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**VERBATIM REPORT**  
*(Hansard)*

*Speaker: Honourable P.J. McNicholas*

Wednesday

25 May 1988

The House met at 3:00 p.m.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):  
Order, please!

MR. TULK:  
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. TULK:  
Before the daily routine of business, there has been some discussion between myself and this side and the Government House Leader (Mr. Simms), as to whether in fact it would not be more convenient for us to open the Legislature perhaps at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon and go to 5:00 o'clock, in view of the fact that we are getting into the hot season of the year. And I guess it would be far more convenient for the media, as well. We have agreed that starting on Monday and continuing for the remainder of this session, we will open the Legislature at 2:00 o'clock and close at 5:00 o'clock. Of course, everything in our Standing Orders that refers to 3:00 o'clock and from thereon in to 6:00 o'clock, in terms of adjournment and so on, would just move back one hour, I would presume. I understand that is the agreement we have.

MR. SIMMS:  
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. SIMMS:  
We did have some discussions and I consulted with the Premier and some of my colleagues; I did not get a chance to talk to them all. But I do understand that the press would be very, very happy with

this change, and I see them all smiling up there. In view of that inescapable kind of pressure, I did not have a chance to consult with our friends in the corner, and I do apologize for that. It just happened a moment before, but I am sure they understand. This side certainly would agree. We think it would be a good idea. Therefore, as the member for Fogo (Mr. Tulk) says, the rules pertaining to the opening hours and the closing would obviously be adjusted by agreement and everybody would understand that, Your Honour.

That being the case, I think we will wait until Monday to give everybody a chance to acclimatize to the new hours.

PREMIER PECKFORD:  
You better make sure they are willing. There has to be unanimity, right? Are they agreed on it?

MR. SIMMS:  
The hon. members can speak for themselves, I guess, but I saw the House Leader for the NDP (Mr. Long), the member for St. John's East, nod in agreement. I usually consult with the House Leaders, and the Leaders consult with each other, but maybe the House Leader for the NDP, or indeed the Leader on this occasion, could comment?

MR. FENWICK:  
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. FENWICK:  
Mr. Speaker, obviously we have not had a chance to think about it. Since what it does, it seems to me, is compensate for Double Daylight Savings time and puts us

back in the same position we were before Double Daylight Savings time was in effect with respect to the sun, which did not believe in it, I do not imagine we will have too many complaints about it. So if you want to start with it on Monday, Mr. Speaker, we see no objections to it whatsoever.

MR. SPEAKER:  
Order, please!

As I understand it, starting on Monday it will be from 2 o'clock until 5 o'clock until it has been changed by agreement.

Before calling for statements by ministers, I would like to welcome to the galleries sixteen exchange students from Edmonton, with sixteen students from Point Leamington Central High School with their teachers, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Landon and Mr. and Mrs. Don Gibson.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

### Statements by Ministers

PREMIER PECKFORD:  
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:  
The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:  
Mr. Speaker, I wish to address the remarks made by the hon. the member for Port de Grave on Friday, May 20th, 1988, where he suggested a conflict of interest involving the hon. the member for St. John's South, the Deputy Premier, Dr. John Collins.

The hon. member's comments focused on a public tender for office

space in the Eastern Canada Building to accommodate the Workers' Compensation Appeal Tribunal.

Dr. Collins' 25 per cent ownership of Terra Nova Enterprises Ltd., the Company that owns both the Eastern Canada and Medical Arts Buildings, pre-dates his first election as a Member of the House of Assembly. This ownership has been consistently indicated on the annual public Conflict of Interest statements filed pursuant to The Conflict of Interest Act.

Upon being invited to join Cabinet, Dr. Collins placed his shares in trust with Mr. Donald Mercer, Q.C., also a part owner, and has since that time played no role in the daily management of the Company. He has never been involved in the procurement of, or approval of, rental contracts by or for the Company. He has never participated in any Cabinet or Ministerial decision relating in any way to the Company.

Dr. Collins formally complied with the Conflict of Interest (Ministers) Guidelines notifying me of his ownership, and I, after review wrote him to advise that I felt there was no conflict. That is back several years ago. As soon as Dr. Collins was a part of Cabinet, he fulfilled his obligations under the Conflict of Interest (Ministers) Guidelines. He has adhered to and exceeded the letter and spirit of the Act and Guidelines in every respect.

After these insinuations were made by the hon. the member for Port de Grave, Dr. Collins was contacted by Mr. Mercer, his trustee, to review the series of events associated with this tender for the first time.

Mr. Mercer provided Dr. Collins with the following information. The Company had under contract an outside agent for the purpose of procuring rental leases, with the agent working under an agreement of payment of commission fees for work performed. When a public call for tenders was published by the Department of Public Works and Services, on behalf of the Department of Labour to accommodate the Workers' Compensation Appeal Tribunal, the Company's agent submitted a bid for the rental of space in the Eastern Canada Building, sometimes called the Central and Eastern Trust Building.

Following the opening of bids and subsequent negotiations, the agent was informed that Terra Nova Enterprises had been awarded the contract, which involved an obligation to carry out specified renovations at a cost of \$15,000 to \$20,000. The specified inclusive rental rate was lower than arrangements already in place with other tenants in the building.

The proposal was not the lowest overall tender, being the 5th lowest of eleven bids in response to the call. However, in the view of the Chairperson of the Workers' Compensation Appeal Tribunal, the space acquired was the best choice from the three bids that met the requirements from a perspective of availability and accessibility, both from a parking, and a handicapped accessibility perspective. The proposal to award the tender to other than the lowest bidder was concurred with by the Department of Labour, and approved by Treasury Board. At no time did Dr. Collins participate in or influence any aspect of this decision process.

There are two separate issues here. The one I am dealing with today is Dr. Collins, the Deputy Premier, Minister of Health, member for St. John's South. Since the question was raised in the House as it related to the ethics or whatever of the award to the 5th lowest and the involvement in there, I have spoken to the minister on a number of occasions in the last week and he has prepared and gathered all the information together. I will be reviewing that information with Cabinet tomorrow and then be making a full statement after I, and Cabinet, have completely reviewed that particular incident, relative to the Chairman of the Appeal Tribunal on whether a conflict of interest, in fact, exists there.

So I want to inform hon. members opposite that whilst I am dealing with Dr. Collins' statement today, I will be dealing personally with the other circumstance to see whether, in fact, there was any conflict in the awarding of that tender. Because I have, myself, delved into over the last week or so and have a lot of the information compiled, and I now want the Minister of Labour and myself to brief Cabinet on it tomorrow. But at this point in time, I want to deal with Dr. Collins. At no time did Dr. Collins participate in or influence any aspect of this decision process.

Mr. Speaker, my government is keenly aware of the need to maintain the highest levels of morality and honesty in the execution of our offices, and the administration of the Province. I am personally committed to this goal, as are all my ministers. I am absolutely convinced upon

review of all the circumstances associated with this particular member, as in every other aspect of his office as a minister, that Dr. John Collins exemplifies the highest possible standard of personal and professional integrity.

I have to say I respect the hon. member's right to raise these matters in the House. I could debate, I guess, whether in fact the hon. member should have perhaps mentioned it to the minister beforehand, or whatever, so that the minister was aware, because he has not been involved in this company since 1979. He has put his shares in trust and has followed the conflict of interest guidelines relating to publicly disclosing it every year, and also had written me, as was necessary for him to do, under the ministerial guidelines.

The only other thing I would like to say, which I feel obligated to say on my own behalf, is that the member for St. John's South, Dr. John Collins, has been a part of the Cabinet of Newfoundland since 1979 and I have to say that I have found him, and I am sure anybody else did who has ever had any dealings with the gentleman, to be upstanding and honest to a meticulous degree. I suppose I am glad in one sense that the matter was raised, because I am very pleased and honoured to be able to say that a man of Dr. Collins' caliber is serving the public of this Province not only as a member but as a minister in the present government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. WELLS:  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I have just now received this statement. I should tell the House, and I am sure the Premier is aware, that these comments by the hon. member for Port de Grave (Mr. Efford), and I appreciate the Premier's comments about the responsibility of the member for Port de Grave to raise these issues and the propriety of it, but I should tell him that the comments arose as a result of the member for Fogo (Mr. Tulk) asking the Minister of Labour (Mr. Blanchard) a question on the issue in committee about five weeks ago. When there was no response he asked a question in the House. About two weeks ago, he asked the minister when he was going to respond, and there was still no response, so a few days ago, because the member for Fogo was otherwise tied up, the member for Port de Grave raised the question.

PREMIER PECKFORD:  
That still does not -

MR. WELLS:  
I disagree. The minister has had five weeks to provide this information.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. WELLS:  
Five weeks.

AN HON. MEMBER:  
(Inaudible) did he not?

MR. TULK:  
No, it was that very question.

MR. WELLS:

With respect, Mr. Speaker, -

AN HON. MEMBER:

(Inaudible) Minister of Labour  
(inaudible).

MR. WELLS:

Well, having asked twice in the House and once in Committee, the issue was then raised, is this part of the reason? I accept the Premier's statement that it had nothing to do with it. He made the statement and I have no basis for challenging it at this moment. And I say I accept the Premier's statement and the salutary remarks he has made about the hon. the member for St. John's South.

Mr. Speaker, the best information available to the Opposition indicates that the Premier is perhaps not properly informed on the matter, because as nearly as we can determine, other premises were equally or more accessible to the handicapped at lower cost.

MR. BLANCHARD:

That is what I am checking personally myself now.

MR. WELLS:

For the benefit of all hon. members I intend to table an assessment on the accessibility of that property and the property on which the lowest bid was submitted. I will table that, Mr. Speaker.

I will also table, Mr. Speaker, a copy of a letter that I am told was written by the chairperson, and the Premier probably has seen the letter, dated June 19, 1987 in which he indicates that either property would be acceptable. I will table this as well, Mr. Speaker. In those circumstances, and in the circumstances where the

Minister of Labour failed for four to five weeks to provide the information requested it was -

MR. BLANCHARD:

The question was answered May 9 in the House?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. FUREY:

In Committee.

MR. WELLS:

In Committee.

MR. BLANCHARD:

In the Committee, and he was going to write me.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, no!

MR. WELLS:

I remember it being asked about two to three weeks ago in the House. I was here at that time.

MR. BLANCHARD:

Five weeks, you said.

MR. WELLS:

Yes, but it was two weeks before that in the Committee.

So, Mr. Speaker, I table the information. This is the question that has been raised and we are looking for the explanation as to why the government would approve of the rental at \$14.85 per square foot when equally accessible or more accessible space was readily available at \$11.00.

MR. SIMMS:

How about Canada (inaudible).

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

The hon. member's time is elapsed.

MR. TULK:  
By leave!

MR. WELLS:  
By leave, I will answer the President of the Council's question.

MR. YOUNG:  
Sit down. Sit down.

AN HON. MEMBER:  
No leave.

MR. WELLS:  
On that basis, Mr. Speaker, I will answer it when they address the conflict of interest charge. That will be answered at that time.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD:  
A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:  
A point of order, the hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:  
I find it insulting. I agree the Leader of the Opposition has a point as it relates to the other question. I answered that in my statement, all that material and so on, and if there is an impropriety or any wrongdoing, it will be corrected forthwith - if there is! We are all among equals here.

My main statement today was, number one, to indicate that we will get at the bottom of the other thing as it relates to the award of the tender. But right now a person's integrity is at stake. An Accusation was leveled at the Deputy Premier of this Province by a member of the Opposition, and the Leader of the Opposition gets up in his place

and hardly mentions the fact that Yes, he agrees and knows that the Deputy Premier of this Province is an honourable man, and he should.

MR. WELLS:  
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. WELLS:  
There is absolutely nothing wrong with my stating the position I did. It was quite proper, and I will not be intimidated by these improper allegations by the Premier.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. WELLS:  
The hon. the member for Port de Grave acted with integrity and competence and loyalty to the people of this Province not to anybody else. He did that which he was supposed to do, that which is his duty to do. In the absence of the hon. Minister of Labour answering the question, Mr. Speaker, he raised the facts and brought those facts to the attention of the Premier and asked if it had any relevancy. It was quite proper and I make no apology for defending it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:  
Order, please!

I must rule that there is no point of order.

### Oral Questions

MR. KELLAND:  
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. KELLAND:  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

In the absence of the Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development (Mr. Power), I direct my question to the Premier. Original projections indicated that Sprung would have to get \$1.09 a pound to make the cucumber operation a success. The Premier yesterday indicated that because of the unexpected greater yield in production the break even price is now considerably lower. I ask the Premier would he now indicate what the revised average price must be in order to make the project a success right now?

MR. SPEAKER:  
The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:  
That is an impossible question to answer, Mr. Speaker, because in the marketplace that varies from day to day, based upon production levels and sales all over the place. So that is impossible to answer. That will vary, as it will for asbestos at Baie Verte and fluorspar from St. Lawrence, or whatever. That is an impossible question to answer.

MR. KELLAND:  
A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:  
A supplementary.

MR. KELLAND:  
The Premier did indicate that there was a greatly unexpected increase in what they had anticipated in the actual

production yield, but other than claims of a unexpected greater crop yield, will the Premier explain how the base price of \$1.09 could dramatically drop to something which has to be considerably less than fifty-nine cents a pound, based on the retail prices now?

MR. SPEAKER:  
The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:  
Primarily because the facility is producing better than we had thought, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. KELLAND:  
A final supplementary.

MR. KELLAND:  
Based on earlier statements by the Minister, and the apology the Premier made in his behalf in the House yesterday.

