, they are sent out to the liquor stores and everybody finds them cluttering up the place when they try to get a little bit of cheer to carry them over another hard weekend.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to mention to the minister that I do not blame the member for Menihek (Mr. Fenwick) for being a little bit confused with respect to the office and the return address, seeing as the government sign down on the fifth floor which was put up by the government, on the government's instructions says "Office of the NDP Leader". So maybe government should look to its own practices before it starts bending over and tearing up cobblestones to fling at the member for Menihek.

By the way, I would like to say how happy we are to see that the member for Menihek survived his vote of confidence by Mr. Cashin and his group this weekend.

MR. FENWICK:

To a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):

To that point of privilege, the hon. the member for Menihek.

MR. FENWICK:

I am at loss to be able to explain to you what the contents of the letter are because I have not seen it. But I can tell you that the stationary is what I was given by the Printing Services people when we first established the office back in November of last year. Since that time the Clerk of the House has indicated that that is not the appropriate return address for correspondence, and I understand that the new stationary ordered will say "Offices of the NDP Opposition", which I think is more appropriately what it should be. As to what the particular letter was, I do not know, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

To that point of privilege I will consider all aspects and rule at a later date. The hon. the member for Naskaupi.

MR. KELLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is unrelated to the point of privilege, but before we get to the regular business of the day, I would like to ask the House to unanimously endorse a resolution to send a message of condolences to the family of the late Heber Broomfield of Happy Valley - Goose Bay. If I may briefly explain that request, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Broomfield was involved with the field of recreation for almost twenty years, both in Churchill Falls and Happy Valley - Goose Bay in the Naskaupi district, and during that period of time he was involved with a lot of organizations and associations which took his expertise and his dedication outside the district itself so that he would be recognized not only locally and regionally but also on a provincial level, and perhaps

beyond that as well. For the information of the House I have requested that the Happy Valley - Goose Bay town council rename or name the Happy Valley - Goose Bay arena in honour of Mr. Broomfield for his contributions to his particular endeavour, and I believe that that will be complied with. I further suggested to them that should they decide to take that suggestion, that an appropriate time for a dedication ceremony might be at the opening of the second Labrador Winter games. Because of his contributions, because of his dedication, and because of his efforts in the field of sports and recreation, I make this request.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):

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

MR. MATTHEWS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We, on this side, as well, Mr. Speaker, would like to go on record as supporting the resolution of the hon. the member for Naskaupi (Mr. Kelland) in extending condolences to the family of the late Mr. Broomfield.

As Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth, I am very much aware of how very involved the late Mr. Broomfield was in community affairs, both locally and regionally in Labrador and, I must say, he is a gentleman who was held in very high esteem and respect by the officials of my department. I, as well, would like to concur with the suggestion that the hon. member has made with regard to the arena. I am hoping to attend the opening of the Labrador Games and I would very much like to officiate at that particular function.

So we on this side, Mr. Speaker, would like to go on record as being in unanimous agreement with the hon. gentleman on the resolution to send condolences.

Statements by Ministers

PREMIER PECKFORD:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Premier.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD:

Mr. Speaker, over the past several years, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has been planning and preparing for offshore oil and gas development. A number of years ago the government adopted a policy of designating a number of areas in the Province which, from our studies, would be appropriate sites for onshore industrial development relating to offshore activity.

This past year, after many years of frustration and debate, we were successful in signing with the federal government the Atlantic Accord which contains provisions which meet the aims and objectives set out by the Newfoundland Government years ago. In addition, the Petroleum Directorate was established to ensure that government had the expertise to protect our interests and to allow Newfoundland to become fully involved in the offshore.

More recently, a new department of Career Development and Advanced Studies was established to ensure

our educational system is so organized that we can train our people for occupations which will permit them to take advantage of job opportunities that will inevitably result from offshore hydrocarbon development.

From time to time, through the Department of Development and the Petroleum Directorate, we have hired consultants to assist us in our work in preparing for the Hibernia development itself. It is, of course, of utmost importance that we have the best people available to assist us in our preparation and execution of this massive project.

Just recently, Dr. Govier was hired by both governments to advise us on the establishment of the joint board. As a result, three permanent members of the board have been announced, and the full board will be in place very shortly and be able to begin its work, consistent with the provisions of the Atlantic Accord.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador will leave no stone unturned to ensure we have the best advice available to assist us in formalizing an agreement on the Hibernia project and on other offshore projects and policies in general.

It is, therefore, with great pleasure that I announce, on behalf of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, that we have retained the services of the hon. Peter Loughheed to act as an energy advisor to the government on energy matters, especially dealing with offshore hydrocarbon development.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD:

The hon. Mr. Loughheed will be paid a fee of \$40,000 per year plus travel expenses. He will prepare quarterly reports to the government on the Canadian and global energy scene and its impact upon Newfoundland's ongoing energy policy. He will advise us on issues dealing with Hibernia development and will be available for special projects from time to time as determined by government.

I am sure all members of the House join the government in welcoming Mr. Loughheed in becoming involved in policies and programmes to assist Newfoundland in pursuing a more prosperous future through the development of our energy potential.

The government of Newfoundland and Labrador is very proud to have the honourable Mr. Loughheed as part of our advisory team. Given his long association with energy matters as Premier of Alberta and his support, during the time, of this government's position on offshore, we are confident that his input at this crucial moment in our history will be important and substantial for a more prosperous Province for our people.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. BARRY:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. BARRY:
Mr. Speaker, on balance we welcome this announcement by the Premier. We have a lot of respect for Peter Loughheed who has shown himself to be a great Canadian as well as

being very knowledgeable in the oil industry.

But, Mr. Speaker, one question springs to mind. I wonder if this is a mutual deal? In most arrangements there is a give and a take and I wonder if the Premier has the same arrangement made with Alberta in the next year or two when he will need to be looking for some work himself.

I think it is also relevant to note just where Mr. Lougheed's expertise lies. It lies, Mr. Speaker, in the exercise of good political judgement, something that has been sadly lacking on that side of the House so we can agree with the Premier that there is a great void that needs to be filled in the area where Mr. Lougheed has expertise. We can understand the Premier being so desperate as to go so far afield in order to find somebody to fill that void.

With respect to the remuneration, Mr. Speaker, I think that that would be money well spent though, in all seriousness. If we look at the recent generous gift from the province of Alberta of Canadian encyclopedias announced recently, that gift alone, I think, is worth in the area of over \$100,000, 750 of them, worth about \$150 a piece at the retail level. So if you look at the benefits that Mr. Lougheed has had a hand in directing to this Province, Newfoundland is still well ahead of the game. I do not think that we would harp over the amount that is being paid.

What I would say to the Premier is that he has held out for a long time now for the Newfoundlanders in Alberta the great expectation of their coming home. "Come on

home," he said, "Come on home in a few years."

I do not know how far back Mr. Lougheed's Newfoundland's ancestry goes. I am sure it is back there though if we look far enough, it is back there a few generations ago, but I think the Premier should start looking now as well to Newfoundlanders who have left a little less long ago than Mr. Lougheed's ancestors when they went out West.

MR. TOBIN:

You are some jealous.

MR. BARRY:

The gopher brigade is acting up again, Mr. Speaker.

However, the point should be made, Mr. Speaker, that the general trend here is not a healthy one to date. I refer to the appointments made to the petroleum board, which we will have an opportunity to discuss more fully later.

I was disappointed, I have to tell the Premier Mr. Speaker, to see that the Premier did not appoint as Chairman of that board someone who had more direct knowledge of this Province. I know you have to go and look for expertise.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):

Order, please! The hon. member has spoken for half the length of time as the Premier. Does he have leave to continue?

MR. BARRY:

I will just finish off. I ask the Premier to start appointing a few Newfoundlanders. This Atlantic Accord was supposed to give the Premier some influence over the offshore. So far the federal government on the petroleum board has gotten the major influence.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

Oral Questions

MR. BARRY:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. BARRY:
Mr. Speaker, I have a few documents which I would like to table and ask the Premier if he would indicate whether he would agree that there is any conflict of interest in the situation?

The first document I table is a release of mortgage between the Bank of Montreal and Acharya Holdings Limited. It is dated September 2, 1982, and it refers to a mortgage that is being released now, a mortgage that was originally made to secure repayment to the Bank of Montreal of all indebtedness owed to the Bank of Montreal by a company called Ben Nevis International Holdings Limited.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to table a map -

MR. SIMMS:
In Question Period?

MR. BARRY:
Yes, because it is the only way it can be done unless the Premier wants to answer all the questions without seeing the documents. Mr. Speaker, let me table them all here together: I table a map showing the location of the land

of Acharya Holdings, I table a certificate of incorporation showing that the Government House Leader's firm is acting for that firm - sorry, I should say was acting for that firm. I do not know if it is still acting - I table another document relating to Ben Nevis International -

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

I wonder would the hon. the Leader of the Opposition pose his question.

MR. BARRY:
Mr. Speaker, we have a problem here. We have questions that arise from documents that are in the public record. Mr. Speaker, I file another document relating to Ben Nevis International Holdings Ltd. which indicates that a member of the Government House Leader's law firm is a shareholder of that company, and again the company has been incorporated by the Government House Leader's firm.

My question is will the Premier investigate, in view of the fact that the land of Acharya Holdings Ltd. is two pieces of land which the Outer Ring Road passes along by in Pippy Park, whether the Government House Leader participated in any decisions relating to government decisions as to the location of the Outer Ring Road, whether the Government House Leader disqualified himself in writing or otherwise from discussions held with respect to the Outer Ring Road, and whether the Premier considers it appropriate that the Government House Leader's firm would be involved with firms that are involved in land which government decisions are affecting.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will take a look at the documents. I have not had an opportunity to see them because the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Barry) did not do me the courtesy of giving me an advance copy of this. He complains from time to time if we do not give him advance copies of things dealing with Ministerial Statements, which we try to do on most occasions, but on something like this, obviously the Leader of the Opposition considers it appropriate not to give us advance copies so that, therefore, I could give a detailed answer when I stand up. But be that as it may, it does not make any difference.

All I can say to the hon. member is, as I have said to the press and said to the people of Newfoundland over the last number of weeks and as I will continue to say, any time where the President of the Council (Mr. Marshal) or his firm has been involved in anything to do with government or a department, the President of the Council has always absented himself and stayed as far away from it as possible so no conflict of interest would occur. I am sure the same thing is true in this instance, but I will still wait until I get copies of the documents and then puruse them and see whether, in fact, there is any truth to the allegations presented inherently, if not outwardly, by the Leader of the Opposition. But, as everybody in the Province knows, the President of the Executive Council, the Minister responsible for Energy, is a decent and honourable man and has conducted his affairs with government in a most open and

honest fashion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. BARRY:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A supplementary, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. BARRY:

From the Premier's statements one would assume that his informants, Mr. Speaker, would have supplied him with all the necessary information to prepare himself for the delivery of an immediate answer. I wonder if the Premier would indicate what the position of government is with respect to the Pippy Park Commission still being in a position, as of Friday, of not being able to release information to the Opposition because the previously existing instructions of the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Young) have not been changed. Those instructions were, as confirmed to me in conversation with the officials of the Pippy Park Commission, that the Pippy Park Commission was not to supply information with respect to the names of owners of land affected by decisions of the Park Commission, that any such request for information was to go through the minister. Does the Premier agree and has he adopted that policy?

PREMIER PECKFORD:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:

I will check that out for the Leader of the Opposition and give him an answer in the next couple

of days.

MR. BARRY:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A supplementary, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. BARRY:

Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Premier is he saying to this House that because he accepts that the Government House Leader (Mr. Marshall), the President of the Executive Council, the member for St. John's East, is -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please! Order, please!

MR. BARRY:

Does he agree, Mr. Speaker, that it is merely a matter of satisfying himself that the Government House Leader is well-intentioned, that the Government House Leader, to the Premier's knowledge, has always acted in a proper fashion? Does the Premier have no concern about the apparent conflict of interest that arise in situations where the minister is carrying on an active practice while participating in Cabinet actively, and does the Premier agree that the minister should be excused from compliance with the Conflict of Interest Guidelines as laid down?

PREMIER PECKFORD:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I am as concerned if not moreso than the Leader of the

Opposition (Mr. Barry). In every case where the Leader of the Opposition has brought something forward, I have investigated it. And only after I have investigated it have I made a statement on it, and I will do the same in this particular circumstance.

So, yes, I am concerned. But then I have to investigate it. I have not seen the information yet. I will have to get this latest allegation of conflict of interest and check it through, and when I have checked it through, I will give the hon. member an answer.

I am also investigating the Landlord and Tenancies Board as it relates to the hon. the Leader of the Opposition back in 1974. When I get the information on that, I will -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. BARRY:

On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

A point of order, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. BARRY:

If the hon. the Premier is saying that I acted before the Landlord and Tenancies Board while I was a member of Cabinet, then the Premier is deliberately misleading the House. Now I would ask the Premier to say openly what he would like to say to the House instead of engaging in insinuation. Lay the documents -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMS:

Bring out the documents, boy!

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):
Order, please!

MR. BARRY:

Mr. Speaker, it is fair ball for the Premier to come and lay before this House anything that shows myself in a conflict of interest in my operations as a member of Cabinet, or in any other capacity, in operating before boards, courts, or anything else, but it is not fair for the Premier to get up here and start dropping in a slimy fashion -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

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

MR. BARRY:

Again I invite him to clarify that little remark, Mr. Speaker, if he has the courage, that is.

PREMIER PECKFORD:

Mr. Speaker, when I am ready. In the same way as I am handling the allegations that the Leader of the Opposition has again leveled at the President of Council, I will present the information when I am ready and not before.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please! To that point of order, there is no point of order, it is a difference of viewpoint between two hon. members. The hon. the member for Twillingate.

