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Speaker: Honourable P.J. McNicholas

Wednesday

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The House met at 2:00 p.m.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):
Order, please!

Statements by Ministers

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the Premier.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD:
Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the issue of new legislation respecting Conflict of Interest for members of this hon. House and the Executive Council of our Province.

In the Speech from the Throne delivered by the Hon. James A. McGrath, Lieutenant-Governor of Newfoundland, at the opening of this session, a tribunal to review the Conflict of Interest Rules pertaining to ministers and members of the House of Assembly was announced. The purpose of this tribunal's review was to ensure that Conflict of Interest Rules were as comprehensive and effective as is possible so that the expectations of our electorate that politicians meet the highest ethical standards of behaviour would be met.

This tribunal, in close consultation with the Office of the Legislative Counsel, Department of Justice, and other officials, have prepared a draft Conflict of Interest Act to govern members of the Assembly as well as ministers in the exercise of their duties. Further work is ongoing to address the rules for civil servants and members of government's many agencies and

boards.

Mr. Speaker, we are all aware of the sordid excesses of high officials of the government and members of this Assembly in former times. Some of the worst of these abuses were detailed by the Hon. Fabian O'Dea, former Lieutenant-Governor of Newfoundland, in his 1972 Royal Commission Inquiry into the leasing of premises for the use of the Newfoundland Liquor Commission. These repugnant examples serve well to remind us of the consequences which occur when individuals place their personal interests ahead of that of the public. So that the record is clear on this, I add that the hon. Leader of the Opposition was one of those who in this House vigourously pursued these matters.

With the change of administration in 1972, the new government introduced legislation respecting Conflict of Interest. A first of its kind, of course, in our Province, done after the Leader of the Opposition's Party lost the government. This legislation was a fundamental departure for the Newfoundland Legislature, and a first for any Canadian government at the time.

The underlying premise of the rules was that public disclosure of interests would provide the best protection and assurance of high ethical standards. It is fair to say that in its time the Act was an advanced, comprehensive piece of legislation, which has served the people of this Province well over the years, notwithstanding some limitations in its application.

These limitations my administration sought to address

by way of legislative amendments and regulations to govern the standard of behaviour of ministers, and of civil servants, introduced after my assumption of office as Premier. I believe that those modifications improved the functioning of the Act, and provided a clear and firm model for the type of behaviour which the Government sought and indeed demanded from ministers, MHAs and civil servants.

Mr. Speaker, we have now had six years of experience since the last major review of the Conflict of Interest legislation, and the numerous acrimonious exchanges heard in this House over this past session on the topic serve as evidence of the need to clearly re-affirm our collective commitment to total honesty and integrity.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD:

We must strive to ensure that justice is not only done, but is seen to be done. I believe that the people of this Province want and deserve a reaffirmation that our system of government is as fair, unbiased, and uncorrupted as is humanly possible to achieve, that is above suspicion. The draft Act which I table here in the House today achieves that reaffirmation.

The bill now being laid before the House applies to members, both of this Assembly and the Executive Council, and establishes a standard of behaviour of which the people of Newfoundland and Labrador may be justly proud. It prohibits the furthering of personal interests through the exercise of the prerequisites of

power, the use of insider knowledge, influence or prestige of the membership of this Assembly or of the office of a member of the Executive Council. It, by way of example, limits the right to contract with or benefit from government for members of the Executive Council, spouses, minor children and private companies, except in situations which are independently assessed to be completely fair.

One criticism that has been levied upon the existing system is that it places too great a burden upon me as Premier to adjudicate the actions of my fellow ministers. While I believe that I have applied to this task such dispassionate evaluation as I can bring to bear, there will always be those who will perceive that my vision is tempered by a too close association with my colleagues.

To avoid these criticisms the Bill provides for the establishment of an Office of Commissioner. This individual will be an officer of this House of Assembly -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD:

- fully independent of government, under the sole authority of this House. Each member of the House shall be required - not just members of the Executive Council - to fully disclose all assets and all interests to the Commissioner, who shall then ensure that an adequate public disclosure statement is prepared, so that Newfoundlanders and Labradorians can have confidence in these statements. More importantly, the Commissioner shall have the duty, and right, to undertake whatever investigations

and inquiries as are necessary into any allegation of Conflict of Interest, and report to the House of Assembly or report to the Executive Council as appropriate. Any member who wishes the guidance of the Commissioner may seek that guidance in advance of any undertaking, and indeed, as I have already noted, such investigations by the Commissioner will be mandatory before any member of the Executive Council receives any benefit from government. Where the Commissioner investigates the behaviour of any member of this House, the Commissioner may recommend in a report that the member be reprimanded or even that the member's seat be declared vacant, and it shall then be the duty of this House to consider the Commissioner's report, and order the imposition of the recommendation or make such other orders as are appropriate.

Mr. Speaker, I have a deeply held personal commitment to these principles of honesty and integrity in government.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD:

I feel that the draft legislation serves those ends, but I am far from inflexible on the technical aspects of the approach to be taken. While I feel that this legislation is amongst the best in Canada, after review for the last three or four months, I am willing to consider proposals for amendment so that it even better serves the people of this Province. And because, of course, members of the Opposition and some members here on our side have not had an opportunity to see this, I therefore table this legislation with the House today and move that

the draft be referred to a Select Committee of this House for evaluation, so that the legislation may be available for passage in final form, hopefully with the unanimous approval of the House, at the opening of the next session of this Legislature.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. WARREN:
You will have to tell who is paying.

MR. WELLS:
Mr. Speaker, notwithstanding the stupid remarks you are hearing from the end of the House down there, I would like to have a few minutes quiet just to express our position with respect to these proposals.

Mr. Speaker, I have not had the opportunity to review the legislation, so I can only respond to what I have just heard. I saw this sheet two or three minutes ago, as I walked into the House. Had I been given an opportunity beforehand I would have been more fully versed in it and could have more fully dealt with it. I expect I will, within the next day or two, if on review it warrants further comment, make further comment at that time.

Let me say, Mr. Speaker, at once, with respect to what is on the first page, so that there is no doubt about what the hon. the Premier meant by his comment, 'So that the record is clear...', I

add that the hon. Leader of the Opposition was one of those who in this House vigorously pursued these matters, what he was talking about was vigorously pursued opposition to a member of the House or a member of the Cabinet receiving a benefit from government. That, I am sure, he will affirm; not that I was vigorously pursuing a benefit myself.

What the hon. Premier was referring to is that it was my questions asked from this side of the House of government that led to the inquiry. That is what he is speaking about.

Anyway, Mr. Speaker, I welcome this proposal. On a quick brush through it, in two or three minutes, and on the basis of the Premier's comments, the draft Act appears to be what is necessary. I have a particular concern that I would not want the existence of the Office of Commissioner to diminish the Premier's personal responsibility for the integrity and propriety of the actions of members of the Cabinet.

The Office of Commissioner is a good one in some of the uses which I quickly see here, but it cannot be used as a means of whitewashing a situation or relieving the Premier of his responsibility to ensure that an offending Cabinet Minister is forthwith relieved of his responsibility. So that is a concern that I have, that that Office of Commissioner not be used for that purpose, Mr. Speaker.

The other thing I would say, Mr. Speaker, is that the concept of disclosing every single asset owned, cash money included, to the Commissioner is a good one. It is a proper way to deal with it and I

have no hesitation in endorsing it.

PREMIER PECKFORD:

Yes, the sources of funds and paymaster. Why did you not do it?

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. WELLS:

It is an improper statement for the Premier to make to say, "Why did you not do it?" because it was done. It is clear. The Premier's statements are completely wrong.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

PREMIER PECKFORD:

Why did you not disclose all assets a few weeks ago when it was an issue?

MR. WELLS:

There was no Commissioner.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. WELLS:

I think it is a good idea to have a Commissioner and to require full asset disclosure, and let us see that the legislation, if and when it is passed, will have that provision.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the final comment that I wish to make with respect to it is that in no circumstances should a Commissioner approve of any member of the Executive Council benefitting from dealing with government. Under no circumstances should a member of the Executive Council ever benefit from dealing with government. And the Office of Commissioner should not be used to whitewash any such dealings. So that provision, Mr. Speaker, should not be there if it

is intended that that would allow members of the Executive Council to continue to deal with government.

Subject to reviewing it, Mr. Speaker, and making further comments when the occasion permits, the thrust of it appears to be generally good.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. FENWICK:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. FENWICK:
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot tell you how pleased I am to see this legislation here.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. FENWICK:
We have in the last three or four years, since I have been a member of this House, upon occasions had --

MR. BARRETT:
You have nothing to compare, not even a policy.

MR. FENWICK:
Well, I have an overdraft to declare anyway.

We have on many different occasions, Mr. Speaker, complained about the inadequacy of the Conflict of Interest Guidelines. We pointed to several problems with them, but in my opinion the most damaging deficiency was the lack of an independent judge of whether or not a Conflict of Interest situation exists. The

establishment of a Commissioner is going to go a long way towards making this a tribunal type of organization rather than a political kind of operation, and that in itself is a tremendous improvement over what we had before.

It is, however, Mr. Speaker, only half of cleaning up the political process. Without an Elections Act, without good disclosure of where the \$50,000 the Leader of the Opposition is getting comes from, without that legislation --

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. FENWICK:
-- and, of course, Mr. Speaker, the \$6,000 or \$7,000 that the Premier is also getting from his party, without the legislation to divulge that particular part of the whole political process, it is considerably deficient in terms of what it should accomplish.

What I am going to suggest to the Premier is this: Since he is asking for a Select Committee to eventually report back at the start of the next session, and since the previous Elections Act that came back three or four years ago is clearly not satisfactory, would he at the same time refer that piece of legislation to the same committee and have them bring back an Elections Act that can clean up the rest of the process at the same time. Otherwise, Mr. Speaker, it is a great initiative, we support it, but we think it should go all the way.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

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. House of Assembly today a list of six projects valued at \$2,414,000 for which contracts are being awarded by my department under the \$40 million Provincial Capital Roads Program.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. DOYLE:

The projects are as follows:

Project 28, awarded to Baker's Paving Limited for recapping approximately 2.8 kilometers of Route # 3, Grenfell Heights Extension. Total value of the project is \$290,482. The scheduled completion date is the end of September, 1988.

Project No. 28 has been awarded to Shannon Construction Ltd. for upgrading and paving of Route 3, Norris Arm North Road from junction of Route 1, Trans-Canada Highway, to the beginning of the existing pavement, 5.5 kilometers. Total value of the project is \$497,108. The scheduled completion date is September 30, 1988.

Project No. 288 has been awarded to Trident Construction for the construction of a prestressed concrete girder bridge at Little Bay (near Marystown). Total value of the project is \$732,127 and the scheduled completion date is the end of November, 1988.

Project No. 27-88 has been awarded to F. J. Construction Ltd. for the construction of South Brook Bridge, Ming's Bight, Route 418. The total value of the project is \$411,470 and the scheduled completion date is October 31, 1988.

Project No. 31-88 has been awarded to Pyramid Construction Ltd. for recapping various roads on Bell Island for a total length of 3.8 KM. Total value of the project is \$276,000. And the scheduled completion date is end of September.

Project No. 33-88 has been awarded to A.P. Construction Ltd. for upgrading of Shamblers Cove Road, Route 320-37 from KM 6.0 to KM 7.8 for a distance of 1.8 KM. Total value of the project is \$207,000. The scheduled completion date is 31 October 1988.

Mr. Speaker, the above projects represent approximately 28% of the \$40 million program. 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:

Mr. Speaker, again this is the third reading of those projects. It seems to me that you see a government that is devoid of any sense of purpose or decency they have to announce those projects three times in the House. You can

see how hungry and desperate they are for any kind of publicity at all.

So what I am saying is it is a waste of time and paper to again confirm the pork barrelling tactics of this government. We would have been quite happy if the minister had followed the advice of the Auditor General and put in a system whereby there was a listing and there was a priority and a system for awarding paving contracts in Newfoundland other than by the way that you vote. What I am saying, Mr. Speaker, is again it is a case of bribing taxpayers with their own taxes and I tell the government it will not work. Call an election and the people of Newfoundland will let you know what you can do with your problems.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

Oral Questions

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

MR. WELLS:
I have a question for the hon. the Premier.

Recently the hon. the Premier has been quoted as indicating that an announcement would be made respecting whether Hibernia would or would not proceed by June 30. In the last few days the hon. Mr. Crosbie has been quoted as saying a decision would not be made by the end of June. Can the Premier tell this House when he now expects an announcement that would indicate whether or not the Hibernia development will be

proceeded with?

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:
Mr. Speaker, very, very soon. I cannot give the exact time or date. I had hoped that it would be all finalized by June 30 but it looks like we will not be able to meet that particular day, but very, very shortly thereafter.

MR. KELLAND:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. KELLAND:
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development (Mr. Power). The basis for the question, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that the Sprung construction contract provides for a turn-key arrangement, that is to say a completed project, the first crop in production when the key is turned over to the owners, the owners being the Sprung Group and the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. I would like to ask the minister was he was aware that the Province's equal partner, Sprung, was making deals, such as the Tors Cove Excavating deal, which has not been paid, with the intention of paying for those contracts with money from the next greenhouse project, wherever in the world it was being built? Now, as a representative of the equal partner, the Province, I would like to ask the minister what is his reaction to that?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. POWER:

Mr. Speaker, obviously the relationship between Mr. Sprung in a turn-key operation, and the contractors has absolutely nothing to do with this side of the partnership. The government made a deal. The facility was delivered to the company, Newfoundland Enviroponics, and it is doing quite well. The relationship between Mr. Sprung and any of his contractors is not of any particular concern to the government.

MR. KELLAND:

Mr. Speaker,

MR. SPEAKER:

A supplementary, the hon. the member for Naskaupi.

MR. KELLAND:

Mr. Speaker, I am not quite absolutely certain I heard him say that any deals that Sprung makes are of no concern to the government. My supplementary: Is it not so that progress payments made on any construction contract are for the purposes of paying construction costs as progress is made? Consequently, what happened to the money that was paid, the progress payments made on the current project, and why would Sprung have to wait for the next greenhouse project, wherever in the world, in order to pay for the present project?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. POWER:

Mr. Speaker, the member is either

being malicious like certain members have been related to the Sprung facility, or is very unaware of the means by which government does business.

Anytime that government issues a tender, issues a contract or signs an agreement with any principal, it is not our concern who the sub-contractors are. The Minister of Transportation just announced a pile of road contracts. If in some cases of major tenders we have something sub-contracted out to somebody else, you cannot expect to come back to the government and expect us to be able to do those deals between sub-contractors. I mean, it just does not make any sense at all.

MR. KELLAND:

A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. KELLAND:

The minister continues to dance on this particular subject. But I ask the minister, as the representative of the equal partner, the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador and its people, what effects are the mechanics liens taken out on the project having on the Province and the people who pay the shot?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. POWER:

Mr. Speaker, in the case of the Sprung facility, we contracted with a person to deliver something to the government, and it was delivered on time and in budget. It is not our concern what happens

in the sub-contracting business. We have the Newfoundland Enviroponics Facility. It is working quite well. We are a 50 per cent partner in that company, and it is really not our concern what the contractor does with any sub-contractor in this Province. It was not meant to be part of our agreement. We signed an agreement. We lived up to our parts of it and the thing was delivered on time to our satisfaction.