MR. SPEAKER:  
Order, please!

MR. KELLAND:  
This is a serious matter, Mr. Speaker, and I asked for a supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER:  
Order, please!

There is no need for a preamble. I ask the hon. member to direct his final supplementary without a preamble.

MR. KELLAND:  
My apologies, Mr. Speaker.

My final supplementary is: Will the Premier table a current cost analysis of the Sprung cucumbers and in province and



out of-province market pricing, which obviously would have to form part of his marketing strategy?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:

No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DECKER:

Mr. Speaker,

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for the Strait of Belle Isle.

MR. DECKER:

Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development--

MR. FUREY:

Where is he?

MR. DECKER:

Where most of us would be if we were embarrassed the way he was yesterday.

I ask the Premier, notwithstanding his statement yesterday where he said his Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development was misquoted -- we have the transcripts here of the CBC article where he refers to a very well thought out plan to put Atlantic farmers out of business -- but when the minister made this statement, when he formulated the plan, was the Premier aware that his minister was breaking the federal Competition Act, or did he find it out after the illegal act was done?

MR. SIMMS:

A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the President of the

Council.

MR. SIMMS:

I would like to refer Your Honour to Beauchesne's Fifth Edition -- we are going to be seeing this more and more, I suspect, so Your Honour might want to have a close look at it -- Paragraph 359, Page 132, Subsection (10) "A question ought not to refer to a statement made outside the House by a Minister." Now, the member clearly in his preamble specifically referred to a statement made outside the House by a minister. Mr. Speaker, nothing could be more clear. It is totally out of order and the hon. member should be advised that his question is so out of order, and should move on to the next questioner.

MR. DECKER:

To that point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. DECKER:

I was referring to the Premier's statement, Mr. Speaker, which he made inside this House when he apologized for this statement that the hon. minister made outside the House. If the House likes I would read the statement. "The next year we may have fewer producers of cucumbers" --

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. SIMMS:

On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DECKER:

I will table it, Mr. Speaker, if

you want me to table it.

MR. SIMMS:

The member can do what he wants with it. As a matter of fact I can suggest something he can do with it if he wishes, but that has nothing to do with the point of order.

MR. DECKER:

There is no point of order.

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker, he repeated it in speaking to the point of order. Not only did he say he was referring to a comment made by the Premier but he also was referring to a statement made outside the House by a minister, and that is clearly out of order as I just explained to Your Honour.

MR. BAKER:

There is no point of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

To that point of order, the exact quote is, "A question ought not to refer to a statement made outside the House by a Minister." As I understand, the last comment that the hon. member made he was referring to a statement made by the Premier himself in reference to a statement that was made outside, so I think the question is in order if it refers to a comment that was made in the House here.

The hon. the member for the Strait of Belle Isle.

MR. DECKER:

The question was asked, Mr. Speaker, and I am still waiting for an answer, unless the Premier wants me to repeat the question but then I will lose my supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:

Mr. Speaker, as I understand the comments made by the minister outside the House, because I think those are the ones he was referring to, was that Newfoundland Enviroponics had a marketing plan to sell their cucumbers and their produce, had a well thought out plan, which they do, obviously, as any company does. Any company would have a well thought out plan for marketing a product that they are about to put on the market, in the same way as Baie Verte Mines does for its asbestos, St. Lawrence for its fluorspar, Kruger for its paper, or whoever it happens to be. That is what I understand the minister was referring to.

MR. DECKER:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A supplementary, the hon. the member for the Strait of Belle Isle.

MR. DECKER:

Will the Premier confirm that this well thought out plan was a plan which was to put the Atlantic farmers out of business? Will the Premier confirm that that was the plan?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I answered that yesterday. It is in the statement. It is in writing. The hon. member has a copy of the statement I gave yesterday, that there was no plan on behalf of anybody in this Province, that we have had anything to do with, as

it relates to trying to put anybody out of business.

We have a well thought out plan to market the produce in an aggressive, competitive, equal, and fair manner. That is what we are about, Mr. Speaker, or what the company is about.

MR. DECKER:

A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A final supplementary, the hon. the member for the Strait of Belle Isle.

MR. DECKER:

Will the Premier not now admit - he is trying to avoid the question - that his minister tried to pull a scam on the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick governments similar to the scam being perpetrated on this Province by Sprung, and that if the Premier had not apologized for his minister, his minister could have ended up in jail for breaking The Competition Act?

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

The hon. member's final question was far too long.

The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I can just respond to what the hon. member has to say. There is no scam here, and I do not know if that word is parliamentary or not, Mr. Speaker. To continue to cast innuendo upon this project, as the hon. member wants to do, and to make sure that it fails, and to try to destroy 200 jobs that have been created in this Province, I think is terrible on behalf of the hon. member. All I can say to the

hon. member is that obviously the company has a plan for marketing its produce in the same way as any company would have a plan to market its product. That is what the company is about; it is in the business of producing and selling produce. That is what they are doing.

MR. WELLS:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. WELLS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday in the House I asked the hon. the Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development if he would deny the statements attributed to him, or otherwise repudiate them. He ought to have done one or the other, but when he stood in his place he really did neither. I gave him the benefit of the doubt, as I indicated I would, and assumed that he had been misquoted. I have checked the record and I find that he has indeed --

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. WELLS:

I need to lay a brief foundation, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

I have checked the record and I find, indeed, that he has not been misquoted. I ask the Premier now: Would he repudiate the statements made by the hon. the Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development or ask for the minister's resignation?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Premier,

PREMIER PECKFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I have answered those questions. As I understand it, the minister was referring to a well thought out plan of the company to market its produce. There was not a well thought out plan to try to destroy people in Canada who are into the business.

MR. LONG:

Mr. Speaker,

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. LONG:

Thank you.

My question, Mr. Speaker, is for --

MR. WELLS:

Mr. Speaker,

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

I understood the hon. the Leader of the Opposition sat down.

MR. WELLS:

I have no wish to cause you any embarrassment, Mr. Speaker. If I have made a mistake, I will pose a further question later.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

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

MR. LONG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

There is lots of time in the short Question Period to have a go-around. I am sure the hon. the Leader of the Opposition will get another chance.

My question is for the President of Treasury Board (Mr. Simms), as the minister responsible for the implementation, in the public service, of the government's much lauded pay equity initiative.

I would like to ask the President of Treasury Board, if I could get his attention --

MR. DAWE:

The minister is listening. He is very versatile.

MR. LONG:

Yes, a very versatile person, who wears many hats and can listen and talk at the same time.

I would like to ask the President of the Treasury Board if he could tell the House what intentions the government has to deal with the issue of pay equity as it relates to the private sector?

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker,

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the President of the Council.

MR. SIMMS:

I thank the hon. member for his kind words in his preamble. I think he said I was a minister who could walk and talk.

PREMIER PECKFORD:

And chew gum at the same time.

MR. SIMMS:

Yes, that is what it was, and chew gum at the same time.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to the very important matter that the hon. member has raised, I presume it is coming from some communication that has recently come to my attention.

MR. LONG:

No.

MR. SIMMS:

No? The hon. member is not aware of it, he just asked the question right off the top of his head.

MR. LONG:

If you must know, I asked it months ago.

MR. SIMMS:

You did not ask me, Mr. Speaker, he may have asked somebody else, he did not ask me.

The question has been raised, Mr. Speaker, about implementation of the policy in the private sector. As you are probably aware by now the government through the statement by the Premier of a month or so ago now, addressed the implementation of equal pay for work of equal value - not equal pay for equal work, by the way, as I heard this morning on one of the media in the public sector. We are presently negotiating - presently, at this very moment, literally at this very time - with all of the unions which would be involved in this particular policy at the moment, but we are not at this point in time planning, we have no plan or no intention to implement it in the private sector. However, we do hope, once we have all the matters in place with the public sector, that the private sector may indeed be interested in getting involved, and we will have consultation with them if that should happen.

MR. LONG:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. LONG:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister if we are to take from his answer that private businesses in this Province are not expected in any way by the government to follow the lead the government has taken in the public service and to take initiatives on their own -

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. LONG:

I am asking the minister if he could tell the House whether he does not expect the private sector to take initiatives to deal with inequity amongst male and female employees in the work force?

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the President of the Council.

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker, certainly we would hope that the private sector would take the lead from us - or follow our lead, I should say - but we do want to have a look at things closely because, as the hon. member no doubt is aware through his research - and he is, by the way, one of the best prepared members in this House, I would suspect

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. LONG:

You are still going to get another question.

MR. SIMMS:

- that in Ontario, where pay equity, or equal pay for equal work of equal value was

implemented by legislation, including the private sector that at the present time there are a lot of problems with it, and we have been told that by union leaders and other people with the private sector. So we are not hastily moving in that direction at this stage. But certainly, once we get everything in place, we would hope that the private sector would certainly look at this particular policy. Because I believe, and the government believes it is perhaps one of the most significant social policy policies brought into this Province by any government, and it is something that we are very proud of and we think the private sector should follow suit.

MR. LONG:

A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. LONG:

Mr. Speaker, I ask would the minister, in view of the broad recognition of the importance of this issue, tell the House how he intends to deal with the request from the President of the Board of Trade, who also wants to deal with this important issue, and whether the minister will begin some kind of consultative process with the Board of Trade which obviously is having dealings with their own members on this issue?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the President of the Council.

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker, I thought the hon. member said no, he was not referring to a communication that I recently received, but he

obviously is, and that is obviously what set up the whole line of questions. And that is why I asked him at the beginning if that is what he was referring to. Because, quite frankly, that is a communication which I received five minutes to three, thirty minutes ago, from the President of the Board of Trade. I think in all fairness and in doing things properly, one should respond to that individual, the individual representing the Board of Trade, before I respond to the hon. member. It would not be very courteous to respond to his letter through the hon. member for St. John's East, who is, after all, unable to walk, talk, spit, and chew gum at the same time.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. WELLS:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. WELLS:

I have another question for the hon. the Premier, Mr. Speaker, and it relates to the hon. the Minister for Rural, Agriculture and Northern Development.

In view of the fact that when that minister made the statement that it was a very well thought out plan he was specifically referring to his intention next year to have fewer producers of cucumbers, would the Premier now ask the minister to repudiate that statement or resign his office? He was clearly referring to putting those producers out of business.

PREMIER PECKFORD:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:

No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Bonavista North.

MR. LUSH:

Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Brett).

Over the past couple of days there have been a few announcements appearing from members opposite suggesting that they will be getting water and sewer and road projects. To my knowledge there has been no public announcement. I wonder can the minister verify that, there has been no public announcement, or have members opposite been secretly informed about who is going to be getting these municipal capital works projects?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MR. BRETT:

Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any announcements made. That is not to say that they have not been made, but I do not sit all day listening to the radio or all night watching television or listening to "Open Line". I am busy all day long. So it is possible, I suppose, that an announcement has been made. It is also conceivable, I would suggest, that since Cabinet has to deal with the capital works that Cabinet ministers would know what is approved and what is not approved. So there is nothing

secretive or underhanded since this is an issue that Cabinet deals with anyway.

MR. LUSH:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A supplementary, the hon. the member for Bonavista North.

MR. LUSH:

Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the minister can indicate why the delay? It is already now a month and a half longer than last year, a full month and a half.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. LUSH:

Can the minister indicate, Mr. Speaker, why the procrastination, why the delay?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MR. BRETT:

There is no delay, Mr. Speaker. I advised the hon. member just a few days ago that I would be announcing very shortly the capital projects. I indicated that I would table them in the House, and that will be done as soon as it is ready.

MR. LUSH:

A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A final supplementary, the hon. the member for Bonavista North.

MR. LUSH:

Mr. Speaker, I asked the minister what happened to the government's policy of pre-tendering. I say again it is a month and a half delayed from last year.

MR. SPEAKER:  
Order, please!

MR. LUSH:  
So what has happened

MR. SPEAKER:  
Order, please!

I have to draw the hon. member's attention to the fact that he was being excessively long in his first supplementary and certainly far too long on that last occasion. So if the hon. member has a very brief final supplementary, I would ask him to pose it.

MR. LUSH:  
Mr. Speaker, I ask the minister: Why the delay? If there is further delay, there is going to be no work to take place in this construction season.

MR. MATTHEWS:  
He is out of order.

MR. SPEAKER:  
Order, please!

MR. BRETT:  
He asked that.

MR. SPEAKER:  
That is exactly the same question as was asked before that in the supplementary.

MR. EFFORD:  
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. EFFORD:  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My question is directed to the Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth (Mr. Butt). I would ask

the minister: has his department received the report that was commissioned by his department back in February, and was suppose to be in by the end of March, concerning the accessibility of our provincial parks to the handicapped of this Province?

MR. SPEAKER:  
The hon. the Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth.

MR. BUTT:  
Mr. Speaker, I will have to take that under advisement. I am not sure of that. If the hon. member had called me earlier I would certainly have had the information for him. But I will have to take it as notice now and get back to him in a matter of minutes.

MR. EFFORD:  
A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. EFFORD:  
This press release, this information here says very clearly that it was supposed to be to the Minister's department by the end of March. I ask can the minister assure the House of Assembly and the people of this Province that the private sector, which is going to hold concessions in the parks, will build buildings, or whatever they are going to use, that will be accessible to the handicapped and the disabled of this Province?

MR. SPEAKER:  
The hon. the Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth.

MR. BUTT:  
Mr. Speaker, I have learned very quickly to accept what the hon. member says with a grain of salt.



