



Province of Newfoundland

FORTY - FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF
NEWFOUNDLAND

Volume XLI

First Session

Number 10

VERBATIM REPORT
(Hansard)

Speaker: Honourable Thomas Lush

Monday

12 June 1989

The House met at 2:00 p.m.

MR. SPEAKER (Lush):
Order, please!

We have some special guests and visitors in the Galleries today that I would like to introduce and welcome on behalf of hon. members.

First I would like to welcome the Hon. George A. Shaw, President of the Legislative Council of the State of Tasmania in Australia. Mr. Shaw is accompanied by his wife, Joyce, and Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Patten of St. John's, Newfoundland.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:
Also I would like to welcome thirty military advisors and attachés based in Ottawa and assigned to various embassies and high commissioners of foreign countries. I am sure all hon. members join me in welcoming these military people to the Galleries today.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:
Also we have eight students with their instructors, Adele Sharp and Maxine Brown, from the Avalon Community College, St. John's.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:
Also we would like to welcome fifty Grade VII students accompanied by their teachers, Marvin Ryder and Colette Olford, from the Catalina Elementary School of Catalina.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

Oral Questions

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. RIDEOUT:
Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the government has apparently made a decision to cancel the second ferry for the Bell Island service, and in view of the fact that the government has apparently decided as well to set up some kind of an outside committee to study all of the aspects of ferry service to Fogo Island, will the Premier, on behalf of the government, tell the House whether or not, in fact, those decisions have been taken, and whether or not an Order-in-Council has been issued appropriately to reflect those decisions?

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER WELLS:
Mr. Speaker, with respect to the first question, the government has announced its policy through the Minister of Works, Services and Transportation (Mr. Gilbert). He has told the House on a number of occasions what the government proposes to do with respect to the Bell Island ferry. We have approved proceeding with the construction of one ferry at this particular time. What will be done in the future remains to be seen. Whatever Orders-in-Council were appropriate to effect that decision were affected.

The second question was with respect to the Fogo Island ferry. There is no special commission or any such body that has been set up to determine what should be done. The government through the department will do an assessment of what is right to provide reliable year-round ferry service for Fogo Island. What has been provided in the past has not been reliable. There is some considerable question as to whether the ferry is even landing in the right place, and whether another solution might be the best solution. That is what the department concerned is going to be looking at. There is no special commission as such to examine it.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. RIDEOUT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I thank the hon. the Premier for his answers. I just want to be absolutely clear, so let me ask the Premier this: Do I understand the Premier to be correctly saying to the House that the appropriate Orders-in-Council reflecting the decisions on the Bell Island ferry issue and the Fogo Island ferry issue have in fact been issued as Orders-in-Council?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER WELLS:

What I said, Mr. Speaker, is whatever Orders-in-Council were or are necessary, were or will be issued; whatever is appropriate, whatever is required to be done to give effect to the decision that I have just indicated. Now if that requires a special

Order-in-Council, or if one is done, then it is done, and if it needs some adjustment it will be adjusted, but that is the position that the government has taken with respect to the Marystown ferry.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. RIDEOUT:

Mr. Speaker, let me clearly ask the Premier whether or not an Order-in-Council has been issued cancelling the second Bell Island ferry? Will the Premier table that Order-in-Council?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER WELLS:

I will take a look at it, Mr. Speaker, and find out whether or not there is an Order-in-Council, and whether it is appropriate that it be tabled. If there is an Order-in-Council, and if it is appropriate that it be tabled, I will do so.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Harbour Main.

MR. DOYLE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I have a question for the Minister of Employment and Labour Relations (Ms Cowan) regarding the formation of the Premier's Economic Recovery Team. As the minister is aware, according to the Premier, this team will concentrate on the creation of jobs in our Province and will have effect on employment opportunities in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Let me ask the minister, Mr. Speaker, in forming and laying out

the groundwork for creating jobs in the Province, and in view of the new consultative approach that the Premier has announced, did the government consult with the labour movement, maybe the Federation of Labour, when forming the Economic Recovery Team? If her department did, or if the Premier did, or if the minister did, why does the government not have a member of the labour movement on the Economic Recovery Team? How can a commission, Mr. Speaker, in the government that ignores the labour movement by not having membership on that team, expect to generate the good will of the labour movement in the creation of those jobs? So why is there not a member from the labour movement on the Economic Recovery Team?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER WELLS:

Mr. Speaker, I have the knowledge of that, not the Minister of Labour.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

PREMIER WELLS:

The hon. members opposite are entitled to have their questions answered; they are not entitled to dictate who, on behalf of government, is going to provide it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

PREMIER WELLS:

The answer is fairly straightforward, Mr. Speaker. If you look at the announcement that was made it was clearly indicated at the time that the list was not complete. There is one more to be added to the Economic Recovery Commission and there are three

more to be added to the Economic Advisory Board, and two of those three are actively involved in the labour movement. They will be announced in the next day or so.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Harbour Main.

MR. DOYLE:

Mr. Speaker, I guess we can take it for granted, then, that the Premier is going to have a member from the labour movement on the Economic Recovery Team. Is this an afterthought, Mr. Speaker? It seems to be an afterthought because the labour movement certainly was not consulted on membership on the Economic Advisory Team. How can the Premier sit by and have the labour movement not represented on a team whose prime mandate is going to be the creation of jobs in our Province? Now, the Premier is shaking his head but maybe he can be a little bit more clear, because neither the Federation of Labour nor any labour body in this Province has been consulted for membership on that team. Why has the Premier decided that the labour movement is not that important in this Province in the formation of jobs and creating employment opportunities in Newfoundland? Why has he not put a member on that team? Could he be a little bit more specific and tell the labour movement why?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER WELLS:

The answer, again, is fairly simple, Mr. Speaker. It is not an afterthought. The arrangements were made before the announcement was made in the House. Last Monday, I think, the announcement

was made. One of the individuals did not get back to me in time, I was not able to reach the person in time. And the other one got back to me and indicated, yes, the person involved wanted to serve but felt a requirement to consult with other sectors of the labour movement first before the commitment was made, or the announcement would be made. With respect to the labour movement, that is the answer, so it was done.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Harbour Main.

MR. DOYLE:

Maybe I will go back to the Minister of Employment and Labour Relations again. What we have is a five-member commission. The labour movement does not have any representation on that five-member commission. The Minister of Employment and Labour Relations, did she or did she not make representation to the Premier, to the government, to have a member from the labour movement included on that five-member commission? How can the minister, who represents the labour movement in this Province, sit around the Cabinet table, sit idly by and watch the government create such an important commission, that is supposed to create jobs in our Province, how can that commission fulfill its mandate without a member from the labour movement on there? Why is there not a member from the labour movement on that commission?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER WELLS:

Mr. Speaker, there is no member from any group, no member representing any particular group or individual on the Commission. The Advisory Board is a different thing. Steps were taken to make sure that there was a broad representation from all areas of the Province and all interest groups in the Province on the Advisory Board. The Commission is made up of people who will be full-time employees engaged to do a specific task, not to be representatives of one group or another in the Province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Torngat Mountains.

MR. WARREN:

Thank you, very much, Mr. Speaker.

My question will be to the Minister of Environment and Lands (Mr. Kelland). Just listening to the Premier saying that all areas of the Province are represented on the Economic Commission, I would like to ask the Minister of Environment and Lands, who is also the minister responsible, I guess, for Labrador, has he consulted, or has he advised the Premier that there should be somebody from Labrador on the Economic Commission?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

PREMIER WELLS:

Mr. Speaker, hon. members should know by now that the Economic Recovery Commission answers to the Premier, that is the way it is structured, and the Premier has responsibility for it, and the Premier will answer for it in the

House. Now, hon. members may not like that, and I am sorry, but the truth is that is the way it is going to be.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the third individual is a young man from Labrador and, if I recall correctly, his name was announced at the time on the Economic Advisory Board. The Commission is not intended to represent any areas or any interest groups in the Province, and if the hon. member listened to the last answer he would have heard that precise statement being made. Maybe he does not understand the difference in approach between the two, and if he wants further elaboration I am prepared to give it to him.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Torngat Mountains.

MR. WARREN:

Mr. Speaker, my question, again, is to the Minister of Environment and Lands. I would like to ask the minister did he advise the Premier on any people from Labrador to be on the Economic Commission?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER WELLS:

Mr. Speaker, I do not know what the member did or did not do when he was a member of Cabinet, but no minister is going to discuss publicly what advice he did or did not give the Cabinet. Now, if the member does not understand that, the wonder is that he ever served in a Cabinet even for as short a time as he did. That is a fundamental practice that we are going to follow and that he should have followed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

PREMIER WELLS:

The answer is, Mr. Speaker, that the Economic Advisory Board is intended to be the group that ensures that there is representation from all regions of the Province and that all interest groups in the Province have an opportunity to ensure that their views are put forward. The Economic Recovery Commission itself is intended to be full-time employed individuals who will do the best job that can be done in the circumstances, and they were hired for their capability in that regard, not for the individuals nor areas which they represent.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Torngat Mountains.

MR. WARREN:

Mr. Speaker, my final question is to the Minister of Environment and Lands. Mr. Speaker, I ask the Minister of Environment and Lands does he consider that there should be somebody from Labrador on the Economic Recovery Team? That is directly to the Minister.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER WELLS:

The questions with respect to the Economic Recovery Commission or the Economic Advisory Board will continue to be answered by the Premier in this House and not by anybody else. The members may not like it but they have no alternative but to accept it.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. RIDEOUT:

My question will be directed to the Premier in his right as Premier.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. RIDEOUT:

Flowing out of the answers that the Premier gave on the previous question I can understand, depending on legal advice, whether or not an Order-in-Council could be tabled or not, but would the Premier undertake some time during the day to advise the House whether the Order-in-Council exists and what the date of the Order-in-Council is?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER WELLS:

What Order-in-Council?

MR. RIDEOUT:

The Order-in-Council that the Premier told the Opposition might exist regarding the ferry questions that I asked him earlier in Question Period.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER WELLS:

I will determine whether or not such an Order-in-Council exists and I will advise the House as to the date of it. Whether or not I will table it, I will decide later.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Grand Bank.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I would ask Premier Noriega to extend the courtesy of allowing his minister to answer the question this time.

My question, Mr. Speaker, is to the Minister of Employment and Labour Relations and it is about the private sector employment program. In light the fact that there are some 1534 applications on file with her department, and 3000 jobs were created last year under the program, I would like to ask the Minister a question I asked her on Wednesday: Will she table the evaluation report done on the program? As well, in light of her comments publicly about the program being riddled with patronage, will she inform the House of such patronage and subsequently table the evidence?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Employment and Labour Relations.

MS COWAN:

The Private Sector Employment Program was looked at, considered in the preparation, as you would be aware of, for the budget. It was decided at that time that it was not meeting the objectives that we would like to have an employment program meet, and that, therefore, we would have to discontinue it and look to designing a program that would ultimately bring people into the work force on a permanent basis.

Now as I sat here over the last several weeks listening to the maiden speeches of individuals on both sides of the House, one of the things that they have mentioned frequently is the fact that Newfoundlanders and Labradorians do not want to live on unemployment insurance.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MS COWAN:

And we, as the government, do not want them to. That is why we are looking to develop a new type of program that will have built within it a training component that will see people -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MS COWAN:

I am a school teacher, and one of the things you usually do when you start to get a bit of fuss from the kids is just stop and wait - wait until it ends.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MS COWAN:

That sort of comes naturally, Mr. Speaker, and it may be useful here in the House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MS COWAN:

We hope the new programs will be designed with training components that will see people enter the labour force on a permanent basis.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. MATTHEWS:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Grand Bank.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Mr. Speaker, is the minister aware that projects under the last two years, is she aware that projects from every crook and nanny in this Province were approved -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. MATTHEWS:

Crook and nanny.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Nanny? Nanny?

MR. MATTHEWS:

Yes, there were approval for a few nannies as well, Mr. Speaker. They do run businesses in this Province -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. MATTHEWS:

- and receive funding. As well, Mr. Speaker, when she talks about patronage, companies such as Dicks and Dicks, in this Province, who received funding for the last two years under the program -

MR. R. AYLWARD:

They thought the world of the program.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Well, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister a supplementary. Will the minister inform this House who made recommendations for approval to Cabinet on the Private Sector Employment Program? There is an evaluation done on the program. The minister professes that she knows all about the program. The minister says that the program was a bad program. Will the minister stand in this House and tell this House is she aware who made the recommendation to Cabinet on approval for the Private Sector Employment Program?

MR. R. AYLWARD:

No, she will not.

MR. WARREN:

Ask your sidekick.

MR. SPEAKER:
The Minister of Employment and Labour Relations.

MS COWAN:
The appropriate minister brings these recommendations to Cabinet, if that is what you are asking.

MR. R. AYLWARD:
Who made the recommendation to the minister?

MR. MATTHEWS:
Who made the recommendation to Cabinet?

MR. R. AYLWARD:
Where did they come from? Did they come from the politicians?

MS COWAN:
Yes, the particular program was looked at in light of budget preparation. Who says what -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Oh, oh!

MS COWAN:
- in a Cabinet meeting is a confidential matter.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. MATTHEWS:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the member for Grand Bank.

MR. MATTHEWS:
The reason I asked the minister the question was because of her statements publicly in this Province, about the programs being riddled with patronage. My supplementary question to the minister was who made recommendations for two years to the Cabinet on approvals under the Private Sector Unemployment

Program? For her information, Mr. Speaker, there was an Interdepartmental Committee made up of officials of Career Development and Advanced Studies, Rural Development and Development that made recommendations to Cabinet. And in two years there was not one of those recommendations rejected by Cabinet, Mr. Speaker, not one.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. MATTHEWS:
So the next, Mr. Speaker, is a patronage question. Is the minister aware as well that the only two rejections, after Cabinet approval, were on conflict of interest, one to an executive assistant to a minister, and the other to a firm of which the now Minister of Social Services (Mr. Efford) was a director? Is she aware of that, Mr. Speaker?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. WARREN:
You are allowed to answer.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
No answer? No answer?

MR. R. AYLWARD:
She is strapped onto the seat. What a member!

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the member for Grand Bank.

MR. MATTHEWS:
Is it any wonder that the minister wishes she was still back in the teaching profession! I would say if the Premier is doing his report card, as he did for the last year and a half in the House, she will be back teaching very soon.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister inform the House and the private sector of this Province what other programs are being considered? She said today that there were programs being considered, new programs. Will she inform the House what programs are being considered, when we might expect those programs to be implemented to employ thousands of people in this Province, and, if such is the case that the new programs are brought in, will the employees who have now received termination notices in the Employment Services Division, be required to run the new programs?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Employment and Labour Relations.

MS COWAN:

There were several questions there, Mr. Speaker. I will begin with the last one first.

Nine people in the department were given notices earlier last week saying that their temporary employment would be extended to the end of June. It was originally to end at the end of May. During that time period a decision will be made as to whether or not they will stay on.

Now, let me assure the House that when programs are developed to take the place of the Private Sector Programs they will be well-thought-out, carefully-orchestrated programs, and that will not happen in one month.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MS COWAN:

There is one now that is on the way to being developed. It has

not yet even been named. It has to do with dealing with people on Social Services and has a training component. We have just begun the work on that particular program. It is being developed.

MR. POWER:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Ferryland.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. POWER:

My first question is for the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. W. Carter). I am sure the Minister of Fisheries, as most people in this Province, is now aware of the tremendous damage that is being done to our groundfish stocks, particularly cod. Even with that set of circumstances that have taken place in this Province there are still a lot of individuals who apply for groundfish processing licenses. I know the government of which I was a member had a very difficult time trying to allocate groundfish licenses. There were a lot of requests. We initiated a freeze on groundfish processing licenses in this Province for the last couple of years.

Could the Minister of Fisheries please tell the members of this House if there still is a freeze on groundfish processing licenses, and if any new licenses have been issued?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

MR. W. CARTER:

Mr. Speaker, the freeze that was placed on the groundfish licenses some years ago is still in effect. We are looking at it to

see if, in fact, it is wise to keep it in effect. Certainly there has been no decision made as to any intention on our part to abolish that policy.

MR. POWER:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. POWER:
A supplementary to the Minister of Fisheries. I am sure the Minister of Fisheries, being very familiar with the district of Ferryland, knows that there are nine groundfish processing licenses that run for the seventy-mile span of our coastline. In that area the biggest problem for the groundfish processors and the plant workers involved is to find sufficient employment because there is so much competition for the fish.

Has the Minister of Fisheries issued or is he activity considering a license for Cape Broyle Fisheries in the community of Cape Broyle?

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

MR. W. CARTER:
Mr. Speaker, I have not issued any licenses to that group. They did come in to see me and they made a strong case, but we have not issued a permit or a license to that company. We have offered to take a look at it. Certainly that is not to say that we are going to issue a license, but they deserve a hearing and we will give them that hearing and see what happens.

MR. POWER:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. POWER:
Mr. Speaker, I thank the minister for his answer and I have a new but related question for the Premier. It relates to government patronage. Being a new government, certainly many persons in Newfoundland may be impressed with how the Premier has run the first month or so of his administration.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. POWER:
In my case, and in many other members' here, we have found some of the ministers to be very co-operative and very accessible. But it is also very important that when a new government takes place that the rules are firmly established.

The Minister of Employment and Labour Relations has just answered about patronage, about a system that was not proper and should not be implemented if you think patronage is part of it.

There are two situations in my district: One, where Cape Broyle Fisheries is very strongly rumored to have been or will be issued a groundfish license based solely on the fact that they have supported the Liberal Party. The rumor is there and it is a very strong rumor. Another very strong, self-acknowledged Liberal, in the Supreme Court of Newfoundland on Thursday last, lost a liquor licence agency in the District of Ferryland. He is now saying quite publicly, that self-acknowledged Liberal, that he is going to get his liquor agency store back by using the political process.