MR. W. CARTER:

Mr. Speaker,

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Twillingate.

MR. W. CARTER:

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Rideout).

Last week Newfoundlanders were once again treated to a visit from the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. Siddon), at which time the hon. minister again displayed his total ignorance of the problems of glut in Newfoundland and his insensitivity to it when he said that the glut problem will be over in two or three weeks.

I wonder can the minister tell the House if he took time out to acquaint the minister with the seriousness of the glut and the fact that the so-called glut is the big harvest in the Newfoundland fishery? Has the minister had any luck, Mr. Speaker, in making arrangements to accommodate the fishermen who cannot sell their fish to plants?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

MR. RIDEOUT:

Mr. Speaker, for the sake of the public record and accurate information, it was this week that the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans was in the Province.

I can tell the hon. gentleman I take no responsibility for nor do I know what particular comments the federal minister made about the glut. But to skip that part of his question and go to the more substantive part of it, Mr. Speaker, I can tell the House that there has been progress made in alleviating some pressure in the glut situation. It is not totally 100 per cent solved, and I suppose it never would be even if you were able to get all kinds of ships in place all around the Province. But certainly National Sea has been a big help, have been a good corporate citizen in this situation by diverting a number of their trawlers from St. John's to Burgeo, which is good for Burgeo, obviously. They have taken off some pressure in the St. John's region. FPT have been helpful in the areas of the Province where they own plants. They have been buying about a half million pounds of fish a day in Bonavista, Charleston and Port au Choix areas of the Province where there is a lot of fish. We have issued several dozen glut permits.

I was in Petty Harbour last night, Mr. Speaker, and met with the fishermen up there, and they are shipping some of their fish to Fogo. So there is progress being made, and while it is not perfect and while it is not all solved there is progress being made. We have been informed today by telephone calls around to the various processors that starting tomorrow and the next day, they will be turning a lot of their

processing and freezing capabilities back to groundfish away from caplin.

PREMIER-PECKFORD:

What is St. Lawrence doing?

MR. RIDEOUT:

St. Lawrence and Lawn are operating flat out, seven days a week, ten hours a day, with as many people employed as were down there last year.

So there is a lot of good stuff happening, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. RIDEOUT:

I am not suggesting for the life me to the hon. gentleman or to the legislature that there is still not a problem in certain areas of the Province with the glut situation, but the glut committee is handling it well and, with the cooperation of the union and the fishermen we are trying to do the best we can. Hopefully after another few days, when most of the caplin fishery is over in the Southern regions, all of the plants will get back to groundfish and that will be helpful.

MR. W. CARTER:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A supplementary, the hon. the member for Twillingate.

MR. W. CARTER:

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to hear the minister say that the glut problem is just about over. I think that is, in effect, what he said.

I wonder, Mr. Speaker, can the minister then tell the House, in

light of the fact that this problem occurs almost every year, with a few exceptions over the past

PREMIER PECKFORD:

Not in the past four years.

MR. W. CARTER:

Mr. Speaker, I was going to say that it has been known to occur almost every year except for the past four or five years.

PREMIER PECKFORD:

Oh, yes. I am a millionaire, except that I owe \$1.2 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. W. CARTER:

Well, the hon. the Premier can laugh.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. the Premier obviously does not understand. This problem has been with us now for the past twenty years. I wonder can the minister tell the House what plans does he have to bring in a long-term solution to that problem? Would he also tell the House if he has made any representation to Fisheries Products International to get them to second some of their vessels, to divert some of their vessels to the areas where the glut has occurred.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

MR. RIDEOUT:

Mr. Speaker, first of all, again for the sake of accuracy and clarity and for the public record, let me reiterate that I did not, contrary to the hon. gentleman's assertions, say that the glut was going to be over in a few days, and I certainly do not want to be

misquoted as saying that.

What I said, and I will repeat it again for clarity, is that some of the pressure is starting to be relieved. That does not mean that it is over or that there will not be a glut in some part of the Province tomorrow or the next day. But some of the pressure, because of some of the actions we have taken with the cooperation of National Sea and other companies, and with the caplin fishery slowing down in the South, is starting to be relieved, and hopefully over another few days we will see that happening more and more.

I can say as well, Mr. Speaker, with regard to the rest of the hon. gentleman's question, that we did not have a glut, as the hon. gentleman knows, for the last four or five years. In fact, we had a famine, and the fishery, unfortunately, in the inshore sector has been like that for all of our history. It is either a feast or a famine. It was like it when the hon. gentleman was minister, it is still like it today.

But what I think we have seen is the results of some of the actions that the federal government, with the support of this Province, took a couple of years ago in forcing the offshore companies to diversify their catching effort a third, a third, a third, along the three divisions. I think that is starting to pay off. The reduction, and holding the line on that for the last number of years, I think is starting to pay off. So I believe the signs are that we will continue to have an improvement in the amount of fish that comes inshore. So, based on that belief, we will be putting in

place a different approach to the glut program for 1988 and beyond than we had in 1988, because we had a famine for the last four or five years, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. EFFORD:

Mr. Speaker,

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Port de Grave.

MR. EFFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the hon. the Minister of Health (Dr. Collins) concerning closing of the kitchen facilities at the Grand Falls Hospital and the way in which food is being sent out to the Grand Falls Hospital. I would ask the minister why would he as Minister of Health, knowing that food is also important to patients in hospital, allow a contract to be issued to a company, Western Concessions in Gander, to prepare hot meals, dinners and suppers, in Gander to be sent all the way to patients in Grand Falls Hospital? Why would the Minister of Health, knowing that food is also important to these people, allow that to take place?

DR. COLLINS:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Health.

DR. COLLINS:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is getting into some details of this matter that I will have to check out. On a general basis, let me state that the hospital in Grand Falls is undergoing fairly

extensive renovations at the present time and we have had to put in place certain contingency plans to allow as many hospital services as possible to go on during this period. The food preparation aspect is important. There is going to be considerable upgrading of the kitchen and other types of facilities at the hospital during this process, so some arrangements had to be made.

But I will take the hon. member's question as notice. If there are any particular details he might want to elaborate on them. If there are any particular details that he feels are a concern, I will certainly check those out.

MR. EFFORD:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
A supplementary.

MR. EFFORD:
In other words, Mr. Speaker, the minister is saying he is not aware that the food is being prepared in Gander. Let me ask the minister, given the fact that the patients at the Grand Falls Hospital are saying the food they are eating tastes like rubber most of the time after being transferred all the way from Gander, if the minister is not aware that this is taking place, will the minister look at having the food prepared in

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Oh, oh!

MR. EFFORD:
If I may, Mr. Speaker?

Will the Minister of Health look at having the food prepared in Grand Falls, notwithstanding the cost? Cost does not matter when

it comes to care of the health of people. Will he look at having this food prepared in Grand Falls so that patients at the Grand Falls Hospital can have the decent meals they deserve? Stop looking at the fact that we are saving money by giving it to the lowest tender or whatever. Will he look at that issue?

DR. COLLINS:
Mr. Speaker.

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

DR. COLLINS:
Mr. Speaker, I am presuming the food the hon. member is referring to is not supposed to taste like rubber. If it was supposed to taste like rubber, I suppose there would be nothing wrong with it. I will certainly investigate about the quality of the food. I have not heard, myself, any complaints from the residents or patients at the hospital. I just checked with my hon. colleague, the member for Grand Falls (Mr. Simms). He himself - I think I am quoting him correctly - said he has not received any complaints in this regard. But we will certainly take the question as a serious one, whether it was meant to be or not. We will take it as a serious question and look into the matter.

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

MR. SPEAKER:
A final supplementary, the hon. the member for Port de Grave.

MR. EFFORD:
Mr. Speaker, obviously the Minister of Health, as with all other problems in the health care system, just does not want to pay any attention, probably because it

is saving a few dollars.

MR. SIMMS:

It is a supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. EFFORD:

I can understand why the President of the Council is not interested; it could be because his relative owns the company here.

I ask the Minister of Health to assure this House that regardless of the cost he will ensure that these facilities will be moved from Gander to Grand Falls and in that way the patients at the Grand Falls hospital will be guaranteed they will get a decent meal.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Health.

DR. COLLINS:

Mr. Speaker, I will certainly guarantee that the patients at the Grand Falls hospital will get the best service that possibly can be given to them during this transitional period. We all understand that when you extensively renovate a hospital you have to have in place transitional arrangements. We will assure the House that the best possible arrangements will be made. Whether that is doing it in Gander, whether it is doing it in Grand Falls, whether it is doing it elsewhere, remains to be seen.

My understanding at the present time is that after quite detailed preparation in consultation with the administration at the hospital, certain measures were put in place that were mutually agreeable to both sides. I will just ensure that there has not

been any slip-ups or anything in that process.

MR. FENWICK:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Menihek.

MR. FENWICK:

My question, Mr. Speaker, is for the Minister of Education (Mr. Hearn). It concerns the recent change in the regulations regarding school buses and the licensing of school buses that are older than 1974 for use for transporting school children.

Since there has been some considerable amount of backlash - I would suggest that is probably the best word - from school bus owners who have not been informed of this up until just a few days ago, would the minister please explain to us why the policy is being implemented and why it is being implemented so quickly so that the actual operators themselves have to make a decision on whether they are going to continue within the next two or three weeks?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Education.

MR. HEARN:

Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his question. The reason why the policy is being implemented is for safety. Some time ago in the House, several months ago in fact, we had a full and lengthy discussion, I believe raised by some of the members of the Opposition, perhaps during the Estimates, on school busing. And one of the major concerns raised by a number of the hon. gentlemen opposite was the fact that many of our buses are relatively old, and

they questioned the safety aspect. And at that time it was made quite clear that we were looking at the policy and intended to make changes. That has been known for quite some time. The changes have now been made, having gone through the process and getting the necessary approvals, and as of this year only buses fourteen years of age or newer than that will be operated in the school systems of the Province.

MR. FENWICK:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. FENWICK:
Mr. Speaker, I do not disagree with the general thrust of the policy. I think safety for our children going to school is a laudible objective and this is certainly one method of introducing it.

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

MR. FENWICK:
My supplementary question to the minister is this: Since there are, by our count, something like 112 buses that are in this category of fourteen years of age and older, and since some individual operators have as many as eight or nine buses, I understand, of this kind, and are in an extremely difficult position since they have not been given advanced notice, will the minister agree to look at the individual cases, especially where the buses have met the inspection standards in the past, and see if some sort of implementation schedule that is a little bit more generous can be worked out for those individual

bus owners who are in a terrible situation as a result of the introduction of this policy?

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

MR. HEARN:
Mr. Speaker, we have 1,200 school buses, approximately, operating in the Province. Of these, approximately 100 - 112 could be the correct number; we are not sure how many will be used at any one time, since some operators have more buses than they operate using them as spares and so on - so approximately 100 to 110, in that area, are older than fourteen years of age. We had this checked out, since we also talked to the organization representing the bus drivers before we made any decision, but a number of these sometimes involve one and two buses in a very large number of buses owned by a contractor. There is one case I am aware of where an individual is relatively seriously affected, and there may be others seriously affected but not as seriously as that. But in most cases the effect is negligible and most operators have said it would not affect them actually.

We have suggested that discussions take place with the school boards. There are some options there that may be able to fall in place. Certainly if there is a severe affect we have no hesitation in having to look at a unique case, but it would have to be an unique case, and in our discussion with the school boards perhaps some accommodation will be made. But the reason it was done was simply for safety sake, and I suppose, looking at any situation, certainly jeopardizing the safety aspect would not be involved. We

will certainly not jeopardize the safety of school children.

MR. FENWICK:

A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A final supplementary.

MR. FENWICK:

Just a matter of clarification, because I am not quite sure what the minister said - he indicated that it was a hard and fast policy at the beginning, and now I am not sure - are you saying that if you find some operators who are in a tremendously disadvantaged position as a result of this, that you will allow the school board to negotiate with them and to own the buses for another year or so until they phase them out, or are you saying that it is just a matter of some other arrangement being made?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Education.

MR. HEARN:

There is an option there already, Mr. Speaker, and that is that all or most contracts end at the end of the school year, and most of the bus operators, the majority of them, will be advised during the month of July or August about their contract renewals for the coming year. There have been some changes made to that, too, certainly, the renewal of the contract. In negotiating with the school board the operators affected might find some way to be accommodated. It may not necessarily be by using buses that are over fourteen years of age, but there may be different ways of compensating the driver in the renewal of his contract, or what have you. There are some options there and we would certainly like to see those explored before we

look at any other options. You never close the door, I suppose, on specific cases, but certainly, if it is a matter of the safety, as I say, of transporting the children to and from school, certainly neither the boards or ourselves would look at anything in that line.

MR. GULLAGE:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Waterford - Kenmount.

MR. GULLAGE:

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Housing (Mr. Peach). The minister will know, possibly, that the tenants of Allandale Apartments have applied to the Residential Tenancies Board about a rent increase to come in effect July 1 of some 10 per cent, and are having difficulty in getting a time set for a hearing. Would the minister intervene on behalf of these tenants and see that their hearing is held as quickly as possible?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Housing.

MR. PEACH:

Mr. Speaker, I am aware that the tenants of the Allandale Apartments, being a tenant myself in that area, have applied through the process and, as a matter of fact, over the past week or so they have been circulating a petition to the various tenants there with regard to the rental increase. I indicated here in the House, a month or so ago, that we would be having a rental increase in various parts of the city, and in Allandale Apartments, to ensure that our rentals there are in line with the market rentals in the

rest of the city, and particularly, I guess, in that area. The tenants there are very familiar with the process, they are going through the correct process, and I am sure that the Tenancies Board will hear their case. The people there are very confident. In fact I encouraged them, a week or so ago, to go through the process and I am sure that that process will proceed in due course.

MR. GULLAGE:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A supplementary, the hon. the member for Waterford - Kenmount.

MR. GULLAGE:

Mr. Speaker, the minister is aware, of course, that Newfoundland and Labrador Housing units, such as Allandale and similar older units, are fully paid for and depreciated, so the only expense they have is insurance and maintenance.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. GULLAGE:

Will the minister not admit that these rents are now too high in relation to the market, a market that has the highest vacancy rate in Canada at 10 per cent, and that in fact the rents should be reduced and not raised?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Housing.

MR. PEACH:

Mr. Speaker, I am aware that the vacancy rate is rather high, I guess in the Province but particularly in the city, but that applies basically to private rentals. We do not have a vacancy

rate in our Newfoundland and Labrador Housing units.

I think it is fair to say that if we take the Allandale, Linden Court and Churchill Square apartment area, that area of the city, private rental rates are higher than the ones that we charge. I indicated at the time of the increase that 10 per cent would still mean that we were somewhat lower than the market rental. When we consider the fact that, I guess, the basic rental rates there are approximately some \$600 per month for a three-bedroom apartment with heat included, I think the tenants there are reasonably happy that the rents are not, I guess, as high as compared to other places.

