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***VERBATIM REPORT***  
*(Hansard)*

*Speaker: Honourable Thomas Lush*

Thursday

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The House met at 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Speaker (Lush): Order, please!

Before going to Ministerial Statements we have some distinguished visitors in the gallery today whom we would like to welcome. Firstly, on behalf of all hon. Members I would like to welcome to the galleries today, Mr. Masahiko Iwasaki, Consul General of Japan. Mr. Iwasaki is accompanied by his wife, and Mr. Matsubara, the Consul with the Japanese Consulate in Montreal, and also Mr. Aiden Maloney Honorary Consul General of Japan in Newfoundland.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Also, on behalf of hon. Members we would like to extend a warm and cordial welcome to the Hon. Dennis Patterson, MLA, Iqaluit. He is also the Government Leader of the Government of the Northwest Territories, and we would like to extend to him a cordial welcome.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

### Statements by Ministers

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

Mr. Carter: Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to announce that next week will see the launching of the second phase of a special two-year seafood promotion, "Newfoundland Seafood 'n Shells."

This project, being done under an agreement with the major pasta manufacturer Catelli Incorporated, is exclusive to this Province and is one of several professionally

designed, strategic marketing and promotion activities spearheaded by my Department. This particular bilingual high-profile promotion is funded by the Provincial and Federal Governments under the Canada-Newfoundland Inshore Fisheries Development Agreement (NIFDA), and represents an ideal opportunity to give Newfoundland seafood a high profile within the food service sector.

"Newfoundland Seafood 'n Shells" will heavily promote this Province's seafood to the food service industry in Canada, the Caribbean and the Pacific Rim where Catelli usually attends all trade shows. It will be done through professionally designed industry magazine advertisements, trade shows and recipe cards.

Department of Fisheries and NIFDA staff are working closely with Catelli to ensure that arctic char, cultivated blue mussels, underutilized species and traditional groundfish all receive attention in the twenty food service recipes that integrate Newfoundland seafood and Catelli's wide variety of high protein, high fibre and vegetable-based pastas.

The second phase of this two year promotion begins Tuesday, May 29, when photography sessions to highlight all the recipes will be undertaken at Holiday Inn and Flake House Restaurant in St. John's. The result will be highly professional photography and advertising. The executive chief chef at Holiday Inn in St. John's, is under an exclusive contract to develop recipes for the promotion. One of the recipes has already been featured in North American foodservice publications. (Samples of recipes -- in both English and French --

are attached to copies of this statement.) Catelli will also feature the program in its 1991 foodservice calendar.

I feel strongly, Mr. Speaker, that this promotion will do much to enhance our already favorable marketplace image and increase awareness of available fish species. We must continue to develop such professional and competitive images of Newfoundland fish and seafood exports and encourage individual processors to be similarly as conscious of the international competition they face when they are planning their corporate and product images.

Soon you will see the premiere of the generic blue mussel campaign. In order not to take the wind out of the the sails of the launching of that campaign, I will not reveal details now, but I suggest that hon. Members watch for what will prove to be a unique and attention-getting market entry, the focus of which is to increase awareness about the consumption of our cultivated blue mussels.

Through the Provincial Marketing Development Program and the marketing program of NIFDA, my Department is making inroads into international market developments and diversification for multiple species. For example, as a result of NIFDA assistance to Barry Fisheries Limited and its marketing arm, Western Co-ordinators, a network of large, traditional pelagics producers all along the northeast coast and the west coast are now producing for new orders of mackerel, herring and caplin in Sweden, East Germany, Japan and the USSR, to name a few. This will lead ultimately to a comprehensive development plan for the pelagic

industry, including both primary and secondary strategies that can be implemented in many plants Province-wide.

Time does not permit giving details of the many marketing initiatives that have been undertaken and are being planned by the Department of Fisheries in line with Government's policy of expansion and diversification within the fishing industry, but I would like to mention a few.

We are participating in The Taste of Canada: Oceans of Canada promotion aimed at the retail market sector in the U.S. We are contributing \$5,000 for each of the promotional events to be held in ten U.S. cities over the next few years. This year alone, Mr. Speaker, promotional displays will be staged in four United States cities, beginning next month with a fresh fish promotion in ninety-six supermarket stores within the greater Chicago area. Several Newfoundland processors will have their products displayed in these supermarkets. The Department of Fisheries is also contributing \$5,000 to the Canada Atlantic Lobster Promotion Association for its campaign to increase consumption and promote awareness of lobster. A bluefin tuna mission to Japan earlier this year did an in-depth investigation of the harvesting and quality considerations necessary to generate the higher revenue in that country's fish auction system. This information is being circulated to all industry participants and should result in a more lucrative and quality-oriented industry, beginning this fall. We have participated in international seafood shows to increase awareness of Newfoundland seafood

products and help find new market opportunities for Newfoundland processors who attend. We plan to strengthen our trade show program by including displays of various underutilized species -- in the raw, or live states where possible -- and by including value-added dual microwavable secondary product which so many supermarkets strongly demand.

Never before have the challenges of competing in the marketplace been as great as they are now. This Province, Mr. Speaker, will continue to pursue aggressively new market opportunities, and enhance its promotion activities. Mr. Speaker, what we lack in quantity in terms of our reduced groundfish stocks, we intend to compensate for by developing new markets for fully processed underutilized species. Mr. Speaker, I have here, attached to my statement some very attractive brochures outlining the product and I suppose it is only fair to say that, unlike the previous Government, this Government is placing a lot more emphasis on fish production and marketing than what we are on cucumbers. Thank you very much, Sir.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Grand Bank.

Mr. Matthews: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister for the advance copy of his very positive statement, let me say to the Minister, a very positive statement, and his very colourful promotional brochures that he has here, and it is a very positive statement and I am very pleased that the Minister has brought it forward and that his Department,

in conjunction and co-ordination with the Department of Development, is going about promoting Newfoundland seafood throughout the world. There is one other positive but light note on it, Mr. Speaker, that finally now we have something on this side that we can hold up to react to the Minister of Social Services everytime he holds up the pickle recipe book. We can now show him the Catelli Seafood and Shells brochures. So someone on the other side sent over a note which said, 'Efford will now throw away the pickle book.' So maybe if things drag on this evening we will see less and less of the pickle book which is the Minister of Social Services best defence.

But on a more serious note, Mr. Speaker, this is very positive and it is very exciting to see Catelli, a major pasta promoter and marketer across the country and outside the country of Canada -- right throughout the world -- getting involved. And what is also very interesting to note here is that it is exclusive to this Province, which is another most encouraging note. And, of course, in this day and age what we are going through in the country; there are a few other words that sort of jumped out at me in the statement, one particularly, it says this particular bilingual high profile promotion is funded by the Province and the Federal Government. So I am glad. That is another positive note as well. It is as well a bilingual promotion we are talking about.

But it is very nice to see this promotion going on in the Caribbean and the Pacific Rim and so on, Mr. Speaker, and, of course, there are a number of underutilized species in this

Province that need a greater promotion and need to be developed into more attractive dishes for people of, not only North America, but in other parts of the world to buy and consume. So that is encouraging as well.

The Minister makes another very important reference in his statement as he goes on to say 'Never before have the challenges of competing in the marketplace been as great as they now are. And, of course, he makes the reference to the resource crisis and the resource shortage of our groundfish that we are now experiencing.

And I would just like to go on record once more in this Legislature by saying that we have wasted far too much time in the past in harvesting and processing and using underutilized species. And maybe finally, with this very serious resource crisis that we are going through, we will see, not only promotion, but we will actually see the harvesting and the processing and promotional packaging of species that is off our shores, in our waters, that we can utilize to improve the economy, improve the employment prospects and so on of the people of our Province.

So, I would like to finish by saying to the Minister, thanks for the copy, thanks for these very, I must say, attractive promotional materials. And I say to the Minister of Employment and Labour that for people in the kind of jobs that we are in, this kind of thing looks very encouraging and exciting, because we do not have a lot of time to prepare for evening meals and so on, when the Government House Leader will not give us advance notice as to

whether we are coming back or not, so maybe some of us will be consuming Catelli products in the near future.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Finance.

Dr. Kitchen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to announce that the Province has successfully completed negotiations for a public offering of debentures in the United States capital market.

The issue is for an amount of \$150 million U.S., bearing interest at the rate of 9 7/8 per cent and priced at 99.761 per cent of the principal amount to yield 9.90 per cent to the investors. The debentures will be dated June 1, 1990 and will mature after thirty years on June 1, 2020. This is the first capital marketing borrowing for the 1990-91 fiscal year and the proceeds will be used for general Provincial purposes.

The issue is managed by Merrill Lynch Capital Markets, Salomon Brother Inc., RBC Dominion Securities Corporation and ScotiaMcLeod (USA) Inc.. I am pleased to state, Mr. Speaker, that the issue was well received by the investment community, including a large number of the major insurance companies, trust companies and pension funds in the United States. In connection with the issue, the U.S. credit rating agencies have confirmed that the Province's ratings will remain unchanged, i.e. Standard and Poor's "A-" and Moody's "Baa1". The official signing of the new issue will take place in New York on June 5, 1990.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Grand Bank.

Mr. Matthews: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again I would like to thank the Minister for a copy of this statement before coming to the legislature. On behalf of my colleague for Mount Pearl I will thank him for that and just very quickly respond and say that we are pleased to see that the Province has successfully completed negotiations for public offerings in the United States capital market. And it is very encouraging again that the credit rating has remained unchanged.

But there are a few things that are happening about the country in the last few months that are a bit disturbing. The instability of the country at present, I understand from some reading I have done and listening to various media reports that with the fluctuation in the value of the dollar and interest rates, a lot of it is centered around the constitutional instability and sort of uproar in the country over the Meech Lake Debate. I would sort of suspect that it is going to be costing the Province and maybe other provinces throughout the country, more for borrowing and so on.

So, I would like the Minister over the next short while, if he could inform the legislature and the people of the Province of what actual financial impact this instability is causing, particularly the financial situation of the Province.

I am sure the people of the

Province would be interested in knowing that, because it seems from what I have seen and heard, that it has probably already cost the Province a significant amount of money and will cost more in future.

### Oral Questions

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Humber East.

Ms. Verge: Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Premier, and they have to do with the Meech Lake Accord and Canadian unity.

Last night, the television news showed a large audience of prominent Montreal businesspeople give rousing applause and a standing ovation to Lucien Bouchard. More and more people throughout the country are becoming fearful of the possibility of the nation breaking up. I ask the Premier whether he is worried about the possibility of Quebec separating and whether he thinks Quebec's separating would have serious adverse consequences for Newfoundland and Labrador?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Premier.

Premier Wells: If the hon. Member had been in, I believe, the same room with a similar number of people in early January of this year, she would have seen the same rousing applause for a speech I gave to a group of Montreal businesspeople, as well, on the Meech Lake issue, when I put forward Newfoundland's position.

In answer to her direct question, yes, I am concerned about the consequences of this

constitutional impasse on the future of the nation as a whole, and on the future of Newfoundland, as part of the nation of Canada. We must, I believe, build our Constitution in a way that will preserve the fundamental principles of federalism but, at the same time, be sufficiently accommodating to vary from those principles to the degree that is reasonable and appropriate to accommodate the recognition of Quebec as a distinct society. We cannot abandon the principles of federalism and agree to put into force changes in the Constitution that would leave this Province, as a province of the nation, in a situation of being a beggar province for the next hundred years.

So we have to make sure that we make the kinds of changes to the Constitution of Canada that protect the long-term interests of the nation as a whole, and every province must compromise its own wishes or desires to whatever degree is necessary to achieve that long-term national goal on a fair and reasonable basis.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Humber East.

