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Speaker: Honourable P.J. McNicholas

Friday

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The House met at 10:00 a.m.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):
Order, please!

Statements by Ministers

MR. SIMMS:
Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMS:
As President of Treasury Board and as Minister responsible for the Status of Women, and, perhaps even more importantly, on behalf of this government, I am very proud and delighted to announce to this hon. House that a tentative agreement on pay equity was reached this morning.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMS:
The agreement was reached this morning involving public sector employees and unions.

After a total of seven days of intensive negotiations, including four days and nights this week alone, an agreement was concluded at 6:45 this morning.

I have personally just come from the bargaining table, a short while ago, where I met with the employer and union representatives, since 4:30 a.m. onward, and I am pleased to indicate to hon. members that this is the first Province-wide public sector pay equity agreement

negotiated in Canada.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMS:
Similar agreements across Canada, Mr. Speaker, have all been legislated, but we preferred to take the negotiated route and the consultative approach and I think it has been very successful for all parties.

Unions involved in the agreement include the Association of Allied Health Professionals, the Canadian Union of Public Employees, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, the Newfoundland and Labrador Nurses Union, and the Newfoundland Association of Public Employees. Employer groups included the Newfoundland Hospital and Nursing Home Association, Newfoundland Hydro and Treasury Board.

I might add, Mr. Speaker, to conclude such an agreement on such a single complex issue with five unions at the same time, I believe is also worthy of note and is very significant as well.

Mr. Speaker, details of this historic agreement, which will bring equal pay for work of equal value, particularly to the women of the Provincial Public Service will be released in due course, as soon as the unions involved, in particular, have a chance to apprise their teams of the details.

I want to take this opportunity, if I may, Mr. Speaker, to personally thank all of those involved in the negotiations, including union and management representatives, as well as officials from the Department of Labour, who were very, very

helpful.

This, Mr. Speaker, is a very historic day for Newfoundland, it is a very historic day for women in the public service, and indeed for all the people of Newfoundland and Labrador, in my view. This government is very, very proud of being responsible for introducing such an important and significant social policy initiative as equal pay for work of equal value.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. TULK:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Fogo.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. TULK:

Mr. Speaker, let me say to the President of Treasury Board that if indeed the position of the government is as the minister says in this statement, and if indeed women in the Public Service will receive equal pay for work of equal value, then we welcome the announcement and we on this side endorse the agreement.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. TULK:

We also look forward to the day, I say to the minister, when women in the private sector of our economy, as well as in the public sector of our economy, will receive equal pay for work of equal value as well.

I would throw in a word of caution

here, and that is that we will watch the details as they unfold. Because I can clearly recall sitting in this legislature some years ago and watching the then Minister of Labour announce that there was going to be consultation with the public service sector in this Province on Bill 59, and immediately after the election was over we saw what happened: The screws went down on NAPE and the other public employees in this Province. So we will watch the details closely. It seems, Mr. Speaker, that indeed Fraser March and the people who are negotiating for the Public Service in this Province taught the government a lesson in a strike that they held a couple of years ago.

We welcome the announcement and we look forward to following the details.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. LONG:

Mr. Speaker, we would like to congratulate the government and the Minister Responsible for Treasury Board in particular. I am sure he has put a lot of personal energy and commitment into this process over the last couple of months.

We would, of course, also like to congratulate the effort of the bargaining teams who represented the five unions involved. I understand that the process that they experienced in coming together as five Public Sector bargaining teams was quite unprecedented in their own experience, and they are certainly

reserving of full credit in bringing together a common position from their side.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. LONG:

But I would say to the minister, though, that, given the approach that the government has taken to negotiate this at the bargaining table, there still remains the question - in fact the question is begged, I think - of a legislative approach to this issue being in the statutes, that will guarantee, whatever process or difficulties might occur at the bargaining table, that the principle is enshrined in law in this Province that women cannot be discriminated against in pay scales in the workforce.

And so we would like to give notice to the minister today that in the absence of any legislation specifically addressing this issue, before this House closes we will be looking very closely at amendments to the Human Rights Code, which have been introduced, because there is a section in there on equal pay. We are not sure that that particular section is enough, and we also have a question about the applicability of the Human Rights Code as a statute on its own terms, having primacy over other laws in the Province.

But in any case, Mr. Speaker, we would say that this is an historic day. We think the government has done a good job in the last number of months in moving quickly towards a resolution, but we would say to the Minister responsible for the Status of Women that this issue is not the only standard by which women in this Province would

judge the record of the government. On the issues of child care and battered women's transition services, there is much yet to be done.

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the President of the Council.

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker, this statement is equally as important and significant.

On behalf of the Premier I am pleased to announce today that Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro has awarded a contract valued at approximately \$1 million for enhancement of the water handling capability of the Bay d'Espoir hydroelectric generating system. This contract, Mr. Speaker, is awarded to a local contractor from the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, Russell Pike of Pasadena, who was the lowest bidder in a recent call for tenders. Acres Limited from St. John's is the project manager.

The contract involves raising the dykes and dams of the Long Pond Reservoir by about one and a half meters and is part of the program undertaken by Hydro to enhance the water handling capabilities of the Bay d'Espoir generating plant.

I am advised that some twenty jobs will be provided during the peak of construction and work will commence early in July with completion scheduled for November. A total of two dams and three dykes in the Long Pond reservoir are involved in this project.

MR. WELLS:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. WELLS:
Mr. Speaker, we are happy to hear of the announcement. I assume its intended purpose is to increase the storage capacity of the reservoir so that more of the power we use can be generated by hydro rather than oil, the end result ultimately in some reduction in the cost of electricity. Well, 'enhance the water handling capabilities' means to increase the storage capacity so that more power can be generated from hydro rather than oil.

Perhaps the most significant thing about this is it might create some jobs in Bay d'Espoir, which has an 87 per cent unemployment rate. It is a local contractor from Newfoundland, from Pasadena, and I would hope that the majority if not all of those jobs will be made available to the people of Bay d'Espoir, so that there will be some means of offsetting the sixteen jobs that the government has allowed to be taken out of Bay d'Espoir and transferred back to St. John's. Every little bit helps and we welcome the announcement, Mr. Speaker.

MR. R. AYLWARD:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the Minister of Forest Resources.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. R. AYLWARD:

Thank you, very much, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to inform the House that the Province's forest protection program against the hemlock looper is expected to start as soon as weather permits. A few blocks scheduled for Bt treatment will be sprayed first.

The spray program is being carried out by the department in conjunction with the two pulp and paper companies, and will involve spraying of 70,000 to 80,000 hectares of forest land. The area is divided into thirty-two spray blocks, most of which are in Northwestern Newfoundland, from Bonne Bay to Caslor's River on the Great Northern Peninsula. There are a few blocks in the Bay of Islands area near Benoit's Cove. Twenty-one of these blocks will be sprayed with Fenitrothion while eleven blocks will be sprayed with Bt, either Dipel 176 or Futura XL - whatever that is. This means that approximately 25 per cent of the blocks will be treated with Bt which will give the department a good opportunity to further evaluate this product as a control for the hemlock looper under average operational conditions following the successful experiments carried out in conjunction with the C.F.S. in 1987. The Bt blocks have taken into consideration sensitive areas, particularly, watersheds and fish habitat.

The program will be based in Port au Choix and the airstrip near that community will be used. Besides the six permanent and long-term temporary personnel involved in the program, there will be twenty-nine seasonal staff directly involved in the spray operation for a period of up to ten weeks.

department and the pulp and paper companies will again be funding insecticide experiments in conjunction with the Canadian Forestry Service. These experiments will involve the growth regulator, Dimilin, and various formulations of Bt which will be compared to chemical insecticide, Fenitrothion. The purpose is to further refine the use of Bt and to try Dimilin as a pre-emergence chemical insecticide. The program will be carried out by the Canadian Forestry Service scientists with logistical and manpower support supplied by the department. The department has hired twenty-two students to assist the Canadian Forestry Service with their experiments. The experimental spray program started on June 22, 1988.

The spray contract has been awarded to Agric Air Inc. (Beaver Air Spray) of Ste. Cecile, Quebec. All the aircraft are single engine and consist of five AgCat and four Rull Thrushes to be based in Port aux Choix.

Once the program gets underway, information updates on the blocks being treated will be sent twice daily to all news media. In addition, the general public will be able to obtain information directly by calling 637-2302. Collect calls will be accepted by the department. The number will be staffed by forestry personnel during regular hours until the program begins. Once operations start, the number will be staffed from 5:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. daily.

Detailed maps on the spray are available for viewing at the Unit Forestry Office at Port Saunders, the Regional Offices

throughout the Province, and the Forest Protection Division at the Herald Building in Corner Brook. The Department of Environment offices also have copies of the spray maps for public viewing.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to address the House on this important matter. It is a reflection of government's commitment to maintain a strong forest based industry in this Province.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SIMMONS:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Fortune - Hermitage.

MR. SIMMONS:

Mr. Speaker, we in the official Opposition support the need for an adequate forest protection program. The forest industry's economic and recreational worth to this Province dictates an unrelenting effort to protect it from insect infestation and from destruction by fire and the like.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we also want again to go on the record to express concern to the minister about the fact that he is still persisting in spraying only about 25 percent of the blocks with a formula of Bt. I do not know why he persists in this, there has to be a reason, but has never tried to give the explanation to the House. Indeed, not only does he fly in the face of the pleas from this side, but he flies in the face of his own people: The Pesticides Advisory Committee, the government's own advisory team on the subject, has recommended to the minister that they step up the

use of Bt to at least 50 percent.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what is the point of all these well paid advisors if the government is going to ignore advice in their direct area of competence? The minister is not an expert in this particular area, he has to take the advice -

MR. MORGAN:

What is the question?

MR. SIMMONS:

I welcome the member for Bonavista South. We are having what we call Statements by Ministers, which they do not have in Nigeria, but here we do.

MR. WARREN:

You are going after the next election.

MR. MORGAN:

(Inaudible) taxation law.

MR. SIMMONS:

Oh, he is awake now. Ah, he is wide awake.

Mr. Speaker, what is the point in continuing to have those advisors if the department is continually going to fly in the face of the advice it gets on areas within their expertise?

Mr. Speaker, what is the reason? Why do they not just throw out the whole advisory committee? And I say to the minister, what assurance can he give to the people, who have some concerns about fenitrothion, about the possibility of it entering the food chain? What is he going to do to reassure those people? We have a suggestion for him: Stop using fenitrothion, step up the use of the various formulæ of Bt, follow the lead of the people in

Manitoba who have been doing this for years, follow the advice of his own people, or get rid of them. I suggest that he follow their advice, because then Newfoundland would be a lot better off and the forest industry would be a lot better protected.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. LONG:

Mr. Speaker, it is clear from the statement that the Minister for Forestry has brought in today that he is doing his job, and his job in this case is to represent the interest of the companies and to make sure that there is not too much difficulty put in their way when the government tries to address its responsibility for protecting our forests against insect infestation.

But I would say that while the Minister of Forestry is doing his job and clearly advancing the interest of the corporations and protecting their interests, the Minister for Environment and Lands (Mr. Russell) unfortunately has been left out of this process. And I would say that what we have seen in the last couple of months, that has led to the minister today announcing this program, is nothing short of shameful on the part of the Minister for Environment and Lands.

I believe, as one person who has been closely watching the activities of this department, that the whole integrity of the Department of Environment and Lands has been put in jeopardy because of this spraying program.

What we have seen in the last year or so is a process in which environmental officials have clearly demonstrated to the Government of this Province that the application of a chemical spray program is dangerous to the environment, to human and animal life wherever there is spraying, and that an alternative biological spray programme, namely using Bt, is both safe and effective. But those recommendations, forwarded the Minister of the Environment, were pre-empted by a process in which the Minister of Forestry refused to allow any space for those recommendations to be considered, jumped the gun and announced ahead of time that the program this Summer would still be a pilot testing of the biological spray program.

Now what we have to say finally, Mr. Speaker, on this is that it looks like the government is doing another spray program this year that is essentially testing Bt for its effectiveness, and it will come back next year and say, we still do not have enough evidence to systematically prove that Bt will be an effective agent, and so next Summer we will have another test spray program. At some point, Mr. Speaker, the people of the Province have a right to expect some accountability, especially from the Department of Environment and Lands to protect the people and the environment from the application of this chemical agent which has been tossed out everywhere else, from all other jurisdictions where it has been used.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DOYLE:
Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. DOYLE:
Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce to the hon. the House of Assembly today a list of six projects valued at \$3,163,000 for which contracts have been awarded by my department under the \$40 million Provincial Capital Roads Program. The projects awarded are as follows:

Awarded to Penney Paving Limited for upgrading and paving approximately 1.4 KM of Route 450, recap approximately 1.4 KM of Route No. 440 and recap approximately 2.6 KM of Route 450-13, Little Port Road. The total value of the project is \$605,971 and the scheduled completion date is September 30, 1988.

Awarded to Adams Construction (1975) Ltd. for grading of approximately 2.1 KM of the Grand Falls Industrial Access Road. The total value of the project is \$516,682 and the scheduled completion date is the last of October.