However, I think their contention is the fact that it has continually gone up for the past two or three years. The reason for that, Mr. Speaker, is we want to keep them in line and not be in competition with private sector apartments, and so on, in that particular area of the city.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Did you sign the petition?

MR. PEACH:

No, Mr. Speaker, I did not sign the petition.

MR. GULLAGE:

A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A final supplementary, the hon. the member for Waterford - Kenmount.

MR. GULLAGE:

Mr. Speaker, considering the fact that administrative and salary expenses are factored into these rents and form a large portion of

the rent that is going to be charged to these seniors, especially when the rents are increased, if they are increased, will the minister ensure that if the results of the hearing are such that the rents are indeed deemed to be too high, that units such as Allandale and Linden Court and Pleasantville and Elizabeth Towers will be sold by public auction to the private sector?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Housing.

MR. PEACH:

Mr. Speaker, I guess it would not be in order for me to pre judge the outcome of the hearing. As I indicated here in the Legislature on a number of occasions, the units we have around the Province, whether they be in Stephenville or St. John's or in Goose Bay, are always for sale and when market conditions are right and when proposals come in we are always receptive of disposing of units such as that.

As I indicated last week, Mr. Speaker, when one of the tenants visited my apartment with her petition, I said, 'You should go through the process,' realizing, of course, that if the Tenancies Board indicates that the rates are too high, I do not see any reason why they would not be reduced. However, if the Tenancies Board indicates that rents are too low, I do not see any reason why they would not be increased.

MR. GILBERT:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. GILBERT:

I have a question, Mr. Speaker, for the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Doyle). I wonder does the minister agree with the following statement: CN Marine cannot give any indication as to how many people will be laid off with the phase-out of the Newfoundland Railway? Does the minister know what effect the closing of the railway will have on employment in the whole CN and Marine Atlantic operations in this Province?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Transportation.

MR. DOYLE:

Well, Mr. Speaker, as I indicated to the hon. gentleman just a couple of days ago, I believe it was Friday morning, we met with officials of Marine Atlantic and discussed these very issues that the hon. gentleman raised today. Again I reiterate what Marine Atlantic indicated to the member for LaPoile (Mr. Mitchell) and me during discussions, that they were not in any position at this point in time to give us any indication of how many people would be laid off, if any, within their Marine Atlantic operation.

And, Mr. Speaker, I would also point out to the hon. member, I do not know if he is aware, that I was unofficially informed today that the Federal Minister of Transport (Mr. Bouchard) has made a statement that as a result of the closedown of the Newfoundland Railway that there will not be any layoffs with Marine Atlantic in Newfoundland. Now, I do not have the official transcript of those remarks that the Minister of Transport is alleged to have made, but I have been given that information today, that the minister has indeed made that

statement that there would be no layoffs as a result of the closedown of the Newfoundland Railway by Marine Atlantic.

MR. GILBERT:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
A supplementary, the hon. the member for Burgeo Bay d'Espoir.

MR. GILBERT:
I am surprised that a study was not done before, Mr. Speaker. Anyhow, has the government done any study on the impact of the agreement signed on June 20 to phase out the Newfoundland Railway? And will the minister name the group which provided the study saying that fourteen tractor-trailers would be all the increased traffic going to go on the highways as a result of closing the railway? Would he name the people who did that study?

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

MR. DOYLE:
Well, Mr. Speaker, ever since the closedown or the eventual closedown of the Newfoundland railway has been discussed, Port aux Basques and Bishop's Falls in particular have been at the forefront of all of our discussions within the Department of Development, the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs and Transportation as well. That is why, Mr. Speaker, this government fought and had placed in the Memorandum of Understanding we reached with the federal government the Community Adjustment Package to apply to those two communities, Port aux Basques and Bishop's Falls, of approximately \$15 million. And

hopefully, Mr. Speaker, those two communities will be able to create other business opportunities within their areas to lessen any impact that might be had as a result of this closedown.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I believe the hon. gentleman asked a question as well with respect to the number of trucks on the highways. I am informed that there were approximately fifty-eight trucks in operation by TerraTransport and other private operators to accommodate rail freight before the shutdown. Twenty-one of these had the destination of Corner Brook. Obviously, some of the freight that did come by truck will now go by the water mode. Fourteen had been destined for Grand Falls and twenty-four for St. John's. Obviously there will be some change in the St. John's end of it, as the marketplace demands that the water mode be used in those areas.

So we do not feel, Mr. Speaker, that there will be any extra tractor-trailer traffic to any great extent in any event, probably between fifteen and twenty extra trucks on the road as a result of the closedown of the railway.

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

The time for Oral Questions has elapsed.

Notices of Motion

MR. SIMMS:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the President of the

Council.

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I might, by leave of the House, make a motion to appoint the member for St. John's East to the Select Committee on Rules, which I neglected to do last week? This is to replace the member for Menihok, who has resigned and/or been, whatever.

I understand the Committee wants to get on with its work, so if there is agreement, pursuant to the appropriate Standing Order, I move that the member for St. John's East be appointed to the Select Committee on Rules to replace the member for Menihok who has resigned.

MR. TULK:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Fogo.

MR. TULK:

We have no problem with that. The only question that remains unanswered in relation to this whole thing is, as my friend for Fortune - Hermitage says, did he jump or was he pushed?

On motion, the member for St. John's East was appointed to the Select Committee on Rules, replacing the hon. the member for Menihok.

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the President of the Council.

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker, I have another Notice of Motion which I would like to

give just as a precautionary measure.

I would like to give notice that I will on tomorrow move that further consideration of any resolution or resolutions, clause or clauses, section or sections, preamble or preambles, title or titles, or whatever else might be related to motion No. 1 shall be the first business of the House, when next called by the House, and shall not be further postponed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. TULK:

Ah, ha! Invoking closure there!

MR. SIMMS:

Just in case. If you want to hold up the people of the Province to ransom we may be forced to use it.

MR. TULK:

A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. TULK:

It is interesting to note that the hon. gentleman has now given notice of closure, and I say to him that what he is doing is something out of the ordinary, is not ordinary at all. The budget was not called until yesterday, since late April.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Shame! Shame!

MR. TULK:

So for him to point to this side of the House and say that this side of the House is holding the people of this Province up to ransom - the best word you can use for it is exaggeration, and

that is being very, very kind.
Let me also say to the hon.
gentleman -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. TULK:

Mr. Speaker, I am trying to make a point of order. Let me say to the hon. gentleman, and also say to, I believe, **The Evening Telegram**, that the Opposition does not wish and will not see the people of this Province delayed. And this is another method other than having this budget passed. We agree that if they need money to pay their bills for another week to carry on debate on this budget, we will give them further Interim Supply.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. TULK:

We will give them further Interim Supply, but we will not be cowed by the hon. gentleman or by the press while doing our duty.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

There is no point of order.

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. TULK:

There is no point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SIMMS:

I will raise my own point of order in that case, and hopefully Your honour will rule mine is not a point of order before the member for Fogo gets up to speak to it.

MR. TULK:

He knows it is not a point of

order.

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker, to just put this in perspective, let me advise members of the press gallery and the public and those who may be interested, that we have spent a considerable amount of time on the budget debate, contrary to what members opposite say. There have been seventeen speakers on the budget debate, and there were also 75 hours spent on the Estimates Committees. There has been more time spent debating the budget and the estimates of the budget than, perhaps, anything else, save for Meech Lake, which also has gone on a lot longer than most things that would have occurred in this hon. House.

Mr. Speaker, all I have said here is that if hon. members intend to hold up the House, then we intend to ensure that the people of the Province, and the public of the Province do not suffer unnecessarily, and in order for us to ensure that that occurs, if it became necessary for us to implement the rule the hon. member referred to, it is required notice be given the day before. That is the only reason, the only purpose.

Now that I have the hon. member's word that they will not do that, then we will not have to use it, in any event. But I wanted to give notice just in case. I appreciate the hon. member's cooperation, and I appreciate the cooperation of hon. members opposite, and look forward to voting on the hon. member's non-confidence motion as soon as he is ready.

There is no point of order, obviously, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

There is no point of order.

MR. SIMMONS:

He did just what he told you (inaudible).

Private Member's Day

MR. SPEAKER:

Today is Private Member's Day, the hon. the member for Fortune - Hermitage adjourned the debate and he has ten minutes left.

The hon. the member for Fortune - Hermitage.

MR. SIMMONS:

Mr. Speaker, I can understand the Minister for St. John's South (Dr. Collins) is in a tender mood having seen those new Conflict of Interest Guidelines. I am sure he is a bit nervous somebody might spot the real reason they were brought in. I submit a good part of the reason is to try and legitimize what he has been doing all along. So if he wants to be -

DR. COLLINS:

They were brought in for a very specific (inaudible).

MR. SIMMONS:

I can see that. I can see they were brought in for a specific reason, but I tell him -

MR. TOBIN:

Mr. Speaker, what has this got to do with the Private Member's Day?

MR. SIMMONS:

Mr. Speaker, what about a member who does not speak from his own seat. That is all right is it, Mr. Speaker? I am sick and tired of having members on the government side be the Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. SIMMONS:

Just in passing, since the Minister for St. John's South said something across the House, I say to him that we have seen through this charade here today and it will not save him, but I want to talk about other jobs than the job that he is about to lose, if he keeps pushing his luck.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMONS:

There are other people out there, Mr. Speaker, who when they lose their regular employment, as the minister is soon to do, they do not have any investments to fall back on. They do not have any 25 per cent shares in companies.

MR. TOBIN:

You have some gall.

MR. SIMMONS:

They do not have a Premier who is prepared to rewrite the rules to satisfy any situation. All they have is their regular employment, a few hours in a fish plant, a few hours on a Challenge '88 project, a few hours on a Canada Job Strategy Initiative and when that is gone, they do not have any Premier there rewriting the rules for them or getting them another job or protecting their investment. They have no other investment. Their investment is their time, Mr. Speaker. And this motion from my friend for Stephenville (Mr. K. Aylward) is an appeal to the members of this House to stop being preoccupied with looking after their own portfolios or their own investment portfolios, their own little self-interest, and address the

largest situation, Mr. Speaker, address the larger thing, the question of the young people out in this Province, 35.6 per cent, 35.5 per cent of the young people in this Province between the ages of fifteen and twenty-four are without jobs, 36 per cent compared to 21 per cent in Nova Scotia.

Do you know, Mr. Speaker, by way of example, that the Nova Scotia rate, which is fairly high to compared to the national average, went in 1979, that is the year this Premier took office, from 18.5 per cent to 20.5 per cent. The youth unemployment rate in Nova Scotia went up by 3 percentage points. That must be very sad for the young people of Nova Scotia. It went up by 3 percentage points.

Do you know that in that same time period since that Premier over there, the member for Green Bay took office as Premier in 1979, the youth unemployment rate, the numbers of young people between the ages of fifteen and twenty-four who are without jobs, went from 25 per cent of all youths in the Province, to 36 per cent. It went up by 11 percentage points. At the same time, Mr. Speaker, the rate for youth unemployment in Ontario was going down. In Manitoba it was staying steady. In Quebec it was going down. In B.C. it went up by a couple of points. In Newfoundland it goes up by 11 points so that 36 per cent or more than one out of every three young Newfoundlanders between the ages of fifteen to twenty-four are walking around without employment.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we heard them yesterday talking about world conditions and interest rates and the state of the economy

internationally and other conditions universally. That plays part of the role, I am sure, Mr. Speaker, in the overall economic situation here. We are not an Island economically. We may be geographically, but I fully recognize developments outside this small Island, this small enclave of ours, in population terms, do affect what happens here.

But, Mr. Speaker, there has to be a very specific answer, an answer specific to the Province, as to why our figures are so out of whack with the whole country, why it is that our rates are so much higher, why it is that thirty-six out of every 100 Newfoundlanders are without jobs, whereas in Ontario it is only ten out of 100, instead of thirty-six out of 100 right here.

The answer, Mr. Speaker, is the administration that we have in power at this particular time. It is, Mr. Speaker -

DR. COLLINS:

Do you mean to compare ourselves with Ontario?

MR. SIMMONS:

If the minister wants to talk about Ontario, let him also talk about some other places. Let him talk about New Brunswick for example, where the rate has gone from eighteen to twenty-two, or in Nova Scotia, from eighteen and a half to twenty and a half. I think he will recognize that we have something fairly in common to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and I would be prepared to concede to him that conditions are somewhat different in Ontario with the economic boom they are going through.

The other difference, by the way, in Ontario, I say to the minister, is they have a Liberal Government in Ontario.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMONS:
That is not without significance either. That government has been able to help crank up the economy in Ontario.

Let us compare, as he suggests, apples and apples, compare Nova Scotia with Newfoundland. I ask him, if he is so anxious to intervene himself in the debate, can he explain why it was that while Nova Scotia's rate goes up by 3 percentage points in terms of youth employment, our rate here in Newfoundland goes up by 11 percentage points?

MR. J. CARTER:
You know what the reason is.

MR. SIMMONS:
Mr. Speaker, if the member for St. John's North knows the reason, would he do us and the people of Newfoundland a favour and give his maiden speech in this House? Will he get up for the first time since he has been here as a member and say something of consequence? Will he do that? Will he give that undertaking to the House, that he will give us the benefit of his wisdom, instead of sitting there and keeping it to himself?

MR. J. CARTER:
Will you give way?

MR. SIMMONS:
In about four minutes I will give way to the member. That is a promise to him.

Mr. Speaker, the solution is not

the solution offered by the member for Mount Pearl, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Windsor). The **Evening Telegram** on April 14 this year took the minister to task for his version of reality. It is an editorial headed, **Windsor and The Jobless**.

The editorial quotes the minister in what must be one of the more delightful, yet insulting, quotes he has ever been known to utter. Here is his solution to the unemployment rate. Here is why the unemployment rate in Newfoundland is so high. He says of women in Newfoundland, "If she was not working, she would not then be an unemployment statistic." That is the solution.

AN HON. MEMBER:
Is he talking about (inaudible)?

MR. SIMMONS:
No, he is talking about the other enlightened minister from Mount Pearl.

MR. FUREY:
Was he talking to Charlie Brett before he said that?

MR. SIMMONS:
He obviously got coached by the member for Trinity North (Mr. Brett) who has quite a battery of insulting quotes in this particular area. But can you imagine in the 20th. Century, Mr. Speaker, one of your own colleagues - you did not choose him willingly and for that I give you credit - saying the following: "If she was not working, she would not then be an unemployment statistic."

The Minister of Finance's solution is hide away the women. Hide them away and pretend they do not exist. Do not let them go to the

manpower office. Do not let them get a seasonal job, because if they show up as a statistic, they will drive up our unemployment rate and they will make us look bad. That is the solution to the problem, Mr. Speaker. We will just hide away half the labour force, the half which happens to be female, hide them away, according to the Minister of Finance.

