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FORTY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
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**VERBATIM REPORT**  
*(Hansard)*

*Speaker: Honourable Thomas Lush*

Friday

2 June 1989

The House met at 9:00 a.m.

MR. SPEAKER (Lush):  
Order, please!

We would like to welcome to the galleries this morning the students of Ralph Laite Academy, Lewisporte, and their teachers, Melvin Ball and Norman Austin; also a number of students from St. Patrick's Hall School and their teacher, Brother Conti, and a group of women from the Y, interested in successful employment, accompanied by Dianne Janes.

#### Statements by Ministers

MR. SPEAKER:  
The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER WELLS:  
I wish to advise the House today that the Auditor General has been directed to commence immediately a review into all aspects of the Province's involvement with Newfoundland Enviroponics Limited, the Sprung associated companies, and any other related companies or individuals involved in the Sprung greenhouse project.

The review will include an examination of the funding pursuant to the contractual arrangement between all parties involved in the establishment of the facility.

The review will also address two major areas of concern:

(1) Were all funds, assets and guarantees or tax exemptions which were directed to the project or the parties involved, duly and properly authorized under the laws of the Province?

(2) Is there any evidence that funds advanced, assets, guarantees, or tax exemptions were used in any manner other than in the proper conduct of the business of Newfoundland Enviroponics Limited?

In carrying out his review, the Auditor General will have made available to him all records of Government and Crown Corporations related to this project, and any other sources of information that he considers appropriate, for his examination.

The results of the review by the Auditor General will determine the need for any further enquiry into the circumstances of the commitment and disposition of some \$22 million of public funds in the Sprung project.

Mr. Speaker, I apologize to the hon. the Leader of the Opposition, as I told him just before I rose to make the statement. I am new to the office and I did not have the extra copies available to hand out to him beforehand, but it was primarily because the photocopier in the Premier's Office was not working this morning.

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

MR. RIDEOUT:  
Mr. Speaker, I am surprised to learn that the Premier's Office is on the blink so quickly.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. RIDEOUT:  
Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues on this side of the House, let me very briefly say

that we welcome the government's initiative in requesting - the government cannot order the Auditor General. The Auditor General is a servant of this Legislature - the Auditor General to look into, and to look into from an accounting perspective and any other perspective, anything related to Newfoundland Enviroponics.

When the Auditor General's work is completed, Mr. Speaker, we, as members of this Legislature, look forward to our servant reporting to this Legislature, so that all of us together as a Legislature will know exactly what the Auditor General did, will know exactly what he found, and will be able to determine as a Legislature, following the work of the servant of this House, whether or not any further enquiry or action is required.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

PREMIER WELLS:  
Mr. Speaker, with the consent of the House, just to add something to what the hon. the Leader of the Opposition just said, the reference to the Auditor General is under Section 65 (1) of The Financial Administration Act, and in that situation the Auditor General reports not to the Legislature on that particular reference but to Treasury Board. I just wanted to let the hon. the Leader of the Opposition know that.

MR. RIDEOUT:  
Yes, Mr. Speaker, I understand, and I am sure that the Premier and the government, or the President of Treasury Board, will make sure that the report emanating from this work by the Auditor General will be made available to members

of the Legislature. That is the point.

### Oral Questions

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

MR. RIDEOUT:  
Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that this Legislature voted funds for regional recreational facilities in the budget year 1988-89, and in view of the fact that the legitimate government of the day, by Order in Council 332 -'89, made certain decisions about the expenditure of those funds, in particular for facilities on Fogo Island in Harbour Breton and in Wesleyville, my question, therefore, is to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General (Mr. Dicks). Will the Minister of Justice immediately advise his colleagues to honour forthwith the legal commitments that were made by the legally constituted government of the day and have those funds issued to those communities that were approved in Order in Council 332 -'89.

PREMIER WELLS:  
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:  
The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER WELLS:  
Mr. Speaker, I will give the explanation again. There is a delegation in to see me this morning, they are in the gallery now listening, so I assume that is why the hon. the Premier is asking the question now.

MR. SIMMS:  
The Premier!

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

PREMIER WELLS:

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition, the former Premier, the man who was Premier when this terrible deed was done.

The situation is simply this: There was a provision in last year's budget for expenditure of certain funds, a limited amount. I think there was some \$600,000 or \$700,000 available in the budgeted funds for stadium construction, arena construction, recreational facility construction, generally. That was not done. There was no effort made to expend it until just very shortly before the election was called, when the government passed an Order in Council, in preparation for the election, obviously. Instead of spending the money as was budgeted by this Legislature, the government passed an Order in Council providing for \$200,000 for this one, \$200,000 for that one, and \$200,000 for some other one, so that during the election campaign, as they did, they could go out and announce it, for the purpose of buying the votes of the electors of those districts, which is exactly what was done.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

PREMIER WELLS:

The money was not spent. That money was budgeted in June of 1988. I guess the Budget was passed in this House about June of 1988 and no effort whatsoever was made to do anything toward those three particular arenas, or recreational facilities at the time until just before the election was called. The government of the day passed that

Order in Council and then waited until the middle of the election and announced these three things in those three districts to buy votes. Now, what it did was commit whatever government that succeeded to spending \$1.8 million each of the two following years so that the new government would have no ability to determine its own budget. When the election results were known and the transfer of power was in the process of taking place, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition, as was quite proper, undertook with me that no decisions would be made and nothing would be done in the course of it that did not have my approval. The civil servants asked, What do we do where there are commitments with continuing long-term obligations? They were given a general direction, Hold all commitments that have long-term substantial financial commitments until we have an opportunity to review the budgetary process and see what we can or cannot do, or when we can do it. Pursuant to that, and without any reference to those three, without any knowledge of the circumstances of those particular three arenas, that action was taken by the civil servants, not by any minister or by me personally, and as a result that was done.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in due course, and as soon as we can do it, the government will announce exactly what its policy is with respect to recreation facilities. What the government is going to do financially will be made know in the Budget when it comes down on Tuesday and we will all have to wait until we get the answer then.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. RIDEOUT:

Mr. Speaker, there is a funny thing about the Premier. Anything the Premier does not like is either obscene or it is something else. It is abusive or it is obscene. I did not direct my question to the Premier. I directed it to the Minister of Justice because this is a legal matter I am talking about here. Will the Minister of Justice tell the House this: Since some of those municipalities have, as I understand it, entered into contractual arrangements necessitating financial commitments by them as a result of being informed by the legal government of the day that certain funding had been improved for their use, will the Minister of Justice tell the House whether or not the government will stand behind the liabilities of those municipalities that they legitimately entered into?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER WELLS:

Mr. Speaker, the government will look at the total situation and will do whatever is appropriate in the circumstances.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Humber East.

MS VERGE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs (Mr. Gullage). When the Minister spoke in this Legislature on Monday, he said, and I quote, "Certainly our cities are in good

shape as far as capital works are concerned." We have three cities, and I am sure the Minister is very familiar with two of them, St. John's and Mount Pearl, since his district of Waterford-Kenmount straddles those two cities. But I am wondering what he knows about Corner Brook. Would the minister indicate now whether he thinks the City of Corner Brook, with 15 km of gravel road, 32 km of open ditches and hardly any sidewalks, is 'in good shape'?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs.

MR. GULLAGE:

Mr. Speaker, my comment on Monday was to draw a comparison between the three cities in the Province and the various rural communities that are in dire straits and in great need of water and sewer -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. GULLAGE:

- and roads and other services, and I thought that comparison was a good one. I am very much aware of the Corner Brook situation and I think the hon. member will be pleased when the program for capital works is brought forward.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Humber East.

MS VERGE:

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to hear the minister's final comment, expressing optimism about funding for Corner Brook. Mr. Speaker, I am wondering if the Minister will be visiting the city of Corner Brook soon to familiarize himself with the Corner Brook East Development scheme, an urban

renewal project mounted by the City of Corner Brook more than ten years ago on which about \$5 million have been spent, but \$6 million are required to complete the work. This is to correct the problems resulting from no planning when most parts of Corner Brook were settled in the 1920s resulting from the hilly topography and resulting from the fact that the provincial government back in the 1950s and 1960s did not give the City of Corner Brook the financial assistance warranted after amalgamation when four towns came together in 1956. Will the Minister be visiting Corner Brook and familiarizing himself with the needs there?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs.

MR. GULLAGE:

Yes, Mr. Speaker. Last week the Mayor of Corner Brook, the City Manager and a couple of councillors were in to see me. We had quite a detailed discussion on Corner Brook and on that particular project. It is like St. John's, for example, where areas have been annexed, and problems have resulted where the upgrading of services have to take place over a number of years. I realize the Corner Brook situation, in particular that project, is a difficult one requiring a great amount of funding over the next few years. I have, in fact, made that commitment to the Mayor, that I do plan to visit Corner Brook as soon as we have time, over the Summer, as soon as the House adjourns and in particular visit that project. I know it is identified by Corner Brook as probably the major initiative that has to be attacked

over the next several years, so I will be visiting Corner Brook and seeing that particular project.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. PARSONS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Fisheries. I believe, and many people besides myself believe, that there is evidence that the birth rate of our stocks are not increasing fast enough to offset the fish that are being killed, and it is not known for sure what the mortality rate is. There is also a theory that out there there is approximately 600,000 tons of spawning fish, and for a healthy fishery we need at least 1.5 million tons. The trawlers are prying on this spawning ground, killing and catching the fish that have to come together to fertilize. In other areas, Mr. Speaker, such as Yarmouth, they want action and I will read here just one paragraph with your indulgence. "Inshore dragger fisherman already hard hit by reduced fish quotas chose to inflict some more pain on themselves Thursday. Dragger fishermen told the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, DFO, here that they wanted the Brown's Bank shut down and they wanted it extended for two more weeks." The Brown's Bank area is scheduled to reopen for fishing on June 1, but haddock on the bank will not have finished spawning. We want the department to keep that area closed from June 1 to June 15 to give the haddock a chance to spawn and disperse from the bank. My question to the minister is: Would he exert all possible pressure on the federal government to place a moratorium

on the spawning area and stop the draggers from killing and raping the fish in that area?

MR. W. CARTER:  
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. W. CARTER:  
That is a very good question, Mr. Speaker. I should remind the hon. member, of course, that the allocation of quotas and the designation of fishing areas is the sole responsibility to the federal government. I agree with him that some protection must be accorded spawning grounds. In fact, before I came to this position I had expressed some very strong views as to how that can be done. I am going to be meeting with the Minister of Fisheries, hopefully, probably next Wednesday and that is one of the matters that will be on the agenda. And I will make sure that the hon. member's representations will be made known to him.

MR. PARSONS:  
A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. PARSONS:  
Could I ask the minister, then, because of what is happening in other areas, would he speak to the Fishermen's Union and the other major proponents in this fishing off-shore and ask them, perhaps, if they would voluntarily do what other areas are doing?

MR. W. CARTER:  
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

MR. W. CARTER:  
Mr. Speaker, I have already had meetings with the officials of Fishery Products International, with the union, and 8:00 this morning with the president of the Canadian Saltfish Corporation. That was one of the items that we did discuss and I am again happy that the hon. member brought it up in the House. It gives me a chance to at least let the House know what we have done in that regard.

MR. PARSONS:  
A final supplementary.

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

MR. PARSONS:  
I would like to ask the Minister of Fisheries as well, seeing that we are so close now to the caplin fishery, can the minister tell the House what has transpired up to now? And because of the monetary situation, where I think the yen has perhaps decreased in value at about 15 per cent, I am wondering will this be adverse to the total amount of the catch and what the fishermen will receive for the catch?

MR. W. CARTER:  
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. W. CARTER:  
Mr. Speaker, I have also discussed that matter with the Union. And I can tell the hon. member and the House now that negotiations are ongoing between the Union and the Japanese buyers. The Japanese were concerned about the

overproduction last year in caplin. In fact, I believe there was a 10,000 metric ton overrun last year. That possibly will have some little bearing on the price that will be paid this year, but hopefully it will not. I am told as well, Mr. Speaker, that the total allowable catch for Newfoundland fishermen this year will be 71,500 metric tons, and that the market that will be available will be in the order of 30,000 tons to Japan and around 2,500 tons to Taiwan. As to when the price will be negotiated I have no idea. It is a matter that is in hand now between the Union and the people in the marketplace. I am hoping it will be negotiated soon.

And contrary to some reports that I have heard that maybe the price this year will be somewhat slightly less than last year because of the overrun last year in production, I am hoping that will not be the case, and that at least fishermen will get as much as they got last year. That is my hope, but I have no way of influencing what happens. Like the hon. member I can only hope that the best price will be obtained for them.

MR. RIDEOUT:  
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. RIDEOUT:  
Mr. Speaker, let me direct a supplementary to the hon. Minister of Fisheries, because I remember so clearly about this time last year the hon. gentleman asking me the same question. Would the minister tell the House what contingency plans he has made and

have ready and have canned just in case there is not an agreement on caplin prices this year?

MR. W. CARTER:  
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. W. CARTER:  
Mr. Speaker, that is something, quite frankly, that we have not addressed yet. I have only been minister - for - what? two or three week. It is something that we will have to address, but hopefully it will not come to that. Having talked to the President of the Union on Wednesday, I guess it was, I am confident that they will be able to negotiate a satisfactory price.

MR. WOODFORD:  
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:  
The hon. the member for Humber Valley.

MR. WOODFORD:  
Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture (Mr. Flight). In light of the fact, Mr. Speaker, that for some time the agricultural industry in the Province, more specifically the dairy industry in conjunction with the Newfoundland Milk Marketing Board, has been asking for some time, over the last few years, for a school milk program to be instituted in the Province, and because studies done probably some three or four years ago by the Newfoundland Dietetic Association show that children in this Province are lacking in calcium intake to the tune of probably 50 per cent or 60 per cent - I know in ages two to eleven it is 1.32



servings per day, eleven to seventeen 1.34 - and the recommended calcium intake by students in those categories, from two to eleven, would be two to three servings per day of milk products or fluid milk; and eleven to seventeen would be three to four servings, and because of those studies and because I had announced, as Minister of Agriculture, that the school milk program would be instituted back in April in the Province, would the minister now tell me what the status of that request is?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Forestry.