Will the Premier, please, tell the people of Newfoundland and the members of this House that those are not the kind of rules under which either liquor agency store licences or fish processing licences are going to be issued in this Province?

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER WELLS:
Mr. Speaker, the answer to the fairly long-winded question about the fish processing licences, I know nothing of it. The Minister in the Department of Fisheries is handling it. I can assure the House and the hon. member that nobody will get licences or permits because they supported a particular political party, and it does not matter what the political stripe is. Neither will anybody be deprived because they supported or did not support a political party. They will or will not get licences on merit.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

PREMIER WELLS:
The first indication of the rumor that I have had is from the member himself. That, so far as I know, is the start of the rumor, what just occurred here this afternoon.

With respect to the other question about liquor licences, I have no control over what any individual may or may not say in any court hearing, or in any other forum. Whether or not there is a liquor licence issued to anybody depends upon the application of the law and the rules and, I believe, the Liquor Licencing Board. So far as I know, that is still in effect. They will make decisions, hopefully on a proper basis. If

they do not make decisions on a proper basis, they will be removed and others will be put in place who will make decisions on a proper basis.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMS:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. SIMMS:
Mr. Speaker, I have a question for our old friend the Minister of Finance (Dr. Kitchen).

After what we saw last Tuesday, if that is evidence of this new government's fiscal management capabilities, then I am afraid to say that people of Newfoundland are in for a rude awakening over the next three or four years.

I want to ask the minister this: In view of the fact that under the new federal tax reform there was actually going to be money coming back into the pockets of the people of Newfoundland, why, then, did the Minister of Finance take all that money back by sucking every last penny out of the pockets of the people of Newfoundland? Why did he not use a small fraction of the massive tax grab introduced last Tuesday to institute the school milk program rather than in such a cavalier fashion, advising the people of Newfoundland to drink more beer?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

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

DR. KITCHEN:

There are so many asides tangled up, Mr. Speaker, with that question that I am not too sure what the thrust was. Part of the reason was because of the infamous way in which the previous government spent money on the Sprung enterprises.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker,

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Opposition House Leader.

MR. SIMMS:

I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, if the question was complex. I apologize for that. I tried the best I could to leave out the words 'enumerator', 'denominator' and things of that nature. I know he finds it difficult.

Can the minister explain, Mr. Speaker, why, in such a short period of time, just a few days now, he has managed to create more uncertainty, more negative reaction than any government preceeding ever did in a full term? He has the students upset, the mothers upset, children, labour, health care people; he has got councils; indeed, Mr. Speaker, he has entire communities upset with his savage budget. How can the minister, in view of the fact that statistics show that we have the lowest per capita income in Canada, justify inflicting such pain on the people of this Province, including an additional 2 percent tax hike on every taxpayer in Newfoundland and Labrador? Could the minister explain that?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Finance.

DR. KITCHEN:

Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member would read the mail that is coming into my department, and into my office, and the phone calls that I have been getting about the budget, he will realize that virtually everyone is extremely positive about the budget, which is the best budget -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

DR. KITCHEN:

The general agreement, Mr. Speaker, is that this is the best budget since Mr. Smallwood brought down the budget in April of 1971.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Opposition House Leader.

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker, we will see tomorrow. Will the minister be able to say the same thing tomorrow, Mr. Speaker? We will see when the people from Grand Bank and St. Lawrence get here. When the students from the university get here we will see. If the minister is so positive about the reaction to his budget, will he table the letters he has received? We would like to see them.

Mr. Speaker, I guess a lot of people who have been listening to the arrogant responses by this minister, and who voted Liberal just a couple of months ago, are

probably having second thoughts today, I can tell him that much. Would the minister, perhaps, do this for us? Since he has already said that our people are about to receive another kick in the pants by his budget announcement of last Tuesday, and since he has managed to get such negative reaction from the people around the Province, would he now stand in this House, admit to his incompetence, admit that his government badly judged the situation, and will he now remove the suction cup from the pockets of the people of Newfoundland and dispense and back off on some of these deplorable taxes, particularly the 10 per cent tuition fee increase that he charged the students of this Province?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

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

DR. KITCHEN:
Mr. Speaker, the suction cups on the backs of the people and on the pockets of the people of the Province were removed by the electorate on April 20.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. TOBIN:
Mr. Speaker, my question -

MR. SPEAKER:
The Question Period has elapsed.

MR. TOBIN:
- is to the Minister of Social Services.

MR. SPEAKER:
Question Period is over, in other words.

Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees

MR. GILBERT:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. GILBERT:
Mr. Speaker, under Section 21 of the C.A. Pippy Park Commission Act I hereby table the annual report of the C. A. Pippy Park Commission for the period April 1987 to March 1988.

MR. EFFORD:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the Minister of Social Services.

MR. EFFORD:
Mr. Speaker, I hereby table the annual report for the Social Assistance and Rehabilitation Services Programs of the Department of Social Services for the fiscal year 1987-1988 and 1988-1989.

Answers to Questions for which Notice has been Given

PREMIER WELLS:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER WELLS:
Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday's Order Paper - I was not in the Chamber - a question was asked by the hon. the member for Mount Pearl (Mr. N. Windsor). The first question: Is the Premier still receiving the

special salary he received while he was Leader of the Opposition? The answer is no, therefore, the following part, if so, why? does not apply. The second question: If he is not receiving this salary, when did payment cease? Answer: April 1989. The third part of the question is: How much salary did the Premier receive, how was it paid, and by whom was it paid? The answer is, it was paid at the rate of \$50,000 per year, it was paid in equal monthly installments from which income tax and the usual deductions were deducted, and it was paid by cheque, issued by the Treasurer of the Liberal Party.

The fourth question is: If the salary was paid from a special fund for that purpose, provide a list of all contributors to the fund and the amounts contributed. The answer is it was not paid from a special fund, so there is no list of contributors. The fifth question is: What obligations did the Premier make to these contributors in return for their generosity? The answer is the only obligation made was to the Liberal Party to ensure that the party would be properly organized, have proper policy, and would have a good team of candidates to enable it to win the provincial election and thereby provide the people of this Province -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

PREMIER WELLS:
- and thereby provide the people of this Province with competent government for 'A Real Change'.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

PREMIER WELLS:

That obligation, I am happy to note, Mr. Speaker, has been fully and totally discharged.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. KELLAND:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the Minister of Environment and Lands.

MR. KELLAND:
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I have a response to the question posed on the Order Paper of May 30, 1989 by the hon. the member for Green Bay. I apologize to the member for the roughly two weeks elapse in time, but he will appreciate that we have been doing a fair bit of work in the past couple of weeks, our swearing in and so on, and it is not always easy to get the information as quickly as members may like. But our aim is to be, as has been clearly stated publicly, an open government and provide hon. members of the House of Assembly with the information they require to do their jobs.

Having said that, I will also compliment the hon. the member for Green Bay, Mr. Speaker. We were co-panelists at an environment symposium in Corner Brook over part of the weekend and, I must say, I was impressed with his input; it shows he has concern for the environment and a social conscience which will be reflected, I am sure, in his work as a member of the House of Assembly.

Having said that, the answer to your question which related to a trip to Alaska with respect to an

oil spill is: Responses to tanker spills of this nature are the responsibility of the federal government. While it would have been of value to our Province to have sent personnel from my department to Valdez to view firsthand the countermeasures taken by Exxon, to do so would have added to the burden on the Alaskan officials involved, considering that their government was facing a real problem with respect to accommodations and logistics. I am pleased to say, however, that three highly trained officials from the Canadian Coast Guard stationed in St. John's, together with their equipment, were requested by the American Government to lend assistance. I understand that these Newfoundlanders were able to demonstrate various techniques to the Americans, such that cleanup operations were dramatically improved. It is these people who will be the frontline defence for our Province should we experience such an unfortunate accident and to that end it is my intention to work with the federal government to ensure that existing federal and international regulations are updated as required to protect our coastal environment. I will table copies, of course.

MR. SPEAKER:

Before calling Orders of the Day, on Friday I took a point of order under advisement. In the meantime, I gave a ruling to the point of order, but since it was semi taken under advisement I should clarify that and comment on it today.

The point of order was about a point of order raised by the Opposition House Leader in Question Period. The point of order raised by the Government

House Leader was that a point of order ought not to be raised during the Question Period. As I indicated at that time, that has not been the practice in this House, although it was practiced by the Opposition Party last year as a philosophy of its own, that they would not have points of order and points of privilege during Question Period to take time away from the Question Period. It is the case in Ottawa and might be one advisable for hon. members here, but that is not for The Chair to say; The Chair is just to interpret the rules, and present rules allow for points of order and points of privilege during Question Period.

Orders of the Day

MR. MATTHEWS:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Grand Bank.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. MATTHEWS:

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

It is a real pleasure for me today to participate in this infamous Budget Debate, so ably brought in by the Minister of Finance just a few days ago. We really expected that the President of Treasury Board or the Premier would have been bringing in the Budget, but we are delighted on this side that the Minister of Finance saw fit to read the Budget Speech to the House. And I guess one of the first things that we were disappointed and upset with, Mr. Speaker, was the \$95 million tax rape of the people of Newfoundland

and Labrador. That is what this budget amounts to, a \$95 million tax rape. And what the new government with the new mandate did was they sat down and decided where they wanted to take this Province in the next fiscal year, they laid down their plans and priorities, and they came up, Mr. Speaker, needing \$90 million. And after they said, 'Well, we need \$90 million,' they said, 'Well, we just cannot balance it off at \$90 million, let us stick another \$5 million tax on to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador. Let us take another \$5 million out of their pockets,' Mr. Speaker, 'and let us bring in a Budget document that shows a \$5 million surplus.' That is exactly what this government did. So if that is ingenuity, planning, or any other adjective or definition you might call it, Mr. Speaker, I think it lacks quite a bit.

The other surprising and frightening thing, Mr. Speaker, is when the Minister of Finance rose in his place today in answer to a question and said, 'It is the best budget since Smallwood's' of some year. I do not remember what he said. Now, what is really frightening about that is he really believes it, Mr. Speaker. He believes that it is the best budget for this Province. Now, I would say, Mr. Speaker, with a \$95 million tax rate this year, we are going to see even bigger and better budgets in the next three or four years from this government, because there is no way, Mr. Speaker, that we are going to end this fiscal year in this Province showing a \$5 million surplus.

I think hon. members over there are not familiar with the fiscal arrangements and the financial

pressures in this Province and the performance of the economy, particularly the newer members. Well, if they reflect on this budget and on what has happened over the last number of years and what is happening to some of our major industries in this Province, realistically, Mr. Speaker, I think at the end of March, 1990, I will not be surprised to see an actual deficit in this Province of between \$20 million and \$30 million. I think there is one thing this government has not been: It has not been realistic, and it has not been honest. I see the President of Treasury Board (Mr. Baker) laughing, Mr. Speaker. Now, he can be laughing for one or two reasons, but I suspect he is laughing because my \$20 to \$30 million projected figure is probably only a third of what he will want next year, only a third of what the deficit will be in the next fiscal year, not in the current fiscal year. And if that is what he is laughing about, Mr. Speaker, it is much too serious to laugh about. Now, if he thinks his surplus is going to be much bigger than \$5 million, and that is what he is laughing about, then I am quite happy that he is laughing, because if they can come in with a \$5 million surplus at the end of the fiscal year, it will be absolutely remarkable. But if they come in in their quarterly reports over the next twelve months and show us that we are heading into a worsening economy, the surplus will not be there and we are heading into a very serious deficit, then I think, Mr. Speaker, they have really misled the people of this Province.

Since the Budget of last Tuesday there is only one thing increasing besides taxes, I would say, in

this Province, and that is the sale of Gravol. Probably that is the only thing that has increased, Mr. Speaker. The stomachs of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians have been so upset since last Tuesday night that pharmacists in my area tell me the sale of Gravol has really increased. Men, women and children are really upset, stomach sick.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. MATTHEWS:
They are actually stomach sick, Mr. Speaker, when they think about having to cough up \$300 for every man, woman and child in this Province in this fiscal year in additional taxes.

Another thing, one of my colleagues told the Minister of Finance that he should have some Valium to settle him down. Well, I can assure him that there will not be much Valium sold in Newfoundland and Labrador over the next year because no one will be able to afford to buy both Valium and Gravol. They are so stomach sick today they must buy Gravol, Mr. Speaker. And maybe that will create the surplus to grow a bit more, because by the time they get another nine or ten months of this government, I am sure they will want even more Gravol, and probably even something stronger to settle them down.

Mr. Speaker, I want for a few moments to zero in on the drastic tax increases by this government -

MR. SIMMS:
Tell us about the crooked nannies.

MR. MATTHEWS:
Yes, even the crooked nannies are on Gravol.

- around the Province, 2 per cent personal income tax, which is going to hurt every Newfoundlander and Labradorian and, of course, is going to decrease their spending power.

This government talked for years - I sat on the other side of this House and listened to the now President of Treasury Board talk about what they saw for the Province, where we should go. And what they have done in the last week, Mr. Speaker, in this Province, is they have gone just the reverse of what they were proposing to do for the last three or four years. And, of course, I guess the King of Reversals and the King of Walking Contradictions is sitting in the Premier's chair today, Mr. Speaker. The Walking Contradiction of Newfoundland and Labrador, that is what he will be remembered for. Someone said it was a real change, and someone said, yes, it will be a short change. I can tell you one thing, as of last Tuesday the people of Newfoundland and Labrador were certainly shortchanged by this budget, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. MATTHEWS:
Mr. Speaker, this Premier went up to the university and he debated post-secondary education in Newfoundland and Labrador. There were a lot of national issues that tied into the debate. And what he promised the students up at the university, promised the post-secondary education students in this Province, I am really surprised at the Minister of Education - I can understand it to some degree, not fully, but to some degree - offering himself to run for that party, to a degree.

MR. BAKER:

He has been in education for years.

MR. MATTHEWS:

We know his background and his history, his politics as well as his educational background. We understand that.

But to see the reversal and the contradiction that oozed out of the Premier and this government, of which the Minister of Education is now a minister of Cabinet and must take his responsibility, to see what they have done with education, particularly with the 10 per cent tuition hike on post-secondary institutions in this Province, I do not know how he can really stay over there. I have seen him talking to the Minister of Finance a lot in the last week, particularly since last Tuesday, and I know both of them must be having second thoughts on whether they are going to stay where they are. Of course, if they come over to this side, you can only get so close to the wall, gentlemen, and you are as close to the wall over there as you are going to get. We could only put you back here on our back benches, so I guess maybe they are staying there for the remuneration, I do not know. Maybe if they come over we might put them out in the corridor. I am not sure, but I would not like to do that with them because I respect both gentlemen for this history and for their educational pursuits and what they have done in the Province that way. Of course, we have to have a little longer period of time yet before we judge them on what their political achievements will be. But as of the last week, and what we have seen brought in, Mr. Speaker, for education, announced by the Minister of Finance, I think we

are really in for a big disappointment in those two individuals in the Province. I would say that by Christmas, or early in the New Year, these gentlemen will be considering bolting from the caucus over there, because they will know then, they will get adequate and accurate feedback from their constituents as to just how bad this budget is going to be for Newfoundland and Labrador. Mr. Speaker, when you talk about a 10 per cent tuition increase on students in Newfoundland and Labrador, who cannot afford, really, to go to university now, cannot afford to go to the community colleges or the institutes now, what this is going to mean, Mr. Speaker, is that hundreds of young Newfoundlanders and Labradorians who want to become better educated, will not now be able to afford to do so. And by not becoming better educated their chances for employment, even with those great, brilliant, genius-type programs that the Minister for Employment and Labour Relations will soon thrust upon the Province, they will not be able -

[CHAIR COLLAPSES]

MR. MATTHEWS:

I thought the military had left.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. MATTHEWS:

Could the Minister of Finance buy a new chair for the member, please, out of the \$95 million?

Mr. Speaker, these young Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, as a result of this Budget, will

not be able to become better educated and, consequently, they will not be well equipped to find employment within our beloved Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. That is a fact, and those people on the other side have spoken that way for the last two or three years.

The Premier went to the university and told them he was going to make education in this Province more available to everyone. It was going to be less expensive and he was going to put three or four universities all over the Province, one in Central Newfoundland, one in Labrador, one on the Burin Peninsula, in addition to Memorial University of Newfoundland. He was going to do all that, Mr. Speaker, but anyone with common sense, who understands the economics of this Province and the financial position of this Province, and has followed either bit closely the post-secondary education happenings in this Province, and the Minister of Education and the Minister of Finance must agree, know that the university that now exists is underfunded and overcrowded. We cannot really do what we now should be doing because of the financial position of this Province and the pressure on the dollar in this Province, not only for post-secondary education but for health care, water and sewer improvements, transportation and so on. Today I called the Premier a Walking Contradiction, and I sincerely mean that. How could he go about this Province saying that he was going to establish three or four additional universities in the Province? We do not have the fiscal capacity to do it.

MR. TOBIN:

Why did he do it?