Now, Mr. Speaker, that minister, on his own behalf and on behalf of the administration, has some answering to do. I thought **The Evening Telegram**, in its editorial of that same date, put the questions rather succinctly and well. Some of the questions in the editorial are: 'Just who is Mr. Windsor trying to kid?' Number two: 'What is he trying to prove?' Number three: 'How does he explain his reasoning to the 42,000 Newfoundlanders who are currently looking for work? How does he explain that to these 42,000 Newfoundlanders?' Then, four: 'How does he explain to the thousands who have given up looking for work, and are now forced on the welfare roles?' Five: 'How does he explain to the 17,000 youths of this Province who are currently seeking employment, and to the thousands who are graduating in June?' It goes on, and on, a very serious indictment. That whole editorial is a very serious indictment of this government's approach to the jobless in this Province.

Mr. Speaker, just to reflect on some of the things I have done today as member of the House, in my capacity as an MHA.

I talked to a lady this morning in one of the communities in my district, Harbour Breton, and she

was talking to me about those Challenge '88 projects. Mr. Speaker, I spent five years in Ottawa making decisions about Youth Employment Projects. We used to call them - I will get the name in a minute - the member for St. Barbe (Mr. Furey) will know. What were the Youth Projects called before they were called Challenge '88, the federal youth projects?

MR. FUREY:

Opportunities for Youth.

MR. SIMMONS:

That is one of them.

MR. TULK:

Young Canada Works.

MR. SIMMONS:

Young Canada Works, I think, was the latter name. Those programs which I was responsible for making decision on during my time in Ottawa, I remember one of the things we were very specific on was in terms of the hiring objectives, who would you employ? The overriding objective was those where the need is greatest, and that usually meant those students who were going on to further their employment and needed funding to pay for tuition, books and so on in their next year in university. That was the criteria.

I have to say that I am discovering under the Challenge '88 program the thing has got completely out of whack and what the member for St. John's North (Mr. Carter) is suggesting is happening. It depends on, not what your need is, but who you know, and I have to point the blame at the Government of Canada and the Tory members in Ottawa for allowing these projects to become sinecures.

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

The hon. member's time has elapsed.

MR. SIMMONS:
I wish there were a little leave, Mr. Speaker, because there are a couple of other things I would like to say.

Is there leave? No leave.

Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. BARRETT:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. BARRETT:
Mr. Speaker, I think it is worthy to note when members opposite commit to the Order Paper motions such as this one that they are allowed to do without any degree of relevancy or really truth as it relates to the content of the position that is attempted to be debated here.

When one looks at the WHEREASes in this particular resolution and tries to assimilate those comments with what is in fact reality in Newfoundland and Labrador today, there is a world of difference.

All one has to do, Mr. Speaker, is travel throughout this Province. The perception that is trying to be left in a devious fashion by some of the members opposite, and it obviously is devious, it certainly does not warrant any kind of respect, it does not have any foundation. In fact, that something other than a very

positive attitude, a very positive initiative is being undertaken in rural Newfoundland today means they are living somewhere in the dark ages, and really have not gotten out of their seats and they certainly do not know what is happening. All one has to do is travel throughout this Province to see what is happening throughout this Province in a very, very positive fashion in terms of investment, in terms of employment.

AN HON. MEMBER:
(Inaudible).

MR. BARRETT:
I will get to Burgeo in a minute. As a matter of fact I will get to Burgeo on Saturday. And I have been there before.

But, Mr. Speaker, one should look at the employment opportunities and the investment creation activities that are being done in the Happy Valley Goose Bay area of Labrador. One should at the success and the investment that is being done by the various cooperatives and the private sector on coastal Labrador, primarily as it relates to the fishery, but just as importantly to other sectors of the economy, and one should look at what is happening in Labrador West, in Labrador City and Wabush.

Travelling throughout the Province, Mr. Speaker, as it relates to initiatives in the mining industry where we have seen more activity last year in exploration, confirmation of new finds, employment creation and investment, than we have seen in the last twenty years in this very important sector of our economy.

One should look at the positive involvement of the forestry in

this Province in terms of the amount of investment and the number of jobs with respect to the sawmillers operation, with respect to the pulp and paper industry, which is as buoyant now as it ever has been since the early 1900s, mainly because of the investment by new owners, as a result of the divestiture in Corner Brook, and the reaffirmation of the other owners such as Price in Grand Falls and Stephenville with significant support by both the federal and provincial government, both of which are Conservative governments. That has caused a great deal of security. If one goes out and talks to the people in these areas and the surrounding areas which are rural Newfoundland who provide the basic resource product to support these projects and tries to tell them that they are poor, tries to tell them that they are unemployed, they would be laughed out of town.

The fishery in this Province has never, ever been as good as it is today.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. BARRETT:

It has never been as good. The amount of catch, the value of catch, the diversification of the catch, the amount of secondary processing that is going on, that is being made shelf-ready for the consumers all over the world, that is being done within this Province, was never done before.

As a matter of fact, it was looked down upon by the previous administration, the Liberal administration of this Province. They did not think there was a future for the fishery in this Province. They did everything

they could to discourage people from investing or seeking a career in the fishery of this Province. They paid no attention to the younger people of this Province looking for a future in the fisheries. They can now hold their head up having achieved a place in a significant industry, providing an above average level of income in an environment which they choose to live in.

This government has supported that principle since the early 1970s and it is working in spades. It is working in the creation of many hundreds and, liberally, thousands of new jobs all over the Province, in rural Newfoundland! Go up the West Coast, the Great Northern Peninsula, and look at the employment levels in Plum Point. Look at the employment levels that are in Port au Choix. I will defy you to say that they are worse off than they were ten years ago. They are better off! There are more of them working.

The activities that are happening in the tourist sector in that part of our Province and in other parts of our Province, rural Newfoundland have looked at with excitement the opportunities that are there for them in tourism initiatives, and are making good money on them. They are providing their own investment funds with support again from government to create opportunities in facilities, attractions and accommodations. I am living right here.

MR. FURFY:

(Inaudible) 37 per cent of youth cannot find jobs.

MR. BARRETT:

This Province recorded the highest percentage increase in tourist

activity of any province in Canada for two years running, Mr. Speaker!

MR. BAIRD:

Get your head out of the sand.

MR. PEACH:

People are working. Do not be so stupid.

MR. BARRETT:

That is what this Province has done.

The fish plant in Burgeo was so successful that a few years ago it wanted to close down and this government bailed it out and restored it to the private sector in partnership with government. Last year the private sector spent \$2 million to buy the Newfoundland Government's interest out because they were doing so well.

The member over there now does not even want to see a road going to the community. It is not on his priority list. But this government made it a condition of an agreement that road programs, as a result of the closure of the railway in this Province, was going to be of benefit to every single Newfoundlander, not 400 or 500 Newfoundlanders.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. BARRETT:

There were 400 or 500 Newfoundlanders that were getting a significant benefit from the railway in this Province, but today there are 600,000 that are getting a significant benefit from that closure, every single Newfoundlander! Twinning the highway from here to Port aux Basques: What is that going to do for the average Newfoundlander? What it has done for the average

Newfoundlander is it has ensured the cross Labrador Highway. It has paved the road to Red Bay. It has done significant road improvements on the Great Northern Peninsula. It has secured the paving and upgrading of the Burgeo Road, and hundreds and hundreds of miles of road all over our Province, including a significant upgrade to the Trans-Canada Highway.

Absolutely, absolutely a significant achievement and the more people learn about it, the more they are laughing at the members opposite over their stand on this issue. They do not know how to squirm out of it! They do not know how to get out from under because they are afraid to support the government on this issue. They are afraid to support them.

Mr. Speaker, unemployment

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (Parsons):

Order, please!

MR. BARRETT:

Unemployment is the subject matter for this particular item on the Order Paper. For the period 1975 to 1987, in the primary employment sector of our Province, for the edification of members opposite, we are talking about forestry, fishing and mining. There has been an increase in employment from 12,000 to 20,000.

In the manufacturing sector of our Province an increase of employment from 13,000 to 21,000!

In our service sector, an increase in employment from 98,000 to 132,000! Now, what kind of mathematics do you have to apply

to say that that is not an increase in employment across the whole spector of our economy?

The member for Fortune - Hermitage (Mr. Simmons) started to suggest and again try to be devious in implying that this government has not been liberally attempting to increase the female workers in this Province. Absolute trash!

AN HON. MEMBER:
Trash! Trash!

MR. BARRETT:

In the managerial and professional categories of employment in this Province since 1975, the increased numbers of female persons working in the workplace has increased from 13,000 to 22,000; in the clerical role, from 14,000 to 20,000; in the service sector, from 9,000 to 15,000. Stats Canada results, go and get it, dig it out, look at it, read it! The total number of females employed in this Province in that period of time increased from 44,000 people to 74,000. Now in my estimation that is about a 80 per cent improvement. This is full-time, person years of employment.

If you want to get specific, Mr. Speaker, we have a jewel I think in this Province and that is Marystown Shipyard, a specific industry. As of today, Mr. Speaker, there are more people working at Marystown Shipyard than have ever worked at that facility since it was built, 626 people as of this moment are working at Marystown Shipyard. That is significant.

If you looked at the spread sheets or flash sheets that come out from statistical agencies as it relates to unemployment, the performance of this Province this past number

of months has been better than any other province in Canada as it relates to the jobs which have been created as a result of initiatives of this government, without any question, Mr. Speaker.

To attempt to try and respond to the kind of position that has been put forward by the Liberal Opposition in this particular motion, Mr. Speaker, is almost a grave injustice. It is really a serious thing to have to consider a member would put such a position on the Order Paper when it is so wrong, so totally and completely wrong for any person to suggest that this Province is not economically better off than it has been over the past number of years.

The amount of investment in new initiatives, in new science and technology, new research initiatives is there. The participation in the academic and scientific community has never been equalled before in the history of this Province, and far surpassing that which is done in any other province of Canada!

The per capita investment in high tech by this provincial government, and the support of its university, on a per capita basis is better than any other province of Canada, bar none! It is paying off in the creation of new job opportunities, new investment opportunities for all the people, and in particular, Mr. Speaker, the youth of this Province who have now got something to aspire to, who can see that there are new technological opportunities for them there. There are new goals which they can acquire. There are new challenges for them.

I had to speak the other day, I think, on a similar subject, when we are talking about the out-migration from this Province. They failed to mention the in-migration into this Province of people with high degrees of skills, people who are coming into this Province because we have an environment, Mr. Speaker, and an opportunity and challenges, which are as good as anywhere else in Canada today.

Contrary to the popular belief opposite, most people in this Province know that. They know it, they understand it, and they are very supportive of this government as a result.

Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. GILBERT:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Burgeo Bay d'Espoir.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. GILBERT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to be able to stand and support my colleague from Stephenville's resolution. I am sad the employment is so bad in this Province that we had to put this resolution on in private members' day, but after listening to the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Barrett) there, I had the feeling that maybe if I was back in a time capsule, as the members over there seem to be, and we were back in the late 1930s and early 1940s, and it was Nazi

Germany, I would have felt that the minister had his statement written for him by Goebbels. It seemed then that the more you tell a story, the more people will believe it. If you tell it often enough, you hope that people will believe it.

I also was reminded of the old saying that: "Figures do not lie but liars figure." So, Mr. Speaker, the general conditions in unemployment in this Province has been adequately discussed by the Leader of the Opposition yesterday and other members as they spoke on this.

I am fortunate in one way, I suppose, that I represent the district of Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir. Now in Burgeo itself, as the minister pointed out, and I am glad that got through to him because over the last three years as I have stood in this House and talked about the Burgeo Road, to point that I always made to the Premier and the Minister of Transportation, anyone else when I talked about the Burgeo Road was the fact that Burgeo and Ramea and that area were the most economically viable communities in the Province by virtue of the fact that the fish plants were there and they were working full-time. Really there is no unemployment in the Burgeo end of the district. But they are disadvantaged by the fact that they got a road that is not fit for the Twentieth Century.

This tokenism that we went into it when we sold the railway of putting \$12 million into that road over the next three years is really not what the people of Burgeo deserve. They deserve a lot better. Twelve million dollars should have gone in over the last three years and the road

should have been completed with this agreement.

So, I would be happy to debate that with the hon. member for Burgeo on Saturday, and I have a feeling I might get some support for my theory on what should be done on the Burgeo Road.

But the important thing that I want to talk about today, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that in the other end of the district of Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir we have the highest unemployment in Canada. When I hear hon. members over there stand up, the Minister of Career Development (Mr. Matthews) or the Minister of Social Services (Mr. Tobin) and talk very proudly about how they created ten jobs here and done this, and we have done that, it makes me sad when I think of the people that are living in Bay d'Espoir below the poverty line. People are barely existing, going from unemployment to social services to a make-work project to unemployment, the 42-10 syndrome that is created by the government.

MR. TOBIN:

Do you want more projects in your district?

MR. GILBERT:

For the interest of the Minister of Social Services, the last project that he stood up and proudly announced, ten jobs for the Bay d'Espoir area, the shipyard, they are not able to fill it, Mr. Speaker, because it did not meet the criteria under that federal-provincial agreement. You have got to have three people on long-term welfare and to take in the youth and the other people that unemployed in that area. So the minister is not too well aware of what is going on

in his department and in especially in the Bay d'Espoir area.

I am going to quote a few statistics and then I am going to let the people of Bay d'Espoir say to the members of this House what I have said to members opposite in my letters to the Premier and all the rest of the ministers concerning the terrible conditions there.

DR. COLLINS:

What suggestions have you made?

MR. GILBERT:

I will have my suggestions.

The minister does not want to hear, you see. The landlord from St. John's who rents his buildings to the government, he does not want to hear about the unemployment in Bay d'Espoir.

AN HON. MEMBER:

(Inaudible).

MR. GILBERT:

They will be concerned about that too, they will want to hear what you said about it.

MR. FUREY:

He was going to kick-start the economy.

MR. GILBERT:

Anyhow, the unemployment figures in the Bay d'Espoir area from Milltown, Morrisville, the Head of the Bay, St. Alban's, there are 4,100 people living in that area, Mr. Speaker. Out of that, there is a work force of about 1,700. Out of that, about 250 of them are full-time workers, and they are the ones who work with Hydro and there are fourteen of them now being taken to St. John's, so that is going to decrease the full-time

workers by fourteen.

As a matter of fact, some of the people who work with Hydro suggested to me that I tell this hon. House about this: Hydro has a contest to name the building they are going to build in St. John's. So the people in Bay d'Espoir have suggested to me that they should call it 'The Bay d'Espoir Building,' in view of the fact they are taking fourteen jobs out of there. So I pass that along.

Right now, the latest statistics I have on unemployment show 891 of them from Swangers Cove, St. Joseph's, St. Veronica's, St. Alban's, Morrisville, Milltown, Head of the Bay are unemployed and are collecting unemployment insurance.

There was a survey done a couple of years ago which points out some interesting facts too. They surveyed 2,000 people who lived in that area. Out of them, 69.4 per cent of them had worked in the previous year anywhere from zero to nine months; 37.2 per cent of those people, ten weeks, zero to nine weeks, 37 per cent; ten weeks only 13.5 per cent and from eleven to twenty weeks, 18.7 per cent; for 69 per cent of the people out of the total work force had worked less than twenty weeks in the year.

Now, Mr. Speaker, that is the sort of statistics we can talk about. We can hear all the glossy figures coming from over there and how we are improving the employment and unemployment in the Bay d'Espoir area or in Newfoundland. But I tell you right now, and as I have said, I have realms of letters down there I have written to the Premier and every other minister over there concerning the Bay

d'Espoir.