MR. W. CARTER:

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Health (Dr. Twomey) and it concerns an article in The Globe and Mail, on Saturday, which brings to light certain problems which have occurred in hospitals because of faulty

medical devices on operating tables. The report that is quoted in The Globe and Mail, Mr. Speaker, says that the Department of Health Bureau of Medical Devices estimates twenty to eighty Canadians have died in recent years as a result of faulty medical devices on operating tables. Will the minister tell the House if there has been any investigation undertaken in Newfoundland hospitals to make sure that these devices are not being used in our hospitals?

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):
The hon. the Minister of Health.

DR. TWOMEY:

Mr. Speaker, I have not read the entire article so I do not think I can comment fully on it. However, I can inform the member that, yes, we are in constant touch with Ottawa; they circulate all the Provinces, they circulate all Departments of Health, they give them all the details pertaining to dangers or hazards that are built into any of the new devices. They have made new rules and regulations in recent years, they have also asked all physicians in the country to report to the bureau any unusual defects that they might discover in any of the equipment that is made.

MR. W. CARTER:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A supplementary, the hon. the member for Twillingate.

MR. W. CARTER:

In light of the allegation in the report, Mr. Speaker, that the Bureau is inadequate and is not properly reporting on faulty devices used in hospitals, can the minister tell the House if we have

a program in this Province to ensure that dangerous equipment is either replaced or repaired or, at least, not being used in hospitals.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister for Health.

DR. TWOMEY:

You have asked me a number of questions in one. All I can say is that we are informed by the Bureau in Ottawa if they have discovered or if they have heard of a discovery of any malfunction in any of the equipment used in the practice of medicine. I understand that each and every department of hospitals check their equipment on a regular basis. It's the duty and responsibility of the operator to so do. If there was a breakdown in any piece of equipment, I doubt very much if it would be used by any of the operators of that particular piece of equipment. If it was broken, I am sure it would be repaired. If it could not be repaired, it would be replaced.

MR. W. CARTER:

A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A final supplementary the hon. the member for Twillingate.

MR. W. CARTER:

In view of the seriousness of the allegations contained in that article and the fact that the Bureau, by its own admission, is not capable of properly monitoring hospital operating room equipment, because of a shortage of funds, can the minister tell the House if we have an inventory of just what hospital equipment is in use, the names of the manufacturers, and if maybe it could be related to some of the equipment that has been found to be faulty in other

hospitals in Canada?

DR. TWOMEY:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Health.

DR. TWOMEY:

Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge we do not have any record of any defective equipment in the Department of Health. If there was a defect in equipment, it is the duty of that particular department to inform the administrator or the chief executive officer of the hospitals. If there was a break problem, I am sure that chief executive officer would bring it to the attention of the board chairman. If there was something most unusual, I would hope that I would hear about it.

MR. FENWICK:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Henihek.

MR. FENWICK:

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

My question is for the Minister of Public Works and Services (Mr. Young) who, I believe, is responsible for the Public Service Commission. In view of the comments made by ministers who are excusing their patronage appointments by saying that they are temporary and therefore do not have to go through the competition and do not have to be advertised and so on, and since we have now learned that in the general service bargaining unit of approximately 3,900 general civil servants fully 1100 of these positions are now classified as temporary and therefore can be

filled without competition, without advertising and so on, my question to the minister is, how many more positions do we have in the middle-management and higher levels which are not subject to the bargaining unit, and which we know very little about, that are also classified as temporary and therefore open to appointment without going through the procedures set up under the Public Service Commission?

MR. YOUNG:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the Minister of Public Works.

MR. YOUNG:
Mr. Speaker, I would not know how many are temporary because each department has temporary positions. I would not have any idea. But I would ask the hon. member if, when he went looking for his secretary, he went through the Public Service Commission? Is he lily-white? This is how these things happen. There are many temporary positions filled for three months, six months, and for Summer employment.

MR. FENWICK:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. FENWICK:
Without getting into debate on what is an appointment to a particular member, which is different from the general public service, my question now to the minister is this: With 1100 temporary positions which, it is my understanding, have been filled on a wholesale patronage basis by members opposite, with that being

the case, with over 25 per cent of that bargaining unit we know of now being subject to arbitrary appointments, promotions and so on, would the minister now recognize that the Public Service Commission has failed dismally to protect the merit principle in the public service and would he now tender his resignation because he, as minister, has failed to uphold the principles of the Public Service Commission Act?

MR. YOUNG:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the Minister of Public Works.

MR. YOUNG:
Mr. Speaker, I think the Public Service Commission is to be commended for the wonderful work they are doing. For instance, if there is a need for thirty police officers, as happened recently, they will get anywhere from 1,000 to 1,200 applications. I think it is almost impossible to eliminate temporary positions. People retire from temporary positions after serving twenty-seven or twenty-eight years.

It is impossible to eliminate these temporary positions. They will be laid off and come back in the Summer, and we will probably bring them back in the Winter. As for the hon. member, there are at least 300 clerk stenos listed with the Public Service Commission looking for jobs, did the hon. member go through the Public Service Commission and hire one of them? No.

MR. FENWICK:
Mr. Speaker, one final supplementary.

MR. BARRY:

A final supplementary, the hon. the member for Menihek.

MR. FENWICK:

I am trying to get some sort of a tag on it here. We have 25 per cent of that particular group of 4,000 employees who are not going through the Public Service Commission for their appointments, would the minister at least recognize that the entire procedure has now fallen apart and that the merit principle no longer is operative in terms of putting people into the Public Service?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Minister of Public Works.

MR. YOUNG:

Mr. Speaker, the Public Service Commission was set up by this government to secure permanent positions and that is what it is doing. I can assure the hon. member that there is no skulduggery, no political play. The Public Service Commission, Mr. Speaker, will treat every applicant fairly, based on their qualifications. Now, I see the hon. member for Port de Grave (Mr. Efford) shaking his head. Poor boy, poor fellow, he must be a twin because he is too stunned to be one person.

Mr. Speaker, that is what the Public Service Commission is set up for. Sometimes even assistant deputy ministers are appointed through the Public Service Commission, whatever a minister wants to do to fill a temporary position or a permanent position.

MR. BARRY:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Leader of the

Opposition.

MR. BARRY:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Public Works. I wonder if the minister has been keeping an eye on the level of compensation which is offered to residents in Pippy Park when land is purchased by government, which is basically a forced purchase? Because residents have been told they can improve their houses under certain strict conditions but they cannot get building permits, and they cannot sell, by and large, for the purpose of building, has the minister been keeping an eye on the level of compensation that is being paid and would the minister indicate, for example, whether in his opinion the sum of \$18,000 for nine and a half acres of land almost in the heart of St. John's would be adequate compensation?

MR. YOUNG:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Public Works.

MR. YOUNG:

Mr. Speaker, as I said the other day, Pippy Park is an autonomous body and they do their own arbitration and their own negotiations. I do not know what kind of land it was, it could be all hills or all marsh. It is my understanding they give clear, market value for the land when they have the money to buy land, or buy homes, or renovate.

MR. BARRY:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. BARRY:

Mr. Speaker, would the minister agree that the fair market value principle is applied to fair market value with the Pippy Park restrictions on building taken into the calculation? Is that not the case?

MR. YOUNG:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Public Works and Services.

MR. YOUNG:

Mr. Speaker, I do not know what the hon. gentleman is trying to get at. As far as I know, the Pippy Park Commission negotiates expropriations and so forth for land, and negotiates for renovations to any home over there. Any building or home in that area which requires beyond 50 per cent repairs must be bought or torn down. It is all done by arbitration, that is all I can tell him.

MR. BARRY:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A supplementary, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. BARRY:

It is not under the Expropriation Act because the land has not been expropriated, and that is part of the problem. In many cases it is not expropriated, it is just a negotiated settlement with the owners who are left there. They have a choice of either selling or sitting on a useless piece of land they cannot do anything with.

Now I would like to table, for the minister's information, a recent decision of the Supreme Court of

Canada. I wonder if the minister would indicate whether he is familiar with this decision?

MR. YOUNG:

With the Supreme Court of Canada, no.

MR. BARRY:

No. Now, the minister was just picking on the member for Menihek a moment ago about his lack of knowledge. For the minister's information, this is a decision which says that government -

MR. YOUNG:

Ask the question.

MR. BARRY:

I am asking a supplementary and asking the minister to comment.

MR. YOUNG:

You are giving a preamble.

MR. BARRY:

Would you keep them quiet, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister indicate whether he has taken any steps to inform the members of the Pippy Park Commission since this decision was brought down, May 9, 1985, that they are not entitled, looking at this decision, in computing the fair market value of land, to use their own legislation as a way of depressing the price, that right now residents of Pippy Park have to sell land at a fair market value considering that nobody is able to build on the bloody stuff? The Supreme Court of Canada in this decision, dated May 9, 1985, say that it is not proper for a government or a governmental authority to take this approach and I ask the minister, if he has not given any instructions, would he see that members of the Pippy Park Commission and other bodies that are taking land - by the way, the

Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Aylward) might be interested in this as well. It would apply to the purchase of agricultural land, Mr. Speaker - to make sure that they do not try and screw down the price as a result of government legislation which places restrictions on land before government buys it. I would like to table this.

MR. YOUNG:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. Minister of Public Works and Services.

MR. YOUNG:
Mr. Speaker, I have no interest in instructing the Pippy Park Commission to do anything. They are an autonomous body. If any party up there feel that they are not getting fair value for their land, I presume they will go to a lawyer who will put it to the courts and they will get fair value for their land and probably the lawyer will get paid for doing it.

MR. BARRY:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. BARRY:
I would like to ask the minister if he has given the instructions to the Pippy Park Commission, that I was informed he had given, that no names of owners of land excluded from Pippy Park should be given to the Opposition? Did he give that direction to the Pippy Park Commission, as I was informed, after the minister denied it in the House of Assembly?

MR. YOUNG:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the Minister of Public Works and Services.

MR. YOUNG:
I did not give instruct anyone on the Pippy Park Commission to not give the names of the owners of the land that was excluded to the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Barry). Mr. Speaker, my instructions to the Pippy Park Commission, as I said here the other day, was if anything pertaining to Pippy Park was asked they would answer, and if anything pertaining to Public Works was asked I would answer. Mr. Speaker, I gave CBC the names of the people who were involved with the land that had been excluded. To my knowledge the hon. the Leader of the Opposition has not asked me for those names in the House of Assembly. If he wants me to, I will gladly table the names.

MR. BARRY:
Would the minister agree to table those names?

MR. YOUNG:
Sure.

MR. BARRY:
Thank you.

MR. YOUNG:
Mr. Speaker, I could have given him that when he got up here a week or so ago.

MR. BARRY:
No, you could not. I asked you for them last week and you would not give them.

MR. YOUNG:
Mr. Speaker, check Hansard. The hon. member never did ask me.

MR. BARRY:

You undertook to give them and you have not given them yet.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. YOUNG:

I will gladly table them, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BARRY:

When, before Christmas or after?

MR. YOUNG:

When do you want them, as a Christmas present or a New Year's gift?

MR. BARRY:

No, before that, if you do not mind.

MR. FUREY:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for St. Barbe.

MR. FUREY:

Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Career Development and Advanced Studies (Mr. Power). Last week, during debate in the House, the minister was discussing the Canadian Job Strategy programme and at that time he said, 'We will now be able to have a Canadian Job Strategy programme in Newfoundland in which the training competent will not be as rigidly enforced in Newfoundland as we had planned in the beginning.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister to explain what he means by, 'It will not be as rigidly enforced, especially in terms of rural Newfoundland?'

MR. POWER:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Career Development and Advanced Studies.

MR. POWER:

Mr. Speaker, I will be delighted to give the member some information about the Canadian Job Strategy. As you are aware, this government has put over \$7.5 million into job creation projects in the last six or seven months. We contributed over \$2 million to the SEED programme, which is a Summer Employment Student programme, where many persons thought that that programme would not be accessible or available in Newfoundland. I saw some figures yesterday that said we created something like 5,600 jobs and that we had 420 communities, most of those rural, small communities in many parts of Newfoundland, accessing \$7 million of the SEED programme. We have also put \$3.5 million into the Canadian Job Strategy, which we announced just a few weeks ago, and, I guess, at the end of last week we also announced that \$200 million fund for fishermen projects for rural Newfoundland.

So what we are doing in the sense of job creation in rural Newfoundland is something which has never been done by a Newfoundland Government before, and we are very proud to be able to say, Mr. Speaker, that we have done that. What we have also done with the Canadian Job Strategy, to try and make it a better programme than the old Canada Works programme, is to put some elements in it so that when a person goes to work on a Canadian Job Strategy programme that by a mere function of being on that project, and having learned something while on that project, that person then becomes more employable. So we

put in, Miss MacDonald and I, and the federal and provincial governments all across Canada have negotiated -

MR. FUREY:
How silly!

MR. POWER:
It may be silly to the member. If the member is interested in procreating Canada Works forever and a day, short-term make-work projects which do not in any way assist the long-term employment efforts -

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

MR. SPEAKER:
A point of order, the hon. the member for St. Barbe.

MR. FUREY:
A simple question to the minister. We all know in Newfoundland and Labrador how much money is in the Canadian Job Strategy programme. What we want to know is how much flexibility will there be for rural Newfoundland and Labrador? They do not have a private sector. They do not have a corporate base.

MR. SIMMS:
Give him a chance to answer, boy.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the Minister for Career Development and Advanced Studies.