MR. FLIGHT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I will tell the hon. member that he is absolutely right in all the statistics that he quoted. I have a problem, though, with his stating that he had made a commitment or had committed his government to a school milk program. I understand all that happened was that the minister, in his role as MHA or, indeed, in his role as Minister of RAND, had simply told the Milk Marketing Board or the milk producers that he himself supported that kind of a project and that kind of program, and that he would indeed recommend to his colleagues that that happen. But that is the extent of it. There was no commitment, nor did he make an official commitment or an official representation to the government to institute such a program.

I want to tell the hon. member that I have, since becoming minister of the department, met with the industry, met with the Milk Marketing Board, and have had my officials in the Department of

Forestry and Agriculture apprise me of most of the aspects, and I am giving due consideration to the request for a school milk program.

MR. WOODFORD:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Humber Valley.

MR. WOODFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I suppose members opposite are saying now that it was announced in April during the election campaign. I admit to that, but this is a motherhood issue. It is probably ironic and coincidental that it was announced at that time. It is something that addresses and helps every member of this House, not only in the urban centers of the Province but also in the rural areas as well, and that comprises some 80 per cent of our population. It is something that has been asked for for years. It is a motherhood issue. I would say the cost involved is something to the tune of approximately \$300,000.

So I would ask the minister again to make sure - I appreciate his answer to the first question, that he will be looking into it - that he and his Cabinet colleagues will give that serious consideration on Tuesday for the sake of the monies involved and what it would do for the school children of this Province and the industry as a whole.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture.

MR. FLIGHT:

Mr. Speaker, I can assure the hon. member that the request by the industry and his concern will be

given every consideration. We will look at it and when we are fully apprised of exactly what the proposals are that the milk industry is making - there is no question it is a worthy project - it will get every consideration.

I would like to point out to the hon. member, though - again he is right, it is a noble program, it is a desirable program - that the need has been just as great over the past four or five years as it is today. The industry has been asking for that particular program for years, as he knows. What I am wondering is, if it is so important, and indeed it is, why was it not implemented over the past four or five years? Why did it become an election issue?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. WOODFORD:  
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:  
The hon. the member for Humber Valley.

MR. WOODFORD:  
I can answer that question for the hon. minister. I cannot answer for what happened in the last three or four years, I lobbied on behalf of the industry as well as anybody else, but when I did get the opportunity to put a school milk program in place, I said I would do just that.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. WOODFORD:  
Now, in the light of the fact that I did answer that question, I did do what I was supposed to do when given the opportunity and put in the position to do so, I ask the

minister once again to put the shoe on the other foot. Will he do the same thing?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:  
The hon. the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture.

MR. FLIGHT:  
Mr. Speaker, I want to assure the hon. member that I will give every consideration to that program. When I am fully apprised we will make a decision as to whether or not we can, indeed, implement such a program in the short term.

I can assure the hon. gentleman of something else, Mr. Speaker, because I have a great deal of respect for the hon. member's concerns and his knowledge in this area, that he will have a chance to have input into any school milk program that is implemented by this government.

Thank you.

MR. POWER:  
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. POWER:  
Mr. Speaker, the Throne Speech, and certainly all the recent Liberal policy statements that we have seen, have emphasized the necessity of the Hibernia project taking place as quickly as possible. Even the Premier's own words, after he spoke in the debate after the Throne Speech was presented, said that without it we are going to fall a great deal short of the economic activity that we need in this Province. Could the Minister of Mines and

Energy (Dr. Gibbons) please give us an update on meetings that have been held with the federal government and the companies to date on this very key issue?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Mines and Energy.

MR. GIBBONS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we are, as the hon. member said, committed to ensuring to do everything in our power to keep the Hibernia project moving ahead without delay. Naturally, there can never be any certainty. As we are all aware, the company, Mobil, is presently going through a study of the topsides and we do not know yet what potential changes might come out of that study. The study will be completed in July and after that time we may well have to address certain changes in the negotiations.

On the other hand, there are meetings that have continued. Just this week our fiscal team had meetings here in the city, not with the federal side but meetings regarding Hibernia. We are committed to continuing these discussions. We hope we can have a conclusion of this this Fall, but we cannot be sure, it may be later than this Fall. If it is later than this Fall, there may well be a further delay, but, if things can be done by this Fall, everything will continue on schedule as we see it right now.

MR. POWER:

Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Ferryland.

MR. POWER:

I guess one of the most difficult chores that any government of Newfoundland will have to do is dealing with international oil companies. I know when I was part of an administration trying to get the Atlantic Accord from the federal government it was pretty tough. And then when you have to deal with the oil and gas companies, they seemingly wanted to bring as little an industrial benefits package to Newfoundland as possible.

Now I know the Liberal opposition at the time reluctantly supported the Atlantic Accord and said we could have got ten a better deal and we should have gotten a better deal, so it was reluctant support. One of the most important parts of the Atlantic Accord is the industrial benefits package.

If the main support frame component is going to change, has this present government taken a very tough stance with the oil companies to tell them that if we are not going to get the industrial benefits package that we on this side negotiated, then we want either comparable or replacement industrial benefits for this Province? Because that is one of the most important parts of the Hibernia development.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Mines and Energy.

MR. GIBBONS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

There is no question that is the case. The main support frame, as we know, makes up about 10 percent of the industrial benefits, and that was supposed to be done in Newfoundland. If there is a

decision, after that consulting study is completed in July, if there is a decision by the company that they want to change that, we want at least the equivalent back in return. There is no question, that we want to maximize the benefits. We do not want any lessening of the benefits in Newfoundland.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. WARREN:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Torngat Mountains.

MR. WARREN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My question is to the Minister of Health. Mr. Speaker, the Regional Grenfell Health Services Board has been carrying out a study on the operations of the health board from Roddickton in White Bay to Nain, Labrador. One of the concerns of the board is that the board is too large to do an adequate job in administering the board.

I want to ask the Minister of Health will he take the advice of the consultants who carried out the study and have a separate board for Labrador?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Health.

MR. DECKER:

Mr. Speaker, finally, after this House has been opened for such a long time, there is a little bit of interest in health over there. Two hundred and eighty million dollars went through in Interim Supply and there was not one

question on health, Mr. Speaker. So I thank the member for at least showing some concern.

Now, the Grenfell situation: As the member truly pointed out, there has been a study done into the whole setup of the board. That report has not yet been discussed with me as Minister of Health. Meetings have been set up with the director of the Grenfell Association, Dr. Roberts, and we hope to get together, later this month or early in July, when we will be discussing the whole content of the report. I think it is only fair to Grenfell and to the people of Labrador for at least to have that report discussed with the Minister of Health and with Grenfell before we publicly announce whether or not we are going to carry out the recommendations of the report. Some of those recommendations could be totally unrealistic or they could be the answer to the problems which the hon. member is pointing out. It would be totally unfair for me to get up today and say, yes, we are going to carry out the recommendations of the report until at least we have had time to see the report and until it has been presented in the proper way, Mr. Speaker. The member might as well get used to that because we are going to do things in the way which is proper and right, and I give the member due notice of that.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Torngat Mountains.

MR. WARREN:

Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is to the Minister of Health. If they are going to do things proper and right would the Minister of Health advise this

hon. House that he will take immediate steps to make sure that the medical aircraft that is used by the Grenfell Health Services Board will be used for medical purposes only and not to take officials around on joy trips?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Health.

MR. DECKER:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is bringing up things that I have no knowledge of. If he has some proof that this is what is happening, I ask him to present the proof to this House or come down to my department and discuss the matter with me. It is a very serious accusation which the hon. member is making and I doubt very much that he can substantiate these accusations.

MR. WARREN:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Torngat Mountains.

MR. WARREN:

Mr. Speaker, I suggest the minister go to his own department, look at the papers that are in his own department, and he will see for himself that the aircraft have been used on numerous occasions, in fact 35 per cent of the time, the aircraft was used it was not for medical reasons. I suggest to the minister that he go to his own officials and look at the papers himself.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Health.

MR. DECKER:

Mr. Speaker, on April 20 we dealt with that problem. If that is the way the former government was misusing the money belonging to the people of this Province, that answer came up on April 20; but after April 20 you will not find that misuse of government funds.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Mount Pearl.

MR. WINDSOR:

Mr. Speaker, I had a question for the Minister of Development, but since he is gone so I am going to see if I can find the Minister of Finance. We have not been able to get him on his feet so I am going to see. I am not sure if he is sitting there or if he is actually standing up. Maybe he is only three feet tall but we have not been able to get him up from behind the desk yet. I want to ask the Minister of Finance, Mr. Speaker, if in view of the statements made by the Leader in dealing with loan guarantees, and his treat that he would not honour loan guarantees, has the Minister of Finance had any discussions with the bond rating agencies in New York and our fiscal managers along the lines of how is our credit rating going to be affected by the Leader's suggestions?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Finance.

DR. KITCHEN:

Mr. Speaker, our credit rating with the bond groups in New York is extremely good, and we have evidence of that in the recent bond issue which we floated at the lowest rate for a large number of years.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Mount Pearl.

MR. WINDSOR:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

In view of the statements made by the Premier during the election dealing with reducing sales tax, how has that impacted on the credit rating of the Province? Has the Minister of Finance discussed with the bond rating agencies the potential impact of reducing the sales tax in this Province, the impact that will have on the fiscal position of this Province?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Finance.

DR. KITCHEN:

Mr. Speaker, I cannot understand the question. If the person would speak English I would understand what he is trying to say. We have no problem with the credit agencies. We have no problem whatsoever. I do not know what the former minister is trying to do here but what he is trying to do is foolishness.

MR. SPEAKER:

The time for Oral Questions has elapsed.

MR. WINDSOR:

We will get him on Monday, Mr. Speaker.

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MR. BAKER:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Government House Leader.

MR. BAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I wonder if I could ask leave of the House for the Minister of Justice (Mr. Dicks) to present an important Ministerial Statement. As was indicated earlier, we have had an equipment problem this morning and the statements did not arrive in the House until that particular part of Orders of the Day had gone by. So I wonder if we could have leave of the House for the Minister of Justice to now present that Ministerial Statement?

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker, we would have no problem with reverting back to Ministerial Statements.

MR. SPEAKER:

Then it is agreed that we revert back to Ministerial Statements. Everyone agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

### Statements by Ministers

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Justice.

MR. DICKS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I wish to thank my learned colleagues and the Opposition House Leader for departing from the normal procedure.

My statement today is on the Royal Commission into the handling by the Criminal Justice system of allegations of sexual

abuse.

As the public and this House are aware, several charges have been recently laid by police as a result of complaints of a series of physical and sexual assaults upon residents of Mount Cashel Orphanage, in the early 1970's. While investigations by the police are reinstated and are ongoing, and charges are moving through the courts, there remains disturbing, unanswered questions about the policy of the Departments of Justice and Social Services, in particular, the manner in which the complaints and investigations were originally handled. Equally disturbing is the suggestion that Government had a policy where criminal charges would not be laid in some cases of physical or sexual abuse of children where the alleged assailants agreed to leave the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

The past Government considered this matter sufficiently serious to justify the appointment of a Royal Commission announced just prior to the recent election. The appointment of this Commission is a decision which this Government also fully endorses. I therefore am announcing today that Mr. Justice Samuel Hughes, a past Judge of the Supreme Court of Ontario, assuming the Responsibility as Commissioner, with Mr. Clay Powell, Q.C., an eminent Ontario criminal lawyer, and Mr. David Day, Q.C., an eminent Newfoundland lawyer, acting as co-counsel, will be commencing a public inquiry as soon as the Commission can organize. The Commission has been requested to report its findings within ninety days of the commencement of hearings, based on a schedule it will be announcing

soon. Government is anxious to see that the inquiry commence as quickly as possible so that the subject matter can be dealt with expeditiously in order that Government can then promptly deal with whatever findings and recommendations are forthcoming.

The Commission has been asked to review four general areas:

1. The police investigation and actions of the Departments of Justice and Social Services when the complaints were made by residents of Mount Cashel Orphanage;
2. The policy of Government with respect to the dealing with such allegations at the time they were made;
3. The current policy of Government; and
4. Any changes that need to be made to prevent the reoccurrence.

I should stress that the focus of this inquiry is on the Criminal Justice system and whether Government practices policy and procedures, both past and present dealing with complaints made by the public, more particularly of a sexual nature, are justified or appropriate. It is not the purpose of this inquiry to examine the specifics of every allegation of physical or sexual abuse from 1970 to the present. These matters will be handled through appropriate police investigation and related due process as and when the situations rise. I should also indicate that all Departments of Government, by Minute-in-Council, have been ordered to co-operate fully with the Royal Commission in the work on which it is about to embark.

The Commission will immediately be commencing the task of organization, staffing, investigation and scheduling of hearings. Appropriate public notices will follow in due course.

The specific terms of reference for the inquiry have been tabled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Humber East.

MS VERGE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

On behalf of members of the official Opposition, I would like to say, first of all, that we are disappointed that the minister did not do this Legislature the courtesy of announcing here first the intention of the new government to continue this public inquiry; I understand he made the announcement on CBC television last evening. I realize he is new, but I hope that in future, while the Legislature is in session, the minister and all ministers of the new government will make announcements of important government policies and programs in this Legislature first.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased the new government, after three or four weeks in office, has seen the wisdom of the course of action embarked upon by the PC Government. Essentially the government is continuing the public inquiry or Royal Commission that was decided and appointed at the end of March and early April, following the receipt by the Justice Department of a police report on an investigation into obstruction of justice, or coverup allegations, respecting Mount Cashel Orphanage in the mid 1970's.

The Commissioner appointed, Mr. Justice Samuel Hughes, a retired judge of the High Court of Ontario, has been continued in that capacity, as have the lawyers or counsel, David Day and Clay Powell.

Mr. Speaker, the commissioner and counsel had started work on the inquiry in the second half of April. Essentially, the new government have delayed their work by some five or six weeks. The statement says the government is anxious to see the inquiry commence as quickly as possible, and with that five or six weeks delay, I trust that will now be the case.

Mr. Speaker, I turn to the terms of reference of the inquiry. Essentially the terms are the same as the ones the PC Government had approved. There is one omission from the summary statement which I would like the minister to clarify at the first opportunity. The original terms of reference specifically gave the commission the power to recommend if they deem appropriate compensation for victims of abuse at Mount Cashel. Mr. Speaker, I think that is an extremely important consideration in this exercise. The primary focus of the inquiry, after all, is to examine the response of the authorities to the plight of child victims in the mid-1970s and to recommend measures that will ensure that there will never be a reoccurrence of what happened back then.