MR. MATTHEWS:

Why did he do it? Well, I do not know why he did it, but I guess it is because he is a larger Walking Contradiction than we thought. The people of Labrador West, as we saw in the last week or so, had to come in and fight and battle the Premier to get first year university courses reinstated in Labrador West. Now, I suppose they are going to reinstate it. I hear between the jigs and the reels that the school boards called them out and they say they are going to introduce it in January. I must say Mr. Speaker, that is much more positive than not starting it at all, and I have to give the minister credit for that, he took back water, but it is not as positive, Mr. Speaker, as starting it in September of 1989, which the now Premier of this Province stood in a hall in Labrador West, for all the people in Newfoundland and Labrador but particularly for the people of Labrador West to hear, and said that he would have it done by September of 1989. He did not say January of 1990. And the thing, I guess, that this Premier has learned in the last few weeks is that you do not go around this Province making statements that you cannot back up, that you have not checked out to see if the planning has been done, and if not do it; or if the money is there to do it. You just do not go about making those statements. And the hon. gentleman over there can cuckoo and he can lay an egg if he wants to. For the Minister of Finance's sake and Treasury Board's sake I hope it is a golden egg, because I tell you this Minister of Finance is going to need all the help he can get with this performance in the House in the last week. He is going to need a lot more of you to lay

golden eggs, I would think.

MR. SIMMS:

They have an excellent member for Labrador West (Mr. A. Snow).

MR. MATTHEWS:

Exactly, the member for Labrador West has done a remarkable job in getting the Minister to reverse the decision against the Premier -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. MATTHEWS:

- and for showing the Premier for what he really is. Now, the Premier knew that when he went out and promised three or four universities in this Province, and other things that he promised, that he just could not go about doing. Now, maybe he did, maybe he thought he was so almighty that he could wave a wand and the financial picture of the Province would change because it was now King Clyde K. Wells. Now, I am not going to get into what the K might stand for here today, I am going to get into it tomorrow.

MR. SIMMS:

King.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Not King. It is not King, that is too complimentary. We know what it stands for, but we will get into that tomorrow or some other time when the Premier is in his seat, because he is not here to defend himself, so I do not want to get into that.

MR. SIMMS:

You are going to speak again tomorrow?

MR. MATTHEWS:

I am not sure yet. I probably will be speaking for the week if

my hon. colleague does not stop interrupting me. If he wants to give me some fuel for my speech I would appreciate his notes coming up. The Minister of Finance has some things he can send over, some questions he has answers to. We really delight on this side when the Minister of Finance rises. One thing about this Minister of Finance he likes increases, and I guess that is synonymous with rising. And the biggest rise, of course, that we have seen in the last 20 years has been the increase in taxes on the backs of Newfoundland and Labradorians, the rape - it is nothing short of a rape - of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians in this Province, the taxpayers, a 2 per cent increase in personal income tax, and 10 per cent more tuition for students. I do not know how the hon. gentleman can stand in this House of Assembly, and I do not know how the Minister of Education could sit next to him on budget day, why he did not go out back of the curtain or somewhere, or arrange a meeting with Dr. Harris, who was sitting in the gallery that day, or go somewhere. But to get up in this House, with the President of the Student Union sitting in the gallery and say, 'I am going to smack it to you again today. You are going to pay me another 10 per cent. You cannot afford to go now, but you have to give me another 10 per cent.' Now, 10 per cent more tuition fees, that is bad enough, but he taxed everything else; everything else that a lot of thousands of students do, he taxed, Mr. Speaker. They cannot afford to go to university now. When they could afford to have a beer at the Breezeway, or to have a drink, or if -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. SIMMS:

They drink beer, you know.

MR. MATTHEWS:

There is no conflict of interest! Sit down and be quiet. He will have his turn to speak.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

I hate to interrupt the hon. gentleman in high flight, but I was looking for an appropriate moment to do this. The hon. gentleman mentioned that he might be speaking tomorrow. I was looking for an appropriate moment to inform hon. members that the member now speaking, you might not like it, has unlimited time.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. MATTHEWS:

Unlimited time! I am not sure if I appreciate the Speaker informing me of that or not. I have been known for a lot of things, but one thing I have never been known for is being long-winded. This might just have to be the time, and I suppose if we conclude by Labour Day - how many hours in the budget?

MR. SIMMS:

Seventy-five hours.

MR. RIDEOUT:

This does not count.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Oh, this does not count. Oh, well, I will go on forever.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. MATTHEWS:

There is no limit. Okay, that is

fine. Great!

So, Mr. Speaker, getting back to what the Minister of Finance has done, he has not only prevented thousands of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians from going to post-secondary institutions, but if they can manage to scrape in there they will have to go to their residences, to their apartments and lock themselves in weeks upon weeks at a time without any form of relaxation or relief from study, because they will not be able to afford to do anything else, Mr. Speaker. They will not be able to afford to relax with their friends or go downtown or go out and get a pizza or do anything.

The other thing, of course, Mr. Speaker, is, based upon the budget, those very same students are going to have spend a lot of time in the dark, which this minister has done by eliminating the power subsidy on the Power Distribution Districts, which was paid by the ratepayers in this Province, students, workers, health care workers, even teachers, all ratepayers, even the Minister of Social Services, who now wants to get another \$8 million back, by the way, from recipients. He wants to go out now and rob all of the widows and children. If they got a pair of pants now I would say he would take it back and auction it off and try to get back the \$8 million he is talking about getting back.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Shame! Shame!

MR. MATTHEWS:

The increase in electricity rates that this Minister of Finance has imposed upon the people of this Province means the students will not be able to have their lights

on all night, Mr. Speaker. So I suppose, as I said on Budget Day, we will see a return to the kerosene lamps, but then I suppose he has a tax on that as well.

He has taxed fuel of all sorts, leaded and unleaded. He has done it all, Mr. Speaker, this Minister of Finance.

And I really do not know, sitting around the Cabinet table, and with the social concern and the social conscience that the Minister of Social Services oozed when he was on this side, the man who went to the basements of Remand Centres and Detention Centres, and snooped around, and went to hospitals and saw what was happening -

MR. TOBIN:
And made up stories.

MR. MATTHEWS:
No, I did not say that. No, I did not say it - you can say that. Whether he made up stories or not, I do not know. I will not go that far, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there were times I thought the hon. member may have been making up stories, but I really could not say it because I am not that kind of individual. Again I am not long-winded and I am not that kind of individual. But, Mr. Speaker, I cannot see how the Social Services Minister for the Province could sit in on the budget process and let this Minister of Finance do what he did.

Now, of course, he will probably get up in a minute and say I gave them a 4 per cent increase.

MR. TOBIN:
We did that last year.

MR. MATTHEWS:

We did that every year. And it was not enough last year, the 4 per cent. The hon. minister must admit that. But he gave them 4 per cent in their social assistance. But what did he take back from on the other side? What did he take back? Fifteen per cent? So they are still down another 6 per cent or 7 per cent or 8 per cent, even though he gives them 4 per cent. Is the hon. minister proud of that? And is that why now we see him going out? They are going to ask him now to get back.

MR. TOBIN:
The lowest increase in the budget to Social Services.

MR. MATTHEWS:
Ever had. Check the budget from last year and see the increase that this member, when he was Minister of Social Services, got in the Social Services budget over the previous year and compare it what this Minister of Social Services had this year, yes, you should be ashamed and you would be ashamed as Minister of Social Services.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Oh, oh!

MR. MATTHEWS:
The same minister as a member stood in this House for four years and preached about how difficult it was for social assistant recipients in this Province to make ends meet, and I concur with that. I live on the street with them. I see them every weekend I am home and every day I am home -

AN HON. MEMBER:
And drink beer with them?

MR. MATTHEWS:
No, I do not drink beer with

them. No, no, I cannot afford to drink beer anymore, and for sure they cannot afford to drink it now. And the same with the students, they cannot afford to do that. That is one thing you cannot afford to do anymore in this Province.

But how he can say that for four years and then for me to read over the weekend what he is proposing to do! Now let me just say this to him again, in all sincerity, in all seriousness: I would say there are some cases in the \$8 million of overpayments that the minister is justified in trying to recover. But I can assure him that most of that \$8 million is out there lying about somewhere for some reason, and I would think that the people who owe it certainly, certainly cannot afford to pay any of it back. The minister said something about taking \$10 a month or \$5 a month and all that stuff off. I mean, seriously, they cannot afford to live now. You know that. I myself have had to take tins of milk out to some of them who did not have enough for their babies over the last seven or eight years. I am sure there are other members of this House have done the same. They cannot afford to give back 5 cents. They do not have 5 cents left. So, again, this great - what is a word I can use on them I wonder?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
A bluff.

MR. MATTHEWS:
No, no, he is not a bluff. I referred to his crawling around space and snooping. I referred to that. Roaming, he roams a lot.

MR. R. AYLWARD:
He has a new suit.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Right, he does not do much roaming now. He is like a lot of them over there, they do not roam. I am sure that when the Whip tells them to come out and start the House, the word goes out, 'Put on your belts and get strapped to your seats, and watch the King, if he nods approval then you can rise, but watch him because he might start to get up himself and, if he does, you sit'. We could see what we saw a week and a half ago, when the President of Treasury Board went to rise in his seat, and the King grabbed him by the coat, almost tore his jacket off, and whacked him back in his seat. Pulled him down in his seat. Maybe you will rise one of these days, maybe you will. I will tell you, there has been such a change in this gentleman since he took on the responsibility of Minister of Social Services. I might say that the change has not been for the best, to only be able to get a 4 percent increase for Social Assistance recipients in the Province, and then, less than a week after he said that, he said, 'I am going out and I am going to take \$8 million back from them. I am going to have it back.' Now he said today, 'They more than a 4 percent increase.' But on the other hand he says 'Give me back \$8 million. Boys, I have to have that back.' If the minister is so serious about the plight of the unfortunate in this Province, why do you not forego the \$8 million and leave it at that. Leave it alone, and still go back to Cabinet and see if you can get another 2 percent or 3 percent for the Social Assistants recipients.

Go back to Cabinet I say to the Minister of Education, is left, and see if you can get a

reasonable increase on tuition fees for the students of this Province. Students expect to pay a little more each year, but they do not expect to be hit with 10 percent. They certainly do not expect that, because 5 percent is average. The hon. gentleman knows that, I suppose that he knows that. He should know that. Five percent is a pretty standard increase in tuition fees.

MR. TOBIN:

Why not the same as for the people on social assistance?

MR. MATTHEWS:

Four percent would not be bad. That is fair.

MR. TOBIN:

How can he justify giving the widows of this Province a 4 percent increase and charging the children who are going to university 10 percent?

MR. MATTHEWS:

How can you do that?

MR. TOBIN:

That is crazy. It is only the Minister of Social Services who could do that.

MR. MATTHEWS:

But anyway, Mr. Speaker, I really wish and hope the speaker is on down in the Premier's Office, because I am sure that if the speaker is on in the Premier's Office I would say that the private elevator is going to shoot straight on up through this building today, and the Minister of Finance is going to have to come up with another \$2 million or \$3 million for repairs, because I am sure that he will not be able to believe the behavior of the people opposite, particularly the Minister of Social Services. It

is the first time I have seen him like it since he went in Cabinet, the first time he has been like it. 'Newsmaker of the Week', \$8 million he wants back. He says, 'Hubie wants \$95 million, I will get you \$8 million of it.' I am going to take it from the poor. What a turn around. But, of course, they are getting good direction and good coaching, and all they have to do is watch the Emperor, how has backtracked and backslid on everything he said in the election he would do, from post-secondary education in Labrador West to opening more health care beds, Mr. Speaker. He was going to open more beds in the Province. Yes, we saw last week about opening more hospital beds in this Province. There is no doubt about that. We saw it. Yes, he said on the Burin Peninsula he was going to open up another twenty, but he is going to close forty now. That means there are twenty less. Now that is the kind of mathematics that the people over there came up with. Of course, we can expect that. We can expect this government and this budget brought in by this Finance Minister to come up with that kind of mathematics and believe it. We can, because the Minister of Finance said on the public airwaves of this Province that he did not understand the formula to assess the tax burden of this Province when you compare it with other provinces. He admitted that openly to the people of the Province. So maybe in consultation with the Minister of Health, who has left the Assembly as well, and I say for a good reason he has left, he said, 'Now, let us shut down forty beds here and we will open twenty there, and that, Mr. Premier, will tie in with your remedy of opening more hospital beds in Newfoundland and

Labrador: But you are twenty beds less'. So maybe that is their kind of thinking and logic and mathematical calculations.

I see the President of Treasury Board is not too concerned here. He is more concerned with biology and Bt than he is with the budget of the Province. He is going to use Bt. He is the Bt member of the House. He has been that since he has been here. Old Bt Baker, that is what he should be known as.

I will tell you something, you will stand in this House in four or five years, if you are here, and you will say, 'What a blunder, forcing Bt down the throat of the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture! It was my decision. It was my recommendation. I overruled his officials. I, the biologist of the caucus.' He admitted that he is a great biologist here just last year. You will see the destruction of the forests of this Province. That is going to have a very negative effect on the financial position of this Province as well, hundreds and hundreds of thousands of jobs gone, and the financial position for the Minister of Finance will worsen. There is no question about it.

Mr. Speaker, you see from all ministers opposite what they have done. What a reversal we have seen from when they sat on this side of the House and criticized the then government, and then made proposals and recommendations and resolutions to this House, Mr. Speaker. What a reversal and what a contradiction! When I look across at my friend there, the Minister of Social Services (Mr. Efford) who has become so effortless since he went over there!

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. MATTHEWS:

The biggest effort we will see from him now will be to try and get back \$8 million from the poor old widows and the single parents, single mothers. Now couple that, if you will, with an \$8 million purge rate on the backs of the social assistance recipients, couple that with those who are on social assistance in this Province who may be fortunate enough to have a bit of money to adequately feed their children - maybe I am onto something here.

MR. BAKER:

It is about time.

MR. MATTHEWS:

And it is about time you got up and spoke.

MR. BAKER:

You have lots of time.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Yes. I have lots of time and the hon. member should remember that. The last time I heard the hon. member speak was when he said hello to me at Knickerbockers. That is the last time he spoke until now.

MR. TOBIN:

The old chicken wing.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Yes. The old spicy chicken wing himself up here. Old chicken and ribs, that is what he is. I tell you, what we have seen with the Bell Island ferry in the last few weeks I would say is more chicken than wings.

AN HON. MEMBER:

We will get the MC now.

MR. MATTHEWS:

We will get the MC and we will see all about that. Sit quietly. Here he comes. What did I say? What did I say? If he had the speaker on in his office, what did I say? Someone should check the elevator to see if it went straight up through, because I would say some of the capital budget will have to go for improvements to what happened over there.

There is another thing we want to see in the next five minutes, just see any difference in the behavior. I have been continuously interrupted while I have been speaking here trying to say some positive things and scrutinize this budget. Since the Premier left, there has been nothing -

MR. WARREN:

Now he is putting up notes instead of talking.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Well, where would you think you are.

MR. SIMMS:

They are not allowed to speak, so he puts up a note.

MR. MATTHEWS:

He puts up a note, 'Ask me a question tomorrow.'

Now, 'Old Effortless Efford'. Effortless, that is what he is. He has changed so much, I cannot believe it. I had a lot of respect for what I thought were the principles of the hon. gentleman when he was in Opposition.

MR. TOBIN:

What!

MR. MATTHEWS:

Yes, I did. Because I thought he was concerned about the people on social assistance and the underprivileged of the Province. I really did. But then I know he sat at the Cabinet Table when the Premier said, 'Now, John, you be quiet. You are going to get 4 per cent. Now shut your mouth, that is what you are getting.' Because if he sincerely believed in the plight, he would not settle for a 4 per cent increase, not while, at the same time, his Minister of Finance was raping the people of the Province for \$95 million.

As I said about the clothing, if the people on Social Assistance are lucky enough to be able to feed their children, which is very difficult - it is no laughing matter. It is rough for social assistance families in this Province to live, to have enough to eat.

MR. EFFORD:

Who caused it? You did.

MR. MATTHEWS:

You.

MR. SIMMS:

Oh, sure, we caused it!

MR. R. AYLWARD:

You are the government, boy.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Why did you not use the \$5 million surplus that you are projecting to give social assistance recipients what they need?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. MATTHEWS:

Why did you not come in with a balanced budget instead of saying we are going to have \$5 million

left? Why did you not as Minister of Social Services say, 'Hold on a second, Mr. Premier and Cabinet, the people on welfare in this Province could do with another \$5 million because they do not have enough clothing to wear, they do not have enough food and they cannot heat their homes properly. Why did you not say that, if you are as concerned now as you were when you were over here? I am serious about that.

The other thing you have done, you see, is those who are fortunate enough to have enough food to grow fast, those poor widows and single parents, the minister has smacked it to them now by saying, 'If you are growing too fast and you are thirteen or fourteen, you pay tax on your clothes.' So they are getting it in every way: They are getting it by the minister going out and trying to get back the \$8 million, and by the Minister of Finance changing the clothes rules, so that they are now going to have to pay if they grow quicker than others. I live on a street in Fortune and I look at kids who ride bikes and run up and down the street, and come to visit my daughter, and they are the same age but different sizes, so how can the Minister of Finance say, 'You have to pay tax on your clothing, but you do not have to pay it on yours'? How can he say that? I mean, people ask me the question and I cannot answer it. I say, 'You are unfortunate that your mother had enough milk to give you, or could feed you well enough.' Or, 'It is hereditary. You grew fast. Your mother and father are bigger than Johnny's' mother and father, so you have to pay tax and they do not.' That is the kind of thing that is hard to explain. And they say, 'Well, I expect you to say that, because

you are a member of the Opposition and you are the Finance critic.' But these are the kinds of questions that are being asked around this Province today and, I say to the hon. gentlemen, moreso than they may realize. These kinds of things, by nature, become very, very unpopular with the electorate, particularly those affected. And it is something they will learn as they become accustomed to being the government, that no one cares too much as long as they are not affected personally; they can stand it and they can swallow it and they can accept it as long as it does not hit them.