MR. TOBIN:

You have never written me a letter yet.

MR. GILBERT:

There are lots of them down there for you.

I have presented petitions -

MR. TOBIN:

(Inaudible).

MR. GILBERT:

There is none so blind as those who will not see, and that is like the Minister of Social Services (Mr. Tobin).

I talked about the unemployment in Bay d'Espoir. I have written the Minister of Social Services, I have written the Premier and he will be getting some more letters. I will get you copies tomorrow of everything I got.

I just heard the member for St. John's West (Mr. Barrett) talk about the forestry workers. Well, I will give him a few statistics about the forestry workers in Bay d'Espoir. One hundred and fifty of them at one time were permanent, part-time employees with the Department of Forestry. Mr. Speaker, that has been done away with, and I have letters here which I am going to read to the House concerning the plight of those people. Now there are one hundred and fifty of them who have to go out and try to find jobs in that area.

If one hundred and fifty people lost their jobs in St. John's or Corner Brook, there would be all kinds of inquiries about it and there would be something done to alleviate the suffering. But what

we have here is the Forestry Department decided they wanted to get those fellows out because they were paying them good money, \$9 and \$10 an hour, so they put it out to private contractors.

The minister now tells me, 'We are spending just as much money in Bay d'Espoir now as we were three years ago.' Statistically, again, he is right. Like I said, figures do not lie, but liars figure. Statistically there is just as much money going into the forestry in Bay d'Espoir now as there was three years ago.

There is only one little difference. Three years ago the people of Bay d'Espoir were getting the benefit from it and had good jobs, employed ten to fifteen weeks a year and were getting good unemployment when they were laid off.

Now what has happened, Mr. Speaker

MR. TORIN:

What minister (inaudible).

MR. GILBERT:

Mr. Speaker, would you ask that minister to sit in his own seat?

MR. TORIN:

What minister are you talking about?

AN HON. MEMBER:

You!

MR. GILBERT:

What has happened now, Mr. Speaker, is that private contractors have now got the forestry contract taken over. The people of Bay d'Espoir are working for minimum wages and they are making some contractors rich in Newfoundland. That is the social

program you put in in Bay d'Espoir. Some fellow comes in bidding on a contract and takes the money out on his back. It is not going into Bay d'Espoir.

I presented a petition in the House some time ago, 3 May, as a matter of fact, which nobody listened to over there. It was signed by a couple of hundred people down in Bay d'Espoir and I am going to read that petition because that tells more about the conditions in Bay d'Espoir than anything I could say, and it is much more elegant than anything I could say.

It says: "To the hon. House of Assembly in Parliament assembled I do hereby present a petition on behalf of the undersigned residents of Bay d'Espoir, Milltown, in the electoral district of Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir.

"At the present time we are appalled by the number of people who are unemployed and are very unable to secure employment in the Bay area. Immediate work is badly needed and immediate jobs have to be made available in order for the residents to improve the deplorable standard of living that they now have.

"The unemployed people in Bay d'Espoir are very much frustrated and disappointment is rampant when we hear of outside contractors given contracts to plant trees in our area, bringing in unemployed people from elsewhere when our local people go without jobs. We can plant trees as well as outsiders. This cannot be allowed this season.

"Many forest sections need to be worked on in regard to

reforestation and many jobs can be created allowing for more people to gain employment if the government is trying to restore a fast dwindling natural resource."

Now, this is for the Minister of Social Services (Mr. Tobin): "The unemployed people, when their UTC benefits have run out, have no other choice but through our Social Services to gain social welfare money to keep their families.

"They then are put to work with private enterprises only to be paid not by private enterprise but by Social Services. They then have to work for very low wages, \$5.00 an hour, and find it very discouraging with not enough finances to buy household needs which are so costly at this time in our lives.

"Our people are forced to work for minimum wages. We trust, and do believe, that the present PC administration can do better to improve the lives of the people in rural areas like ours.

"We cherish our home villages and we do not want to live our lives in other areas.

"Please equalize the jobs for the unemployed and not centralize them so our people have to be removed from traditional life and to take upon themselves an urban way of life which they find hard to cope with."

Mr. Speaker, that is a plea from the unemployed people of Ray d'Espoir. The Minister of Social Services (Mr. Tobin) can sit there and laugh all he likes, but that is a plea from the people of Ray d'Espoir who want jobs. They do not want social service, they do

not want to work for minimum wages in private enterprise. They want to have work and the government has the opportunity to do. The wear with all is there. If I have the time, I will be able to tell them what they can do.

AN HON. MEMBER:
(Inaudible).

MR. GILBERT:
Mr. Speaker, it is sort of a crime over here, or a crime for members over here, anyone who has been successful in business, that is considered a crime over there. If you have not been sucking the government bit all your life, you have a problem, but if you have been successful in business, that is a crime. I am not at all ashamed of the fact that I was successful in business.

I would like to read another letter concerning youth unemployment.

AN HON. MEMBER:
(Inaudible).

MR. GILBERT:
Let the people of Burgeo tell you about that.

Anyhow, Mr. Speaker, it is all right for the members to jest, but this is a serious problem that I have, unemployment in Ray d'Espoir. I asked this young man so I am going to read his name in the record. He wrote me a letter concerning unemployment and he told me it was alright. So I am going to table the letter. You do not want the name, do you, Minister of Social Services (Mr. Tobin)?

MR. TOBIN:
(Inaudible).

MR. GILBERT:

All right, for the benefit of the Minister of Social Services, I will not say his name. He says, "I am in Level III at Greenwood High School. As with graduating students there is a sense of pride and accomplishment, but in my case my sense of pride and accomplishment is somewhat hindered. All through my academic school years I have tried my best at achieving good marks and so far have been successful in doing just that.

"Just last week my class had its senior prom. The whole ceremony was beautiful and it was just too bad that you missed it.

"During the graduation our homeroom teacher, Miss L. Pumphrey, read a telegram from you stating that if you could be of any assistance to us, you would be only too glad to help.

"Well, Mr. Gilbert, I have a problem and I hope you can help me. In the Fall I plan to attend a professional driver's school in St. John's to get training in the fields of bus driving, truck driving, heavy equipment operation.

"It is a career that I have been interested in every since I was a kid. I am determined to find work after I have completed the course.

"But before I can attend I need money, all in all about \$3,000 total. I had hoped to obtain a summer job to help offset the cost somewhat, but my chances of finding one are pretty slim.

"My mother baby-sits about three days a week, and my father is an unemployed woodworker." Typical

of the bay. "Just last year, he received only ten weeks work," typical of many men in the Bay d'Espoir area.

"Only a small percentage of the graduates in my class received summer work. I am not sure how many out of the thirty-one graduates have obtained jobs but I know for sure the figure is pretty small. I was one of the unfortunate ones.

"So, Mr. Gilbert, you see, the future right now looks pretty bleak for the youth in Bay d'Espoir and I am asking of you as our MHA to assist me and other unfortunate graduates of 1988 in finding work over the summer.

"Graduation is not only a time of leaving school but also a time of considering one's life goals. Before I can achieve that goal, I need some financial assistance. I am ready, willing, I am able to work and I will do anything.

"So, Mr. Gilbert, I am asking you as my MHA to assist me in finding a summer job. I hope to hear from you in writing very soon. Time is running out and the school year will soon come to an end.

"I thank you in advance for your help and co-operation. My address is in the top right hand corner of this page."

Mr. Speaker, that is unemployment. That speaks for itself when we talk about the unemployment out there.

MR. YOUNG:

Table that now! Table it!

MR. GILBERT:

That is the problem with the youth all over the Island, I submit, but

in Bay d'Espoir in particular, and that says a lot more than any group of politicians could say.

The next thing we have to talk about is the senior citizens, the older people, not senior citizens, but because of the peculiar situation in Bay d'Espoir, people did not have a company to work with, so they have not got pension benefits. So what we are finding is a bunch of people who are between fifty and sixty-five years old, not old enough to get their Canada Pensions and all of that. We find that those people are in an unfortunate position in that nobody wants to hire people fifty years old. Not like the Minister of Communications, he has a job as a politician. That is alright, but what I am saying is that normally they do not.

Now those people have been very concerned, and I think someone said once that the society that does not look after its youth and its old is in trouble. I say that this government has got this society in trouble by not looking.

I have another letter here that was written to me and to the MP for the district.

MR. YOUNG:

He is reading his mail, Mr. Speaker. He should do that in his office.

MR. GILBERT:

It says, Mr. Speaker, "Dear Sirs: Enclosed please find a list of unemployed people in the St. Alban's area age fifty to sixty five.

"The Winter months are approaching rapidly and these people have nothing to live on or keep them warm through the cold season.

These men have been everywhere through their lives on different construction jobs, and lived out of a suitcase for years and years.

"Up to this age no one cares to hire them or to employ them for any length of time, therefore, they are left out in the cold.

"Could you at least give us some support for these cold and hungry people? Please! Waiting to hear from you in the very near future."

That was written by a group of people in Bay d'Espoir that banded themselves into a group called Survival One.

So, what I am saying, Mr. Speaker, is when I hear members opposite talk about the great job -

MR. YOUNG:

Did you write anything (inaudible).

MR. GILBERT:

- they have done for unemployed in this Province, and the improvement in the statistics, I am rather concerned when I have the situation so near home, as it is in the Bay d'Espoir area.

It is nice for the Minister of Consumer Affairs and Communications (Mr. Young) to sit there and make all sort of snide remarks and walk away not caring, because that is indicative of what this government feels about unemployment. It is great that they can sit there and smirk while I was reading those letters from the people that have a genuine concern for their way of life.

They do not want to live on the ten week/forty two syndrome, they want jobs. As the unemployed workers who sent in the petition

to this House said, they do not want to be forced to go on welfare so they can end up getting unemployment for another forty-two weeks, to come off that and then go back on welfare, and to then have the same cycle to go over and over again.

So, with that in mind, Mr. Speaker, unemployment is a serious problem. We hear the members over there stand up and gloss it all over, but I would like for some of them to come down to Bay d'Espoir and make the speech that the member for St. John's West (Mr. Barrekk) just made there.

MR. BAIRD:

He is going there on Saturday.

MR. GILBERT:

He is going to make it in Burgeo. I would like for him to talk to them in Burgeo about the road. He said he was going to tell them and I want to debate him on the road. Let him come to Bay d'Espoir next Saturday with me and make the speech he made here about how good and rosy the unemployment is and how much it has improved.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

The hon. the member's time has elapsed.

MR. GILBERT:

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I say to the members, call an election and we will settle this problem.

MR. BAIRD:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Humber West.

MR. BAIRD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I might have a little surprise for the members.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMONS:

His maiden speech!

MR. BAIRD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I appreciate the fact that some of the members there opposite will be out of a job and out of a friend after the next election. They have now given me a little vote of confidence and I can assure you when you come to my office, I will not forget how nice you were to me.

Mr. Speaker, I want to rise and speak against the resolution put forth by the member for Stephenville (Mr. Aylward), obviously a half decent individual, a very likeable man. I have nothing to say against him personally, but I feel he is maybe being a little misguided by some of the older members there opposite.

He starts off his resolution this way: 'Whereas the unemployment problem in Newfoundland and Labrador has become progressively worse.' Now, Mr. Speaker, in 1987 with a 2.7 per cent increase in the employment and that has been upped much better than that since 1988 has come in. I do not know where he gets his figures.

When you talk about the Marystown Shipyard look at the number of people that are working -

MR. TULK:

Talk about the West Coast, will you?

MR. BAIRD:

I will get around to the West Coast. I might get around to Fogo also because my area, the West Coast, is looked after. The people at the Marystown Shipyard who were working there a few years ago, through the initiatives of this government have now 600 employed and their future is certainly secure.

The Come By Chance oil refinery, everybody laughed, that was a farce from the start, but then it was saved by this government and now it is not scrap any more.

We have a little business started only two years ago with the initiative of this government in Pasadena where there are making poly bags. There are twenty odd people employed around the clock.

We talk about tourism, I guess there is not too many here familiar with it, but there were over seventy people employed on Marble Mountain, again, through the efforts of the Minister of Development and Tourism. Every member of this government has been pushing it and I am pleased to say that next year there will be 170 employed there.

In the resolution, Mr. Speaker, there is also reference made about 'The labour relations climate in Newfoundland that has become progressively worse, keeping investors from setting up new enterprise.'

Mr. Speaker, I would certainly hope that every business which wants to come into Newfoundland set up will not be subject to the abuse, the untruths and every other thing that could happen to make the Sprung greenhouse fail. Last year there was talk, open the

House, open the House! The House has been closed for eight months! Mr. Speaker, if you were, and I am having it researched, if you were to sit down and look at the questions and the time spent on the Sprung greenhouse alone, you would wonder where the Opposition are getting their questions from.

MR. BAIRD:

What about your travel expenses?

MR. BAIRD:

My travel expenses, Mr. Speaker. I will allow him to interrupt for one minute and I will answer for my travel expenses and I will issue a challenge to you, Sir, here and now: There was an allegation made by the member for Port de Grave (Mr. Ffford) to **The Evening Telegram** last Fall, that I, in my capacity as a Special Assistant, spent \$40,000 in travel.

MR. J. CARTER:

Disgusting.

MR. BAIRD:

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am issuing a challenge to him here and now: If he can prove it, I will resign, and if he cannot, he should resign.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. BAIRD:

Even if he goes within 10 per cent of it, Mr. Speaker!

MR. DINN:

He has not got the guts.

MR. BAIRD:

He has not got the intestinal fortitude, Mr. Speaker, because that word, which might be appropriate, I am not allowed to use. All he does is he is one of these people who goes out and spreads rumours. He is a

dangerous individual. I am afraid one of these days he is going to be dangerous to himself and maybe we will all be happy some day. But this is not the place for rumours or innuendo and I am afraid that no man to stand up and account for my expenses and to my district, which will be proven out.

MR. FUREY:

Table them.

MR. EFFORD:

I wrote the Premier.

MR. BAIRD:

Yes, and I will table them too and I will not be ashamed of them as much as you were when you were travelling as a parliamentary assistant, Sir.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. BAIRD:

And I will put my expenses up against you any time.

MR. FUREY:

Go ahead.

MR. BAIRD:

You table yours and I will table mine. Mine are ready.

MR. FUREY:

Mine are tabled in Ottawa.

MR. BAIRD:

Indeed, they are.

MR. FUREY:

Sure they are. Check it out.

MR. BAIRD:

Mr. Speaker, those little puppy dogs are not going to bother me tonight when I am trying to say a few words.

Daniel's Harbour, that is

certainly another area I heard the member complaining about, again through the initiative of this government, it is back.

AN HON. MEMBER:

(Inaudible).