Mr. Speaker, my final comment is that this public inquiry or Royal Commission into the criminal justice system and child welfare system response to child abuse was only one of two initiatives embarked upon by the PC



Government. The other, and the one I consider to be more important, was a commitment to have a Premier's task force on the pervasive problems of child abuse wherever that may take place in our Province, and family violence.

Mr. Speaker, while the spate of convictions, prosecutions and reports of child abuse by clergy has been healthy inasmuch as having brought to light these hidden crimes and brought culprits to justice, perhaps it has distorted the perception of the people of the Province about child abuse. All the available research indicates that most abuse takes place within families, inside homes. So we should not focus too much on abuse perpetrated by clergy, we should see to it that ongoing efforts are mounted to get at the problems of child abuse wherever they take place.

Therefore, it is extremely important that the new government mount a comprehensive study taking a multi-disciplinary approach, drawing on the resources of Social Services, on Education, on Health, as well as Justice, to guide the new government's response to the deep-seated problems of child abuse wherever they may take place.

In summary, we are pleased that the government is continuing the public inquiry or royal commission on the response of the system to the Mount Cashel problems in the mid-1970s. This is 1989. We now know much more about the problems of child abuse and family violence throughout our Province, and it is incumbent upon the government to take a second initiative, namely, a major multi-disciplinary study into all aspects of the problems of child abuse and family violence and sexual assault.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

I want to remind members that I did not interrupt the hon. member because she was making a tremendously good speech. But that cannot be the case for allowing more than half-time, regardless of how good the speech. I did not hear any complaints coming from the other side, but I want to remind hon. members that that is the rule and the one that we will attempt to abide by.

I take it we went back to Statements by Ministers just for that particular statement and now we move on to Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees.

#### Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Mines and Energy.

DR. GIBBONS:

Mr. Speaker, as required by legislation, the Annual Report for Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro must be tabled in the House of Assembly within fifteen days of the opening of a session. I am pleased this morning to table the new report for 1988.

#### Notices of Motion

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Finance.

DR. KITCHEN:

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow move that the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole on Ways and Means to consider the raising of supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow move that the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole on Supply to consider certain resolutions for the granting of supply to Her Majesty.

### Orders of the Day

MR. BAKER:

Order 1, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Address in Reply.

The hon. the member for Stephenville.

MR. K. AYLWARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

At the great courtesy of the hon. the member for Torngat Mountains, for allowing me to continue my speech on the Throne Speech, it is a pleasure again to rise and talk about the initiatives that this government will be undertaking and some of the plans it has for the future.

The Throne Speech this year, I think, is one of the best that has come along in a long time, as a matter of fact, for the past seventeen years, Mr. Speaker, one of the best that has ever come along. It has a lot of content to it, it has a lot of good ideas, a lot of initiatives, a lot of good things that can be undertaken by this new administration to help

resolve the problems, Mr. Speaker. And, of course, one of the good things about it is that in a Throne Speech you put out your ideas and initiatives and you indicate that you are going to attempt to do them and you are going to plan to do them. Hopefully, you will be able to accomplish all of what you want to do or at least most of it, and I think that that is what we are undertaking to do.

So, as soon as possible, we will be undertaking to do these things and I am sure that in this administration, as soon as possible means very, very soon.

We have seen a number of things over the past number of years that have been taken on by the previous administration, attempts that have been made to try to correct things and to try to improve things. Some of them have worked and some of them have not. So, we, as a new administration, have seen those ways and we will try to go in different directions where needed, and in the same direction if it is working. We intend to be constructive in our approach, as we were in Opposition, Mr. Speaker. When we were in Opposition, we suggested many things to the administration of the day. Unfortunately, a lot of them were not taken and used. Now, we can put them into practice, and I think we are going to see some good improvements.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend today the hon. the Minister of Justice (Mr. Dicks) on his announcement on the inquiry that is going to be undertaken into the justice system and the allegations of sexual abuse. I think it needs to be done, and that the hon. minister and this hon. government

will ensure that the proper approach is taken, and that the proper reporting and proper discussions will be taking place so that we see the disturbing consequences and action undertaken to resolve this matter. We need to get this matter resolved to put confidence back in the system for the people of this Province. It has been shaken, Mr. Speaker, and I am very confident that this new administration, with its Minister of Justice and the Premier, will see to it that the justice system is given, I suppose, a higher profile, a higher standing, and people will feel more confident. I think that is the thing we have to strive for.

Mr. Speaker, when we talk about our new administration, I also want to commend our new ministers who have gotten off the mark very fast in their work. I give as an example the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture, Mr. Flight, the member for Windsor - Buchans, who, only on the second or third day, Mr. Speaker, was out in Stephenville visiting with Abitibi-Price officials, discussing with them the mill: how it is working, how everything is going, the wood supply problems and all these wonderful things, Mr. Speaker, that we, as a government, are going to undertake to do. The minister was there and we had great discussions. He opened National Forestry Week in Stephenville, which was his first official function. I might add, Mr. Speaker, that Abitibi-Price was very pleased to have him there, and they look forward to good discussions in the future with our minister.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. K. AYLWARD:

Mr. Speaker, these are just a couple of examples of the fine administration we have. I think you are going to see in the future a government which is very credible, which will pursue the long-term objectives of this Province. We will see the accomplishments come forward in flying colours, especially in red colours.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would also like to send my own personal congratulations to Joe Ghiz and his Liberal government, in P.E.I., on their re-election. I think, Mr. Speaker, it is very indicative of Atlantic Canada that three out of the four provinces now have gone Liberal. They want to see a government that will fight for their rights and fight for their rightful role in Confederation. That today, Mr. Speaker, I think, is being questioned, when you see the unfortunate things that are being undertaken by the federal government, in their stripping of some programs, and their lack of response to the needs of Atlantic Canada. I think we need to see a much better response from the federal government in a number of areas, including, specifically, the fishery and the problems that we are now encountering.

It is high time, Mr. Speaker, that we had a role and a say in what happens in the fishery of this Province. The proposal that the new Liberal Government is putting forward in the establishment of a Canada - Newfoundland Fisheries Board, which would help in the management of the fishery, is a very concrete, solid proposal. I am looking forward to seeing our government and the Minister of Fisheries working with the federal government to see if we can get

this accomplished. I think it would be a milestone for the Province to be involved in the management of our fishery resource, not the jurisdiction of it but the management of it, and I think it would be a healthy role for us to undertake. We would then, I think, be able to see the resource and see the allocations and the things that we need to do to get the fishing industry going. I think we will see these things happen if we can get this established.

It is a very concrete, solid proposal. It was developed when we were in Opposition and it has been put forward now that we are in government. We are looking forward to working on that matter. Hopefully, we will see that come about if we can get the federal government to respond to the needs of the Province. I am looking forward to seeing that happen. Again, that is a very positive initiative, being undertaken by this government.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to touch on the Hibernia agreement that was signed. Again, I am very confident that our new Minister of Energy is going to undertake to assure that the proper deal is signed and that the proper benefits will come to this Province.

Mr. Speaker, we signed a statement of principles, as it was called originally. I was kind of disturbed, in the sense that we did not sign the deal at the time. There has been a lot of hoopla and a lot of buildup to the whole idea of the proposal we were hoping to see. I remember that very clearly. I was over in my riding of Stephenville and I was thinking that day, 'Well, boy,

here we go. We are going to be in for it now. They have got the big thing they wanted and here we go.' But it did not matter to me, in a sense, because I knew that if they brought it in the benefit was going to come to the Province and that was first and foremost in everybody's mind. The buildup of it was that we have it and we have it lock, stock and barrel, it is signed, sealed and delivered.

The unfortunate aspect of that, Mr. Speaker, was that it was not and now we, as a government, have to undertake to see that it is. I can tell you that with our new Minister of Energy and the new Premier and the new government, when we say that it is signed, sealed and delivered it will be signed, sealed and delivered. We are going to make sure, Mr. Speaker, that the benefits come to this Province, and we are going to put forth our best efforts to ensure that the people of the Province receive as much as they can from it all over this wonderful Province, including Newfoundland and Labrador, all of the benefits that we can. I am very confident that that is going to happen and, hopefully, in the statement of principles that was signed and that was supposed to come due on 31 March of this year, we will see that that becomes a reality in the very near future. I have great confidence that it will.

Also, Mr. Speaker, there is Hydro and, again, I would just like to touch on that. I think we are going to see some development there in the near future. I am sure our competent government is undertaking measures to ensure it will happen. We are looking forward to that development in the future. We will work towards

that. I can also tell this House that it will not take us on this side of the House seventeen years, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that this type of thing happens.

We want to correct things, we want to make things happen right, we want to ensure that things happen. We are not going to say, well, it might, it might, it might or we almost have it, we almost have it. We will come in here and deliver, Mr. Speaker, and when we cannot we will say so. That is going to be the way this government runs. I am very pleased at that, because I think that is the approach we should be taking.

We can build the expectations of the people of this Province to a point, but we should also build them realistically. We should make people feel good about this Province and about wanting to work in this Province and we should have them stay here. But we should not build their hopes to the heights to come back down again to the point where depression and anxiety set in. We build a strength and we build a strong confidence in our future. That is what this government is going to do. I am sure it is going to happen like that. The approach we are taking with our good, competent people will see that that happens. I am looking forward to seeing this air of competence in the people of the Province come back and we can see the development of opportunities that I think we have missed on a number of occasions, unfortunately, due to the up and down expectations that were created in the past.

So that approach is one which will treat the people of this Province

in a much better manner and I think it is one which will be much more accepted by the people of the Province.

I think they, at the end, were saying, no more telling us that you are going to do this, and so on, tell us what you are really going to do, what you are going to attempt to do; and put the expectations there that are realistic. I think that is the approach we have and it is a good one. I have no problems with that, and I am looking forward to working within that attitude.

I think also, Mr. Speaker, that we have to build a good attitude in this Province, and the Throne Speech with the red cover is going to do that. The initiatives announced in this are excellent, with a whole range of matters when it comes to, especially, young people, for example; concerns for senior citizens - we are going to see that proper housing, for example, is put in place; we are going to work to see that the young people of this Province have some opportunities with a chance to stay here and work to build our future.

It is time, Mr. Speaker, that we address that problem and the problems they are encountering with employment, opportunities for business and so on. The promotion of entrepreneurship, for example, is a thing that I think we should get into more. I am hoping to see that undertaken with our new Minister of Education, our new government. I am quite confident that it will be undertaken.

Also, Mr. Speaker, with respect to a number of other issues, I want to talk for a number of minutes on my district of Stephenville, one I

have represented now for four years and look forward to representing for the next four.

A number of initiatives that we are undertaking in our area will be helped by the Throne Speech, the development opportunities we have been working on, an industrial park that we are hoping to see established in the coming months and over the next couple of years.

We have a battle, Mr. Speaker, with our airport in Stephenville with the Air Canada situation. Something I think I have to note today, right off the bat, is the move by Air Canada, a Crown corporation set up by the federal government to serve the transportation needs of Canada, East and West, Mr. Speaker. That was their mandate. Now, the federal government of the day has said to Air Canada, 'You can do what you want and go where you want, we have no problem with it, and you can wreak havoc on the rural areas of Canada.' I think, as a government, we will pursue this matter very strongly with the federal government.

Our transportation needs in this Province are extremely important for the development of our economy and, unless we decide that we are going to take a stand and go at it in the proper fashion, and say, 'These are the needs we have in transportation,' unless we do that, we are going to be in a lot of trouble.

MR. SPEAKER:

Excuse me, I would like to remind the hon. member that he has one minute left.

MR. K. AYLWARD:

That is all, Mr. Speaker? One

minute! Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

In my concluding remarks, I just want to say and I am sure I will have a lot more to say about his issue specifically the Air Canada issue. They have not treated our area very well in their announcement. We are going to be pursuing them very much so over the coming months. Also, our airport I must say is coming around quite well. We have been able to get some new service and we are looking forward to better things with our new Liberal government.

So, Mr. Speaker, on that note I have had a number of comments. I know that it has been at the pleasure of this wonderful House and that they have enjoyed them thoroughly. I look forward to speaking again on a number of other issues and I look forward to hearing the Opposition and their remarks to our Throne Speech, which I think covers some excellent ideas for the future.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Humber Valley.

MR. WOODFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, this is my first time getting up to speak on The Throne Speech without asking questions, so it is my first opportunity to say what I want here this morning.

First, I would to congratulate the Speaker, the member for Bonavista North, on his appointment as Speaker. I served in the House for the last four years. He is a very sincere and honest individual

and I say that with all honesty. I have worked with him on committees, and on committees is where you usually bring out the worst in a member. I saw both sides of him, the side of the House of Assembly and the side in committees and in private and also stayed with him many a night over a meal at the Airport Inn with some of my other colleagues on the other side. So, I wish him well. He has got credibility and he is respected by every member of the House no matter what side you are on, as far I am concerned, always was and I am sure he will be in his new position. The main thing is that he will be fair, there is no doubt about that.

I would like to congratulate the Deputy Speaker as well, and the Chairman of Committees both positions that I sat in myself, although not appointed as such, but sat in many a day, and many a night trying to get through legislation here in this House over the last four years.

I would like also to congratulate all of the members on the other side, backbenchers and especially the people who have been appointed to Cabinet. They have trying times ahead. It is not an easy role. I have had a taste of it, so to speak, albeit it was baptism by fire, but in any case it was three months that I would not give up for anything. Than again, three months is probably as good as three years in some cases.