Let me say this, that the proposals that are coming in from the private sector will be carefully assessed by a very competent group of civil servants, at the directors level, and they will advise me, as minister, of the proposals they see as best for a particular park.

Who is building buildings in provincial parks? I do not know that this day.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Nobody knows!

MR. BUTT:  
The tail is wagging the dog:

MR. EFFORD:  
A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:  
A final supplementary.

MR. EFFORD:  
The attitude of the ministers on the other side is unbelievable! We are talking about the handicapped having accessibility to provincial parks.

MR. SPEAKER:  
Order, please!

MR. EFFORD:  
I would ask the minister will he guarantee the disabled, even though he is not aware of the report

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER:  
Order, please!

MR. EFFORD:  
Will he guarantee the handicapped of this Province that any concession stands or any buildings placed in provincial parks as a

result of the new tenders he just called will be accessible to the handicapped of this Province? Will he guarantee that very clearly?

MR. SPEAKER:  
The hon. the Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth.

MR. BUTT:  
First of all, Mr. Speaker, I am going to have to look at the proposals that come in because I do not know if there are any proposals that will require accessibility by the handicapped. But, Mr. Speaker, this government takes no back step to anyone, or no backdoor to anyone about what we have done for handicapped people, and what we will be doing for handicapped people. I suggest the hon. member for Port de Grave stop playing politics with handicapped people, because that is exactly what he is doing here today.

MR. GULLAGE:  
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:  
The hon. the member for Waterford-Kenmount.

MR. GULLAGE:  
Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Windsor). Given his statement of a couple of weeks ago on pensions for part-time workers, could he explain to the House how transfers can be made from a money purchase type of pension plan, as proposed, over to a unit benefit type - an entirely different type - and how that transfer of credits can take place when an employee on a part-time basis makes the move to full-time status?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Finance.

MR. WINDSOR:

Mr. Speaker, the final details of that plan are yet to be worked out, but it is simply a matter of a money purchase plan, at the end of a period of contribution having a certain amount of money accrued in its account, and at that point in time, I would assume, that amount of money would be used to purchase prior years surplus, which can be done with any pension plan that we now have in the Public Service.

MR. GULLAGE:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Waterford-Kenmount.

MR. GULLAGE:

The reason for my question is the difficulty with a money purchase type of plan is you do not have credits on a final average or final earnings.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. GULLAGE:

So on a final earnings basis with the existing plan, how can you possibly transfer over money purchase credits? It just cannot be done.

MR. BAIRD:

It will not put you out of business. Do not worry about it.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Finance.

MR. WINDSOR:

That is the same question, so I can only give the same answer. At the end of a period of time, you have a certain amount of cash

accrued in your account, and then, instead of purchasing an annuity, which is the normal procedure used with a money purchase plan, I would assume that we simply purchase pre-prior service, which does have certain benefits attached to it, and any member of our Public Service can purchase prior service by simply paying both parts of the contributions. It is quite simple.

MR. GULLAGE:

A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A final supplementary.

MR. GULLAGE:

Would the Minister of Finance—

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. member is starting off a final supplementary.

MR. GULLAGE:

With a question.

MR. SPEAKER:

-- by mentioning the Minister of Finance. I ask him to pose his question.

MR. GULLAGE:

Is the fact that the existing plan has inadequate funding the reason that a money purchase plan is being introduced which will not give final average earnings and an adequate pension to these part-time workers?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Finance.

MR. WINDSOR:

Absolutely not, Mr. Speaker. There is absolutely no relationship between the two. The money purchase plan is deemed by our professional advisors as being the type of plan most appropriate

for persons who have part-time, seasonal, short-term, temporary type employment, so that they can accrue benefits in that manner. The type of programme that is applicable for a permanent sort of employee is not appropriate for part-time or temporary people, and is the type of plan used in private enterprise for such people.

MR. SIMMS:

The hon. member should be aware of that.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Stephenville.

MR. K. AYLWARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I have a question for the Minister of Labour (Mr. Blanchard). The Minister of Labour, a few weeks ago, announced an increase in the minimum wage, and he also said it came as a result of the report presented to him by the Labour Standards Board. I would like to know is he going to be making that report by the board public in the very near future?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Labour.

MR. BLANCHARD:

Mr. Speaker, just prior to coming to the House I had a discussion with my Deputy Minister, and very shortly the rest of that report should be made public.

MR. K. AYLWARD:

That is good.

MR. FENWICK:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Menihek.

MR. FENWICK:

A supplementary, actually, to the Minister of Labour on that particular theme. There were a large number of other recommendations in it. The minister mentioned, back in March, that the increase in the minimum wage would occur, I believe, on April 1, but there were a whole bunch of other recommendations that the Cabinet would be deciding on. Could the minister give us an indication of which of these other recommendations in the report are about to come forward?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Labour.

MR. BLANCHARD:

Mr. Speaker, when the report is dealt with it. It is a fairly exhaustive study, and some of the recommendations had impinged on the Charter of Rights and the legalities of these had to be looked into. That has now been completed, Mr. Speaker, and all the rest of the recommendations will be dealt with in the very near future.

MR. FENWICK:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A final supplementary.

MR. FENWICK:

My supplementary to the Minister of Labour is this. Is the Minister of Labour going to implement a change in the minimum wage for domestics, which the minister knows is several dollars less than the minimum wage for the general workers? Are we going to see an elimination of that minimum wage to bring it up to the same standard as everybody else in society?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Labour.

MR. BLANCHARD:

The hon. member ought to know that that will not be announced through the House. When that decision is made a statement will be made by me, Mr. Speaker, and he will know in due course.

MR. W. CARTER:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Twillingate.

MR. W. CARTER:

My question goes to the Minister of Fisheries and it concerns the Rose Ting plant problem in St. Lawrence, Lawn and that area. According to press reports, Mr. Speaker, the Rose Ting company owes fishermen in the area - in the report it says Red Harbour on the Burin Peninsula - about \$90,000 for the purchase of fish, I presume, lump roe, and so on. I wonder could the minister tell the House if he is aware of that and if he has taken any action to ensure that the fishermen in that area are compensated by the company?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

MR. RIDEOUT:

Mr. Speaker, the minister is not aware of that.

MR. W. CARTER:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A supplementary, the hon. the member for Twillingate.

MR. W. CARTER:

Mr. Speaker, I wonder, then, would

the minister care to find out if, in fact - these are Mrs. Ting's words; it is not hearsay or rumor - that is the case, and, if so, then will he undertake to do what he can, as minister, to ensure that the fishermen up there get paid for their catches?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

MR. RIDEOUT:

Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that Mrs. Ting has said publicly, as late as today, that she has the money in a particular bank in the city to pay the fishermen for any purchases that she has made, but I will be happy to ask for further information on the whole matter, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BAKER:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Gander.

MR. BAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I have a question for the Premier. Yesterday I asked if he would request that the federal government investigate the mechanism whereby Capital Canada was appointed as fiscal agent for the sale of Terra Nova Tel because of certain news stories that have been released in the last week or so. The Premier answered that he did not have, I believe, time to do my job for me, or something like that.

I would ask the Premier: Is the real reason that the Premier will not ask for this investigation the fact that Robert Foster is also a fund raiser for the Premier and for the provincial Tory Party?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:

No, Mr. Speaker. That is incorrect.

MR. TULK:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Fogo.

MR. TULK:

I have a question for the Minister of Justice (Ms Verge). About a week ago there was a report carried in one of the local papers that the services of the Justice Department to Fogo Island would be suffering as a result of the cutback in helicopter services to the island whereby Magistrates, Judges as they are now called, get to the island quickly and get back. Has the minister received anything at all saying that that will indeed be the case, that court services to Fogo Island will suffer as a result of that cutback?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Justice.

MS VERGE:

Mr. Speaker, I have not received any such indication from judges or lawyers or anyone in the Fogo Island area. What I have received is an indication from the Associate Chief Provincial Judge in the budget process that this measure would be in the interest of the economy without adversely affecting, in any way, provincial court services on Fogo Island.

I should point out that there is funding continued for helicopter charters in special circumstances, when travel by road and ferry would not be feasible. All Crown attorneys and defense lawyers

appearing in provincial court, when the court is on circuit on Fogo Island, have not used helicopters as a general rule, and usually drive and use the ferry. That has proven quite satisfactory for members of the bar and should be, as indicated by the Associate Chief Provincial Judge, quite satisfactory for the Provincial Court judges who serve Fogo Island.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

The time for Oral Questions has elapsed.

### Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees

MR. SPEAKER:

There is one report I would like to present. It is pursuant to Section 29, Subsection 1 of the Parliamentary Commissioner (Ombudsman) Act. I am pleased to say I have received the 13th Annual Report of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Calendar Year 1987, and I lay it on the Table of the House.

MR. TULK:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. TULK:

Mr. Speaker, I did not rise during Question Period to raise a further point of order when the Government House Leader rose on a point of privilege and conveniently cut off the member for the Strait of Belle Isle (Mr. Decker). I want to assure that something does not happen in this House that I think might very well be interrupted as

in that way due to that point of order that was raised by the Government House Leader. And that is, his reference to Beauchesne on page 132, Section 359, which says: "(10) A question ought not to refer to a statement made outside the House by a Minister."

As you read Beauchesne, if we were to follow his line of reasoning, then the Government House Leader is exactly correct. As Your Honour will know, in this Legislature, first of all, the first precedent for rules is given to the Standing Orders of this Legislature, the second is to the precedent of the House itself, and the third are the rules of the House of Commons, which happens to be Beauchesne.

I would make this point to Your Honour and I would ask for a ruling on it. It is very important to how questions are framed and how they go. The precedent in this Legislature has been that you can refer to statements made by ministers, regardless whether it is inside the House or not. You cannot read a statement, and if you do it, Your Honour has often that it be required that it be tabled. But certainly reference to statements has been considered in order in this Legislature for the nine years I have been here and I suspect for many more years before that.

So I would ask, Your Honour, to very quickly clarify for us that if you take the order of precedents in which we run this Legislature, namely our own Standing Orders, the precedents of the House, and then Beauchesne, that indeed it is proper in this House, when putting a question, to refer to a statement made by a

minister.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker, to that point of order.

MR. SPEAKER:

To that point of order, the hon. the President of the Council.

MR. SIMMS:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the hon. member's argument, I am not quite sure that he is correct. Perhaps that is his recollection, which is one thing, but whether or not it is fact, that is another thing.

My recollection is, in fact, if you do some research, and I am not sure you can do it quickly, because I would think that you would want to research it fairly thoroughly, but my recollection is, if you research it, you will find many references in the past where there were points of order raised during Question Period on that very matter because the member was asking a question which referred to a statement made by a minister outside the House. There have been interruptions and points of order on that.

MR. LUSH:

Never, never before.

MR. SIMMS:

The hon. the member for Bonavista North (Mr. Lush) does not know everything. The hon. the Speaker does, but the hon. the member for Bonavista North does not.

Mr. Speaker, I am not sure that the hon. the member for Fogo is correct is what he said. But, I mean, I have no problem, Your

Honour, can research it.

However, since he bases his case on the argument that precedents come before Beauchesne, you will also find, Your Honour, when you do your research, and I am sure Your Honour already knows it anyway, that in Beauchesne there is a reference that says a matter that was a precedent yesterday is not necessarily a precedent today. So that will certainly wipe out the hon. member's argument. But anyway, we have no problem, go ahead and research, Your Honour. I do not think it requires (inaudible) debate on that point of order.

MR. TULK:

Further to that point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Further to that point of order, the hon. the member for Fogo.

MR. TULK:

The hon. gentleman is right when he says that Beauchesne says that a precedent yesterday is not a precedent today, but he is not right when he says that we do not run this House by precedent. Your Honour does not have to, I suspect, go back very far to see that there have been references made to statements by ministers and have been totally in order. At least they have never been ruled out of order in this Legislature. He does not have to go back, I suspect, past yesterday or even the day before. You could find anywhere where a member stood in this House and asked a question based on a statement made by a minister whether he was inside the House or not. That has been found to be perfectly in order.

The second point that I would make

to Your Honour is that it would be ludicrous in the extreme, and I would suggest to follow this through would be ludicrous, to say that a member cannot rise and ask questions based on a statement that a minister made outside the House. Knowing the record of this minister, this government, or any government for that matter, possibly, you would not see a statement made inside the House. They would all quite possibly be made outside, and they could say exactly what they wanted outside and you would never be able to question them on it in here.

MR. SIMMS:

If I may finally, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Very briefly.

MR. SIMMS:

Yes, very briefly.

The argument is a very faulty argument and it is evidenced by the fact that the hon. member at the end was getting confused himself. He does not make a very strong argument. I can see Your Honour up there in a great amount of dismay trying to figure out what the hon. member was trying to say and argue.

It is a very simple matter. Beauchesne says, "A precedent yesterday shall not be acceptable." So does Sir Erskin May. So do all the other parliamentary references used in the British Parliamentary system. Your Honour knows that. So, Mr. Speaker, his arguments are not very strong. But go ahead and research it. We have no problem with it. I am sure you will find all kinds of material.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

To the point of order, I am certainly going to look up that matter. It is getting a bit confusing about exactly how I should deal with the matter. I doubt if I will have a ruling on that tomorrow. I understand we will not be here on Friday. I will be away on Monday and you will have to do without me on Monday.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, shame, shame.

MR. SPEAKER:

- so, Tuesday or Wednesday.

MR. SIMMS:

I think you should take three or four months to research it. There is no rush!

### Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):

Today is Private Members' Day, so I would call on the hon. the member for St. John's East.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. LONG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, also, hon. members, for being so supportive in the first time I have been successful in having my Private Member's resolution debated in the House. Last year it was on the Order Paper and we did not get a chance before the session closed to bring it forward.

MR. SIMMS:

This is your first motion?

MR. LONG:

That is right, my first Private Member's resolution to be debated in the House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. LONG:

Mr. Speaker, I was not sure the Minister for Culture, Recreation and Youth (Mr. Butt) was still with us, but I see he is not too far away. I would hope he will remain within hearing distance for the next few minutes as I have to introduce the resolution. I am sure the minister and other members have had an opportunity to examine the resolution which I have put on the Order Paper and which is before the House today.

I would say to the minister, in good faith all sides of the House might come to an agreement, not only on the importance of the essential issue being raised, which is to draw attention to the importance of cultural activity, the cultural community and the position of individual artists and working arts groups in this Province, but indeed all sides of the House and all parties might come together and adopt the resolution, perhaps without amendment.

I might say, by way of introduction, I will be willing to concede that if the minister feels the motion is presented in a way that is too restrictive in terms of calling for work to be done by the time of Stephenville Conference at the end of July, then if that is the basis for not being able to support the resolution, I would certainly be willing to open it up and allow the department to do what is called for in the motion without



putting a time limit on it.

Mr. Speaker, what we see in the resolution is a call for the government, for the Department of Culture, Recreation and Youth, to "immediately commission" what I call "an investigation with two objectives." I will just briefly note this. I will not deal with the WHEREASES. Some of those will be made reference to in the debate. The WHEREASES essentially lay out the reasons for the need of an investigation.

Then the resolution asks to "commission an investigation with two objectives:

"1. To produce a comprehensive survey of the cultural economy of our Province, with specific reference to market definition and audience makeup across disciplines; spending levels on material supplies and services and in spinoff activities; all related employment factors; tax revenues; comparisons of public expenditures in this Province relative to other jurisdictions and an analysis of relative public spending levels on capital, production and operating costs and direct grants to artists.

"2. To produce, as far as possible, based on a survey of working artists, a report on the economic status of the artist in this Province."

That is essentially the thrust of the resolution. The second BE IT RESOLVED, which I have already said I will be willing to negotiate and, if the minister sees that as a restrictive part of the motion, maybe we can change it.

"AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission of such an investigation be supplied with the

necessary resources to do its job effectively and quickly and that representatives be appointed to this commission from outside government and finally that the commission report its findings to Conference for the Arts scheduled to be held in Stephenville at the end of July."

Mr. Speaker, what I am asking here in the form of this resolution is a commitment by the government to put in place a process in which all members of the society, all individuals and groups active in the cultural community, certainly all members of this House, but in particular the government may be in a position to begin to establish with an eye to the future a long term view of what we want to do with arts development and the cultivation of our cultural community.

Mr. Speaker, I think the government has in the past on occasion had real difficulty sustaining a clear and coherent approach to the financing of arts activity and to giving official public support to arts groups or individual arts because it has not had in place any kind of clear, coherent long term plan with clearly defined objectives and goals.

We saw some years ago the establishment of the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council which was, in fact, at the time seen as a very positive initiative, in particular, with the personal stamp, we might say, of the Premier, who had been elected indeed on a promise of giving his personal support and commitment to the arts community in this Province. Then, shortly after his election, he followed through on his stated commitment and stated

promise and initiated the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council, which at the time was received in a very positive way and accepted by the arts community as essentially a lifeline, especially for individual artists, but also for some arts groups to be able to access resources and funds and to be an agency that would, on the one hand, be responsible for carrying out the objectives of the government with respect to arts activity. But also to play another function and that would be to act as an advocate for artists and the cultural community.

Mr. Speaker, that was some years ago. Without being partisan in the debate here, I think to be honest and certainly to recognize the urgency with which I have brought the motion forward in wanting to draw the attention of the House, indeed the attention of minister and the government to this issue, that over the years since the Arts Council was established we have not seen a consistent follow through.

In fact, if anything, people in the arts community have been saying that upon the establishment of the Arts Council the government essentially said and the Premier essentially said, 'There it is, there is our initiative, and there is our bold new undertaking with respect to the development of the arts in this Province and the Arts Council will speak for us. The Arts Council will also be a central co-ordinating agency for artists and the Arts Council can speak for the arts community.' So, in a way the government was able to say it was not necessary to continue any process the Premier had initiated, once it put in place the Newfoundland and

Labrador Arts Council.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, in the years since the Premier was first elected, at a time when the Arts Council was first put in place, there was what many people, indeed in the Province, but indeed across the country, were referring to as an explosion of artistic activity in this Province, a renaissance in some places it was referred to, the return to traditional music, the incredibly vibrant theatre scene, especially in St. John's with a number of local theatre companies being started and producing indigenous theatre that was by and about and for Newfoundlanders --

MS VERGE:

And Corner Brook and Stephenville.

MR. LONG:

And Corner Brook and Stephenville were also at that time beginning to come into their own in terms of establishing new organizations and new levels of activity.

But since, then, Mr. Speaker, it has been clear for anybody who has been active in this community or anybody who has been paying attention to the evolution and the continuing development of arts activity and the development of cultural community itself in this Province, there has not been any parallel commitment by government to keep pace with the continued growth and activity that comes out of the artistic community.

The theatre companies, which were beginning at that time, have gotten stronger. They continue to grow and expand and develop audiences, both here in St. John's and particularly on the West Coast.

The Stephenville Festival has obviously attracted wide recognition for the success it has reached in terms of establishing itself as an institution on the West Coast of the Province that attracts people from all over the Province, but also outside the Province.

MS VERGE:

And Theatre Newfoundland and Labrador.

MR. LONG:

And Theatre Newfoundland and Labrador have done great work in the schools. The Minister of Justice (Ms Verge) may continue to remind me of things that I might leave out along the way, in terms of being regionally representative of the Province.

So the activity has continued and certainly in St. John's, the theatre companies, at the time, just prior to the establishment of the Arts Council, have continued their work.

The LSPU Hall in downtown St. John's is continued to be a focal point for the expression of what is very much a Newfoundland character in the theatre community. The LSPU Hall in many places and in many ways is seen as an alternative to the Arts and Culture Centre in St. John's, and to the Arts and Culture Centre circuit, which is not to get into a reflection on the Arts and Culture Centres and what they do, but is perhaps to recognize the limitations in that institution and what the Arts and Culture Centre circuit represents and to reflect on the importance of giving support to some of the activities that are happening outside the centres and the institutions that have continued

to attract fairly consistent levels of government support and public funds over the years.

It is clear to me, Mr. Speaker, at this point in time, when we review the performance of the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council and consider its ability to meet the mandate established for it in the Act that was set out in 1980, through no fault of any of the volunteers or staff who have worked hard over the years to establish the Arts Council, as an agency it has simply been unable to meet the demands that are placed on it by individual artists and by the arts community.

In fact, we have seen in the last couple of years quite a dynamic develop within the arts community in this Province as a result of a real tension that existed between the Arts Council and the government, revolving around questions of financial support.

Less than three years ago we saw the full membership of the board of directors of the Arts Council resign as a form of protest over what they felt was an impossible position they were placed in. They said quite clearly at the time they could only, in good conscience, leave the office they had taken on because they could, in their own terms, not remain true to the commitment they brought to the task at hand and, indeed, to meet the mandate as set out in the legislation given that they were not able to receive any commitment from government in the way of an increasing amount of funds to disperse to artists year to year.

So what we saw at the time was the Arts Council dealing with the situation in which it was given an

annual grant by government, and at least half of that grant - and I think at times, on occasion it was more than that - half the grant was going to maintain the offices and the staff, which, of course, was necessary. The internal structure of the Arts Council would have to be in place, in order to do any kind of job. But at least half the grant was going to maintain the administrative capacity of the Arts Council and only half was being made available to artists.

So what we have is a situation in which the agency, which was designed very specifically with the intention of functioning as a lifeline for individual working artists, not able to fulfill its mandate.

Mr. Speaker, I might, if I may, broaden the discussion beyond the Arts Council, although I think there is an important lesson to be learned here in terms of considering the importance of where government makes a financial commitment and how much of a financial commitment it is willing to make.

There may be some question from time to time of whether the arts community or arts activity or individual artists are worth giving money to. I say, in good faith, I am sure the Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth at times must be in a difficult position around the Cabinet table with competing demands, and I am quite conscious of the needs, in particular, of the delivery of human services by the government. The Department of Social Services, Education and Health are all facing severe financial difficulties, but there may be a question of whether it is worth

putting money at all, and maybe this is what we have seen over the years, that government, in the face of limited fiscal capacity and in a time of financial restraint, has simply not been able to put money into what is seen to be superfluous activity.

If today, still, there remains any question of the absolute importance of focusing our attention on the development of our cultural resources, which is what I refer to in the preamble to the resolution, I think we can see by recent events, particularly in the City of St. John's, in which the City Council, for the last number of months, has been grappling in a very public way with this whole issue and taking a very responsible position, I think, as a municipal government, but also being forced in many ways by the artists themselves to come to a recognition of the actual economic value. We might for a minute leave the question of the social or cultural value aside and consider the question of what I call here the cultural economy, and what is coming to be recognized in this Province, finally, the importance of seeing cultural activity as an industry that produces economic benefits.

It was quite interesting to see and quite significant, I think, that the City of St. John's has just, in the last month or so, established for the first time ever an arts advisory group. This arts advisory group has been put in place out of a conscious recognition that the circulation of dollars in the City of St. John's, the amount of economic activity that is produced by cultural events, working artists and artistic activity of all kinds across all disciplines is actually

a very significant industry in the City.

So, the City Council has seen it necessary to begin to put in place some kind of plan to address the importance of developing the cultural industry in the City. It is important not only to the artists themselves and to people who work in the arts community, administrators and staff people of all kinds. The government has, of late, been putting some of its own community development projects to work in the arts community, and so we see a training component in which people who are in receipt of social assistance are able to take on a training programme in the arts community, but we see the people working in the field, the artists themselves, and now, we see public officials recognizing the value to the whole community of artistic activity. It is clear, Mr. Speaker, that we must begin to do the same on a Provincial level.

The Canada Council and Statistics Canada, between them have been the two central agencies which have given some kind of national profile to the importance of the cultural economy of the country. It is only in looking at reports issued by Statistics Canada or the Canada Council that we begin to get some sense of the cultural industry in this Province. That is essentially a thing that motivated me in bringing forward this resolution.

In participating in some of the discussion around the York Theatre proposal at City Hall and the debate that was happening there, I want to make reference to a report that was prepared by the consultants who examined the feasibility of the York study. It

occurred to me when I first read this report that in order to make the argument that Arts activity was important to the economy of St. John's, the authors of the report, the consultants who were advising City Hall, had to go to the Canada Council and Statistics Canada for some years past to give an indication of economic activity coming out of the cultural community in St. John's.

I do not have a whole lot of time, but I just briefly want to read for the record what this consultant's report says about Arts activity in St. John's. It quotes the Canada Council as saying: "Canada Council figures show that in 1983 the Arts and Culture sector generated \$42 million in the St. John's economy, including \$31 million in revenues and \$11 million in salaries and wages. In the St. John's Central Metropolitan area, the Arts industry employs over 2000 people, excluding a significant number of self-employed artists and arts workers." I presume they are including the cinemas and some of the more commercial activity, but also the symphony, the Arts and Culture, the LSPU Hall, a full mix.

AN HON. MEMBER:  
(Inaudible).

MR. LONG:  
Yes, across all disciplines. It was quite significant for me to read that over 2000 people are involved, presumably in some form of full-time employment in this sector. These are figures from 1983. Also in the consultant's report they have figures from across Canada from 1986. I would like to bring this to the minister's attention, if he has not had an opportunity to read the report: "The contributions of the

Arts and Culture sector to Canada's gross domestic product is somewhat larger than tobacco, textile, clothing and plastic industries and on a par with such sectors as metals and mines, utilities and accommodation and food service." So, what we see here, Mr. Speaker, is an outline of the economic importance of the cultural economy. It is clear to me that in order to begin to establish for the future some kind of sense of what we want to do with public policy, where the government is going to make initiatives and break new ground and bring the community of artists and people working in arts activity, individual artists and arts groups across the Province that are in all our schools, that are in every community, people who have a relationship in one form or another to culture, the live culture that exists in their communities and their interest in participating more and learning more, in order to begin to formulate a policy, we need to do some of our own analysis of what exists in the Province, and we need to begin to see the resource that has been existing here for some time, for generations and centuries.

Indeed, that is the way we are often seen by people from the outside, as having this incredible natural resource which has little or nothing to do with the wealth of the resources forestry and fish and mines and so on, but the people of Newfoundland, themselves, are always seen, if not in cultural or economic terms, to be the most interesting resource that this Province has to offer.

I think there is a broad recognition across this country

that Newfoundland is an undeveloped region. In fact, Newfoundland's representative in the federal Cabinet not too long ago talked about comparing the Atlantic Region, and Newfoundland was on his mind, no doubt, as it usually is, to the Third World. There is a recognition that everything that Newfoundland and Labrador as a Province is attempting to deal with - we hear this all the time from various ministers talking about the fiscal difficulties of the Province - is developmental. It is clear, or at least it should be clear, that in considering a broad development strategy for the Province, which is obviously the purview of the government - that is the business of the government, to try and deal in a concrete way with the development of a strategy to make full use of all our resources - the time has come to include in all our planning and our increasing fascination - these days the Premier quite regularly comes into the House and promises new and expanded activity in science and technology. He is to be lauded for that, sometimes moreso than at other times.