Awarded to Pennecon Ltd. for recapping of approximately 1.3 KM of Route No. 70 in Bay De Verede, recapping approximately 1.8 KM of Main Road in Grates Cove and paving 1.4 KM of Back Road in Grates Cove. Total value of the project is \$514,810. The scheduled completion date is the end of September.

Awarded to Ralph Janes Ltd. for upgrading of 3 KM of Route No. 363, Coombs Cove Road KM 8.4 to KM

11.4. Total value of the project is \$413,000 and the scheduled completion date is the last of October.

Awarded to Western Construction Co. Ltd. for upgrading and paving of 12.8 KM of roads in Witless Bay and 7.9 KM of local road in Bay Bulls. Total value of the project is \$764,200. The scheduled completion date is the end of September.

Awarded to Ralph Janes Ltd. for upgrading Route 310-32, Eastport toward Burnside, KM 5 to 7.6. Total value of the project is \$348,000. The scheduled completion date is October 31, 1988.

Mr. Speaker, the above projects, together with projects previously announced in the program, amount to approximately 22 percent of the \$40 million program, and over the coming days and weeks I will be announcing the awarding of contracts for the remainder of the program.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. GILBERT:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. GILBERT:
Well, Mr. Speaker, I thank the minister for this earth shattering-statement. However, we heard it before a couple of times, or maybe three times. The first time, when the pork barrel list was given out, they announced where the projects were going to be distributed this year, that 90 percent of the \$40 million he was going to spend out of his

provincial budget was going into Tory districts. So that was the first time that we heard it. The second time we heard this list was when the minister stood in this House and in one or two sections announced that he was going to call tenders. Finally, now that the contracts have been awarded, we are going to hear it again. We are going to hear it on a day to day basis, one-a-day Doyle.

A government that has to stoop to this type of tactic is not long for office. Just imagine trying to bribe the people of Newfoundland with their own tax dollars!

And I say, Mr. Speaker, that it is not worthy to respond to a statement like this. I tell the minister to call an election and the people of Newfoundland will give him their answer about what they are going to do with people like him.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. FENWICK:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. FENWICK:
Mr. Speaker, we would like to thank the minister for the information.

Oral Questions

MR. BAKER:
Mr. Speaker.

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

BAKER:
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My question to the Deputy Premier concerns the Department of Finance and the matter of retail sales tax collection. I would like to put the following situation to the minister. A company, Blackmarsh Enterprises, has been allowed or permitted to build up a debt of retail sales tax, owing to the government over \$650,000 over a period of four years. I say to the minister that this is a frightening situation, how this can be allowed to happen by the Department of Finance. I would like to ask the Minister: How can such a retail sales tax deficit be allowed to be accumulated by one company over four years? What is the problem in the Department of Finance?

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

DR. COLLINS:
Mr. Speaker, the hon. the Minister of Finance (Mr. Windsor) I believe is returning to the Province later today, so he will be in the House, I would anticipate, on Tuesday, and then for the five or six Mondays after that during which the House will be sitting, and all the other days in between when the House will be sitting over the next couple of months, so he will be able to answer this in detail. I am sure the hon. member expected me to take this as notice, which I do.

Perhaps I could just make a general comment. It depends upon the amount of business a company is doing as to how quickly it will accumulate its obligations under The Retail Sales Tax Act. Also, there has to be a certain delay in actual transaction of business by

the company before the department will even know that tax is exiguous because there is a reporting period, but there is a period that has to go by before a report is required, and then, thirdly, sometimes we do have collection problems. We have compliance mechanisms in place, and then we go on to legal mechanisms, but these also take a period of time. So that is just a general comment. I certainly will pass the hon. member's question on to the Minister of Finance, and I take it as notice, and I am sure he will bring in the details.

MR. BAKER:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. BAKER:
The minister knows he was Minister of Finance when this debt was accumulating. He knows that. I did not ask a question to be answered by the present Minister of Finance. I asked the Deputy Premier how this could have developed over the last four years while he was in the Department? How could this debt have developed? We need to know this not only the protection of the Province but the protection of the businesses in this Province, which really should be and need to be notified year by year what the situation is.

Is it true, as the Auditor General says, that there is simply not enough audit activity in the Department of Finance, and there never was an adequate amount of audit activity in the Department of Finance when the Deputy Premier was in that position?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

You cannot ask him that!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Health.

DR. COLLINS:

Mr. Speaker, as hon. members from this side have interjected, it is improper for a member to ask a minister about a previous portfolio. So I took this question as notice in my role as Acting Minister of Finance. I am the Acting Minister of Finance, as far as I am aware, while the Minister of Finance is out of the Province, so I am taking notes in that role. But let me make just another general comment: Mr. Speaker, even though we do go after vendors who owe tax, our tax system is a voluntary tax system, like every jurisdiction in our type of society. When you put in your income tax you voluntarily say how much income you make and you voluntarily send it in.

In other words, we do not have an arrangement whereby public officials go out and determine your value and take money out of your pocket. So, the same way under The Retail Sales Tax Act, we depend on these people to report their level of business and send in the tax. We have ways of checking on it later, and if they had not sent in the tax we go after them, and even if we do not get it we do not write it off. So it might have been on the books even though we have been making valiant efforts, including legal efforts to collect it. And sometimes when we make legal efforts we still cannot get the money, but we do not write it off, we leave it on the books until absolutely every avenue is exhausted; then the only way we can write it off is to go to Treasury Board and get Treasury

Board's permission to write it off.

MR. BAKER:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A final supplementary.

MR. BAKER:

I am interested in how this could happen.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

A final question.

MR. BAKER:

I understand, Mr. Speaker. The Deputy Premier should explain how he can give me that answer when as Deputy Premier he is responsible for what is happening in government and was actually Minister of Finance when this whole thing happened. Now how long is an adequate time? Is four years an adequate time to allow RST debts to build up? Why is the minister not providing for satisfactory audit activity in his government, in the Department of Finance?

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

I do not think that question is quite in order, because it is --

MR. BAKER:

He is the Deputy Premier, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

-- a question that should be directed to the Minister of Finance.

MR. TULK:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

the hon. the member for Fogo.

MR. TULK:

I did not exactly hear what Your Honour said. Our point of order is that the hon. gentleman is the DEputy Premier and, in the absence of the Premier and the Minister Finance, obviously he should answer the question from the hon. gentleman. He is the next in command there.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMS:

To that point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

To that point of order, the hon. the Government House Leader.

MR. SIMMS:

The hon. the Minister of Health has already answered the question, as a matter of fact. All the Speaker has pointed out is that Beauchesne says that questions should not deal with an action of a minister for which he is not responsible to Parliament. In his specific case he is not responsible to Parliament for finance matters, the Minister of Finance is. He has agreed to take the question as notice.

MR. SIMMONS:

He knows more about The Audit Act than anybody else.

MR. SIMMS:

He may well, but he is not responsible to Parliament for that Act, it is the Minister of Finance. Anyway, Mr. Speaker, your ruling is perfectly correct. The Minister of Health has answered questions, though. I guess it is up to him if he wishes to.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

There is no point of order.

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. WELLS:

Mr. Speaker, when I looked up earlier the Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development (Mr. Power) was in the Chamber, so I assume he is in the precincts; if not I will ask the Deputy Premier the question. If he is in earshot and can hear me, my question relates to the recent agricultural agreement that has been announced and the response of the farmers in Newfoundland to the effect that it is not adequate to meet the needs of the farmers in Newfoundland. My question to the minister is has the government been taking steps to ask the federal government to provide for the ACOA program supporting farmers and agricultural projects? Has this government been taking any steps to have the federal government provide for the ACOA program to assist farmers and agricultural projects?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development.

MR. POWER:

Mr. Speaker, as I explained the other day in the Ministerial Statement I made on our Drought Assistance Program as it relates to the Agricultural Agreement that we signed for \$8 million, and the Livestock Feed Assistance Program we have which is a \$4.8 million agreement, neither of these amounts of money is going to be sufficient to do the kind of things in agriculture that we as a

government would like to do. The biggest pocket of federal/provincial money that we can access as a farm community is the ACOA funding. We have written a lot of letters to Mr. Crosbie, the federal minister, we have talked to the Federal Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Wise), and we really are hoping that some of the regulatory changes will be made once the ACOA legislation is passed, so that we will be able, as a farm community, to access all of the ACOA funding for capitalization, for farm improvements, and for extension and expansion of farms. We are working very closely with the federal government and Mr. Crosbie, working locally with the ACOA people, and hopefully over the next couple of months we will be able, as a farm community, to access ACOA funds.

MR. FENWICK:
Mr. Speaker.

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

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

My question is to the Minister responsible for the first year university program in the community college system, the Minister of Career Development and Advanced Studies (Mr. Matthews). As the minister knows, not only the people in my district, but also I think the people of St. Anthony, Stephenville, Gander, Marystown, Carbonear and other places in the Province are all interested in getting a first year university program established in their community. In the Speech from the Throne on March 10, there was an indication from the government that they would defer

any expansion of the first year university program to other centres until the present study completed on the effectiveness of the Grand Falls and Lewisporte program. My question to the minister is this: Since several months have passed since then, and since we have had a first year university program under our belts in those particular communities, could the minister give us some indication of what the studies are showing with reference to the success of these particular programs?

MR. MATTHEWS:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. MATTHEWS:
Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for the question. All I am prepared to say today is that this very pertinent information will be made available in the not too distant future.

MR. FENWICK:
A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
A supplementary, the hon. the member for Menihek.

MR. FENWICK:
Mr. Speaker, we have already seen press releases from the President of Treasury Board indicating that these programs have been highly successful in terms of the pass rate, and the President of the College, Shelia McKennon Drover has indicated the program has accessed a whole new body of students, and since, obviously the information of these reports have been leaked already by the President of the Treasury Board

by the President of the College, could the minister responsible give us some indication of when this House will get a chance to see the particular report that contains the assessment that attests to the success of the program already, and has indicated that they are doing what we told them they would do a year ago, and are being very successful in bringing new people in and giving them a good start on their university careers?

MR. MATTHEWS:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. MATTHEWS:
Mr. Speaker, as I indicated that information will be available soon. The hon. gentleman is quite correct in saying that the results at Grand Falls and Lewisporte have been very, very good in comparison with similar level students at the university; as a matter of fact, I would have to say in all fairness that the results are better. But there are other ongoing programs in the Province right now. There are capital construction projects, at a number of our campuses, that have to be completed before we can move forward with additional courses and brokering of courses from the institutes out and around the Province. So our first priority, Mr. Speaker, is to make sure that our facilities are brought up to scratch with regards to laboratories, research facilities, libraries and other things, because these things are very necessary before the university would even consider permitting us to offer courses in other locations. So we are about right now getting our facilities

brought up to par and we are going to have five or six very modern well-equipped facilities in the different community college regions of the Province. Government will be making a decision later on as to where additional first year university courses will go in the Province, and when.

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

MR. SPEAKER:
A final supplementary, the hon. the member for Menihek.

MR. FENWICK:
Mr. Speaker, since the minister has admitted that they have been successful, and obviously have passed the major hurdle that was established for them, could he give us a detailed description of the centers that are now under consideration for establishment of the first-year university programs? I must say, on a parochial basis, I hope the first one is Menihek. Could he give us some sort of timetable? Are we looking at the possibility of getting something going by September of 1988? Are we looking at September, 1989? Are we looking at January, 1989? Could the minister give us some idea of what kind of implementation schedule this government is looking at so that the people in these centers will have some feeling for when they can start using these programs?

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

MR. MATTHEWS:
Mr. Speaker, that is exactly what we are doing now. As everyone knows, there were some problems

encountered in our high school programs, with science and mathematics particularly. There has been an indepth study looking into the problems with our science and math. That is in progress. As well, we wanted to make sure that all of the bugs were ironed out of the first-year university courses at Grand Falls and Lewisporte. Even though the academic success rate has been very good, there were some student accommodation problems, not being able to accommodate them on the campus where we wanted them. So we had to go outside the campus, which led us to some logistical problems. So we are trying to make sure that when we do move courses to other regions of the Province that proper facilities are in place.

As to where courses will go in the future, that is a decision that government will be making in the future.

MR. LONG:
When?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
In the future!

MR. MATTHEWS:
As soon as a decision is made, I will be more than pleased to let the hon. gentleman know, and other hon. members in the House and, of course, the public of Newfoundland and Labrador.

If the hon. gentleman has his way, as we know from last week, there would not be a dollar spent anywhere else in this Province only in St. John's, where right now \$120 million of a \$183 million post-secondary education budget is being spent. But we are a government, Mr. Speaker, that is going to take first-year

university courses and courses from our institutes out and about the Province.

What we are doing right now is developing a future plan, a four or five-year plan so that we will be able to inform the people of the Province, and people in the district of Memphig who have a great need down there for post-secondary education, where they can expect to receive their share of university courses, courses from the institutes, and localized courses as well, which the Boards of Governors will see fit to implement in their respective regions.

MR. SIMMONS:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

Before recognizing the hon. the member for Fortune - Hermitage, will just take a moment - I do not like interrupting Question Period - to welcome to the galleries the Lord Mayor of Bristol, Mr. Derrick Tedder; Mr. Wilcox, Master Merchant Venturers Association Bristol; and our own Deputy Mayor Mrs. Shannie Duff.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

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

MR. SIMMONS:
Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transportation.