The kind of taxes that this Minister of Finance has brought in, of course, hits everyone in Newfoundland and Labrador: personal income tax and students with a 10 per cent tuition hike. Now if the Premier said we are going to whack the tuition fees up 10 per cent and as a result we are going to put that university out in Central Newfoundland that I promised - everyone in Newfoundland saw that as well.

MR. TOBIN:

Or on the Burin Peninsula.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Yes, or wherever else he is going to put his three or four universities.

With more Memorial University courses here and there, then we probably could say, 'Well, ...right? But he is such a contradiction! How he can even sit there and pretend he is not listening, writing and signing his letters. I would say he is probably answering some of the letters from the Minister of Finance. And I would not say he

is thanking him for the very positive comments on the budget, either, I would say he is trying to justify why his government had to do what they did. of course, we know the bottom line. He blames it on the Tory Government of years before, who left him with a \$2.1 million deficit in current account. Since the time the budget came in, they have been trying to convince people that they inherited a \$90 million deficit.

Now they came up with a \$90 million shortfall and they decided what they were going to do. The old Premier said, 'I am tough. I will make the necessary decisions. Minister of Finance, find me \$95 million and we will project a \$5 million surplus. And no, John, you will not get \$5 million for the people who need it in social assistance, that is not important. It is more important for the Minister of Finance to stand up on Budget Day and say he has a \$5 million surplus than it is for him to stand up and say the social assistance recipients in this Province are going to get a 7 per cent increase this year.' Now, that would have been more palatable, a balanced budget with more money going to those who really need it. The smallest increase is in the Social Services budget. He should be ashamed of himself! I cannot believe that he let it happen, because I thought he was stronger willed than that. I thought he was a more independant individual. I did not think he had to be a lapdog for anyone. I still do not think he is, and he will prove it over time.

MR. TOBIN:
He is a wimp.

MR. MATTHEWS:

No, I do not think he is a wimp. He will prove it over time. He will rebel. He will put his fist down on the Cabinet table one of these days and he will say, 'Mr. Premier, I have had enough of this. Now you give me enough money for the people I believe in or else you have trouble on your hands.'

MR. TOBIN:
What is he going to do then?

MR. MATTHEWS:
Oh, the Premier will give in to him, because he will know he is right. If you ask for things like that, no one can deny it.

Now, I look at members opposite and I look at some of the things they have done, and I look at the dismal performances of some of them over there and it makes me want to think about education. I must say to the Minister of Education that when he was asked a question on post-secondary education he handled himself very well, he really did.

MR. SIMMS:
He had to back off though.

MR. MATTHEWS:
He backed off, sure he did. He changed his mind and gave into the people. We understand that.

I look at the member for Exploits and the Minister of Employment and Labour Relations who were so committed to education, led the Newfoundland Teachers' Association when 'the terrible government did not give them any increases, not enough money for education.' Before I say anything else, I must say that the increase in the school equalization grant is a very positive one. It is not enough, but it is closing the

gap. We were going to put \$5 million more in. Maybe that is where the \$5 million surplus came from. We were going to make it \$15 million and then it would be square, it would be total equalization. The question for the Minister of Education, and for the member for Exploits, and for the Minister of Employment and Labour Relations particularly, who are carrying the education torch over there, is why did they not bring in full equalization this year? Why did they not do it? Why are you saying you have a \$5 million surplus in your budget when you could have given that money to the school boards and education in the areas of the Province where it was needed would have been better off?

MR. SIMMS:

A good question.

MR. MATTHEWS:

A good question.

So you see what they have done. They have socked it to the post-secondary education students. They cannot afford to come to the university. If they manage to get in here, they cannot go out and relax. They cannot afford a drink or a beer. You would never dare buy a cigarette. You cannot even afford to roll your own. You cannot roll your own anymore in this Province. This government has done away with that. The other thing is that they are going to have to stop studying by dark, because the ratepayers are going to be hit to such a degree that they are not going to be able to afford to pay their electricity bills.

MR. SIMMS:

And the tax on Gravol has gone up.

MR. MATTHEWS:

That is the only positive thing about the budget. The poor men and women around this Province are consuming more Gravol to settle their stomachs. I am not pleased that they are upset, but it would be interesting if you could somehow find out what the advice of the member for Exploits and the Minister of Employment and Labour Relations was to the Premier and to the Cabinet.

MR. TOBIN:

Call him the gofer.

MR. MATTHEWS:

No, I am not going to call him a gofer.

MR. TOBIN:

That is what Steve called me.

MR. MATTHEWS:

I know Steve called you that, but that is fair.

But I wonder what their advice was on education?

MS VERGE:

What about busing?

MR. MATTHEWS:

There was nothing done about busing whatsoever. The serious busing issue in education in this Province was not even addressed. How can they stand over there and smile and laugh? I am going to make a statement today, Mr. Speaker, and I usually do not make predictions. I made one already, that the deficit is going to come in between \$20 or \$30 million, and the President of Treasury Board just about fell off his seat. But I think he was laughing because I was being so conservative. I think the reason he laughed was because he knows it is going to be much worse than that. He

certainly was not laughing because he is going to have \$5 million at the end of the fiscal year, he was laughing because he found what I said funny. But why did they come in last Tuesday with a document showing a \$5 million surplus? I am going to say something else to the member for Exploits and the Minister of Employment and Labour Relations: It will not be too long before you will really have to stand up for education in this Province, and you will really have your day under the microscope with the people who really make education tick in this Province, and they are the teachers of Newfoundland and Labrador. After the antics and the frantics and everything else that the two of you got on with over the last number of years, when the time comes for contract negotiations, I will tell you, you are going to be in for a rough time. We will see then how concerned you were about the teachers of Newfoundland and Labrador, and about education and where your true allegiance lies. We will see it then. That is when we will see the test of time. It will not be long. When this House opens this Fall, I guess. I see the Premier nodding and smiling at the member for Exploits, reassuring him that, 'I will take care of you, Roger'. But we will see. They will be very interesting and trying times. And I hope the government is in a financial position where they can give teachers what they duly need, to be fair.

MR. TOBIN:

I say they will set up a commission on wages.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Yes, they may set up a commission on wages. I would say that is the next thing. They have commissions

on everything else. The Premier went about and said, I am going to reduce the size of my Cabinet. It was at nineteen when he took power and he cut it down to fifteen.

PREMIER WELLS:

It was twenty-two.

MR. MATTHEWS:

It was not twenty-two when you took power, it was nineteen. Now, your mathematics are bad again. Twenty from forty is twenty. Those are the hospital beds that you have now put in the negative in the Province with your actions in the Budget the other day.

So you are off twenty there. The Minister of Finance did not know the formula for calculating tax burden, so you were off there and you taxed people more than you should have taxed them. You tried to come in here and convince people that we were not the highest taxed people in the country. Now you stood in your seat, when you got a seat, for however long you were here - it was not all that long - and you preached that we were the highest taxed people in Canada. So how could you go and do the things that you have done? That is the question.

AN HON. MEMBER:

What are you talking about?

MR. MATTHEWS:

I am talking about commissions. You saved probably \$200,000 on ministers' salaries and their operations, but you did not save any on staff because they are still around. You saved probably \$200,000, and you go and you set up a commission that is going to cost \$3 million a year. Why did you not appoint two or three more of your members to the commission

and pay them a minister's salary? You would have been just as well off. You would have made them happy, and they would have done just as good a job.

MR. R. AYLWARD:
Most of them could do a better job.

MR. MATTHEWS:
The questions have to be raised: What else can the Economic Recovery Team come up with? What other recommendations can they come up with? What can they do other than what was already done by the Commission on Employment and Unemployment? You have the same gentleman Chairing it as headed that up.

AN HON. MEMBER:
We could have funded you fellows.

MR. MATTHEWS:
What was that?

AN HON. MEMBER:
We could have funded you fellows.

MR. MATTHEWS:
You could fund us?

MR. R. AYLWARD:
You could have appointed us, yes.

MR. MATTHEWS:
Is that was you said, you could have appointed us?

MR. R. AYLWARD:
Yes, he was going to appoint us.

MR. MATTHEWS:
No, I do not really expect you to do that.

AN HON. MEMBER:
(Inaudible).

MR. MATTHEWS:
Sorry! What was that?

AN HON. MEMBER:
You were here for seventeen years.

MR. MATTHEWS:
We were here for seventeen years, yes. That is true. We were. But we tried to do what the people elected us to do. We tried to govern. We did not slough it off on somebody else and pay them fat salaries to do it. That is what this Premier and this government is doing.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. MATTHEWS:
That is what you are doing. Three million dollars a year. I am going to tell you something: If hon. gentlemen and ladies opposite were honest, you would admit that what I am saying is correct. You did not create five or six additional jobs, or ten jobs, with the commission, because they were already employed and some of them were very well paid. What you have done by taking \$3.5 million from the operation of the St. Lawrence and Grand Bank Hospitals is you have given the commission enough to pay what the cost is going to be, and you are chopping 110 jobs out of the economy of this Province.

Now, when we see what the Commission on Employment and Unemployment do over the next number of years, if they create hundreds of jobs for this Province I will be the first to admit it was a great thing. But I have to ask the question again: What can Doug House come up with that he has not already come up with to help improve the economic plight of this Province and to create employment in this Province? What can he do?

Maybe there are some recommendations in the Commission that could have been implemented that would have helped. A lot of them have been implemented. Maybe there are more that would help the cause of unemployment in this Province, which needs to be addressed. I would never be one to say that we do not have a serious unemployment problem in this Province. We do. And again I would say to this government that by scrapping the Private Sector Employment Program, you have made a big mistake. I sincerely believe that. I am not saying that because I am in Opposition or I was the minister responsible for the program for a year, I really think you have made an awful mistake.

For every dollar you put into that program you got a dollar put in by the private sector. There were 3,000 people employed last year under the program. It was not fifty-two weeks employment - some jobs were - but 30 per cent of those jobs turned into full-time jobs. Sixty per cent of those employed under the Private Sector Employment Program last year were employed for a longer period of time than the subsidy period, which meant that when government withdrew its subsidy to the program, 60 per cent of those employed stayed on and worked for a longer period of time.

Some of those programs and projects were for sixteen weeks, twenty weeks, thirty week, forty weeks, and so on. It was moving in the right direction. They id not all last for fifty-two weeks, because in Newfoundland and Labrador it is not possible to come up with many opportunities to create fifty-two week jobs.

We might as well be realistic. I listened to the Premier talk about the fact that he was not going to put his belief in mega projects, but I hear him talking more and more about Hibernia and hydro development in Labrador, and a few other things he has talked about. We see that surfacing, raising its head more and more. But if you are not going to put your belief in mega projects and you are not going to fund the private sector in Newfoundland and Labrador to try and stimulate and encourage and promote employment, what are your options in Newfoundland and Labrador? What are they? I do not care who you put in charge of an Economic Recovery Team. It does not matter.

I have been the member for the district of Grand Bank for a little more than seven years. We went through a drastic downturn in the deep sea fishery, particularly, where plants were threatened to be closed and so on. So the Burin Painsinsula Development Fund was put in place, a very good fund. The only sort of medium-sized project in the District of Grand Bank that received funding was the reactivation of the fluorspar mine in St. Lawrence. It was closed by Alcan, as we all know. We were lucky enough to find an operator to come in, we gave him some \$6.8 million from the fund, and there are 110 people working there today and they are earning good money. It was great for the economy of a town that was totally depressed.

Now, out of the other side of my mouth I am going to say that I was very, very sorry to see that some sixty of those jobs will be gone, in one fell swoop, because of the Minister of Finance's announcement last Tuesday. So St. Lawrence is

not too much better off.

But when you look at the other towns in the district, predominately fishing towns like Grand Bank, Fortune, Point May, Lamaline, Garnish, and so on, councils and committees and myself sat for endless hours trying to come up with some way that we could utilize the Burin Peninsula Development Fund, and it is not easy. It is not easy! The odd small business got a few thousand dollars for this and that, for a crushing machine or something or other. Anytime we thought and came back to it all, it always came back to being fishery related. So what else we can do with the fishery? We can do a lot more with the fishery in this Province, and the hon. gentleman for St. John's South touched on some of it the other day. But when you look at rural Newfoundland and most of our districts are like mine, you do not have a lot of opportunities. I do not care, the Economic Recovery Team can go and they can beat down the doors in every home in every town in my district, and in every other district, and, I will tell you, they just are not going to come up with suggestions to create the jobs that the Premier thinks they are. We do not have to be very bright to know that in this Province. You do not have to be very bright to know it. You have to try, and the government is the body elected by the people of this Province to do just that. I think what this Premier is doing is shirking a lot of his responsibility as a newly elected Premier with a new mandate, a new Cabinet and a new caucus. I think too often he is shirking government responsibility off on other groups, commissions and teams, and I do not know why

that is. He has enough capable, competent people over there in his caucus to do most of the work that he is sloughing off on someone else, someone he is going to pay very, very well to do it, I might add, and that is a problem.

The Economic Recovery Team is going to cost this Province \$3 million. I would say that you will be lucky if you get \$300,000 value from it. I say that not to be cynical, but I am very, very familiar with rural Newfoundland and I am very, very familiar with the fishery and have experience with trying to utilize the Burin Peninsula Development Fund. Dr. House and his team are going to have a real tough time, and I do not think we are going to see too many economic benefits and employment positives from that Recovery Team. As I have said, if you were giving it to people on social assistance, or you were dispersing the funds to keep jobs that are now there, maybe I would be a little more pro spending the \$3 million.

To talk about the Social Services Minister again, he made all kinds of commitments when he was in Opposition, additional transition houses and all that kind of stuff. There is not a provision in the budget for additional transition houses, none whatsoever. You believed in it so much when you were in Opposition, yet, now that you have gone into the Cabinet you have become a contradiction, a wimp. You have been a wimp. I am convinced now that you have been a wimp in Cabinet. Yes, you have been a wimp. You have been a failure. The lowest increase ever in the social assistance budget in this Province. This member, when he was Minister, had double the

increase you have gotten this year, probably the largest increase in the last ten or twelve years, and you say, 'Thank you, Premier, I will take this little increase for my department, 4 per cent for social assistance recipients.' And then you say, 'But hold on, Premier. I have to get \$8 million back from them. I am going to take the clothes off their backs, because somehow someone made a mistake and overpaid them.' How can this minister honestly accuse any social assistance recipient in this Province of being overpaid? The Premier is nodding his head. Yes, you have been overpaid, but not the people on social assistance. No one on social assistance has been overpaid in this Province since Confederation.

Do you know anyone?

MR. EFFORD:
(Inaudible).

MR. MATTHEWS:
Well, what are you going to say, yes they have? We read what you saying. You are going to take five or ten dollars a cheque out of them.

MR. EFFORD:
(Inaudible) question.

MR. MATTHEWS:
Yes, you will ask the question. We know what you are really made of now. You are doing well, that is no doubt. You are going to set your mark as the Minister of Social Services, no question about that, the same as we have seen how some other ministers over there are going to set their mark. It is not good enough to stand in this House, or before the media of this Province, and say the government is thinking about

something new when you just cut the intestines out of a program that was very, very positive. When are you going to implement it? There is no provision in the budget for it. When are you going to implement the new programs, in 1990-91? In the Meantime, the private sector of the Province gets weaker. Thousands more people are unemployed. Is that job creation?

MR. TOBIN:
They increased Social Services funds by \$4 million and are taking back \$8 million.

MR. MATTHEWS:
Well, with their mathematics they will probably come up with a plus out of it. They came up with a plus for the budget, but they do not come up with a plus for the people.

Job creation, Mr. Speaker, in this Province is a problem. I just referred to the Burin Peninsula Development Fund and the Private Sector Employment Program, and what the government is trying to do and where they are trying to lead us in this Province, and I can tell them again that you just destroyed one of the most popular programs ever brought into this Province in the Private Sector Employment Program, you really did.

MR. TOBIN:
The minister said she recommended it to the Cabinet. Now who scuttled it?

MR. MATTHEWS:
No. When the minister sat in Cabinet, whatever input she had into the budget the minister did not know but the Private Sector Employment Program was corn flakes with raisins in them. With her display in this House on two

occasions on answering questions on the Private Sector Employment Program, seriously the woman did not know. I can understand she is a new minister, and there are a lot of new ministers, but if you do not know the answer to a question, get up in your place and say, I am sorry I do not know the answer, but I will find the information for the hon. member and I will come in and tell him tomorrow. I understand that, as do those of us who were fortunate enough to be ministers. I suppose I should say fortunate enough. Maybe I should say unfortunate, I am not sure. But that is to be expected. You need time to be briefed on your department. I went through it myself on two occasions. There were times when we had to say to officials, for God's sake, leave me alone and come back tomorrow. I cannot take any more. The Minister of Education nods in approval, because he knows that what I am saying is correct. And that is why, of course, he had to go back and get a reversal on Labrador West for January.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. MATTHEWS:

Once he was properly briefed, then he said, Well maybe we can bring this in after all. But I cannot give in full tilt now and say we will do it in September, so to save sort of half-face let us get the crowd up now, Premier, and say, Boys, how about January? The minister, in all due respect, was not fully briefed, or they had given him so much information that he could not handle it and he did not tell the Premier. Of course what he should have done most of all was bring the clip up in the Cabinet room and showed the

Premier and said, 'Premier, my God! how can we back down? You told those people, In September 1989, you will have first-year university courses.

AN HON. MEMBER:

You cannot do that, because that would be stupid and silly.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Maybe. Maybe. But if the minister had done that, he would have done the Premier a big favour.

And I will tell you something else: If they are smart, over the next number of weeks and months they will have their research/public relations person get every clip from the election and show them to him. Because during the election this Premier said he was going to open more hospital beds in the Province - did he not say that? - there would be more money for health care and more beds. Since last Tuesday we have seen a decrease of 20 beds in one region of the Province. That is what it is going to amount to, a decrease of 20 beds. If there were 40 and you closed them up and opened up twenty, you are still down by 20.