MR. BAIRD:

Certainly not through the member, but in spite of the member for St. Barbe (Mr. Furey), that mine is now operating.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. BAIRD:

We have a shipbuilding business now going down in Benoit's Cove. Again, Mr. Speaker, nobody knows too much about it because this government, and may be it is one trouble we do have, and that is certainly not boasting about the things that we do do. There are many, many positive things in this Province happening and I am very, very proud to be part of this administration.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. BAIRD:

When you talk about the climate in the whole area, all we hear from across the House is doom and gloom. Yes, Mr. Speaker, I guess there is doom and gloom. When you look back to the federal government, back only four or five or six years ago when you were 22 per cent and 24 per cent, a Liberal Government in Ottawa, Mr. Speaker, 22 per cent and 24 per cent, and I daresay there is not a man in this House not aware of two or three business in their own districts that had to fail because of the interest rates, when we talk about small business, climate and entrepreneurship.

There is what happened to us, Mr. Speaker, the three or four years under this old Liberal regime in Ottawa when the business interest rates went to blazes, that is what happened to a lot of our entrepreneurs.

MR. FUREY:

Who was Premier here then?

MR. BAIRD:

But I am glad to say, Mr. Speaker, through the initiatives of this government, we are certainly are on the right track.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. BAIRD:

When an election is called, Mr. Speaker, I have heard some of the members there opposite hoping we call an election, Sir. I am ready.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. BAIRD:

When they call it, I will be knocking on the doors, the same as I did the last time. It was close the last time. I think it will be less close this time because Roger Simmons and his brother there, neither one of them will be in the House the next time.

Mr. Wells, the Leader of the Opposition, perhaps if he stays in Windsor - Buchans, now that the former member has acquired some money, he might not want to go back to go to work, and I am sure the hon. the leader of the Opposition will probably have a seat he will have a chance of taking again. So a little word to the wise, maybe you had best stay where you are, Sir.

MR. DINN:

He does not have a chance, not a hope of Humber.

MR. BAIRD:

With regard to the West Coast, Sir, if you go out and find the attitude in Corner Brook of the people around and the business community, you will find out where the prosperity is or where it is starting to be.

We have had some bad years, three or four bad years. Through the initiative of this Federal and provincial government, both under a PC banner, with the monies that were put in Corner Brook Pulp and Paper, the future of the employees there are now secured.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. BAIRD:

Our mill is one of the best in the world.

I am looking forward, which is part of unemployment and employment, to the access road to Curling, Mr. Speaker, and I have been pushing on that. I have had more than one meeting with the Minister of Transportation, -

AN HON. MEMBER:

(Inaudible).

MR. DOYLE:

And I am going to help him out.

MR. BAIRD:

I would certainly like to think in the not too distant future we will have word on the access road from Curling to Corner Brook whereby we have a fish plant down there with no government money again, Mr. Speaker, but certainly the climate and co operation there, a fish plant with over 500 employees.

They have been trucking fish up through the small streets of Corner Brook to the railway. I am pleased to say I have been working on it and I think we will be fairly successful within the next couple of weeks or certainly within the next couple of months.

The college in Corner Brook, Mr. Speaker, I am looking forward to it also. It certainly has to do with unemployment so I am not straying off the track through the education that these young people are receiving, I am looking forward and have been working for it, a third and fourth year university courses whereby the students can come out certainly better equipped to go into the world and the business force.

There have been changes in the Fisher Technological Institute last year which are coming about next year whereby the younger men and women of our Province and indeed, the West Coast in particular, come out with their training better equipped for jobs and to go into small business for themselves.

So, Mr. Speaker, when you hear all this doom and gloom from the Opposition, I can appreciate that because that is their job. So there is nothing personal about the people who sit there. I only feel sorry for them. They have all been striving to be over here for many, many years. The Leader of the Opposition was over here at one time, but I do not think he will get back on this side again.

So the co-operation of this government and the business climate in the whole Province, Mr. Speaker, I am sure is on the way up and will continue to rise. God forbid if the members there

opposite were ever to get in power, that is when you would know what unemployment is! That is when you would know what poverty is.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. BAIRD:

We brought in a Public Tender Act, Mr. Speaker, where everybody out there gets a chance to go at it, not like years ago with cost plus. Those days are all gone, Mr. Speaker.

So, I am very, very pleased to be part of this administration. I feel confident for the next three or four years and about that time I should be retiring. For the next three or four years, I will be speaking from this side of the floor, not that often, Mr. Speaker, because I do not consider that I am that good on my feet, but I can certainly do my work. My job is in the minister's office where I do the lobbying lots of times for my district, for which I was elected.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. BAIRD:

Again, Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working from this position. Not necessarily this one here, maybe that one there or there, certainly this side of the House, Mr. Speaker.

For some of my friends over there, a few may be back, I will be looking forward to seeing you again.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Twillingate.

MR. BAIRD:

He sat over here one time also.

MR. W. CARTER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It gives me a great deal of pleasure today to support the resolution put forward by the member for Stephenville.

Mr. Speaker, if one were to sit back here today and listen, you would wonder sometimes if you were in the Legislature in Newfoundland, or maybe in Ontario or one of the other wealthier Canadian provinces, because a few moments ago, we heard the member for St. John's West, the Minister of Development getting up and painting a rosy picture of conditions in our Province.

Of course, then the member for Burgeo Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Gilbert) got up and told it as it is, not so rosy. He told the truth, and he laid it out, Mr. Speaker, exactly as it is. And now, of course, we have just been treated to another speech from the member from the West Coast, in which he, too, paints a rosy picture of conditions in our Province and would lead one to believe that all of this talk about unemployment is nothing more than a dirty rumour started by people who are unemployed.

Mr. Speaker, some of the statements that we have read in the papers in recent days would also lead one to believe that members on that side and members on this side are living in entirely different worlds. For example, the Government House

Leader is quoted in a paper of May 30 as saying how delighted he was with the latest unemployment figures. 'They are a good indication of the growth and bright future of this Province, despite the gloom and doom that we often hear.' He is talking here about the unemployment rate, which he said dropped a full 2.5 per cent, from 20 per cent to 17.5 per cent. Imagine a minister in Newfoundland being happy because it dropped 2.5 per cent.

MR. TULK:

Who said that?

MR. W. CARTER:

The Government House Leader -

MR. TULK:

You are kidding!

MR. W. CARTER:

- with his rosy glasses on. Mr. Speaker, imagine a minister in this Cabinet getting up and taking pride in the fact that we only have an unemployment rate in this Province now of 17.5 per cent! Can you imagine, Mr. Speaker? Although, of course, according to the Minister of Finance, we do not have any unemployment in the Province. In fact, **The Evening Telegram**, I think, dealt rather adequately with the minister in their editorial on April 14 when they said, 'Just who is Mr. Windsor trying to kid, or what is he trying to prove?' Imagine, the Minister of Finance making such a statement in a Province where we have such high unemployment!

Mr. Speaker, the fact that we have now had in this Province a do-nothing government for the past seven or eight or nine years, I think, is now coming home to roost. The fact that the unemployment figures in our

Province are now higher than they were in 1979 when the present government took office, I think speaks for itself. Of course, Mr. Speaker, now we have the latest great sell-out in the Province, where we saw the Premier and his ministers last week taking pride in the sell-out of the Newfoundland Railway, the Canadian National Railway in this Province. One would believe, listening to them, that this was the greatest thing since sliced bread.

DR. COLLINS:

What sell-out? Talk some sense!

MR. W. CARTER:

Mr. Speaker, if the Minister of Health wishes to speak, this debate will last until 5:00 p.m. I will be taking my seat in about fifteen or twenty minutes. In fact, I will take it sooner if he is going to get up and make a speech; but he should not sit there and just try to interrupt members on this side who are trying to make a speech. One would expect more, Mr. Speaker, from the gentleman who is supposed to be the Deputy Premier, in setting an example for members in this House.

Mr. Speaker, the railway sell-out is just another indication of the pure hypocrisy being practiced by the members opposite. In one breath they talk about defending the rights of Newfoundlanders and defending the Terms of Union, and then, of course, when we have a real case under the Terms of Union, they quickly sneak away and sell out the shop. It is a shameful sellout, Mr. Speaker, and one that I believe will haunt this government for as long as they are in office and, indeed, will haunt the Newfoundland people for

decades, indeed, maybe centuries to come.

To suggest that the Government of Canada, through Canadian National be allowed, indeed aided and abetted to abandon the rail service on September 1, even though there will be no great improvements in the Trans-Canada Highway probably until ten years hence, just does not make sense.

Then to add insult to injury, of course, we hear the Premier telling us with a straight face that recent surveys indicate that as a result of abandoning the rail service we will only see an additional fourteen tractor-trailer trucks per day on the highway. You know, that is an insult, Mr. Speaker, to the intelligence of every living Newfoundlander, and especially to Newfoundlanders who have occasion to drive over the Trans-Canada Highway, as I do quite frequently, when you are literally taking your life in your own hands to go on that road. One can only wonder just how much more dangerous it will be once the freight that would normally be transported over the railway is diverted to the Trans-Canada. It is going to be a dangerous experience for any person to drive over that Trans-Canada with such an increase in traffic.

Mr. Speaker, today we saw the Minister of Fisheries defending his policies with respect to the glut problem that we are having in the fisheries. Of course, when one talks about unemployment in this Province, or employment potential, then, of course, it must follow that one must talk about the fishery, because I suppose that is the greatest potential source of employment in

this Province if it were properly developed.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the Premier today made light of my question to the minister when I asked him what provisions were being made to deal with the glut problem. As I said, the glut problem is not something that is new in this Province, and I went on to say that it is a problem that keeps occurring almost every year, except for the past two or three years. Of course, that got quite a chuckle from members opposite.

But the fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, that the glut problem is something that did not only occur this year. When I was in the Cabinet as Minister of Fisheries, the glut problem then was a very serious problem. In fact, we took some measures to deal with it, and I am happy to say that we were successful to a large degree in coping with that very serious problem. But the minister now appears to have given up on the subject. We had the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. Siddon) from the Federal Government here, I believe on Monday. Now if there ever was a gentleman who needs some instructions on the problems in the Newfoundland fishery it is that minister. I remember seeing him being interviewed on television, I believe it was Monday or Tuesday night, and the question, of course, put to him by the interviewer had to do with the glut problem. The minister, of course, wrapped himself again in the flag and insisted that we should not even entertain the thought of allowing Portuguese, French or Spanish vessels to enter our waters for the purpose of purchasing fish from our fishermen who cannot sell it to Newfoundland plants. Of course, I do not think

anybody on this side of the House would disagree with that position because we know that Portugal and Spain have recklessly ignored the conservation measures to which Canada, and other nations of the world that fish in the North Atlantic have subscribed. We know that they have recklessly gone out on the Nose and Tail of the Grand Bank and overfished. We know, of course, of the problems we are having now with the government and the private sector in France, so certainly it would probably be against our best interests to provide access for vessels from those countries to our harbours and our bays to get fish from the Newfoundland fishermen.

Mr. Speaker, that is certainly not the answer in a Province where today you have unemployment probably close to 20 per cent. It is certainly not in our best interests to have fish, harvested in Newfoundland by Newfoundland fishermen, shipped to other countries by way of these large vessels, thereby providing jobs in fish plants in France, Portugal and Spain, when we have so much unemployment in this Province and so many problems pertaining to the processing sector of the fishery. But there are solutions, Mr. Speaker, to that problem, solutions, I am afraid, that the minister has failed to address. Certainly, the answer is not to encourage over-the-side sales, or to encourage vessels of foreign registry to come in here and purchase fish and, like I said, then take it back to their respective countries, whereby employment is provided for their own nationals when we in Newfoundland have such a need for more employment opportunities. The answer to the glut problem, Mr. Speaker, is one that I am sure

the minister would find some reference to if he took the trouble to go through his files and check some reports pertaining to the glut problem. I believe in those reports he will find what I consider to be an adequate solution to the problem.

Mr. Speaker, most of our seasonal fish plants in this Province, especially the ones on the Northeast Coast, are operating at much less than half of their actual operating capability, so we have the curse of seasonality in our fish plants, and now in a lot of Newfoundland outports with so-called seasonal plants, we have the syndrome referred to by our leader yesterday, the 10/42 lotto syndrome, where people strive to get ten weeks work in order to get forty-two weeks unemployment insurance benefits. That syndrome has permeated, I suppose, almost every rural community in this Province, much to the shame of this government and, of course, the government in Ottawa. Newfoundlanders, Mr. Speaker, did not join Canada, did not become Canadians in 1949 and to remain second-class Canadians. I would suggest to you, Sir, that most Newfoundlanders would prefer not to be Canadians if it means, almost in perpetuity, being treated like second-class Canadians. When you realize what is happening in this Province, and the lack of job opportunities and our reliance upon unemployment insurance benefits, then, of course, one must wonder just how successful Confederation has been. Certainly, it is not as successful as that investigated by the Fathers of Confederation, and by our own living Father of Confederation, Mr. Smallwood. Certainly providing ten weeks work in order to provide forty-two

weeks of unemployment insurance benefits is not the way that we want to live as Canadians. And, of course, as I said at the beginning of my few remarks, when you talk about unemployment and employment in Newfoundland, then one must talk about the fishery, because therein probably lies now the one big hope for a drastic reduction in the unemployment statistics in this Province.

Mr. Speaker, I got quite a reaction from members opposite in this House a while ago when, replying to a statement by the Minister of Fisheries wherein he announced that his department was making \$20,000 available to a fish plant operator in Hant's Harbour, the Janes fish plant and that the \$20,000 by the minister's own statement would provide I believe eighty jobs in the processing sector of the fishery, I pointed out to the minister and to the House that the government has spent on Sprung in excess of \$15 million. We hear all kinds of rumors of other monies being sought from other sources in government by Sprung to keep it operating. Do you realize the amount of money government has spent growing something for which there is no market in this Province, none whatever? Certainly, the market for cucumbers in Newfoundland will absorb a very small fraction of their actual production, if they are going to produce as promised in the initial announcement. So we are spending now \$15 million producing cucumbers for which there is no market, providing maybe 100 jobs, or not many more than that. If that amount of money were spent in the processing sector of the fishing industry then, Mr. Speaker, I suggest to you that Newfoundland's

unemployment rate today would not be close to 20 percent but would probably be closer to a single digit number. And therein, of course, Mr. Speaker, I believe lies one of the problems, one of the sins this government will have to answer for. They appear to have put a lot more interest in chasing after things than recognizing the things that we have.

In my district, Twillingate, for example, I suppose apart from what happens during the fishing season, that very short season, I suppose in Twillingate district as indeed in all of the districts on the Northeast Coast there is a time when unemployment there would probably be in excess of 90 percent, where there is almost a total reliance on unemployment insurance benefits for survival. I suppose my colleague here from Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir suffers from the same problem. I would imagine in his district, certainly in the Bay d'Espoir area there are times when unemployment is probably staggering 90 percent.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the members opposite often challenge us to tell them what we would do, what answers do we have to the problems, what are our solutions.

I can tell the ministers and government opposite now that 10 percent of what they spent on Sprung, 10 percent of the money that was spent on the Sprung project, would have had the effect of creating hundreds of jobs in my district, where there is an abundance of sea food, where we have a labour force that is competent to develop that sector of the fishery, where we have almost an unlimited market for practically all kinds of seafood,

and where now, by the way, contrary to the point the Minister of Health was trying to make, we have everything being shipped out of that district in its raw state, the best example, I suppose, of the proverbial hewers of wood and drawers of water that Newfoundlanders seem destined to be.