On the 16th of March in this House, during a debate on the railway issue, he made a very direct undertaking that he would see to it that not only the

particular interests of communities such as Port aux Basques and Bishop's Falls were addressed in any railway closedown package, but he also undertook that for communities such as Clarendville and Badger and Stephenville Crossing, those communities which also have a railway component, there would be 'an adequate compensation package put in place to help them out,' and these are his direct words. I wonder would he, in light of that commitment at that time publicly made, indicate what went wrong between cup and lip? What happened that Bishop's Falls got protected, Port aux Basques got the shaft, and the rest never even got an honourable mention?

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

MR. DOYLE:
Mr. Speaker, I think those remarks and comments were made in the context of a good package for employees affected in those particular communities.

MR. SIMMONS:
Yes, yes.

MR. DOYLE:
I think we have seen to that, that a good compensation package have been put in place for these people with a \$70 million labour adjustment program that has been put in place for them. I think every employee is going to be generously looked after. This is the word that we are getting, that the \$70 million will be used to satisfy the terms and conditions of the present collective agreement that is in place. Over and above that, CN will also be offering a package of employment benefits to its people.

I think probably the hon. member is referring to the community itself. Well, Mr. Speaker, I do not think I made any comments in that context that each community in the Province will be looked after, but simply the workers from these particular communities and the communities hardest hit industrially by the shutdown of the railway itself. We have seen to that as well with a very generous compensation package which will be applied to the town of Port aux Basques and the town of Bishop's Falls. So he is aware of all of that.

MR. SIMMONS:
Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER:
A supplementary, the hon. the member for Fortune - Hermitage.

MR. SIMMONS:
Mr. Speaker, the minister, of course, is right about the \$70 million compensation package for the workers, the adjustment package or whatever it is called, and it was not to that that I was referring but to community adjustment.

Now his speech on March 16th made a direct reference to areas being negatively impacted, I am talking about the areas now, and he specified Clarendville, etc.

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

Will the hon. member please pose a question?

MR. SIMMONS:
Yes, Sir.

Mr. Speaker, my question is: Will the minister indicate to the House what happened that areas like

Clareville and Corner Brook, he mentioned those two specifically, did not get addressed in the package? I am talking about the community adjustment package. What happened that there was no mention of them, no provision for communities such as those? I could mention others like Stephenville Crossing, Badger, Whitbourne and so on, but what happened that these are not provided for in the community adjustment package? Could the minister not get his way in the negotiations? Was he part of the negotiations?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Transportation.

MR. DOYLE:

Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member is at his same old game. He tries to take remarks, twist them around, and take them out of context. When we debated this resolution in the House, Mr. Speaker, the remarks that I made with respect to those particular areas were as areas that had the most number of employees directly impacted. As I said, we have taken every step, Mr. Speaker, to put in place a very, very generous compensation package for those people, again I repeat, \$70 million which will satisfy the terms of the current collective agreement. CN has made the commitment as well to negotiate further packages with their individual employees over and above that \$70 million package.

The hon. member, as I said, is taking the remarks out of context. It was never meant that every single community in Newfoundland that had a railway employee would receive a community adjustment package. We were very,

very careful indeed to scrutinize the impact it was going to have upon the two centres most negatively affected, Bishop Falls and Port aux Basques, and took steps to put in place the community adjustment program. Over the next number of weeks and months, we will, as a government, Mr. Speaker, be monitoring very closely the use of that money. We have a committee put in place consisting of federal people, provincial people, and people from those communities as well to ensure that the money that has been made available to those areas is used in the best possible way.

Again, the hon. member is taking my remarks out of context, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SIMMONS:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A final supplementary.

MR. SIMMONS:

Is the minister really listening to what he is saying? Yesterday he was disowning his statements about protecting the Terms of Union a couple of months prior. Is he prepared to acknowledge that on the 16th of March he said, "It leaves out the communities in Newfoundland which should have some indication that if the railway closes their communities will receive" - "their communities will receive" - "some kind of a compensation package"? Mr. Speaker, why does he not rephrase what he is saying about my taking his remarks out of context? Is he not the one who is disowning his own remarks two months ago he wanted to protect those communities, provide for them. I believe the minister is speaking with a forked tongue again. Wh

Does he not own up to the legitimacy of what he said in March, stand by it now, and go out and protect those communities, like Port aux Basques and the others I mentioned, that got the shaft in this particular agreement?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Transportation.

MR. DOYLE:

Mr. Speaker, we have kept our commitment to those communities, as I said, those areas that were most negatively impacted, and that does not happen to be every single community in Newfoundland. There are certain areas of the Province where, from an industrial point of view, this agreement will have a greater effect than others. In terms of the workers, and we were speaking about the workers also when these remarks were made, in certain areas of the Province, like Bishop's Falls and Port aux Basques, more people will be affected. Mr. Speaker, as I said, I can only repeat the same old thing that I have been saying for the last few days, that we have given the assurance to these people that they will be protected under this Community Adjustment Program and under the Labour Adjustment Program as well. What the hon. member is saying is just so much gobbledygook, Mr. Speaker.

MR. PAIRD:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Humber West.

MR. BAIRD:

Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transportation. In view of the announcement of the closedown of the CNR this week, I understand it could affect, particularly in Port aux Basques and on the West Coast, thirty to forty employees - somewhere in that vicinity; maybe up to fifty - of CN Marine. Is there any provision being made for the employees of CN Marine that could be affected?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Transportation.

MR. DOYLE:

Mr. Speaker, as a matter of fact, I had a meeting about that at 8 A.M. this morning, before some of the Opposition members got out of bed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. DOYLE:

Thank you very much.

I had a meeting this morning at approximately 8 a.m., Mr. Speaker, with the President and Managing Director of CN Marine to go over with them the impact if any this particular agreement might have upon CN Marine workers at Port aux Basques, because we are getting a number of conflicting reports over the last number of days, reports that you hear in the press, that there will be anywhere from fifty to one hundred workers laid off.

Mr. Speaker, I must say that the meeting was a very, very productive one. However, it is going to be months, actually, before any numbers can be firmed up by CN Marine as to the numbers that are going to be laid off, if any. And I stress and underline

that 'if any' because I have been told by the president this morning that there may not be any workers laid off, and there could be some laid off. The agreement itself is only a week old, and they have to sit down with TerraTransport to find out exactly in what direction they are moving with respect to the intermodal system. When Mr. Lawless, the President of CN, was in the city last week he gave every indication that they will be aggressively marketing their intermodal service in Newfoundland, so it could very well be that they are going to recapture a lot of that business they lost over the last number of years. So, first of all, it has to be determined whether or not they are going to recapture their share of the market. Also, it has to be determined by the marketplace itself where and in what direction the freight is going to be moving, either by the intermodal service or through the water service.

So, Mr. Speaker, all of these things at this point in time are not known. As I said, the agreement itself is only approximately a week old and the CN Marine people have to sit down with the TerraTransport people and try to hammer out those kinds of details. But, Mr. Speaker, we have been given every indication that if there are some layoffs they will certainly have to look at these people and see that they are part of a compensation deal. But, again I stress, they are not sure if any workers will be laid off, or what the numbers will be, but we have been told that we will be continually involved in that process. As soon as that information is known, after the meetings have been completed with TerraTransport, I will again be

talking to the President, and the Managing Director here in Newfoundland, to see that the interests of those people are protected.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. LONG:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. LONG:

Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Government House Leader, the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women. I do not know if he is still here and able to take his seat to answer a question, which is it not entirely unrelated to the important initiative he announced today, which obviously will impact in an important way on the status of women in this Province.

I would like to ask the minister could he tell the House, or bring any information to the House concerning negotiations with the federal government on proposed initiatives with the provision of child care services in this Province, and whether the minister is able to say that this Province has a commitment in the new child care plan to make monies available so that new day care spaces will be created in the public sector?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the President of the Council.

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker, I respect the member's question and appreciate it. I know that he probably thinks that I know everything

about those kinds of things, but the specific question is more properly directed to my colleague, the Minister of Social Services (Mr. Tobin), who is responsible for negotiating this particular matter. So if the hon. member does not mind, perhaps the Minister of Social Services could answer?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Social Services.

MR. TOBIN:

Mr. Speaker, if I got the hon. member's question correctly, it relates to day care in the public sector.

Mr. Speaker, negotiations with the federal government started some time ago and they are still ongoing and at this stage we are not in a situation to say anything about it.

MR. LONG:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A supplementary, the hon. the member for St. John's East.

MR. LONG:

The Social Services Minister in his portfolio has the responsibility for child care. A month ago the federal minister responsible was here in the City of St. John's and said that negotiations had been pretty well concluded with this Province but that he could not say anything or give an indication of what might happen in this Province, and that the people of Newfoundland would have to get information from the Government of the Province.

For some months many people in the day care community have been

wanting some indication of where this Province is going to move and whether we will be able to access federal funds.

My question, Mr. Speaker, is: Does this Province have a commitment under the new federal initiatives in child care to make provincial monies available in the public sector as an indication of its commitment to provide quality care instead of privatizing child care in the future in this Province?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Social Services.

MR. TOBIN:

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the hon. gentleman is aware that the proposal from the federal government involves both private day care and public care systems and we are negotiating with the federal government as it relates to the proposal surrounding day care.

MR. LONG:

A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A final supplementary, the hon. the member for St. John's East.

MR. LONG:

I would like to ask the Minister of Social Services why, in view of the stated commitment this government has to child care, this government has not taken action to bring in legislation to provide licenced day care for children under two in this Province, and has allowed a situation which is quite dangerous to go on?

MR. TOBIN:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Social Services.

MR. TOBIN:

Mr. Speaker, we are addressing that issue as well. The hon. gentleman did not go on to say that the first day care centre related to a public system in this Province was opened by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

This government, Mr. Speaker, brought in day care in this Province, and it is this government that has really made a great contribution to day care here. As it relates to the hon. gentleman's question, we realize that, Mr. Speaker. This administration made great gains in the past two years in day care, Mr. Speaker, in implementing it in the first instance. We realize that it is not perfect, it does not cover off everything, but we are addressing the whole issue as it relates to day care in this Province in the negotiations.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

The time for Oral Questions has elapsed.

MR. WELLS:

A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. WELLS:

Mr. Speaker, there were a number of matters which arise out of Question Period this morning which I want to raise on this point of order because I believe the Official Opposition has been deprived of an appropriate

opportunity to address a number of issues which ought to have been addressed, and I think not properly so.

The first matter I wish to address to Your Honour is the ruling Your Honour made with respect to the question asked by the hon. member for Gander (Mr. Baker) of the Deputy Premier. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Windsor) is not in the House and the Premier is not in the House. The question had to be addressed, so he addressed the next appropriate minister, the Deputy Premier. In the process of addressing the question, he mentioned also that the Deputy Premier was Minister of Finance at the time when the issue arose. He was not asking him a question by reason of that, it was mentioned incidentally. The question was directed to the Deputy Premier and we are concerned about having a ruling on the record that in the absence of the minister responsible, the Premier, questions cannot be addressed to the Deputy Premier, that they are out of order. I would ask Your Honour if you would reconsider that matter in the light of those comments and address a response.

There are two other points with respect to it.

MR. SPEAKER:

I think maybe we should deal with that point of order first.

MR. WELLS:

I have no problem with that. There I have two others, Your Honour.

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker, to that point of order.

First of all, it is pretty obvious there is no point of order. The

...n. leader of the Opposition is simply not happy with the ruling Your Honour gave and there is a process if one is not happy, if he feels strongly about it, he can take other action. That is not relevant. It is not appropriate to raise it as a point of order, to waste the time of the House. Everybody knows it is the Speaker's responsibility to interpret the rules. That is all the Speaker of the House does.

Now, if he interprets in such a way that you or I do not like it, then that is too bad. That is the Speaker's job. His job is to interpret the rules. It is tit for tat. There have been occasions in the past, on the other side, when we have not been happy with the rulings, but we certainly do not rise on a point of order after the fact, thirty minutes later and try and bring it to the House's attention. That is a childish move for the Leader of the Opposition to be taking.

MR. WELLS:
To that, Your Honour.

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

MR. WELLS:
The brief reply is simply this, Your Honour. It is entirely appropriate and proper to raise it on a point of order after Question Period, which is what I have done, to give Your Honour a chance to -

MR. SIMMS:
I would like to reply briefly to that.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Sit down 'boy,' sit down!

MR. WELLS:

When I am finished.

MR. SIMMS:
On this point?

MR. WELLS:
Yes!

It is entirely appropriate, Your Honour, for somebody from the Opposition to raise the point after the Question Period so as not to take up the time of Question Period. If there is a matter we feel may not have been handled quite correctly, the appropriate way is to ask Your Honour to reconsider the issue and then Your Honour can make an appropriate ruling. That is a normal procedure.

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

MR. SIMMS:
That is absolute rubbish, absolute nonsense! It is never done in the House, where you ask the Speaker to reconsider his ruling. How silly and how foolish can you get! First of all, the Minister of Health (Dr. Collins), in his capacity as Deputy Premier, did respond to the questions. That is number one.

MR. WELLS:
It was ruled out of order by the Speaker.