The member for Windsor - Buchans (Graham Flight) is not in his seat, I would like to say to him because he is also from Buchans the same community that I am from, it is nice to see another person from Buchans follow in the Agricultural portfolio. Like I

said, I only had three months there, so the hon. member has got to perform in three months, that is what I am going to judge you on, just three months. But in any case, I wish him well and all members opposite.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that I have wanted to say, especially for the past week since the House opened as Minister back on March 31, I spoke at a Rural Development Association meeting in Gander, the Annual Meeting of the Rural Development Council. Friday before I went to that meeting, that was on a Saturday, I was informed that a Rural Development Agreement would be signed on or before April 30. Now for some time, in fact I think it will go back to December 31, that Agreement was supposed to have been signed. We had the commitments from the federal government that that would be signed on December 31. March 31 was the next date it was supposed to be signed. It still was not signed. March 31 was on a Friday and I was going to Gander anyway to speak as Minister, but I certainly was not going to say anything, and I was not going to compromise my principles or credibility for anybody else in this Province or outside. I was talking back and forth with Mr. Crosbie's office and the Premier's office and that evening at 5:05 p.m. on March 31 I received a call from our representative in the federal Cabinet, Mr. Crosbie. I was told, categorically, that that agreement would be signed on or before the last of April. I questioned him time and time again, over and over. I said that I do not want to make an announcement, I do not want to tell those people something that will not be done. He promised me

that it would, and approximately an hour after I had a call from the Premier at that time saying the same thing. I went on to Gander, made the announcement. but I would not say a date, I just said on or before. I could have probably said a date because one was sort of just in my mouth, but I would not take a chance on that, so I said on or before the last of April.

It was not done, and although the remarks and questions have been directed to the Leader of the Opposition, I feel somewhat responsible, in a way. I was minister at the time, I made the announcement and I should take the blame for it. Then, again, I want to make it quite clear that I was told it in all sincerity and all honesty, as I thought, by our representative in the federal Cabinet, but something happened somewhere along the way for that not to be signed.

In fact, a couple of months before that, I was aware of the fact that the funds for Rural Developments Associations in the Province were starting to dry up and I knew they needed help. I took it to Cabinet and got an MC saying that all development associations in the Province would have access to a comfort letter allowing them to go to the banks and borrow approximately \$10,000. That was done for all fifty-six associations, and some of them took advantage of that before the Gander meeting. When I went to the meeting in Gander I had letters of comfort for every Development Association in this Province in my briefcase. Whoever wanted it could have it that day. I know it was not much but it was something. I figured it only had to last for about a month in any

case so I figured \$10,000 would be sufficient. When you look at the total that would have been in the new agreement of approximately \$36,00 that was one third of what they would have gotten in any case. That did not materialize either. The people took advantage of it and I think the present government now has allotted some \$50,000 to the Rural Development Council to keep them going, something I am sure they appreciate, and I commend them for it. Keep that up. The main thing I want to clarify there this morning is that when that statement was made I thought in all honesty and sincerity that it would be done on or before April 30.

I have had a close affinity with Development Associations in the Province over the years. I served on them. I was a councillor in Cormack for ten year and I served on the Federation of Municipalities as well. I know all about Rural Development Associations. Nobody has to tell me anything about them. I have two in my district, the White Bay South and the Humber Valley Development Associations, both creditable association in the Province, well managed, with good directors, and good executives doing a good job. Usually you hear about the ten week syndrome, and Development Associations are usually associated with that, but I can say that especially during the last three to four years that the projects they had have been mostly longterm, albeit there were some there that would probably last for ten, fifteen, or twenty weeks, or what have you. But most of their projects have been longterm, which is something that Development Associations in the Province have been trying to get



at for year. I think it is the direction which they are trying to take for the future of their associations in the Province, but they cannot do it without funding. I would be the first to agree and the first to act on their behalf to access such funding.

The Rural Development movement is a people's movement. It is something that is close to the hearts of every individual in the rural areas of this Province. And not only rural because I know that over our way the City of Corner Brook is surrounded by rural municipalities, the Bay of Islands and all up through Humber Valley, Humber East, and the City of Corner Brook always sort of kept in line and took part in all the meetings of the Rural Development Associations. I have to commend the council in Corner Brook, because usually when you get a council like that, which is so large, it usually goes off to itself, it has its own platforms and own ideas which they stick to, but not so in this case. This makes for a good working relationship with all the councils in the area, which work in conjunction with the Development Associations, the agricultural associations, the fishermen's committees, and that is the reason it will work.

You have to have cohesiveness, you have to have communication between everybody, because if not, Newfoundlanders being what they are, they are their own worst enemy when it comes to looking at what the other group is doing, one trying to outdo the other. So when you get communication rather than confrontation in any area or in any district, you have a success.

As I stated before the agricultural associations and fishermen's committees and whatever work in conjunction with the Development Associations. The Development Associations usually have directors from each municipality in each part of the district, and they bring in their ideas, they give them to their executive, they vote on them, and what have you, and they make their decisions, which have a bearing on each municipality in the area, whether its population be of 20 or 500 or 5,000. Everybody benefits. The whole area benefits, the whole district, and the Province benefits as a whole. And the Rural Development Council, I think Mr. Collins in Gander now is the director, has been doing an excellent job over the last number of years. But the sense of the direction that they are going to take from here on in will benefit everybody with regards to the long-term projects rather than the short-term ten week syndrome.

I suppose when the Throne Speech came down I expected to see a little more depth into it. There are a lot of 'whereases' and 'in due course,' 'when money is available,' 'within the mandate,' and I suppose to a certain extent you can see that with regard to the first Throne Speech. But then, again, with regard to the forestry and agriculture part of it, there were only two lines. Now in some cases that says a lot. So I will just leave it at that until budget time and see if those two or three lines that were mentioned in the Throne Speech bear any credence and have substance, and I will judge that I guess, next Tuesday, June 6.

But forestry and agriculture plays a very important role in this

Province. Agriculture, for instance, was on the bottom rung of the ladder and only in the last few years has started to move, and rightly so. It has great potential. It can expand. There is great room for expansion and production in the industry. I mean, it is evident over the last number of years what has happened to it. In fact, it is the only resource based sector in this Province over the last five years that has really had real growth. No one would ever think of that coming from an industry that you hardly hear tell of, unless it is some controversy like a school milk program or the price of milk going up, or something like that, and then everybody hollers, you hear from everybody, and everybody is an expert overnight on agriculture.

Like the Premier said not too long ago in a statement, there are too many people in the fishery. Maybe so. I cannot argue with him because I do not know. Seemingly that would probably be one of the problems.

One of the other things I changed when I was there as minister was the way marketing boards in the Province submitted a list of names to for the minister for appointments to boards. I changed that. I wanted to get away from the political partisan mode that everybody figured we were in, especially ministers in the departments. I wanted to get out from under that cloud. I granted the Milk Marketing Board, in particular, their request right to elect their own Board of Directors, especially when it came to the producers.

The first thing I saw was a piece in **The Evening Telegram** that

this was not right, the producers were going to have control over the industry, not from the hon. minister now, but from the Premier, they are going to have control over the industry. They are going to have a monopoly on the industry and that is going to hurt the Province.

Now does any other corporation, in this Province or outside, or any other business have control over their own industry or do they go out and ask permission, have a plebiscite or a referendum every time they want to make a decision or make an appointment to the Board of Directors? I thought it was an excellent move. The industry thought it was an excellent move. The other boards thought it was an excellent move. Outside the Province and they thought it was an excellent move.

MR. FLIGHT:

Mr. Speaker, would the hon. member permit a question?

MR. WOODFORD:

Yes, go ahead.

MR. FLIGHT:

Are there any concerns at all with regard to the appointing of boards as opposed to the election of members to the various commodity boards? Do you have any concern about that process?

MR. WOODFORD:

Well, I did at that time. I just wanted to get out from under that, and a request was made with regards to elections, elect their own producers on a regional basis, which would make it fair to every producer in the Province, no matter what region they came from. To answer your question, yes, I think the boards should elect their own members,

especially the producers. Now, the members at large and the consumer representative, if the minister wants to make that choice, well and good, unless the board recommends someone who is out of whack.

That is another thing. I think someone should go on those boards when they are representing the consumer or any other members at large, someone who has some closeness and some affiliation with the industries, or some business. So that when they sit around the table they can make a firm decision that is not going to be a detriment to the industry. So that was done.

The statements with regard to too many in the fishery, the same thing could happen with the dairy industry. It is one of the industries in the Province that is controlled, that is regulated and that is growing, the dairy industry in the Province, namely because of the supply management process, and namely the marketing board system.

If this is torn down or destroyed or affected in some way so that they cannot control their own destiny, we will be in the same position in agriculture in this Province - I used the dairy as an example because that is the one where we made the changes to the board - as we are in the fishery today.

If anybody in any business - a prime example is the Rural Development Authority, and the minister is not here - makes a request for a loan through the Rural Development Authority, another program which has really grown over the years, last year to the tune of some \$3 million

allocated under that loans program whereby any business in the Province can get up to \$50,000 at 3 percentage points below prime - it is an excellent program and, as far as I am concerned, it should be expanded. Those are the things they look at. When an application comes in the first thing it says is, 'Well, okay, we were going to put a corner store here but we cannot give that to that individual because there is one here. We have a sawmill there. We cannot give him one because there is one here.' Some of the criteria you have to meet and rightly so to a certain extent. There is no good in going in and competing if the market is filled in a community and put five or six corner stores when you need two. That is not good business sense.

The same thing could happen in the agricultural industry if you have no control over the production part of it. It was only a few short years ago that I had no place. I started off in Cormack in 1971 - 1972 in the dairy business and I was told then, coming over from Buchans, as the hon. members can appreciate, that I did not know one end of the cow from the other. I did not. I will be the first to admit. But it was 'udderly' ridiculously to say so.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. WOODFORD:

But in any case, I started. I farmed, I will be the first to admit, in spite of government and not because of it. It took something to keep going. Now, go over there and I think we have ten dairy operations in the community of Cormack itself, down through the Humber Valley, Hughes Brook,

up through Howley, all over. Central Dairies has a plant moved into Deer Lake now producing approximately 52 per cent of their West Coast requirements right there in the town of Deer Lake, providing twenty to twenty-two jobs directly not counting spinoff, all year 'round jobs, not eight, ten, fifteen or twenty weeks, year 'round jobs, except for in the Summertime when you are making the hay or doing the fields or something like that. Then you have probably fifteen or twenty weeks. It is something that was always put down. We could not do it here in Newfoundland. That was the first thing I was told, 'But you cannot do that here.' It is the same thing with everything, 'You cannot.' There is no such thing as cannot.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. WOODFORD:

The other thing is they get into agriculture in the classroom. The brochure that we put out in my short tenure there, the three months, was put in the classroom, something that should have been in there years ago. You go from Kindergarten to Grade XII and there is no mention of agriculture. They do not even know how to peel a potato. Ask them where they come from, or anything like that, and they do not know, they do not know anything. During Education Week, all kinds of students, I could not handle all the requests coming in from schools. They would come to the barn or come to the field, come to the sawmill after me. And to see a log being sawed that was unreal. That is something else. And they would come to the barns and see the milk in the tanks and see it coming down through the

milkers, those kids were just flabbergasted.

And that is a prime example of pure ignorance. Why? The parents do not know, the teachers do not know so how is the student going to know it? He cannot, and we have to get something in the schools and it is there now, albeit in a small way, but, then again, we can build on it. We got our foot in the door, now is the time to go the rest of the way as an industry in the Province, and as a profession in the Province, I remember years ago when I just started, would go to a farm and say "How do you do that?" "I have been doing that for years. Here is an insecticide", or whatever, this is how we did it.

Now you go and ask anybody in the agricultural industry in this Province, and you are not running a fly-by-night operation. It is big business. The dairy operation alone today, to get into right and properly, you are talking about a \$500,000 investment. You go in anywhere in this Province today, any company in this Province, and make a request to ACOA, for instance, for \$500,000 for eight or ten jobs and some cases less than that and what did they say? "We will give you a 20-25 percent grant towards that." You do not get that in the agricultural sector, that is exempt from ACOA. You cannot get any funds. Some time ago we went four years without any federal-provincial agreement. We got one, small as it is, we got one. Big deal, some \$15 million for the next four years. Wonderful stuff! All those things are going to have to be addressed. All those things are going to have to be looked at. We are getting more each year, coming from smaller

communities, associated with the rural movement, and they know what is going on. The rural movement covers 80 percent of the population of the province, 80 percent. To say there is nothing rural around St. John's, well, pretty well everything in this Province is rural, there is no such thing as urban. What is urban about it?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. WOODFORD:  
You might find a few people who are sophisticated and urbanized, but no matter where you go, all around this city anywhere around this city, Corner Brook, Bay of Islands, Grand Falls, all have a rural movement.

I was asking the Minister today about the school milk program, which is something that definitely should be instituted. The cost of a litre of milk in the Province is \$1.40 per litre.

Just listen to this. We drink 55 litres per capita of milk per year but our children take in 50 percent or less of what they should take in in regards to calcium. Proof of that is in the fluoride; the city of St. John's and other cities are trying to add fluoride to their water systems. The repercussions in the health system are unreal, if it was ever put in dollars and cents, you would not even be able to compare it. The system with regards to the milk program should be instituted - \$1.40 per litre for milk in this Province, \$3.36 per litre of beer. We are consuming 55 litres of milk, which is half the national average of 110 litres. The next province to us Prince Edward Island is 102 and

beer? We are drinking 90 litres per year each. Now we got to exempt the 0-17 because we take it for granted that they do not drink. Maybe they are drinking the most - I do not know.

MR. FLIGHT:  
May I ask a question?

MR. WOODFORD:  
Go ahead.

MR. FLIGHT:  
Let me ask the hon. member since he obviously supports the school milk program, does he envision that program to be a public relations program that would encourage school children to drink milk, or does he see the program as being a program to subsidize or guarantee the milk available at a lower price to school children?

MR. SPEAKER:  
The hon. the member for Humber Valley.

MR. WOODFORD:  
The answer to that is both. I mentioned before about the ignorance part of it, so the educational part of it is one thing. In fact, in that thing we had allocated, I think, something like three coordinators to go around the Province and be available to the schools, different programs in the school with regard to whichever school drank the most milk would be given a computer, or something like that. There were different little things in it and the industry and producers would be involved. Usually when you try to get anything done, in any industry in the Province you usually got them against you. In this case, we have them with us, the industry and the producers. At least get it in there on a wholesale basis

first, and then work from there with regards to cutting it down so that every child in the schools can access it. So, both from an educational part of it and also the spin over from that will mean approximately 10 million litres of milk over the next five years in production. Ten million litres just to have a good school milk program in place. That alone would add to the industry, when you consider that we produced 26 million litres of fluid milk in this Province last year, around 30 percent to the total production. So both of them would be in place. I got the insinuation from some people around the Province in the last month or so that the farmer should subsidize the program. The burden should not be put on the 72 producers in the Province. We are not self-sufficient in milk in this Province and they should be given every chance and right to produce 100 percent self-sufficiency without the burden of putting milk into the schools at their cost. Supposing we have to review our social programs with regards to that. The Minister of Health in conjunction with the Minister of Education, in conjunction with the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture, the three departments should be involved. They were, and they should. With the three departments involved for the measly sum of \$300,000 to try and get it off the ground I think would be dollars well spent, for every man, woman and child in the Province.