The problems with the greenhouse are ones that are in front of us every day, but other times on the commitment to science and technology, the cold ocean research, the earth sciences, these things, the focus that the university has on development science and technology, the Premier gives a good argument.

MR. SPEAKER:  
Order, please!

The hon. member's time has elapsed.

MR. LONG:  
Just by way of concluding, if I

may have a minute or so, I want to say, particularly to the Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth, that when he sits at the Cabinet Table and there are competing demands being made on the resources of the Province, the minister should take some solace in the fact that increasingly across the Province there is the growing recognition that our cultural resources are among the most important, and if there is ever a question of relative need around the Cabinet Table, he will have no problem, in political terms, in generating broad support for any initiatives that the minister and the government might take in the cultural industry.

Mr. Speaker, I have twenty minutes more next Wednesday and I will return and expand on some of these themes and raise some new ones. I will be pleased to allow the minister to respond to the motion now.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. BUTT:

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I want to commend the hon. the member for St. John's East for bringing forward this resolution. While I have some problems with the wording, these are merely technical matters in getting it into its proper perspective and timing. I think we can agree on it for the most part. It is important, as well, that as it is the first Private Member's resolution that the hon. member had an opportunity to bring before the House, it is on a subject that

he and I have a lot of mutual understanding and agreement on. As a matter of fact, it is one of the very few things the hon. gentleman and I agree on.

Nevertheless, on this important matter, Mr. Speaker, we agree and agree wholeheartedly on the importance of the cultural community, both from a social and cultural point of view, for the economic value of cultural activities in our communities around the Province, the kind of monies that folk festivals and so on generate, and the employment created in the performing arts and visual arts and so on around our Province, it is extremely important.

I want to tell the hon. member that I find very little wrong with this resolution that he has brought forward except, perhaps, that I would have had the wording a little different. Just to deal quickly with the resolution, because twenty minutes goes by very quickly when you are on such an important subject, my wording would have been a little different. Nevertheless, I can leave the first part of the resolution as it is with one exception, I think, and that is the second WHEREAS: 'WHEREAS the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council exists as an agency designed to act as a lifeline for working artists but has been unable to fulfill its mandate due to the imposition of severe economic restraints.' That is - I will not say twisted, that is not a good parliamentary word - somewhat different than the way I would have put it, Mr. Speaker. I think, perhaps, the objectives of the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council are to foster and promote the study, production and

enjoyment of work in arts through grants and other means. That is really the way I see the role of the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council, people who are doing yeoman service to this Province.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to point out some of the very significant things that have happened during the Peckford Administration in the arts community here in Newfoundland and Labrador. As an administration, we do not have to take a back seat to anyone in what we have initiated and brought forward for the cultural community out there. Nobody disagrees that more money is required. I think the hon. member was quite fair in the comment he made, that we have to compete against social services, hospital beds, roads, water and sewer, and things like that, so you have to look at it all realistically.

The Cultural Affairs Division of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Youth spends about 35 per cent of the department's budget. I want to demonstrate that and give you some facts and figures in that regard, because I think it is important to get it on the public record. I know there are some people in the galleries today from the cultural community and the arts community and so on, and perhaps even some of those people may not know the extent of the money we do spend. I think we are lacking, by the way, and, as a relatively new minister in the department, it is a great area of interest to me, the area that I want to focus in on, I hope, particularly in the next budget year, is the thrust towards human resource development.

There is a lot of money spent in

the cultural community on infrastructure. Just in the administration of the Division, for example, there is about \$120,000 a year right now. Arts and Culture Centres cost about \$1.2 million a year to operate and when you look at the services that are voted in other departments for utilities, building services, general maintenance programmes and so on, it is another \$1.5 million.

But there are some interesting things we do here, Mr. Speaker, I think that are commendable. While more money is required, and I agree there is more money required, I think the initiatives that my predecessors have taken are commendable. I take no credit for that except as a supporting member of this administration. But in the area of support for cultural activities in salaries, in travel and supplies, and in those areas we spend about \$100,000 this year. We provide grants and subsidies, including the Arts and Letters Competition, the Publishers Assistance Programme and others and that costs about \$225,000 or a quarter of a million dollars a year. Programming for Arts and Culture Centres and second circuit venues are costing about \$1.3 million a year. Of course, Newfoundland Public Libraries, which is a very important part of the Cultural Affairs Division, has a budget of \$5.5 million a year, Mr. Speaker.

The area I believe, and most members would agree, where I think we have to focus more attention on is the grants to the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council which is presently at \$368,000. I think there is a recognition of that, and it is time for a review.

I want to be quite candid with the



hon. member who brought in this resolution and share something with him. I take no pride in doing it because actually, the amendment which I will put forward, which I think will not destroy anything in the hon. member's motion but, it was clearly what I intended to do after the Stephenville Arts Conference. I am going to be there, of course, front and centre.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. BUTT:

I am looking forward to going to Stephenville in July to meet with those people, to solicit their wise counsel on many, many areas of interest in the arts and culture community.

MR. LONG:

(Inaudible) be there to listen.

MR. BUTT:

To listen as well, yes, I will be there to listen, indeed. Yes, I will go to listen and solicit their wise counsel because some of them will have, no doubt, valued input into that important conference.

I could go on and give you a long list of other things the Department is involved in, Mr. Speaker, in secondary circuits and so on. There is a \$30,000 grant for arts and culture centres, arts and culture facilities, including the development of new facilities. There is \$153,000 for that as well. For the purchase of materials and so on, there is \$200,000 and that is in the Public Libraries Board area.

I say this because it should be noted that the budget allocation

for the Cultural Affairs Division is the largest single amount of all in the total department. If the budget allocation for the Historic Resources Division were added to the total, it would account for 36.3 per cent of the total budget of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Youth.

I think it is now important we establish a review committee made up of working artists, the Department of Culture, Recreation and Youth, statistical agencies in the Province, and so on, to review this whole process. It is now time to have a review. It has been several years in place and it is now time for a good, thorough review.

The Cultural Affairs Division, Mr. Speaker, spends \$9,147,000 per year. While I admit that is not enough, and maybe there are some funds in there that should be directed more towards human resource development, it is a substantial amount of money for a relatively small department in a relatively small Province. It is not overwhelming, but it is \$9,147,000 per year.

As well, I think, it is important to point out that we also fund the MUN Art Gallery and there are other departments of government that subsidize and support the arts in the procurement programme, that is 1 per cent. For the last three years, I think, we have been spending around \$100,000 a year gathering valuable art work for all our public buildings. That is very important.

MS VERGE:

The Department of Education.

MR. BUTT:

Yes, the Department of Education

is also involved in funding the artistic and cultural community.

Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development supports the arts through their rural development grants for crafts and so on. That is an important element when you look at the total picture.

There is a fair amount of money going into the artistic and cultural community but perhaps some of it needs re-direction and that is what this review committee hopefully will be able to bring back, necessary recommendations to government so in the next fiscal year that can be reflected in the budget.

Mr. Speaker, I want to move an amendment, seconded by the President of the Council (Mr. Simms), that we delete all the words immediately in the first THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED and replace it with the following:

"Authorize a review commission with two objectives" and the objectives are the same as are in the hon. member's resolution, one and two are unchanged.

The other part of it is to delete the words after AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED and replace it with the following, this is the major part of the change:

"AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study be conducted as a special project of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Youth, involving the Newfoundland Statistics Agency, the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council, the Department of Finance, representatives of the independent working artists, and any other Department or agency necessary; that special efforts be

made to collect data from delegates at the Conference for the Arts scheduled for July in Stephenville; - that is why that is so important. We want to have that valued input there - "and that, in view of the tremendous amount of work required to prepare adequate questionnaires, conduct research, gather information, and the response and assimilation time required to complete a full and accurate evaluation of the status of the artists, adequate time be allowed for the completion of this study, keeping in mind that the results should be available by the end of December 1988 in advance of budget considerations for the 1989/1990 fiscal year."

I trust that the hon. member for St. John's East - he nods his head in approval - recognizes, of course, and said so in his opening statement, that this amendment would not destroy his resolution but would make it more acceptable and timely for the House, taking into consideration the importance of the Stephenville Arts Council. Could I have somebody to pass this on to His Honour to adjudicate on?

MR. SPEAKER (Parsons):  
Order, please!

I have read the amendment and I find it in order.

MR. BUTT:  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I will just continue and wrap up. I want to address just very briefly the economic value of cultural activities in our Province and in our country.

I was fortunate enough to attend a conference just recently in Montreal where this very topical subject was being discussed.

While we had presentations from the city of New York, Berlin and places like that, if you wanted to scale it down to our size, in fact, it clearly showed cultural and social activities in our Province can draw big dollars in tourist dollars and so on.

If you look at the Stephenville Festival now, that is associated as a tourism booster in the Bay St. George area. The Stephenville Festival is well known now throughout Eastern Canada and, in fact, in some parts of the United States.

I think those kinds of activities create a tremendous economic value in certain parts of our Province. The many, many other folk festivals attract people from not only within the Province, who travel - they spend money obviously and stimulate employment and all kinds of good activities in some more remote areas of our Province - but also, of course, people who come in from all over the United States and Canada.

Just the other day I was watching television and I saw a couple being interviewed from New York down at the Twillingate folk festival and they have been coming to Twillingate now for the last seven or eight years. They think it is the best thing since sliced bread. They love it and they will come back for the next ten years hopefully. So it creates that kind of economic value to our Province and to our country.

The final point I want to just make in passing is to bring hon. members up to date. The Newfoundland Arts Council now, of course, is housed in a building that is less than desirable.

They will be taking up new premises in the historic Newman properties downtown in late Autumn of this year. I think that is important. That will be a permanent home for the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council, people who have dedicated a lot of time and effort.

While it has sometimes been controversial, it has done a good job, I think, for the artists, for government and for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador.

I know it has been suggested by some people in the arts community that this should be a totally elected body. While that appears on the surface to be a very practical way to go, in fact, I think it has some inherent complications in it. I guess that is one of many subjects that will be discussed at the Stephenville Arts Conference.

So, Mr. Speaker, in concluding my remarks on this important resolution, as amended, I hope that the amendment I put forward will receive a favourable response from members of the House on both sides and from all parties. I look forward to carrying on this debate in Stephenville in July.

Thank you.

MR. HISCOCK:  
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Parsons):  
The hon. the member for Eagle River.

MR. HISCOCK:  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. HISCOCK:

The official Opposition is quite pleased with the resolution. We would like to see it in a little bit more of a simple form of language.

With regard to "WHEREAS the City of St. John's is currently reviewing its financial and policy commitment to civic arts," we would hope it would not only be in regard to St. John's that this resolution would be geared but to the artistic community in the province as whole.

With the economic benefits the artistic community contributes in this Province, it is about time they get recognition.

The member for Stephenville (Mr. K. Alyward), the critic for Culture, Recreation and Youth before me, attended the conference out in Gander in 1985. There was no representative there from government and we are now pleased to see that we have a minister who seems to be taking at least a verbal interest in it. I have a difference with him when he says that about \$9 million is spent on cultural or historic resources in -

MR. BUTT:

Look in the Budget, old boy!

MR. HISCOCK:

Maybe the minister might be a little older than I am, but I am no boy, either.

With regard to the \$9 million, I think what he did, Mr. Speaker, is he drove it up because, according to the Budget, it is \$3,887,800. Now, if you put the libraries in that, of course, it brings it up to \$9 million. But we also know that when you look at this \$4 million, most of this \$4 million

is into infrastructure, salaries and into programmes. The library, of course, gets the majority of salaries. He failed to realize, particularly with the libraries, how much the library hours were cut back.

The main part of the resolution, which we agree with, is because of the economic conditions in our Province at this time - and it is true of any civilization - that when the economy has a downturn, the first ones that are cut back are in the social field, whether it be health, housing, education, and of course, the ones that are cut even more are artists because society, as a whole, and particularly in Newfoundland, have not realized the contribution that the artistic community, by way of culture and art, contribute to the economic sphere in this Province.

The member for St. John's East (Mr. Long) mentioned a study in 1983. I can ask the minister, when he talks about having an in-house study with extra people put on that study from the artistic community and Stats Canada, a total review, I would hope that he would be quicker in getting his answers out on this study than he did - I still do not have them - when I asked the similar questions to his departments on this topic, such as: How many art galleries are in the Province? How many people are employed in them? I asked other questions about the artists in the Province and we still do not have answers.

As I pointed out to the minister, what happens, Mr. Speaker, in this Province, which is shame, is that many of our artists in this Province, particularly the more prominent ones, sell their art on

the mainland. Newfoundlanders when they are travelling on the mainland buy the arts with no sales tax, and have it shipped back, which undercuts our galleries here in this Province. It also undercuts Newfoundlanders who would like to be buying more art, but because the 12 per cent sales tax is quite something, do not. We did away with it on crafts. Our party is on record for the past three or four years as saying it should be done away with with regard to art itself.

We also believe, looking at the number four "WHEREAS", the social consequences of art, and the first resolution, the two objectives of looking at spending levels on material, supplies, and spinoffs, we would hope that before the government gets into - because they do have the majority and no matter what amendments are done and what resolutions are brought in, the government will have its day - that while we are waiting for this, government would look at it as a generator of money and jobs in this Province and do away with sales tax related in any way, shape or form related to the artistic community, whether they are buying supplies for their art, whether they are buying costumes, whether they are buying props, whether they are getting involved in printing of books, or x number of other ways. There the Province can help in a very direct way. I hope that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Windsor) realizes the contribution that the artistic and cultural fabric of our Province contributes.