MR. SIMMS:
It was on the third occasion and that is fine. That is the Speaker's right, is it not? That is not the right of the Leader of the Opposition to interpret the rules, it is up to the Speaker. That is what he is here for. So, it is absolute rubbish, absolute nonsense, Mr. Speaker, what the Leader of the Opposition is

saying.

It is not appropriate to raise a point of order thirty minutes later. You are suppose to raise a point of order at the time that the breach of order occurs and a point of order has to do with the rules of the House, the operations of the House. This is not a point of order or nothing like it, Mr. Speaker. It is absolute nonsense!

MR. SPEAKER:

I am quite prepared to rule on that point of order raised by the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SIMMS:

Yes, make a ruling on it, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Leader of the Opposition is quite right, that if a minister is not present, a question can be directed to the Premier or the Acting Premier, and I accept that.

In this particular case, the hon. the Minister of Health (Dr. Collins) was, I presume, Acting Premier, did respond to that and he did say that he was going to pass the information on to the Minister of Finance, and he answered a subsequent question, if my memory is correct.

There was a final question dealing specifically with sales tax which the hon. minister had already said he was going to pass on to the Minister of Finance. I felt for that reason the question was out of order, and I so ruled.

So there is no point of order.

MR. WELLS:

Mr. Speaker, the other point I wish to make, having been successful on that point -

MR. TOBIN:

He said there was no point of order!

DR. COLLINS:

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

MR. WELLS:

Mr. Speaker, we saw another abuse here this morning when this staged question, I agree members on the government side have a right to rise and ask a minister a question. But what happened this morning was the minister had a statement he wished to make, and it ought to have made it in the form of a Ministerial Statement instead of taking up the time of the House during Oral Question period, which as Your Honour has already previously ruled, ought to be reserved to allow the Opposition side of the House to ask questions.

I point out too, Your Honour, that so far this morning the Official Opposition with fifteen members got to ask three questions. The NDP got to ask two, with just two members, and the government side got to ask one. That is what happened this morning, and I suggest to Your Honour that is an inappropriate result of what has been happening and I ask Your Honour to reconsider the approach.

MR. BAIRD:

Mr. Speaker, to the point of order.

MR. SPEAKER:

To that point of order, the hon. the member for Humber West.

MR. BAIRD:

I think that is ridiculous this morning, Mr. Speaker. Is the Leader of the Opposition not interested in the livelihood of these people where their job

could be affected with the CNR? I did not know about any meeting this morning. I was at a Treasury Board meeting at eight o'clock. The hon. member for LaPoile had to leave because he had to go to a meeting in Port aux Basques and he asked me if I would ask the question. That is not staged, Sir. We spent a full week on CNR this week and not once did we have a question on the employees. All we heard about was maintenance and more maintenance. Ridiculous!

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:
To that point of order, there is no point of order. It has been established here on many, many occasions that question time is not confined completely to hon. members on my right. In no way would I condone an abuse of that, and a whole series of questions would be asked by hon. members on my left. In fact, that very, very seldom happens.

Now, the hon. member mentioned about two members from the party on the far right. They are perfectly entitled to ask two questions and I can allow that, but maybe my memory does not serve me correctly. I do not remember recognizing the hon. member for Merihok (Mr. Fenwick) this morning, did I?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER:
I certainly would not have recognized the hon. member for St. John's East. My memory must be a bit lapse this morning. It certainly was not intentional.

MR. LONG:

A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. LONG:
Yes, Mr. Speaker, my point of order concerns your statements with respect to the issue of recognizing members from the third party. I am just concerned that you seem to have established a precedent that we will not be recognized more than once in question period.

I would beg to point out that there have been question periods this Session in which we were not recognized at all. My memory is that today was the second day out of sixty-two days when we were given each a question in question period. So, it is not as though we have two questions very often. In fact, most days we agree and we are happy to have one question in question period, but I would be concerned that we would be prevented from having more than one by the comments the Speaker just made, especially when there are no other members of the Official Opposition standing. The Speaker is obliged to recognize the only standing person with a question.

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

There is no point of order. I am just wondering if the hon. member would like me to do away with that precedent and possibly his members would not be recognized at all on a particular day.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Oh, oh!

Petitions

MR. FUREY:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the member for St. Barbe.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. FUREY:
Mr. Speaker, I want to rise for a couple of minutes to present to the House a petition from a couple of hundred people from the district of St. Barbe. It does not deal with the Daniels Harbour mine. I notice the Minister of Mines' (Mr. Dinn) interjection.

Mr. Speaker, a number of people from the communities of St. Barbe, Foresters Point, Black Duck Cove, Plum Point, Pond Cove, Anchor Point, Blue Cove, and indeed the Flowers Cove area, have asked me address this petition with respect to the regional waste disposal site. I have notified the Minister of Environment (Mr. Russell) prior to Question Period, Mr. Speaker, I would be tabling this petition and asked him to respond in kind.

Mr. Speaker, this petition, addressed to this hon. House, deals basically with the opposition, and the strong opposition I should point out, to the decision made by government to approve the waste disposal site known as the Strait of Belle Isle Waste Disposal Site, although it spills over into both districts, the Strait of Belle Isle and the Northern tip of the district of St. Barbe. Mr. Speaker, we are talking specifically about certificate approval No. W.M.S. 87-03612.

What the people are basically saying, Mr. Speaker, are a number of points. The first being that nobody in the district of St. Barbe I have encountered is against the very progressive idea of shared regional services. Nobody is against this kind of regionalism, sharing regional services. In fact, Mr. Speaker, if we could apply that across the municipal sector in the district of St. Barbe, we would be way ahead because we would have more uses of fire trucks and equipment, more uses of recreational centres and all these kinds of things.

So nobody, I want to say clearly in the beginning of this petition, nobody objects, or at least nobody I have encountered in the district of St. Barbe, objects to the concept of regional government and shared regional services.

But in this particular instance, Mr. Speaker, what we see the strenuous and strong objection to is the actual, physical, geographic placing of the waste disposal site for these communities to share. This particular site, Mr. Speaker, is squarely in the town or near the town, on the border of the town of St. Barbe, a very small town. Hon. members will know from their own experiences of travelling the Northern Peninsula, the town I speak of, St. Barbe, is the area that connects Labrador to the Island of Newfoundland, St. Barbe and Blanc Sablon.

So, right on the edge of that town they are proposing to put a waste disposal site to carry all of the wastage of all of the communities. Mr. Speaker, between the Northern communities of Flowers Cove descending South all the way to Plum Point. So there is

significant number of these communities which are going to be collecting their own wastage and carrying them to one place on the edge of the Town of St. Barbe.

The problem is, Mr. Speaker, threefold. Number one, the people are saying and the minister will know this from the correspondence he has had from a number of concerned citizens, number one, they just is not enough or sufficient fill in this particular area the government has designated for proper burying of the wastage. So, Mr. Speaker, if there is not enough fill, just imagine the health hazards which are going to come about as a direct result of not being able to bury this garbage and this wastage properly. So number one, Mr. Speaker, there is not proper fill, and a direct consequence of that will be health hazards with the rats and those kinds of things. The hon. member for Bellevue (Mr. Callan) would recognize that, I am sure. Mr. Speaker, all those kinds of things are going to be a significant problem. The health hazards which directly will be a consequence of not having proper fill will create these health problems.

The second thing, Mr. Speaker, is this waste disposal proposed site borders right behind it on what is called East River. Now, the Minister of the Environment, who is very environmentally conscious, Mr. Speaker, and who is very proud of the environment and who wants to protect and conserve and do everything in his power to ensure the environment is a clean one and that it will be passed on to future generations in a proper way, he will know, Mr. Speaker, that the East River is now currently a wonderful, beautiful,

crystal clean Northern river which flows behind the community of St. Barbe. What is going to happen, Mr. Speaker, is the local people, and they themselves know that -- they stated it clearly in their petition to the hon. House -- is the drainage will come from the waste disposal site right into that river. So what we are taking is twelve or fifteen communities garbage, dumping it on the corner of the town of St. Barbe, the garbage will seep down into the bedrock, the drainage will go off into the river known as East River, potentially killing all the natural habitat there, potentially destroying, Mr. Speaker, by conclusion, all of the rich, clean and wonderful environment that is right behind it.

So, Mr. Speaker, in conclusion let me say that nobody in St. Barbe I have encountered is against collective regional service. This is a good idea. There is no question about it. The minister is on the right track. It is absolutely the right way to go to share services.

But, we just question is this particular piece of geography, Mr. Speaker, the proper place to put this particular waste disposal site.

Three hundred people do not think so, this member does not think so, and I would ask the minister to have senior officials from his office here in St. John's to perhaps review the situation. I know Corner Brook has, maybe St. John's would.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUSSELL:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Environment and Lands.

MR. RUSSELL:

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to respond to the hon. the member for St. Barbe and to his petition. There are a number of points perhaps, Mr. Speaker, if I were in your seat, I would have to rule it would be a difference of opinion between two hon. members.

Mr. Speaker, the proposed site for this waste disposal site has caused some controversy, as the hon. member has indicated. It goes back, Mr. Speaker, to several months ago and I have had some correspondence from people down there and responded to them in writing and in other ways as I will allude to in a few minutes.

Mr. Speaker, the ideal situation perhaps throughout, not only the St. Barbe area, but the Province generally, is to have regional waste disposal sites instead of having one in every little community, so to speak.

Mr. Speaker, officials in my department have tried unsuccessfully to develop a regional waste disposal area in this area. Contrary to what the hon. member has said, there has not been the kind of cooperation we would have liked for the regional waste disposal site.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member, as I understood him at least, referred to this proposed site as a landfill site. That is only partly correct, Mr. Speaker. The real intention of this site is to be incinerator site. In the interim, until the incinerator is constructed there, there will be some landfill take place.

The hon. member and other hon. members, I am sure, are aware of the advantages of an incinerator site as opposed to a landfill site in that there is not as much area required and you can landfill the ash certainly in a smaller area than the regular landfill site.

So, Mr. Speaker, we issued a certificate of approval for the site the hon. member refers to and he is quite correct in saying the people in the area are not happy and have put forth some arguments why they feel this site is not suitable.

Mr. Speaker, officials in my department, in fact, my predecessor himself visited the site last year and looked at the location we were suggesting. Officials in my department and other departments, Mr. Speaker, have also looked at it. In fact, we had officials from Fisheries and Oceans look at the possible concerns related to the salmon rivers in the area and they said there are really no problems there.

Contrary, also, to what the hon. member indicated - I am taking the word of engineers and officials in my department who looked at the site, and they have told me the drainage from the site is towards the West River, approximately 1.1 kilometers away, and not towards the East River. Now, that information has been passed on to me by officials who, I believe really, or at least I have to believe what they are telling me is correct.

One of the other concerns the hon. member mentioned, and certainly the people down there have mentioned, is the committee did not have the proper equipment to landfill the site. Again, I have

been told there is a tractor and the committee is reasonably well off, as committees go, from a financial viewpoint in terms of being able to financially look after the dump site in this way. So they have met the guidelines, Mr. Speaker, we have looked for, as opposed to other sites looked at in the area which did not meet the criteria.

I think, Mr. Speaker, what we have here really is the old NJMBY syndrome, that everybody wants a dump site, but not in my backyard kind of thing. As the hon. member knows, the people down there requested that somebody from my department here in St. John's - the hon. member made some representation in that area as well - visit them. I had that done, Mr. Speaker. There was an official from my department down there approximately two weeks ago, I believe, and had a meeting with the people down there. I understand the meeting did not go exceptionally well. But I did have somebody else go down there from my department to take another look at it. That was done and he has come back. I have not seen him. I have asked him to give me a short written report of his visit there. I have not seen that yet, because he is also busy at other things.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to be able to say we will look again at another site. I do not think I can say that in all truthfulness, Mr. Speaker, because I do not think there is another site there as good as the one we have now even.

Maybe the one we have now is not everything we would like for it to be, but I think it is the best that we can find at the present

time. So, I think we are going to have to go ahead with this site. It will be an incinerator site as opposed to a landfill site, and there are some advantages to that.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DECKER:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. DECKER:
Mr. Speaker, I want to support this particular petition.

First I would be remiss, though, if I did not compliment the member for St. Barbe for the contribution and the concern he shows in this particular matter. I know it has been a concern for him for some time and he has been doing a lot to help resolve the issue.

Also, I would like to compliment the previous Minister of Environment who took a very active role in this problem on the Northern Peninsula, Mr. Speaker. I can certainly state he did take the time to go up to Flower's Cove and I want to publicly thank him for making that visit.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. Minister of Environment talks about the incinerator site. Now, the member for St. Barbe knows there is going to be an incinerator. We all know there is going to be an incinerator. But the problem which the minister may not be aware of is that those incinerators do have garbage left over. Those incinerators are not like the furnaces the Nazis use in Germany. They do not provide a total solution.

I have not yet seen an incinerator site which is perfectly clean. If an incinerator is going to be on a bald rock, there has to be provision made to remove the ashes, to remove the garbage which is not burnt. There is a lot of garbage which goes in, such as bottles and tin cans, which cannot be burnt. Now, what the people in St. Barbe are concerned about is that the residue from this incinerator is either carried away - if the minister wants to freight it away, that is no problem - or there has to be sufficient land-fill to make sure that that is a clean site.