The other thing I would like to touch on is the sawmilling industry in the Province, forestry in general. I had a project started in White Bay, the hon. minister may be aware of it now, one of the first in the Province.

We have the paper companies in the Province with all kinds of holdings. We got the sawmillers in the Province crying and screeching for, saw logs, and cannot get them. When they touch a log on the company's holdings they are skinned and taken to court. There is a way of getting around it.

I approached the Abitibi Group back two years ago, got them to agree on taking the three mile limit from around the Jackson's Arm, Sop's Arm - Pollards Point area, lifting that so that it would go back to the people and be administrated by the Department of Forestry locally so that they could get their permits and use it as saw logs or use it as firewood.

The other area that I worked in is also in conjunction with Kruger, a very, very substantial project in the Chause Brook area of Hampden. Hampden has, I suppose, twenty or thirty sawmillers who depend primarily on sawmilling. They are pretty well out of the crown land limits with regards to cutting. There is approximate in the Chause Brook area, 500,000 - 600,000 cords of prime timber that should be cut. If not it is going to fall to the ground and be wasted.

Just across from that in the Main River area you have approximately 1.6 million cords of wood which is going to take twenty-five or twenty-six years to cut in any case, because they have to do it in conjunction with the forestry program elsewhere in the Province. So you cannot cut one and leave the other, or it is just going to die.

We made a proposal to the Minister of Forestry at that time, the member for Grand Falls, and again

the member for Kilbride, and now I have spoken already to the member for Windsor - Buchans, that this would be done on a 60/40 basis where the sawmiller could go in, take whatever is good for a saw log and everything else goes to the companies. They have first call on the pulpwood, thereby utilizing everything in that area and making sure that everything is done on a clear-cut basis, administered by the Department of Forestry, which is local and has flexibility and is close to the people, so they would not have to talk to the paper companies at all.

So we pretty well had an agreement on that and I am sure the minister will take that up and continue with it.

AN HON. MEMBER:

He will take credit for it.

MR. WOODFORD:

Well, if he wants to take credit for it, so be it. But the main thing is that we benefit as a people, it is an excellent project, and I think it would be setting a precedent for all those companies in the Province, not only the paper companies but some others as well, to do much the same thing. This is just sitting there being wasted when it could be utilized. The pulpwood industry in this Province is at its maximum. If the companies in this Province need 300,000 cords of wood a year to keep their mills going, whether they get it in Grand Falls, whether they get it in Corner Brook, or whether they get it in Stephenville, it does not matter, they are only using 300,000 cords a year. The same bodies it takes every year to cut that wood, that is it. The sawmilling industry is the only part of the forestry industry, the

woodcutting industry where you can increase jobs.

MR. SPEAKER:

I remind the hon. member that his time has elapsed.

MR. WOODFORD:

I would just like to sum up, Mr. Speaker.

I just touched on part of the agriculture part of it, and forestry, but I could go on. You could go on into the fishery. I would like to mention to the minister - she is not here right now - the private sector program that was so important over the last number of years, especially for the students, because they are out of school now, and I urge the administration to get that program out as soon as possible. It is an excellent program but there has been nothing out yet. We have some of the university students out. It is okay for the high school students when they get out in June. In any case I think you should address that very soon. The Minister of Employment and Labour Relations is not here right now, but in any case I am sure someone will pass it along to her. It is very important to get that out.

Before I end I would like to ask all hon. members, if they are not doing much towards the end of July and the first week in August, they can certainly visit the Humber Valley and take in one of the biggest festivals in the Province, namely, the Strawberry Festival, and I will make sure you are well treated.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Eagle River.

MR. DUMARESQUE:

Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure to rise as a member of the House of Assembly, and it is also a particular pleasure to take part in this historic response to the Throne Speech.

Mr. Speaker, over the next half hour I would like to relate to you a number of things: I would like to, first of all, start off by acknowledging that I find particular pleasure in rising in my seat as the first Labradorian ever elected for the Liberal Party in the history of the Liberal Party in Labrador.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. DUMARESQUE:

I realize that is an onerous responsibility, Mr. Speaker, and I intend, over the next three or four years, to carry that responsibility as seriously as possible.

I would be remiss if I did not congratulate the distinguished member for Bonavista North (Mr. Lush) upon his election as Speaker, and also to take this opportunity to congratulate the Speaker's assistants, the member for Bellevue (Mr. Barrett) and the member for Trinity - Bay de Verde (Mr. L. Snow). You have all done exceptional jobs as far as I am concerned, and I certainly believe you will do so in the future.

I would also like to take a minute now, Mr. Speaker, to speak about the institution of Parliament. As a political scientist, I come in here with the enthusiasm that comes with that particular

training. I realize that this institution is the highest court in our land and I look forward to the proper procedures, and I look forward to the liberation of the private member to see that there is effective and responsible outlay of our duties and responsibilities as members of this hon. House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. DUMARESQUE:

If I might, Mr. Speaker, I would like to outlay the format of my speech. In response to this historic Speech from the Throne, I will at all times keep in mind the themes of fairness, balance and equality. In doing so, I intend to outlay these themes as it relates to my district and also to lay out these principles as it relates to my role as a member of the House of Assembly.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, the great district of Eagle River has a number of assets. First and foremost, of course, is its people. Labradorians have chosen to be in this great land, Labradorians have been chosen to represent the aspirations of the people there, and Labradorians on the Coast of Labrador, as all over Labrador, are proud to be able to carry that flag, Mr. Speaker, and be able to signify to the rest of this Province that indeed we are a part of this great Province and we will continue to be.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. DUMARESQUE:

Labradorians are famous, of course, for their courage, for their loyalty. And, of course, Mr. Speaker, any student of



politics in Newfoundland and Labrador can look at the political record and the political voting practice of the people in Eagle River and will be able to see quite clearly that they are quite intelligent people, Mr. Speaker. They have never voted Tory in their lives, and, I submit, Mr. Speaker, they never will.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. DUMARESQUE:

The fishery, of course, is another asset, Mr. Speaker, that Eagle River is quite proud to be able to display to the rest of the world. There has always been a historic abundance of cod, salmon and char, not to mention the great shrimp fishery that is off our coast. We have always had tremendous recognition for that. We have always had a tremendous voyage, I guess, of people coming down from the Island every Summer to be able to take advantage of this, especially of late years in the areas of Black Tickle, Makkovik and other parts of the coast.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, there are other assets that Eagle River is proud to display. Tourism: Mr. Speaker, this Summer there will be a dedication and an acknowledgement of the tourist potential of Eagle River when there will be two national historic sites proclaimed in the district of Eagle River, one being the Indian burial ground in Point Amor, which is the longest site of its nature. And, of course, everybody is aware of the tremendous historical presence that the Basque whalers had in Red Bay, Labrador. These two sites will be recognized this year as national historic sites.

Of course, I would be negligent if I did not point out the great bakeapple festival, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to invite all members of this hon. House to be down there on August 10, 11, and 12 to participate in our festivities, and be able to participate, along with us, in our great and courageous and lively manner as we go about celebrating the history and the folklore of Labrador.

Mr. Speaker, certainly one other asset I would like to touch on is the forestry. Historically, the forest resources of coastal Labrador have been great and, to a degree, they are presently on tap and, especially I think, hold quite great promises for future development and future jobs for our people, especially in the Cartwright and Port Hope Simpson areas. These are some of the assets, Mr. Speaker, that I wanted to relay to the House of Assembly today.

Now I would like to take about some of the liabilities. As we heard the great Throne Speech proclaim and the Premier of this Province acknowledge, Labrador is not without its liabilities, Labrador is not without its hurt, Labrador is not without its deficiencies. I would like to talk about a couple of things: In the fishery, for example, I believe quite fundamentally, Mr. Speaker, that Labradorians have never gotten their fair share out of this great resource. Labradorians have never received the jobs and security from this resource that we justly deserve. If I have to look on the fishery as it relates to individuals in Labrador, and I know that it does not particularly pertain to this provincial jurisdiction, but I

would like to note the unemployment insurance system, Mr. Speaker, and its discriminatory actions as it relays upon individuals involved in the fishery in Labrador. As many of you know, right now fishermen are only allowed to draw unemployment insurance as of November 15 of every year, and that has to end on May 15 of the following year.

Mr. Speaker, two or three months before November 15 are quite hard, and leading up to the Christmas break every year people certainly need that cash coming into their households. Historically, the fishery on the Labrador coast has ended pretty well on October 1 of every year, and certainly in many parts of Labrador it does not start until at least June 15 and, in many cases, July 15 along the coast of Labrador.

So in the two times in the year when people along the Labrador Coast deserve to have some cash coming into their households, they are without it. Certainly this case has been brought to the attention of many government officials but it has never gotten, I do not think, the serious consideration that it deserves. So I would hope that this hon. House will be able to go on record as unanimously supporting that the people of this great area be given an opportunity to file unemployment insurance claims as of October 1 of every year, and no later the following year, when they have insurable earnings to report.

Mr. Speaker, there are other liabilities and there are other areas of neglect. You take water and sewer: I understand that there are a lot of demands upon the public treasury of this

Province, I understand that there are a lot of services that have not been gotten all over this great Province, but, Mr. Speaker, as I pointed out in my resolution on opening day, there is not one community in Eagle River that has a full-fledged water and sewer system. That is not good enough! That is not fair! That is not just! That is not equality of opportunity on the Labrador Coast!

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. DUMARESQUE:

When it comes to recreation, Mr. Speaker, there is not one proper, fully-engineered, enclosed arena in the whole area of Eagle River. Not one! I think, Mr. Speaker, that every couple of years, I think it is every third year, we have the Labrador Games, and I think in this past year, when it was undertaken, the residents and the athletes of Coastal Labrador performed exceptionally well. They came back with gold, silver and bronze medals. They came back with them, but they got them because of an expression of true courage, an expression of hard work. Mr. Speaker, I can only imagine how they would do if they had proper recreational facilities.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. DUMARESQUE:

Mr. Speaker, in the next little while I would like to talk about my role here as a member of the House of Assembly, representing Eagle River. What do I represent and where do I go and how do I get things done? Am I a delegate for the people, or am I a representative of the people? These are two fundamental questions, Mr. Speaker. As a

delegate, do I automatically come in here and outlay the popular opinion of my constituents? As a delegate, do I come in here and properly say what the constituents have been saying to me, and do that on every issue? Or, as a representative of the people, as a representative who has garnered the public support of my district, do I come in here and outlay my ideas and be able to substantiate them in theory and in fact, and then be able to carry them, whether at times they may be contrary to the short-term gain?

I submit, Mr. Speaker, that over the next three or four years I will perform with a meshing of these particular labels. I will perform both as a delegate and as a representative, because I fundamentally believe that we live in a pluralist society, I fundamentally believe that we have checks and balances in our system, and I fundamentally believe that there are ways that the individual can have real effect upon the public decision making in our Province.

Now, over the next three or four years, Mr. Speaker, I intend to pursue a number of specific projects. I might just backtrack a little bit, because I did overlook one liability that I wanted to make special acknowledgement of, and that is our deficiency in health care.

Mr. Speaker, four or five years ago, when I visited my Great Uncle in the Patton Home in Goose Bay, it was one of the saddest days of my life. I went into that home after not seeing my Great Uncle for a couple of years, and when he looked up and saw me, tears came to his eyes because he saw in me what he had grown up with. He

said to me, 'You know, I miss L'Anse-au-Clair. I miss the Coast of Labrador.' 'And,' he said, 'my son, if there is anything you can ever do for me, try and get me back home. Try and get me back to L'Anse-au-Clair. Try and get me back to the Coast of Labrador again so I can smell the ocean and I can see the waves and I can feel what is in my soul.'

Mr. Speaker, it is sad to submit that I was not able to do that. It is sad to have to realize that my Great Uncle passed away because, I believe in great part, of the despair that he felt. I submit, Mr. Speaker, that it is unjust, it is unfair, and I believe there is no equality of opportunity prevailing, and there is no justice in this Province if we are to allow our citizens of Coastal Labrador to go hundreds of miles from their shore, to have to go a place where they cannot be visited by their relatives, to have to go and be hid away from what is in their souls and what they grew up with. I believe that is wrong, I believe that is fundamentally unfair, and I will fight to see that a senior citizens home is put in the Eagle River District.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. DUMARESQUE:  
Mr. Speaker, as it relates to the fishery: I have been working, as a number of you know, with the Marine Institute over the last couple of years, and worked quite diligently, no doubt, in that their work was recognized by all Labradorians in Eagle River, and certainly recognized in the vote on April 20.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to see

that we get more from our fishery, because I believe that the Labrador fishery represents a project of the last vestige of Imperialism in this Province and indeed in this Country. Labrador has always been a place the people of this Province could look forward to as a place to go in the Spring; a place to go in the Spring and spend the summer there, and be able to accumulate the fish and be able to prepare their seasons, and take home in the Fall of the year what they had garnered on the Coast of Labrador. It was always a place to go, Mr. Speaker, never a place to go and live and prosper and foster and develop for the good of all of us, a proper and decent place to live.

Now, I am not saying, Mr. Speaker, that that should be disallowed. I am not saying that at all. What I am saying, in fairness, and in justice and in balance, is that until we open up our doors and welcome you in, I would say 'please' to this government and to others who will be able to be instrumental in that process, to make sure that we have garnered the benefits that we justly deserve.

There is a principle here, Mr. Speaker, and that principle is one that is being recognized by this Province as being paramount, that those closest to the resource should garner the greatest from that resource. That has been a principle that has been espoused by the past provincial government, but I say and I submit that that principle was waived, that principle was ignored, that principle was slammed in the faces of Labradorians without justly appreciating the detrimental effect that it would have on it.

We have had a resource short plant program, Mr. Speaker, operating in this Province for the last number of years. We have had fifteen or twenty plants that have been designated under that particular program, yet not one was designated in Labrador.