So, Mr. Speaker, this government has nothing to be proud of when it comes to their record of job creation. In fact, they have relied, I believe, too heavily on the 10/42 to get people off welfare, get them in a ten week job so that eventually then they can slip back on unemployment insurance. That seems to be the only policy this government has.

Mr. Speaker, a few moment ago we listened, again, to the Minister of Development, the member for St. John's West, like I said, paint a very glowing picture of conditions in this Province. It makes you wonder when members of the Cabinet, and especially a senior minister - the Minister of Development is a very important portfolio in this or any Cabinet with great potential to do great things for the Province in terms of job creation and development, as the title of his portfolio implies, the Department of Development and Tourism - but it makes you wonder when we see a minister like that get up and refuse to recognize some of the real problems facing our Province and our people, and to try to kid himself, because he is not kidding anybody else. He is certainly not kidding the 40,000 or 50,000 Newfoundlanders who are on the rolls of the unemployed, he is not kidding the people in the Twillingate district who need employment, or the people of Bay

d'Espoir.

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

MR. W. CARTER:
Mr. Speaker, to conclude, but when a minister gets up in his place in this House and pretends that everything is well, well, then what can we expect from them? How can we look to the government with any kind of hope when one of the most prominent members of that government refuses to recognize things as they are and, instead, gets up and tries to paint a rosy picture and, like I said, kidding nobody but himself?

Thank you, Sir.

MR. DINN:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. DINN:
Mr. Speaker, today, Private Member's Day, we are debating a very serious resolution. It has to do with unemployment in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, and anyone who does not recognize, and we certainly do, that we have an unemployment problem in the Province is blindfolding the devil in the dark, as the hon. member for Twillingate would say.

But, Mr. Speaker, if you read the resolution, one has to take a serious look at what is really happening. The resolution, for example, says:

"WHEREAS the unemployment problem in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador has become progressively worse... "

Well, Mr. Speaker, let us just address that preamble to the resolution we have here today. I have some statistics, Mr. Speaker, that the hon. the Leader of the Opposition is wont to quote. This is hot off the press from Stats Canada and, Mr. Speaker, it compares unemployment in Newfoundland in the month of May this year as compared to last year and the year before last. The number of people, for example, employed this year in May, as it compares to last year and in 1986. Well, Mr. Speaker, there must be something happening in the Province over and above the doom and gloom that we have been hearing from hon. members opposite, because, just as an example, in May, 1988, last month, there were 197,000 Newfoundlanders employed in Newfoundland and Labrador. If we compare that, Mr. Speaker, to May, 1987, where we had 182,000 people employed, one would have to think that there has been some improvement. The improvement, Mr. Speaker, was something like 15,000 more jobs this year than there were last year. So, Mr. Speaker, how can the preamble to this resolution stand on its merits when it says 'the unemployment problem in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador has become progressively worse'? That is obviously not true. There are more people employed in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador this year than there were last year; therefore, something good must be happening.

I will give hon. members an example of some of the good things that are happening in this Province that could not happen, Mr. Speaker, if hon. members opposite were still in power: In the mining industry, Mr. Speaker,

something like 50 per cent of the ground that was capable of being used for exploration and development in this Province in 1971 was in the hands of basically two or three companies. If you wanted to explore in Labrador in 1971, you had to go to see Mr. Doyle. You did not go to the Government of the Province to see if you could explore in Newfoundland and Labrador, you went to Mr. Doyle because, Mr. Speaker, the former administration, of which the Leader of the Opposition was a member, had conceded all of these lands to four or five would-be developers in this Province.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we do not have to go back very far to find out what should have been done in those twenty-three years. In the 1930s, the Amulree Royal Commission Report was written, which basically said, 'Newfoundland, you have done very poorly with the fisheries; you have given away your forests and you have given away your mines and the capability of mines on the Island. You have given them to a few developers, and you should not do that in Labrador.' That was written in the 1930s. So what happened, Mr. Speaker? In the 1950s and the 1960s, the party whom members opposite represent now, gave it all away. Again, they took Labrador. They gave away the mines, they gave away the power, they gave away everything, Mr. Speaker. So what were we left with? We were left, Mr. Speaker, with a pretty sorry state in 1972.

MR. SIMMONS:
How about the railway?

MR. DINN:
Yes, Mr. Speaker, and they gave away the railway.

We have a letter here, Mr. Speaker, that indicates when the railway was given away and who gave it away. Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not mind the hon. the member for Fortune - Hermitage interrupting, he is wont to do that in this House, but, Mr. Speaker, there is nothing, no spectacle more ridiculous - and I saw him up today doing it - than the hon. member for Fortune - Hermitage in one of his periodic fits of morality. We saw him at it here today, and I would ask him right now, Mr. Speaker, to sit in his place, listen for a while and he might learn something. Because, Mr. Speaker, we would be in pretty drastic shape if that hon. member ever ended up over here.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. DINN:
We saw a spectacle of that in Ottawa. The ten-day-wonder is now interrupting in the House again.

Now, Mr. Speaker, to deal with the resolution, 197,000 people working in May this year, versus 182,000 in May last year is an improvement, so that preamble to the resolution really bears no weight at all. We have gone through a recession and it hit Newfoundland very, very badly. And, Mr. Speaker, the unemployment rate in Newfoundland today is still a problem and we are working on it, Mr. Speaker.

But just to give you an example, in mining alone, this year for the first time in our history - another record has been broken in mining - we have over 50,000 new claims staked in this Province this year. Last year we had nearly 40,000.

MR. EFFORD:

Did you say new trades?

MR. DINN:

The hon. member for Port de Grave is suffering from a hearing problem. I said 'new claims staked in this Province,' Mr. Speaker.

MR. EFFORD:

I am sorry.

MR. DINN:

The hon. the member for Fortune - Hermitage should learn not to interrupt. There are a few little tidbits here that we could throw across at him, Mr. Speaker, so he should not interrupt. I do not mind being interrupted by the hon. member because there is a tit-for-tat rule in this House of Assembly, Mr. Speaker, so I can give the hon. member a lot better than he can throw across this way.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. DINN:

Now, Mr. Speaker, last year there were 550 people working in just the exploration industry in Newfoundland. Mr. Speaker, if John Jones from Duckworth Street wants to claim stake in this Province, he has every right to go into the Claims Recorder, get his tags, go out and start exploring. He can do that tomorrow, Mr. Speaker. He could not do it in the 1950s and 1960s, Mr. Speaker, because in the 1950s and 1960s, as hon. members know and they should be hanging their heads in shame, they had to go to see John C. Doyle, Mr. Speaker, that is what they had to do. And the hon. member was part of that administration and it is not something that the hon. member should be proud of.

MR. WELLS:

Would the minister permit a question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

No, no!

MR. DINN:

Now, Mr. Speaker, I will permit a question if the hon. Leader of the Opposition will lay on the table of the House where he is getting his extra 50,000 bucks, Mr. Speaker. That is when I will forfeit the floor of this House to the hon. the leader of the Opposition, and not before, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. DINN:

There is nobody putting anything in the member for Pleasantville's pocket, Mr. Speaker. The hon. the Leader of the Opposition cannot say that. Mr. Speaker, I do not get any extra little tidbits from anybody.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition spoke in this House yesterday for well over an hour. Mr. Speaker, he could charm 570,000 people for an hour and never get rid of one idea, because he has nothing there, Mr. Speaker. He is shallow. That is what the hon. Leader of the Opposition is, shallow, a very shallow politician, and he is on very weak ground with respect to his extra emoluments, Mr. Speaker. What he should do is go out and fill out his Conflict of Interest Statement, Mr. Speaker. That is what he should do.

MR. J. CARTER:

Fill out his resignation.

MR. DINN:

Yes, the next thing should come is his resignation.

Mr. Speaker, I am not proud as a member of this House to stand in my place and know that there is a politician in my profession getting extra money from someone. Mr. Speaker, I am not proud of that.

The unemployment rate in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador is not something that we should be proud of. We should be working on it day and night, as we are. The hon. Minister of Development, the hon. Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Rideout), the hon. the President of the Council (Mr. Simms), the Deputy Premier, the Minister of Social Services, there is not a member on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker, who is not working tooth and nail, day and night, to try and improve a very poor unemployment rate. It is something like 18 per cent, Mr. Speaker. It is not one that I am proud of, and we went through a pretty fine, but the Leader of the Opposition should look back through the statistics, and not be selective when he is quoting statistics, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday when he stood in this House he was very selective, I noticed; he compared 1981 and 1986, and then he jumped from 1985 to 1987, Mr. Speaker. Apples and apples is what we are talking about here, Mr. Speaker. There are 550 people working in exploration in the mining industry, Mr. Speaker, and we have a Mineral Development Agreement signed. I like to give credit where credit is due, and a Mineral Development Agreement was signed in the early 1970s, when there was a former administration in Ottawa, a Liberal administration - I give them credit - and that is another

reason why we have a lot of exploration in this Province, as a result of that and as a result of the laws that we passed here in this Province. The hon. member for Twillingate was a part of it; he was over here, and I know he was very supportive of getting rid of that concession system and getting to an open claim staking system. The hon. member for Twillingate, I know, was over here and was very supportive of that. Mr. Speaker, this Province would stagnate in just one industry alone, in the mining industry, if we had not changed the law in the 1970s, so that any Newfoundlander, anyone worth his salt, anyone who wanted to get involved in the mining industry could, and can to this day, but could not in the 1950s and 1960s. The now Leader of the Opposition, when he was a member of the former administration, did not do much about changing that system. All we hear then, Mr. Speaker, were the Liechtenstein deals.

MR. SIMMONS:

He is reborn again now.

MR. DINN:

Oh, he is reborn again now. He is out there now in his pompous style trying to con the people of this Province.

The hon. member for Stephenville brought a resolution into the House that has five preambles that are totally inaccurate, and then, based on that, he goes on to say let us condemn the present administration. For what? Condemn the present administration for revitalizing the newsprint industry? For saving Stephenville? Is that what we condemn them for? Condemn them for saving Corner Brook? It was gone when Bowater pulled out. Is

that what we will condemn this administration for?

MR. BAIRD:

Who was the Rowater's lawyer? I forgot that today.

MR. DINN:

Yes, the leader of the Opposition played a very active role in Corner Brook and now he is talking about going out there to run. Well, Mr. Speaker, I always believed there is wisdom in the electorate, in the crowd and I do not think that he can con the people of Corner Brook.

MR. SIMMONS:

Call an election and prove it.

MR. DINN:

The hon. the member for Fortune - Hermitage never learns, he is interrupting again. Has the hon. member got his income tax done this year?

MR. SIMMONS:

That is the bottom line, is it?

MR. DINN:

That is right. Yes, that is the bottom line. Here is a little note pad. You can go out and fix them up this year and do them right, or you will have your leader again taking you to court on behalf of the federal government. That is what he will do, and he will do a good job on you like he did the last time. You know what he did to you the last time.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. the member for Fortune - Hermitage should learn the rules of the House. He should not interrupt in debate, because he always gets burnt. He is on very weak ground, and the hon. member knows that.

MR. SIMMONS:

I am on good ground.

MR. DINN:

He is on very weak ground.

Now, Mr. Speaker, let us go on to the resolution. How could the real domestic product of this Province increase by 2.6 per cent last year if it was getting worse? One would think things are getting better if the gross domestic product is going up by 2.6 per cent.

How come the unemployment rate goes down, more people employed, 17,000 more this year than last, and things are getting worse? The hon. the member represents Daniel's Harbour -

MR. FUREY:

St. Barbe.

MR. DINN:

St. Barbe, yes. The hon. the member for St. Barbe got up in this House a couple of years ago and misled this House

MR. J. CARTER:

He lied?

MR. DINN:

- by telling this House that Daniel's Harbour mine was closing down because the federal government was giving money to a mine in the Northwest Territories.

DR. COLLINS:

That is right.

MR. DINN:

Well, Mr. Speaker, the mine in the Northwest Territories is now starting to operate, and Daniel's Harbour is now open and it never looked better. If the hon. member were interested, he would go and see the prices of zinc on the

London Metal Exchange, and he would find that the price of zinc has gone from 31 cents, when the mine had to close, up now to nearly 90 cents.

MR. FUREY:

Do I get credit for that?

MR. DINN:

No, the hon. member gets no credit for that, because he came in here, Mr. Speaker, he misled the House and, Mr. Speaker, it took the Minister of Mines, namely myself, to get Daniel's Harbour reactivated.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. DINN:

And, Mr. Speaker, it is reactivated, it is working well, and it is going to be another success story.

MR. BAIRD:

With my representation, too.

MR. DINN:

Yes, the hon. the member for Humber, I remember it well, coming over to my office to see what, if anything, could be done to reactivate Daniel's Harbour. The hon. member got up here in the House but he never once came to my office and asked me what the prospects were, how we could go about getting Daniel's Harbour

MR. FUREY:

I phoned you many times.

MR. DINN:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, he phoned me. Sure, Mr. Speaker, he phoned, yes, but he never came over once to find out about his constituents in Daniel's Harbour, and he is interrupting in the House today when I am trying to tell of the

success story of the people of Daniel's Harbour and that mine.

The hon. member should know about the exploration program that we negotiated in that deal to secure the future of Daniel's Harbour for a longer period of time. And the hon. member does not know of the joint venture out there with Teck Corporation for another \$3 million or \$4 million program. Not only that, the hon. member probably does not know that they are on their way with another drift now towards another good prospect on the Daniel's Harbour property; but, if the hon. member went back to his district and talked to some of his constituents, he would know that and I would not have to tell him here in the House, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. DINN:

Mr. Speaker, I could go on for hours, as you know -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

By leave.

MR. DINN:

with the good things that are happening in the Province of Newfoundland with respect to unemployment rate and employment.

MR. EFFORD:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Port de Grave.

MR. EFFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. member has about five minutes.

MR. EFFORD:

I realize I do not have much time, Mr. Speaker, so I will try to keep my remarks brief. Let me say at the outset that I have been a member of this House of Assembly for a little over three years and in that time members on both sides of the House have had occasion to debate and say things in Question Period, but never have I seen anything like the display put on by the hon. the member for Pleasantville. There is no need to be so low as to make personal accusations against members on this side, and this hon. House is certainly no place for it.

Mr. Speaker, I want to point out the accusations being made against the hon. the leader of the Opposition, accusations about taking away the railway, about building the Trojan horse -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please! Order, please!

MR. EFFORD:

- and causing John Cabot to get seasick while sailing across the Atlantic Ocean.

All those accusations, members opposite have made.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. EFFORD:

It is funny, Mr. Speaker, how they never refer to the unemployment statistics of 1966, 1967 and 1968, when the Leader of the Opposition was a member of the Cabinet of the day. Let me give the member for Carbonear an example of what those statistics were: The unemployment statistics of today are 18 per

cent, according to Statistics Canada, and another 12 per cent do not even register anymore. But the unemployment figures then, Mr. Speaker, the figures of 1966, 1967, 1968, while the leader of the Opposition was a member of the Cabinet of that time, averaged 6.3 per cent.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

What? Oh! Shame!