Mr. Speaker, one of the major problems on the Great Northern Peninsula, and I would think in other parts of the Province as well, is the eyesore that those dumps are causing. It is totally unbelievable. The Great Northern Peninsula, Mr. Speaker, is the most important tourist section of Newfoundland and Labrador today, and there is nothing worse for visitors to this Province than to have to drive up the Peninsula and look at the dump in Hawkes Bay, which is one of the better dumps on the Northern Peninsula, it at least has a fence in front of it. At certain times during the year, when the wind blows across from our side of the Peninsula, the garbage is blown across the road. I can say that is happening in Flowers Cove, the one which is about to be closed up, and it is also happening in Anchor Point, which we hope will be closed up.

Getting away from this particular region or area and going on up to the Viking site, just South of the Viking site, Mr. Speaker, there is a garbage dump which is a total eyesore. Just between Englee and Roddickton is the Bide Arm dump,

which is a total eyesore. The problem has to be addressed and, I believe, the only way to address it is to have regional incinerators. Now, the people of St. Barbe are complaining, and they are concerned about a dump going on their site, and the minister makes light of that, he called it a 'Newfie Syndrome,' I believe.

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

The hon. the Minister of the Environment.

MR. RUSSELL:
Mr. Speaker, that is not what I said. I said it was the NIMBY syndrome, not in my backyard. I did not make fun of it at all.

MR. DECKER:
In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, because I just have thirty seconds, I think we should compliment the people of St. Barbe for accepting this dump, but let us assure them that we are not going to dump an eyesore in their backyard. Let us assure them that the dump they are going to have there, the incinerator, is not something that they are going to be ashamed of, something that will not drive the value of their property down any more than it already is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Orders of the Day

DR. COLLINS:
Order 10, the adjourned debate on Bill 31, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
"An Act Respecting The Public Library Service In The Province."

The debate was adjourned by the hon. the Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth, and he was closing the debate.

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

MR. BUTT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Very briefly, before moving second reading, I would like to thank hon. members for their input, brief as it was. I want to assure hon. members that this government is committed to having in place what is in place now and to build on this a comprehensive library system to respond to the needs of all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians. That certainly is the declared intent of this act.

I think as times goes on, Mr. Speaker, additional monies that are required will be dedicated to more material for libraries. I think there is a greater co-ordination now between the provincial, regional, and local libraries. That was clearly a need, and these amendments I now bring forward will fill that void.

The matter raised by the hon. member for Eagle River is correct to a point, in that there was a substantial increase in salaries for people working in libraries. Now that that is out of the way, Mr. Speaker, I think we can dedicate more funds in the future to putting additional material into libraries.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, with a great deal of pleasure I move second reading.

On motion, a bill, "An Act Respecting The Public Library Service In The Province," read a

second time, ordered referred to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow. (Bill No. 31)

MR. SIMMS:

Order 8, Bill No. 33.

Second reading of a bill, "An Act To Amend Certain Acts Having Regard To The Canadian Charter Of Rights And Freedoms." (Bill No. 33)

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Justice.

MS VERGE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This bill sets out several amendments to the Province's Statutes to ensure that they conform with the requirements of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The changes were proposed by a committee of three lawyers, who were appointed back in 1984 to review the Province's Statutes to see if, in any respects, they fell short of the Charter requirements. That committee of lawyers was appointed by my predecessor, the present Senator, who is visiting us today. It is good to see him back within our precincts, since he made such an outstanding contribution to deliberations in this Chamber over a great number of years.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MS VERGE:

Around the same time, there were public advertisements soliciting public input into the process of revising our legislation to make sure that our Statutes comply with the Charter.

It was in April of 1985 that

Section 15 of the Charter came into force: That is the important section setting out equality rights. Just after that, in the Spring of 1985, this House of Assembly passed legislation containing seventy odd amendments to Statutes that had been recommended by the Charter Review Committee. This bill is the second result of the committee's work. It stems from the committee's second report which concentrated on our Social Services legislation. So most of the amendments presented in the bill pertain to Social Services legislation. A small number of other changes relate to other types of legislation which had not been identified or dealt with earlier.

Mr. Speaker, the bill is divided into sections referring to provisions of the Charter. After several pages of explanatory notes, on page 10 of the bill we have the beginning of the actual text of the bill.

The first part deals with equality rights amendments. As I mentioned earlier, that is a pivotal provision which came into force in April 1985, and the main provision is that every individual is equal before and under the law and has a right to the equal protection and the equal benefit of the law without discrimination, and in particular without discrimination based on... and there are several heads of discrimination enumerated. Then it goes on to say that essentially affirmative action programs designed to ameliorate disadvantages are not precluded.

So under part one of the bill we have set out changes to The Adoption Of Children Act, The

Change Of Name Act, The Child Welfare Act, The Children Of Unmarried Parents Act, The Election Act, The Homes For Special Care Act, The Hospitals Act, The Maintenance Act, The Members Of The House Of Assembly (Retiring Allowances) Act, The Memorial University Act, The Memorial University (Pensions) Act, The Rehabilitation Act, The St. John's Fire Department Act, The Social Assistance Act, and The Uniformed Services Pensions Act.

Some of these changes, and I think the more significant changes, are to legislation which will be much more comprehensively reformed in bills which are further down on the Order Paper. Coming up we have the package of family law reform, including the new Family Law Act, which will reform the present Maintenance Act and the law relating to children. However, should those bills be passed as they are now drafted, they will not come into force until next year. So there will be a gap of some months, and these amendments will cover that gap and, therefore, they are still worth doing.

Mr. Speaker, the next part of the bill deals with the requirements of Section 2 (d) of the Charter which says and I will quote, 'Any person charged with an offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty according to law in a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal.' The bill enumerates amendments to The Child Welfare Act and the Day Care and Homemaker Services Act. The change to The Child Welfare Act removes the reverse onus features of that legislation and restores the onus to the prosecutor. The change to the Day Care and Homemaker

Services Act imposes a requirement of a hearing with reasonable notice to the parties affected.

Part III of the bill responds to the requirements of Section 8 of the Charter which says 'Everyone has the right to be secure against unreasonable search or seizure.' The specific legislation proposed to be amended is The Child Welfare Act, The Day Care And Homemaker Services Act, The Department of Environment Act, and The Fish Inspection Act - those four statutes.

Generally the changes say that there has to be a court or a judge given warrant before a search, unless there are what are called exigent circumstances, which are defined as circumstances in which the delay necessary to obtain the warrant would result in danger to human life or safety or the loss or destruction of evidence.

Part IV of the bill responds to the requirements of Section 9 of the Charter, which says that everyone has the right not to be arbitrarily detained or imprisoned. There is one amendment set out under that head, and that is to The Children Of Unmarried Parents Act, and it has to do with requiring a court-issued warrant for arrest. Now, that can be done in an arbitrary way.

Part V of the bill deals with the Charter provisions for right to vote and the specific amendments are to The Blind Persons Allowances Act to remove a provision which is redundant, to The Election Act to reduce the disqualifications from voting, to The Old Age Assistance Act, and the Social Assistance Act. The

latter two, the same as The Blind Persons Allowances Act, are to remove redundant provisions, since the Charter proclaims the basic right to vote.

Then the final part is headed 'Miscellaneous', and these are changes responding to the Fundamental Freedoms Provisions of the Charter, changes to The Child Welfare Act, The City of St. John's Act, The Election Act, The Nuisances And Municipal Regulations Act, and The St. John's Assessment Act.

Mr. Speaker, the bill in total, as I have enumerated, amends several of our acts. I think in all there are over thirty amendments. I realize members opposite may want to speak to or enquire about one or more of the specific changes, and what I propose to do now is simply make a general summation and await remarks of members opposite before I go into specifics of these proposed amendments.

In summary, all of the changes are designed to improve the Statute law of the Province, to ensure that it complies with requirements of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The amendments were recommended by a committee of in-house lawyers appointed in 1984 to comb through our Statutes - and that is a massive task - and to identify provisions which appear to fall short of the Charter requirements. We have already passed one Charter compliance Omnibus bill, containing seventy-odd amendments. That was done three years ago.

This bill deals with the second report of the Charter Review Committee, and the report, as well as the contents of the bill,

concentrate on Social Services legislation.

Some of the Social Services legislation affected by this bill will be reformed in a comprehensive way through bills further down on our Order Paper. Government is committed to carrying on with comprehensive reform and overhaul of other social statutes which we recognize need more work, but, in the meantime, these changes need to be made. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. WELLS:

Mr. Speaker, making the necessary changes in all of our statute law to ensure that it provides full compliance with the Charter of Rights is going to go on for some years to come, quite clearly. Some of these changes may well be found by courts in the future not to be adequate to meet the requirements of the Charter and we will be back here making an adjustment to meet the courts' decision.

I think the minister has taken the correct approach, or she said her predecessor initiated the procedure. I think, clearly, the correct approach is a committee of lawyers, and probably it is best in-house, in the Department of Justice, to review every statutory provision that is presently in effect in this Province to ensure that it does not do offence to the Charter. I do not think we should be unduly critical of them if it takes a good deal of time, or if on the way through they might miss a provision or two. It is a massive task, and I think, perhaps, Mr. Speaker, it would not

be out of order to recognize the job that they have done in the one already passed and in this particular statute.

We may have some particular views on individual provisions, and they may or may not be valid. We have to bear in mind that the lawyers who reviewed this took all of those aspects into consideration and did it with that particular purpose in mind. I have looked through the Act generally and I believe it makes a valiant effort to have those Clauses, those sections of the statutes that are mentioned altered to ensure compliance or non-offence to the Charter of Rights.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that it does an adequate job so far, but I recognize that it is not put forward as complete compliance, and that the work goes on and will undoubtedly go on for some years to come. It is a massive task. I commend the minister and the departmental lawyers who have produced the Act.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Menihek.

MR. FENWICK:

Mr. Speaker, it is actually a prodigious task to even go through all this to see what all the changes are meant to accomplish. In that respect, it is very difficult to say much, other than what we would appreciate is maybe the Minister of Justice would be willing to give us some more documentation on the actual changes that are being proposed here.

I think it is much more appropriate that in Committee of the Whole we look at any details we have any problems with. I

this case, it is like trying to say whether you are in favour of the telephone book, because there is so much in it.

One point I would like to make to the Minister, and ask her if she can take this under advisement and see what she can do about it, is that we have, in the last two or three weeks, received an incredibly large amount of legislation that we, quite frankly, have not had the opportunity to go through in a manner in which we would like to, and I think that is probably a comment that can be made by the Official Opposition as well.

On that basis, since I think there is a desire on the part of at least some people in this House to eventually adjourn the legislature for some part of the Summer, even if it is the last week in August, then it might be helpful if the briefing notes the minister has on this particular piece of legislation and others, if it would be possible to get copies of them at each time it goes through second reading so we can have a much more detailed explanation of what is trying to be accomplished here.

I do not think anybody has particular arguments against any of the provisions, but it is very difficult, even with the explanatory notes we have in the front of it, to really get a grasp on what is trying to be accomplished here. Quite frankly, with the resources we have available, it is very difficult for us to keep up with the almost blizzard of legislation coming towards us.

I know the Official Opposition has more resources than us, but not

much more resources. On that basis, well, if they do not have as much or actually they do not have as much, then the problem must obviously be there, as well.

So perhaps the minister and other ministers who are introducing legislation, if they do have papers prepared with briefing notes on it that are not the kind of things they would mind letting us have a look at, when they go through second reading, if they could table the briefing notes, it might help us considerably in expediting the passage of the legislation through the Committee stage. I would ask the minister if she could address that when she closes the debate on this particular piece of legislation.

Other than that, we do not really have any objections because we understand what the objective was. It is just that we really have not been able to do the kind of work on it we would feel satisfied with.

MS VERGE:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Greening):

If the hon. minister speaks now she will close the debate.

The hon. the Minister of Justice.

MS VERGE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I will certainly do whatever I can to co-operate with both Opposition Parties to assist them in appreciating the contents of the bills we are going through. I realize fully that some of them are quite complex.

We will soon be coming to a package of four family law bills which involve major reform. I

have briefing notes on that package which I will gladly share with the Opposition.

When it comes to this particular bill, I do not have a convenient package. I have my handwritten notes in the margin. Perhaps, if members opposite have questions about particular clauses of this bill, we can get together and go through them before the Committee of the Whole analysis.

Several of the changes are technical. They remove obsolete sexist provisions. For example, Clause 11 repeals a section of The Memorial University Act which says women are allowed to be on the Board of Regents and the Senate. Obviously we do not need that, thankfully.

I am glad to say that the practice of the past nine years of the Peckford Administration has been for the Lieutenant-Governor in Council to appoint a balance of women and men to the Board of Regents. I understand the Senate of the university, which is chosen within the confines of the university, has more women than was the case traditionally, although still not enough. At any rate, there are no longer is any need for the legislation to say that women are eligible to be on the Board of Regents and Senate.

So many of the changes are technical. Some are more substantial, as I say, especially to the family legislation, the one set out under Part 1, Equality Rights. Most of them will be actually superseded by the family law package we will be debating in the next couple of weeks.

I am glad there is such a spirit of co-operation in this House of

Assembly in our effort to reform our legislation to ensure it complies with the Charter.