Ms. Verge: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to repeat my question about whether the Premier thinks there would be serious negative consequences for Newfoundland and Labrador if Quebec separates.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Premier.

Premier Wells: The possibility is certainly there of serious negative consequences if Quebec were to separate. I cannot imagine a Canada without Quebec. Quebec is an integral and, in my

judgement, essential part of this nation and we ought to be planning in terms of continuing the nation on that basis, with all the provinces as equal provinces. Yes, there is a potential, if Quebec separates and ceases to be a part of Canada. What is unspoken in the hon. Member's question is what is likely to cause that, putting in place the Meech Lake Accord as it is, or adjusting the changes of the Meech Lake Accord? Frankly, I think, Mr. Speaker, if Quebec is of a disposition to separate from Canada, putting in place the Meech Lake Accord will not alter that disposition one iota. It may delay it, or it may, in fact, hasten it; it may change the manner in which it takes place. But, if Quebec is of a disposition to separate from Canada, failure to implement the Meech Lake Accord will not cause it, any more than implementing it will provide for it in the longer-term future.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Humber East.

Ms. Verge: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A supplementary for the Premier. Does the Premier feel that Quebec is of a disposition to separate from the rest of Canada? And what is the Premier personally prepared to do to try to prevent Quebec separating from the rest of Canada?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Premier.

Premier Wells: I have no personal knowledge on which to judge that. I do not have the kind of personal knowledge of affairs and the situation in Quebec that would allow me to make an intellectually honest assessment of that question. I can only respond by offering to the House the views

and opinions which have been expressed by others and, frankly, that does not give us much help either. Because you get a strong variety of opinions which indicate, yes, Quebec is likely to separate if Meech Lake is not implemented, and then you get a strong variety of opinions saying, no, Quebec will not separate at all. And, certainly, she will not be any more likely to separate whether the Meech Lake Accord is implemented or is not implemented. I watch and observe events which take place in Quebec and try and come to a conclusion from the fact that, for example, the one candidate for the leadership of the Liberal Party of Canada who strongly opposes the Meech Lake Accord has the support of something in excess of two-thirds of the delegates of Quebec, when he was supposed not to have any delegate support from Quebec because of his opposition to the Meech Lake Accord. So what does one conclude from that? I do not know with certainty; there are mixed indicators coming out of it, so I cannot give the House any firm, sound judgment on whether it is likely or not likely, because I have no sound basis for doing so.

The final question is, what am I prepared to do about it? I am prepared to do everything reasonably and humanly possible to ensure that we fairly and fully accommodate the sincere and legitimate concerns of Quebec, always in a way that protects the longer-term interest of the nation as a whole and this Province in particular, for which I, as Premier, have a particular responsibility. I cannot abandon my responsibility to the people of this Province, as the hon. Member's party would have us do, and impose on the people of this

Province a constitutional change that is contrary to their wishes. I cannot do that and will not do that without their express approbation in a referendum.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Humber East.

Ms. Verge: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final supplementary: Will the Premier be releasing in the House of Assembly and disclosing to the public, his latest constitutional proposals to the Federal Government, the paper he gave Senator Murray at the meeting last Monday, for example?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Premier.

Premier Wells: I will, Mr. Speaker, when it is appropriate to do so. Nothing will be done which affects the future of the people of this Province without their full awareness and this House being satisfied that any action being taken meets with the approval of the people of this Province, by whatever means that satisfaction is attained. But I should say to the hon. Member that it may make it more difficult to resolve the process by my, as one individual participant, putting forward a firm position now and bargaining through the media. I do not think that is the appropriate way to do it.

The purpose of Senator Murray's visit to all of the Premiers was to get some kind of a general indication of the views of the Premiers so that he could advise the Prime Minister as to the desirability or propriety of calling a First Ministers' Conference at this stage. So I do not want to aggravate the



situation by putting forward a specific position on the part of Newfoundland at this time. I think that would best be done for an open public forum that would take place at the First Ministers' Conference. But, ultimately, I am quite prepared to do it, yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Grand Bank.

Mr. Matthews: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Fisheries. I am wondering, could the Minister of Fisheries inform the Legislature, give an update on the situation as it pertains to the Burgeo fish plant? Is the Minister aware if negotiations are still continuing between National Sea Products and the consortium of companies for the sale of that plant? If so, what is the status to date?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

Mr. Carter: Mr. Speaker, I met with the principals of the NatSea Company one day last week. We had a long meeting, at which time we discussed the possible sale of their plant to a certain Newfoundland Company. At the meeting, they did give us an assurance that the existing quota goes with the plant and will remain with the plant, or with the new owner, and that is about where it stands now. I understand they are waiting on some kind of formal approval from the Federal Government, and I have been told that as soon as they are ready to give me a further briefing on it, they will.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Grand Bank.

Mr. Matthews: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Has the Province been asked for financial assistance, or any other assistance, in this deal? Is the Province involved in any way whatsoever, or is it just that NatSea will keep the Province updated as to what is going on with negotiations between National Sea, the other companies, and the Federal Government?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

Mr. Carter: Mr. Speaker, before I answer the last part of the hon. Member's question I should say that we wrote the Federal Minister last week, following my meeting with the NatSea principals, spelling out our position in terms of the existing quota that company holds for the Burgeo plant, and letting it be known to the Federal Minister, in no uncertain terms, that we would certainly not tolerate that quota being removed from the Burgeo plant.

Getting back to the second part of his question, no, we have not been asked by the company negotiating for the purchase of the plant for any kind of financial assistance. I am not saying they will not be asking, but certainly to date we have not received any such request.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Grand Bank.

Mr. Matthews: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The fish quota allocation, from day one the company, National Sea Products, voluntarily offered that fish to the new consortium of companies. No one had to twist their arms to do that, which is good. It is encouraging, as well. I am wondering if, in the meetings with

National Sea Products, the Minister posed the question to National Sea Products that if the Burgeo plant is not sold to this other group of companies, has the Minister determined if National Sea Products will operate in Burgeo if this deal falls through?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

Mr. Carter: Mr. Speaker, we did talk about that and, of course, the answer, I suppose, is obvious. The management plan for 1991 has not yet been released. I suspect it is not even being considered yet by the Federal Government; they are not aware of what the quotas will be next year, what the total allowable catches will be. I suppose whether or not the Burgeo plant will continue in operation under the existing operator will depend, to a large extent, on the outcome of the new 1991 management plan. If the quotas are drastically reduced, then, of course, who is to say what will happen? Again, they will have to wait until we see what happens next year. Let us hope the TAC will not be reduced, and if the plant is not sold, they will see fit to continue operating it.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Fogo.

Mr. Winsor: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is also to the Minister of Fisheries. The Minister is well aware that this year the fishery in Newfoundland, particularly the lobster/lump roe, has been a complete disaster due to low prices. To compound an already disastrous fishery, this week's storm played havoc with the inshore fishermen and fixed gear, and resulted in a considerable

loss of lobster traps, lump nets, herring nets and so on. Has the Minister any preliminary estimates as to the damage done during this week's storm?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

Mr. Carter: Mr. Speaker, I talked yesterday with some fishermen on the northeast coast. One, who is well known, Mr. Arthur Wicks, telephoned me early in the morning to give me a briefing on behalf of the fishermen of Bonavista North. I had one of my field people contact Mr. Wicks. They are now getting from him an assessment as to what damage was done. In other areas where damage was done, especially with lobster pots, my field staff are now in the process of getting an assessment.

I should point out to the Member, Mr. Speaker, that while we are unable to provide direct assistance to people who lose lobster pots, we do have a lobster pot bank, one, in fact, I take some credit for starting back some years ago, when I held this job before, one of the great revolutionary innovations which came about during my being in this job in the past. But, anyway, these lobster pots are available for a nominal cost. Once we have assessed the number of pots which have been destroyed, then that program will be available.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Fogo.

Mr. Winsor: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. This, unlike previous problems in the fishery, has always been able to be blamed on the Federal Government. The Federal Government has had nothing to do with this problem. It is

not a resource problem. I am asking the Minister, will he implement a program, an immediate response program, to help all those fishermen, some of whom, in my District particularly, have lost anywhere from 50 per cent to their total gear for the season?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

Mr. Carter: Mr. Speaker, I do not know if we can blame the weather on the Federal Government. I am sure if we try hard enough we can find a way of doing it, maybe bad forecasting or a lot of wind coming down from central Canada.

But, anyway, Mr. Speaker, we cannot very well put in place a response program until we have had a careful assessment made of the damage, and that is being done. I can only say that once we have that assessment, then we will see what we can do to help.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Fogo.

Mr. Winsor: The Minister made reference to the lobster trap bank. What numbers does it contain? Is the cost still fixed at seven dollars per trap?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

Mr. Carter: I am not sure how many lobster pots remain in the bank, Mr. Speaker, but I have a feeling there are quite a large number there, and I seem to recall that seven dollars a pot is the price being charged.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Fogo.

Mr. Winsor: A final

supplementary, Mr. Speaker. In light of this disaster, and since the fishermen have not had a chance to have a very active fishery so far, and due to low prices, will the Minister review this program with a view to lowering the price or possibly making the traps free at this point in time to all those fishermen affected?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

Mr. Carter: Mr. Speaker, I would certainly offer to have a look at it. I can't guarantee, though, that we would be able to do much about it. Let us face it, seven dollars for a lobster pot is not all the money in the world.

Mr. Winsor: Two hundred times seven is.

Mr. Carter: But we are prepared to take a look at it, Mr. Speaker, and see what can be done, without making any promises.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Port au Port.

Mr. Hodder: Mr. Speaker, a question along the same lines. The Minister says that seven dollars a lobster pot is not very much. I would like to say to the Minister that when a fishermen has lost 300 traps and he has only been three days into the fishery, I don't know where he is going to pick up \$2,100 when he has to replace all those traps at short notice. Mr. Speaker, I don't think that is a very good answer.

Mr. Speaker, my question is a follow-up. As the Minister is no doubt aware, the lobster fishermen on the west coast have been totally wiped out. In my district

alone, which provides roughly 20 per cent of the lobster for the whole Province, this year the prices are low and the ice has kept the fishermen from fishing on the west coast and now, due to storm damage, the fishermen have lost all their traps, could the Minister tell me what he intends to do? This is the worst disaster in living memory, certainly the worst disaster since I have represented the District, which is some fifteen years. Could the Minister tell me if there will be some relief for those fishermen?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

Mr. Carter: Mr. Speaker, I can only tell the hon. Member for Port au Port what I just told his colleague from Fogo, that we will have a look at it and what can be done will be done.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Port au Port.

Mr. Hodder: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. On a number of occasions the Minister said he would visit the District of Port au Port. As a matter of fact, the Premier said he was sure the Minister would visit Port au Port. Mr. Speaker, in view of the disaster which exists in the fishery - I mean, Mr. Speaker, when something happens in the United States, the President of the United States goes to see it. I am sure if there is a disaster in the Province the Minister of Fisheries can go and see it. What I am asking the Minister is, will the Minister visit the west coast of the Province? Will he look at what's happening? Will he talk to the fishermen? It has been total devastation, the worst in living memory. Will the Minister go and

view the situation to see what he can do, find out from the people, and at least give them some relief, that he at least pays attention to their problems?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

Mr. Carter: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure if the President of the United States will be visiting Port au Port this weekend, but I'll be visiting Port au Port this weekend. I am heading out west this weekend. I have a function in Deer Lake, I believe it is, on Saturday. I have been invited to walk, I believe it is a fifty or sixty mile walkathon in Corner Brook on behalf of some good charity. I can tell the hon. Member now that no matter the President of the United States does, I will be going to the Port au Port Peninsula this weekend to see firsthand what has been happening out there.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Port au Port.