MR. POWER:
Mr. Speaker, I assume that there is no point of order. The hon. gentleman decides how he asks a question, and when I answer a question I will decide how I answer it. Now, I am answering this, and if you do not want to listen you do not have to. But I will gladly give the answer in my

form and if that is not suitable to the member, then I just do not know what else I can do for him.

The Canadian Job Strategy that we have put in has a training component in it. It is a training component whereby we are trying to make sure that persons have long-term benefits from having been employed on a part-time short-term project so that a person receives some training. It is a very important core element. We have taken that step from the old Canada Works system to the new Canadian Job Strategy. We are receiving applications from many, many parts of Newfoundland, and on many of the applications there is a concern about the training element. They do not realize that sometimes if you happen to have a fishermen's project, such as a wharf or a slipway, that there can be a training component there for carpenters or electricians - if you are doing something on a building - so that the mere function of having hired a person on that project as a carpenter they now have, besides having been employed for ten or twenty weeks, received some limited amount of training. We realize the training component is not going to be major, but it should contribute to those persons who are looking for long-term employment by their being able to say on their record, 'I have some training and I also have some experience.'

There is a situation developing in rural Newfoundland, the flexibility that I talked about last week, where in certain places there may be some difficulty in finding suitable training elements to a programme. If that happens, Mr. Speaker, I said we would be very reasonable, we would be very flexible. The committee that is

in place from the Canadian Job Strategy of the federal government and my own department, in consultation with our Department of Fisheries and Labour and other groups, will certainly be flexible and reasonable. No applications will be refused simply because a training element is not there. The training is one part of it and we are going to get as many components satisfied as possible.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. FUREY:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for St. Barbe.

MR. FUREY:

I would like to table a letter in the House that I received Friday from the hon. Flora MacDonald. In that letter, and I quote, Miss MacDonald says, "In Newfoundland, however, where joblessness is for the most part -

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

Is this a supplementary question?

MR. FUREY:

Yes, it is.

MR. SPEAKER:

Perhaps we could have it.

MR. FUREY:

I will give a synopsis of the quote. Miss MacDonald basically says that in Newfoundland they will waive the training element in 10 per cent of the funds. Now, is that what you mean by very, very flexible? Because there is a lot of confusion in rural Newfoundland over this whole issue?

MR. POWER:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):

The hon. the minister of Career Development and Advanced Studies.

MR. POWER:

Mr. Speaker, there is no difference of opinion between Miss MacDonald and myself. We have discussed it on many occasions, we have made public statements on several occasions. We will accept applications in this Province. We will be flexible on the training component. We have \$38 million to spend in this Province in the next seven or eight months. Over \$20-odd million of that is for direct job creation. That money is going to be spent in rural Newfoundland. If we can accommodate the training element which makes them better, we will do that; if we cannot accommodate the training element, then we will simply make sure that there are jobs available for those persons who need them.

MR. FUREY:

Can we take it then, Mr. Speaker, that you will overrule Miss MacDonald - you will be more flexible than 10 per cent? Is that what you are saying?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

By leave.

MR. SPEAKER:

By leave?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

No leave.

MR. SPEAKER:

No leave.

MR. DECKER:

On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees

Order, please!

MR. SPEAKER:

Hear, hear!

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

The time for oral questions has now elapsed.

fact, it is happening.

is not happening when, in actual

mistake the House to believe this

Advanced Studies to inadvertently

Minister of Career Development and

Speaker, is I do not want the

So, my point of order, Mr.

contained in the application.

the training element is not

the corner Brook office because

had an application returned from

Association for the district has

where the Rural Development

I just returned from my district,

I am coming to it, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DECKER:

What is the point of order?

Order, please!

MR. SPEAKER:

the next six or eight months.

to create jobs in this Province in

million put in by this government,

have \$38 million, over \$3.5

Job Strategy. It is a fact we

overall element of the Canadian

seem to be very interested in the

opposite. They certainly do not

problem with certain members

point of order. But there is a

not think, Mr. Speaker, there is a

rights around here too, and I do

of order. Now, I have certain

say I do not think it is a point

from hon. members to be able to

not. I do not need permission

whether it is a point of order or

I can pass an opinion as to

MR. POWER:

Strait of Belle Isle -

Now, I just came back from the

element.

refused because of the training

that no application will be

ill-advised, I am sure. He says

sure he did not intend to, he is

unintentionally misled it. I am

him to leave this House having

benefit, because I would not want

this, Mr. Speaker, for his

Studies (Mr. Power). I am doing

of Career Development and Advanced

some comments made by the Minister

Mr. Speaker, I want to pick up on

MR. DECKER:

Isle.

member for the Strait of Belle

On a point of order, the hon. the

MR. SPEAKER:

not any point of order at all.

First of all, there certainly is

MR. POWER:

and Advanced Studies.

the Minister of Career Development

To that point of order, the hon.

MR. SPEAKER:

order.

Mr. Speaker, to that point of

MR. POWER:

order.

MR. HICKEY:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the member for St. John's East Extern.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. HICKEY:
Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to table the report of the Select Committee on Accommodations and Benefits of Members and, in doing, Sir, I want to make a short statement.

I want, first of all, to thank members of the House for the opportunity of serving on this Committee. I want to thank the Premier and the Government House Leader (Mr. Marshall) for their initiative in establishing the Select Committee.

As we all know, the Committee was born out of the debate between the hon. the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Barry) with regard to adequate office accommodation and support services.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for all members of the Committee in expressing my thanks to my colleague, the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Young), for the improvements which have been made in the existing accommodations.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. HICKEY:
Mr. Speaker, it will probably be a couple of years before members are housed in a new Chamber. I would make an appeal for additional space to be provided for the interim period.

Mr. Speaker, we realize that any changes by way of renovations cost money and, in view of the fact that the Chamber is to be relocated, our expectations are not high; however, we believe that some improvements can be made at very little cost.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this report is a very candid statement of what is and what should be. The adoption of the recommendations in this report can only facilitate more effective representations for all of the people that we represent. Of course I commend all recommendations to the House for approval but I would especially emphasize four:

One, an independent commission to review members' remuneration so that we may never again find ourselves in dealing with our own compensation package - Recommendation Number 13.

Two, the proposal to restructure the Internal Economy Commission to include private member participation - Recommendation Number 23.

Three, the establishment of a standing committee known as Members Services Committee - Recommendation Number 24. This recommendation would provide a vehicle for members to deal with their individual problems.

Four, the striking of a select committee to examine the whole question of parliamentary reform in the Province - Recommendation Number 28.

Mr. Speaker, time was when there was not a Question Period in this House, prior to 1972. Although there may be a need to review the committee system, nevertheless, it

must be stated that this government has embarked upon a course of parliamentary reform. What is frustrating to members, it seems to me, is that we are not moving fast enough. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that we are all winners if we speed up this process and bring about very necessary changes in the parliamentary process.

Finally, Sir, I want to take this opportunity to express my thanks to all members of the Committee and to everyone who contributed in making it possible to produce this report within the limited time that was available to us.

I want, however, to single out two members of the Committee. Firstly, I want to thank the hon. member for Menihek (Mr. Fenwick) who served on the Steering Committee with the Vice-Chairman and myself. He co-operated in every way and contributed in a number of ways by accepting special responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, last but by no means least, to the Vice-Chairman, the hon. member for Fortune-Hermitage (Mr. Simmons), I owe a special word of thanks. As the Chairman my job would have been intolerable except for the contribution made by the Vice-Chairman. His co-operation with myself in providing the leadership for the committee to get the work done was excellent. I have to single him out for a variety of reasons which time does not permit me to go into. It is sufficient for me to say, Mr. Speaker, that the cover design and the layout of report can be attributed, to the largest extent, to the Vice-Chairman. I thank him very sincerely.

I commend the report to the hon.

members, and sincerely hope that it will receive quick passage after both caucuses have had a chance to examine it.

Mr. Speaker, also with the report is a copy of the proceedings of public hearings and I invite my colleague to make his comments.

MR. SIMMONS:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join the gentleman from St. John's East Extern (Mr. Hickey) -

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

The hon. member for Fortune-Hermitage by leave.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

By leave.

MR. SIMMONS:

I thank the House for the required leave. I would like to say that I am pleased to be associated with this report. I thank the House for the opportunity afforded me to participate in the work of the Committee and I commend the Premier and the Government House Leader (Mr. Marshall) for their wisdom in providing for the striking of the Committee. I commend also the initiative of the Leader of the Opposition in this matter.

The task has been unwieldy but it has also been both instructive and enjoyable. In particular, it has been pleasant to work in a tri-partisan fashion with six colleagues.

Especially I salute the role played by the Chairman, my good friend, the hon. member for St. John's East Extern. Mr. Speaker, his unwaivering commitment to the Committee's objectives and his

flexibility of approach have provided much of the chemistry which has facilitated the work of the Committee.

I believe you will find that the committee's report is an important statement. If its recommendations are implemented, and I trust they will be, the report will have a significant and positive impact on member's services and benefits and, in the process, will make the House of Assembly more functional and will facilitate more effective representation of the people of the Province, their legitimate concerns and their justified aspirations.

The title of this report has been deliberately chosen and I submit it is quite apt. If members are to properly and effectively discharge their responsibilities as the people's representatives and as legislators, they must have full and unimpeded access to the tools for the job at hand - hence the title, **Tools for the Job**.

I am of the unequivocal view that we largely lack such tools at present. I am not alone in that view. It is widely held in this chamber and the committee's public hearings demonstrate that the same view is widely shared by members of the general public, in particular, observers of the political scene. The report we are just tabling now proposes some important first steps towards rectifying the current situation.

Mr. Speaker, having said that, let me also say that the report is not and is not intended to be a criticism of anyone. It is rather a statement of what is now and what ought to be. The heart of the report is, in my view, contained in the recommendations

that the gentleman for St. John's East (Mr. Marshall) has already referred to relating to the independent salary review commission, the restructuring of the Internal Economy Commission and the proposal to establish a Standing Committee on Members Services.

The net effect of those three proposals, if implemented, would be to put in place a set of mechanisms for dealing, as the need arises, with matters relating to member's services and benefits while, at the same time, discontinuing the current practice of having members determine their own salaries. The immediate issue which precipitated the setting up of the committee, we should not forget Mr. Speaker, was the quite inadequate office and secretarial provisions for members. The committee early in its deliberations considered presenting an interim report on the urgency of rectifying that situation without delay. Instead, the committee came to the view that all of the items addressed in the report need to be dealt with as soon as possible.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I make a plea for expeditious handling of the committee's recommendations. I realize that both caucuses will want to scrutinize and discuss the report. I realize, also, that the government will want to study the report's ramification, including financial considerations. These activities will necessarily require some time.

However, once these assessments have been made, I believe it would be in the best interest of the House and of members to take the appropriate initiatives to implement the package of

improvements purposed unanimously by your committee, whose membership includes both parties in this House and the hon. the member for Menihek (Mr. Fenwick).

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):
Any further reports by Standing or Special Committees?

MS VERGE:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the Minister for Justice.

MS VERGE:
Mr. Speaker, I am not about to present a report but I would ask for leave to table editions of The Newfoundland Gazette published between May 10 and October 25, 1985.

These issues of The Newfoundland Gazette contain the subordinate legislation filed in the Registry of Subordinate Legislation between May 3 and October 22, 1985. The statutes of the Subordinate Legislation Act requires me, as Minister of Justice, to lay before the House a copy of all Subordinate Legislations filed under that Act.

Notices of Motion

MR. POWER:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):
The hon. the Minister of Career Development and Advanced Studies.

MR. POWER:
Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled, "An Act

to Amend Memorial University (Pensions) Act". (Bill No. 53)

DR. COLLINS:
Mr. Speaker.

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

DR. COLLINS:
Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled, "An Act to Amend the Department of Finance Act" (Bill No. 56),

"An Act to Amend the Liquor Corporation Act, 1973," (Bill No. 55) and,

"An Act to Amend the Financial Corporation's Capitol Tax Act". (Bill No. 37)

Petitions

MR. J. CARTER:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the member for St. John's North.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. J. CARTER:
Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition on behalf of some seventy-six residents, partially of St. John's North, and, I must admit, partially from the district of Mount Scio. Unfortunately, myself and the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Barry) share a common boundary but that is about all that we do have in common.

I think that this is part of a petition that the hon. the Leader of the Opposition intends to

present as well, so there is a common interest here. I will read the prayer of the petition:

"We, the undersigned, as residents effected by decisions of the Pippy Park Commission hereby petition the House of Assembly to ask that the government take immediate action to investigate and review the performance of the Pippy Park Commission and, particularly, its decisions relating to the exclusion of land from the Pippy Park boundaries, relating to the refusal of building permits, and relating to the inadequate amounts offered as compensation for land frozen, purchased or adversely effected by commission actions."

Mr. Speaker, I happen to know that the total number of people involved, interested and concerned, and concerned enough to put their names to paper is in the order of many hundreds. I hesitate it is of the order of a thousand but it is certainly of the order of many hundreds of people.

It is erroneously understood that only very few people now live within the boundaries of Pippy Park and while there may be some truth in that, the actual truth is when you take the extended families and those effected by the Pippy Park, the number stretches into certainly many hundreds and I would say possibly thousands, without any risk of exaggeration.

Therefore, I call upon the Pippy Park Commission, and specifically the government who supplies money for the Pippy Park, to encourage and ask this Park Commission to be a little more flexible. They have shown some signs of flexibility in the past. They have as much land as they can possibly use for the

present, and I would urge that they be flexible and individual in their approach because there are a lot of people who are very, very adversely effected. They want to build. Their land is on the fringe of the park. It is not being used and there is no intention to use it in the near future. They are not proposing to put up a housing estate, but when you figure, Mr. Speaker, that housing lots within the city of St. John's go from a low of \$30,000 to a known high of \$110,000 per building lot, then you can understand the pressures that these people are under.