The Leader of the Opposition is right when he says this process certainly will not end here. I would not suggest that for a minute. The business of conforming with the Charter will be an ongoing one. The Charter has been subject to court interpretation in only a relatively few cases yet. We will all have to be guided by future court rulings.

But our administration has taken a pro-active approach to Charter compliance. Instead of waiting for the courts to strike down inappropriate provisions in our legislation, we have tried to take the initiative ourselves to have our lawyers go through each act one by one, clause by clause, and identify shortcomings and take legislative initiatives such as this to clear up those deficiencies.

I thank members opposite for their co-operation in this process.

With those comments, Mr. Speaker I move second reading of this bill, "An Act To Amend Certain Acts Having Regard To The Canadian Charter Of Rights And Freedoms."

On motion, a bill, "An Act To Amend Certain Acts Having Regard To The Canadian Charter Of Rights And Freedoms," read a second time ordered referred to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow (Bill No. 33)

DR. COLLINS:
Order 9, Bill No. 30.

Motion, second reading of a bill "An Act Respecting The Purchasing

Management Association of
Canada." (Bill No. 30)

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Consumer
Affairs and Communications.

MR. YOUNG:

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this
bill is to recognize the
Purchasing Management Association
of Canada and its designation of
"Certified Professional
Purchasers."

The members of the association are
employed in both the private
sector and government agencies at
the federal, provincial and
municipal levels. The primary
objective of the Purchasing
Management Association of Canada
is to improve procurement and
materials management practices.

The Association's current
membership stands at approximately
5,700 members, including 80
members in the Newfoundland Branch.

The Association is recognized in
Nova Scotia and Ontario. Draft
bills have been prepared in the
Province of New Brunswick,
Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and
Alberta.

As governments at all levels have
a substantial impact on the field
of the purchase or procurement of
materials and services,
legislation such as this which
enhances the professionalism of
the purchasing practices is
desirable. They will also have
the authority to use the initials
C.P.P. after their names.

I move second reading, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WELLS:

Mr. Speaker,

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Leader of the
Opposition.

MR. WELLS:

Mr. Speaker, I had difficulty
following the minister and
understanding the real purpose of
this bill. What I do not know is
why the particular Purchasing
Management Association of Canada
is given the position that it is
given under this bill. Unless you
are a member of that association,
no person in this Province,
afterwards, shall be entitled to
use the designation, Certified
Professional Purchaser.

Now, I do not mind if he wants to
say no person in this Province
shall be entitled to use the
designation, Member of the
Purchasing Management Association
of Canada. That is all right, but
that is a generic description, as
a Certified Professional
Purchaser. There may be all kinds
of people who are quite competent
to operate as professional
purchasers and to practice as
professional purchases who are not
members of this Ontario company,
albeit it is the Purchasing
Management Association of Canada.
But I do not believe people engage
- this is not a professional body
practicing a profession in
Newfoundland who standards of
professional practice ought to be
judged by the government and then
regulated so as to ensure that
people in the Province receive
proper professional care, as in
the case, say, of doctors or
engineers or lawyers. These are
people who develop an ability from
experience of years of work,
working as purchasing agents and
they may well want to use a
designation that indicates they
are professional purchasers or
they have that capability.

I do not see why the particular body corporate that is described is entitled to have anybody in Newfoundland who want to represent themselves to be a certified, competent, professional purchaser, become a member of that Association in order to do just that. I did not hear the explanation for it in the minister's remarks. They may be a well organized body and they may be very acceptable, but, at the very least, the designation should be, Member of the Purchasing Management Association of Canada. That is okay.

If anybody is prohibited from using that designation, that is okay, but the generic term, Certified Professional Purchaser, I do not believe that that company should have the right to require anybody in this Province, who wants to indicate they are a certified, professional purchaser, to become a member of that Association in order to use that designation. I do not think it is right, Mr. Speaker.

I did not hear the basis for it in the minister's comments and I would like him to justify it. I think it should be changed and he should consider having clause 3 (a) changed to be, 'use the designation, member, Purchasing Management Association of Canada.'

I think that then the bill may well be in order.

MR. LONG:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. LONG:

Mr. Speaker, just to add to the comments by the Leader of the official Opposition, our concern with this bill in establishing the Purchasing Management Association is that there are no regulatory provisions. So I think the concern is well placed that any person who is a professional in this field is obliged to become a member of an association that we are establishing Statutes for. But unlike other bills we have in front of us, such as the Agronomists and the Physiotherapists, there is no reference to any regulations which would govern the actions of this Association.

So that makes it even more difficult to give consent to such a bill, when what we are doing is giving carte blanche to an association with no definition as to the Board of Directors or how they are to govern their members.

AN HON. MEMBER:
Or any regulations.

MR. LONG:
Yes. Or any regulations that are provided in law.

So, in view of that, it makes it difficult to agree that any professional purchasing manager should belong to an association which does not have clearly spelled out regulations governing its actions and those of its members.

So perhaps the minister might also, in addition to the question put by the Leader of the Opposition, address this as well.

MR. GULLAGE:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Waterford
- Kenmount.

MR. GULLAGE:

Mr. Speaker, I too would have to speak against the thrust of this particular bill.

If we look at the definitions as proposed under the act, an eligible member would seem to be a member of the association as proposed, and that would exclude, I would think, a lot of people who carry on the practice of purchasing who may not wish to be a member of the association at this time.

I would think that would be harmful to their professional practice in that, not being a member of that association, possibly not having the professional designation, if we should call it that, of Certified Professional Purchaser, whether they have that designation or not - of course, they could not attain it if they were not a member of the association and, therefore, carrying on their practice of being a purchaser I would think would be impeded by not being a member of the association.

Under the certificate section, section 6, it mentions the prosecution of an offence under the act, and seems to imply that a certificate of the President or Vice-President of the association would have some authority in dealing with an offence. It does not clarify what an offence means under this section. It is hard to determine whether or not this means an offence as determined by the executive of the new association, which it tends to imply, or an offence as determined by the act. So that seems to be very, very unclear and, I would

think, would cause a great deal of concern to somebody who has not joined this new association, whether he or she has the designation of Certified Professional Purchaser, CPP, or not. I think that certainly needs to be clarified.

Again under section 5, under offenses, "Every person who contravenes this act is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding \$1,000." The minister should clarify as well whether or not that section deals with a offence as determined by rules and regulations of the association in question, the Purchasing Association, or whether it means an offence as determined by regulations set by the Department of Consumer Affairs, or whether, in fact, it would be regulations set by the Purchasing Association and the Department of Consumer Affairs together.

It is very unclear. It does not state which is the case. We can only imply, I suppose, that the offenses in question are offenses against the act and against the Department of Consumer Affairs, but it does not say that. I would hate to think that the President and Vice-President and others in authority would have jurisdiction over purchasers who decide not to be members of this particular association, with or without the designation in place. I would have to say, without the designation in place, of course, because it certainly says here that you cannot attain the designation of Certified Professional Purchaser unless you join the association first.

So that may leave a lot of people out in the cold and leave a lot of people without protection under

the act if they decide not to join the association. It is subject to offenses and rules and regulations which they would have no input into, but yet would be controlled by. We would not be able to vote for the principle of this act unless these changes and amendments, as proposed and as spoken to by the leader of the Opposition and myself, are dealt with by the minister.

MR. YOUNG:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
If the minister speaks now, he will close the debate.

MR. YOUNG:
Mr. Speaker, I do not know about the concerns are of some of the hon. members. It is only just a minor bill. This is just to enable the purchasing people to use the initials C.P.P. after their names. It is a recognized course of a five-year program, and its examinations are written and corrected at Memorial University. Then they are forwarded to the University of Western Ontario. They can take it by a correspondence course from the University of Western Ontario.

One of the hon. members said - I think it was the hon. member for Waterford - Kennmount. This does not affect any other purchaser who is in the practice now. It is just that he is not allowed to use the initials C.P.P. unless he is certified by the association.

MR. WELLS:
And why should they not? Are they the only people capable of certifying?

MR. YOUNG:
No, no! This is an examination

that is done through Memorial University of Newfoundland.

MR. WELLS:
Are they the only people capable of certifying?

MR. YOUNG:
The association?

MR. WELLS:
Yes. Are they the only ones in the world who can certify?

MR. YOUNG:
Well, it is like the engineers. It is the same as any other group. Everything is the same in Newfoundland now.

DR. COLLINS:
The Law Society.

MR. YOUNG:
As the Law Society and doctors and so forth.

MR. WELLS:
The Law Society is regulated to govern, this is not.

MR. YOUNG:
Yes, Sir. This has been regulated and governed. One of the problems is they have not done it. One of the hon. members said a fine of \$1,000 is too high. It is a fine not exceeding \$1,000.

AN HON. MEMBER:
It could be \$1,000 though.

MR. YOUNG:
It could be \$1,000. It is all up to the offence.

Mr. Speaker, it is only a minor bill. It has been requested by these people. There are eighty of them practicing in Newfoundland now. I presume that the eighty of them -

AN HON. MEMBER:
Eighty?

MR. YOUNG:
Eighty in Newfoundland now. It does not bar anyone who does not write the exams to become a member of the association and recognize these people as professional purchasers.

I move second reading, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
Is it the pleasure of the House that the said bill be now read a second time?

MR. WELLS:
No, Mr. Speaker. You have not put the question.

MR. J. CARTER:
Yes, he has.

MR. WELLS:
He said, 'Is it the pleasure, carried.' I want an opportunity to vote on it.

MR. YOUNG:
You are not the Speaker, boy.

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

I said, "Is it the pleasure of the House that the said bill be now read a second time?"

MR. WELLS:
Nay, Mr. Speaker.

MR. YOUNG:
All those in favour?

MR. WELLS:
All those in favour, 'Aye'. Contrary, 'Nay'. I want an opportunity to vote, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
Those in favour, 'Aye'. Those

against, 'Nay'.

MR. SIMMS:
A division, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

Call in the members.

Division

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

We are supposed to wait for ten minutes, unless it is agreed by the House not to wait.

MR. WELLS:
It is not agreed, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
There is no agreement, so we must wait ten minutes.

MR. SIMMS:
The Leader of the Opposition is a big fuss. Raise the bar off.

MR. WELLS:
No.

MR. SIMMS:
Do not be so childish!

All those in favour of the motion, please stand.

The hon. the Minister of Public Works and Services (Dr. Twomey); the hon. the Minister of Justice (Ms. Verge); the hon. the Minister of Education (Mr. Hearn); the hon. the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Brett); the hon. the Minister of Forest Resources and Lands (Mr. R. Aylward); the hon. the Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development (Mr. Power); the hon. the Minister of Treasury

Board and President of the Council (Mr. Simms); the hon. the Minister of Health (Dr. Collins); the hon. the Minister of Mines (Mr. Dinn); the hon. the Minister of Consumer Affairs and Communications (Mr. Young); the hon. the Minister of Career Development and Advanced Studies (Mr. Matthews); the hon. the Minister of Environment (Mr. Russell); the hon. the Minister of Labour (Mr. Blanchard); the hon. the Minister of Social Services (Mr. Tobin); the hon. the Minister responsible for Newfoundland and Labrador Housing (Mr. Peach); Mr. Parsons; Mr. Reid; Mr. J. Carter; Mr. Baird; Mr. Woodford; Mr. Morgan; Mr. Callan; and Mr. Patterson.

MR. SPEAKER:

Those against the motion, please stand:

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Wells); Mr. Efford; the Hon. Mr. Simms; Mr. Tulk; Mr. Baker; Mr. W. Carter; Mr. Gilbert; Mr. K. Aylward; Mr. Furey; Mr. Lush; Mr. Decker; Mr. Gullage; Mr. Fenwick; and Mr. Long.

MR. SPEAKER (Greening):

Twenty-three in favour. Fourteen against. Carried.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

On motion, a bill, "An Act Respecting The Purchasing Management Association of Canada," read a second time, ordered referred to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow.

MR. SIMMS:

Order 11, Bill No. 29,

Motion, second reading of a bill, "An Act To Amend The Alcohol And Drug Dependency Commission Act."

(Bill No. 29)

DR. COLLINS:

Mr. Speaker,

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Health,

DR. COLLINS:

Mr. Speaker, just a few words on this. The act was originally enacted in 1981 and it really replaced the non-profit private organization doing much the same work. As far as I recall, these are the first amendments to the act since 1981.

The amendments are not very extensive but I think they are of some importance. Mainly, the number of members on the commission is reduced to make it less cumbersome in operation. Secondly, there is more flexibility in the appointment of staff and in the administration of the budget and acquisition of assets. Thirdly, and I suppose the main point, is the authority is changed from Social Services to the Department of Health. So that is a rundown.

Perhaps I could very quickly go over the clauses. Clause 1, in effect, does the transfer from Social Services to Health. Clause 2 deals with the makeup of the commission. The makeup of the commission is that there will be a Chairman. The Chairman is a full-time employed person. There are eleven members. There is one member from five health districts in the Province. There is one member from the Department of Education, one member from the Department of Health, one member from the Department of Social Services, one member appointed by the minister from the public at large, one from Native group

appointed by the minister, and one member representing the youth of the Province, again nominated by the minister.