Mr. Hodder: Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Minister should take a walk around Port au Port instead of wasting his time on a fifty mile walk, out in the woods, I suppose.

Mr. Speaker, a new question. In light of the information that came up in the Legislature last year concerning the Government guaranteed loan of \$1.6 million for Twillingate, the management fees, the brokerage fees and all the other things that were brought up here in the House yesterday, can the Minister of Fisheries tell me why, in the case of the Piccadilly plant, he would not advertise for an operator, a very cheap thing, why he would not refurbish the plant, put a few

cutting tables and things in, and why he would not promote the opening of this particular plant, Mr. Speaker? I want to ask the Minister is this fairness and balance? Is it only in the Minister's District? And doesn't the Minister think is a conflict of interest?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

Mr. Carter: Mr. Speaker, it is very interesting, by the way, those of you who watched television on the night of April 18, when I announced that Oceana Seafoods was going in receivership, saw the Leader of the Opposition up demanding that I resign because I allowed a fish plant in my District to go insolvent. Now, with the help of the Economic Recovery Team and a bit of luck, we managed to get the plant back in operation and they are still complaining about it.

Mr. Speaker, the preamble to his question was entirely wrong. We did not give the company a \$1.6 million loan guarantee. And I might want to correct an error in the press, or on television, when it was suggested that maybe we wrote off a loan for that company of \$1.9 million. That is not so. We will have to write off a loan of \$1.9 million that was made by the previous Government to the previous company. It was their loan to another company that defaulted.

An Hon. Member: You increased it.

Mr. Carter: No, we did not increase it and I have the proof here. And while the argument was going on between the Leader of the Opposition and myself, he was saying \$1.5 million and I was

saying \$1.9 million, there is proof that it was \$1.9 million. So he was wrong again.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible) extended it (inaudible).

Mr. Carter: We extended it, Mr. Speaker, but it was paid off at no charge to the Government.

Mr. Speaker, getting back to the question. Every effort that can be made is being made by officials in my Department to find an operator for the Piccadilly plant, but I am sure he will understand that it is not a simple matter. The plant has had a record of not being too successful, mainly because of the shortage of resource.

Mr. Hodder: That is not true.

Mr. Carter: Well, tell the companies who went bankrupt there.

Mr. Hodder: Nobody went bankrupt there.

Mr. Carter: Or at least who have moved in for a year or two and moved out.

Mr. Speaker, we are looking for an operator. If we can find one, we will be very happy to discuss it with him and hopefully put somebody there to make a go of it.

An Hon. Member: In what year would you say that will happen?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Menihek.

Mr. A. Snow: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Social Services. He will be aware, of course, that the family crisis shelter in Western Labrador has been operating since 1985,

mostly on volunteer efforts and financial contributions from the local area, and, of course, with funding from the Department of Social Services. Is the Minister aware of the importance of the Family Crisis Centre to the residents of Western Labrador, and could he update this House on what the present status of this Centre is?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Social Service.

Mr. Efford: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I am aware of its extreme importance to the community, although it is not a large Centre. I think approximately eleven people went into that Crisis Centre last year, 1989. In previous years there were somewhat less than that; nevertheless, whether there was one or eleven or one hundred, the Crisis Centre is certainly important to the community. We were only told, I think it was yesterday afternoon, that the Crisis Centre may have to close its doors due to financial problems. We have already forwarded them monies to cover the deficit they incurred through last year's Budget, and we have also forwarded to them so far this year, the monies we had allocated under this year's Budget.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Menihek.

Mr. A. Snow: Well, the Centre is presently closed. I believe it closed yesterday, as the Minister suggested. Can he tell me if his Department is going to allocate more funds to permit this Centre to open up again?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Social Services.

Mr. Efford: Well, I can't tell the hon. Member what funds, if any, we are going to give them. Certainly we have to look at the effect it is going to have on the community. I am sending an official from my Department down to Labrador to meet with the people in that particular Crisis Centre.

You are quite right when you say it was a voluntary organization when it was set up in the beginning, but it has now reached the point where there are some paid positions at that particular Centre.

They are requesting, I think, approximately an extra \$30,000 over and above the monies they received this year, which was in the vicinity of \$21,000. We are taking a look at it, but first I would like to have an official of my Department go to the Centre and meet with the people to see exactly what amount of money they need to operate, and to ensure that the request they have made to the Department of Social Services is a reasonable request.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Menihek.

Mr. A. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister could inform this House and the people of Western Labrador, who are directly concerned with this, when his officials would be coming in to visit with these people to discuss the problem with them. In light of the fact, of course, that the present Budget we are operating under in this Province approved a \$10 million surplus, the problem can't be that they don't have the necessary revenues, the monies for it. They are forecasting a \$10 million surplus,

so that can't be the problem. And, of course, there is also the fact that \$3 or \$4 million of that surplus is coming out of Western Labrador.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Social Services.

Mr. Efford: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, whether this Province has a surplus or not is certainly not a concern of mine today, as Minister of Social Services, with respect to the facility in Labrador. I have a legitimate concern, as does every Member of this Government, with the operation of such facilities around the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, and the one in Labrador is no more nor no less than any other centre in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

We do have a concern. I am sending an official in. I was not made aware of this until late yesterday afternoon. I met with an official of my Department this morning and that person is already making arrangements to go in. I am hoping it will be within the next week, as early as next week or, at the very latest, two weeks. But she is making arrangements to go in to meet with the officials, or operating voluntary officials of that particular Center. I can assure the hon. Member that we are placing high emphasis or concern on this particular Crisis Center. We know its importance to the community. We are not going to put it off or put it on the back burner, it will be dealt with immediately. So I would tell the Member, he can inform the people of Labrador that it will be no later than two weeks, and probably less than that.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Green Bay.

Mr. Hewlett: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it has been said that the hon. Premier likes to run this place like a courtroom, but honest to God, Mr. Speaker, if I might use that phrase today, this seems like a Church and I wonder if it has to do with the television coverage last night.

I would ask the Minister of Energy, who sits in a pew opposite, a few days ago the Premier indicated that the guarantee fee required Hydro to go to the Utilities Board, and it has already been there, including the guarantee fee and the PDD subsidy phaseout, but he indicated, as well, quite emphatically, that Hydro or Newfoundland Light and Power would not have to go to the Board because of the payroll tax. I wonder if the Minister of Energy would explain that, please.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Energy.

Dr. Gibbons: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some weeks ago, I answered this question, Mr. Speaker, by saying that Hydro would not be making a new representation to the PUB as a result of the payroll tax. Any extra cost as a result of that tax will be included in deferred costs, which will be addressed in three years time.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Green Bay.

Mr. Hewlett: So is the Minister indicating, Mr. Speaker, that while they have done a three year thing before the Board right now, when that three years are up the

payroll tax and other factors will be brought before the Board by Hydro at that time?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Mines of Mines and Energy.

Dr. Gibbons: Mr. Speaker, any costs which are still deferred at that time, which have not been recovered in the rates which are going to be approved at this time, as a result of the present hearing, will be considered in a future rate hearing. It is anybody's forecast what the situation and the circumstances may be at that time. We do not know what is going to happen to the rain, and the more it falls the better. Every inch that falls saves Hydro about \$4 million in the purchase of oil. So, let the rain fall and let other things happen. What is going to happen in the long-term in terms of Hydro rate increases depends on that and many, many other factors, and it will be addressed at that time.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for St. Mary's - The Capes.

Mr. Hearn: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Fisheries. Several times now in the House, and in the press yesterday, the Minister said he would not do anything for Twillingate that he would not do for any other place in the Province, and vice versa. In light of the fact the Minister admitted yesterday that there is a nominal if any lease on the Twillingate plant owned by the Province, will he now instruct the operators of all provincial plants around the Province that they do not have to pay any lease this year?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the

Minister of Fisheries.

Mr. Carter: Mr. Speaker, yesterday in the House I said I would, in the case of the Twillingate plant - in fact, we have done a lot less for the Twillingate plant than we have done for most other plants which have reopened this year. And I repeat, there is no loan guarantee, no offer to pick up losses. You know, it is a unique deal. But, certainly, in terms of other plants which are owned by the Province, each will be treated on its own merits. We do own a sizable number of fish plant facilities around the Province. In fact, just a few days ago we arranged to lease one to an operator in the hon. Member's District, up in Branch. But, again, they will be treated on their own merit, and as they come in, then we will deal with them.

Mr. Speaker: Question Period has expired.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

#### Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Employment and Labour Relations.

Ms Cowan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I wish to present today to the House of Assembly, the Third Annual Report of the Workers Compensation Appeal Tribunal.

O O O

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Eagle River.



Mr. Dumaresque: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise today to request the adjournment of the House to address a matter of urgent public importance, and the subject that I am talking about, Mr. Speaker, comes under Standing Order No. 23. The subject I am talking about is the Federal Government's decision not to extend unemployment insurance benefits to 1,100 people along the coast of Labrador. In the next couple of minutes, Mr. Speaker, I would like to outline why I feel there should be an emergency debate on this issue - first of all in terms of the need. Mr. Speaker, as of May 15, 1990, there are 1,100 people from L'Anse-au-Clair to Nain who have no income of any kind coming into their households. These people, Mr. Speaker, are the heads of their families. These are the people, Mr. Speaker, who at this point in time have to get ready to prepare for the coming fishing season. Also, Mr. Speaker, these individuals, because of the time of the year; about 70 per cent of them have to prepare their families to move outside to their fishing stations. So this is the time of the year when they need this money the most. They have to go to their local merchants and get food, clothing, fishing supplies and so forth, and right now, Mr. Speaker, with not a cent of income coming into their households they are indeed in dire straits.

Also, Mr. Speaker, the need is accentuated by the fact that for the first time in a decade, or over a decade now, the ice on the Labrador coast is fast to the shores, there is absolutely no possibility of any fishermen being able to get out to the fishing

grounds, if indeed, there was any fish coming there. There is also, Mr. Speaker, no doubt, that the cod stock movements along the Labrador coast: there is no way that these can be harvested even if there was any access to the fishing grounds, because the northern cod stock or the Gulf stock does not show up on the coast of Labrador before at least June 15 and in many places before the July 1.

The other basis, Mr. Speaker, for which I want to base my request for an emergency debate, is on the Federal Government's misunderstanding of this particular issue. I particularly want to indicate what I feel is the basis for discrimination which the people of Labrador are being forced to suffer.

Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, we received a letter from the Federal Minister, Monique Vezina, saying that the UIC benefits could not be extended because it meant there had to be uniform application of benefits for fishermen all over Canada. There could never be any application of compassion to the people of the coast of Labrador because she said, Mr. Speaker, that they are supposed to be mending their nets and fixing their gear and preparing for the fishing season now, between May 15th and the 15th of June or the first of July. I submit, Mr. Speaker: what are they to live on while they are mending their gear and preparing for the fishing season?

Also, Mr. Speaker, yesterday in her letter, Monique Vezina indicated that she could not see how they could extend the benefits for these fishermen because it may contravene the Free Trade

Agreement. I submit, Mr. Speaker, that this country has come to a point where we have to question openly and loudly but, again, constructively on the state of our social safety net, and look exactly at where we are when it comes to instilling compassion and being able to help out those who cannot help themselves.

I submit, Mr. Speaker, that it is time that this House gave serious thought to countering the neo-conservative agenda that is emerging from the Federal Government. We are seeing time and time again where the application of the principal of survival of the fittest is being applied. It is being applied here, Mr. Speaker, to the fishermen of Labrador, and we are in no position to be able to cope with that underlying principal.