I think it is beginning to be realized that probably this Province of Newfoundland and Labrador has one of the most vibrant artistic communities for

the size of its population in Canada, and probably North America included.

We have seen what happened with regard to the Stephenville Festival. We have seen what happened with the Theatre Newfoundland and the impact that is having on the schools. We see also how the LSPU Hall has struggled over the years but continued to keep going. They had to use various means of getting money, like Canada Works Projects and other social service programmes.

But when you look at the Arts and Culture Centres in the Province, we built one in Labrador City. We know what the players in Labrador City are doing in their acting abilities at the festivals, but when they need somebody to go in, and they are having groups going into Labrador City, what happens? They have to bring in technicians, they have to bring in support staff. We are not having any programmes there we can train local people in the community as part-time people in other jobs, full jobs, and they can be getting involved in other areas, or we are not looking at having a base where we can have four or five or ten people employed in the Department of Culture, Recreation and Youth that can travel around to the various Arts and Culture Centres, as well as schools, as well as other community facilities that are used.

So, I am disappointed, from the Minister's point of view, when he gets up and says, 'We will give \$368,000 to the Arts and Letters Competition, an increase of \$10,000. With regard to Permanent Anniversary and Celebrations in the budget, there is over

\$11,000.' I can go on with regard to other groups in the Province, saying the amount of money that is given. And we are talking about \$40 and we are talking about \$50,000 and we are talking about \$100,000 and \$150,000.

If you take out the project money that is given to the artistic community and given to the cultural groups that they actually have use of, that they can take it and take time and research a play, or research a book, or to get involved, we probably only have, Mr. Speaker, altogether, only \$200,000 out of the \$9 million, if you include the libraries.

So what the artistic community is saying is that you have to give us more money with regard to production and producing of material and plays, and other forms of cultural events. The infrastructures are okay, and I think that this is one of the disagreements that some supported and others did not support, the idea of the York Theatre. It is another infrastructure.

We have the infrastructures here in the City, and, of course, we would like to have more, but the bottom line still comes down: What is the sense of having an Arts and Culture Centre in Labrador City and having it closed twelve months of the year, and probably only having it one month open entirely? It probably would have been better, but again, an election ploy, it would have been better to give so much money to upgrade one of the gymnasiums in the schools and then take that other money and get into a production element.

So, our party, in particular, would like to see more money put

into the production level. I believe this study could look at ways of how to find more money, whether it is from the corporate sponsors, whether it is from private, whether it is from match funding, there are many other ways that it could be done. I do think immediate action can be taken by way of getting rid of the sales tax on various groups.

Prince Edward is visiting the Province and they are having an event at the Arts and Culture Centre. I brought that up to the minister during the Estimates. And the only reason I brought up whether people support the monarchy or not, or any international person coming to the Province, is because we should be using the international press to display our art, and to give exposure to our writers and special events, etc. I ask the minister, since the Prince Edward has a great interest in the arts, and it is his livelihood, whether he is going to make sure that the artistic community will as a group display art and writing, as well as productions, in an open atmosphere rather than just sitting in a theatre and watching people perform.

With regard to Soiree '88, there are also major anniversaries and other events coming up in the Province, as well as major conventions; the NTA, for example, are having their national convention in the city in June.

Is the Department of Culture, Recreation and Youth having any dialogue with the artistic community so that they can at least know when various events are taking place in this Province, and working on having some of our art displayed and our theatrical

groups performing at the major national conventions?

Mr. Speaker, officials in the department could correlate information and get it out to the artistic community to let them know what groups are coming.

The Arts and Letters Competition: They have had to reorganize that and put two or three categories together in order to make the amount of prize money a half decent award. That amount has not been increased in the past fifteen or sixteen years, or more. Is the Department of Culture, Recreation and Youth commissioning any plays, or music, or sculptures?

The Province started out on a good footing, and I commended the Premier over the past nine years I have been here for taking the lead - and the Minister of Justice was partly responsible - in setting up the Arts Council.

But the amount of money that was given in 1979, when I was first elected, has not kept up with the rate of inflation, with the rate of expenses. Government are patting themselves on the back all the time and the minister is notorious for it, and getting up and saying, Look, we spent \$9 million. What more can we spend?

Mr. Speaker, we have to realize, and the artistic community has to realize, also, that this Province is on a shoestring budget, the soles are out of it, the laces are gone, the heels are gone, and the leather is falling apart. We have a big deficit. We have schools in this Province without proper equipment, hospital beds are being closed, our people are working for almost the minimum wage, people are going hungry, single mothers

do not have day care, so the artistic community as well as the Province must realize that money is not the answer, that we just cannot pour it out and give more. If it were the answer, we could borrow another \$5 billion but somebody has to pay for it in the end.

But what this government can do is raise the visibility of our artists and their contribution to the Province. A fair number of people in our society believe they depend totally on government handouts, that they do not contribute anything. The study mentioned by the member for St. John's East proves how much they contribute. Go to Stephenville. Ask the member for Stephenville how much they contribute. When I was teaching in Forteau, Labrador, I was involved with the youth high school drama festival which we won, we then went to St. Anthony and won that region, and then to Grand Falls.

The minister taps and the government pat themselves on the shoulder and say, we now have drama in our schools. Do we have competitions for young playwrights in the high school system? When I attended that festival I was amazed, I truly was, that the majority of the plays were written by the students themselves. This is where I think we as a Province should be going, getting into more awards and commissioning plays on a professional level. But with regard to nurturing the younger ones in the high school system and getting them involved, I think that can easily be done, when you consider the Premier goes around in a limousine and has his \$2000 a night hotel rooms, and when you consider that ministers now have something like fifteen press

secretaries at almost \$30,000 a year each, fifteen of them. Mr. Speaker, government says they do not have the money, yet they are spending it in ways that are wasteful.

We support the resolution. We will look at the amendment, because it will be debated next week. We will talk with the member for St. John's East and any members of the artistic community. I invite members of the artistic community who are in the gallery to give their comments to myself or to Mr. Kevin Aylward, the member for Stephenville, on how they perceive the amendment.

One of the things that has to be answered is why do we need to spend money on a study which is going to cost \$200,000 or \$500,000? Perhaps we should look at the possibility of a select committee of the House, from which we are paid, and having professional staff and people from the artistic community travel with them, and all the expense will then be looked after by the House of Assembly and will not come out of general revenue as such, the end result being the \$200,000 or the \$500,000 could then be turned over to the artistic community.

I think some of those things have to be discussed. I do not know whether the member for St. John's East is asking for a Royal Commission or not. We know the commission on health care cost about \$4 million. The minister is saying he wants to have a study done. I believe the artistic community wants to have a study done. Or does the artistic community want recognition given by this Province to the contribution they are making? If that is the answer, one of the

things I believe this resolution can do is at least, and I hope the media will be reporting it, raise the level of consciousness of our people to what the artistic and cultural community is doing to improve the economy of our Province.

Once they realize it, corporate and private people will obviously get behind them a little bit more, as will government.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. HISCOCK:

I do believe, no matter which form or shape it takes, we should be travelling around the Province to raise the profile of the artistic community. Mr. Speaker, in concluding, we have not been in power for the past seventeen years, but we support the artistic community, and we hope, Mr. Speaker, to see the day, which will not be too long from now, when we will be in power with fresh ideas and be able to do some of the things that need to be done.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Justice.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MS VERGE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker,

Mr. Speaker, the same as the previous two speakers I want to start by praising the member for St. John's East for initiating this debate on the arts. I think it is quite constructive for all of us to spend a couple of afternoons talking about the



importance of the arts to our Province and reflecting on how each of us and the government can do more to recognize the vital force of the arts in our Province, and search for ways to provide better support to our artists.

Secondly, I want to congratulate him for putting forward what I see as quite a useful, practical suggestion for action. I do think that the motion has been improved by the amendment made by the Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth. I hasten to add that the amendment, in my view, does not take away at all from the substance of the original motion, that the meat of the motion made by the member for St. John's East is still there. The amendment simply calls for a modified approach to carrying out the study, a slightly different composition of the study team, and provides for a longer time frame, but still short enough to incorporate the study findings into the preparation of the next provincial budget.

I think the amendment sets out a realistic time frame. Between now and the end of July is not really enough time to do the work required. The deadline is, as I say, in time for the next provincial budget. The revised time frame allows for input from the artists who will come together at the Conference in Stephenville at the end of July.

The amended composition of the study team integrates both public officials, public servants who are with the Department of Culture, Recreation and Youth, who are with the Department of Finance, the Department of Education, who work for the Newfoundland Statistics Agency, the staff and members of

the Provincial Arts Council, on the one hand, they are people working within the Provincial Government public sector, and it also includes representation from independent working artists. So I think there we would have the best of both worlds and have the advantages that would flow from involvement of both sectors, who will have, obviously, an ongoing responsibility to develop the arts in the Province.

Also, the approach is reasonably economical. I agree with the comments made earlier about the need to carry out a meaningful study without spending a lot of money. Because, after all, what we would like to end up seeing is all available public resources for the arts not going into studying the arts or administering the arts but actually assisting artistic activity itself. For all those reasons, I think the amendment made by the minister is an improvement.

I would like to next make some comments about the planned Provincial Conference for the Arts, set to take place in Stephenville at the end of July. This is the second such Provincial Conference for the Arts; the first was held in Gander a couple of years ago. This Conference is being planned by a Committee made up of working artists and supporters of the arts in Western Newfoundland, some of them living in Stephenville and others in the Corner Brook area. From what I know, the Conference planners have taken a very good approach to setting the agenda and laying the groundwork for the Conference. They have convened meetings of professional artists in St. John's and in Corner Brook. They have written artists throughout the

Province soliciting their ideas about what they would like to see happen at the Conference, what topics they would like to see dealt with at the Conference.

The meeting in Corner Brook was held around the middle of April. An artist there called an invited me to sit in on the meeting, which I was glad to do. It was held on a Sunday afternoon and there was a good turnout. The Chairperson of the Conference Organizing Committee, Ken Livingstone, chaired that meeting. After listening to some of the discussion from the Corner Brook area artists, and then hearing a report from Mr. Livingstone on the suggestions made at the earlier St. John's meeting, it became clear that one of the topics artists consider deserves priority on the Stephenville contents agenda is provincial government funding for the arts.

At that point, I suggested to the conference planners that in advance of the conference they get from the Department of Culture, Recreation and Youth a statement about existing funding, with sufficient detail to allow for good analysis. It seems to me that while there is a need to look at the sufficiency of funding, the absolute amount of dollars going from the provincial government to the arts, there is also a need to address the structuring of that funding, the allocation of the funding, to see if there cannot be ways of reallocating some of the money to get better return on the investment.

At any rate, that suggestion was well received and, I understand, has been acted on. Because in speaking to officials of the Department of Culture, Recreation

and Youth, I was told that indeed they were working on procuring such a statement of provincial funding for the arts for the Stephenville Conference Committee. I am one of the MHAs intending to sit in on that conference. I look forward to hearing what the artists suggest for improving the quality of artistic activity in the Province, and for improving support from the public sector and the private sector. So, the Stephenville conference promises to be very beneficial to artists and to the provincial government.

The study proposed in the member for St. John's East's motion, I think, has a number of very good features. I like the fact that it calls for a study of the cultural economy and then breaks that down into a number of subheads: market audience, spending on supplies and services, related employment, and tax revenue. I suppose those three can be grouped under the heading, Economic Benefits. It then calls for an analysis of public funding and a comparison of public funding given to the arts in our Province with what is provided to artists in other jurisdictions.

I also like the second part of the study, which will be an examination of working artists and their economic status. I think it is very important, actually, to have a comprehensive study of all these issues carried out in a high profile way, because, I think, while some of us are familiar with some of these characteristics of our Province, not enough of us have the full picture. Quite a bit of good, I think, will come of having that full picture made out and publicized. For example, perhaps the Stephenville town

council, as a group, will appreciate more than they do now the value of the Stephenville Festival to the economy of Stephenville. That is just one small example.

Other municipalities throughout the Province, the city of Corner Brook being another example, I think, on gaining a better understanding of the full value of artistic activity in their areas may be prompted to give a support that is deserving to artists in their areas. So those features of the proposed study, I certainly agree with.

I would like to see, as I say, an examination not only of the level of provincial government funding but also of the structuring of the funding. I would also like an indication of artists prioritization of possibilities for improved funding and restructured funding.

There are a number of ideas that I have discussed with artists, for example, increasing the level of funding given to the Arts Council which they in turn allocate to working artists. Another example is a reduction of or even an elimination of fees charged by the Arts and Culture Centre to resident professional performing artists and arts companies. My third example is the elimination of a sales tax on visual art; that now brings into the Province about \$100,000 a year. These are three possibilities. It would be useful for the government to hear from artists what priority they collectively attach to those ideas, and undoubtedly there are lots of other ideas artists will lay out for us of measures to improve support for them.

Right now the Department of Culture, Recreation and Youth is spending quite a lot of its money for the performing arts through the operation of arts and culture centres. It is clear that these centres serve a lot more than artists, although the titles, and I think the original intention, suggest that the primary objective is to support professional artists. But, nevertheless, the centres are used for schools, for christmas concerts, for graduations and amateur artists, and those are all worthy activities.