We have had, Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Saltfish Corporation operating on the Coast of Labrador and on the Quebec North Shore, which, incidentally, is fifty miles from the Quebec - Labrador border. That is where 75 cent of every dollar goes into the Canadian Saltfish Corporation, yet, Mr. Speaker, not one fish is dried on the Coast of Labrador, not one secondary product is produced on the Coast of Labrador, and the decision making process in that Corporation, which is run by nine people, not one of them are from the Coast of Labrador. I submit, Mr. Speaker, that is unfair, that is unjust, that is no equality of opportunity for the people of Labrador.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. DUMARESQUE:

Mr. Speaker, in the pursuit of my work over the next three or four years, I certainly intend to embark upon the work to fulfill the facts of the case, and I certainly hope that the Minister of Fisheries and this government will be open to at least a drying facility in my district, and, at least, to the extra processing that would come through the secondary products of the Canadian Saltfish Corporation. If these are put into my district, at least we receive some acknowledgement of our ownership of that great resource.

I would like to expand now on some of the other projects that I intend to pursue. Of course, I want to pursue water and sewer. The people of Black Tickle, Mr. Speaker, a courageous and energetic and loyal group of people, have yet to see one dollar spent in their community for a water and sewer system. They have to travel miles to get a decent bucket of clean drinking water. They have yet to see the signing of any kind of commitment to water and sewer. As the hon. the Premier pointed out in his response to The Throne Speech, Eagle River has a number of communities that do not have even the remnants of water and sewer let alone a functioning system. Pinsent Arm, Norman Bay, they have to travel miles, Mr. Speaker, to be able to get clean drinking water. We are not asking for the world. We are not asking for special treatment. We are not a distinct society. We are fair people, a fair people who only come here to ask you to recognize that we are humble citizens who justly deserve humble recognition of our needs.

When it comes to health care, as I pointed out, a senior citizens home is not the end of the world, it is not a dramatic outlay, it is not a Hibernia, it is a commitment to the social needs of Labradorians, elderly Labradorians who, through no fault of their own, have to go into that kind of home, Mr. Speaker, and can take comfort in knowing that they can be visited by their relatives, and know that they can look out across that great Atlantic Ocean and be able to see what they have always seen. That is nothing exceptional.

When it comes to recreation, Mr. Speaker, we have seen, obviously,

great announcements in terms of arenas and in terms of sportsplexes. I congratulate the hon. the member for Torngat Mountains who was able to get a sportsplex for Nain. A sportsplex for Nain was justly deserved, but surely, Mr. Speaker, if a sportsplex for a community of 800 or 900 was justified, then certainly a sportsplex for all the district of Eagle River is long over due.

When it comes to transportation, Mr. Speaker, as The Throne Speech certainly indicates, transportation and economic development go hand in hand. I do not know how many of you are aware of it here, Mr. Speaker, but over 50 percent of my district cannot be reached by any kind of road link. We do not have the luxury of being able to go to the district and travel from one end of it to the other. We do not have the luxury of being able to react to emergencies in our health care system and be able to have an ambulance to carry a person to a hospital. We do not have the luxury of a transportation system to take our fish and our lumber over, and take our people wherever they want to go, in over 50 percent of the district. From Lodge Bay, Mr. Speaker, to Paradise River there is no highway and I believe that is wrong. I believe that is unfair. I believe in this day and age we deserve to be linked up to the rest of the world, and I believe that with the coming of that there will be greater economic prosperity for our people.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would like to spend just a few minutes talking about my role and how I intend to accomplish this.

It is one thing, Mr. Speaker, to come in here and stand up and espouse the aspirations and wishes of my people, but it is another thing to get the job done. Specifically, Mr. Speaker, I intend to pursue, as I said in my statement on Throne Speech Day, the signing of the next comprehensive Labrador agreement. I intend to pursue this for a number of reasons.

There is no other area in this Province, and indeed there is no other area in this country, that deserves specific attention to be able to develop our transportation, our health care, and our municipal services needs. And we cannot do this unless the signing of the Labrador agreement is final. I hope, Mr. Speaker, that the next time it is announced, the next time that a person has the ability to put that into their brochures, that it is signed, that indeed it is valid, that indeed it is not a deception, that indeed it is not a cover-up, and indeed it is not telling people that something is there, that there is some recognition of their needs, when indeed there is not. Because it did happen during the last election, Mr. Speaker, when we were told that there were \$53.8 million laid out in the comprehensive Labrador agreement. In my district, the literature said that it was signed, sealed and delivered. How dare people mislead the constituents of Eagle River, I submit.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I also intend to do a number of things as I go about my duties. I intend to do the research that is necessary to be able to convince my Cabinet colleagues that yes, indeed, we have a case, yes, indeed, we have the facts, yes, indeed, we have

the rationale for better treatment. Because you cannot act on something spurious, you cannot act on something vague, you need something that you can work with and be able to convince your colleagues on. Over the next three or four years, Mr. Speaker, I will be doing that, I will be conducting the necessary research in presenting my cases to the House of Assembly and the Government of this Province.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, I will be taking advantage of the opportunities. As Lyndon Johnson's great father told him, 'Son, grasp the moments, because that is what it is all about. Do not miss those opportunities to be able to capitalize on the initiatives that will be forthcoming.' Of course, Mr. Speaker, as the hon. Premier indicated in his address to us, I would be remiss if I did not speak about taking advantage of the exceptional understanding and the exceptional commitment that the Premier of this Province has indicated for the people of Labrador. I believe that this is unsurpassed, Mr. Speaker. I believe that it is exceptional that the First Officer of this House has been able to illustrate through the Throne Speech and enunciate from his seat for the first time, his commitment and his understanding for the people of Eagle River and the people of Labrador. I congratulate him on that I know that his commitment is longstanding, I know his commitment is sincere, and I know that his integrity will prevail and that dignity will follow for the people of Labrador.

Mr. Speaker, I am also obviously going to take advantage of the Liberal philosophy. Liberalism

means a certain thing. Liberalism means fairness and justice and equality. Liberalism means that we will take advantage of the opportunity to be able to help those who, through no fault of their own, have not been able to help themselves.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. DUMARESQUE:  
I believe that under this great philosophical stream of thought that is now prevailing over this great Province we will see that indeed the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador will take exceptional consideration of our circumstances in Eagle River and in Labrador.

Now, how else can I do, Mr. Speaker, the job that I need to do? I intend, I submit, Mr. Speaker, to be a fighter. I intend to fight hard but fair. I intend to be persistent but constructive. I intend to work under the motto of that great Liberal Prime Minister, Mackenzie King, to act in moderation and toleration. I intend to pursue all the objectives that I have pointed out, Mr. Speaker, as a soldier for Labrador. I intend to go, Mr. Speaker, and carry, obviously, what is the first mantle of a good soldier, and that is the flag. I do not intend to do, Mr. Speaker, what another person in this hon. House, the previous Minister of Provincial Affairs, did. I do not intend, Mr. Speaker, to have the Labrador flag enshrined in the floor of any part of this Confederation Building.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. DUMARESQUE:  
You know, Mr. Speaker, I heard that that had happened and when I came to this hon. House, I went and looked for myself to see if indeed that was true. Mr. Speaker, when I opened the door of that office, yes, indeed, the corner of the coffee table was right in the heart of the Labrador flag, and, Mr. Speaker, that was the last nail in the proverbial cross for me. That should never be allowed to happen. That will not happen again.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. DUMARESQUE:  
I submit, Mr. Speaker, that it was a serious misjudgement on the hon. member's part. I went immediately and talked to my hon. colleague and friend, the Minister of Works, Services and Transportation, and asked him if he would do whatever was in his power to see that that flag is removed from the floor of that particular office. I am proud to announce, Mr. Speaker, that indeed it is. Indeed, it will be framed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. DUMARESQUE:  
It will be framed, Mr. Speaker, and if any hon. gentlemen of this House ever wants to see that again, come to the office of the hon. member for Eagle River and look over his right shoulder and there it will hang, proud and dignified. That is where it will be and that is where it belongs. Thank you, very much, Mr. Minister.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. DUMARESQUE:

I have a minute now, Mr. Speaker, to clue up. I hope over the last twenty or twenty-five minutes, all members of this hon. House have gotten to appreciate what Labradorians are all about, have gotten to appreciate the aspirations of Labradorians, and have gotten to appreciate the neglect and the despair that prevails throughout the Coast of Labrador. I hope I have enlightened you somewhat, Mr. Speaker, and have been able to indicate some of the projects that I would like to see pursued, some of the mechanisms that I would like to see fulfilled to see that the people of Labrador can stand proud and equal to all shoulders in Newfoundland and Labrador. I intend to do that, Mr. Speaker. I intend to do that with all the vigour and all the enthusiasm that I can muster. I intend to do what I said in my only promise during the last election campaign, I intend to do what I can, Mr. Speaker, to make Eagle River proud.

Thank you, very much.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

Before I recognize the hon. the member for Torngat Mountains I would like to take this opportunity to welcome to the House of Assembly forty-five Grade VIII students from G. Shaw Collegiate, in Summerford. They are accompanied by their teachers, Len Pardy and Dan Randall, and their bus driver, Mr. Carter.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Torngat Mountains.

MR. WARREN:

Thank you, very much, Mr. Speaker.

I, too, want to take part in this debate. As usual, and as other members have said, congratulations to you, Sir, on your election as Deputy Speaker, and to the Speaker, and to all those elected to this hon. House.

I want to say I listened to the hon. member for Eagle River, Mr. Speaker, and I think it is fair to say he made one of the best speeches I have heard in this hon. House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. WARREN:

In fact, Mr. Speaker, I have been in this House for ten years and, in all due respect to other members who are here today, and the present members for Labrador, I would think that if ever there was a speech given on the aspirations, the ideas and the concerns of Labrador, the hon. member just gave it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. WARREN:

However, Mr. Speaker, at the same time, I would have to say that during the ten years I have spent in this House, I have, on many occasions, spoken up on behalf of those people also. I think, Mr. Speaker, that the ambulance program that the Department of Health has instituted was a result of a resolution that I brought into this hon. House.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that I should take some credit for getting the land claims negotiations that are now ongoing



with the Labrador Inuit Association started.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. WARREN:

Mr. Speaker, I say to the hon. gentleman that there have been creatures in this House before speaking on behalf of the people in Labrador. He is not the only person who speaks on behalf of the people of Labrador. Mr. Speaker, I just want to say, 'Let us work together.' I am glad, Mr. Speaker, with all due respect to the former member for Eagle River, that I have someone else from the coast of Labrador who understands the real needs of the people.

But in some things he was not fair. He was not fair to the former Minister of Fisheries when he said about no monies being allotted under the inshore fishery program for fish plants on the Labrador coast. That is not true, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DUMARESQUE:

I did not say that.

MR. WARREN:

The hon. gentleman said the Labrador coast.

There are two major fish plants, and tenders have just closed in Nain and Makkovik, monies from the inshore fisheries program. Mr. Speaker, I want to let the hon. gentleman know that the Labrador coast goes from L'Anse-au-Clair all the way to Nain, and I want to say that two of the Labrador districts are on the Labrador coast, Eagle River is one, and Torngat Mountains is the other.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I hope the hon. gentleman agrees with all the

programs of this government. I agree, too, that the Premier has shown a genuine concern for the people in coastal Labrador. I believe he is very serious in saying he wants to see things improved. It is true. And so do I, as, I am sure, every hon. member in this hon. House does.

But, Mr. Speaker, I think, at the same time, that we have to tread very carefully. If you look at the back of this hydro report, you will see the map of Labrador. Mr. Speaker, I agree with health care - in fact, I asked some questions today in the House - and I agree our senior citizens should be given every opportunity to live in their own communities. I agree with the hon. gentleman. I think everyone agrees with that. But, Mr. Speaker, when we are trying to do home care, if we look at the coast of Labrador from Nain to Red Bay - in fact, I think there is already ongoing discussions on building a senior citizens home on the coast of Labrador. Hopefully, this government will carry out those wishes. But it is going to be very, very difficult to have a home almost practically in every community. I would compliment the government on doing anything to improve health care, that is why, Mr. Speaker, I asked the question today of the Minister of Health (Mr. Decker). I am quite pleased, in fact, Mr. Speaker, I am extremely pleased that the member knows that health care is not properly administered along the coast of Labrador. That is why I asked the minister if he would consider having a separate Health Board for Labrador. And I think the hon. member agrees. It is time for it to be done.

Mr. Speaker, in answer to my

question this morning the Minister of Health said that I had better know what I was talking about. I just want to read a quote to make sure that everybody in this House knows what I was talking about when I spoke about the abusive use of aircraft. "Grenfell has adopted extremely Liberal policies regarding eligible users of aircraft, with 30 per cent of the passengers on the Commander aircraft having no emergency purpose on board, but are simply free rides."

Now, when this came to my attention, Mr. Speaker, when I became minister the first thing that the Department of Health did was carry out an investigation into these areas, and this is what they came up with. In fact, Mr. Speaker, the hon. Minister of Health has those papers and hopefully, now, he will address this in a most positive manner. I agree, Mr. Speaker, that last year one of my constituents had an unfortunate accident. This individual lost the sight of both of his eyes. First they had to take him into Goose Bay just see if his eyes were gone, then they had to take him to St. Anthony to see if it was one eye or both eyes, and then they took him from St. Anthony to St. John's. It took almost two days to get him to St. John's, and four different aircraft. The aircraft that was supposed to go into Nain was used for other purposes not as serious. So these are the kinds of things that I hope the Minister of Health will look into, and that he will make sure that health care for the people along the Labrador coast is improved.

Mr. Speaker, I will have the opportunity, I am sure, of speaking in the Budget Debate, in

due course. I am sure there are a number of the new members in this House who would like to make some comments during the Throne Speech debate, so I will close by saying one thing concerning the Throne Speech, and that is that I really do not think that the Premier has really put his heart in Labrador, other than his commitment to NATO, and he mentioned very briefly the Labrador people, the Native People. I am a little bit concerned, Mr. Speaker, that if we are not careful, and if the Premier does not continue with the House Committee that was set up last year to deal with NATO and the Native concerns, that we are going to be in for a really rough time in the next couple of years. I support NATO, but, at the same time, not at the sacrifice of other people in Labrador. You can have both if you work together, but you cannot have one at the expense of the other. I am concerned that this government has come out in the Throne Speech and said it was satisfied with the federal government so far. To quote: 'My Ministers are satisfied that the the federal government is addressing the concerns and will resolve the issue satisfactorily before further development.' Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to say to all members in this House that I am not satisfied. I am a long way from satisfied. The member for Naskaupi is not satisfied. I am sure the member for Eagle River is not satisfied, to see a security gate put up in the middle of town barring access to hospitals, to air terminals, when people have to travel to the Coast of Labrador, and to two schools. Mr. Speaker, I am not satisfied with that action by the federal government, and I would hope that the Premier would keep another one of the promises he made, and that is to

make sure that the federal government removes that gate or relocates it in a proper area for security of the base, so that it will not bar access to the hospital and to the schools.