I submit also, Mr. Speaker, that at this point in time there is a gross misunderstanding of the situation.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please!

I want to remind the hon. gentleman he is now into the substance of his presentation, should the debate be granted. The hon. Member's duty is to point out to the Chair the need for the emergency debate on the particular item, and he should avoid getting into too much substance of the debate. So, I want to remind the hon. Member, who is a new Member, of the procedure, so the hon. gentleman should just about begin to clue up. He is asking for emergency debate and ought not to be debating what he is indeed asking for.

The hon. the Member for Eagle River.

Mr. Dumaresque: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate your remarks as they are given. I am new, and I would admit that I am inexperienced, but I am here today, Mr. Speaker, to deliver from my heart, because I want to be able to show this House that I am here to try and give to the people of Labrador what they justly deserve from any responsible government.

And I will clue up on that basis, Mr. Speaker, and hope that we can get a chance to debate this all important issue, and that 1,100 people on the coast of Labrador should not be subjected to such a cruel and unusual punishment when they, through no fault of their own, are in a position they can ill afford to be in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Grand Bank.

Mr. Matthews: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to say to the hon. Member that we on this side realize very much just how serious this situation is. I am wondering if the hon. Member would consider, perhaps, a resolution or a motion covering his concern and then we would move unanimous consent of the Legislature calling upon the Federal Government to immediately get on about extending the UI benefits for the fishermen affected. I am wonder if that is a possibility.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Government House Leader.

Mr. Baker: Yes, Mr. Speaker, the House can do anything by leave in that regard. Maybe if the hon. Member could get together with the Member for Grand Bank and put together something in the next few

hours and present it to the House, and when it is ready for presentation in the House we could just 'by leave' do it. That would be perfectly acceptable to us.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Eagle River.

Mr. Dumaresque: Yes, Mr. Speaker, certainly I will be happy to do that. I commend the hon. Member for Grand Bank for making that offer to the House. I will be happy to get together to compile that resolution. Certainly through the regular budget debate this afternoon maybe we could expand a little bit more on the seriousness of this issue.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair is not sure it understands now whether the Member asked for emergency debate. The hon. Member for Grand Bank made a proposal that we send off a resolution, so I wonder if we do that in lieu of making a decision. We make note of the agreement. The House agrees they will send off a resolution to the Federal Government.

The hon. the Member for Eagle River.

Mr. Dumaresque: Mr. Speaker, in light of the accommodation the Opposition has shown, I certainly would go for that and withdraw the request for the special debate.

Mr. Speaker: Agreed.

#### Orders of the Day

Mr. Baker: Motion 6, Mr. Speaker.

Motion, the hon. the Minister of Justice to introduce a Bill entitled, "An Act To Amend The

Registration Of Deeds Act". (Bill No. 49)

On motion, Bill No. 49, read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

Mr. Baker: Motion 7.

Motion, the hon. the Minister of Works, Services and Transportation to introduce a Bill entitled, "An Act To Amend The Highway Traffic Act, 1988". (Bill No. 48)

On motion, Bill No. 48, read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

Mr. Baker: Motion 8.

Motion, the hon. the Minister of Social Services to introduce a Bill entitled, "An Act To Amend The Child Welfare Act, 1972". (Bill No. 51)

On motion, Bill No. 51, read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

Mr. Baker: Motion 9, Mr. Speaker.

Motion, the hon. the Minister of Social Services to introduce a Bill entitled, "An Act To Amend The Adoption Of Children Act, 1972". (Bill No. 52)

On motion, Bill No. 52, read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

Mr. Baker: Order 29, Mr. Speaker.

Motion, second reading of a Bill, "An Act To Amend, The Newfoundland And Labrador Hydro Act, 1975". (Bill No. 31)

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Green Bay.

Mr. Hewlett: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I should say, Mr. Speaker, thank you, Reverend Sir, because the atmosphere in this Assembly today is most certainly somewhat church-like. Obviously, Mr. Speaker, events on the television last night shows that the Canadian nation-state is in definite jeopardy and this has brought about an atmosphere of some quiet on the other side. The connection here, Mr. Speaker, for the hon. gentleman who asked, is quite simply that for quite some time in this Legislature and in the body politic of the Province, the Meech Lake debate and the Premier's rather strong, dare I say, radical stand on that matter, has served as a very convenient smoke screen trying to disguise from the eyes of Newfoundlanders the reality of the economic policy, the reality of the Budget of the hon. gentleman opposite.

The Bill before us exhibits just one piece of that particular Budget, a Bill to allow the Government to charge the Hydro Corporation a guarantee fee which in the current calendar year probably runs in the order of \$10 million. But, Mr. Speaker, let's not forget that given the sorry state of the Canadian nation-state today, given falling investor confidence, the possibilities of a recession, the interest rates that the hon. Minister opposite complains about so much, it is quite possible that the economy of the central part of this nation may falter, stagger, even fall considerably, over the next twelve months or so, and the Minister may find that equalization revenues and other revenues passed to us through the Federal Government, may well drop-off and the Minister may be stuck for another \$10 or \$20 million in order to balance

his Budget, Mr. Speaker.

The Bill allows the Cabinet to set the rate of the guarantee fee. If the Minister needs a quick \$10 million all he has to do is change the fee from one per cent to two per cent. If he needs another \$20 million, all he has to do is make it three per cent and we are away to the races. That way this Government, in its smoke and mirrors budgetary process, can pretend that it is balancing the books of the Province, when in actual fact it is doing so, but unbalancing the books and the bank accounts of the individual citizens and electrical rate payers in this Province.

Mr. Speaker, this is a cold, uncaring right wing Government that has forgotten the little guy to whom it made all the promises when it was in opposition. They have eliminated the \$30 million subsidy to the Power Distribution District, they are charging this \$10 million guarantee fee, and now they have a payroll tax.

The hon. the Premier, in Question Period the other day, indicated to me that no, no, no, Hydro would not have to go before the PUB to recover the payroll tax. The Minister of Energy admitted today that after the three year rate increase that they sought a little while ago, it is highly likely that Hydro will have to go back to recover the payroll tax, to recover the two or three per cent guarantee fee that the Minister of Finance will probably be forced to put on Hydro, because the economy of the Province and the nation is faltering, so the people of this Province, Mr. Speaker, given 13.5 per cent request for the first three years of an eight year phase-in period could easily be

facing 40 or 50 per cent increase during the decade of the 1990s and just in case, Mr. Speaker, the media and the people of the Province are not well informed of the debates in the Assembly, I would indicate to the Minister that the Opposition Leader and myself held a press conference this morning to further reinforce the idea that people should become knowledgeable of the Minister of Finance's hand in their pocket, and we want the people to know that the great Liberal Party which was deadly opposed to power rate increases are bringing them about in droves.

The hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Speaker, has got the taxpayers of the Province by the ankles, he has got them upside down and he is shaking them and the nickles and dimes and loonies are falling out of their pockets, so this particular Government has undergone, to use the phrase, a real change. They in opposition were deadly opposed to raising people's Hydro rates. They are cutting down your ability to cut firewood if you want to heat your home with wood. They are raising the hydro rates, they are raising the taxes, a very subtle, insidious Budget. Everything sounded good the first day the speech was read but ever since then we have been uncovering all sorts of things that are going to gouge money out of the taxpayers of the Province. The Minister is balancing his Budget. New York may be happy with him. The bond flotation he mentioned a little while ago in Ministerial Statements, all of that may be going good for the time being, but sooner or later the ordinary citizens of this Province are going to have to start paying for that, Mr. Speaker. I indicated

earlier that the Minister, if he wants to pick up a quick \$10 or \$20 million, could raise the rate of the guarantee fee.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible) some free samples.

Mr. Hewlett: That is all well and good if the Minister wants to find himself a quick \$20 million here and there, Mr. Speaker, but the Budget of the Province that the Minister administers has in excess, I suppose, of probably \$1.5 billion Federal in transfer payments to this Province. The first Minister of this Province, Mr. Speaker, waded into the constitutional debate, took legitimate concerns from the local point of view of two provinces, heated up the debate on the national scene, developed what can only be described as national hysteria on this Meech Lake business, and now the entire Canadian nation-state is in danger. If the Canadian nation-state is in danger, Mr. Speaker, the \$1.5 billion that the hon. Minister of Finance gets every year from Ottawa is in danger as well. I talked to McLean's Magazine earlier this morning and I indicated to them: my father is a retired person dependent entirely on his federal pension, but if the country falls apart, Mr. Speaker, what is my father at age sixty-seven with a Grade IX education, after forty-seven years in the work force, what is he going to do to feed his wife, and to pay his light bill? What is he going to do, Mr. Speaker? The \$1.5 billion that this Government depends on, the monthly cheque that my father, your father, the mothers with their family allowance cheques, all of those things are in jeopardy, Mr. Speaker, because of

the extremely radical stance taken by the First Minister of this Province in the constitutional debate currently on the go in this nation.

An Hon. Member: You are making a fool of yourself.

Mr. Hewlett: I am not making a fool of myself at all, Sir. I am saying what was said on national television for three hours straight last night.

An Hon. Member: By whom?

Mr. Hewlett: By Canadians from coast to coast in this country. I was born a Canadian and I have a funny feeling that I am going to die a citizen of the republic of Newfoundland thanks to Clyde Kirby Wells.

An Hon. Member: Chicken, chicken!

Mr. Hewlett: I am not chicken, Sir, not at all. It would do very well that we have no further chicken jokes from the other side of the House. They have already gotten the Minister in enough trouble.

Here we are talking about the Government robbing a few tens of millions from the citizenry of this Province, through its budgetary actions with regard to hydro power rates to consumers. It was bad enough that the Finance Minister would be doing this, but the First Minister of the Province, by his radical actions in the constitutional debate, has put in jeopardy the survival of this Canadian nation. He was the one who was the most radical of all. He was the one who heated the debate to the boiling point. He is the one that has helped polarize public opinion in this

nation, and Meech Lake or any other agreement right now may not be able to bridge the gap between the two founding peoples in this country and the country may fall apart, Mr. Speaker.

My father's pension is in jeopardy, and the Minister of Finance's \$1.5 billion Federal transfers is in jeopardy. He can laugh at it all he wants, and he can make all the chicken jokes that he wants. You might be able to get away with, but we are going to try to not let you get away with, scrounging \$10, \$20, or \$30 million out of the rate payers here and there, Mr. Speaker. You might be able to get away with changing the policy on automobiles and giving yourselves a car rather than borrowing a Crown car, but you cannot live down losing \$1.5 billion, Mr. Speaking. The people of Newfoundland will soon learn to be concerned about these matters.

I remember during the last Federal Election, Federal Liberals walked into senior citizens homes on the west coast of this Province and what did they say, vote for the Federal Tories you will get free trade, you will lose your pension, and what did the people in those places do, they voted for the Federal Liberal Party. Those poor places in the nation, Mr. Speaker, voted for the Federal Liberals or the Federal New Democrats because they were afraid that they would lose the social welfare benefits that Joey Smallwood sold Confederation on in this Province. The man fought on the losing side, Mr. Smallwood successfully sold Confederation to the people of this Province because of Canada's social welfare benefits.

Now we have a Premier, a first

Minister in this Province, who by his radical and intractable stance on the constitution is leading to the breakup of the Canadian nation. And it is going to cost the Minister of Finance not \$10 million or \$20 million or \$30 million, Mr. Speaker, it is going to cost them well in excess of a billion. Then there is no way through his sneaky Budgets he can force Newfoundland Hydro to scrounge up a few extra bucks out of the poor people's pockets, Mr. Speaker, no way under the sun.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Hewlett: Severance pay, that is all they can throw back at me, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Is the constitution for sale, is that what you are saying?