I would like to see this study examine indepth the way in which the arts and culture centres are being administered, the priorities that are being assigned by the administrators of the centres to the competing users. The way the centres are administered now is essentially a centralized St. John's bureaucratic model. The minister has indicated to me that he is quite keen on looking at alternatives to this style of administration. It seems to me if we were to move to a decentralized approach through which local and regional activity and ingenuity are fostered, we would get more use and value from our arts and culture centres. I would like to have a search made for ways of using the arts and culture centres to encourage local dynamism. Secondly, I would like an examination made of the scheduling of the arts and culture centres and the assignment of time for various users. I believe priority should be given to providing time to resident professional arts companies and artists, with a lower priority given to non-resident touring groups and to resident school groups or amateurs. I think the focus of

our arts and culture centres should be on working professional artists and arts companies in the Province.

I believe that there are ways, even within the existing budget, for the arts and culture centres to get a much better return for the arts in our Province from those buildings.

I would like to digress for a minute and say that I think we are very fortunate to have the arts and culture facilities we have. Many other provinces, through their representatives, have expressed some envy of our facilities. But the challenge we face is getting better use from those facilities.

I would also like to say that I am very encouraged by the initiative shown by the present Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth in carrying out a comprehensive review of his department's Cultural Affairs Division of the arts and culture centres administration, and I am pleased with the enthusiasm he displays for the arts as minister.

Now, all that was directed at provincial government support for the arts in our Province, which is of critical importance, but, Mr. Speaker, it is equally important to acknowledge other sources of funding and support for the arts. There has been mention made of the other levels of government, municipal government, the federal government, the Canada Council, which is an agency of the federal government, for example. In one of the recitals to the motion the member for St. John's East makes mention of and praises recent steps taken by the City of St. John's to foster the arts in this municipality and, as the member

for Eagle River (Mr. Hiscock) says, it is equally important to address the roles of the other municipalities in the Province.

St. John's has taken the lead. I think the Deputy Mayor of St. John's personally deserves some credit for that. The City of Corner Brook has not taken as comprehensive an approach yet, but in the last couple of years has provided a limited amount of funding to Theatre Newfoundland and Labrador, which is the resident professional Theatre company in Corner Brook, and I was quite encouraged to see that development.

I would hope that this study will perhaps be a catalyst for more and better action by municipal governments in the Province. The federal government clearly has most of the public resources; most of the tax dollars shelled out by citizens of this Province go to the federal government. The Canada Council is the major source of public funding for artists throughout Canada.

I look forward to seeing the results of this study's comparison of Canada Council funding to artists in our Province and to artists elsewhere in Canada. I would also like to see a breakdown of Canada Council support to the different regions of our Province. From what I know, artists in our Province are not getting a fair share of Canada Council funding and perhaps if we can identify the shortfall, we can more aggressively get after the Canada Council and the federal government to give a more deserving level of funding and support to artists in our Province.

Apart from the public sector, Mr.

Speaker, it is critical that private individuals and firms and businesses give support to the arts. Under those headings, we can talk about corporate support and tax incentives for business support for the arts. We can also talk about audience development, and each of those, I think, are covered in the terms of reference for the study in the motion.

Finally, in the couple of moments remaining to me, Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak as the member for Humber East in acknowledging the contribution of the arts to that district in the Province. Humber East includes part of the city of Corner Brook and the lower Humber Valley. In that area the activity over the past few years of Theatre Newfoundland and Labrador, Edmund McLean is artistic director, Julia Rank, a dancer and dance instructor, Eileen Woolridge and Shawn Steffler are visual artists; authors and poets, such as Al Pittman and John Steffler, have all made Humber East district and Corner Brook a much better place to live.

Our quality of life has been enriched because we have those people working there, because we have those groups working there. Some of those people have lived there all their lives, others have moved there more recently. They have been inspirations for each other; there has been good mutual support among artists there. Some of the artists who have moved there in the past few years tell me that one of the reasons they were drawn to the area is the natural scenic beauty. Another feature that pleases them is the kind of encouragement and help they get from other artists.

That is really good to see. Some of the improvements they have contributed to cannot be measured in dollars and cents, but, I suppose, somebody omnipotent could link their contributions to business development and economic development. It seems to me, with the information age and future technologies, economic activity will be possible pretty well anywhere on this globe, and investors and managers will have broad choice in geographic location, and quality of life will be a very important factor in their determination. So in the case of the Corner Brook area, the fact that we have a thriving arts community will be a draw for business and investors to Corner Brook. It is a nice place to live, and the artists who are producing there have made it even a better place to live.

There are economic contributions being made by the artists which can be measured on financial statements. Some of these indicators are enumerated in the motion. Obviously, they are living there, they are buying goods and services there, they are paying taxes, they are employing people. Theatre Newfoundland and Labrador employs quite a few people, some permanently year round, others on contract.

MR. SPEAKER:  
Order, please!

The hon. minister's time is up.

MS VERGE:  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

In summary then, I am quite delighted, actually, that the member for St. John's East has made this motion. The call for the study is a good move. I

believe it will constructively contribute to the development of arts in our Province, which I see as critically important. The slight amendment does not detract from the essence of the motion, it just suggests an altered way of carrying out the study which will ensure that it is reasonably economical, it does not cost an arm and a leg, and it does not eat up money unnecessarily which should and could be given to artists and arts activity, and gives an enlarged time frame to incorporate input from the Stephenville conference, but cutting off the process in time for incorporation of results in the next provincial government budget. Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Stephenville.

MR. K. AYLWARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. K. AYLWARD:

It is a pleasure to rise today debating the motion put forward by the member for St. John's East (Mr. Long). Sitting here and listening to the Minister of Justice (Ms. Verge), I must say here comments were quite good and gave a good understanding of a number of the issues involved. I appreciate her efforts, especially in the West Coast of the Province.

I maybe would give some advise to the Premier, that he would consider here as the next Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth,

as a matter of fact, since she has such a good knowledge. I am sure she will provide that wisdom to the hon. minister, and I am sure she does so.

It is a pleasure to rise today here to speak on the resolution, to talk about arts funding and the situation with artists in this Province. Stephenville has been mentioned here a number of times today for many good reasons.

The Stephenville Festival will be celebrating its tenth anniversary this Summer and is undertaking another major programme. I am looking forward to seeing a good number of people from across the Province attend the festival. It has made a tremendous contribution, as have the other festivals around the Province, but specifically in the area of Stephenville, both in the economics of the area and also in the social area.

It provides to many people an attraction to come to the area, Bay St. George. It has now become a major attraction in Atlantic Canada and indeed Canada. It has become part of a programme that has been launched now by the town of Stephenville who last year got into some debate about the basics of the money support, but they have straightened out that position and they are providing a very strong commitment and, hopefully, stronger financial support is coming up. They are promoting the Stephenville Festival across Canada and I am hoping to see the tenth anniversary be the most successful year we have seen.

I would also like to thank Edmund McLean who has so ably and very quickly offered to take over the

directorship of the Stephenville Festival for the Summer, because of the recent passing of Mr. Mazumdar who made such a great contribution to the Stephenville Festival of the Arts over the past number of years. To Mr. MacLean the Stephenville Festival will owe a great debt.

Speaking of the arts conference, which is coming up in Stephenville the Summer, it will provide, I think, a good concentration on the issues that artists and people in the arts community face. It will give a concentration on the direct issues they must deal with on a daily basis and hopefully it will provide some realistic solutions to some of the problems they are facing.

I think maybe we, over the past number of years, have talked a lot about it but when it came to initiative or action to be taken, we have hesitated, for whatever reason, and have not brought forward the proper policies or the proper direction.

I think it is time we in the political arena listen more acutely to people in the arts community so we can provide what is needed out there, a good sound policy which deals with the issues and the problems they face.

I welcome the motion put forward by the member for St. John's East and I think that out of it, and the government seems to indicate now they are looking very seriously at getting a review done of the situation, of the problems that are being faced out there, that maybe we can see out of Stephenville in July some solutions to the problem and a real policy on paper that indicates the perspectives of

people in the arts community and also provides a way to deal with problems.

There is no doubt in my mind, being from the Stephenville area, that the arts community contributes a great deal to the economy, but I think also you raise it up a bit and it contributes to the social fabric of the Province. We have such a wide variety of people and groups in the artistic community that are contributing a great deal. Many times, I think, they go unnoticed but the provincial government is starting to do something and more needs to be done.

It is time we recognize the contributions they make in the Province and the acclaim they have received from all over Canada and, of course, internationally. We have people in this Province who have done very well and are contributing a great deal to the fabric for which we all live here.

We have a number of problems, Mr. Speaker, that we and many people face in the Province when it comes to a variety of other issues, but in putting forward a kind of attitude and a spirit, Mr. Speaker, I think we rely a great deal on the arts community. Their contribution cannot be under estimated. I think maybe that has been done in the past be it through the fault of nobody as such but just that the concentration of they have been able to do and what they contribute has not been seen.

I am optimistic this review which is going to be done will see some realistic solutions brought forward. I appreciate the comments made by the Minister of

Justice when she suggests some things that can be done to help with the funding mechanism provincially. I also agree with her when it comes to talking about funding from the Canada Council.

I have had some discussions with the Stephenville Festival people over the years and other artist groups in the communities and the proper funding and proper recognition from the Canada Council may be has not been coming forward. We should push, as a government, as much as possible to make sure that that is recognized.

When we talk about the funding mechanism, which is very important to the artists in the Province and to the professional associations, we must realize when we talk about trying to get money from the private sector, the Stephenville Festival, and Cheryl Stagg who has been the administrator of that festival and who has done very well, when we look at the private sector funding, we must be careful because in the Province we have here right now, we do not have a great deal of private sector business and industry. We have to probably educate and bring forward some incentives for businesses and business people to contribute more to the arts community, but we must also realize that we cannot throw the burden fully so much towards them.

We have as a Province, I think, more of an inherent responsibility to deal with the problem and to put forward more funding more so or in proportion more than would in Ontario or wherever because the private sector there is much, much larger as a percentage, as a per capita then we have here. I think we have more of a responsibility

in this Province with our unique culture and with the talent we have in the Province to promote it more so than other provinces. So I think the provincial government has that responsibility and that responsibility should be addressed.

Mr. Speaker, in looking at the amendment and also the motion put forward, you cannot disagree with the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. Long) when he talks about the funding and so on, the economic adversity and the consequences that are being faced by people in the arts community and, indeed, in the Province. So these problems have to be addressed.

One of the things this provincial government did a number of years ago to try to address the problem was a provincial Arts Council that was brought in. I have the act here, Mr. Speaker, under which it was brought in.

The purpose of the Arts Council was to foster and promote the study, enjoyment of, and production of works in the arts of the Province and encourage the preservation and public awareness of cultural heritage. The object of the Council was also to advise the minister with respect to the development of arts in the Province.

I think the Arts Council over the years, especially when there was some controversy a few short years ago, was not perceived by the government of the day to be fulfilling, maybe, that role. But I think now, in the past number of months, the provincial government and the new minister, as he seems to indicate, feel we are on a sound footing and that everybody seems to be going in the right



direction. I would hope that that is the case and we will see a concerted effort to see the Arts Council of the Province working with the government of the day and also the artists and the groups that are out there that are striving ahead, I hope we will see that gel together when we come together in Stephenville. When we see the agenda put forward by Mr. Livingston who has been working quite hard to put together the efforts in Stephenville. Hopefully we will see those things gel together to provide, as I say, some realistic, on-paper solutions and incentives that will see the problem being dealt with when it comes to funding for the arts and the other issues, when it comes to the responsibilities of the government and the people within the arts community.

I am glad to see the Arts Council is going to have a new headquarters in the Newman Building. I think that is a step forward for the Province. I think it is a step forward for the Council.

One of the problems they were facing at the time a couple of years ago was the funding mechanism. They were getting so much funding, say it was \$200,000, and it was costing them about 40 or 50 per cent of their budget to operate an office, rental expenses, secretaries, etc., whatever. It was costing in operational expenses alone half their budget which meant that they could hardly concentrate on the funding of artists in the Province. That was a problem, I think, they were trying to deal with which they were not really treated fairly for. At least now I am happy to see they are going to be put into a cultural building

of the Province. Hopefully that will help in their promotion of the arts in the Province, and also they will have to deal with this problem of coming up with the dollars to run the office, which, I think, in this day and age they should not have to be worrying about. They have a mandate and we should try and help them with that mandate as best we can and within our capacities.

I think also one of the things the Stephenville Festival people have been able to do is to get a fair bit of private sector money put into the arts and the operation of the Stephenville Festival. That is something I think we should look seriously at, especially in St. John's and the bigger centres. Contributions from businesses would help in offsetting the costs and it would also see, I think, more of a consensus and a general co-operation amongst people in the Province. Because the beneficiaries, Mr. Speaker, are people who are going to attend these functions and also the people who are involved in the arts, and the young people who are getting involved.

Out my way, in the very good district, the great district of Stephenville, we have seen the training of young people through the Stephenville Festival who have gotten involved in the arts, involved with the Festival, be it through directing or be it through setting up the plays and so on, being involved in that part, or being involved as actors or actresses or being involved in specifically the performing arts. So they have had avenues to go, and I believe in Theatre Newfoundland in Corner Brook, they have also had that avenue.

MR. FUREY:

Great economic spinoff as well.

MR. K. AYLWARD:

And there has been great economic spinoff, as a matter of fact.

Some of people I have known specifically who have been involved with the Festival, for example, have ended up going to the new music programme that we have here in St. John's. So they stay within the Province. They have gone back and forth between regional centres and they have spread their talent around the Province.