Clause 3 deals with the term. In the old act the term for some was three years, and some were five years. This term will not be regularized at three years. Also, if a member's term has elapsed the member's term may be extended until that member is replaced. The extension may be for up to a period of six months. That is just to make sure that the commission is not left with a gap in its membership.

Clause 4 deals with the permission to acquire assets. Clause 5 clarifies the employment of the Executive Director. In essence what it does is to ensure that the Executive Director is employed through the medium of the Public Service Commission, and also deal with the mechanism of payment of any employees.

Clause 6 just changes the date of the submission of the annual report. It gives a little bit more time. It changes, I think, from some time in July to some time in October. Just gives a little bit more time for the commission to get all the facts and all the details in from regional representatives and so on and be able to put together an annual report.

Clause 7 requires the budget to be submitted to the minister as opposed to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, that is the Cabinet, but, of course, the minister subsequently submits it to the Cabinet along with the Department of Health's budget, and also gives certain increased flexibility to the commission in the utilization

of funds.

For instance, if they have some funds not required for an employee and they want to use those for, say, the purchase of information, pamphlets and so on, they can do that, although obviously they have to keep within the global amount of the budget.

Then clause 8 is consequential of the amendments in this bill on their effect on other bills.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think it is a useful improvement for the operation of the Commission and I move this bill.

MR. EFFORD:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the member for Port de Grave.

MR. EFFORD:
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things the minister started off with, in outlining the introduction of this bill, was to say it was pretty well an insignificant bill and just some changes in the Department of Social Services and the Department of Health.

I would have hoped the minister would not have said that because this bill is not an insignificant bill. It is a very, very important bill -

DR. COLLINS:
I said there were some significant changes.

MR. EFFORD:
- and it deals with one of the most major problems we have, not only in the Province of

Newfoundland, but in the country of Canada and all over the world, but particularly in our own Province. Alcohol and drug problems are growing at a tremendous rate, and especially in our high schools.

Taking it from the Department of Social Services and moving it to the Department of Health, I can see the reasoning for that because it should come under The Health Care Act. But, I am not so sure we are improving it. I would say it is coming from bad to worse.

There are major problems in the Department of Social Services we seem to have no direction for, and the people are suffering because of it. To bring it over to the Department of Health, with the state of our health system in the Province today, I do not see where the improvement is going to be. The Opposition cannot have the confidence whereby we can see that this Commission is going to be supported by government and the best thing put forward so we can depend on and have the confidence we are going to see this Commission have the area which they can extend to play their role properly.

One of the things I see wrong with it, number one, is that the minister, himself, has the right to appoint all of the people, except the Minister of Social Services appoints a person and the Minister of Education appoints a person. The Minister of Health, himself, is appointing one member chosen as a representative of the youth, and one member chosen as a representative of the Native people. Why should the minister be the person to appoint those people?

For example, I do not think one youth is enough to have on this particular commission. This is where we are encountering the problems, with teenagers and youth in high schools and university. This is where it is most significant. If we are going to stop the problem for the future, that is where we start. We start at the bottom, at the youngest, and it is with the youth that we have to do it. To have a twelve member committee and only have one youth on it, I do not think is addressing the problem seriously enough. Having the respect of our youth, that they have a significant amount of information and things to offer to the commission, I can see putting on this commission two, if not three, from different sectors around the Province and from different age groups. One from probably the high schools, that age group, and one from the university, and possibly one from some other sort of age or group around the Province. They, themselves, can tell you exactly what is happening out there, why the problems are being encountered and why people are coming in contact with drugs and alcohol and for what reason.

While people still think that drugs are a growing problem, alcohol has always been there and it far, far outweighs the problem of drugs with teenagers. Any time you go to a teenage dance or you go by a building where you see a teenage dance held or the back of a high school, you can see beer bottles, beer cans, empty flasks of alcohol, around the buildings. That tells you there how serious the problem really is.

If you look at the campaign put on this year to try to encourage the

graduation classes to stay away from alcohol, there is some work being done to curb this. In my talking to teachers around the Province, I found teenagers are really starting to hook into this idea and recognize the problem. If they get started of at an early age, the chance of their getting hooked on drugs, hooked on alcohol are greater. They are starting to become aware of it, and they showed it by having their graduations this year drug and alcohol free.

Starting down at the lower classes is exactly where it should begin and this is where I am scared because the Minister of Health is not recognizing the problems, or at least not admitting the problems. He probably recognizes the problems are there in the health system. Are we going to have to depend on this Minister of Health to address this problem seriously enough so that more funding can be made available to the Alcohol and Drug Dependency Commission so that they can properly go out and educate the students and young people?

We also tend to deal mainly with students, but there are an awful lot of young people who drop out of high school and who do not get the opportunity to even take part in some of the education that is going on, while there is not near, near enough of education being brought into the schools against alcohol and drugs.

I must commend the RCMP around the Province because they are doing a tremendous job. Some individuals who have had a past history with alcohol and drugs are doing a tremendous job going around to the high schools, but there is not enough of this being done, Mr.

Speaker.

We have to upgrade the literature. We have to update the literature. We have to make sure it is done on a continuous basis and more people get into the lower grades, not only the high schools, but the lower grades, and somehow put more support behind organizations like Lions Clubs, Kiwanis, Kinsmen, and those people who from time to time during their year bring in guest speakers and make literature available and bring in students and young people from around the Province to cope with it, but still not enough is being done.

It is in now under the Minister of Health's department. Hopefully he is going to recognize that there is a major problem here and they are going to need more money.

I just had a call about five minutes ago, when I was outside in the common room, from a family out in Torbay who has a relative of theirs into St. Clare's Hospital since Wednesday morning in a bed - just imagine this now - since Wednesday morning in a bed in the lobby!

She is a very severe diabetic and she has a very severe ulcer caused by the diabetes eating through her leg, and the administrator of the hospital said there is no way she could be admitted. Now, that is going on three days and it is happening all over the Province!

Out of desperation they called me to ask me if I could do anything about it. That is how desperate they are. They went to their own MHA, they went to the administrator of the hospital and they went to their own doctor. Like Doctor Taylor said, 'The bed

is not there and they cannot get the lady in.'

Now, this is the Minister of Health who has taken over this particular Alcohol and Drug Dependency Commission and we have to have the confidence in the fact that this is going to be properly funded and properly organized. That leaves us room for a lot of doubt.

The minister had got to increase the funding for these commissions because it is the way of curbing the future expenses of our health system. If we keep people off alcohol and drug dependency that means we are going to have a healthier people and they are not going to require to go into hospitals. So by putting more money into this commission and giving them the tools to do their job, then in future years down the road that is going to help with the situation of the high cost of health care.

As we are spending \$624 million today, I am quite sure the minister is going to say is, 'We are already putting \$624 million into the health system.' I have no argument. We are putting that, plus more, but what is not being done in the health system is we are not recognizing the priorities. We are not putting our money into the right areas.

We have to take a look at what the whole health system is costing in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, where money can be spent most efficiently so we can provide a health system which can best serve all the people. That is not necessarily doing what this present government is doing.

If we take, for example, the Burin

Peninsula and I keep referring to that, that is one example that is a major problem. Last weekend, if you had read the papers, you would see the people themselves are now starting to complain the health system on the Burin Peninsula because it is deteriorating to such an extent that public nurses are no longer there. It is no good to go to a hospital because the staff is not there, the specialists are not there, and the equipment is not there, and that is understandably so. We cannot expect to efficiently operate a hospital on the Burin Peninsula if the money is being taken to try and keep three hospitals open. The Minister of Health will tell us that there is not enough money for the health system and to effectively manage and supply the hospitals. If it is not there, why are we keeping three hospitals open, instead of taking the money that it is costing to maintain the other two hospitals and putting it into the most recent one? We would be able to supply that one hospital on that Peninsula, which would serve the whole area, with a good effective staff. The specialists that would be required would be able to go there then because they would have the staff to work with, they would have some of the better equipment to work with. So put the money where it can be most effectively needed. Do not do it on a political basis. Do not keep a hospital open in a particular community so we can just get a few votes out of. If that is the case, then we are not doing our job.

I am not saying lay off the people, close it down and forge about the community. We need senior citizens' homes. Why not use the old hospital for a senior citizens' complex that is s

desperately needed? You can still employ people and it is cheaper to keep people in a senior citizens' home or in a nursing home than it is in a hospital. So one can work with the other under proper management and be more effective. I only use the Burin Peninsula for an example. It is happening all over the Province.

It has a lot to do with the geography of the Province and the isolation of some communities, for example, in Labrador. Those problems are there and they have to be contended with in the best manageable way, but there are areas where, if we put our priorities in the right place, things could be more efficiently worked.

Because these things are happening around the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Health Sciences Hospital is getting an extra case load it would not have if the other hospitals were properly equipped with the specialists and doctors to do the operations in their own area. For argument's sake, Grand Falls, Gander, and Clarenville are prime examples. Clarenville is having to send more and more patients into the Health Sciences. Gander is having to send more and more patients into the Health Sciences because the operating space is not there in those hospitals, the doctors themselves do not have the beds to get the patients in to do the operation. So it is not being properly administered, not the hospitals themselves, but the funding going to the hospitals.

I am particularly concerned about this particular Alcohol and Drug Dependency Commission being passed over to the Department of Health.

If the minister is not going to better administer the portfolio which he has now, to have this added to it, I am afraid we are going down grade and we are not going to go up hill. We need to increase funding to this commission, give them the tools to do the job, not to decrease. If we do that, the future of our young people will certainly be better.

I touched on the problems with teenage drinking. I recognize the problem with alcoholism because unfortunately I have a member of my own family who has gone through this same problem and I know what the problem is. I know how serious it is and I know it is a sickness. It is not something we can just snuff off and say, 'You drink too much. Why do you not give up drinking?' Anybody who gets addicted to alcohol and drugs, it means a weakness in their body, it is a sickness and they need help. All too often, when they seek help there is not enough of it there.

There is one office out in Harbour Grace now and there is one person in that particular office there to deal with the alcohol and drug problem in and around Conception and Trinity Bays. How can one person effectively run that office? If he gets three calls a day, and he told me time and time again he is getting many more, if he only got three calls a day, five days a week, that is fifteen people. If he is going to deal with those people and help them, how can he effectively do it if he has to rush one person in because he has somebody else waiting out there and rush him out. So they are not getting the attention they need and they deserve. One person cannot effectively do it.

More staff has to be provided for those people, if we are going to help these who desperately need the help. It is not only in Harbour Grace. I use again Harbour Grace for an example. It is province-wide.

MR. J. CARTER:

Volunteers are needed.

MR. EFFORD:

The hon. the member for St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter) is right, volunteers are what is desperately needed. But you need a couple of more members on the staff to work and bring the volunteers together and there are a lot of people volunteering their time and service. There is no question about that and we need more. Unfortunately, with today's cost of living all over Newfoundland and Canada, you need two family members working. People in most areas do not have the leisure time they would like to have. While they are doing the best they can, there are so many things to volunteer at. Not only the alcohol and drugs, all your clubs and all your organizations require volunteers and people are doing a tremendous job in their volunteering. We support them and we only wish there were more. I am sure there would be more if people had the time. You cannot say, 'We need more volunteers and we do not need more staff.' We do need more staff.

This is why I wonder sometimes about the money going into Community Development, into the Department of Social Services. That many millions of dollars, could it not be used to employ people to work with some of those people? If we have the money to employ people to go out and pick up garbage on the side of the road

and to go painting fences and painting churches and cleaning up graveyards, there is a lot of good people out there, not because they are not working, does not mean to say they are not intelligent and they do not know about these things. If they had the opportunity to work with these commissions, they would. This is why I try to keep pointing out to the Minister of Social Services (Mr. Tobin) he has to lean in a different direction and appoint some of these workers. They do it in some cases, but not enough. For argument's sake, they appoint respite workers to work with the handicapped families so to give the parents a rest to get them out away from that particular environment.

As far as the bill itself, I would like to ask the Minister of Health (Dr. Collins) when he closes debate on this particular bill to look at two things. Number one, to look at some youth being appointed to the commission. Number two, is it necessary for the Minister of Health, and he is presently the Minister of Health, to appoint all members of that particular commission? I think it could be left up the commission themselves to choose the right people. Also, would the minister take a serious look of how serious this is and make sure that the Department of Education is working co-operatively with the Alcohol and Drug Dependency Commission in his own department and increase the tools for the people to get out to our young people in the Province and to educate them more severely against alcohol and drugs.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. LONG:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. LONG:
Mr. Speaker, I would agree with the member for Port de Grave that this is not an insignificant bill the Minister of Health has brought forward. The actions and the activities of the Alcohol and Drug Dependency Commission are quite important in carrying out what is one of the most significant frontline preventive community care health programs the Province has. I would disagree though - although I was not following every word that the member for Port de Grave was saying - if he was saying that it should not be moved into the Department of Health, I would not agree with that.

If it is a question of the limitation on the funding because of the other restraint the Department of Health is experiencing, then I would agree, but I think it is quite proper that this bill has, as its first objective, the taking over of the responsibility for the Alcohol and Drug Dependency Commission from the Department of Social Services to the Department of Health.