Mr. Hewlett: The Constitution, Sir, is not for sale. But our Premier's interpretation of constitutional matters are not the only view of things in this nation. Unfortunately, to listen to our Premier, he walked into the debate at a very late stage in the game and said, listen you guys I do not like what you have built. I am going to knock it all down. I am going to give you the ultimate solution. A solution right out of a political science first year text book, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: (Inaudible).

Mr. Hewlett: Constitutions, Mr. Speaker, come from the realm of reality. Politics is the art of the possible.

Mr. Furey: The Constitution comes from the people, not from eleven turkeys in a room in a park.

Mr. Hewlett: The hon. the Minister is calling his First Minister a turkey, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Finance is preoccupied with chickens, and the Minister of Development is preoccupied with turkeys. Heaven helps us, Mr. Speaker. They were awful quiet over there when the Premier was there today because the Premier is extremely uncomfortable. The Premier stands a good chance of being the odd man out in this nation. The Premier stands a chance of being nailed in the newspapers and on the television of this nation as being a nation slayer, Mr. Speaker. St. George killed the dragon and Clyde killed Canada. Wonderful stuff, isn't it Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Sit down boy (inaudible).

Mr. Hewlett: I will not sit down. I have a right to stand and speak.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please!

Mr. Hewlett: The hon. Member came into my District and tried to take over and I got on the radio and told him to stay the heck out of Green Bay, didn't I. I believe I said on the radio that Green Bay was not big enough for the two of us, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: You had a great line (inaudible).

Mr. Hewlett: I have great lines and the hon. Member has great lines now because his First Minister is no longer in the Assembly. When the First Minister was in the Assembly, there a little while ago, they were all just like they were in church, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Very concerned about what was going on.

Mr. Hewlett: Of course, he should be very concerned about what is going on because the crisis in this nation to a great extent has been precipitated by himself.

An Hon. Member: That is stupid.

Mr. Hewlett: That is not stupid. It is stupid on his part. Not mine. We had legitimate concerns upon two -

An Hon. Member: You do not understand.

Mr. Hewlett: I understand very well, I was there for ten years while all of this developed. I watched this get put together.

An Hon. Member: What developed? Hibernia did not develop.

Mr. Hewlett: Hibernia has not developed, Sir, but the umbrella agreement under which the Minister of Energy is now negotiating was developed by a PC Government in this Province, with the current Prime Minister of Canada. The guy that you guys are all supporting over there, he would not give Bill Marshall a decent deal. He gave Bill Marshall only the deal that the Nova Scotians -

An Hon. Member: Bill Marshall was going to sign it.

An Hon. Member: He did not want to overheat the economy.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please!

Mr. Hewlett: He gave us the deal that the Nova Scotians wanted. What did the Nova Scotians tack onto the end of their deal - if Brian does better we want it, too.

Some Hon. Members: Bill Marshall didn't want to overheat the economy, remember that?

Mr. Hewlett: Mr. Speaker, the economy right now, believe me, is in no danger of overheating. The Constitution, Mr. Speaker, is overheated, thanks to the First Minister of this Province. We had two provinces which had problems with the Meech Lake Accord. We went through an election in this Province. Meech Lake was not mentioned; it was not part of the political agenda during that election. All of a sudden we get a new Premier, and what do we have? Meech Lake is, all of sudden, a predominant concern of every Newfoundlander, and the most radical and the most difficult person to please in the entire First Ministers' congregation is Reverend Wells. Too bad!

Mr. Furey: (Inaudible) using church metaphors like that?

Mr. Hewlett: I use the church metaphor, Mr. Speaker, because when I watched them over there today, their quietude, their sombre looks, reminded me of when I went to church.

Mr. Furey: Back to the Legislature now.

An Hon. Member: Do you go to church now?

Mr. Hewlett: It reminded me of how you had to be pious and attentative and quiet while you are in church.

Mr. Hearn: Examining their consciences.

Mr. Hewlett: Yes, as the hon. the Member for St. Mary's - The Capes says, at a time when you were



inward looking, examining your conscience. And I think the Premier today was examining his conscience, Mr. Speaker, because he realizes he stands a tremendous risk with his radical stand on Meech Lake. It might be popular what he is doing in the short term, but if the Canadian nation falls apart nobody is going to care if he is right, Mr. Speaker, because we are going to lose our pensions, we are going to lose our family allowances.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hewlett: The Minister of Finance is going to lose his \$1.5 billion in transfer payments. They do not like it, Mr. Speaker. When I say it, they do not like it. The worst rocks they can throw at me is my severance package. Keep throwing, Mr. Speaker. Keep throwing.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An Hon. Member: An apologist for Mulroney.

Mr. Hewlett: Mr. Speaker, I am no apologist for Mr. Mulroney.

An Hon. Member: Oh, yes, you are!

Mr. Hewlett: Oh, no I am not, Mr. Speaker. There are many policies of the Federal Government, under Pierre Trudeau and under Brian Mulroney and under Joe Clark, that I did not agree with.

Mr. Furey: Tell us about them.

Mr. Hewlett: I do not agree with the way they have handled the fishery. You people do. For months in this Assembly you people have said, 'We are pleased with the way the Feds are handling the fishery.' You babbled it on and

on and on. I worked for Brian Peckford when he went to war with Joe Clark over the fishery, I worked for Brian Peckford when he went to war with Pierre Trudeau over the fishery, I worked for Brian Peckford when he went to war with Brian Mulroney over the fishery.

Mr. Murphy: Who won the war? Who won the war?

An Hon. Member: The Members (inaudible).

Mr. Hearn: Right on! Exactly!

Mr. Furey: I am waiting still. You were working for him when unemployment topped off at 24 per cent.

Mr. Hewlett: I worked for Brian Peckford when we went through a worldwide recession, Sir. There is no worldwide recession right now, but the economy of this Province is getting into a recession, Mr. Speaker. The world is not into one.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible) recession.

Mr. Hewlett: I worked for the Premier when the entire western world was in a recession. I mean, yes, Newfoundland suffered more than most. If Canada gets a cold, Newfoundland gets pneumonia. Well, Mr. Speaker, Canada has more than a cold; Canada has pneumonia now, Mr. Speaker, so what does that mean for us? A trip to the mortuary, Mr. Speaker, that is what that means for us.

Mr. Hearn: Dr. Clyde Wells' secret vial, the antidote.

Mr. Hewlett: Well, there is no antidote, I do not think.

They indicated over there, Mr. Speaker, that Dr. House is going to take six to ten years to do the hon. Minister of Development's work and rejuvenate the Newfoundland economy.

Mr. Furey: And he does not want severance pay.

Mr. Hewlett: Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, we should postpone having an election for several years. I have a fear, Mr. Speaker, that by the time the next Provincial election rolls around I will not have a District, not unless I run in Mississauga, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Murphy: You won't have a District next election, don't worry.

Mr. Hewlett: You are right I will not have a District, because there will be nobody left. They are all going to be on the Mainland of Canada or in your District, Sir, you are lucky to be in the capital city.

But I come from a District where people's UI is running out, they do not have enough stamps for a new claim, there are no Federal programs on the go, there are no Provincial programs on the go. Their only hope is the hon. gentleman for Port de Grave, they will go on welfare and get on one of your Community Development Programs. Now, isn't that the future for an Administration committed to employing people twelve months of the year?

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible) a pickle factory.

Mr. Hewlett: Mr. Speaker, I just wish we could build a pickle factory. If the Triton plant goes under with another round of quota

cuts, I pray to God that we will have a pickle factory in Triton that will employ 300 people, Mr. Speaker. I do not care if it employs them twelve months of the year, I would just love to have a pickle factory in Triton that would employ them at least long enough to get their stamps. Because right now, with the current state of the fishery and the current uncaring manner of that particular crowd opposite, we have nothing to look forward to in Green Bay.

Mr. Efford: Do you still really want a pickle factory in (inaudible).

Mr. Hewlett: I will take any kind of a factory right now, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Hearn: At least the pickle brochure was published in Newfoundland to create jobs, not outside, as the Minister of Development did.

Mr. Hewlett: So, Mr. Speaker, what do they have to throw up? Severance packages and pickle factories. That is all they have to say. What are the people of this province going to do in the next several years, while they are waiting for Mecca to arrive, Mr. Speaker?

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible) the same thing two and a half years ago, my friend.

Mr. Hewlett: Well, we are asking it now, Mr. Speaker, because the crowd who promised a real change are now in office. So let us see some real change while the people are still here, before they are either looking to be clients of the Minister of Social Services or they are moved away to the

mainland. We want some real change now, not in six years time, not in ten years time.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hewlett: And they laugh over there, Mr. Speaker. I mean, ordinary people out there are suffering, and they laugh. All they talk about is pickle recipes. Well, I only hope to God, Mr. Speaker, that everybody in Green Bay grows cucumbers this year, and that the hon. the Minister of Social Services will send them a householder, with the little booklet, so they can all learn to live off pickles. I remember Marie Antoinette said, Let them eat cake.

An Hon. Member: What?

Mr. Hewlett: Let them eat cake, remember? I guess the Minister over there would have them eat pickles. Well, I sincerely hope he is serious Mr. Speaker, that they do open a pickle factory when my fish plant closes down, that they will employ 300 people making pickles, and that Newfoundlanders will learn to live off pickles.

There was a study done on the fishery a little while ago and I think the title was It Would Do Well To Live Mainly Off Fish. The Minister of Fisheries has given up on that concept, now the Minister of Social Services, his thing is let them eat pickles, Mr. Speaker. The pickle, Mr. Speaker, is over there. They are in a pickle. They are nailing the people of the Province in the Budget with this guarantee fee and with other draconian measures. People are suffering. People do not have work. The Premier is helping to wreck the nation. There is no province in

this country as dependent on Federal transfers as this particular Province, so what are we going to do when the country falls apart? The Premier is going to be sad if Quebec leaves. Well, a sad Clyde Wells is not going to pay my father's pension.

We had to pay him an extra \$50,000.00 a year just to be Opposition Leader. So what is he going to do for the tens of thousands of Newfoundlanders on pensions? What is he going to do for the ten of thousands of Newfoundlanders who depend on the Minister of Social Services getting 50 cent dollars from Ottawa if there is no Ottawa? As I said, Mr. Speaker, they are living in a dream world - living in a dream world.

Mr. Murphy: And you are an alarmist.

Mr. Hewlett: I am an alarmist? Someone has to be an alarmist. If you read your Bible, you would have heard about John the Baptist. Someone has to come out of the wilderness and say something to someone.

Mr. Doyle: You had better hope he is an alarmist.

Mr. Hewlett: You had better pray that I am an alarmist, Sir. Because if I am not, the whole lot of you are going to be swept out of office, there will be riots down here, there will be mobs in the lobby of Confederation Building looking for the man they will call the nation slayer - the nation slayer, Mr. Speaker. So hope, Mr. Speaker, and hon. gentlemen opposite, hope that I am wrong. Because if I am wrong, you might survive as a political party. But if I am right, not

only will you not survive as a Government, the Liberal Party will be destroyed in this Province. Nobody was as surprised as you people on election night, when you finally got elected. You came into office, you did not have a clue what to do, you had no plans, except to implement Margaret Thatcher's and Ronald Reagan's right wing free-enterprise policies. Well fine, you are going about it, but what in the name of God are we going to do for the people of the Province in the interim?

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible) running for the leadership.

Mr. Hewlett: Running for the leadership? I did not know there was an opening, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Doyle: There isn't, either.

Mr. Murphy: Do not be surprised when we replace Mulroney.

Mr. Doyle: Yes? We will see about that.