MR. BAKER:

No.

MR. R. AYLWARD:

Treasury Board says no.

MR. MATTHEWS:

I know the minister was responsible for Bt, but I am sure he did not inhale or digest it. I mean, 20 from 40 is 20.

MR. SIMMS:

He is only President of Treasury Board.

MR. MATTHEWS:

That is right, he is only President of Treasury Board.

The Minister of Finance could not understand the formula, he did not know what the numerator and the denominator were. Why would you expect the Minister of Finance to know what the numerator and denominator were in a formula, a man who just finished teaching at the university? You would not expect that in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Maybe the Minister of Finance is so convinced that post-secondary education is not important enough in the Province that he wanted to whack the tuition fees up enough so that no one will go in there anyway. Maybe that is why he did it, I do not know. It is a good reason for a man who just came out of that institution to go and sock it to the students by 10 per cent. Imagine! I cannot even imagine it. I tell you, I expect in September -

MR. TOBIN:
Clyde said you are silly.

MR. MATTHEWS:
Silly? The Premier says it is silly. Everyone in Newfoundland and Labrador and every suggestion that has been made in Newfoundland and Labrador for the last two years, in the opinion of the Premier, have been silly and stupid. 'It is silly and stupid, Winston,' he says.

MR. R. AYLWARD:
Wait until Doug House reports.

MR. MATTHEWS:
Well, other people in this Province do have opinions, and they have the right in this Province, as of now - now, maybe what I referred to him as here

today is going to be operative in this Province soon -

MR. TOBIN:
What is that?

MR. MATTHEWS:
- when I referred to Noriega. And I saw one of the gentlemen down there go for his gun right away, the military, and I thought I was gone. He went for his hip like a shot! I thought I had had it, I was gone!

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. MATTHEWS:
I opened it up now in the House of Assembly, and when I heard the bang from behind me - the member for Torngat Mountains fell off his chair.

MR. SIMMS:
The Minister of Finance, by the way, had a chance at the dean's job over there. He did not get it though. I wonder is that why he is socking it to them?

MR. R. AYLWARD:
Oh, oh! That is why he gave it to them.

MR. MATTHEWS:
Dean over at the university?

MR. SIMMS:
He wanted it but he did not get it. Dr. Harris would not give it to him.

MR. MATTHEWS:
Dr. Harris would not give it to him?

MR. SIMMS:
No.

AN HON. MEMBER:
He did not know his formula.

MR. MATTHEWS:

No, he did not know his formula. I would say the only formula the hon. member ever knew was Pablum. They mixed it up for the babies with milk and a bit of bread.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. MATTHEWS:

The Minister of Social Services is gone but I can tell you, with what he has done in this budget, that is what he is going to put the people of Newfoundland and Labrador back to. A 4 per cent increase in social assistance in this Province and he is taking \$8 million back.

MR. BAKER:

How silly.

MR. TOBIN:

'Winst' picked up the word, too!

MR. MATTHEWS:

Silly? Well, we will wait and see. That is what the people out in the Province are saying. That is what I heard in Deer Lake this weekend and in Fortune yesterday: 'How in the name of God can my kid have to pay taxes on clothes, Bill, because she grew faster, when your daughter does not have to pay? And you are making more money than I am, Bill. Your salary has been cut in half, but you are making more money still than I am. As a matter of fact, you are making as much as the wife and I are making working down in the Fortune fish plant. You do not have to pay tax on your daughter's clothes, Bill, but because our daughter grew fast, we do. And you can afford to pay it more than I can, Bill.' That is what people are saying. Those are the questions they are asking. The President of Treasury Board

can shake his head all he wants, but that is what they are asking.

I had calls yesterday from social assistance recipients at Fortune who asked, 'My God, Bill, is this Effordless minister going to want \$8 million back now? I have called you umpteen times, when I do not have enough groceries to get me through the week. As a matter of fact, you brought me out a couple of tins of milk on occasion to get me through the weekend, until I got my cheque. You have been good enough to do that, Bill. You were fortunate enough to be able to do it.' Those are the kinds of questions you are asked. Whether or not members opposite want to believe it is up to themselves, but that is what is happening out there in the Province.

MR. TOBIN:

They have increased the budget by \$4 million over what we approved last year.

MR. MATTHEWS:

It is ridiculous! I cannot believe it!

They wiped out the Sports Federation funding. Funding to the Arts community was so important two months ago. Two months ago sport and recreation in Newfoundland and Labrador were so important. The cultural community of Newfoundland and Labrador was so important. And I tell you, if someone got a lesson from the cultural community, you are looking at him right here. I was minister responsible for Culture and I inherited the biggest mess that you could inherit.

MR. R. AYLWARD:

(Inaudible).

MR. MATTHEWS:

I am not going to say who it was from, that does not matter.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. MATTHEWS:

That is beside the point. I had to deal with it. It is like this government. I did not say that someone else created the mess. It does not matter who was ahead of me, the thing was, as Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth, when I took the Oath, I had to deal with it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. MATTHEWS:

In the same way, when you went to Government House and took the Oath to be Premier and ministers, you took the responsibility. There is no point in pointing a finger at anyone else - take it. Because you did not have to come up with \$95 million additional revenue if you did not want to. You did not have to do everything you have done this year and you did not have to get it all this year. If you wanted to, you could have staggered it a bit, or you could have said, 'No, boys, the people are taxed too much now. Just look for \$40 million or \$50 million, not \$90 million, not \$95 million. Let us do half of it.' You did not have to do everything you did this year. Now, for some reason, over there, you think you did. But it is your decision what you are doing this year in this Province. It is your decision. And you could have taxed the people less. You could have bought in a personal income tax increase of 1 per cent and not 2. That was your decision. It could have meant that you had to do

less, or you could have come in and showed a \$40 million deficit instead of a \$5 million surplus. That was your decision. What is the President of Treasury Board shaking his head at? Two years ago we had a \$173 million deficit.

MR. R. AYLWARD:

And we were still not doing enough.

MR. MATTHEWS:

And we still were not doing enough. And we were not doing enough when we left, and we will not do enough when we come back. You will never do enough.

MR. WALSH:

You will never be back.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Yes. Oh yes.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Yes. Yes.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Let me tell the hon. gentleman up there, old Wings and Ribs, the chicken wing that represents Mount Scio - Bell Island, I do not know how his representation in Mount Scio is, but on Bell Island it has been desperate; the two ferry commitment is now reduced to one. What I was going to say to him is, as sure as I am going to run into him up at Knickerbockers, and I would put a good bet on that - the first council to come in now that can afford to buy me a dinner I am going to take them to Nickerbockers, and they are coming in tomorrow. So I am going to be at Knickerbockers soon. I cannot afford to take them anymore - as sure as that, we will be back and it will not be a long time.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

AN HON. MEMBER:

Three years.

MR. MATTHEWS:

And you can hold up your fingers, five, ten and twenty. Of course, when we were over there we did the same thing. When I left over there in March, I thought I was still going to be over there today.

AN HON. MEMBER:

In twenty years the NDP will be the official opposition.

MR. MATTHEWS:

That is right. In twenty years time the NDP will be the official opposition.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Cle Newhook (inaudible).

MR. MATTHEWS:

Yes, he will be. I am sure he will be. If he continues the success he had in the last provincial election, I am sure he will be here in twenty years. But then, on the other side of the coin, it is funny about this game, is it not? You can laugh at the hon. gentleman up there now, but if his support had not collapsed and gone to you, you would still be over here and we would be over there. Do not forget that, either.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. MATTHEWS:

He know that as well. That is what got you over there. Now you are over there, and we all have to accept it. As hard as it was for the first month - my, God, talk about Gravo!

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. MATTHEWS:

The druggist in Fortune said, 'Bill, I cannot give you any more. You cannot have it. Sorry, you are over your limit.' I said, 'Well, I will try something else.'

AN HON. MEMBER:

(Inaudible).

MR. MATTHEWS:

Well, that is the point, the cultural community. I had to meet it straight on. I had to deal with it and I did. I dealt with it as I thought was right and that is all anybody can do. If you listen to the community and you listen to the Arts Council and you listen to the Province and the factions that existed then, you tried to make a decision that you thought would work and it did, it improved. It is not what it should be, but it improved.

But when I look at this budget and see what this administration who, two months ago believed that culture and heritage and the arts of this Province were so important - I see my colleague from Humber East (Ms Verge),

MS VERGE:

A cut for the Arts Council (inaudible).

MR. MATTHEWS:

Yes, a cut for the Arts Council. Can you imagine? Now why would they do that? Maybe the Minister of Finance can tell me why he would cut funding to the Arts Council? It is not important. What else can it be? Other priorities?

MR. SIMMS:

He did not know he cut it.

MR. MATTHEWS:

He did not know he cut it? He did not know the formula. When he put

the numerator into the denominator and multiplied it came out wrong? Anyone knows that if you gave someone a half million dollars last year and gave them \$300,000 this year that it is 200,000 less. I can see the Premier shaking his head. What are you shaking your head about? It is simple mathematics.

AN HON. MEMBER:

He cannot stay awake.

MR. MATTHEWS:

He cannot stay awake.

I can believe that.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. MATTHEWS:

No, I do not believe that. That is not why he is shaking his head.

MR. R. AYLWARD:

No, that is not it.

MR. MATTHEWS:

He is shaking his head because he cannot believe that one individual could stand up in this House and make this much sense in such a short period of time.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. R. AYLWARD:

He is wishing he had you in his Cabinet.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Yes, I know. I am not taking any calls after the House closes from the Premier.

MR. R. AYLWARD:

Kitchen would be gone in a hurry.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Maybe he will still be shaking his

head from his bus tour of the district of Grand Bank, and how there could be that many signs when he went through.

MR. TOBIN:

And Marystown.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Yes. In Burin - Placentia West there were even more.

Maybe he shook his head and said, how could any one member who served in that terrible Tory government - that is what he called it - how could all those people down here put signs up in their windows and believe in this man?

It was a rough ride for the Premier that day for more reasons than one. It was not the bumpy Burin Peninsula Highway, but when he looked all around him, from one side to the other, he was into the blue zone, as I referred to it during a rally down there. That is why he shakes his head. And as a result of last Tuesday, I can assure the hon. Premier and those opposite, it will be a bluer zone.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. TOBIN:

And his star candidate stayed in the (inaudible).

AN HON. MEMBER:

(Inaudible) off on that too.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Well, we do not know about that. We hope he does, because if he does he will be doing the right thing. Again he will be doing the proper thing. In considering Labrador West he still should have said, 'I am the Premier of this Province and my Minister of

Education and I want first-year university courses in Labrador West in September, 1989, Mr. or Mrs. or Ms Officials, now put them down there.' That is what he should have done. That is what he was elected to do. He said openly that he was going to do it, but then some people advised him he could not do it and that is all he wanted to hear.

AN HON. MEMBER:
(Inaudible) P.C.

MR. MATTHEWS:
No, it has nothing to do with P.C. The Premier is not like that. Look, we have never seen the like of fairness and balance before in our history that we have seen from this man. It is going to be a long time before we see such fairness and balance again, because the next time we see fairness and balance we will see real fairness and balance. It will not be just word of mouth, semantics.

The Arts Council: I think the Premier should get a grant from the Arts Council for the biggest act ever put on in Newfoundland and Labrador.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. MATTHEWS:
The biggest act! I go back to Fortune every weekend and people say, 'Bill, look, I hate to tell you this and I do not know how I did it. I know Graham Wood did not save his nomination fee, but I was one of those who voted for him. But I will tell you one thing, from the first thirty days of Clyde Wells, there will never be a Liberal get another vote again down here.'

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. MATTHEWS:
That is what is being heard, because they know it was nothing but a big act all over the Province, from post-secondary education, reversing his Labrador West announcement, to 10 per cent on tuition fees for students. They cannot afford to go to school now in Newfoundland and Labrador. The Premier was going to make it more accessible and easier for people to go, and better quality. Yes, there is no doubt!

He froze the cheques on three recreation complexes in the Province. I was not that far off when I said 'Noriega' today. I have heard all kinds of reports about things with elections and stuff, too. I have heard a lot of stuff about that, elections and things that went on and did not go on. I heard a lot about it.

Anyway, getting back to the Arts Council. Anyone who has got friends with the Arts Council right now - who is the minister responsible for the arts in this Province now anyway? Is it the minister who is responsible for most other things? I make no wonder the minister is not here today. The poor man! And I say it quite honestly.

MR. R. AYLWARD:
He is run ragged, he is.

MR. MATTHEWS:
I was Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth for this Province for three years and I never had a minute to myself for the three years. The demands were out of this world.

MR. GILBERT:

(Inaudible).

MR. MATTHEWS:

What is the old Cape Canaveral Blast Off saying over there? The old 'don't know if there is a Minute-in-Council issued or not', on his department now that is so important an issue in the focus of Newfoundland and Labrador in the last three or four months on the Bell Island and Fogo ferries. Make no wonder you keep your hands over your eyes and keep looking at your paper. Maybe you are reading the Minute-in-Council to familiarize yourself with it? Are you?

AN HON. MEMBER:

Perhaps he has an MC there.

MR. WARREN:

Or his resignation.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Yes, it should be his resignation, if it is not, because, I assure you, if Parliamentary precedent and tradition prevails, then I expect what this minister is doing today is just fine-tuning the letter to the Premier saying, 'Dear Premier, I am so sorry to embarrass you so. I should have known, and I should not have answered the way I did.'

The Arts Council budget has been slashed by some \$13,000. That is \$13,000 less dollars for the artists of this Province who apply to the Arts Council for grants for the various reasons they apply - \$13,000 less. In 1989, in Newfoundland and Labrador, \$13,000 less to the Arts Council.

Less money to the sports and recreation communities in the Province. Cheques frozen for three recreation complexes. Have you ever heard the like before in

your life? Money budgeted in a fiscal year, duly budgeted and passed by this Assembly, legally spent, decisions made, Minutes-in-Council passed, to fund three projects under the Regional Recreation Facilities Program, a new program brought in in the last two years by this member who was the minister of the day, because there was a problem with recreation facilities in Newfoundland and Labrador. Again, to refer to my own area of the Province, we have an arena in Fortune that is utilized by five or six communities, but the town of Fortune has to take full financial responsibility for it. The first six months I was a member of this House, every morning I woke up I wondered if I would have a town council in Fortune because the financial position was so rough. This happened not only there but all over the Province. We had this kind of problem so we had to address it. We needed more co-operation between communities to support financially and morally, and otherwise, a major recreation facility. So the reason a Recreation Facilities Program was brought in was to ask communities, if they wanted a complex in a region, to work together. They had to have letters of intent and agreements signed amongst them, they had to agree to fund it accordingly, and government would put up 80 per cent. And part of that requirement was that if their proposal and the agreements that came in were considered, a feasibility study had to be done, a feasibility study which for so long in this Province was not required and facilities were built all over the place with no feasibility studies done, facilities not properly located,

facilities which consequently caused financial hardship and burden on communities, such as I referred to in the town of Fortune, and on others there was a much worse financial burden than in my own area.

So we went through all that. Feasibility studies were funded by consultants, experts, and the recommendations came into the department, and because of the top three recommendations the decision was made to fund them. The feasibility studies were done okaying the type of complex, location, and so on, and the towns all agreed to chuck in and do whatever they could.

MR. R. AYLWARD:

Were they all in PC districts, or were some in Liberal districts?

MR. MATTHEWS:

No, they were not all PC districts. That did not make any difference, where they were. They had met the requirements and the criteria of the program. It did not matter where they were located. It did not matter one bit. Fortune-Hermitage at the time was held by a Liberal member.

MR. EFFORD:

(Inaudible) my district.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Your district? You should not be allowed in your district for what you are doing to the social assistance recipients out there. I am surprised they allow you home at night.

Fortune-Hermitage, Bonavista North, Fogo - Liberal districts. Bonavista North, the Bonavista Loop, that took in more than areas represented by the now Speaker, more communities than just in his

district. That was what it was all about. It did not matter that a town fell outside the boundary. If communities agreed that they would share the burden and co-operate so that one community would not be strangled by the facility, that is what it was all about and that is the way it should be. Did you ever hear the like? That was all done. Feasibility studies were done, the decision made by Cabinet, and this Premier freezes the cheques. This is the same Premier who believed in recreation, who believed in fairness and balance and equality for all regions of the Province regardless. They needed better health care services in rural Newfoundland, they needed better recreation facilities in Newfoundland. What have we seen in the last two weeks? Cheques cancelled, frozen, no recreation facilities, and less hospital beds going to be open in this Province than there were before the election.

MR. TOBIN:

And they closed down Long Harbour.

MR. MATTHEWS:

No, they did not close down Long Harbour, but what you saw there was a real backing off by the Premier who went out and shook hands in Long Harbour, as we all saw, and when a fellow said something to him he said, 'Boy, you look out to me and I will guarantee you that I will look out to you.' Yes, he looked out to them alright. And that member over there, probably the reason he is there right now is the Long Harbour fiasco. Probably that is it.

MR. R. AYLWARD:

No, Long Harbour supported Patterson.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Oh, he did not win Long Harbour?

MR. R. AYLWARD:

No, Long Harbour supported Patterson.

MR. MATTHEWS:

He got some votes in Long Harbour did he not? He worked out there. He must have gotten some support.

MR. WINDSOR:

The people in Long Harbour know him too well.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Maybe that is it. I am sure it had some influence out there, and it was a factor in the election. The Premier sure tried to make it an issue.

MR. SIMMS:

They cancelled the job creation program.

MR. MATTHEWS:

The private sector is gone, 3,000 jobs.