MR. EFFORD:

Today we have an unemployment figure, according to Statistics Canada, of 17.5 per cent, which the Minister of Health himself said yesterday was not accurate, and another 4 per cent or 5 per cent who do not even register. So let us give credit where credit is due. Let us give credit to the Premier of this Province and the administration over there, for not caring about the youth of this Province. There are 17,000 of our youth looking for work, 17,000 thousand with no place to go.

Now let us talk about where dollars should be spent. The member for Pleasantville spoke about the leader of the Opposition's salary. Let us talk about the Premier of the Province. The Premier of this Province today is receiving \$207,483.17 in salary and perks.

MR. SIMMONS:

How much, \$207,000?

MR. EFFORD:

\$207,483.17. On top of that - just listen to the figures - last year \$80,000 was spent to provide him with a bodyguard.

MR. TOBIN:

A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

A point of order, the hon. the Minister of Social Services.

MR. TOBIN:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman wants to get into the salary of the Premier. If I remember correctly, the Premier has asked the Leader of the Opposition to lay on the table his income tax for the year and the Premier would do likewise. So why does not the Leader of the Opposition and the Premier do that and then we will all know where they are coming from?

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

There is no point of order.

The hon. the member for Port de Grave.

MR. EFFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I have no problem with tabling this for members opposite to read.

Mr. Speaker, it is very important to the people of this Province that we recognize the situation we have. Until government is ready to admit the real facts concerning the unemployment statistics, absolutely nothing is going to be done about them. When you have an administration bluffing and not admitting the fact, then the problem is going to remain.

Today we heard the Minister of Development talk about the the 623 working at Marystown Shipyard. Sure it is great for those 623, but what about the other 40,000 who are not working? We are not talking about the people who are working, we want to talk about the people who are not working.

Mr. Speaker, I suggest to the Minister of Development that there is one thing he could do to create employment in this area: They are having a problem out there at the greenhouse with their miniature cucumbers. I am sure there are many thousands of people around Canada who would like to have a souvenir of Newfoundland, so I would suggest to the Minister of Tourism that he hire some people to take those cucumbers and put little key chains on them. That way we could employ people and develop the economic prosperity we do not have in this Province. The Minister of Tourism stands up and makes fun at the Opposition for talking about statistics, but that is one way they can get rid of the small cucumbers. At least he would create some jobs, and it would be better to do that than to feed cattle with them.

MR. SIMMONS:

Sure! An excellent idea!

MR. FUREY:

And stamp them 'made in Japan'.

MR. EFFORD:

Mr. Speaker, let me refer to the Premier's salary and what he receives: \$11,000 in rent; \$2,400 in heat and light; \$2000 in furniture; \$14,000 a year in vehicle expenses; \$26,000 in M.H.A. sessional pay; \$3,000 district differential; tax free allowance \$13,000; Premiership, \$40,000; travel allowance - twenty-four trips - \$12,000; stipend from the Tory Party, \$6,000.

MR. SIMMONS:

Who are the donors?

MR. EFFORD:

A total of \$47,979 was paid out of taxpayer money last year for food,

drink and drycleaning for the Premier.

Salaries amounting to \$27,244 were paid out to the waiter and chef in his private dining room, his private kitchen, while there are people dying in the corridors of the Health Sciences Complex because they cannot get a bed.

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

MR. EFFORD:
Two hundred and seven thousand dollars, Mr. Speaker, are being paid out for those kinds of things.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
That is not true! Tell the truth.

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

The hon. member's time has elapsed.

MR. EFFORD:
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
I now call on the hon. member for Stephenville to conclude the debate.

The hon. the member for Stephenville.

MR. K. AYIWARD:
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. K. AYIWARD:
Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to rise and close the debate, which has included a discussion of the unemployment situation in the Province.

Mr. Speaker, my intent in putting this resolution on the Order Paper as a private member's motion was to get debate going to see exactly what the ideas are, what the

situation is with employment and unemployment in the Province. The intent of the resolution was to get debate moving, and, to some extent, I think that has been achieved. Mr. Speaker, I was hoping to see government respond with ideas, respond with comments that would show that they realize what the situation is out there. I was hoping they would see that the unemployment problem is a problem that is not going to disappear, that it is something they do have to look at, something they have to do something about. I was hoping we would see that they want to deal with that reality as an administration.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, we have not seen that. We have had a number of ministers of government, specifically the Minister of Development and Tourism and the Minister of Mines, get up and speak, and, Mr. Speaker, I wondered where I was when they were speaking. I thought this was Nirvana not Newfoundland, because there was no admission that things needed to be done and that there are problems out there.

The hon. Minister of Mines talks about the Stephenville Linerboard Mill that was supposedly saved by this great administration. Thank gosh, Mr. Speaker, for the late Hon. Don Jamieson and the Federal Liberal Party who contributed 90 percent of the money to get that mill in Stephenville going again. If they had to deal with the Mulroney government in Ottawa right now I do not know if we would be able to get it going, and the cost-share would probably be 30 per cent for the feds and 70 per cent for the Province.

So this is where we are now. We have come full circle, Mr.

Speaker. We have a federal government in Ottawa which was supposed to help us out down here, which committed to us regional development, etc., etc. What we have seen, Mr. Speaker, is this Province dealing with agreements they have signed which have turned the ratios from 90/10, which is what they were previously, to 70/30, 60/40, and they are going to get lower if the government now in Ottawa remains. And that has hurt Newfoundland and its economy, and the development of its forest industry and agriculture industry.

A couple of days ago we had an agriculture agreement signed, Mr. Speaker, which is \$8 million for five years, just over \$1.5 million a year to develop the agriculture industry in this Province, for all the farmers out there who want to get things going. Now that is not good enough. It is not even close to what is needed, yet it is held up as something that is going to help our economy. And we need to get that sector of the economy going.

Mr. Speaker, the government has hardly publicized this matter. As a matter of fact, the federal Minister for Newfoundland, John Crosbie, has admitted we should have done better, we should have had more money, but we could not get it. So here we are with a sector of our economy, which the Royal Commission **Building On Our Strengths** talked about as having great potential, with a little over a million dollars a year to deal with people who would like to get into the industry and to deal with those who are there now. So I am disappointed, Mr. Speaker. That is an example of agreements that have been signed, which is funding coming into this Province to deal with the unemployment

problems we have, and to deal with getting businesses going and getting people employed again.

Mr. Speaker, another example of that, of course, is the forestry agreement which was signed just a year and a half ago; the funding percentage which was previously 90/10 is now 70/30.

MR. TULK:
Highways are now 60/40.

MR. K. AYLWARD:
That is right. Highways have also come down, Mr. Speaker. We also have the example of the railway agreement which we have just signed.

MR. TULK:
They signed.

MR. K. AYLWARD:
Sorry! I would never admit to that - the hon. government has signed, which deals with our transportation system. Mr. Speaker, that is also a shocking agreement. We have given away the right to our transportation system, which was in the Constitution, and now we see the federal and provincial governments signing a fifteen year deal and getting the railway shut down by September 1.

It is, again, a shocking thing to have all that bulk stuff put onto our highway systems. It is unfortunate, Mr. Speaker, that we see these types of agreements being signed by a government which is now very desperate. That is the only conclusion I can come to, after seeing how this debate has gone. The Minister of Development and Tourism got up and talked about all the great things they are doing in the Province, promoting tourism, promoting

development and so on, and that investments in this Province have never been better. I wrote the minister asking for 100 Newfoundland flag pins to give to students out in Stephenville to give out when they went away, or to give to tourists and so on, people coming into the area; I thought they would be proud to give out a few pins, Mr. Speaker. I got a letter back from the hon. minister, a very fast one as a matter of fact, stating that I could easily have the pins but I would have to purchase them, at seventy-nine cents each, from a local retailer here in St. John's. Mr. Speaker, I have to say to you that this is a tiny thing, yet it is a big thing.

We as elected representatives, and the public of Newfoundland, are expected to go out and promote tourism, and this Province, and we are not even provided with a few pins. That is just one thing, but it gives you an indication of the priorities of this government when it comes to promotion and development. It is an unfortunate circumstance, Mr. Speaker.

I would now like to talk about a few things that should be done to see this Province move ahead, Mr. Speaker. These are initiatives that the Liberal Opposition, the Liberal Party of the Province are going to be putting forward and have put forward in the past. Some of these ideas have been recommended by the Royal Commission which talks about the unemployment situation in this Province, and which was authorized by this government to deal with the unemployment situation. It is, Mr. Speaker, a very good document. I feel that much research went into it and we would hope a lot of the recommendations

will be adopted by the government. Mr. Speaker, there are a number of things pointed out in this Royal Commission Report, and I have the summary here which gives a few words on each part of the development process of the Province. It says here on Page 9 of the summary, 'While employment did increase during the '70s, the 1980s have seen a dramatic change.' It also goes on to say that 'the number of hidden unemployed and the so-called discouraged workers were approaching 33 per cent as of only a couple of years ago.' So, in here it identifies that the 1980s have been a major catastrophe and a problem for unemployment in this Province. Nothing like it previously in our history, Mr. Speaker. The official unemployment rate has gone up into the twenties under this administration and they think of it as an 8 per cent or 10 per cent unemployment rate, like other provinces might be experiencing. The reality of dealing with the problem is not there; you cannot deal with a problem if you do not see one. I think this is where this government right now, at this point in time, is failing in its duty to the people of the Province to solve some of our problems. You have to see a problem before you can deal with it.

The hon. the leader of the Opposition has spoken, and in his speeches of the past couple of months he has said that we have the highest of everything bad and the lowest of everything good. Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt about that. If you look at the stats that you would hope would be on our side, they are against us. If you look at things we do not want to have, Mr. Speaker, we have a lot of them. I think it is time

this government realized that and admitted it, and then started dealing with the problem. But first you have to admit the problem is there, Mr. Speaker. You have to admit it, and you have to be able to see it. Mr. Speaker, the minister gets up and says everything is honky-dory, or rosy, or whatever you want to call it, but it is not.

Mr. Speaker, one of the policies the Liberal Party has been espousing is decentralization of government, seeing services provided in rural parts of the Province which have been losing there population, a good, solid policy, Mr. Speaker. That was recommended in a royal commission report, as a matter of fact, that government be part of the economic system in this Province, and that it spread its wealth around. That is one of the policies we have been talking about, Mr. Speaker.

We have also been talking about youth unemployment and policies to deal with the youth unemployment problem. We have recommended, Mr. Speaker, in the last couple of years, that we set up a Youth Entrepreneurship Program, which this government has done, and for which we have patted them on the back, but there is not enough money in it. We recommended that a number of years ago. It has been brought in, but there are a lot of other things we would like to see done. A policy should be brought in to deal with the dropout rate in the high school system.

Ontario and Nova Scotia, and other provinces, have brought in initiatives to deal with youth unemployment which have been very successful and have not cost an arm and a leg. But we in this

Province have not. Over the past three years we have made many speeches urging the government to do the same, but they are refusing to do so. Ontario, the richest province in Canada, identified a youth unemployment problem of 12 per cent and they called it a catastrophe, Mr. Speaker. They have established fifty-five Youth Employment Counselling Centres, which are spread throughout Ontario; they have a budget which is monitored every six months so that results are produced. That is an excellent idea for this Province, Mr. Speaker, but the provincial government has refused to look at it. Maybe it is because we suggested it. If they do not want to do it, Mr. Speaker, we will take care of it when we get over there.

That is a good solution, a constructive solution to youth unemployment. One of the ways to deal with it would be to have Youth Employment Counselling Centres set up in regions of the Province where there are very major problems with high youth unemployment. Other places are doing it, Mr. Speaker, and they have been successful. It is something we should be looking at. That is one initiative government could be dealing with.

Another program, Mr. Speaker, that should be brought in is a program to deal with getting our youth who have dropped out of school back into the school system. We should encourage them by guaranteeing them so many months of training afterwards, or work, Mr. Speaker. We have to get the untrained youth of this Province back into the school system, into our community colleges, so that these problems can be rectified. If we do not do it, it is going to mean sadder

days and a sadder time for this Province, Mr. Speaker.

We would also like to see, Mr. Speaker, regional development authorities set up so that local areas can develop their economies and pursue monies and funding to help the regional development associations, which have not been funded over the past number of years. Decision making should be put into their hands. That is what we would like to see done, and that is what we are planning on doing when we come into power. Those are three initiatives we will be undertaking.

Also, we undertake to equalize educational funding all over the Province so that we do not see the shocking thing I read about in the paper the other day, where the education faculty is very worried that if they improve the standards of getting into their faculty, the students coming out of rural Newfoundland may not be able to get in to get a teaching degree because the standards will be too high. The whole problem has been created by funding being unequal in the Province. People in this Province are not being treated fairly. That was an admission made at the university just recently, and that is a shocking thing. That is something we intend to try to fix. We have undertaken to do that, and we are going to do it, Mr. Speaker. There is no doubt about it.

I can go on, Mr. Speaker, and talk about other initiatives we will undertake, good policies. We have so many others, I could keep them here the whole night, but they have not been doing too much listening to what I have been saying.

Those are some recommendations we have documented. Our homework is done. We have people working hard to get rid of that hon. crowd on the other side. But let me say one thing to you, Mr. Speaker, that sums it up very good: I have a table here which outlines the unemployment rate from 1966 to 1987, and I am going to make sure that I table this before I clue up.

This is a summary document which tells you whether or not this administration's performance is good or bad. Mr. Speaker, in 1966 the unemployment rate was 5.8 per cent. In 1972 the unemployment rate was 8.4 per cent - that was when the original Tory administration took over. In 1979, they had done such a good job it reached 16.2 per cent, which was unheard of in this Province. From 1979 right on up to 1987 we had an unemployment rate of 21 per cent. It is here, Mr. Speaker, for everybody to see. It took a drop here and there, but in the last five years it has maintained an average of at least 19 or 20 per cent. This is a summary document, Mr. Speaker, which has been drafted to show the history of this Province since 1966, and which shows the performance of this government.

Mr. Speaker, in the past the hon. the Premier has wrapped himself in the flag when talking about the people of this Province, especially the young people, and he has said, "When can they come home again?" Let us get the Newfoundland flag and wrap it around tighter, Mr. Speaker, so that I can say, 'Here is what we are doing for them.'

Mr. Speaker, it is time for this government to take account of what it has done to the economy of this

Province and to its people. When the next election is called, we will be ready, willing and able to undertake to see that that government over there is booted out and we will be taking over.

adjourned until Thursday, June 30, 1988, at 2:00 p.m.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your hon. patience and I would only hope that this hon. government over there will do something about some of the problems out there and not be so worried about trying to get elected all the time; you have to do something in between, Mr. Speaker.

On that note, Mr. Speaker, I hope and I am sure that hon. members opposite are going to remember my comments forever and a day and will now adopt some of the policies I mentioned. I sincerely hope they will do that. That was my reason for putting this resolution forward, Mr. Speaker. On that note, I would like to adjourn the debate, which I think has been very good, and call the question.

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

All those in favor of the resolution, please say 'aye'.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
'Aye.'

MR. SPEAKER:
Those against, 'nay'.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
'Nay.'

MR. SPEAKER:
The resolution is defeated.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

On motion, the House at its rising

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