Mr. Murphy: (Inaudible) Quebec.

Mr. Hewlett: It is rather ironic the hon. gentlemen from St. John's south talks about replacing the current Prime Minister. The way things are going right now, Mr. Speaker, the ultimate irony is that we could possibly have two gentlemen seeking the office of Prime Minister in the next Federal election, both of them from the republic of Quebec. I do not even know if they would qualify to run for the office of Prime Minister of Canada, seeing that they are citizens of a foreign country. Quebec is all but gone, Mr. Speaker, and this crowd opposite, they gave them the shove off the ledge at the top of Confederation

Building.

An Hon. Member: I can't believe that.

Mr. Doyle: This is very serious stuff.

Mr. Hewlett: I really don't mind how unique Quebec gets within its own borders, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: You don't?

Mr. Hewlett: No.

Mr. Murphy: Say that again.

Mr. Doyle: You heard it. Listen.

Mr. Hewlett: Are we in the union building here? When people send me mail, do they send it to Alvin Hewlett, MHA, Union Building? Do they send it to Federation Building? No, Mr. Speaker, they send it to Confederation Building. The Premier wants a union, ten provinces all exactly the same, no changes, everybody exactly alike, just like the Americans. That is the reason they call it the United States of America. We are the confederal states of Canada, and don't ever forget that.

Mr. Trudeau's constitutional thing with the Charter of Rights had a tendency to limit the confederal nature of this nation, but the notwithstanding clause was still there to allow the essence of confederalism.

This nation was developed as a confederal nation, it is still a confederal nation, and if it is ever to survive, it will have to be a confederal nation. The Premier's inability to accept the confederal nature of this country is going to be a contributing

factor to the demise of this country, Mr. Speaker. That is rather sad, because it is one of the most civilized countries on the face of the earth. We are not only throwing out the baby with the bathwater, Mr. Speaker, we are throwing out the bathtub, the plumbing, the whole works, all because of one individual's legalistic obsession with rewriting the Constitution of the nation: coming on the scene, new kid on the block knocks down the so-called ugly construction and decides to build the country his own way.

Well, one element of the country is not going to do it Clyde's way, plain and simple. We saw it on television last night. The country is on the verge of collapse.

An Hon. Member: You don't believe all this, do you?

Mr. Hewlett: Yes, I honestly believe all this.

I spent ten years in the Premier's Office. I have seen a lot of Quebec, the way they think and the way they act, and they are all but gone, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Talk about the polls. Tell us about the polls now.

Mr. Doyle: They are probably gone even if Meech passes.

Mr. Hewlett: Even if Meech Lake passes as is, Mr. Speaker, the damage is done. Sixty-one per cent of Quebecers right now want to separate. The Parti Quebecois, the official separatist party, is ahead of the governing Liberal Party in Quebec. Robert Bourassa can't budge an inch, or he will be

devoured by his own people.

Mr. Murphy: We went through that in 1982 (inaudible).

Mr. Hewlett: You went through that in 1982, and Pierre Trudeau and all the rest of your heroes went into Quebec and said, Boys, don't leave. We'll work it out. And the thing they worked out was Meech Lake. They worked out something called Meech Lake. Heaven knows it is not perfect. No constitutional document ever is, Mr. Speaker. That is why you have an amending formula.

An Hon. Member: It is a conspiracy to divide Canada, that is what it is.

Mr. Doyle: You have a real nation wrecker over there.

Mr. Hewlett: There is no conspiracy to divide Canada, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Brian Mulroney is an American.

Mr. Hewlett: Canada is probably gone, Mr. Speaker. Brian Mulroney is a Quebecer, even as your Mr. Chrétien is a Quebecer. I see he is waffling a bit on Meech Lake these days. Because Mr. Chrétien knows that if he wants to be Prime Minister of Canada, assuming there is a Canada come the next Federal election, he has to win seats in Quebec. And there is no way on the face of God's green earth that John Chrétien is going to win seats in Quebec -

An Hon. Member: Who are you speaking for today?

Mr. Hewlett: I am speaking for Canada, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: You are speaking for yourself. You are certainly not speaking for your constituents.

An Hon. Member: No, indeed he is not.

Mr. Hewlett: I am speaking for Canada, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Doyle: In ignorance there is bliss, boys.

Mr. Hewlett: You people don't think at all. Remember the joke that is on the go all across this great capital city of ours? The Premier and his Cabinet go out to dinner. You people don't think at all. The joke that's on the go in this capital city, you can hear in all the public areas: The Premier and his Cabinet go out to dinner. The waiter says, 'Sir, what will you have? The Premier says, H-m-m, the roast beef looks good. Very good, Sir. And what about the vegetables? Oh, they will have roast beef, too, says the Premier. That is the joke making the rounds of this capital city, and if I were a Minister in that Government, I wouldn't feel good about that joke. I wouldn't feel good about that joke at all.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible) years ago?

Mr. Doyle: Ask the vegetables.

Mr. Hewlett: I didn't make that up. I make up a few poems in this Legislature, but I didn't make up that joke, Mr. Speaker. That joke is making the rounds of the capital city and it says a lot. It is a terrible editorial comment on a new administration.

An Hon. Member: First time it was ever used.

Mr. Hewlett: First time it was ever used? I have heard it a dozen times recently, Mr. Speaker.

Anyway, Mr. Speaker, there is no convincing them. They think it is okay to rob the people of their money. They won't do it officially in a Budget, they will get Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro to do their dirty work.

Their position on the Constitution is so radical and so intractable that there is probably no middle ground. If the Premier and his other colleagues, the First Ministers, come to some accommodation before the Meech Lake deadline, it will only occur if Clyde Wells backs down. Quebec will die before the distinct society clause goes in the preamble, and it can only occur if Clyde Wells backs down. And I would implore the people, especially in the Cabinet over there, talk to your Premier and advise him to back down. Save the nation. Otherwise, as I ended up saying the other day, the battle cry of the impoverished people of Newfoundland and Labrador will be all is well that ends Wells. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Mines and Energy.

If the hon. Minister speaks now, he ends the debate.

The hon. the Member for Fogo.

Some Hon. Members: The Minister was recognized.

Mr. Winsor: Mr. Speaker, I did not intend to take part in this debate, but after watching the performance of the Government with

the Premier out of his chair -

An Hon. Member: Are you reading?

Mr. Winsor: No, Sir. I am not reading.

An Hon. Member: He can read if he wants to.

Mr. Winsor: The Minister of Finance, he must have realized the puppet master, Jim Henson, is dead, because I watched him across the House and I don't know if he is trying for Kermit's job, because he has been over like this. All the while the hon. the Member for Green Bay was speaking, he spent his time like this. I do not know if he was trying for a job on the Muppet Show, doing that puppet stuff for Kermit.

An Hon. Member: You are reading.

Mr. Winsor: Reading what? What do you want to see?

Mr. Efford: (Inaudible).

Mr. Winsor: The Minister of Social Services was unusually quiet during that particular debate, and it is unusual for that Minister to be quiet. It is not a thing he can do, but I suspect he saw the Evening Telegram today and saw the demands that he apologize for some statements he made earlier. The Premier has probably now told him, you better be careful and not talk anymore.

Mr. Efford: And you will be standing there some spell before I do.

Mr. Winsor: The Member for Exploits, when the Premier was out of the House, boy he was defensive today. He was certainly going to defend, I do not know what. He

seemed to be under considerable pressure to have something to say, enough that the President of Treasury Board had to come back into the House to take over, because everything was kind of running on the rocks over there.

Well, I want to make a few comments on the Bill, the 1 per cent Hydro will have to pay back on their guaranteed loan.

The Minister knows that one of the things Newfoundlanders hate most is to go to the post office on a particular day of the month, get their light bill, tear it open and find out that light bills have gone up another \$10. I mean, that is the reality of it, that Newfoundlanders are sick and tired of going to the post office, opening their mail and finding - I think it was in February or March that every house I went into the standard comment was, How much has your light bill gone up this month? That was a common complaint throughout the Province. And now the Minister has, through the introduction of this bill, put another burden on the taxpayers of this Province for a number of years.

Hydro rates will continue to go up. And what is even more alarming about this is that the potential in this is kind of unlimited. Because I think some time ago the Minister indicated to me in a conversation that this Province has pretty well reached its maximum potential to produce electricity and we might have to get into building more thermo-fired energy sources. That being the case, then, of course, the guaranteed loan is going to go up substantially, which means the Province is going to have to take more money from Hydro which will

pass it on to the taxpayers of this Province. And to compound it for the poor old Newfoundlanders out there who have tried to make ends meet, the Minister of Forestry announced he is now going to impose restrictions on where they can cut firewood. It has always been there, but he is going to do even more now, he is going to have them harvest wood stands - I think it was juniper and alders, or alders and asp he suggested Newfoundlanders would now resort to burning.

Mr. Matthews: Gestapo tactics.

Mr. Winsor: Gestapo tactics. That, of course, was on top of the money the Minister took last year when he phased out the power subsidy, took \$30 million. The catch-line they had was, take it from the taxpayers and pass it on to the ratepayers. Of course the question is, are not the ratepayers taxpayers as well? So, we have a double whammy and instead of \$30 million, this ends up being \$60 million. Then, of course, our infamous payroll tax is set at what rate this year? - 1.5 per cent. Is there any provision in that tax that next year it will not go to 2 per cent, and 2.5 per cent, maybe, the year after? We could be looking down the road to a point in time when Hydro, as the Minister said, will not be going before the Board. But it could very well have to. Because if the Minister of Finance gets his way, indiscriminately taxing, not really sure what he is going to do, then we could, for a long time, continue to have to pay increased light and power bills as the demand for electricity in this Province goes up.

And to compound it, as the Minister of Energy knows,

relations with Quebec are now quite sour and the power that needs to come from Churchill is quite a long, long, ways off, and is certainly not going to do anything to lower the electricity rates in this Province. Perhaps this might be the thin edge of the wedge for all Government guaranteed loans, to now have to chip a little bit into the coffers of the Province to balance the Budget. I see the would-be Jim Henson successor is back in his seat now. That was a great imitation. The Minister of Finance was out of his seat when I started, but I offered you a new job, Sir. After watching your performance the other day, I offered you a job on the Muppet Show. Jim Henson has died, and with all those motions you were making across the House, I did not know but you were trying to get the job.

An Hon. Member: This is a serious Bill.

Mr. Winsor: It is a serious Bill. Newfoundlanders are quite concerned about it, too.

An Hon. Member: What a terrible thing to say. The man just passed away and you are saying something like that.

An Hon. Member: We won't be able to afford to watch the Muppet Show.

Mr. Winsor: That is right. You won't be able to watch them. People will not be able to afford to put their televisions on because light bills will be too high, if the Minister of Finance continues demanding. The Minister of Energy did not want to do this, you know. The Minister of Energy was forced to do this by the Minister of Finance. He said, you



have to go out and get me more money, claw another few dollars out of the taxpayers. I suspect he went to him and said, do not pass that on to Hydro. The Minister of Finance said no, we will not do that. Then, when his officials got it, everyone was included.

Dr. Kitchen: This is going to pay for the Fogo ferry.

Mr. Winsor: No. it will not pay for the Fogo ferry. There is \$25 million needed to pay for the Fogo ferry and that will not take care of it.

An Hon. Member: We will take back the Fogo ferry and then we will lower the rate. How about that?

Mr. Winsor: Take back the Fogo ferry? No. Obviously, you are not.

Dr. Kitchen: Then how are we going to pay for it?

Mr. Winsor: You can take the allowance back from the Ministers for the cars. If you want to take something back, take back your \$8,000. You just got an allowance.

An Hon. Member: What about taking your \$7,500?