More jobs for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.

MR. HOGAN:

There is a silver lining.

MR. MATTHEWS:

There is a silver lining in Long Harbour. It is like I told the gentleman in the back. I would say you had better lay your golden egg, too, because that is about the only thing, silver or gold, you are going to get over there.

MR. TOBIN:

Now that is on the record, in Hansard, that the member for Placentia (Mr. Hogan) said that there is a silver lining.

MR. MATTHEWS:

There is a silver lining, yes. That is right. That is recorded in Hansard.

The Premier was talking about this job creation effort, but we have seen a real backing off on that with the Economic Recovery Team. It is going to take six or seven years now before we see a difference. 'Six or seven years maybe,' he said, 'we cannot do it in one term. We are not going to be able to do it in one term. All I said I could do is going to take maybe two or three terms now.' Oh, what a shock he is in for.

MR. R. AYLWARD:

Yes.

MR. MATTHEWS:

I would say it will be a recovery team he will need after the next election. It will be a recovery team, but it will not be, I do not think, in the hospital in St. Lawrence or Grand Bank that he will find it, unless he changes his mind tomorrow. There will be no recovery team there.

AN HON. MEMBER:

(Inaudible).

MR. MATTHEWS:

Yes, I hope he does, because he will be doing the right thing again.

There are two things, whether in politics or in any walk of life, that you should always be, and that is person enough, man or woman enough to always be big enough to say you are sorry and to admit you are wrong. You should always be big enough to do that. Whether you are a Premier, or whatever walk of life you are in, it does not matter, you should always be big enough to say, 'I made a mistake. I have changed my

mind. I am sorry.' Maybe the Premier will do that tomorrow. Maybe he will. If he does, he will make the right decision.

AN HON. MEMBER:
(Inaudible).

MR. MATTHEWS:
Yes, we have seen a change in him. He may be coming around, who knows.

Job creation: Three thousand jobs in the private sector, that is gone. The minister does not know what new program he is going to replace it with or when she is going to bring it in. That may be in the next term as well. Maybe in six or seven years time they are going to come up with a program. But by going to a social assistance program of 75/25 is not the answer. What the previous government was going to do is was take money out of the community development fund of social services and put more money into the private sector fund, because the best place to create jobs in this Province was through the private sector. And that program has been so popular and so successful, that that was the best route through which to channel the money. As well, of course, all the money was not being spent from the community development project fund.

MR. EFFORD:
It was abused.

AN HON. MEMBER:
It was abused so much (inaudible) took advantage of it.

AN HON. MEMBER:
That is a lie.

MR. MATTHEWS:
What is a lie?

MR. SIMMS:
He is saying it was abused.

MR. MATTHEWS:
No, it was not abused. It was not abused!

MR. R. AYLWARD:
They do not know the value of it, that is all.

MR. MATTHEWS:
It was not abused. And I can tell you that the community development project money was not all used last year, and as a consequence, as the Minister responsible for the Employment Services Division and the agency to create jobs for this Province, I went to the Budget Committee in Treasury Board, and so on, and asked them to give me some of the money that was going into Social Services Community Development because I could better use it to create jobs in this Province, and for every dollar I spent I could get a dollar more from the private sector. And we were creating longer term jobs. The minimum was sixteen weeks. That is not great, but six more than ten. And if the average was twenty-five, then that is fifteen more than ten. And 30 per cent were for fifty-two weeks, and 60 per cent were for longer than the subsidy period. If we subsidized the program for twenty weeks, 60 per cent of those we funded stayed on for longer than twenty weeks at a total cost to the business. It did not cost government anything.

Now what are you going to find in Newfoundland and Labrador that is going to be any better than that? I do not care if Doug House comes down here, or if all the university comes down, you are not going to find anything any better. You have got to have a

mix in this Province between the private sector, big business and this government. You have got to have a mix.

If you do not believe in megaprojects, Mr. Premier, and you do not believe in helping the private sector, what is the Economic Recovery Team going to do? You should call it the Economic Discovery Team, because they are going to discover that they are not going to come up with anything. I hope they do. I would be the biggest promoter of the Economic Recovery Team if it does something for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador, but I honestly think it is just another front and that you as Premier who preached employment opportunities for this Province, I really think that you have shirked your responsibilities. I think you have shirked them, you have thrown it off on someone else and you will say, 'Why, it was not even me or one of my ministers, it was Dr. Doug House and his team.' I have respect for Doug House and all the people on the Team, but you cannot perform miracles. What has happened inside Doug House's head from the time he delivered the Royal Commission Report on Employment and Unemployment until today must be a miracle if there is going to be such a change and he is going to deliver to this Premier a program or a policy, or whatever, that is going to create those thousands of jobs for this Province. What is happening? The only thing that has changed is the time frame in this Province. Doug House has been a professor for how long? A smart man, brilliant. The government changed. Does that mean what happened inside Doug House's head changed? Is that what you are telling me, because the government changed? No,

certainly it did not. What else can the man come up with?

MR. SIMMS:

He could set up some bus companies to bring all the Newfoundlanders home.

MR. MATTHEWS:

That is another question. I was wondering what travel agency the Premier is going to engage to issue the tickets.

AN HON. MEMBER:

No points.

MR. MATTHEWS:

There are a lot of points there, what I am talking about. Maybe the Premier is going to use the points he is going to take from his officials to bring them home. But if it is going to take him six or seven years to do what he said he was going to do in the election, the airplane program will be expired. It is due to end at the end of 1990. It sounds funny, but it is not funny. Again the Premier has falsely raised the hopes of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, families living in Newfoundland and Labrador and those working somewhere on the Mainland. He has cut 3,000 jobs out of the private sector. There are 110 jobs gone in St. Lawrence and Grand Bank. That is 3,110 jobs. He has hired people for the Recovery Team who were making good money. There are four ministers less over there. Where are they going to go to work? Where are the 35,000 or 40,000 Newfoundlanders he is saying 'Come home Newfoundlanders' to going to go? They cannot come home, because they have nowhere to work. What we are going to see in this Province, Mr. Speaker, as a result of actions taken in this budget, are more Newfoundlanders and

Labradorians leaving this rock.

AN HON. MEMBER:
(Inaudible).

MR. MATTHEWS:
There is no question.

We have students today who, this Fall, would have gone to a post-secondary institution, but as a result of this budget they will not go now. They will not go to pursue post-secondary education, they will not better equip themselves training-wise or education-wise to go, which would increase their chance for employment. Doug House said that in his Royal Commission on Employment and Unemployment. He said, 'A well educated Newfoundlander has as good a chance as anyone else in Canada of finding employment.' So is this a positive move, that you slap 10 per cent on tuition fees and keep more of them out of post-secondary institutions? What is Doug House going to say about that? That is the first thing he should call the Premier on in his advice from the Recovery Team and say, 'Reduce the tuition fees. Let more of them go in and be educated, and then we will be better off as a Province.' We all know that education is the key. It is the key to a lot of things: It is the key to reducing the burden on our health care system. It is the key to having a stronger private sector and a stronger economy. We all know education is the key, but if you are going to cause more and more Newfoundlanders not to become educated by bringing in savage tax increases, then you are working in reverse, you are being contradictory. I have never seen a Premier be so contradictory in such a short period of time, to change what he led 47 per cent of

Newfoundlanders and Labradorians to believe. They believed in him, but he has gone back around.

MR. SIMMS:
Six weeks, and he has become more arrogant.

MR. MATTHEWS:
No, he has not become more arrogant in six weeks. That is not true. I do not believe that either. What has happened is he is more exposed now in the Province since he has become Premier. He is just as arrogant, but people did not know he was so arrogant before. The Premier has not become more arrogant. He was just as arrogant before, but now people know he is, and that is the difference. And they will see that he is going to become more and more arrogant. It is too bad that the Minister of Employment and Labour Relations left, because I wanted to get some more profound answers from her, like those I got in the last two days.

AN HON. MEMBER:
Maybe the Whip can get her in.

MR. MATTHEWS:
No, he is not going to whip her in. I am sure he is not. I asked the minister a question last Wednesday on the Occupational Integration Program for Women. If you want to see deceit in a budget document, you pretend that you are funding a program and you really are not, or you are putting new money in a program and you are not. That is what happened with the Occupational Integration program for Women. I asked the minister a question last Wednesday about what is really happening to it. It has been cancelled. What they are really doing is funding projects that have carried over into this fiscal year which were

approved last year. There is no new money. That is what is happening. It is cut in half. It is down to \$250,000. They are only going to fund what is carried over into this fiscal year, so in essence the private sector program is dead, and the Occupational Integration Program is dead. So, I mean, where are the priorities for women? Where? We all want to see more women involved in politics in the Province.

MR. WARREN:

He tried to get rid of one in the last election?

MR. MATTHEWS:

He tried to get rid of one, but she was too strong for him. It did not work.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. WARREN:

Yes, he tried to get rid of her but he could not do it.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Now we see in this budget document this government's real emphasis and priority towards women. Again, this Occupational Integration Program for women was brought in in consultation with the Women's Policy Office, the Status of Women Councils of the Province in the various regions of the Province, like the Gateway and others. It was a program devised on consultation, trying to get women into occupations that were predominately held by men, which I felt when I was minister, which I was for awhile and then my colleague for Grand Falls (Mr. Simms) inherited the responsibility, was important. And it was reasonably successful. What we have to remember is that the employment program we had in

place, the private sector program, was only in place for two years. That is a short period of time.

AN HON. MEMBER:

And it worked.

MR. MATTHEWS:

It worked extremely well. The reason it worked was because it was so simple. Employers were not mind-boggled with the application.

MR. WARREN:

Did you apply for an application? You did not get one?

MR. MATTHEWS:

And the Occupational Integration Program for women was in its first year and it was scrapped. So it just makes you wonder. You just do not cancel things for the sake of cancelling them. You do not do that. I mean, seriously, it was a good program. Those are two employment programs that you have cancelled. And I honestly do not think, in listening to the Minister of Employment and Labour Relations, that you really know why you cancelled them. I really do not think you do. As a matter of fact, I know that there were members sitting in this House, on that side, who did not know the Private Sector Employment Program was cancelled -

AN HON. MEMBER:

That was the member for Carbonear, was it not?

MR. MATTHEWS:

- and called to ask where the applications were and when could they expect to know if some of them had been approved or not approved?

AN HON. MEMBER:

What?

MR. MATTHEWS:
That is true.

Now I can understand the member not believing that it was cancelled. He did not want it cancelled, but he actually did not know it was cancelled and he is sitting in that caucus. That government, his own Premier and Cabinet, made a decision cancelling the Private Sector Employment Program and I know of one member who sat there and did not know it was cancelled, and he called asking for information about when he might expect approvals. Can you imagine that? I can imagine it, because I guess he was as puzzled about the program as I was and others were. Can you imagine?

MR. SIMMS:
Look at the taxes that would have been coming in from those 3,000 jobs after the increases.

MR. MATTHEWS:
Oh, I mean, with the tax increases the Minister of Finance has inflicted, if he had only gotten them to work he would have had a bonanza.

MR. SIMMS:
He would have 3,000 people or more.

AN HON. MEMBER:
Who did you support in the leadership?

MR. MATTHEWS:
Who did I support in the leadership? I supported, Sir, the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Baie Verte - White Bay.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. MATTHEWS:
Let me just say something to the

hon. member: There is one thing about me. When I make a decision I make it. There is no part way or half way. Everyone in this Province knew who I supported for the leadership, and you knew it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Oh, oh!

MR. MATTHEWS:
That is no bad reflection on this man. We have been friends all our lives and we remain to be friends.

MR. SIMMS:
Right on! We are not like the Liberals.

MR. MATTHEWS:
But there comes a time in life when you have to make decisions. And when the time comes for me to make a decision, I will make it.

MR. SIMMS:
You are not like their leader.

MR. MATTHEWS:
And I will make what I figure is the best one, based upon a number of factors.

MR. TOBIN:
He is not like you.

MR. SIMMS:
Not like what happened to Leo Barry. Explain to us how you did Leo Barry in.

MR. MATTHEWS:
No, I am not going to bring up about Leo Barry. God Bless Leo Barry, I say, may he rest in peace.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Oh, oh!

MR. MATTHEWS:
Boys, oh, boys! My my speech is going -

MR. SIMMS:

There are an awful lot of interjections here, Mr. Speaker. Decorum. Another emergency caucus tonight, boys. You will get your wrists slapped again.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Yes, it is time he really dealt with them so that the decorum and so on improves.

MR. SIMMS:

I am surprised. He is here, too.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Who?

MR. SIMMS:

The Emperor.

MR. MATTHEWS:

No, no. This Premier spends a lot of time in the House. He was away the other day to Montebello on behalf of the Province, and I recognize that as his responsibility. That is fair enough. There are times he has to go away on behalf of the Province.

AN HON. MEMBER:

(Inaudible) the Minister of Finance.

MR. MATTHEWS:

No, he did not. I called his office and they said, 'No, the facts were not sent.' The Minister of Finance's office said he did it up but he changed his mind. He thought seriously about resigning because he could not interpret the formula and consequently slapped \$95 million on the taxpayers of this Province, took the skin of their financial backs by mistake. He was not sure that he needed \$95 million. He did not know the formula but, from what he knew of the formula he said, 'We are not the highest taxed people in Canada.' But can

you imagine a Minister of Finance in Newfoundland and Labrador getting on the public airways - I would not care if he did it in the Cabinet room or over in his office or home or wherever - and trying to convince Newfoundlanders and Labradorians that they are not the highest taxed people in Canada?

MR. TOBIN:

And be proud of it.

MR. MATTHEWS:

No, he is not proud of it, the poor man. No, he is not.

MR. TOBIN:

He told them to drink beer, and be proud of that.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Yes, drink beer.

MR. TOBIN:

What did he say about cheats (inaudible)?

MR. MATTHEWS:

Yes. He called people everything. Tax evaders, cheats.

He really suggested to the parents of Newfoundland and Labrador that they get binding, like they do with the mummies, and bind their children up at a certain age, because if they grow beyond that, I am slapping you with a tax. Now, they may save a bit of money on the tape. I do not know. Do you tax the tape? That is the question. Is the tape taxed as well? They may be better off buying the tape than clothes, because if they have the tape on them they do not have to buy the clothes. So maybe that is the thinking.

MR. SIMMS:

There is tax on everything.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Yes. There is tax, there is no doubt.

Driver's licences -

AN HON. MEMBER:

Sit down!

MR. MATTHEWS:

Who said that? Who told me to sit down? Can you imagine, Mr. Speaker? Here I am in the middle of a budget debate, with unlimited time, and some member over there tells me to sit down.

MR. SIMMS:

Tell him you are only in your preamble yet.

MR. MATTHEWS:

I mean, I cannot believe it. Sit down! I am just getting warmed up to the budget.

MR. SIMMS:

This is his preamble so far.

MR. MATTHEWS:

I am just going through some of the stuff here. It is going to take me a long time. I have to tell the hon. member that I am still hoping I am going to wake up and the budget speech really has not been delivered for the Province. I really am, because I have trouble believing that this Premier, this compassionate, fair, balanced Premier, could inflict on the people of Newfoundland and Labrador what he has done. I do not believe it. I do not believe that he would do it. And he sits there as if he does not care. Maybe he does not. Make the tough and necessary decisions. Yes, there is no doubt! I would say if there was an election called today the people of Newfoundland and Labrador would very quickly make a necessary decision.

MR. SIMMS:

Yes. Come on with the election.

MR. MATTHEWS:

They would very quickly make a necessary decision, there is no question. This government has taxed the works. Students at the university, some of them are fortunate enough to have cars, their parents are probably well enough off to give them a car. It is hard to get enough gas to go where they want to go at the best of times, but a tax was smacked on the gas too. It is unbelievable! There is tax on every aspect of the Newfoundland and Labrador society. Everything that you could possibly tax he has taxed. Not bad for a Premier who believes in fairness and balance.

MR. SIMMS:

And only in office a month.

MR. MATTHEWS:

In office a month, yes.

You talk about contradictions! I mentioned a few of them: Lab West, and on and on it goes.

Then we hear about ministers not being allowed to advertise. "Wells suspends Cabinet Ministers' ability to place congratulatory advertisements." He suspended that.

MR. SIMMS:

That is a big sock-it-to-her, is it not?

MR. MATTHEWS:

Yes. I do not know what they were going to say. I am not sure.

MR. SIMMS:

That is a gigantic item, that one.

MR. MATTHEWS:

He said, 'There has been a misuse

of public funds in the past - no, he did not say that, that was this spokesman, this fellow who said, 'If we say it is wrong it is wrong' -

MR. TOBIN:

That is what he was talking about.

MR. MATTHEWS:

- 'and if we say it is right it is right,' a fellow in the Premier's office. Besides, the Premier already said that publicly, "If we say it is wrong, it is wrong."

MR. SIMMS:

The next thing you know they are going to close the private elevator.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Can you imagine? If we say it is wrong, it is wrong! It does not matter if it is wrong or not, but if they say it is wrong.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Imagine the arrogance!

MR. MATTHEWS:

Arrogance?

AN HON. MEMBER:

What bullshit!

MR. MATTHEWS:

No, it is not bullshit.

MR. WARREN:

What?

MR. MATTHEWS:

I heard what he said over there. The same fellow who goes on about how everything is silly and stupid.

AN HON. MEMBER:

I was talking to someone else.

MR. MATTHEWS:

I know you were speaking to someone else, but you were talking

about the hon. member and what he was saying.

The personal messages from the Premier and Cabinet Ministers for particular events and so on, he is going to cancel all that. You will not see a message from the Minister of Development, or a Minister of this or that or something else.

Well, what did we see shortly after that? He said, "It rarely does not fulfill a useful purpose."