I would urge some flexibility and I would hope that the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Barry), who shares this particular problem with me, would be happy to speak and to support this petition because I know that from events that have gone on in this House already this afternoon that it is a concern of his. Since he is so badly informed of the boundaries of his own district - talking about Pennywell Road East, a place that does not even exist - I thought it was high time that I got up and spoke about a place that does exist, where there are real problems and real people and, I hope, real solutions.

Mr. Speaker, I lay this petition on the table of the House and refer it to the department to which it relates.

Thank you, very much.

MR. BARRY:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. BARRY:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member's words are very interesting when he refers to my using Pennywell Road East. That happened to be the description by the residents on their petition as to where their road was and what they want fixed. I am prepared to take the word of the residents as to where they live, as opposed to the member for St. John's North (J. Carter).

There is a curious story leading up to this petition which is relevant. The young lady who was bringing around this petition was very concerned because she is being told to tear down a new house which was build in Pippy Park. She was carrying around a petition, which I have here, Mr. Speaker, and she came to the door of the member for St. John's North and the member for St. John's North said, "What have you got there, a petition? Could I present that for you?" And she said, 'No, way.'

MR. J. CARTER:

A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A point of order, the hon. the member for St. John's North.

MR. J. CARTER:

I do not mind a certain amount of hyperbole for effect, it is dramatic and perhaps it makes a point.

The lady in question asked me to sign the petition, which I did - my signature is on that petition - and I said, "Not only will I sign it, I will present it or part of it." I would not want to present all of it because, Mr. Barry, the Leader of the Opposition, he obviously encouraged this

petition. So I merely took two or three sheets to present for him. I could have taken the whole petition and presented it but I realized that the Leader of the Opposition has an interest in this matter, and I think a genuine interest, therefore I thought it was only right to throw the ball into his court.

MR. BARRY:

To that point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. BARRY:

We have a serious difference of opinion here because the young lady came up and I think she was still shivering, she was still terrified, Mr. Speaker, because she said, "I told Mr. Carter that I wanted you to present the petition and he said, 'Well, if you will not let me present the petition will you let me present part of it,' and he took two of my pages."

Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not know if that refers to the privileges of the House.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. BARRY:

There is no point of order, I presume.

MR. SPEAKER:

To that point of order, there is a difference of opinion. I do not think there is a serious difference of opinion.

MR. BARRY:

No, it is not too serious, Mr. Speaker, but still, we have a

situation here where obviously the member was concerned enough and embarrassed enough, I suppose, by the neglect of members on his side of the House that he felt that he had to try and avoid the torrent of scorn and abuse that is going to be applied against him. When they see the wishy-washy approach of the member in presenting the petition it will just confirm the fact that they made the right choice in terms of who they wanted to present it, Mr. Speaker.

Since I will be speaking to my own petition on this matter in a moment, I will obviously support the two pages of the petition which they wanted me to present which the member for St. John's North - can I say intimidated the young lady out of?

MR. J. CARTER:
Encouraged her.

MR. BARRY:
Encouraged her, negotiated away from the canvasser, Mr. Speaker. But it is a serious matter because what we have here, Mr. Speaker, are incidents where people are being asked to pass over land. I mentioned nine and a half acres in one case and \$18,000 is the offer. Nine and a half acres of land for \$18,000? That is all it might be worth if they are not allowed to build on it because of the Pippy Park legislation but, Mr. Speaker, it is not fair, it is not morally right, and it is not legally right, since that Supreme Court of Canada decision, for government to be invoking its own legislation to push down the price, to get a cheaper price, when it takes land from residents in Pippy Park or under an agricultural land freeze. It is not entitled to use an agricultural land freeze to get

land more cheaply than otherwise available.

So, Mr. Speaker, I support the petition but I ask the member opposite to do more than merely stand in this House and make a few wishy-washy statements. The member should make enquiries as to who has gotten land exempted, excluded from Pippy Park, so that they can take vacant land and go out and develop it into residential subdivisions and sell the lots? Who has gotten that? Why are these other residents being penalized? Why is there preference being shown to one small group when hundreds do not receive this preference? I must comment that the member has seventy-odd names. I have something like 260 on the petition that I am going to present in a moment.

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

Before recognizing the hon. the Leader of the Opposition, I think I was rushed into calling Petitions at that time and I omitted to call Answers to Questions for which Notice has been Given. So, if the House is agreeable, we will revert to that and then deal with any further petitions.

Answers to Questions
for which Notice has been Given

MR. BARRETT:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. BARRETT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to table an answer to the question which occurs as No. 13, asked by the member for Stephenville (Mr. K. Aylward).

MR. SPEAKER:

Are there any further answers to questions?

Petitions

MR. BARRY:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. BARRY:

I would like to present a petition on behalf of 260 residents of Pippy Park, Mount Scio Road, Groves Road, Nagles Hill and the joining areas Mr. Speaker calling on government to take immediate action.

"We the undersigned, as residents affected by decisions of the Pippy Park Commission, hereby petition the House of Assembly to ask that government take immediate action to investigate and review the performance of the Pippy Park Commission."

We have already suggested a select committee, Mr. Speaker. I assume the member for St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter) would support that type of an investigation. He nods his head, yes.

"And particularly its decisions relating to the exclusion of land from the Pippy Park boundaries, relating to the refusal of building permits and relating to the inadequate amounts offered as

compensation for land frozen, purchased or adversely affected by Commission actions."

I would like to table this, and I would like a copy of just the front page, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, let me just read you out a letter. I will not mention the person's name. It is private correspondence. It is from a resident who is now being threatened by court action to have a house taken down. It is a situation where, as often is the case, there is an existing structure, but it is an old structure on a piece of family land and a member of the family wants to renovate it. The rule is if your renovation exceeds, I think, 40 per cent of the value or - anyhow they have some formula there, I do not remember exactly - they will not give you a permit to renovate because they are saying it is the equivalent of building a new house, Mr. Speaker.

This is a letter from the General Manager of Pippy Park. "Your application of 9 May 1985 to renovate an old structure on the above property was considered by the Commission.

"I am instructed to inform you that while the Commission is sympathetic with your situation, it feels the investment of the amount of money necessary to ready the structure for occupancy as a dwelling and to meet City Council building standards would constitute virtually building a new house.

"It is also not clear whether a new septic tank and disposal field would be required and, if so, whether the Department of Health would grant approval. As a result

the Commission is not prepared to grant approval at this time."

I mention that just as an example. I have had dozens I suppose, literally dozens of requests since I have been the member for Mount Scio of people wanting assistance because they are being refused building permits in Pippy Park.

I get another call from a lady a few days ago saying that ten years ago when herself and her husband wanted to build on her father's land, who has sixty acres up there, she was told, no way could she get a building permit. She had to go out and pay \$20,000 or \$30,000 to buy a building lot miles away from her family homestead.

Mr. Speaker, people should either be entitled to build on their land or get compensation, which is the fair market value, unrelated to restrictions that have been placed on it by the Pippy Park Commission.

I would strongly ask this House and government to look at setting up a select committee, Mr. Speaker, as we have asked for before, to investigate whether the Pippy Park Commission is performing its duties in a fashion that is in the best interest, not just the people of the city, but in the best interest of the people of Pippy Park as well, the residents of Nagles Hill, Groves Road, Mount Scio Road and surrounding areas Mr. Speaker. I think there is a lot of injustice that is being done now to residents in that area and certain individuals have gotten the benefit of an exclusion. There are a lot of people being hurt by not being excluded, not only not being excluded, but by not being

dealt with fairly in terms of the compensation they are offered for their land.

MR. J. CARTER:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the member for St. John's North.

MR. J. CARTER:
Mr. Speaker, unless someone else wishes on this side to reply to that petition, in which case I would give way, I would like to say a few words.

What I would like to say lies much along the same argument as the Leader of the Opposition is making, that for such a large area of St. John's or near St. John's to be in limbo in this day and age, I think, is a mistake and is most unfortunate.

As the Leader of the Opposition has said, some of these people up there have a lot of land, land that is frozen, land that is not intended for immediate use or even for use in this century as far as I can understand and it not as if these people wanted to start a housing estate or development. In many cases, as has been said, it is an older house that needs extensive renovations or perhaps a reasonably small new structure. I think that for the commission not to show more flexibility than it is showing at present is a great mistake.

The Minister of Public Works (Mr. Young) has said, "Well, the Pippy Park Commission is an autonomous body." It may very well be an autonomous body, but if you look in the estimates this year, Mr. Speaker, you will see a total of \$1,300,000 being set aside for

this particular Commission, \$500,000 in operating expenses and \$800,000 for capital expenditure.

Therefore, if this House is going to vote monies of that order to this particular Commission - I realize it raises a small amount of money itself but the amount that it raises is pathetically small, less than 1 per cent of this total - I think that this House and this administration has a duty to instruct this Commission to behave a little more - and I use the word advisedly - politically and politically in the best sense. That is to say, to carry out the wishes of the people.

I do not think it would be very difficult to find at least 1,000 people who are either directly concerned or indirectly concerned with this matter. I think 1,000 adult voices should be listened to. I am sure that this is only the first of many such petitions that may come to this House if we fail to act.

So I support this petition. I have no particular feelings about whether there should be or should not be a Select Committee but I do urge the government to urge the Commission to be more flexible in dealing with the general public.

MR. GILBERT:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir.

MR. GILBERT:
Mr. Speaker, I have a petition on behalf of 193 residents of Ramea. I will read you the prayer of the petition:

"We, the undersigned, citizens of

Ramea in the district of Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir, wish to bring to your attention some deplorable situations with regard to the present ferry service of this island community.

"On Wednesday, July 17, 1985, the ferry, Sound Of Isley was withdrawn from service for an announced two days mechanical repair. The ferry did not get back into operation until Sunday, July 21, 1985, five days after withdrawal. We do realize and appreciate the need for mechanical repairs and are grateful and appreciative that the needs are detected in time and are attended to. But to leave this community without its scheduled service for five days without suitable replacement is unforgiveable and downright insulting.

"These are considerations for any season but are compounded in view of the fact that this is the middle of the tourist season. During this above mentioned period of time travellers were stranded on both sides of the route.

"We do also wish to give some consideration as to why a boat with such mechanical problems could not be taken to Marystown Shipyard where qualified personnel and equipment are available and we assume would have expedited matters instead of being taken to Burgeo to be serviced by workers from Stephenville.

"We, too, are very appreciative of the fact that plans are in the making for a new replacement ferry but we all should realize that this is not good enough for the present. We do request that your department give some consideration to our travelling welfare."

Mr. Speaker, I received this petition in September and I was in Ramea over the weekend and I asked did they still want me to present this or had the problem been corrected. The people who originated this petition felt that it should be presented at this time because of the fact that the ferry was out of service at that time and was scheduled to go in for refit at the end of September. The last time that this ferry was pulled out for a major refit was in January of 1984, almost two years ago.

I was talking to some of the crew on this ferry as I went back and forth over the weekend and they told me right now this ferry could have a major breakdown at any time in view of the fact that the intake pipes are pretty well blocked. They have trouble with the generators and they know that there could be a major breakdown at any time, which would isolate the community of Ramea. Right now there are no plans to put this ferry in for an -

MR. TULK:

Annual refit.

MR. GILBERT:

It has been two years so you cannot call it an annual refit anymore, my colleague from Fogo. It would have to be a refit every second or third year.

So what we have is a serious problem. The point addressed in the petition first was that the residents of Ramea were concerned that the ferry was taken to Burgeo and the people were sent out from the Department of Transportation in Stephenville to do repairs to this marine vehicle when they felt that maybe the expertise was not there. It should have been

handled by qualified marine people. They are now living in dread because they realize the situation has been compounded in view of the fact that the ferry has not gone for refit. As I said, I have talked to the crew members and they tell me right now that there is a problem with the pipes to the engine because it is a well known fact that mussels and things like that corrode the pipes leading in and there is very little water getting into the engine. The engines are running hot and they tell me that the seaweed is on the bottom of that vessel now is about eighteen inches long. And as you know the vessel is not very highly powered, it has 700 horsepower, they figure it should be 1,000 to 1,200 horsepower considering the winds that we get on that coast.

I would like to point out again that in every other ferry service that is operated by the provincial government the longest that they have is maybe a half an hour run. In this particular run, you are out in the Atlantic and you are talking an hour and a half to two hours, depending on the weather conditions down there. Everybody who has ever travelled on the South Coast knows what can happen in a day when you get a gale of a Southeaster or a Southerly on that coast. You are out to sea when you come out to the harbour at Ramea until you get into Burgeo.

There are serious problems and I think they should be addressed. This is the reason, Mr. Speaker, that they asked me to present this petition, even though this petition is late. It was received in September and we could not present it until the House opened. I wanted to check with the people to see if there was a

need, there is, and, indeed, it is a salient need, that this vessel be now taken in and repaired.

I would recommend that this petition be given the consideration it deserves.

Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. DAWE:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):

The hon. the Minister of Transportation.

MR. DAWE:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to rise and speak to the petition presented by the member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Gilbert).

Mr. Speaker, I understand and I know that the hon. gentleman's father had considerable expertise in the operation of vessels around this Province. I am not sure about the same level of knowledge in the hon. gentleman. However, I would just like to point out a couple of things.

Mr. Speaker, our boat operations as well as all the rest of them that operate in Canadian waters are subject to CSI regulations relative to refit and the functioning of the vessel, the type of water that it is allowed to be used in, the numbers of people who are allowed on the vessel and the staff, engineering and safety requirements. I would also like to point out and advise the hon. member, as I am sure he already knows, that we have an individual on staff now who is especially trained in marine

engineering matters, and has been on staff for some time, and is the individual who is being used to service regular repairs and so on on the vessels as mechanical problems come into play. It has worked out very well. He is stationed in Central Newfoundland area and operates, I think, out of the Grand Falls office. So those are two matters.