Mr. Winsor: You can have it, Sir, and apply it to the poor of the Province you have burdened with extra taxes.

An Hon. Member: We had to burden them with extra taxes to give you \$1 million for water and sewerage this year.

Mr. Winsor: Don't the people of Fogo deserve \$1 million for water and sewerage? Under fairness, equity and balance, do not the

people of Fogo Island deserve \$1 million? Is that the kind of Government we are seeing here?

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Winsor: Sure, and he should give them more. But, by the same token, we do not slap it on the light bills of the poor of the Province.

In conclusion, I want to caution the Minister to beware of the Minister of Finance, since year after year he could be going to him looking for more money, and ask him to protect the poor of the Province, the ratepayers who are the taxpayers, and keep light bills in tune for them.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Mines and Energy.

If he speaks now, he closes debate.

Dr. Gibbons: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to stick to the essence of this Bill. I have heard the rhetoric, but little of substance was raised in the debate today or the debate two days ago on this particular Bill. The essence of the Bill is that on the \$950 million present guaranteed loans for Hydro, they will be paying 1 per cent or \$9.5 million per year. And this bill allows us to make regulations thereto and Hydro is obligated therefore to pay. Really I am not going to say anything further on the issue, I have said all that needs to be said.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

On motion, a bill, "An Act To Amend The Newfoundland And Labrador Hydro Act, 1975," read a second time, ordered referred to a Committee of the Whole House, on

tomorrow. (Bill No. 31).

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Government House Leader.

Mr. Baker: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Before moving the next item of business, I believe we had agreement earlier that by leave we could deal with a particular resolution. And perhaps if the Member could read his resolution and maybe take a minute or two to say something about it, then the response from the Member for Grand Bank, and then we could, by agreement, pass the resolution, if that is okay with Members of the House?

Mr. Speaker: Do we have concurrence on this?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: Okay.

The hon. the Member for Eagle River.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Dumaesque: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to read into the record the resolution:

WHEREAS as of May 15, 1990 some 1,100 fishermen from the Labrador coast have their unemployment insurance benefits suspended; and

WHEREAS ice conditions are the worst they have been in over a decade; and

WHEREAS access to the fishery ground is prohibited because of ice conditions; and

WHEREAS the Federal Government has

refused to extend these benefits until access to the fishing ground is made probably within four weeks;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this hon. House of Assembly request the immediate review of this decision and implement the necessary extension to the fishermen concerned.

Mr. Speaker, it is a straightforward resolution. But in all its straightforwardness it cannot take away from the seriousness of the issue. Some 1,100 people from L'Anse-au-Clair to Nain, Mr. Speaker, have no money and they have to prepare for the coming season and the ice conditions prohibit them from doing so. And I do not want to belabour the issue, Mr. Speaker. I have indicated on a number of occasions the seriousness and certainly in the last few days we have gotten an indication of the Federal Government's ignorance of the situation down there, and I am happy that the hon. House has made accommodation for this particular resolution today, and I thank all hon. Members for their indulgence and their expression of support for it.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Grand Bank.

Mr. Matthews: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would just like to stand and support the resolution so ably put forward by the Member for Eagle River. And I would like to say that there are times when you have great difficulty understanding why other people do not understand,

and this is a prime case here, that we have a very serious situation along the Labrador, ice conditions are hampering fishermen from fishing and making a living. They are just asking for consideration from the Federal Government to extend their unemployment insurance benefits until the ice moves out and they can go about fishing and make a living.

Now to me that is a most reasonable request and I have great difficulty, like the hon. Member, in understanding why these kind of requests get bogged down in bureaucracy. People do not understand, as the hon. Member as outlined as well. They are ignorant of the facts. They do not understand the Labrador situation, like many times they do not understand the Newfoundland and Labrador situation. And I just hope, Mr. Speaker, that when Ottawa receives word of this unanimous resolution that they will immediately act, take action and extend the benefits to these people who need it so badly.

And I would just like to say to the hon. gentleman that most times when we do these kind of things, you know, nothing happens after. And we seem to think that we have done our job here and of course we have taken, what I think is the most important thing that we have done today, by the way, Mr. Speaker, what we are doing right now, it's a thing that means something material or concrete to 1,100 or so fishermen and their families, so it is the most important thing that we have done today. I just hope that Ottawa takes action on this particular resolution. I say to the hon. Member that if they don't within a reasonable period of time then I

don't think that we, who are now unanimously passing this resolution, should let it stop there, and if it takes us doing something else together, then let's do it.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Matthews: Just give them a reasonable period of time and if they don't respond then there is one way that - you know having been in Government for seven or eight years, there is one thing that I am sure Members opposite know, there is one thing a Government is very sensitive to, and that is adverse publicity, so, if that is the case, then I call upon all Members here, that within a reasonable period of time, if the hon. gentleman is not satisfied with the reception to the resolution, then he should advise us accordingly and we then will jointly do something else to see if we can't nudge the Federal Government to go on about and do what they should do! We are not asking anybody in this resolution to do anything that they shouldn't do, we are just asking them to allow 1,100 or 1,200 fishermen and their families to survive for the next four or five or six weeks. So we are very pleased, Mr. Speaker, to support the hon. Member and Members opposite in this resolution, and I just pray that the people who can make a difference in this situation will make the difference. Thank you very much.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please!

Is the House ready for the question? All those in favour of the resolution, 'Aye'.

Some Hon. Members: Aye.

Mr. Speaker: I declare the resolution carried.

The hon. the Government House Leader.

Mr. Baker: The next order of business, Mr. Speaker, is Motion 1.

Mr. Speaker: Motion 1. Address in Reply.

Mr. Baker: No.

Mr. Speaker: Motion 1. Okay. To 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.

The hon. the Member for Humber East.

Ms. Verge: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I get into my comments on the Budget, I would like to reiterate my support for the Federal Government extending UI benefits for people engaged in the fishery in different parts of our Province where the fishing season is delayed because of ice. There was some controversy here, a week or so ago after the Member for Eagle River circulated a letter over his signature addressed to the Federal Minister of Employment and Immigration responsible for Unemployment Insurance which I did not sign.

The Member complained about that. I stood in my place at the first opportunity and pointed out that I had written my own letter to the Federal Minister, and my not signing the Member's letter was in no way an indication of my lack of support for the cause. I also pointed out that this is not a new

problem, in fact it is a perennial problem. Most years in our Province, in the northern coastal regions on the northern peninsula of the Island and on the coast of Labrador, the fishing season doesn't start until after UI benefits have run out and people engaged in the fishery in those regions suffer.

Repeatedly in past years Members representing those Districts have made representations to the Federal Government, to Federal Governments of both political stripes to change the unemployment insurance regulations to recognize the reality of the fishing conditions in our Province.

My colleague, the Member for Torngat Mountains, who began his career in this Chamber as a Liberal Opposition Member, has been battling this for eleven years now, and today he is in Ottawa, meeting with the Federal Minister of Employment and Immigration, making representations once again. He represents the northernmost constituency in the Province, and his constituents have endured the greatest hardship because of the unemployment insurance regulations.

People on the north coast of Labrador don't think they will be able to start fishing this year until around the beginning of July. It seems as though the ice there won't clear until about the 1st of July. So this is a long-standing problem and it is good to see the Member for Eagle River raising it in the way he did today, and for all Members to unite in making a resolution urging the Federal Government to act now, at long last, in correcting the regulations.

As I mentioned, Mr. Speaker, this inequitable situation has existed not only during the term of the present P.C. Federal Government, but it prevailed during the Trudeau Liberal Administration, as well, during the time that the present MP for Labrador, Mr. Bill Rompkey, was in the Federal Cabinet.

Obviously, Mr. Speaker, much greater effort is going to have to be mounted by people in our Province, leaders especially, to persuade the Federal Government to relent and to adjust the unemployment insurance regulations to reflect the reality of fishing seasons throughout our Province, and to acknowledge that fishing seasons differ. The further north you go, generally speaking, the later the start of the fishing season and the greater the need for extension of U.I. benefits.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I will turn my attention to the Budget. I had barely gotten into comments on the Budget when I had to adjourn the debate, and that was some time ago. I doubt if any hon. Members can, by now, recall what I said then. I was, I believe, referring to the Liberal campaign brochure distributed to each household in the Province during last spring's election campaign. It was a slick, glossy, full-colour production, featuring a picture of the present Premier on the cover, with the slogan, 'Liberal - a Real Change.' Inside the brochure, Mr. Speaker, was the itemized Liberal platform, the 'real change' platform.

As I commented before, there was absolutely no mention of the constitution. The words Meech Lake Accord do not appear in this document.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please!

I wonder if the hon. Member would just allow me to announce the questions for the Late Show this afternoon before she continues with her debate? I am not satisfied with the response given today by the Minister of Fisheries in response to my question about the storm damage done by this week's storm. That is the hon. the Minister for Fogo.

I am not satisfied with the answer given to my question re the lease payments by the hon. the Minister of Fisheries, and I would like it to be placed on the Late Show. The hon. the Member for St. Mary's - The Capes.

I am not satisfied with the answer to the question I asked the Minister of Fisheries today.

I would like to debate the same on the late show. That was the hon. Member for Port au Port.

The hon. the Member for Humber East.

Ms Verge: As I was mentioning in this Liberal 'real change' election brochure is the itemized Liberal platform under the heading Education: it says a Liberal Government will provide students with equal educational opportunities regardless of where they live in the Province, and reform the school tax system to make it more efficient and equitable.

Mr. Speaker, people who believed those election commitments were absolutely shocked to discover, when the opposition ferreted this out of the Minister of Finance's budget document, that it makes no provision for the continued

operation of hospital schools outside St. John's.

Mr. Speaker, for years now the Department of Education has employed teachers at regional hospitals in the Province at the Janeway Childrens Hospital in St. John's, the Central Newfoundland Hospital in Grand Falls, Western Memorial Regional in Corner Brook, and Curtis Memorial in St. Anthony. This budget, Mr. Speaker, allows for the continued employment of all thirteen teachers at the Janeway in St. John's but denies any funding for ongoing schools at the other hospitals.

Mr. Speaker, this Government has decided to close all the hospital schools outside St. John's. Now, how does that fit their election commitment to provide students with equal educational opportunities regardless of where they live in the Province? It is absolutely shocking, Mr. Speaker.

We discovered, Mr. Speaker, that in making this decision neither the Minister of Finance nor his colleague and comrade, the Minister of Education even consulted the people involved. Nobody in this Government asked the teachers they are employing, asked the Newfoundland Teachers Association, asked the hospital administrators concerned, asked school boards or the Association of School Trustees about the value of the hospital schools or the impact on young patients of closing these schools outside St. John's.

Mr. Speaker, by all indications the decision to cut funding of the hospital schools outside St. John's was a panic budget decision similar to the decision to

implement the payroll tax. There does not seem to have been any thought put into it, and we know for a fact the people involved were not asked about it.

Mr. Speaker, the hospital schools are essential for the education and well being of young patients at the regional hospitals, patients who are treated both as in-patients and out-patients for a considerable period of time.

Mr. Speaker, in attempting to justify the decision the Minister of Education has given a variety of excuses. In one interview he said that since some hospitals in the Province do not have schools, he could not rationalize continuing to employ teachers at Central, Western, and Curtis in St. Anthony.

Now, Mr. Speaker, by implication the Minister is saying that to equalize he is going to downgrade, he is going to take away services so that nobody will have them. But, Mr. Speaker, he is continuing to make provision for employing thirteen teachers at the Janeway in St. John's. So, there seems to be a double standard. One standard for the capital, and another standard for the rest of the Province. In expressing some concern about deficiencies in some parts of rural Newfoundland, he has decided to address them by taking away services at three of the regional centers.