Mr. Speaker, I want to again congratulate all members on their election to this House. I am sure we are going to be here for at least two years, but I can also see, Mr. Speaker, that within a very, very short time, within two years, we will back over there where we rightfully belong.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

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

MR. SHORT:  
Mr. Speaker, it is with pleasure I rise to address you and the hon. House of Assembly with respect to the Speech from the Throne, delivered a week ago by the Lieutenant-Governor. I must say I have a very difficult act to follow, having listened to the member for Eagle River. I certainly congratulate him on a very fine speech. I do not profess to be an orator, but I do have a few comments to make.

It is indeed an honour, Mr. Speaker, to stand today as the MHA for the great district of St. George's, which has returned to the Liberal party after an absence of ten years. Indeed, the whole West Coast is very well represented by five members, including the Premier for the Bay of Islands, the member for Humber West, the member for Stephenville, the member for LaPoile and myself. I think that is a great West Coast team.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. SHORT:  
Mr. Speaker, I must, first of all, congratulate the Speaker of the House, and you as Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees. I have, over the last week, sat quietly and listened intently to the proceedings and I must say that all three of you are to be commended for the way that you have handled situations that have arisen.

Mr. Speaker, I must say right from the beginning that I can now understand why the Speaker of the House is so concerned about decorum in this House. Having been a classroom teacher for the last eighteen years, I have tried not only to teach subject matter but also to instill in students classroom manners. It is indeed regrettable that hon. members of the Opposition could not have attended some of my classes.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. SHORT:  
We may yet, though, with your guidance and our example on this side of the House, teach the proper way to act, especially when someone else is speaking.

Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne, delivered last Thursday, is indeed a document of which the people of this Province should all be very proud. The ideas, philosophies and programs outlined by my party are most certainly a real change and a real departure from the thinking of the last seventeen years. The Premier, along with all members of the government, will indeed chart a new course for economic growth in

this great Province of ours. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, it was because of the stature of our leader and the ideas that he has expounded over the last several years that I had no hesitation stating on November 1, 1988 that I would be seeking the nomination for St. George's district. I believed then, and I continued to believe right up until April 20, that the Liberal Party would form the government. It was because of the character, the integrity and the hard work of our leader that we now have thirty-one members sitting in government.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SHORT:

Mr. Speaker, the Throne Speech is clearly in keeping with the ideas I hold about the potential of this Province. I have said for years, I said it during the election campaign, and I will say it here again today, our Province has the potential to be as economically advanced as any province in Canada. We have untapped potential in forestry, agriculture, tourism, business and mining, just to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, my philosophy has always been that what it takes is the political will to bring about changes. When I heard one of the members say earlier that you should not say you cannot do anything, how true that is. All it takes is the political will. We have to assess what we have available to us and make the best of those resources.

For too long, Mr. Speaker, the previous administration has not kept this important fact in mind. By way of a few examples, let me try to illustrate the point that I

am trying to make. The district of St. George's, which I am now proud to represent, has agricultural land second only to the Avalon Region of this Province. Yet, if you look at the agricultural policy of the previous administration, you clearly see that farming has all but died on the West Coast.

It was interesting to note, Mr. Speaker, the comments and discussions of the hon. member for Humber Valley, on Wednesday and again this morning in this House, when he talked about agriculture being on the bottom rung of the ladder, and asking about a study - on Wednesday - being needed into agriculture in this Province. My question to the hon. member for Humber Valley is: Why has such a task force not been implemented since 1953?

Mr. Speaker, you would almost think, from some of the comments that have been made over the last few days, that members of the Opposition have never been in government.

I firmly believe that it is to the area of agriculture that we have to turn to give our people a productive life style instead of the ten-week syndrome to which they have become accustomed.

Can you imagine, Mr. Speaker, the number of people who could be working in this Province if we got serious about agriculture? I certainly agree with the member for Humber Valley in some of his comments this morning. I can assure you, Sir, that this government will get serious about this great natural resource.

Mr. Speaker, my district, and indeed the whole Province, has a

tourist industry which is just waiting to be tapped. The district of St. George's has ten of the best salmon rivers anywhere in Canada, yet, in the last fifteen years, I have personally seen the depletion of the stocks, due to mismanagement, to a point where you no longer see tourists coming to the Province from other places in Canada, from the United States or even from Europe, as they did fifteen years ago. Why? Because we have allowed this resource to be depleted and government has sat idly by, blaming it on federal regulations. As an example, we now in this Province have river guardians that we employ for ten weeks a year, after the poaching has gone on in most of the rivers, and then we lay them off and we pay them for the next forty-two weeks to stay at home. That has to change. We have to take the initiative and control properly our inland waterways.

Mr. Speaker, as one final point on this topic, let me mention another idea that I have long held. Can you imagine what could happen to the district of St. George's and, indeed, the whole West Coast, if there was a coastal road all the way from the Codroy Valley to Stephenville? I ask you this question: Who, when they come to this Province in the Summer and get off the boat in Port aux Basques, wants to make their first stop Corner Brook? I could go on and on, Mr. Speaker, using examples to indicate areas of potential growth, but I am sure I have illustrated the point.

The Speech from the Throne made reference to the new initiatives in the Department of Development, and all the ideas that I have mentioned will be a part of that

development. I await with great anticipation the role of the Economic Recovery Team in restoring the economy of this Province, using our many resources which are available. I not only await with anticipation, but I fully intend to be a part of bringing about changes in this Province.

Mr. Speaker, I have personally been involved in the rural development movement in this Province for the last seven years. The Throne Speech makes reference to the role that development associations will play in changes that must be brought about if we as a Province are to prosper. I mentioned earlier that all it takes is political will, but it is obvious that the political will is not there when you see a rural development agreement has been sitting on the table for over a year not signed. The political thinking has to, and will, change with this new administration. Anyone who has worked in the area of rural development knows that the people in the local area know what is best for them and what will work. Again, these people and these ideas are an untapped resource. As an example of that, let me say that the tree nursery project in my district, managed jointly by the Barachois and Bay St. George South Area Development Associations, is the envy of the rest of this Province. I might add that we are talking about six greenhouses here, six greenhouses that are working.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. SHORT:  
This project is presently producing 700,000 tree seedlings

annually, mainly for private woodlot owners, but has the potential for much more expansion, and I hope to see that happen. By the way, I must acknowledge the work of the previous member for St. George's who believed in this project and helped get it all started.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. SHORT:  
I must also say that Mr. Dawe did an excellent job when he was the member for St. George's, and I hope that I can do equally as well.

Mr. Speaker, it is ideas like the tree nursery and others from development associations, that will bring about the economic recovery of this Province. Although the tree nursery is only one small aspect of the forest industry, it indicates the kinds of things that can be accomplished and the real long-term employment that can be produced. For example, we are talking about jobs of seven months with our tree nurseries, not ten weeks.

Everyone realizes how important the forest industry is to the economy of this Province. Nowhere is this fact more glaring than in St. George's district. Over the last several years, the previous administration has held up for an example the work done in reforestation throughout the Province, but, from my perspective, we have barely scratched the surface in reforestation. Sir, we have a lot of catching up to do if we are to restore our forests to their former state, and I would certainly hope that I never hear again, as I have so often heard in the last few months, the statement

from forestry officials which says that we are growing enough tree seedlings to look after the needs of the Province. We have not scratched the surface.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. SHORT:  
I feel very strongly, Mr. Speaker, that we could not spend public funds in any better manner than as an investment in the forestry sector.

Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne makes reference to our most important resource, the people of this Province, in particular the youth. The Premier has spoken on many occasions about the out-migration of the younger segment of the Province. If we are to grow and prosper, this situation has to be reversed. Our economy has to improve in order for this situation to be rectified. A Province is only as strong as its people. Having been involved in the field of education, Mr. Speaker, for over twenty years, I have some idea of the needs of young people in this Province. To use a statement from the Throne Speech, 'Our economy, social and cultural development, depends on improving the quality and accessibility of educational opportunities available to all our people in all areas of the Province.' If the young people are the future leaders, then we have to address their problems and not simply pay lip service to their concerns.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. SHORT:  
Mr. Speaker, in closing let me say once again how proud I am to stand

in this House and to share not only my own thoughts about the Speech from the Throne but also my ideas about what can and must take place if we are going to provide for the needs of all our people. There are many other areas I could touch on, but I am sure the opportunity will arise again to give my feelings. I feel that I can make a contribution in some of these areas, and I look forward to serving the people of St. George's district and the Province, giving of my time and talents.

Thank you, very much, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. RIDEOUT:

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I am delighted to have the opportunity this morning to take some time to speak.

MR. SIMMS:

An hour.

MR. RIDEOUT:

An hour. Every time I stand, I have an hour as of right as Leader of the Opposition. So the hon. minister can sit back and relax. I will not finish this morning, I will save some ammunition for Monday, if we are back on the Throne Speech debate again.

But I do want to take the opportunity at this time, Mr.

Speaker, to participate in this particular debate. I made some observations on the Throne Speech on opening day, and I do not intend to revisit all of the observations that I had at that time. At that time, as well, of course, I took the opportunity to congratulate members of the House and the Speaker and so on.

What I have observed over the last several days, Mr. Speaker, is the - and I say this sincerely - quality of addresses, on both sides of the House, coming from private members, and I have heard a number of excellent, in my view, maiden speeches made over the last several days by members on both sides of the House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. RIDEOUT:

The constituents of those members, I think, have every reason to be optimistic, they have every reason to be proud as those members continue to perform over the life of this particular parliament. What I have noticed though, Mr. Speaker, in particular, for those new members speaking from the government benches, is that there is more talent, and for the moment unused talent, and I do not know how long the moment is going to continue, whether it is going to continue for the life of this government or whether it is only going to be for a few months or the first year or so, but I believe that I can say today without fear of contradiction that most of the talent in this government, for whatever reason, has been relegated to the backbenches.

MR. SIMMS:

Right on! That is right! Pretty

fair and obvious.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. RIDEOUT:

I would say, Mr. Speaker, to ministers of the Crown that they had better keep looking over their shoulder.

MR. SIMMS:

That is right.

MR. RIDEOUT:

I would hope that the backbenchers who support this government are ambitious, I would hope that they would be attempting to dethrone and defrock a minister from time to time so that they can move from the relative obscurity of the backbenches to the bright lights of the front benches.

MR. SIMMS:

Right on! Or even the backbench ministers, for God's sake.

MR. RIDEOUT:

Mr. Speaker, it can be done. All the new members have to do is look at some of us over here on this side and you will see that you can progress through the ranks of the government from the backbenches to a parliamentary secretary, to a parliamentary assistant, to a minister, You may even get to become Premier. If you seek, if you strive hard enough, you might even get to become Premier. And there are certainly candidates for Premier in the backbenches of this government. So I would say to the ministers, they better keep looking over their shoulders. And my advice to those young backbenchers in the government is to keep pressing ahead, keeping pressing forward, because the old guard is what has taken over the new government. It is the tired

old faces that were years and years in Opposition over here that the Premier chose to reward.

This slogan about 'a real change:' There was no real change, Mr. Speaker, when you reward the member for Windsor - Buchans, or the member for Gander, or the member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir. That was not a change at all. The real change is in the backbenches.

MR. SIMMS:

Or the Minister of Fisheries.

MR. RIDEOUT:

Or the Minister of Fisheries. The real change is in the backbenches. And I hope that over the next number of months, the next two or three years for sure, that those backbenchers become front benchers, and that the old guard goes to the back, and this new government has a new face. That is what I am looking for. That is when you will see, perhaps, new direction. You might see new direction then. Because at the moment, and I think I can say this without fear of contradiction, as well, everything we see from this present government to date, Mr. Speaker, only a week into the House of Assembly, proves one thing to me, that for the first time since Confederation, there is a real Conservative occupying the seat of Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador, a real Conservative.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. RIDEOUT:

And those who are in the ranks of the government, who overflow with the enthusiasm of liberalism -- as Joey would say, the meaning of liberalism is reform. I heard him



say it myself in this House on more than one occasion - do not look to your leader to be reform minded. He is far to the right, he is a real Conservative, and the only way that this government, Mr. Speaker, is going to live up to the reputation of the great Liberal party, is if those real reformers in the backbenches can be brought to the front benches. That is the only answer for this government. So beware! Beware!

AN HON. MEMBER:

(Inaudible) right across the floor.

MR. RIDEOUT:

Yes, and we might see some of that, too, over the next three or four years, because I have been hearing already of the dissent, the great dissent that is in the ranks of the government. The grassroots of the Liberal Party in Newfoundland and Labrador, Mr. Speaker, is rampant with dissent and rumours today, and rumours of dissent, about those new people, those new faces who did not get to form the face of the new government. They have been hidden away, they have been shoved in the background, and the old faces are putting the face on this government today.

MR. SIMMS:

In Carbonear, Placentia, even Stephenville.

MR. RIDEOUT:

Everywhere you go.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, some of the members of this House have been telling their constituents about their disappointment. Now, I am not going to name those members, Mr. Speaker. I might do it during the next session. But there are members in this House today, in the ranks of the government, who

have been telling their constituents after April 20 -

MR. SIMMS:

The member for Exploits.

MR. RIDEOUT:

The member for Exploits for example.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. RIDEOUT:

The member for Exploits, Mr. Speaker, who said the other day, and legitimately so, that he has some big shoes to fill in terms of representation in Exploits, following Dr. Twomey, the member for Exploits said publicly not only to his constituents but on the public airways that he expected a major Cabinet appointment, and look at him. Look where he is.