Mr. Speaker, the particular vessel is the best sea boat that we have in the ferry system and it is very capable of plying the waters between Burgeo and Ramea. I have discussed the issues myself with the people in the area. We have a Director of Ferry Operations who is in constant contact with the residents in the area for any questions relative to scheduling and some problems that we have from time to time.

It is fair to say, Mr. Speaker, that whenever people are living on an island and they have to rely on a ferry boat connection to the mainland, there will be times when problems will occur and that transportation link will be interrupted for varying periods of time. Hopefully this year we will not have the same kind of problems with having to wait extended periods of time because we will have a swing vessel in place that will be able to take the place of vessels that are out for extended periods of time. But two or three days here and there is not unusual, Mr. Speaker, and it is a sort of normal thing you have to expect when you are on an island around the coast of Newfoundland. Perhaps from time to time, Mr. Speaker, people who are on the end of road networks are subject to the same conditions relative to snow or washouts or other things.

Transportation is not a 100 per cent guaranteed 365-366 days-a-year operation. There will be interruptions. We try to minimize them as much as possible. We have done a number of things, including the ordering of a new vessel to operate in that service. I am sure that the CSI will have a look at the vessel. As a matter of fact, they have looked at the vessel and do so on a regular basis and will instruct us as to an appropriate time to have the refit done.

I will look into the matter, Mr. Speaker. I would like to support the petition in the sense that myself as Minister of Transportation and other hon. members would like to see as reliable a service as possible given to the people around the coast of the Province who live on islands as well as all other parts of the Province. We will all work together to see that that is accomplished.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. BAKER:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. BAKER:
Mr. Speaker, I would also like to speak in favour of this particular petition.

You might wonder what a member from the great seaport of Gander is doing supporting a petition having to do with the ferry service in the Province. Well, Mr. Speaker, at a very early age, as a matter of fact, the first time I went to work, I deliberately chose to work on an

island off the Coast of Newfoundland, that great island of Twillingate. At that time the island was isolated with no causeway and there was very limited service to the mainland. I appreciate the situation where communities on islands need as reliable a ferry service as is possible.

I think perhaps the issue goes a little beyond the ferry service. I think it points out the need for more planning, for greater concern and perhaps for even greater administrative ability and concern when it comes to the individuals who live in the extremities of our Province. The ferries are simply an example. They serve as a lifeline to the island. Without the ferry system, obviously, these people would be truly lost and would have a very inconvenient way of life.

MR. DAWE:
If they depended on the former Liberal government they would not be on the islands and we would not have to worry about them.

MR. BAKER:
The member refers back to previous Liberal administrations. I wonder when he is going to stop referring back to previous administrations and start accepting responsibility himself for what has happened in the last ten or twelve years in this Province.

MR. DAWE:
(Inaudible) federal Liberals -

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

MR. BAKER:
It points out, Mr. Speaker, the absolute necessity for an adequate plan for this ferry system from

the point of view of the servicing

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

MR. BAKER:

- and the constant upgrading of these vessels. Thank you Mr. Speaker. It points out the need for a regular maintenance programme and a regular replacement programme just like, for instance, with a fleet of trucks in the Department of Transportation, with their road equipment and so on, they obviously have a thought out and well developed plan for replacement because you see all kinds of these vehicles going around in ever increasing numbers. They obviously have thought of this and have planned for the replacement and the continual upgrading of the vehicles. The same concern should be shown for the ferry system.

I know the minister has said and it has been pointed out that there is a maintenance programme and that there is a replacement programme and, indeed, there have been some new ferries brought into service recently and there are plans for a new ferry service on this particular run.

However, I think that where possible these things should be done in such a way as to provide the absolute minimum of inconvenience to the people living on the islands. I would suggest that perhaps the planning in the past has not been of this nature. The planning has been such that there is a replacement programme and we have hired somebody to look into it and to see about maintenance and so on but there is no real thought given to the best service possible being provided to

the people on these islands. I would suggest that it is high time that we ensure that adequate service be provided to the people who live on the islands to ensure that there is no interruption in the ferry service unless it is absolutely unavoidable, through weather or some other contingency.

I think the minister that the ferries operate subject to CSI regulations. I would suggest that the minister not just do the minimum as is required through CSI regulations, but that he consider a little more than the bare minimum that is recommended. The minister says that there is not 100 per cent guaranteed operation and I agree with him, there never can be when it comes to transportation. However, I would suggest that we should try to get it as close to that 100 per cent as possible.

I would, Mr. Speaker, support the petition that was presented by my colleague.

Orders of the Day

On motion, that the House resolve itself into Committee of the Whole to consider certain resolutions. Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Committee of the Whole

MR. CHAIRMAN (Greening):
Order, please!

Shall the resolution carry?

MR. DECKER:
Mr. Chairman.

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

of Belle Isle.

MR. DECKER:

I have before me Bill 26 which concerns some \$56 million. I have been looking at this particular bill and I notice, Mr. Chairman, that it does not explicitly say whether or not any of this money will be spent on the office of Chief Protocol Officer. I am a bit concerned about this, Mr. Chairman. Maybe the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) might be good enough to enlighten me.

You see, the Minister of Finance described the Premier's office to us a few days ago and I believe the words he used, Mr. Chairman, were that before the \$750,000 or the \$1 million, whatever the case was, was spent, the Premier's office was a pretty tatty affair - was that the word the Minister of Finance used?

AN HON. MEMBER:

Tacky or tatty.

MR. DECKER:

Tacky or tatty. To me, Mr. Chairman, it was very distressing because he explained how dignitaries coming in to see the Premier were forced to sit down out in the corridor and that, in order to get past those dignitaries, there was a danger of tripping up and falling down in the corridor.

Mr. Chairman, this to me describes a terrible state of affairs because I can visualize Jomo Kenyatta, sitting down with the big tiger skin he used to wear wrapped around his neck and I can visualize Idi Amin with his complete uniform on and all his ribbons. I can see those two big men sitting down in the corridor and the poor cook trying to serve

them their native dish.

To me Mr. Chairman it would be a very bad reflection on Newfoundland for this to happen. For two men of their stature to be sitting down in the corridor and not enough room for the cook to get out and give those men their meal. Can you imagine, Mr. Chairman, what the letdown, the insult would mean to this Province? This would hit The Globe and Mail. Those two great men visiting Newfoundland, forced to sit in the corridor and the cook could not even serve them a meal.

I see not one cent of money is set aside for the Chief Protocol Officer. This to me Mr. Chairman is a tragedy because I blame it on the Chief Protocol Officer that two men of their stature should have to sit in the corridor while the cook trips over their feet as he tries to serve them a meal because there is not enough room in the Premier's Office. It is an absolute disgrace, Mr. Chairman and I would ask the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) to make some money available to the Chief Protocol Officer.

I want to speak for a few moments on the Chief Protocol Officer. This Province has suffered a tragic loss, Mr. Chairman. We have just been deprived of the services of the greatest Protocol Officer that the Province ever had. He was a credit to the job, Mr. Chairman, he did a great service to this Province and he was allowed to resign that position and his resignation was accepted. It was a disgrace. It is a reflection, Mr. Chairman on this hon. House to allow that man to vacate that service and that his resignation be accepted.

Nobody noticed it. Nobody stood up in this House. I was waiting for somebody to make the motion that we would give this man best wishes and that we would send him on his way and that we show our sorrow.

MR. W. CARTER:

It was debated by the U.N., by the way.

MR. DECKER:

Thank you, I am glad it was debated in the U.N. Anyway, Mr. Chairman it is too late now. We have lost the services of this great Protocol Officer and now we have replaced him with another Chief Protocol Officer. I am wondering, Mr. Chairman, if we have made the right choice. You see it is a very, very important position to this Province because we do not want people tripping over dignitaries feet when they sit in the corridor to see our hon. Premier. We do not want that to happen! The responsibility for seeing that that does not happen lies squarely on the shoulders of the Chief Protocol Officer. I watched the new Chief Protocol Officer on television a few nights ago, Mr. Chairman, and he has the white hair. It seems that in order to have this position he has to have white hair. He has the qualification that he was a Tory who has been defeated.

But, Mr. Chairman, he was smoking a cigarette. The Chief Protocol Officer, who sets the standards for Newfoundland, sitting down on television, smoking a cigarette. Mr. Chairman, I think it was utterly disgraceful. As my friend points out, he was just as bad looking as Renee Levesqué. It was an utter disgrace to this Province that our Chief Protocol Officer was sit on television and smoke a

cigarette.

Mr. Chairman, I am going to make a few suggestions and I would be quite willing to support him if the Minister of Finance was prepared to ask for another million dollars or so for the Chief Protocol Officer because we have to give this office all the dignity that we can muster up and give it. The thing that struck me, Mr. Chairman, about the protocol officer was this, he was just an ordinary man.

I remember some years ago when the Lieutenant-Governor visited a community in my district. It was when the hon. Campbell MacPherson was the Lieutenant-Governor. He came to the town and he wore a three-piece business suit. I heard some ladies talking about the Lieutenant-Governor and one said, "My but, he is just an ordinary man. He just had an ordinary suit of clothes on."

Mr. Chairman, this is what is happening to the position of Chief Protocol Officer. We should not allow a man of such stature, a man with such a position, to be going around wearing an ordinary three-piece suit of clothes, Mr. Chairman. I would suggest that we dress him up in a gown. Now surely we can put out an aware, like we did for the Newfoundland flag, like we would do if we wanted to design a flag, let us call tenders and let us allow for someone to come up with a design of a gown for the office of Chief Protocol Officer in this Province. I think it would lend some dignity. What are we talking about, Mr. Chairman, a measley \$100,000. Surely there must be some more defeated candidates around -

AN HON. MEMBER:
(Inaudible).

MR. DECKER:
No, to design the gown. We have to design it. Now I am not talking about a black robe like Mr. Chairman wears, I am talking about something which can lend a distinguished air to this hon. position. This is what I am talking about.

MR. W. CARTER:
The Lord Mayor of London has a uniform.

MR. DECKER:
That is the idea. Let us call tenders. I am sure we will find some more defeated Tories who can put in some designs on this and come up with the idea of the kind of gown that this hon. man should wear as he goes about his duty representing the Province of Newfoundland.

Maybe, Mr. Chairman, a wig. Why not make a series of wigs. If there is a Liberal minister from somewhere in Africia visiting, let him wear a red wig, if there is some Tory from England visiting let him wear a blue wig, or an NDP, what would he wear for NDP?

AN HON. MEMBER:
Orange.

MR. DECKER:
An orange wig. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You see this is like some of the clergymen. They wear a different colour stole for Easter and a different colour stole for the season of the year. Our Chief Protocol Officer should be nothing less! He should have a different wig for every season, Mr. Chairman, and a different wig for every visiting dignitary. This would lend some substance to

that position.

Let us do away with this nonsense of having an ordinary man filling the position of Chief Protocol Officer. It is a disgrace upon us, Mr. Chairman, and it is a disgrace on the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) because he did not put another million dollars or so in there to go along with making this office worthwhile.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Greening):
The hon. member's time has elapsed.

MR. DECKER:
I was just going to get to the wives, Mr. Chairman.

MR. K. AYLWARD:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. CHAIRMAN:
The hon. member for Stephenville.

MR. AYLWARD:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is a pleasure to speak to this bill and to see where all the money is going. I have a list of stuff here I would like to talk about.

The first thing I noticed when I looked at this was Labour and Manpower - \$340,000. I would like to know whether or not it is going to Labour or is it going to Manpower because we ask questions sometimes and they tell us it is the Minister of Labour and then they tell us it is the Minister of Manpower - separate departments. I would like to know where that money is going, who it is going to or what it is going to be used for?

Labour and Manpower is a very interesting portfolio, or two portfolios or whatever they have over there. I would like to see it being used for some purposes to improve the employability of

individuals. I am hoping that somebody over there will tell us which departments will get this money and for what reasons.

I also noticed Municipal Affairs is being allotted a fair bit of money there. I am hoping that down the road the Town of Stephenville is going to be allotted its proper funding in the 60/40 programme which it was denied so aptly by this administration this Summer. I am hoping we will get the same treatment as my colleague next door in Corner Brook who got over \$1 million. I am hoping that Stephenville will get the same type of good treatment in the up and coming 60/40 programme.

There was a great, great disappointment in that riding and a lot of other ridings around this Island and in Labrador about the allotment of those funds. I am sure the administration on the other side will certainly look at their procedures for allotting that money and do it in the proper manner.

Talking about the Department of Labour and Manpower again, and referring to the new federal job scheme, for example, ten per cent flexibility was announced. I do not believe it is the proper amount of flexibility to have for this programme. We have people out there now who do not have any work and no income who are single able-bodied individuals and cannot obtain any employment through the federal government right now because these new programmes are being introduced and there was no flexibility being shown.

So I would like to see the hon. Minister of Manpower to Labour make sure that the federal

minister and the department do something about this flexibility. I think that there should be, at least until this new programme starts to take some type of positive effect, more flexibility into the programme for the up and coming Winter. We are going to see a very harsh one if this trend keeps going. Ten per cent is not enough, especially when this programme is going through so many problems right now with applications, etc. I think the federal minister should make sure that Newfoundland's concerns are taken into account.

I have many, many constituents of mine who are having trouble finding employment and have no income. I have made a number of representations to the federal government on that. I am hoping that they will do something on that in the near future.