MR. TOBIN:

Wait, now, that is how they explained it to him.

MR. SIMMS:

This weekend?

MR. MATTHEWS:

He left the House did he?

MR. SIMMS:

Yes. He was not long getting out of here.

MR. MATTHEWS:

He blasted off. He got the thrusting power back from the Challenger when he took off from the launching pad.

MR. SIMMS:

That is today now and yesterday.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Who is he? The hon. David S. Gilbert, Minister.

MR. SIMMS:

A printing deadline, I suppose it must have been.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Something else cancelled. Look here! Oh, no!

MR. SIMMS:

What is that?

MR. MATTHEWS:
The 30th of May? The Premier?

MR. SIMMS:
No, it was not a paid ad. It cannot be!

MR. WARREN:
No, that is a mistake!

MR. MATTHEWS:
No, it is not paid, it is complimentary - May 30, for the Premier, Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists.

MR. SIMMS:
Show it to the Premier, he never saw it.

MR. MATTHEWS:
Yes. Better health care, sure - the Premier.

MR. SIMMS:
That is not a paid ad, is it?

MR. MATTHEWS:
Not bad!

MR. SIMMS:
No, then it is not a paid ad. I am sorry.

MR. MATTHEWS:
Talk about a reversal, talk about backsliding.

MR. SIMMS:
How about the one for the minister?

MR. MATTHEWS:
What, the Minister of Mines and Energy?

MR. SIMMS:
What, another ad?

MR. MATTHEWS:
What is going on, boys?

MR. SIMMS:
I thought there were no ads. What

is going on? There must be free ads.

MR. MATTHEWS:
Well, maybe they do get free ads.

MR. SIMMS:
Probably complimentary.

MR. MATTHEWS:
The point is, again we see a Premier and a government that is being contradictory. Reversing decisions, backsliding on health care, education, recreation, job creation, and on and on the list goes. You are backsliding on everything you said you would do, and you promised the people of Newfoundland and Labrador. You are coming up with excuses and the term is now, - what is it you used during the Budget Speech?

AN HON. MEMBER:
As soon as possible.

MR. MATTHEWS:
No, not as soon as possible.

MR. SIMMS:
In due course.

MR. MATTHEWS:
In due course. You see, before you told the people of Newfoundland and Labrador you were going to do all these things, you should have known, and explored to see if you really could do them. Because people believed when you told them you were going to do it that you could do it, and that you had the fiscal ability and capacity to do it.

So what we see here is a Premier who is irrational and goes about telling people that he will do certain things for them, even if he does not know that his government can afford it.

MR. SIMMS:
That is right.

MR. MATTHEWS:
That is what he does. It tells me something about his planning and his research abilities. It tells me everything about him. It tells Newfoundlanders and Labradorians everything about him as well. The people of the Province whom he skinned for \$95 million last Tuesday - an additional \$95 million, they were taxed enough as it was, an additional \$300 per man, woman and child out of their pockets. An additional \$300 per person! Can you imagine that on top of everything else they had to pay? And the Minister of Social Services sat there today as though it was a big joke, a 4 per cent increase to social assistance recipients, and he wants \$8 million back from them for being overpaid.

MR. SIMMS:
When you pointed out he could have used the \$5 million surplus, he left.

MR. MATTHEWS:
Exactly. Well, maybe I should ask the Premier.

MR. SIMMS:
Yes.

MR. MATTHEWS:
Why did not the Premier say, 'No, we will not have a \$5 million surplus this year, Cabinet colleagues, we will put it into social services and give those poor, destitute people of the Province enough food to eat and bit of clothes to put on their backs.' Why did he not do that? Why did you not give them the \$3 million you are giving to the Economic Recovery Team? You could have done a lot of things with the

money you are wasting, a lot of things. And you are taking it out on the students.

AN HON. MEMBER:
(Inaudible) the cucumber money.

MR. MATTHEWS:
Pardon?

AN HON. MEMBER:
(Inaudible) a lot of cucumber money.

MR. SIMMS:
Oh, oh!

MR. MATTHEWS:
Yes, you surely could. You surely could, but you had a 150 or 200 people out there working that you have now done away with, as well. But that is not important, is it? Employment is not important, obviously. We have seen that from this government from day one.

MR. SIMMS:
That is right.

MR. MATTHEWS:
But all the promise of the extra jobs for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, bringing home the 35,000 or 40,000 - they have to come back with their families and work.

AN HON. MEMBER:
Twenty-one million.

MR. MATTHEWS:
Yes. When are they coming?

MR. TOBIN:
How are they coming home, by road or (inaudible)?

MR. MATTHEWS:
You just cut 3,000 jobs out of the private sector, and you have cut 110 jobs out of Grand Bank and St. Lawrence. Yes, you are doing very

well for job creation.

MR. SIMMS:

You are on the right track, boys, at that rate.

MR. MATTHEWS:

The hon. member should keep speaking up. Speak up. Jobs at Marystown, two ferries now one.

MR. TOBIN:

That is right.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Another job creation project this government cut in half. You skinned that out.

MR. TOBIN:

They are building a big boat down there now, though, to bring back all the furniture for the people coming home. They are going to put her in Sydney.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Well, I do not think we have any worries about that. There is a gentleman we have not heard much from in the last few weeks. The Minister of Development, he is a good man.

MR. SIMMS:

We have not heard anything from him.

MR. MATTHEWS:

There is no question, he is a good man.

MR. SIMMS:

They took NLDC from him.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Oh, they got the Development Corporation, but seriously, he is a good man. There are a lot of good people on the other side, I would be first to admit that, and there are some awful, terrible people over there, as well.

MR. SIMMS:

Oh, yes! Awful, terrible!

MR. MATTHEWS:

But the Minister of Development, seriously - when was he sworn in?

MR. SIMMS:

May 5.

MR. MATTHEWS:

May 5. This is June 12 and we have not heard a whimper out of him, not a whimper! I cannot believe it.

MR. TOBIN:

He is a fine man.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Never mind, you are just trying to get work for Marystown shipyard! That is why you are being complimentary. I know what you are up to! When I saw the Cabinet line-up and I saw the minister put in the position he is in, I said he was a good choice as Minister of Development for this Province. And when I saw the Premier put him on the Planning and Priorities Committee, I said, 'He is a good choice.'

MR. SIMMS:

Not everybody said that.

MR. MATTHEWS:

No, I am not saying everybody said it. I have served with the member in the House for four years, I have watched him perform and I have dealt with him outside the House of Assembly.

MR. SIMMS:

He is pretty cagey.

MR. MATTHEWS:

But what has happened to the minister since he was appointed? That is the question. Quite seriously, what has happened to

him?

MR. SIMMS:
Crazy glue!

MR. MATTHEWS:
What has he developed? What is he trying to develop? That is the bigger question. What is he trying to develop?

MR. SIMMS:
A ferry for over on the West Coast. He is working on that one.

MR. MATTHEWS:
Well, that is good. I hope he does, because that is alright if he is. But what else is he trying to develop? We do not know a thing. So maybe we will hear from that minister one of these days and he will tell us what he has in store for the Province. Maybe we will hear from him. Maybe we will hear about his plans.

But it seems that this government has gone completely contrary to what the people of the Province expected.

MR. TOBIN:
The Minister of Justice will never get me to run (inaudible).

MR. MATTHEWS:
The leaders have nothing to do with it. What this government over there is obviously lacking, which really amazes me, is leadership. It is leadership for the economy of this Province, it is leadership for job creation for the Province, which is very, very important. And when you see the Premier and the Cabinet slough off economic development and job creation to a team of five or six people - not in his Cabinet, he has a Minister of Development, he has a Minister of Employment and Labour Relations right there in

his Cabinet with himself. The President of Treasury Board is supposed to be good. He could come up with the suggestion that we mix up a spray.

The Minister of Health is really into creating jobs these days. We could have him on the Cabinet team. Why did he have to go outside the Cabinet? What is the Minister responsible for Employment doing to create employment in this Province besides cancelling 3,000 jobs in the Private Sector Employment Program? Is that her mark on employment in this Province? - and cancelling the Occupational Integration program for women? Is that what she is doing for job creation? The Minister of Transportation and the Minister of Development have to be tied into the decision to cancel the ferry for Bell Island. Is that job creation, I ask the minister? That is not job creation, that is creating unemployment.

The Minister of Health is over there reading the Budget Speech. I think it is the Budget Speech he is reading. He should read it. Oh, no, it is his notes. He is making copious notes for tomorrow, I guess. Little notes, your member said this and your member said that. There is another man who is into job creation. He was Opposition Health critic up until a few months ago.

MR. SIMMS:
Yes, Knickerbockers. He had a great feel for health care in the Province. They sent a committee around the Province - I believe it was chaired by the now Minister of Fisheries - on health care; saw what the problems were. What were we going to do about it? They developed a health care policy.

They were going to do all kinds of things for rural Newfoundland. I see the minister taking off his glasses. I guess he does not want to see to read what he has there.

MR. SIMMS:

He never used to wear them in Opposition.

MR. MATTHEWS:

No, the Minister of Development has got glasses since he went to Cabinet, as well. That is a Cabinet perk. That is a Cabinet perk, this eye-wear. You can have glasses.

MR. SIMMS:

More governmental, I suppose.

MR. MATTHEWS:

But he has created jobs in the last week. He has demolished 110 jobs and then, indirect jobs as well, so there are probably 160 jobs gone as result. The Minister of Health was on that team as well, so the Premier could fit them in with the Employment minister, who should chair it.

MR. SIMMS:

He should put them on the Economic Recovery Team, they are doing such a good job.

MR. MATTHEWS:

So why did the Premier have to go and create an Economic Recovery Team when he had such competent, able-bodied people over there that he had enough confidence in to appoint to his Cabinet? Why did he have to go and spend \$3 million to do what his ministers and he should be doing? That is the question that has to be put in front of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, and the question has to be answered. And the Premier will have to answer it soon. He will have to answer it soon.

MR. SIMMS:

They did not vote for recovery.

MR. MATTHEWS:

That is right. They did not vote for Dr. Doug House and his Economic Recovery Team, they voted for Premier Clyde Wells and the Liberal Party. They are sorry now, a lot of them, for that. They are going to get more and more sorry as time goes on.

AN HON. MEMBER:

(Inaudible).

MR. MATTHEWS:

No, boy, to be very honest with you, in the last four weeks, once I got over the initial shock and the Gravel worked, it has been the most enjoyable time I have had in politics in seven or eight years. It has been the most enjoyable time I have had. There is a lot of responsibility to being a minister in government and I say that very sincerely of the people in Cabinet, knowing what their responsibilities are, the day-to-day dealings and the pressure that is on them not only for time but people phoning and dragging on their coat sleeves every time they go somewhere: 'I have to talk to you for a minute.' It would drive you right clear out of your mind if you let it. We all know that, who served. We have been there and we know. We know the demands. The Premier shakes his head in dismay. Perhaps he does not go where the people are, I do not know. Perhaps no one drags on his sleeve; perhaps they cannot get close enough to him. Perhaps they do not want to talk to him, that is the other question.

AN HON. MEMBER:

You do not have to be (inaudible).

MR. MATTHEWS:

That is a good question. I will accept that kind of banter, you see, because to me that is what enables you to stay here and function. If someone told me I had to come in at the ringing of the bell and sit and fold my hands, 'Keep your mouth shut and do not be so stupid. Get up when I tell you,' and drag on your sleeve when you went to get up, as happened to the President of Treasury Board last week, I am the type of person who could not take that. I could not take it, I could not tolerate it. I am not a puppy for anybody. I am too independent and too self-willed for that, unlike some other members here, and the person who asked the question, I suppose, is a good example. Whatever the Premier now tells him to do, he will do. He will do whatever he has to do. But, you know, we will observe over time. We will give them all a chance. But ministers have onerous responsibilities. They are being paid well for those responsibilities and I do not know why the Premier had to go and spend another \$3 million on an Economic Recovery Team. That is the question I want the Premier to answer, when he gets time, when he responds in the House: Why did you create an Economic Recovery Team that is going to cost the taxpayers \$3 million, headed by the same gentleman who headed up a Royal Commission?

MR. SIMMS:

Three million dollars a year?

MR. MATTHEWS:

Yes, \$3 million a year, that is right. And the Premier, by his own admission, says it is going to take six or seven years to do anything with it.

MR. SIMMS:

Twenty-odd million bucks.

MR. R. AYLWARD:

More than the cucumbers.

MR. MATTHEWS:

So why did you do it? Why did you not give it to your Minister of Employment and Development? Why? We will see.

MR. R. AYLWARD:

A bit more than the cucumbers.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Yes, the gentleman up there raised the cucumber issue. Of course, it is very popular today to raise the cucumber issue, I admit that and I know that. But before too long it will be very, very popular to mention something else, and you should never lose sight of that, regardless of what side of this House you sit on. I say that before too long it will be something else that will become very popular and will be on everyone's lips in this Province to talk about, to bring up, to slap up, you know.

AN HON. MEMBER:

What?

MR. MATTHEWS:

What? Do you not know? What have you been doing here the last month?

MR. SIMMS:

Do not tell him!

MR. MATTHEWS:

You do not know?

AN HON. MEMBER:

No.

MR. WARREN:

Let him use his brains for a while.

MR. MATTHEWS:

You will find out. But my point is that there is always something that is popular to quip across the House at someone. There is always something. It just so happens to be cucumbers and Sprung right now. There will be something else before too long. That happens in terms of government and so on.

Mr. Chairman, I just want to get back to the Minister of Finance. The question that really has to be asked and answered is why did this Minister of Finance rape the taxpayers of this Province to the tune of \$95 million? Why did he rape them? He did not have to, for the government did not have to bring in the programs they did. They could have made decisions not to bring in some programs, or to bring them in by degree or to stagger the deficit over two or three years. I would like the minister to answer that question. Why did he do it? And specifically and particularly why did he rape \$95 million off the taxpayers of this Province if he only needed \$90 million to balance his budget? Why did he want the other \$5 million? That is the question?

MR. WARREN:
He got \$5 million there to be used.

MR. MATTHEWS:
Why? Why did he do that?

MR. R. AYLWARD:
Hopefully they will put it into job creation.

MR. MATTHEWS:
I hope they do put it into job creation.

Well, as I said to the Minister of Social Services, I hope that he can convince the Cabinet and the Premier to put it back into social

assistance, and, as well, forget the \$8 million that he is now going to try and rape out of the social assistance recipients of this Province, \$8 million. Does the Premier agree with that, taking \$8 million from people of this Province who are on social assistance? Did he give his approval to the minister to go out and try to find that money.

MR. TOBIN:
Beat up the poor.

MR. MATTHEWS:
Did he? Does he care? Does he realize how difficult it is for people on social assistance to survive in this Province?

MR. TOBIN:
Do not forget the Minister of Social Services is a shareholder in a Rolls Royce, so (inaudible).

MR. MATTHEWS:
Rolls Royce. Is that a fact, or is that a rumour?

MR. R. AYLWARD:
I heard that before. A shareholder in the Rolls Royce. That is not bad.

MR. MATTHEWS:
Mr. Speaker, while I was driving over the highway this morning I was listening to Open Line and there were a number of callers from Fortune Harbour, particularly, and that area, talking about the increases in their electricity bills, and they were wondering why they were six, seven and eight dollars more a month. One gentleman had been gone for four days last month, he had everything shut off and he could not figure it out. He could not figure out why. Then there were other callers saying, Yes, ours is gone up as well and so

on. And as I drove and I reflected, I asked myself the question, can you imagine what the people in Fortune Harbour, Baie Verte, Bay of Islands and all around the Province are going to say over the next six months to thirty-six months, when the increases to ratepayers for electricity in this Province start really striking home, in their pocketbooks, because of this government's withdrawal of the subsidy to the Power Distribution Districts, and because of this government's decision to ask Hydro to cough up \$10 million? So it is \$40 million that the ratepayers for electricity, spread right throughout this Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, are going to have to pay over the next two to three years. Can you imagine when they get the electricity bills then what they are going to be asking? Because they do not understand. They do not realize. And until it hits them in the pocketbook they will not understand. That is just human nature.

MR. SIMMS:
Twenty-five dollars a month for every House.

MR. MATTHEWS:
What is this? Is this the heart machine? Is it turned off? There is a straight line. Is that what you are saying? Yes, there is no question. The heart machine on your side has been turned off to the taxpayers of this Province. There is not a beep left on the heart machine from this administration. Because you are going to pay it and I am going to pay it. Those on social assistance are going to pay it and on and on throughout the Province. And you are going to have increases, because of the

government's decision, that are going to range around 14 per cent or 15 per cent over the next two to three years. For that reason alone, 14 per cent to 15 per cent. Now what was it the Minister of Finance said the increases will be?

MR. R. AYLWARD:
Maybe we will get Andy Wells.

MR. MATTHEWS:
Was it 10 per cent?

MR. TOBIN:
Hydro was not going to pass it on, that is what he said.

MR. MATTHEWS:
It is going to be 14 per cent or 15 per cent.

MR. R. AYLWARD:
Maybe Andy Wells can stop that.

MR. MATTHEWS:
Fourteen to fifteen per cent increases on top of the 2 per cent increase in personal income tax, increases on drivers' licences and vehicle registration, on the fuel that you burn in your car, on top of the 10 per cent increase in tuition for our students in our institutes and community colleges and university.

MR. WARREN:
On clothing.

MR. MATTHEWS:
On top of all of that, some poor families, because their children grow fast, are going to have to pay tax on their clothes, and then the electricity bill. So there must have been some other things that the Minister of Finance could have done. He must have missed something.