I think that is has been important in the contribution to arts in the Province, but it is being done because we have the Stephenville Festival or Theatre Newfoundland or Rising Tide, and other professional organizations which deserve credit for doing good work and we should support them as best we can with the proper policy. That needs to be done.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, in speaking on the arts community and funding, I cannot go without specifically noting a couple of gentlemen who have made contributions. Rufus Guinchard, for example, is a fellow who, I believe, we see him on the commercials now advertising the Province and tourism in the Province. He is a fellow who, at his young age, is contributing a great deal to the culture of the Province, bringing out the history of the Province. Wherever he goes he is an ambassador for this Province and one who should be recognized, as a matter of fact.

MR. FUREY:

He received the Order of Canada last year.

MR. K. AYLWARD:

Order of Canada just a while ago, as a matter of fact. So he is a fellow, along with another fellow from the Port au Port Peninsula, Emile Benoit, two of those gentlemen who have been the kind of people who have kind of given a good account of themselves and spread the good word of the Province very well wherever they go.

But they are two examples, of the many that are around, of traditional music, of traditional people in the arts community who have spread the good word of the Province and developed the culture of the Province. These people should also be recognized and we should try and put in place mechanisms or a consistent policy which can help them do their work and spread their good-will.

Like I said, I think it is incumbent upon the government to draft a proper policy to deal with this matter.

In looking also, Mr. Speaker, at the funding proposals, these proposals will come out of the Stephenville Arts Conference this Summer.

I think we are getting to the point now where most groups are getting together and we should be able to see some cooperation or agreement as to where we will be. I look forward to seeing the results of that this summer.

Looking at the amendment, Mr. Speaker, that has been put forward by the Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth, I think we can support the thrust of the amendment, and also the time span which the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. Long) agreed.

I respect his wishes in trying to get a full review done or a full commission to look into it, but I think the proposal being put forward by the government, as we see it, we are reviewing it and we will give our support on the matter next week, as we decide so. But it appears, that on the face of it, it is a fairly good compromise that we hopefully can live with. It would see something being done to deal with the problem, something that has not been done for a fairly lengthy period of time.

It would also involve all of the groups that are involved with the arts community, and also people involved with the Department of Finance and the statistics agency which can bring together and give an account of what the contributions are, Mr. Speaker, to the arts community.

Also, Mr. Speaker, looking in the arts community, there is a publication that has been put out. There is an **Arts In Formation Magazine**. I do not know how many issues have been put out recently, but I know that I was a former critic for Culture, Recreation and Youth and I received on a number of occasions the **Arts In Formation Magazine** which gives a great deal of information about artists in the Province, people involved in the artistic community, and I think it speaks well and has done a tremendous job of promoting concerns of the artistic community. It also gives a good outline of a variety of the artists in the Province and the associations and so on, where you can get information. I think it is a publication that should be supported as much as possible as it puts forward the many thoughts

and concerns of people involved in the artistic community.

MR. LONG:

I helped start that one up.

MR. K. AYLWARD:

The hon. the member for St. John's East tells me he helped start the magazine. So, to his credit, may I say, it was well done. As the critic, I met with a number of people on occasion and talked to a number of people involved with it. It put forward views, of course, some of the views were not too complementary of government and I can see now why the member for St. John's East is in the Opposition. Anyway, I give him part of the praise for putting forward this publication, because it gives the view points of people involved in the industry.

I will call it an industry, Mr. Speaker, because it is in many ways. When you look at the funding given to the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council this year, it is too bad, Mr. Speaker, the provincial government could only put forward an extra \$12,000 to the Arts Council. I think that hopefully we could see, if we could get the economic situation to improve and so on, and maybe a different government and in the near future, we may see hopefully more financial resources put forward, or maybe out of the Arts Council - this is going to the hon. House Leader over there - we would see funding get to the artists of the province.

That is the goal, I think, of the hon. the member for St. John's East, and of the House of the Assembly.

We have to work out a compromise that we get funding from a number

of sources and get it into the hands of people who are out there working within the arts community to spread the good culture of the Province and also to build on the culture we have. When it comes to culture, Mr. Speaker, there are a number of festivals springing around the Province, a number of good festivals. On the Port au Port Peninsula this Summer there will be the French Folk Festival, the Une Longue Veille. A number of other festivals around the Province are springing up which deserve support from government, as much as possible.

Hopefully, we can do it, and do it through the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council, and provide the proper funding. But if we cannot, Mr. Speaker, we have to look at another mechanism. That is something that we, as a House of Assembly, and members opposite as a government, must deal with. It is a problem that is coming to a head, Mr. Speaker. It is something that we for too long have kind of shoved into the back and said, 'Well, we are not going to bother to deal with.' It is something that we should look carefully at in trying to come to a solution to the problem.

There are times, Mr. Speaker, when you tend to kind of say, 'Well, we have got some many other things that we have to take care,' and that is fine, too. They get priorities, as they should, but the spirit and the culture of the Province, which is now in our school system, as a matter of fact, there is a course now in Newfoundland culture being offered in the school system which helps develop in young people the historic culture of the Province. We should look at reasonable and workable solutions to deal with

the problem..

Unless we do that, then we are not doing the Province and the people in the Province well, we are not doing what our responsibility is to do, and I look forward to attending the festival in Stephenville this Summer.

I invite all members. I will have a schedule of events for them in the next week or so. I invite all members to the Stephenville Festival this Summer, and also to the Conference for the Arts, which will be held in Stephenville in late July.

Mr. Speaker, on that note, my contribution to this debate is just about up.

Thank you very much.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. WARREN:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Northern Development.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. WARREN:

Mr. Speaker, I suppose first, before I begin, I would think I should refer back to the last comments by the hon. member for Stephenville (Mr. K. Aylward). I think he said the spirit and culture of our Province. I would think that the Leader of the official Opposition (Mr. Wells) would not mind if his colleagues would refrain from the gestures they have been noted for in the past, in particular, I refer to the member for Fortune -

Hermitage, (Mr. Simmons). I also refer to probably, and I think members on this side have seen it in the last number of weeks, the member for St. Barbe, (Mr. Furey) and the member for Naskaupi, (Mr. Kelland), let them keep their gestures to themselves. We have a culture in this Province and we could be better off. I really appreciate what the member for Stephenville said, that we have a culture in this Province and we should be proud of it. I believe, as one member of the fifty-two in this House, that we have a culture to preserve. Maybe one thing is my lack of vocabulary, if you want to use that word, or my lack of speaking ability, if you want to use that phrase, but then, again, I say to the hon. House Leader, we are all here to do one thing and that is to do the best we can.

We are talking about cultural affairs. I was kind enough today to give a copy of this letter, which is addressed to me, to the hon. Leader of the Opposition, but, Mr. Speaker, I want to read this letter into the record. This goes back to a dispicable display by a member in this House about a week and a half ago. This letter was written by a Mr. Frank G. Mercer. By the way, Frank G. Mercer is a distinguished gentleman of this Province who served in police three forces, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Newfoundland Constabulary, and also the Ranger force. He spent almost his entire life with the police forces in this Province. He also spent his entire life doing what he could for practically everybody concerned. I want to read this letter into the record, Mr. Speaker, because it shows the disgrace a member of this House tried to bestow upon another member. I must say it is

very, very timely. This letter arrived in my office this morning, before I came to our caucus. I do not know if Mr. Frank Mercer realized that this resolution was coming up or not, but it ties in with the whole thing we are talking about now.

It says: "Dear Garfield, when Roger Simmons taunted you a while back about your manner of speech, along with many others, my immediate reaction was, 'Well, you are not a convicted income tax dodger.' Imagine the nerve of the man! We all have speech mannerisms - I must say I have talked to my hon. colleague from Port de Grave - "and in this regard, the Bay Roberts folks stand out. I have been ridiculed all my life because of this, so do not feel too badly. I never let it bother me." Remember - and I take the comments of the Leader of the Opposition, what he said to me earlier. Now this is what Mr. Mercer said: "He who steals my purse steals trash, but he who filches of my good name", etc., etc., etc. Then he says, "Keep up the good work. All good wishes."

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. WARREN:

We are talking, Mr. Speaker, about our cultural heritage. We are talking about Newfoundlanders and Labradorians. We are talking about people from Conception Bay, people from Trinity Bay, and Placentia Bay. I remember, Mr. Speaker, that when I was a little boy I would often go from Chance Cove to Long Cove and I would say to my uncle, who is a good friend of my colleague for Bellevue (Mr. Callan), When are you coming over?, which was a logical thing to say, and he would say, Boy, I

will be over the once. That was the word he always used. And if he did not use that word he would say, I will be over directly. He would always say, I will be over the once, or, I will be over directly. Those were the two words he used. My folks and the folks in Norman's Cove and Trinity Bay generally use those two slangs because it is cultural heritage.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. WARREN:

Mr. Speaker, of the fifty-two of us in this House we have one individual who will get up and make gestures and make comments that are not called for. I think that member, or these members - I must say I can see the hon. member for St. Barbe looking at me, and I can also say, at the same time, that that hon. member has made gestures against the Minister of Fisheries on two occasions and a number of members over here saw that. If we are going to do that, we are not perserving our culture. I say this in all honesty to the hon. member, and if he wants to get up on a point of order, he can do so.

MR. FUREY:

Oh, yes.

MR. WARREN:

He does not want to do it because he knows he did it. Mr. Speaker, I just want to say that we all have our disadvantages. I have mine, but I think it is like the Leader of the Opposition said to me today, If I am perfect, then I can complain about somebody else. That is what the hon. member said to me. So, if we are all perfect here in this House, then we can complain about somebody else.

I am glad the hon. member for St. John's East brought in this resolution. Because of all the resolutions that have come into this House, and there have been many, in fact I remember two I brought in here in the last nine years which were passed unanimously, I believe the one the hon. member brought in this day is one of the best resolutions ever brought into this House, and I want to compliment the member for that.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. WARREN:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member realizes that the Arts Council in this Province has a lot to offer. I think the Arts Council in this Province can offer a lot to the fifty-two of us in this House. I think there are members in this House who do not even know what the Arts Council is all about. I refer particularly to the member for Fortune - Hermitage. I believe, Mr. Speaker, the resolution the hon. gentleman brought forward says, 'We want to preserve our culture.' I will say this much: I have a culture I want to preserve, and regardless of the member for Fortune - Hermitage or the member for Naskaupi or the member for St. Barbe or members on this side, I will continue to preserve my culture. I am proud of it!

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. WARREN:

Mr. Speaker, it is most interesting to note that upon until this time we have only five Private Members' resolutions and we have fifteen members in the official Opposition and two

members of the NDP. With such an important issue as this and with the lack of initiative -

AN HON. MEMBER:  
Foresight.

MR. WARREN:  
A lack of foresight, if you want to use that word. I compliment the member there. Nobody in the official Opposition could see - I just looked through all the resolutions we have there - the importance of the Arts Council and the arts in our Province, and no one considered bringing such a resolution forward.

Mr. Speaker, when we looked at this resolution today we decided it was a good resolution. The only problem we found with the resolution, actually, was the time frame. I think the hon. gentleman realizes that the time frame was a little bit much, considering the number of days and months we sit. But I must say, and I have to compliment the member, that it is one of the better resolutions to ever come into this House.

Mr. Speaker, I listened to the hon. member for Eagle River and I believe some of his comments were correct; I believe some of his comments can be taken seriously. If there is anyone listening from the Arts Council or from the arts in the Province, I am not going to condemn them in any way, I probably want to praise them. I think they are doing a fantastic job. I just want to say that the Newfoundland Arts Council and arts in Newfoundland, in general -

AN HON. MEMBER:  
I thought you were praising the member for Naskaupi.

MR. WARREN:

No, no! Now, listen, we cannot get carried away.

Mr. Speaker, I know my time is running out and I just want to say that in our Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, and I say this in all honesty - I think my hon. colleague from St. John's East, who is from the other extreme - we have one guy in St. John's East and we have the other guy in Torngat Mountains, two extremes, two bookends. But between those two bookends there is a lot of culture and heritage, and I say that we should include Newfoundland and Labrador in all aspects.

Mr. Speaker, I will not be here next week, because I will be extending my cultural heritage to Yellowknife.

MR. SIMMS:  
The hon. member has six minutes remaining.

MR. WARREN:  
I know I have six minutes remaining. I will not be here next week, so if you will allow me three or four minutes, I will clue up.

MR. SPEAKER:  
Is it agreed to stop the clock?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Agreed.

MR. WARREN:  
I can clue up in two or three minutes. I thank hon. members.

I just want to say to everyone listening that I appreciate the resolution by the hon. member. There is a lot of heritage in Nain, Hopedale, Davis Inlet, Makkovik, Red Bay, Cartwright, Charlottetown, Port Hope Simpson,

all along the Labrador Coast, Goose Bay, Wabush and Labrador City. So, I just want to say, let us not confine ourselves to St. John's, let us get outside the overpass and let us include the towns and the coves and the little inlets all throughout Newfoundland and Labrador, because there are a lot of Garfield Warrens around this place, there are a lot of Bill Pattersons around this place, there are a lot of Chuck Fureys around this place. So let us get out and extend our heritage, let us bring the people in, the Native people, the Inuit and the Indians, and bring them altogether. I think, Mr. Speaker, that Newfoundland and Labrador has a lot to offer, and if those three forces join together we can improve our culture and heritage in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. Thank you very much.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

It is now six o'clock. The House stands adjourned until 3:00 p.m. tomorrow.



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