I also noticed here some money for Development. I would like to make a number of comments on that to see what this money is being used for or what it has been used for. I have made a number of moves to try to promote the Town of Stephenville in a number of ways, and trying to find out different funding schemes through the Department of Development. I am very concerned about how that money is being used and how effectively it is being used and whether or not this Province is being promoted in the proper manner. I am hoping that those funds will be looked at and scrutinized very carefully.

Also, as I look here I see money for Executive Council, Finance and Development. I attended a meeting of the Youth Advisory Council in Stephenville over the weekend. It was a very good meeting. One of

the reasons I am going to mention that is because I think the Youth Advisory Council, which is under the Department of Culture, Recreation and Youth, should be having more monies allotted to them by the provincial government which, at present, is not doing very well. They had a very good meeting there the weekend and they have some good positive contributions to make to Newfoundland and Labrador to the Provincial Administration. I would ask the Provincial Administration to start funding that group properly and give them enough funding to do their mandate. They have expressed many concerns over the last couple of years that they be given more appreciation, in a sense, and funding to do their job because they have not been able to do it. They have had very minimum budgets. I would like to see the provincial government do something along those lines.

Transportation. There is lots of money there, \$12 million-odd.

MR. TULK:

What is all that for?

MR. K. AYLWARD:

I would love to know. I have a road in Stephenville, down towards the mill, that needs to be done. I am hoping that the Minister of Transportation ((Mr. Dawe) will look into that.

MR. DECKER:

It could be for all the trips around the world this Summer.

MR. K. AYLWARD:

Oh, it could have been the trips all around the world, I do not know. I would like to see the Minister of Transportation, whom I have talked with on that matter,

to look into it. We have the big Abitibi-Price mill in Stephenville with a road to it that you can hardly drive over. I think the provincial government should look at trying to allot some dollars, at least some partial help to the town of Stephenville and the mill, to help the infrastructure of the town there, the local area. So I am going to be looking for money for that and I am sure the provincial government is going to do that, of course, considering the 60/40 programme this Summer.

I am really looking forward to an equal allocation of moneys and looking forward to Stephenville receiving at least an equal amount of dollars.

I must talk about Social Services for a moment. I have constituents, single, able-bodied people, who are calling Social Services, and the regulations state that they cannot get any work.

AN HON. MEMBER:

(Inaudible) Arts Council.

MR. K. AYLWARD:

The Arts Council. I will get to that in a second.

There are people out there now who do not have any income whatsoever and they are being told, 'You cannot work' - women are being told, 'You cannot work because you are a single person.'

AN HON. MEMBER:

Shame.

MR. K. AYLWARD:

I have been talking to a number of people. They have been told the only way is to go and live with somebody or go and indulge in other activity.

AN HON. MEMBER:
Shame! Shame!

MR. K. AYLWARD:
Now, whatever the policy or the regulation, if it promotes something like that, I think the provincial government should look seriously at trying to do something about it. I am going to leave it with that comment but I will come back to it.

The Arts Council, which was just pointed out to me, is another issue here.

MR. TULK:
There is no money in there for that because (inaudible).

MR. K. AYLWARD:
No, there is no money in there for that and you will not see any.

The recent appointment of six new people to the Arts Council is wonderful. I think these people are well qualified and so on. The problem is -

AN HON. MEMBER:
Are they all Tories?

MR. K. AYLWARD:
Well, I do not know what their political affiliation is but I am sure they will do a good job. I have no problem with that. I think the provincial Tories can do a good job. I am sure they will do their best.

But the Arts Council are not going to be able to do their jobs because their mandate is not able to be enforced. They do not have even enough money to keep their office going. They are expected now, with six new members, to try to fulfil their mandate again.

I have asked the minister already

what the mandate was and whether they had been promoting it or if they had been getting advice, and he said, "No, we have not been getting any advice."

I am going to be asking him also why he appointed six new members to the Arts Council when he is not even going to listen to the Arts Council. I do not know what their role is anymore. I am becoming confused. In the mandate they have, which is established legislation, they are supposed to give advice. On the other hand, now, they have not been giving advice. We have just had six new members appointed, so I have a lot of questions on that. I am hoping the minister will be able to give me some information on it. I notice it is not there, but I am sure he is promoting his cause within Cabinet to expand the mandate of the Arts Council, to get it fixed up and to have proper arts funding on this Island. So I would like to see positive, concrete action being taken on that in the very near future.

I think I will stop here to give members opposite a chance to respond to these things and to other things members on the other side have tried to do.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CALLAN:
Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Greening):
The hon. the member for Bellevue.

MR. SIMMS:
Mr. Chairman, on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN:
On a point of order, the hon. the Minister of Forest Resources and Lands.

MR. SIMMS:

I think, in all fairness, Your Honour perhaps forgot, but there have already been two speakers on that side and none on this side. I think it is appropriate that members on this side also be given an opportunity to speak. The traditional practice is that it be one for one. There have been two on that side. I wish to say a few words in the debate and perhaps Your Honour did not consider that.

MR. FUREY:

Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. the member for St. Barbe.

MR. FUREY:

I think there was ample time for the minister to stand in his place and respond. You clearly saw the member for Bellevue (Mr. Callan) stand. Nobody else had stood and, then the minister stood. So I think there is no point of order here.

MR. TULK:

To that point of order, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

To the point of order, the hon. the member for Fogo.

MR. TULK:

Mr. Chairman, it has probably been a tradition in this House to move back and forth across the House, but they have been so slow and tardy getting up over there today that I know the Speaker did not see the Minister of Forest Resources and Lands (Mr. Simms). Neither does the Minister of Forest Resources and Lands have the right to tell Your Honour who can be recognized in this House. We know he is a past Speaker, and I have to force myself to admit

that he did a fair job, but he has since got out of that position and he should not be trying to tell Your Honour what to do.

Now, Your Honour has clearly recognized the member for Bellevue (Mr. Callan) and the Minister of Forestry will just have to sit there, if Your Honour is to rule this place and, like a good schoolboy, wait his turn.

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Greening):

The hon. the Minister for Forest Resources and Lands.

MR. SIMMS:

All I want to do is point out, for the record, that there were people on this side who were prepared to speak and the hon. members opposite were not prepared to recognize the traditional practices. I would not want to hear them yelling and bawling, "Nobody on that side is getting up to speak!" because there clearly were people over here prepared to speak.

MR. BAKER:

Mr. Speaker, on the point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

To that point of order, the hon. the member for Gander.

MR. BAKER:

The hon. minister, in making his point, is quite correct, it is normal to go back and forth across the House. However, obviously there are very many speakers on this side who are very anxious to participate in the debate. The minister says that there were people on their side trying to get up and speak. In my way of looking the word people means more

than one. The minister was very tardy in getting up. There were three members on this side that stood up before the hon. minister stood up. I would suggest that there really is no point of order here. You recognized the first person you saw and the minister was just a bit tired and lazy and slow in getting from his seat.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

To that point of order, I recognize the tradition of the House but I did recognize the hon. member for Bellevue first. So the hon. the member for Bellevue.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. BAKER:

We will let him go next.

MR. CALLAN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Actually, I would have gladly taken my seat and bowed to the member for Grand Falls (Mr. Simms) but I am glad that your honour recognized me because I have to leave at 5:15 on other business. That is the only reason that I did not decline in favour of the member for Grand Falls.

Mr. Chairman, in making a few comments to this resolution where the government is looking for \$56,000,000 to grant to Her Majesty Supplementary Supply. It makes one wonder.

Mr. Chairman, last week Tuesday here in the legislature, when the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Barry) was taking up most question periods and not only the question periods because there were so many points of order and so many points of privilege that we spent most afternoons for about a week

talking about possible, not alleged - the Premier called them allegations but they were not the alleged - possible conflicts of interest. As far as the Leader of the Opposition was concerned, he was asking questions and there seemed to be the possibility of a conflict of interest.

Anyway, the Leader of the Opposition agreed with the Premier and the Government House Leader (Mr. Marshall) when they said that we should move on to other matters that had to be dealt with in Legislature. The Leader of the Opposition agreed and the Liberal caucus agreed. But, Mr. Chairman the next day, the first thing that was done in this House was the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins), the same hon. gentleman who is sponsoring this Bill here today, got up and announced the closure of three fish plants: Harbour Grace, Old Perlican and Port de Grave. The next day in caucus, perhaps members opposite already know about this because apparently they have a bug or that is what they say - we do not know what kind of bug it is but we have an idea - but in caucus the next day I I said, "You know what I should do today? I should get up and say that the opposition has decided to change our minds. We want to renege on that wish that we granted yesterday. If this is the kind of thing that the government wants to get on with, making announcements that they are closing down three fish plants one day and something else another, then perhaps we better not let the government get on with the other business that they are talking about at all and lets talk about the other sorts of things that we dealt with for about a week".

Mr. Chairman, this might be as

good a time as any. The month of March in this Province has long been known and referred to by our grandfathers as the long cold hungry month.

Mr. Chairman, the month of March is still long and cold if we are to judge by the headline in the weekend paper talking about the poverty in this Province. Why is it, Mr. Chairman, that here we have the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) looking for \$56 million "For Granting To Her Majesty...And For Other Purposes Relating To The Public Service."

Mr. Chairman, is it not reasonable to assume that if this Province, in all of Canada, is number one in the poverty line, should we not also expect that this Province should also have a Premier who is the lowest on the salary scale, who is the lowest in many respects, if the poverty rate is the highest in Canada? Should the people of this Province not expect that the man who leads the government in this Province, that he, at least, should also be living in not elaborate conditions like we see on the eighth floor and we like we saw at Mount Scio house? A \$150,000 fence was put around there. No sooner had the job been finished then the Premier moved out? I hear it was \$150,000. I do not know, it may have been more or less.

But no, Mr. Chairman, what we have here is the people of this Province, the taxpayers and the voters, the people suffering through the long, cold, hungry months, not only of March, but of April and May and all the other months in this Province. Even the ones who are unfortunate enough not to be able to get any employment at all, the people who

live in poverty, even they, even the ones who manage to get a few weeks or UIC benefits and then, of course, they manage to get ten or twelve weeks of work in order to qualify for UIC live in poverty.

I talked to a lady this morning on the phone from the town of Dildo actually. She got three weeks of employment this Summer in the former Nickerson Plant, which is now under the umbrella of FPI. Mr. Chairman, this is strange. Perhaps the Premier or perhaps some other minister opposite can explain why it is that FPI have fifteen plants up for sale but among them is not the useless plant in South Dildo, the plant that over the past five years has only provided two and three weeks of employment, has only been open for two and three weeks, the former Nickerson Plant, ultra-modern, millions of dollars spent on it within the last five years, Mr. Chairman. Here it is, it is open for two or three weeks in the Spring to process caplin and then the doors are shut.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Greening):
Order, please!

The hon. member's time has elapsed.

MR. CALLAN:
Mr. Chairman, I will get back to it some other time. Thank you. Now we will see someone opposite.

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

MR. J. CARTER:
If the hon. member for Fogo would give way.

MR. TULK:
Of course, Mr. Chairman, let him go.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

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

MR. J. CARTER:

I must apologize for being slow to get on my feet but I did not want to let this opportunity pass.

I could not help but hear the eighth floor being considered for discussion and the reputed opulence down there. It is nothing at all compared with the accommodations that the Opposition office now enjoys. I would invite any fair-minded person to go down to the Opposition Office and just look. You would need to wear dark glasses because if you saw the opulence down there, the very expensive furniture.

MR. DECKER:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Greening):

On a point of order, the hon. member for the Strait of Belle Isle.

MR. DECKER:

I believe this is the same speech that the hon. member presented some time ago. I wonder would he prefer for us to just dig out our Hansard and read it. It would be a lot simpler than having to take up the time of this House.

MR. J. CARTER:

To that point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

To that point of order, the hon. member for St. John's North.

MR. J. CARTER:

Mr. Chairman, the sentiments, I will admit, are similar to the ones I made a little while ago but I think they bare repeating because they are very, very

relevant. Do you wish to rule on that point of order?

MR. CHAIRMAN:

To that point of order, there is no point of order.

MR. J. CARTER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I just want to stress that if anyone thinks that the government is spending any great fortune on the renovations on the eighth floor, the eleventh floor, or the fourteenth floor for that matter, they should go down and look at the Western part of the fifth floor, that part that is set aside for the accommodations of the Opposition. The accommodations are very, very generous indeed.

It is true there was some slight problem with the roof but I believe that has now been fixed. In the meantime, the carpeting on the floor, the furniture and the furnishings, the expensive art work on the walls, all point to extreme opulence. I think that it sets a very bad example for a party that purports to be the alternative government. They set a very, very bad example and the public of Newfoundland, who wander in, and I suppose they make certain members of the public welcome, those members who wander into the Opposition Office and see the extraordinary amount that must have been spent to create such opulence, must wonder what will happen if this crowd ever get hold of the government. You have not seen anything yet.

Remember, the expenditure that was made on the eighth floor was rendered necessary because of the way the wiring was done and the way the building was built in the first place. This building was

not built all that well. I can remember when it was built, the steel structure is very slight. It is hardly able to stand the weight that is already apportioned to it and perhaps it is a good thing that the House of Assembly is going to be moved downstairs or may be out of the building altogether because the structure cannot stand too much. It is not a well built building by any means.

But the Opposition offices at the present time are extremely well appointed and it is very poor forum for them to suggest that other departments of government are getting the lion's share. I think it is quite unfortunate and I think the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) will agree, that a large proportion of the Supplementary Supply that he is looking for has the name of the Opposition Office on it. Far more was spent on it even this Summer than was necessary and I invite any fair-minded person to go down and have a look. They would be shocked and disgusted.