MR. RIDEOUT:

The member for Carbonear, Mr. Speaker, that hon. gentlemen who likes from time to time -

MR. GRIMES:

A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SIMMS:

You are not allowed to interrupt the Leader of Opposition with a point of order. It is against the rules.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Exploits.

MR. GRIMES:

As yesterday, the sentiment of what the hon. Opposition Leader just expressed relative to myself as the member for Exploits has some truth to it, in that there was in fact a public statement made when most joyous members of the new government were

interviewed shortly after the election. My statement, the words that I recall, could probably be reproduced in the House if necessary, was that if I was invited, I would be only too willing to serve in the Cabinet.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. GRIMES:

If we can get those words, I think that is what it will show. But certainly I share some of the sentiment that the hon. Leader of the Opposition is expressing this morning, and I know that all of these members here are only too pleased to be part of this government and we are more than willing to take our turns in whatever way will be in the best interest of this government at this time.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

There is no point of order. The hon. the Leader of Opposition.

MR. RIDEOUT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Obviously there was no point of order, but it did serve a purpose, Mr. Speaker. That particular interjection by the hon. member does serve a purpose, because it paints much more clearly than I did in the few remarks I made about the matter, that the hon. gentleman is not very satisfied in the seat he is in.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. RIDEOUT:

Not very satisfied at all. The hon. gentleman is itchy, he cannot

wait to get to the front benches, and I suspect he will be leading revolutions one of those days, if he is kept in the backbenches too long.

I was about to say about the hon. member for Carbonear who, from time to time, particularly this week, I noticed in the House, loves to play on that great Fleur de Lys word, 'backupable'.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. RIDEOUT:

A great Fleur de Lys word.

Because down home, in Fleur de Lys, if you can back up something, if you can prove it, then we always said it was 'backupable', and I am proud of it, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. RIDEOUT:

But the member from Carbonear, I understand, Mr. Speaker, was even telling some of his constituents the Department he expected to head.

MR. SIMMS:

Municipal Affairs, I will bet.

MR. RIDEOUT:

He was making it known, Mr. Speaker, and it is too bad the Minister of Municipal Affairs, the Minister of Provincial Affairs, the minister for everything except the kitchen sink is not here, because the member for Carbonear had a firm headlock, in his opinion, on the Department of Municipal Affairs, and he made no bones about it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Right on! And he would have been a good minister.

MR. RIDEOUT:

He would have been a great minister, for sure. A former president of the Federation of Mayors and Municipalities who was so impartial, Mr. Speaker, in dealing with the government of the day.

MR. SIMMS:

Very impartial.

MR. RIDEOUT:

A very impartial President of the Federation of Mayors and Municipalities who did great things for moving forward the working relationship between that organization and the government of Newfoundland and Labrador at the time. He would have been a great Minister of Municipal Affairs. It is too bad. I do not know what happened. I have no idea what happened.

The member for Stephenville, Mr. Speaker: I do not know if his constituents know, but I believe we all know why the member for Stephenville did not make it into the Cabinet. The only returned veteran from the last Assembly who was not named as a minister. How unfair, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SIMMS:

Why was that?

MS VERGE:

There is nobody from the Southwest.

MR. RIDEOUT:

Nobody from the Southwest corner at all, and you talk about regional representation in the Cabinet. Here was a veteran of this Legislature, a smart young man, fairly articulate, who can get up and talk about any subject, who would have been a great member of P and P, for example, Mr. Speaker, to bring the West Coast

perspective to Planning and Priorities, to the senior Cabinet Committee, who would have made a great Planning and Priorities member, and he never even got a sniff, Mr. Speaker.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Why, though? Why?

MR. RIDEOUT:

He never even got a sniff because word has it that the hon. gentleman was a man of principle and stuck to his guns when his Leader wanted his seat. He said: "You ain't getting mine."

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. RIDEOUT:

As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, I understand that the hon. gentleman committed the cardinal sin to the hon. the Emperor. He said to the hon. the Emperor thrice, "You cannot have my seat."

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. RIDEOUT:

Not once, Mr. Speaker, not twice, but thrice he said to the hon. the Emperor, "You cannot have my seat."

I went out and I pounded on doors, and I knocked on doors, and I beat the pavement off the streets. I got elected.

MR. K. AYLWARD:

A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SIMMS:

Oh my, oh my!

MR. SPEAKER:

A point of order, the hon. the

member for Stephenville.

MR. K. AYLWARD:

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say to the hon. Leader of the Opposition, who is new in his role, that I appreciate the praise, but his statement of fact is not backupable.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

There is no point of order.

MR. RIDEOUT:

There is no point of order, Mr. Speaker, but 'methinks the hon. gentleman doth protest too much' if there is no truth to it. But I must give the hon. gentleman credit for courage and determination and fortitude. I would not think it is easy when the Leader, in one case as Leader of the Opposition and the second time as Leader who happened to be the Premier, comes to you and says: "I want your seat." I would not say it is easy to withstand that pressure. I mean, the member for Windsor - Buchans could not withstand that pressure.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMS:

He said, 'If you will put me in the Cabinet, I will give you my seat.'

MR. RIDEOUT:

Of course, Mr. Speaker, the member for Windsor - Buchans, and we are glad to see him back here, the member for Windsor - Buchans got his just reward.

MR. SIMMS:

That is right. That is right.

MR. RIDEOUT:

Now, the newly elected member for Bay of Islands on April 20, who never had the pleasure of gracing this forum, could not withstand that pressure, and, of course, he has his reward. But the member for Stephenville, Mr. Speaker, has a greater reward. He is a man of principle, he has a greater reward, and he is here in this House serving his constituents. That is the ultimate reward.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. RIDEOUT:

And we are delighted. And if, after the next election, Mr. Speaker, the Premier, when he loses the government and loses his seat again, and I believe the hon. the member for Stephenville will be re-elected in the next election, he is a good constituency person - I suspect he will be re-elected, but I would not bet any money on his leader being re-elected - if he comes banging on your door the third time, I hope you will have the courage to say no, three times in a row.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. RIDEOUT:

Mr. Speaker, this has been a very interesting week indeed, the first week of this new Parliament. It has been interesting for us on this side of the House to observe the front benches on the other side of the House. We have not been very impressed during this first week. The Minister of Forestry makes a big kerfuffle about the spray program, Mr. Speaker. He is more concerned about keeping an ill-founded view of an Opposition Party and taking

it into government with him. He is not interested in the long-term benefit of the forest industry in Newfoundland and Labrador. A great candidate for some blooper of the week award, Mr. Speaker.

We had the Minister of Finance who - I wanted to say stood in this House. But the fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, who sat in this House and saw a bill in his name, over \$1 billion, go through and you would not handspike him out of his seat to say a word in defence of that bill. That was a great performance by a new minister of the Crown in the first week of a new government, a new Parliament. That was a great performance.

We saw the Minister of Justice, for example, the new Minister of Justice, the shining light of the judicial system in Newfoundland and Labrador, stuck to his seat today as if crazy glue had attacked his rear.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. RIDEOUT:  
What you have to do to handspike that hon. gentleman out of his seat I do not know. The legitimate way you handspike ministers out of their seats is by asking them a question. I questioned the hon. gentleman today and, as I said, he was stuck there as if he had been attacked by crazy glue. He could not move.

MR. WINDSOR:  
When I questioned the Minister of Finance he could not understand me.

MR. RIDEOUT:  
Then today we had the hon. gentleman from Mount Pearl ask a question of the hon. Minister of Finance and he said, 'Talk in

English to me.' He talked about debt management and bond ratings, which is pretty clear English to me, Mr. Speaker. I thought these would be buzz words for the Minister of Finance by now.

Then we saw the old hon. stove pipe himself, the Minister of Works, Services and Transportation. We call him Cape Canaveral on this side, Mr. Speaker. I do not know if his colleagues can observe him or not, particularly those sitting beside him, but when he is down and he is asked a question, he comes straight up like a rocket. Out of his seat straight up, Mr. Speaker, that is the way he comes. If you want to see a prime example of lack of ministerial responsibility, Mr. Speaker, you saw it in that hon. gentleman yesterday. The face of a robber's horse, Mr. Speaker. How he could stand in front of the peoples' House, go up to the press gallery and stand in front of the media and say with the face of a robber's horse 'This list of roads was prepared by the bureaucrats' and expect us to believe it, when we had a list of roads that was prepared by the bureaucrats that, compared to his list, had seventeen different projects on it, and all seventeen were in districts represented by Liberal members, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SIMMS:  
You must think we are too green to burn, do you?

MR. RIDEOUT:  
The hon. gentleman must think we are too green to burn, Mr. Speaker.

I will tell you something else, Mr. Speaker: there is nothing wrong with ministerial leadership. If this government

forgets there is nothing wrong with ministerial leadership, this government, as I suspect it will, will have a short life indeed, Mr. Speaker. Ministers and Premiers were elected to lead and to give advice to their senior civil servants, not to be led around by the nose by the senior civil servants, and that is what is happening.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. RIDEOUT:

Then, of course, the real test of leadership when you do that, as you should, is having the courage and conviction and backbone to stand here and say, 'Yes, I did it. Here is why I did it, and I am prepared to defend it.' That is what the hon. gentleman lacks, Mr. Speaker, as does the Minister of Forestry, the Minister of Finance, and all the ministers, as we can see so far.

Out of it all, Mr. Speaker, as I look back on this first week of the new government in this new Parliament, there were a bloopers, there were a lot of ill performances, but nothing can top the Minister of Finance.

MR. SIMMS:

Right on.

MR. RIDEOUT:

There is nothing, in my view, that can top the Minister of Finance. I do not think it ever happened before in the history of parliamentary democracy that an hon. minister with a Supply Bill standing in his name, in excess of \$1 billion, could not get out of his seat to defend one word that was in that document. You had to have the President of Treasury Board say a few weak words of

defence about the spending bill. You had to have the President of Treasury Board try to score the political points that well, \$700 million of it was yours and that was illegal, and that kind of thing. You had to have the President of Treasury Board stand up and try valiantly - I will give him full marks for this - to defend the indefensible, try valiantly to defend a person who did not have the courage to get to his feet to defend his own bill. What a dismal performance, Mr. Speaker! What a dismal, incompetent performance! I never thought that I would be in this House long enough to see a minister who lacks such conviction and who lacks such courage as to fail to stand in his own place and defend a document that had his name on it.

MR. SIMMS:

He should resign.

MR. RIDEOUT:

That is ministerial responsibility all right, Mr. Speaker. He should resign.

MR. SIMMS:

Right on!

MR. RIDEOUT:

Now, Mr. Speaker, for that glorious performance this week, and we had a lot of debate and I had a lot of pressure on me to consider other candidates, but for that glorious performance this week, we invented or presented the Wordless Wonder of the Week Award.

MR. SIMMS:

Right on!

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. RIDEOUT:

I am pleased today, on behalf of my colleague, the Finance critic, to present that to the hon. Minister of Finance in recognition of the minister's presentation of Interim Supply. He did a fantastic job of presenting the Interim Supply Bill; he did a fantastic job of piloting the bill through the House; he did a fantastic job of convincing members on all sides of the House to support the bill, and he, with great delight, will see a symbol on this particular certificate with which he was very familiar at one time in his long political career, Mr. Speaker, and I am sure forevermore he will be delighted to be known as the Wordless Wonder of the Week.

Mr. Speaker, I adjourn the debate.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

If I may just might make a comment before the House Leader does his thing for today. The Chair may be in error. I taken the Chair when the member for Stephenville (Mr. K. Aylward), and I am commenting, I am sure, on the point of order in the same spirit in which he made it, but members will recall in our orientation we talked about not raising frivolous points of order. I do not think the hon. member meant to do that, but I just want to say for the benefit of new members that sometimes when the spirit is compatible and everybody is jovial and not wanting to downgrade the procedure in the House, and a member wants to interrupt a member who is in high flight and being rather, as I said, jovial, the normal procedure is to try to get yourself heard

and ask the member if he would mind the interjection of a comment. Usually a member does that as opposed to using a point of order. I just make that point.

The hon. the Government House Leader.

MR. BAKER:

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

On motion, the House at its rising adjourned until tomorrow, Monday, June 5, at 2:00 p.m.

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First Session - Forty-First General Assembly

Hon. Thomas Lush, Speaker

Hon. Clyde K. Wells, Premier

Hon. Thomas Rideout, Leader of the Opposition

<u>Member</u>	<u>District</u>
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Aylward, Robert J. (PC)	Kilbride
Baker, Winston (Lib)	Gander
Barrett, Percy (Lib)	Bellevue
Brett, Hon. Charles (PC)	Trinity North
Carter, Walter C. (Lib)	Twillingate
Cowan, Patt (Lib)	Conception Bay South
Crane, John (Lib)	Harbour Grace
Decker, Chris (Lib)	Strait of Belle Isle
Dicks, Paul (Lib)	Humber West
Doyle, Norman E. (PC)	Harbour Main
Duff, Shannie (PC)	St. John's East
Dumaresque, Danny (Lib)	Eagle River
Efford, John (Lib)	Port de Grave
Flight, Graham (Lib)	Windsor-Buchans
Furey, Charles (Lib)	St. Barbe
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Gilbert, Dave (Lib)	Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir
Gover, Aubrey (Lib)	Bonavista South
Greening, Glenn C. (PC)	Terra Nova
Grimes, Roger (Lib)	Exploits
Gullage, Eric (Lib)	Waterford - Kenmount
Hearn, Hon. Loyola (PC)	St. Mary's-The Capes
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Hogan, Bill (Lib)	Placentia
Kelland, Jim (Lib)	Naskaupi



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Langdon, Oliver (PC)	Fortune-Hermitage
Lush, Tom (Lib)	Bonavista North
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Noel, Walter (Lib)	Pleasantville
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Penney, Melvin (Lib)	Lewisporte
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Short, Larry (Lib)	St. George's
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Snow, Lloyd (Lib)	Trinity - Bay de Verde
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Verge, Lynn (PC)	Humber East
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Warren, Dr. Philip (Lib)	St. John's North
Warren, Garfield E. (PC)	Torngat Mountains
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Hon. Winston Baker	President, Executive Council President, Treasury Board Government House Leader Status of Women
Hon. Walter Carter	Fisheries
Hon. Patricia Cowan	Employment and Labour Relations
Hon. Chris Decker	Health
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Hon. James Kelland	Environment and Lands Wildlife and Parks
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Hon. Dr. Philip Warren	Education