I remember a suggestion a few years ago on recreational equipment. Someone suggested, I think it was the federal government, a tax on recreational equipment, and someone referred to it as the fresh air tax. I believe it was someone who was on this side then. The fresh air tax they called it. Well, that is the only thing I know the Minister of Finance missed when he raped \$95 million additional money from the taxpayers of Newfoundland, fresh air. He should have taxed the fresh air.

MR. R. AYLWARD:

Do not say that to him. He will get that the next time.

MR. MATTHEWS:

I suppose. He could be confused enough to probably try to make an amendment. Can you make an amendment to the Budget? Can I ask the Minister of Finance to answer that for me? Can you make an amendment to the Budget? Can he do it? Can you do it? Can you amend the Budget?

DR. KITCHEN:

I do not know.

MR. MATTHEWS:

You do not know. Well, that is something else you do not know. The Minister of Finance does not know if he can amend the Budget.

MR. SIMMS:

He will probably find out tomorrow.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Yes, he will find out tomorrow.

MR. R. AYLWARD:

He had better look it up tonight.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Seriously, if you can, I think you should have a serious talk to your

Premier.

MR. GILBERT:

If we could tax hot air, we would make a lot of money on you.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Yes, that is true. There is hot air that comes out of me at times, and if you taxed it you would make money. But let me tell the hon. gentleman that if we were going to tax the hot air that came out of him, we would have bigger profit.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. MATTHEWS:

But then, when you compare me and the hon. gentleman, there are a lot of things bigger about him, are there not?

AN HON. MEMBER:

There is not much hot air coming out of the member for Long Harbour.

MR. MATTHEWS:

No. I have not heard too much rabble-rousing.

MR. TOBIN:

He is supposed to sit and shut up.

MR. MATTHEWS:

I must say, I do not know what has happened. A change has come over him. He was going to be the savior for Long Harbour, the rebel. Carry the cause! Send me to the House of Assembly! You will have no worries with this Premier who shook the hand of the employee and said, 'You look after me and I will look after you, old cock.' I heard him say it.

AN HON. MEMBER:

We will too.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Oh, yes! You will look after

them. There is no doubt, you are going to look after them.

MR. TOBIN:

He said (inaudible) environmental study.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Environmental study. There needs to be a study, no doubt! The environment is very important.

We are talking about a bigger and bigger issue. In the Province, the country, North America and right throughout the world environmental issues are becoming more and more important. I believe the Premier addressed environmental issues in Montebello when he was there. Is that correct? Can he acknowledge that he did or he did not? He does not acknowledge anything.

MR. TOBIN:

He added to them.

MR. MATTHEWS:

No, I am not going to say that. The Premier is sincere. He is a sincere Premier. He is sincere about a lot of things, misdirecting, misleading, and contradicting. He is sincere about being contradictory. Never in the history of Newfoundland and Labrador has one man been so contradictory in such a short period of time than this Premier. Never! Never!

MR. WARREN:

Yes, Valdmanis.

MR. MATTHEWS:

No, Valdmanis was only in training compared to the Premier. The most contradictory person in the history of Newfoundland and Labrador, who could display and pronounce contradiction in such a short period of time, is this

Premier. I do not know why he does not discharge some of his responsibilities. Why does he not discharge some? Instead of giving it to Economic Recovery Teams, Commissions, what does the Premier do? Will he tell us what he does besides go to Montebello, which is important?

AN HON. MEMBER:

Purge.

MR. MATTHEWS:

He is good at firing people.

I will tell you something else: An award he should get is 'Dismitter of the Year' award. For no reason, competent people are fired. 'Out you go. You are gone.' He reduced the Cabinet by four. I have got to do all that because I need \$3 million a year.

The Minister of Health is up there making out he is reading his paper now. He wanted \$3.5 million too. Where was he going to find his \$3.5 million? He looked around the Province and he found it. It is so strange that the amount was almost equivalent, \$3.5 million. Unlike the Minister of Employment and Labour Relations, who did not pry into and look at the evaluations and ask questions and realize that she was the minister, the one who could make the final decision and keep the Private Sector Employment Program there if she wanted, the Minister of Health listened to his officials. They said, "Mr. Minister, we have \$3.5 million for you, about the same amount of money you need to go to Roddickton. A strange coincidence. Strange! Shut down Grand Bank and St. Lawrence and whack it up in Roddickton. And he nodded in approval and said, Yes, Sir, that is what we are going to do, and the Premier seconded the

motion. He said, that is not bad Chris. I am going to tell you something. When I expand my Planning and Priorities Committee, I might put you and the Minister of Fisheries and the Minister of Finance on it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. MATTHEWS:

I might put you all on it. Keep it up, finding me money like that, because maybe Dr. House and his team may need more than \$3.5 or \$3.6 million. We do not know yet. Maybe that is what the \$5 million surplus is being held for. I wonder if that is what it could be. The Minister of Social Services has gone tired. He is yawning. It is well known to members of the House of Assembly who were here the last term that he is up in the nighttime crawling around spaces looking, peeping, looking into detention homes and into doors of hospitals to see people frothing in the mouth. He kicked up such a racket about all that, and he tried to nail this member to the cross when he was minister for all that, and what do we see him do?

MR. EFFORD:

I did, too.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Yes, you did. You did.

MR. TOBIN:

That is why I won by 2,800 votes against the star candidate.

MR. MATTHEWS:

You did alright. But, you see, you are tied into that contradictory mind-set that your leader has established and you have now learned to accept it. You have now learned to accept

that and you believe in it now. That is the problem. The same as the Minister of Health who, when he was health critic, went down to the Burin Peninsula with the health committee of the Official Opposition --

AN HON. MEMBER:

They sent a letter, too, I believe.

MR. MATTHEWS:

No, they had no letters. They have nothing like that. There will be nothing like that dragged up tomorrow.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. MATTHEWS:

No, there will be nothing like that brought up tomorrow. You are not going to see anything like that tomorrow, like letters to remind people of anything. I would not do that. I have too much principle to do that to try and embarrass a minister of the Crown. I would not do it. They did not do it to me, why would I do it to them? Especially the Minister of Health, who did not say a word to me when he was my critic. But these are the kind of people we have running the Province.

AN HON. MEMBER:

What was your position when (inaudible)?

MR. MATTHEWS:

When we were in power we were ripping apart rural Newfoundland. We need more health care beds in rural Newfoundland. We do not have enough. We are underfunded. This Tory government is this, they are that, and they are ripping you apart. But we are going to change that. Yes, they changed it. There is no question. The

Minister of Fisheries, I believe, chaired that committee, did he not? Did you chair the health committee that went around the Province?

MR. W. CARTER:

I do not remember.

MR. MATTHEWS:

You do not remember? I can understand you not remembering it. I would not want to remember it now either. Moreso tomorrow I would not want to remember it. I would want to forget that pretty fast. If I remembered it now, I would make sure I did not remember it tomorrow. What I would do to cause that I am not sure, but I would do it. You read their health policy that they developed as a result of this going around the Province and to see what was espoused during the election campaign by everyone of them, including the Premier, and then you see them come in here, in the first month of their mandate, to do what they did the other day, to completely withdraw their support for health care in this Province. That is what they have done, they have withdrawn their announced support for health care in this Province. You are making the health care system worse. That is what we are going to see from you people, because you do not fully understand the total health care requirements of the Province, the total health care requirements. When I say that I mean acute care, chronic care and all the mixes in between, levels I, II, and III. You do not understand it and you made decisions on health care the same as you made them on employment and the same as you made them on Social Services. You did not understand. Now, it is understandable that you would not understand, but there are people

in the bureaucracy of this government who did understand and what did you do with the most competent of them? You fired them. You fired probably the most competent fisheries person in this Province, and you did it in other departments, people who could have given you good, solid advice. It does not matter what their perceived politics were, they were loyal.

MR. TOBIN:

You passed over \$1 million.

MR. MATTHEWS:

There was another \$1 million you could have had for the Minister of Employment for the Private Sector Employment Program.

I mean, seriously, what did you do? You left yourself with your top bureaucracy so thin and so inexperienced, like yourselves, which anyone can accept because you are a new government.

AN HON. MEMBER:

That is nice.

MR. MATTHEWS:

That is nice. Look, whether it is nice or not, it is honest.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. R. AYLWARD:

That is true.

MR. MATTHEWS:

There are only two people over there, I believe, who had any previous Cabinet experience, is there not?

MR. R. AYLWARD:

Two.

MR. MATTHEWS:

And the Premier, was in Cabinet

long before this time.

MR. TOBIN:

Who were they? Who were the two?

MR. MATTHEWS:

The Premier and the Minister of Fisheries, I believe.

MR. TOBIN:

The Minister of Finance was in Cabinet once.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Was he?

I am sorry. I apologize to him, then. He was in Cabinet, but I believe he was appointed before he got elected. Was he not one of them?

MR. R. AYLWARD:

Oh, I see. Yes. Maybe it was a commission.

MR. MATTHEWS:

That is fine. But, I mean, what I am trying to say is you really set yourselves up as a government by doing what you did.

MR. TOBIN:

The member for Placentia should be in Cabinet.

MR. MATTHEWS:

My God, what have you been drinking?

What are the pages of this House putting in the glasses for the member for Burin - Placentia West to say that the member for Placentia should be in Cabinet? I wish they would put some of what they are putting in your glass in mine.

MR. SIMMS:

The member for Stephenville (Mr. K. Aylward) should be in the Cabinet.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Let me just say something, Mr. Speaker.

MR. R. AYLWARD:

There would be no cuts to the Arts Council.

MR. MATTHEWS:

No cuts to the Arts Council. The hon. gentleman believed in culture and heritage in the arts community of this Province and he fought diligently for it. And he was my critic for Culture, Recreation and Youth.

MR. R. AYLWARD:

He did a good job.

MR. MATTHEWS:

And he did a good job.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Because he would not sacrifice his seat, he was not invited into the Cabinet.

MR. R. AYLWARD:

If you do not give up your seat, you do not get in Cabinet.

MR. MATTHEWS:

As I have said, if it is true I will say it. And that is what I sincerely believe about that member. A darn good member. And he will continue to be a good.

MR. TOBIN:

Why is he not in Cabinet?

MR. MATTHEWS:

I do not know. He should be, and it will not be long. It will not belong before he will be in Cabinet.

AN HON. MEMBER:

He is being punished.

MR. MATTHEWS:

No, Sir, he will be in Cabinet.

He will be. It could be next week. It could be this week.

MR. SIMMS:
What about the member for Exploits (Mr. Grimes) now?

MR. MATTHEWS:
I am not sure.

MR. WARREN:
He has to carry the briefcase.

MR. MATTHEWS:
For the member for Stephenville there may be an opening very soon. We are not going to get an answer today from the Premier, are we? Or a Minute-in-Council? No sign of it. We may have an opening before the week is over, or next week, because there is going to be a vacancy right here in the front row.

MR. SIMMS:
Do not say where?

MR. MATTHEWS:
No, I would not say where.

MR. EFFORD:
Not me.

MR. MATTHEWS:
No, no, not you. You are not going to leave the Cabinet until you get the \$8 million off the widows and the poor of the Province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. MATTHEWS:
When you do that, you will be rewarded by being flicked out of Cabinet. You will be relieved, because you will not be able to stand the pressure anymore.

MR. TOBIN:
I think the member for Windsor -

Buchans (Mr. Flight) should be put in Cabinet.

MR. MATTHEWS:
Who is that? Who is the member for Windsor - Buchans?

MR. R. AYLWARD:
Flight.

MR. MATTHEWS:
He is in Cabinet.

MR. TOBIN:
He does not know yet.

MR. R. AYLWARD:
He is not allowed to sit in on the meetings.

MR. MATTHEWS:
He is not allowed in the room?

MR. R. AYLWARD:
He is not allowed to sit in on the meetings.

MR. MATTHEWS:
I mean, different administrations, different Premiers run Cabinets differently and the government is different. That is fair game. Perhaps some ministers are allowed in and others are not. I do not know. That may be. Maybe the Minister of Forestry is not allowed in. Maybe he made such a terrible decision on the spray program for the Province that the Premier said, Stay outside the room and I will send you out a message when I have something to say to you. I do not know.

MR. SIMMS:
We will see next year.

MR. MATTHEWS:
Yes. He will be outside the room in two years, once the trees fall down in the Province. He will be outside then, when hundreds of people get laid off in the

Province and the paper companies go bottom up.

It is not to be taken lightly. It is serious stuff. The forest industry of this Province is serious stuff, like the fishery.

MR. R. AYLWARD:
Very important to our Province.

MR. MATTHEWS:
It is very, very important. And to take a recommendation from the President of Treasury Board to the biologists -

MR. SIMMS:
Before you get in full flight -

MR. MATTHEWS:
I am not getting in full flight.

MR. SIMMS:
Before you adjourn the debate, could you tell us a little bit more about Knickerbockers.

MR. MATTHEWS:
No, no. I am not getting into the old chicken wing member. Because if there is one thing he has displayed -

MR. TOBIN:
Should he be in the Cabinet?

MR. MATTHEWS:
There is only one way that he should possibly be considered for Cabinet, and that is if he can convince the Premier to go and get the second boat for Bell Island.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. MATTHEWS:
To change the Minute-in-Council, have two boats. They were promised by this administration.

MR. TOBIN:

Committed.

MR. MATTHEWS:
Committed. Materials ordered.

MR. SIMMS:
MCs issued.

MR. MATTHEWS:
MCs issued. And he cancelled them.

MR. RIDEOUT:
The member wanted to sign the contract.

MR. MATTHEWS:
Oh, yes, that was the mistake we made. We should have had the contract signed.

MR. RIDEOUT:
The member for Marystown wanted them signed.

MR. MATTHEWS:
Yes, he wanted them signed.

If we had signed the contract we would not only have benefitted the member and the people of his area, but it would have benefitted this member and the people of his area who need it most. The service is what is needed. That is what matters most, the service to the people. Do not get caught up in your own little politics where you ask the Premier to change the MC, and then you get the credit for the second ferry. That is what you are up to.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. MATTHEWS:
Yes, that is what you are up to. We know that.

AN HON. MEMBER:
Adjourn the debate and come back tomorrow.

MR. MATTHEWS:

No, I do not know. I do not know, Mr. Speaker, if I am going to make it to the Budget Debate tomorrow.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. MATTHEWS:

I have a rough day tomorrow with my delegations coming in, so I am not sure I am going to get to it, but I will adjourn the debate anyway.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Government House Leader.

MR. BAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Just a few formalities to get over with. I wonder if, first of all, the Opposition House Leader could inform us about the topic of debate on Wednesday.

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker, we have decided to call - I am not sure what it will be on the new Order Paper on Wednesday, but it is the resolution moved by the member for Mount Pearl, dealing with the development of the Lower Churchill. I think it is the third resolution coming up, so that is the one we will be debating on Wednesday.

MR. BAKER:

One other item, Mr. Speaker, the Estimates Committees: I would like to inform hon. members that tonight the Resource Committee will meet in the House here at 7:00 to examine the Estimates of the Department of Mines and Energy. Tomorrow at 9:00 a.m.,

the Social Services Committee will meet here to examine the Estimates of the Department of Education. At 7:00 p.m. tomorrow evening, not in the Colonial Building as originally scheduled, but here in the House, the Resource Committee will meet and examine the Estimates of the Department of Development. That is just for the information of members.

AN HON. MEMBER:

What department?

MR. BAKER:

The Department of Development tomorrow evening at 7:00.

MR. TOBIN:

What about the next meetings?

MR. BAKER:

I will make periodic announcements for members as we get things confirmed. So these are the formalities, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I move that the House at its rising do adjourn until tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. and that this House do now adjourn.

On motion, the House at its rising adjourned until 2:00 p.m. tomorrow, Tuesday, June 13, 1989.

Index

Answers to Questions

tabled

June 12, 1989

QUESTION #1, ORDER PAPER #2, MAY 30, 1989

1. - Mr. Hewlett (Green Bay) - To ask the Honourable the Minister of Environment and Lands to lay upon the Table of the House the following information:

- (a) The cost of a recent trip by Newfoundland Government officials to the site of an oil spill in Alaska.
- (b) The nature of assistance rendered the Americans.
- (c) The substance of any reports on lessons learned from this venture.

RESPONSE TO QUESTION #1

"Responses to tanker spills of this nature are the responsibility of the Federal Government. While it would have been of value to our Province to have sent personnel from my Department to Valdez to view first-hand the counter measures taken by Exxon, to do so would have added to the burden on the Alaskan officials involved, considering that their Government was facing a real problem with respect to accommodations and logistics. I am pleased to say, however, that three highly trained officials from the Canadian Coast Guard stationed in St. John's, together with their equipment, were requested by the American Government to lend assistance. I understand that these Newfoundlanders were able to demonstrate various techniques to the Americans such that clean-up operations were dramatically improved. It is these people who will be the front line defence for our Province should we experience such an unfortunate accident and to that end it is my intention to work with the Federal Government to ensure that existing federal and international regulations are updated as required to protect our coastal environment."

*Added by the Hon. the
Premier - 12 June 1989*

ANSWER TO QUESTION #1 AS ASKED BY THE MEMBER FROM MOUNT PEARL ON
ORDER PAPER 8/89, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 1989.

- a) The answer is no;
- b) The answer is April 1989;
- c) The salary was paid at the rate of \$50,000. per year and it was paid in equal monthly installments from which income tax and the usual deductions were deducted and it was paid by cheque issued by the Treasurer of the Liberal Party.

The answer to:

- d) It was not made from a special fund so there is no list of contributors;
- e) The only obligation made was to the Liberal Party to ensure that the Party would be properly organized, had proper policy and would have a good team of candidates to enable it to win the Provincial election and thereby provide the people of the province with competent government, for a real change. The obligations have been fully and completely discharged.