MR. SIMMONS:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Greening):
The hon. member for Fortune-Hermitage.

MR. SIMMONS:
Mr. Speaker, my good friend from St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter) just made my day. I was having a fairly frustrating day, you understand, but he made my day.

I was reminded again, as he stood in his place, that one of the sacred responsibilities I perform on behalf of the Newfoundland people is to hold his hand, babysit him, and otherwise keep

him occupied here as long as we can, because as long as he is here, at least we know he is not inflicting himself on somebody else outside this Chamber. So I thank him. It takes a bit of a sacrifice, but you do what you have to do in this life and, if it means babysitting the member for St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter), that is fair ball.

Now, Mr. Chairman,

MR. TULK:
Are you saying that?

MR. SIMMONS:
Now, Mr. Chairman, I must restrain my good friend for Fogo (Mr. Tulk). He gets so excited every time he hears about, let alone sees the member for St. John's North. He is a one man in this House, the gentleman for St. John's North, who can excite emotion in all of us, indeed, the same emotion.

MR. TULK:
It is a pity.

MR. SIMMONS:
But having said that, and I say it very kindly because he is a man who deserves a lot of kindness.

AN HON. MEMBER:
A lot of pity too.

MR. SIMMONS:
Well, kindness embraces pity, you understand.

But having said what I just said about the gentleman for St. John's North, let me join him, and this ought to be a historic first for he and I to join on anything, let me join him in the invitation, to come on down to the fifth floor and in the process not only will members of the public see the

reality of what facilities or lack thereof we have to work with, not only will they see that, but in that sense alone his invitation is a magnanimous one that he should do that for us because that is what we have been saying all along. Come down and have a firsthand look. In having that look, our point would be adequately made. Indeed, while it is not made to the satisfaction of the hon. gentleman for St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter), we have had indications that it is made to the satisfaction of the Speaker of the House and to the satisfaction of those in government who make the financial decisions necessary to get improvements on the fifth floor.

Mr. Chairman, not only would a visit by people from the general public serve the purpose of showing what the reality is, it would show another reality as well, it would demonstrate beyond all reasonable doubt how out of touch with reality the member for St. John's North is.

So, Mr. Chairman, I invite all of you to come down, we will even serve you tea and it will not come out of the supplementary estimates, if you will come down and come face to face with two realities, the reality of the office space we have and the reality that the member for St. John's North is not a reality, he is a mirage. He is something from the distant, unfortunately not distant enough, past. These are the realities you should have a look at.

Mr. Chairman, that is all I want to say at the moment because I think my friend for Fogo (Mr. Tulk) is itching to go on a matter of great public interest. Oh, the

gentleman for Gander.

MR. BAKER:
Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Greening):
The hon. the member for Gander.

MR. BAKER:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I see before me Bill 26, which we are presently discussing. Mr. Chairman, I have one very simple question about this bill. It deals with a little more than \$56 million. My question is simply this, what kind of money is it? What kind of money?

Is this the kind of money that is taken by government and distributed throughout the Province? Is that the kind of money it is? Is this the money that goes to the people of the Province, generally? Is this the kind of money that is given to people all over the Province to improve their lot in one way or another? Money for Mines and Energy, Forest Resources and Lands, Transportation, Education, Municipal Affairs, it is under a lot of headings? What kind of money is this? Now some of the minister may recognize my question because during the Estimates Committee debate I raised this point a number of times. What kind of money are we spending? I guess, Mr. Chairman, it boils down to this, is this money for the people of the Province or is it, Mr. Chairman, in fact Tory money? Is this the kind of money we are talking about here?

Mr. Chairman, you might think there must be something wrong with me to ask such a question. Obviously, it is money for the people of the whole Province.

Well, Mr. Chairman, I have good reasons for asking this question and I really believe that the government should institute a process whereby expenditures of money made by government are broken down according to areas of the Province and even, in fact, provincial districts to insure that the money that is being spent is not simply Tory money.

Mr. Chairman, you might say why am I talking this way? Why am I asking this question? There are a number of reasons and one reason is that there have been occasions in the past six months when I have suspected that most of the money spent, by far most of the money, is Tory money. You may not believe this but I remember once when there were forty-four members opposite and there was a by-election. An hon. member, a candidate running for office pointed out - I know you are not going to believe this - but he pointed out that he wanted to win to get one forty fifth of the money for his district, not one over fifty-two of the money, but one forty fifth of the money, Mr. Chairman. Well, that actually happened and if you want to check back to the press clippings of that particular time I am sure that if you do not know of your own knowledge that you will verify that this statement was made. And, I might add that that hon. member did get elected and become an hon. member of this House.

MR. TULK:

Is that the same fellow who was on television a couple of weeks after with Mr. Marshall saying, 'Now, now, you cannot ask for too much.'

MR. BAKER:

Anyway I am not sure, Mr. Chairman, of all the aspects of

this and I am sure it is something Your Honour could investigate and find out and report back to us, if in fact the money that is spent in this House, the money that is spent through Bills like this, is Tory money and not money for the well-being of people all over this Province. So, Mr. Chairman, that is one very good reason why I question this particular allocation of money.

I am wondering to, Mr. Chairman, if it has become the policy of government to now talk in terms of one thirty-sixth of the money that is available in this Province. So, Mr. Chairman, it is something that really needs investigation.

Another point that I would like to make is that I have served in a number of capacities on various organizations, both local, in my town, as well as provincial. I served for three and a half years on a town council that handled a fairly large sum of money in terms of town councils in this Province. I have been in this hon. House a very short time and I am not so sure of what is going on here. You see the normal process, it seems to me, is to ask for permission to spend money and to discuss, first of all, and plan where money is going to be spent, and then to ask permission to spend and then as the money is being spent proper records are being kept and proper accounts being kept, and I am assuming the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) knows all about this, keeps track of all this kind of thing, and I am sure that he is a veritable font of knowledge when it comes to expenditures of this government. I know that the Minister of Finance knows all the details and I compliment him on his terrific grasp of the situation.

However, my understanding is that this is permission to release monies that have already been spent. Now, I might be wrong, maybe the Minister of Finance can correct me in this thing and some other things. I bow to his superior knowledge when it comes to financial affairs. However, this money, it seems to me, is already spent and as a member of this hon. House I am being asked to okay, for instance, \$3,400,000 for Development that has already been spent and I really have no idea where it was spent.

My hon. friend for the Strait of Belle Isle (Mr. Decker) raised an interesting point. What happens if this Bill is defeated? What if by some chance members opposite all have emergency calls, most of them are downstairs and for some reason when call for a vote goes out the elevators are not working and not being particularly energetic people, they cannot make it up over the stairs. What happens? I would like to know these things. If, in fact, nothing happens if this Bill is defeated, then what are we doing here? So these are just things as a new member in this House that I would like answered.

I would also like to get some details about some of this expenditure, for instance, the \$3,400,000 in Development. I would like to know how much of that went into tourism as I understand that tourism is taken care of by Development. I would like to question expenditures in tourism that comes under the umbrella of the Minister of Development (Mr. Barrett). Just recently I saw a brochure put out by the Department of Development. It was a beautiful brochure, Mr. Chairman, I am sure that we can

all be proud of it. It was glossy, an exceptional printing job, it looked something like the report on Your Honour's desk, and when you opened the cover there were thirteen individual pamphlets describing some aspect of Newfoundland life. There were recipes there, Mr. Chairman, there was information on the various delights of this Province and it was to be distributed to areas outside the Province. I am assuming to the States and to Ontario and all those places where we try to get people to come to our Province and spend some of their money. Mr. Chairman, I looked at the tremendous printing job and the tremendous job done on describing the advantages of offshore oil, a tremendous job done on a lot of government programs, that, I suppose, really need to be promoted outside the Province because they are not having too much success within the Province promoting it, but at least a good job.

However, there is one thing, Mr. Chairman, that I did notice in all of those thirteen pamphlets, plus the brochure put out by our Department of Development and Tourism, there were three maps inside that brochure. Mr. Chairman, I will finish in thirty seconds at least. These maps were supposed to indicate our great Province. Do you know one thing that I noticed about those maps, Mr. Chairman? It makes me question the some expenditure like this for the Department of Development and Tourism for the whole Province. The only place indicated on any of those three maps in that brochure was St. John's, not another place was mentioned, St. Anthony was not mentioned, Goose Bay was not mentioned.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Greening):
Order, please!

The hon. members time has elapsed.

MR. BAKER:
Gander was not mentioned and Mr. Chairman, I question and maybe I will just sit down and go on a little later when the Minister of Forest Resources and Lands (Mr. Simms) has his chance to get up and talk for his ten minutes. I hope he do not get sookie and go off now. I would like to get up a little later. T

Thank you.

MR. SIMMONS:
Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN:
The hon. the member for Fortune - Hermitage.

MR. SIMMONS:
I thought that was the gentleman for Gander had to say was absolutely marvelous and I would invite him to continue.

DR. COLLINS:
Mr. Chairman.

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

DR. COLLINS:
I listened to the hon. member for Gander with some inattention because that is what his remarks deserve.

One of the things the hon. member said is that he does not know what this money is being spent for. I would ask the hon. member to clear out his ears because when I introduced the Bill I said exactly what the money was needed for.

The other illgotten point was,

"Why is not this money spent equally in all district?" I am going to tell him why now.

The first item is expenditure on the Auditor General. The Auditor General does not happen to reside in all districts. His office is in the St. John's area. So that is the reason why the money on that particular item was spent in the St. John's area. Now that is a difficult point for the hon. the member for Gander (Mr. Baker) to grasp. I would like to go over it in detail with him again.

If there is an office in St. John's that requires expenditures - I would like the hon. member to give his undivided attention to this point because he needs to concentrate sharply on what I am going to say now to get some glimmer of understanding what it is all about - it is not terribly helpful if you expend the money in district outside St. John's. Let us go through it once more. If the office is in St. John's, it is best to spend the money in St. John's because that is where the office is that requires the money.

I would like to go on from that.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN:
A point of order, the hon. member for Gander.

MR. BAKER:
Because of the way the Minister of Finance is going through, I thought that perhaps I had better, as he comments, because of my limited intelligence I may not be able to remember after he is finished, I would concede that the \$20,400 or whatever the amount he is talking about spent on the

Auditor General is well spent especially if the Auditor General ferrets out any inconsistencies in the Minister of Finance.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

To that point of order, there is no point of order.

The hon. Minister of Finance.

DR. COLLINS:

Now, let us go on to the second point. The next one was there was \$150,000 spent on offshore negotiations. Again, I have to point out to the hon. the member for Gander - he may not be aware of this - but the negotiations in regard to the offshore did not take place in every single district in the Province. They took place here in this city and they took place in the City called Ottawa, which is in the Central part of Canada. So if there is money required for that purpose it is best - I would like the member to concentrate on this point - to spend the money in St. John's and in Ottawa because those are the locations in which the negotiations are taking place. It really does not help, although I am sure it would be acceptable, if that money is expended, say, in Twillingate if there are no negotiations going on in Twillingate. So that is another reason why this money was not spent throughout the Province.

Mr. Chairman, the next one was in regard to the electronic data processing and improvement systems under the Department of Finance. Again, those computer systems are located in the building just a short distance from here, in the Computer Services Building, and they required certain expenditures for their purposes. Again, there is not too much point in spending

that money, although it may be considered desirable, but it would not be to the point, in, say, Nain. I am sure the people in Nain would like to have the money and I would like to give them the money. But if the money is required for computer services, it is best to spend it over in the computer building where the Computer Services are located.

Mr. Chairman, I do not want to go through the whole list but if the hon. member had paid any slight attention to the introductory remarks I gave when I introduced this bill, wherein I laid out in each case what the expenditures were for, he would find that probably 80 per cent or 90 per cent of the expenditures were for specific purposes that had to do with specific needs in specific places. They were not of a general nature whereby you would divvy them up and give so much to each district on a population basis.

So I would like the hon. member, if he is going to make his remarks and he wants them to mean anything, if he just does not want to fill up Hansard or if he just does not want to be able to go back to his district and say, 'I spoke in the House of Assembly the other day,' if he wants to go beyond that, if he wants to say something meaningful and contributory, I would ask him to direct his remarks to the issues that are before the Committee, not on just comments on some general, broad, meaningless, possibly partisan basis or, in actual fact, just a demonstration of his ignorance of the whole thing. I would like him, if he wants to help out, that he would listen to what is said in introducing a bill.

MR. BAKER:

A point of order, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

A point of order, the hon. the member for Gander.

MR. BAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the Minister of Finance. He has shown me, in his description about the expenditure of the money, where the money was spent and this is really what I wanted. I am really glad to see that if he is spending money on the computers, that he is going to spend the money where the computers are, and if he is going to spend money on the Auditor General, he is going to spend it where the Auditor General is, and if he is going to spend money on the negotiations, it is going to be spent where the negotiations are. It reassures me that the minister is capable of much more planning than I had originally thought.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

DR. COLLINS:

A good point! A good point! I accept that.

MR. DECKER:

To that point of order, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

To that point of order, the hon. the member for the Strait of Belle Isle.

MR. DECKER:

To take it to its logical conclusion, I guess the money being spent by municipalities will also be spent where the municipalities are, which leads me to hope that Englee and St.

Anthony and those places will get some capital works. It will not be just for the Tory districts. I would assume that is where they are going to be spent.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Greening):

To that point of order. There is no point of order.

MR. BARRY:

Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. BARRY:

Mr. Chairman, the point I would like to rise on is to ask the minister to inform this House as to the current status of the Province's financial position.

We had a downgrading of the credit rating of the Province since this House closed last Spring. We had a downgrading that is going to seriously affect our borrowing capability. We are going to be paying more for the money we borrow with this lower credit rating than we would have been otherwise.