I would say that this is a welcome move inasmuch as, along with one or two other initiatives the Department of Health has taken in the last year or so, the pilot project for the nurses on the South Coast and, indeed, the pilot project for the Alcohol and Drug Dependency Commission on the West Coast, these are very important initiatives in moving the whole health care system towards a preventive community-based model.

I think it is becoming increasingly self-evident to any and all who are addressing the problems of funding a health care system in this day and age that, while there are real immediate needs in the short term to address acute care and to provide for the basic provision of services in our hospital system, there is a problem structurally with the system itself. If we continue to just try and apply band-aid solutions and year to year go from one funding crisis to another with a very ad hoc approach to the delivery of health care services, we are never ever going to arrive at a resolution of the problems associated with providing health care, especially in a province like ours where the population is so disparate and where there are such real limitations on our fiscal capacity.

So, Mr. Speaker, we would say the work the Alcohol and Drug Dependency Commission does is quite important, not only on its own terms as model for preventive care and community-based educational programming, but it also in a different sense represents an important area in which there is integrated activity between government departments and with the community. The Alcohol and Drug Dependency Commission involves, as we see in the members of the Board of Directors and from its past work, a certain degree of co-ordination between the Departments of Social Services, the Department of Education, the Department of Culture, Recreation and Youth and, of course, the Department of Health.

Not only is that an intradepartmental kind of co-operation within government, but then, of course, the Alcohol

and Drug Dependency Commission is essentially rooted in the community. In order for it to be effective and to have credibility and to have a favourable response to its activities, it is reaching out to community organizations such as the Red Cross, youth groups, Alcoholics Anonymous and other community-based agencies the Alcohol and Drug Dependency Commission is quite dependent on in order to deliver its services and programs.

So we also see that, Mr. Speaker, as a very important direction for the delivery of health care when we talk about health care and try and move towards a more community-based, preventive and more holistic approach to providing health care. It is very important we have an integrated approach, an approach to health care which does not just see hospitals and hospital beds and institutions with large administrative apparatus involved, but that we see the community and preventive health care approach as being one that integrates activities by various government departments responsible for the provision of human services and is also very much tied into what is already going on in the community.

Some months ago, earlier on in this session, I presented a petition with almost 5,000 signatures on it from young people across the Province who were calling for an expansion of education and treatment programs to address the many issues of alcohol and drug dependency. The petition also spoke to the need for increased funding for the Alcohol and Drug Dependency Commission. Obviously if there is an interest in expanding education

and treatment programs, then that means there has to be a commitment to expand the amount of funding given to the Alcohol and Drug Dependency Commission.

I would note with encouragement the initiative of the pilot project for the Alcohol and Drug Dependency Commission out in Corner Brook and say that that represents an important initiative. I would remind the Minister of Health, as I did when I presented the petition, that this Province spends, per capita, much less than our neighboring provinces in the Atlantic Provinces on treatment and education programs related to alcohol and drug dependency. In fact, we are spending not only less relative to the other provinces, but we are simply not spending enough in this Province to address the very serious issues and the real need which exists for more education and treatment programs.

Sometimes, I guess, it takes the energy and commitment of people out there, such as the youth groups who organized this petition, to remind the government it is not doing enough. I would hope that the government would take the petition, when it was presented, and the continuing concerns we are raising, as an indication of the importance the people of this Province attach to government taking the lead in expanding the provision of services in this area.

Now, the bill itself, Mr. Speaker I also have some concerns about the degree to which the activities may be politicized. Perhaps the minister can respond to this. The appointment of the boards: I guess in the first case I would like th

minister to explain why there is a need to cut back the numbers of representatives on the Board of Governors because it seems that it is important, given that we want to have representation from the departments of government that are involved, but also from the community, that we would not want to place limitations on the ability of the commission to do its work. Also, I think it is an important issue that the members who come from the public, from the community at large, from young people and Native people, are nominated by the minister. If the minister could perhaps address the process by which this will happen and ensure us that this will not jeopardize the independence of the Alcohol and Drug Dependency Commission and its ability to determine its own agenda, so that there would not be any interference or any perceived interference in the appointments of the board.

That is essentially the only reservation I have about the reconstitution of the Alcohol and Drug Dependency Commission, but it is an important one, that we are scaling down the number of members on the board and then those members will be appointed and nominated by the minister.

The other issue that we would raise, which I have already addressed and it will be an ongoing one, there is probably not a whole lot that the minister can say, but in order for the Alcohol and Drug Dependency Commission to do the good work it has been doing and to carry out a more clearly defined mandate now under the Department of Health, simply put, Mr. Speaker, it needs more funds.

We would look forward to next year

seeing a recommitment by the government to not only this important organization, this agency of government, but to the issues themselves surrounding alcohol and drug dependency and to the real need which exists in the communities in this Province, and more monies will be made available for prevention and treatment programs and for a more expanded education program in this Province.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. J. CARTER:

I would like to confess, Mr. Speaker, that I know what it is like to be hooked on drugs. I was hooked on a very dangerous drug some years ago, and it was only with a great deal of effort that I managed to shake the habit, and I went through all the symptoms of withdrawal and the attendant miseries. I used to smoke heavily. As far as I am concerned, I do not think there is a more addictive substance than nicotine, or whatever the myriad substances are in tobacco. If you believe what you see in **The Guinness Book of Facts**, there are something like 1200 different substances that are produced by the incomplete combustion of tobacco. And you can take your choice. Maybe the nicotine is addictive, maybe it is the acetone, maybe it is the carbon monoxide or the myriad other substances that are generated when you smoke.

I think it is, perhaps, hypocritical of the government to talk about certain drugs and yet neglect the very dangerous drug that is tobacco. I know of a

great many people whose lives have been noticeably and definitely shortened by their addiction to cigarettes. Now in the days when I started to smoke, it was considered perfectly safe. In fact, I think TB patients were encouraged to smoke, the idea being that the inhaling of a deep draft of tobacco smoke would help to ventilate their lungs and would somehow do some good.

DR. COLLINS:

Cancer would kill the bug.

MR. J. CARTER:

Yes.

So there was far from being any discouragement. And, of course, if you were out walking on a Summer's evening, you were encouraged to smoke to keep away the flies. There were more reasons for smoking than for not smoking.

And with the advent of the American bases, of course, cigarettes, although they were cheap at the time, suddenly became incredibly cheap.

A friend of mine went into a bar not all that many years ago and asked for a package of cigarettes, a mixed drink and a beer, gave the bartender twenty-five cents and got back change.

DR. COLLINS:

Did he have a gun in his hand?

MR. J. CARTER:

I would like hon. gentlemen to calculate what sort of a bill they would get today if they went up to a bar with a similar request. It would be something of the order of \$7 or \$8, I suppose.

So I read with interest, although

I have not read deeply about it, what is done in Britain for habitual users. Apparently, if you are hooked on a dangerous drug, such that you are at the mercy of the drug peddlers, then you may go to a hospital, declare yourself to be an addict and you will receive, on a regular basis, a maintenance dose, and it will be administered to you in the hospital by the hospital, under sanitary and antiseptic conditions. It may not be as much as your habit would require, but it is enough to keep you away from the pushers. I think this is a very sane and sensible attitude.

Several weeks ago, **Time Magazine** had a long article about making drugs legal in the States, and the argument there was the underground drug economy was so vast, and they mentioned sums, but, of course, one cannot be accurate, but certainly sums of the order \$30 billion to \$50 billion a year.

We all know that General Noreiga is where he is and will probably stay where he is because of the enormous amounts of money at his disposal, so that even though the United States cut off the dollars to Panama, all General Noreiga had to do was dip into his own pocket and he was more than able to fund the army on which his power rests. The amount of money that is at stake is so vast that there were serious - and have been an are - suggestions in the United States to make these drug absolutely legal and then to try and control them using social pressures as opposed to criminal prosecution.

In fact, the concern with drugs in the United States has now become so great that any traffic passing through, especially vehicular

traffic, is examined minutely. We had the very unfair case of the person who happened to have some cigarette papers. I guess they were rolling their own. There was no trace of marijuana, all they had was cigarette papers. Certainly we in Newfoundland are very familiar with people making their own cigarettes, some people can even do it with one hand. The fact that you have cigarette papers does not mean to say you are rolling marijuana, it may mean you are just rolling tobacco. This is what these people had, yet their car was confiscated. I do not think they were jailed, but I think they were charged and had to appear in court. And, of course, they had no transportation, they just had to hitchhike from the customs point, and the whole thing was very miserable. They appealed it, of course, and, I think, they have since got their car back, but it was a very nasty, nasty situation.

I think there must be a happy medium between excessive strictness and excessive permissiveness, and the Drug and Alcohol Dependency Commission is the very agency that we would want to advise the government as to how much carrot and how much stick to apply. I do wish I could persuade our administration to get off the fence. At the present time, there is a fairly hefty tax on tobacco. Now I would like them to do one of two things, either abolish the tax on tobacco altogether as being an unconscionable method of raising money on people's habits, or else put such a high tax on tobacco that it would effectively ban its use. I think it is wrong to try and speak out of both sides of your mouth at the same time and say, 'Tut, tut, tobacco is terrible', but, in the meantime,

take in something like \$60 million a year from tobacco, and, on the other hand, say, 'Oh, yes, people should not smoke, it is very bad.'

It is like traffic tickets. I think the administration has to make up its mind. Are these fines, or taxes, designed to instruct or to entrap. If there is a particular habit that the administration wishes to discourage, they should do it by means other than financial.

I do not think any number of sanctions on smoking or on drinking is going to make any difference. As Oscar Wilde said, 'People will not stop stealing because you say it is illegal, they will only stop stealing if they conclude that it is vulgar.' Since smoking has now become more and more considered to be vulgar, perhaps it is on the way out, because you cannot now comfortably smoke in many places. I have been at gatherings where the people who smoked were certainly in the minority, and I have been at some gatherings, at which a few years ago there would have been lots of smoking, where there was not a single person who smoked. Today, I think, on short flights on the airlines, there are known to be smoke-free flights.

On the other hand, I think it is most important that there should be a very vigorous education program on the hazards and/or benefits of drugs.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Why do you not adjourn the debate?

MR. J. CARTER:

I would like to go on past one, but I should not, really. I will adjourn the debate when the time comes. If someone has a question

they want to ask me, I will give way. But I do wish to go on, because I still have a few more things I want to say.

I would hope the Alcohol and Drug Dependency Commission would foster a very energetic and active education program. I cannot respond to someone who says, Oh, such and such a drug is bad or such and such a drug is good. I say, do your homework: Tell me why it is bad. Tell me why it is good. It is like people who are vegetarians. Now I do not know whether vegetarianism is good or bad, but I will venture to say that I know as much about the goodness or badness of vegetarianism as any vegetarian, yet they will religiously, with practically no exception, avoid anything in the line of meat. And there are some vegetarians who are so strict that they will not eat any animal products whatsoever.

Now I can perhaps understand them doing it for religious reasons, but I cannot understand them doing it for dietary reasons, when I know very well that they have not done their homework. I think it is hypocritical. And the same thing could be said about drugs. A few years ago, drugs were much more available, in fact, they were freely available, and in the last century laudanum was a very common pain killer which could be bought across the counter. In fact, I think a mixture of whiskey and laudanum was used as an antidote for toothaches, and a distant relative of mine actually expired from taking an overdose - it must have been some toothache! His friends poured coffee down his throat and tried to revive him, but he sank deeper and deeper into a coma and he died. Now I suppose today they would be able to do

something about it, but not then.

The same argument that I have been using about vegetarianism should be used with dangerous chemicals generally. And I hear the Opposition over there ranting and raving about the dangers of pesticides and the benefits of B1 as opposed to pesticides, but I would warrant that the hon. gentleman over there similarly have not done their homework. If Malathion and Cy-gon and these various other organophosphates are so bad, go do your homework, come in here and tell us why they are so bad. I do not expect you to memorize all the stuff, but refer to the studies that one -

AN HON. MEMBER:

Adjourn the debate.

MR. J. CARTER:

It is now one minute to one, and I think I should adjourn the debate Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

The debate has been adjourned by the hon. the member for St. John's North.

The hon. the President of the Council.

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker, I move that the House adjourn. Just to inform hon. members, so they are aware when we return, because Monday is holiday, on Tuesday we will be dealing with Motion 1, which is the Budget Debate. If by some fluke or whatever we make any progress on Tuesday with respect to the Budget Debate, we will probably go into some legislative or maybe Meech Lake. I am not quite certain yet. Tuesday I a

going to call the Budget Debate to see how close we can get to concluding the Budget Debate. Because Interim financing runs out at the end of the month and all that kind of thing, we would like to get that cleared up. Then, depending on what happens, if that is not too lengthy, maybe we will get into Meech Lake. So you can sort of be prepared for that just in case. If not, we will carry on with some legislation.

DR. COLLINS:

We have lots of time, though.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Are we meeting Tuesday morning?

MR. STIMMS:

No, I think we will talk Tuesday about maybe some other sittings later on during the week, but for Tuesday morning it is a bit late now.

I move that the House adjourn, Mr. Speaker, until tomorrow, Tuesday, at 2:00 p.m. and that this House do now adjourn. And I wish all hon. members a very pleasant weekend.

On motion, the House at its rising adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, June 28, 1988 at 2:00 p.m.

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