I would like to ask the minister if he would indicate what the effect is of things such as the closure of the Harbour Grace fish plant? What kind of effect it is going to be on the present financial position of the Province? Where does the minister see the Province stand now with respect to its credit rating? Is there a risk of a further downgrading as we see the Ocean Harvesters plant in Harbour Grace close and as we see the Newfoundland economy stagnant compared to other parts of the

country? Would the minister comment on what he sees as Newfoundland's economy performance in comparison to just about every other province, every other part of the country where they have started to boom along with economic growth now being predicted across Canada to be in the area of 6 per cent, as opposed to the 4 per cent that was originally estimated for the last quarter? Is Newfoundland keeping up? If we are not keeping up, would the minister agree, but to a large extent it is due to the lack of leadership, to the lack of proper economic policies being brought forward by himself and his colleagues on the government benches? When is the minister and when are his colleagues going to start to do something to live up to the mandate to create jobs that they sought?

The Liberal Party of Canada and the Liberal Party of this Province is committed to a policy of full employment. Where does the minister stand with respect to such a policy? I have not seen the minister say too much about job creation. I heard him say a lot about restraint and cutbacks and layoffs, but I have not heard him talk too much about things that are going to stimulate the economy.

Would the minister give us a few comments on these three items before we continue debate on this bill? Who knows we might get to finish this thing before long if we get some questions answered.

DR. COLLINS:
Mr. Chairman.

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

DR. COLLINS:

Mr. Chairman, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Barry) I think asked some good questions there. I compliment him on his tone in asking the questions. It was a very sensible tone. It did not jar on the ears, unlike some other tones he has used in the not too distant past.

In regard to the credit rating, we had a downgrading in the past year. It was a minor downgrading. We did not fall out of a particularly category. We remained in the same category, an A category. On the basis of that and on the basis of what we have been told by our fiscal agents, we will not have any increased costs in our borrowing programme. Indeed, I think that has been validated by what has happened since the downgrading occurred.

We have issued two series of debentures. Indeed, they were very well accepted by the international financial community. We had extremely good rates in those particular markets compared to other Canadian provinces. For instance, we borrowed in Japan and we borrowed in Switzerland. Our rates there were, of course, better rates than if we had borrowed in Canada, but that is not a fair comparison. What you have got to do is compare what other borrowers did in those markets. Our rates in those markets were extremely good in comparison to provinces larger than ourselves and more affluent than ourselves. So I think that validates the advice we got for our fiscal agents.

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Barry) also asked about the prospects for economic development in this Province. I

think that we are not having a booming economy. No one is saying that, but I think we are showing very useful increases in our economic activity. We are not the lowest of the provinces in regard to expected annual growth this year and, indeed, some of the provinces, for instance Nova Scotia, who had done very well in the past few years and were projected to do rather well this year, they and the experts in the field have had to revise their projections downward. They have not projected our level of development at a lower level.

MR. SIMMS:

Have they projected an increase?

DR. COLLINS:

The have in actual fact. Some of them projected an increase in our economic development over what we ourselves projected last March.

MR. SIMMS:

What a minister!

DR. COLLINS:

Mr. Speaker, in particular areas, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition leaves the impression that things are not being done and things are not going well. Let us look at the fisheries.

The fisheries now are on a reasonably good basis in terms of the deep-sea fishery. Fishery Products International is causing waves in the international fishing sector.

MR. SIMMS:

Pardon the pun.

DR. COLLINS:

Pardon the pun but it is a good pun.

People are looking to our deep-sea

fishing now with an increased measure of respect. If you go back four or five years ago, the Newfoundland deep-sea fishery was looked upon as being in a rather chaotic era. Many of our companies were totally bankrupt. There was a declining quality of our product. The markets were soft and so on and so forth. Now that has turned around. Fishery Products International is now looked upon as a well-managed company with good financing, its quality of product is marketly improved and its sales in the marketplace are considerably increased over the last year and the year before that.

What is happening in the paper industry? We have in Corner Brook now an arrangement in place that is going to result in an extremely modern operation there over the next four or five years. Again, go back a couple of years and Corner Brook was looked upon as a very outmoded plant. Its future was very much in doubt. There was considerable concern that Corner Brook would really survive the way it survived in the past and the way we wanted it to survive as a major town. It was looked upon as a community whose future was very much in doubt. I think that has been turned around now.

MR. SIMMS:

Thanks to this government.

DR. COLLINS:

This government laboured hard, as the Minister of Forest Resources and Lands (Mr. Simms) just pointed out and the minister himself has laboured hard. He has lost weight. His fingernails are a bit cracked and a bit torn.

MR. SIMMS:

My curly hair is gone.

DR. COLLINS:

He has lines on his face from the amount of effort he has put into turning - and he has done this very successfully - turning our paper making and forestry industry around.

Now, let us look at the offshore. Again I put that third because we have often been accused of being able to think of nothing but the offshore. I have already shown that we can think of fisheries and paper. We are now starting in the offshore development process. The question 'will it go,' which is concerning the people in Nova Scotia - and I regret to have to say that, but it is concerning them - and have we got something or have we not got anything? Do you remember a few years ago everyone was looking at Nova Scotia as the bubble of the future and we were being pilloried because we were not being as aggressive in our remarks. They wanted us to become just like Nova Scotians whereas, in actual fact, Nova Scotia now, unfortunately, either has plateaued or its expectations are downward, whereas here in Newfoundland, our expectations are very, very buoyant. So that is another advance.

Mining. Our mining sector has completely turned around from what it was a few years ago. There was a very sharp drop off both in output and in employment in our mining sector a few years ago. This past year has seen a very marked turnaround in that. There is more exploration going on. There is much more product being produced in Labrador West and that is another positive feature.

Tourism. Last year was one of our better in tourism and I take some

credit for that, not personally, obviously, but as part of my particular responsibility in government we brought in an encouragement programme through an exemption provision in retail sales tax for out of the Province visitors to our Province. I have had reports from a number of organizations involved in the tourism industry saying that this was an extremely positive feature. It was very acceptable to the tourists who came here. The word is only now beginning to get around and they are expecting considerable improvement in tourist activity in this Province because of that and other things. The other things being increased facilities in the Province, and the increased publicity programmes put on by the Department of Development and Tourism and so on. So that is another positive feature.

The construction industry, again, having difficulties but fewer difficulties than they had a number of years ago. There is increased building activity in many parts of the Province and in this particular area here, and I do not mean to concentrate particularly on St. John's, but certainly in the St. John's area we are seeing a very, very optimistic view being taken by the construction industry.

So, Mr. Chairman, these various things show that our economy, having gone through a very difficult period, is turning itself around, has many positive features in it, and, I think, that the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Barry) is painting a picture of gloom that is not true and that, in actual fact, is not contributory because economic activity is often related to

perceptions. If the Leader of the Opposition continues making remarks like he made there a few moments ago, people will get the wrong perception about the economic prospects in front of us and what is actually happening in the Province today.

We need to take a positive view. We need to take a view of encouraging business activity and economic development, and I am sure that the Leader of the Opposition, now that I have shown him the error of his ways, will mend them and will also become very helpful in helping the people of this Province in terms of economic activity.

Thank you.

MR. DECKER:
Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN:
The hon. the member for the Strait of Belle Isle.

MR. DECKER:
Mr. Chairman, I notice under Transportation \$12,885,000. Very little of that money has found its way into my district, of course, but I do not want to condemn the Department of Transportation completely because during the past few months I have done quite a bit of travelling across this Province, because of this new job I have taken on.

I believe that the Department of Transportation is probably one of the most up and coming departments in government today - a very progressive department. In addressing this progressiveness in the Department of Transportation, I am delighted to see that the Minister of Justice (Ms. Verge) is in this House today. The thing

which I see as being very progressive in the Department of Transportation is because there are no more flagmen. Surely someone else has noticed that, Mr. Chairman. There are no more flagmen in Newfoundland. What we have now are flagpersons, Mr. Chairman. Is that not a tremendous step forward.

MS VERGE:
We are equal opportunity employers.

MR. DECKER:
Thank you.

Mr. Chairman, flagpersons are different from flagmen. Does anyone know the difference between flag persons and flag men? Flag persons are pretty. They are absolutely beautiful. They are beautiful to look at. Flagmen are grubby. The grubbiest people you can get to wave a flag and get your temper up were flagmen, but we have a progressive Department of Transportation in this Province. I am sure, Mr. Chairman, that this department has been influenced by the hon. Minister of Justice (Ms. Verge) who is out to see fair play so that we can have flagpersons as well as flagmen.

Think what it does for morale, Mr. Chairman.

MS VERGE:
A flagperson can be a man or a woman.

MR. DECKER:
I beg to disagree, Mr. Chairman. Flagpersons are female because there are no flagmen left. The point is there are no males now, they are all females.

MS VERGE:
I see a lot of males out there.

MR. DECKER:

There are no flagpeople here. Any flagpersons? All the flagpersons in Newfoundland today are female, therefore I am to assume that if all flagpersons are female in Newfoundland there are no longer any flagmen left. The very term 'flagperson' means it is female. As I said, it is a credit to the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Dawe), who just walked into this hon. House, to see the progressiveness in his department, that we have done away with the position of flagmen and we have replaced it with the position of flagperson. That is a great credit because it helps morale, Mr. Chairman.

MR. KELLAND:

Call him Mr. Chairperson.

MR. DECKER:

Mr. Chairperson, it helps morale for the men working with the Department of Transportation in this Province to have those pretty flagpersons. To see those flagpersons helps morale. Mr. Chairman, we have \$12,885,000, why not round it off to \$13 million and come up with a few thousand dollars so that we can put some beauty salons out there for those flagpersons to have access to.

MR. POWER:

To a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Greening):

To a point of order, the hon. the Minister for Career Development and Advanced Studies.

MR. POWER:

This is 1985 not 1935 or somewhere hence. Is this the Liberal Party position on status of women and women's issues and equal opportunity? I would like someone on the opposite side to clarify

their position as it relates to women's issues.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

To that point of order, there is no point of order.

The hon. member for the Strait of Belle Isle.

MR. DECKER:

Mr. Chairman, this has led into some very vicious accusations being made at myself. When I mentioned beauty salons, the hon. the Minister of Career Development and Advanced Studies immediately falls into the silliness that only women use beauty salons. I mean, there are men in this House, Mr. Chairman, who spend enough money on having their hair teased to do a fair amount of road building in my district. So, Mr. Chairman, I am taken aback to hear a minister of the Crown get up and suggest that a beauty salon is only for women. What narrow-mindedness? What male chauvinism! Look at the other side. Look at the butterflies. Look at the pretty pictures. Look at the flowers. They are beautiful! The Minister of Forest Resources and Lands (Mr. Simms) is a prime example, Mr. Chairman. The Minister of Career Development and Advanced Studies (Mr. Power) is absolutely a perfect example that beauty salons are not just for women. If the Minister of Career Development and Advanced Studies had allowed me to get to my point instead of getting up and accusing me of male chauvinism, I would have pointed out that those beauty salons, Mr. Chairman, could be made available to the men who are working in the Department of Transportation so that we could have pretty flagmen just as well as we can have pretty flagpersons.

MR. KELLAND:

And pretty ministers.

MR. DECKER:

And, as my colleague points out, maybe the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Dawe) himself, who has a similar problem to my own, his hair is thinning out on the front and he is trying his best to keep it covered up there, if we had a beauty salon, Mr. Chairman, in the Department of Transportation, it would do something for the minister of that department.

Having said that, Mr. Chairman, I have now run out of all the good things I can say about the \$12,885,000, which is being allocated to the Department of Transportation. All they have done is put on a few flagpersons, try to be progressive. But the way the money is spent is the same old way it always was spent. It is pure political patronage as usual. The Strait of Belle Isle which has stood by Liberalism for the last twenty-something years, is not able to get any money, Mr. Chairman. They put on a few flagperson and they thing they are doing something for transportation in this Province.

MR. TULK:

Adjourn the debate now.

MR. DECKER:

I am told to adjourn the debate because people are sick of listening to me. I will adjourn the debate, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Greening):

Shall the resolution carry?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Carried.

MR. MARSHALL:

Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again.

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

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Terra Nova.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply have considered the matters to them referred and have directed me to report progress and ask leave to sit again.

On motion, report received and adopted, Committee ordered to sit again on tomorrow.

MR. MARSHALL:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL:

Mr. Speaker, I move the House at its rising to 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, at 3:00 p.m.

Index

Answers to Questions

tabled

November 4, 1985

*Tabled by the Hon. the
Minister of Development,
4 Nov. 1985*

13. Mr. Aylward (Stephenville) - to ask the Honourable, the Minister of Development to lay upon the table of the House the following information:

- (1) How much money is available from the Federal/Provincial Tourism Agreement and, how much did the Town of Stephenville receive thus far?

Mr. Speaker, I submit the following information in response to the question submitted by the Honourable Member for Stephenville. The Federal/Provincial Tourism Agreement allows for the expenditure of \$21,000,000 (\$12,500,000 Federal and \$8,500,000 Provincial) over a five year period. These funds are allocated to six programs : 1) Travel Generators (\$8,500,000), 2) Marketing (\$3,200,000), 3) Incentives (\$7,000,000), 4) Industry Organization (\$1,000,000), 5) Development Counselling (\$500,000), and 6) Administration (\$800,000).

To date there have been five proposals received from the private sector in the Town of Stephenville for funding under the incentives program of the Agreement.

Two proposals have been rejected, one funded in the amount of \$6,250.00 and two seeking funding to the magnitude cumulatively of \$149,175.00 are under active assessment and consideration by the Management Committee.