Mr. Speaker, another excuse the Minister of Education gave is that school boards could adequately handle these programs. Yet, the Minister has not consulted school boards, his staff had not consulted school boards up to a week or so ago, and school boards have their hands full with their

current responsibilities. School boards are stretched to the limit to deliver their ongoing services, and because of the budget cuts for school boards, boards will have greater stress in meeting their current mandates. There is no way, Mr. Speaker, school boards are going to be able to pick up the hospital schools unless the Minister turns around and gives them equivalent resources to what he is taking away from the three regional hospitals.

Dr. Warren: Just wait and see.

Ms. Verge: The Minister is saying just wait and see. Well, I will tell the Minister that I am waiting, as are teachers, as is the Newfoundland Teachers' Association, as are school boards, as are hospital administrators, as are pediatricians, as are pediatric nurses, as are child psychologists, and as are members of the public who may be in need of these services.

Mr. Speaker, the other excuse the Minister gave, and this was the flimsiest one of all, he was really grasping at straws when he came up with this one, was that the Department's Home Tutor Program would be an appropriate replacement. As my colleague from Fogo said, that is shocking. The Home Tutor Program is flawed; it was never meant to serve hospital patients, its set up under regulations that allow a maximum payment of \$150.00 a month per student. Now, Mr. Speaker, Your Honour, having worked in the field of education, will realize that teachers' salary scales, which are set through the collective bargaining process, far, far exceed \$150.00 a month. Some substitute teachers with superior qualifications and experience earn

\$150.00 a day, yet the Department's home tutor regulations permit a maximum outlay of \$150.00 a month for a student.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, the regulations say that the Department is not to entertain an application until a student has been out of school for two weeks. The administrative arrangement for processing applications is such that it takes at least another week for approval to be given. So in a typical situation where there is an application for a home tutor, the student is out of school three weeks before a tutor is lined up.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister's attempt to placate the public by telling them the Home Tutor Program will replace the hospital schools in the regional centers is unbecoming this Minister. This Minister, with his background at the university Education Department and with his experience working on various Government task forces and commissions, knows better than most educators in the Province that he has no substitute for the regional hospital schools, and it's time for him to admit that the Government made a mistake and reinstate the funding for the hospital schools. Since he believes there are other hospitals in the Province which are being shortchanged, then it is incumbent upon him and his colleagues to find the resources to improve the services at those other hospitals.

Mr. Speaker, there seems to be a myth, which the Minister has contributed to, that only the Janeway Hospital serves children. In fact, all the hospitals in the Province have young patients. The regional hospitals have young

people as inpatients for extended periods of time. The Minister probably knows this, although he hasn't said it publicly, but Western Memorial Regional Hospital has almost half as many admissions of children and adolescents as the Janeway Hospital in St. John's. Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, Western Memorial has several hundreds of young patients for stays of five days or more in the run of a year.

The Minister's Department has employed two teachers at Western Memorial for several years. The program was started when I was Minister actually, it was probably ten years ago. One of those teachers works on the pediatric ward of the hospital teaching young inpatients, working with them so they keep up with their school work during their hospital stay. Obviously, that has an educational benefit, but the medical staff and the nursing staff of the hospital are quick to add that it has a health advantage as well; it is desirable for young people who are hospitalized for extended stays to have the stimulation that comes from programmed structured study, and that stimulation aids in their healing.

Mr. Speaker, the second teacher at Western Memorial works as part of a team called the Child and Adolescent Guidance Service, CAGS is the acronym. That team comprises, in addition to the Department of Education teacher, a child psychologist or two, I believe one or two pediatric nurses, and possibly a nutritionist. The team deals primarily with young people who are outpatients, young people with emotional problems and, in some cases, with mental illness, who benefit greatly from the team

approach.

Mr. Speaker, the clientele served by these teachers are transient and perhaps for that reason we have not heard a great public uproar yet. I would suggest that if the clientele were constant, if they were fixed, that the parents and the young people would be protesting vigorously. But the clientele of the regional hospital schools is transient. Most young people, thankfully, are hospitalized only once and few, if any, people in the Province expect their turn is coming. Hospitalization of a young person is just about always unexpected and, therefore, we have not seen a great public protest yet. But it is incumbent upon this Government and the Minister of Education in particular, to be sensitive to the needs of people who are vulnerable, people who do not have the capacity or the foresight to demonstrate or protest when they are negatively impacted by a Government decision.

Mr. Speaker, this decision to close the regional hospital schools is particularly upsetting to the people affected and who do appreciate the loss, when they look at the make-up of the present Government, when they look at the educational experience of the present Minister of Education, when they think the Minister of Finance is an educator who had a lengthy career at the Education Department of the University, when they realize the Minister of Employment and Labour Relations is a former President of the Newfoundland Teachers' Association, and the Premier's Parliamentary Secretary is a Past President of the NTA. Why would a Government with this make-up take away regional hospital schools and



deprive those vital education and health services to children?

Mr. Speaker, these people do not even seem to care. So the election commitment of equalizing educational opportunity in the Province obviously was not a serious commitment, it was lip service. There has been reverse action. The other education commitment in this brochure was a review of the school tax system. Mr. Speaker, what are they waiting for? They have been in office for more than a year. They brought down two Budgets. The present Minister of Education did an exhaustive analysis of educational financing through two exercises. What more review is required?

All they have done, Mr. Speaker, is give people the impression that school taxation is not vital, which has discouraged people from paying school taxes and driven up the accounts receivable rate of the authorities, and they have imposed the payroll tax for post-secondary education and health. They are giving us not one but two school taxes, Mr. Speaker.

Consistent with their smug attitude, which we are seeing displayed here this afternoon, in the Budget they are proposing to eliminate the Office of the Ombudsman. Now the excuse they have given is that they can't afford to pay two hundred and thirty-odd thousand a year for the Ombudsman and his staff to deal with complaints of the people of the Province against the Government. They seem to think they aren't going to make any mistakes or, if they are inclined in that direction -

Mr. Speaker: Order, please!

The hon. Member's time has elapsed.

Ms. Verge: Oh, too bad! Mr. Speaker, may I just finish this sentence? In summary, Mr. Speaker, they are doing a great disservice to the people of the Province who need the service of an independent watchdog, and their claim -

Some Hon. Members: No leave.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order!

I don't think the hon. Member has the leave of the House.

Ms. Verge: - their claim about needing to save money is a false economy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Kilbride.

Mr. R. Aylward: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am very disappointed to see that Members of the Opposition feel so badly about the Budget they brought in that they are not willing to get up in this House of Assembly - oh, Members of the Government -

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. R. Aylward: - and defend this great Budget which was supposed to be the best Budget ever brought down in this Province, as said by the hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Speaker. I guess the Minister of Finance would have to say these types of words in order to justify the tax grab he has inflicted upon the people of this Province. I am just going through my desk trying to organize what I had here and throw away what I don't consider relevant today, this day, and I came across this cartoon which appeared in the paper sometime ago. This cartoon shows me what a

dismal failure this Government has been, now that they are into their second year. Mr. Speaker, the cartoon reads, and this is what was supposed to be the real change in this Government, the cartoon reads: 'Mr. Wells, with all these layoffs in the fish plants and the paper mill, will you still be bringing my sons home?' That, in itself, those few words with a little picture, says a million words, that the great change this Government was supposed to bring about, which would bring home all the Newfoundlanders who had, over time, left this Province to find work to support their families - the Premier of this Province was supposed to bring them all home, and the Federal Government even put on new ferries between Port aux Basques and North Sydney, and there is a new ferry going on between Port aux Basques and Argentia, so they could accommodate the traffic which would be generated by this real change the Liberal Government was supposed to bring in.

Mr. Speaker, just to go over a few notes I have here about this real change the Liberal Government has brought in. I want to go over a few highlights of this Budget to show what the change actually is, and have a few words to show that the great Budget the Minister of Finance brought in certainly was not a great Budget for the youth of this Province. Some of the things this Budget has done to the youth of this Province, Mr. Speaker: First of all, they showed a lot of concern for the youth of Labrador when they cut the travel subsidy for the sports program. Now, Mr. Speaker, that shows what they would like to do for the youth of Labrador, when they cut the Cultural and Athletic Program for Labrador youth

An Hon. Member: It was never cut.

Mr. R. Aylward: Only because of the representations made by Members on this side of the House, the Member for Menihek and the Member for Torngat Mountains. There was a committee set up of one-quarter of the Cabinet Ministers, or one-third of the Cabinet of this Province to do a study. After six weeks of study, Mr. Speaker, they partially reinstated the travel program for the youth of this Province; they brought back part of the program. Yet, when families in Labrador wish to take their vacations in Newfoundland, where at one time, under several former Administrations, they could get a 20 per cent rebate on travelling to the Island, which encouraged an exchange between Labrador the Island portion of the Province, that was cut and it was not reinstated. That is one thing this Budget has done for the people of this Province.

One other great step forward in this great Budget brought down by this progressive Government we have elected, Mr. Speaker, was to take away from the hospitals the teachers they had for children who are sick. Mr. Speaker, there is no worse deed I can think of than to deprive children, especially sick children, of an opportunity for education. That has to be the most despicable move any Government has inflicted upon the people of this Province, especially sick children of this Province, who are being deprived of educational opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, it is bad enough when a child is sick, it is hard enough and stressful enough on the family and on the child, but when this child has to go to a hospital for

several days or weeks, has to be in a strange environment, in a hospital setting, which makes them very stressful, the only thing that child could have that would provide some type of normal living or something they were used to was to have a teacher available to provide activities for them so they could keep their minds off the sickness they have, Mr. Speaker. And for the Minister of Education to put up with this, I find it surprising. Because I have a lot of respect for the Minister of Education we have now.

I would say he probably did fight hard, Mr. Speaker, but the scrooge we have as Minister of Finance for this Province, who does not care for sick children, who does not care if the sick children of this Province keep up to date in their education while they are sick, prevailed, and the remainder of the fourteen Members of Cabinet also prevailed, to take away the educational opportunities for sick children in this Province.

Now, Mr. Speaker, even more serious than this is where these teachers are being taken from; they are being taken from the rural areas of this Province which, the Minister of Education admits, do not have the same standard of education, the same educational opportunities as people in larger centres. For the Minister of Education to allow these teachers to be taken from the rural areas of this Province even makes the move much more despicable.

Mr. Speaker, one other thing this great Budget has done for the youth of this Province. In two years, in two Budgets in succession, tuition fees have been increased for young people who

want to go to post-secondary institutions in this Province, particularly Memorial University. They have had two increases in tuition fees. With all the job losses we are having in this Province and with all the problems parents are having in providing for their children, it is a hard time to add extra costs for young people of this Province who want to better themselves, who want to further their education so that work opportunities may be increased, although if this Government continues for another three or four years the job opportunities they will have will probably be in Ontario, or maybe in Alberta, certainly not in Newfoundland, Mr. Speaker, because this Province is not creating any work opportunities for young people.

Mr. Parsons: That is right. I agree with you.

Mr. R. Aylward: They have not to date, and it does not look very much like they have any plans whatsoever to create jobs so our young people will stay in this Province.

Mr. Speaker, I have some figures here in my notes. I will check them out, and during our sitting tonight I will give some of them to you.

One other thing this great Budget has done for the youth of this Province, Mr. Speaker, is cut out the recreation capital grant system to municipalities which allowed a municipality to create a soccer field, or maybe build a tennis court, or provide recreational activities for the young people of each of these communities. This has been cancelled. Mr. Speaker, the only

money announced this year was money left over from last year, and they are even afraid to announce what they did with that. I would suspect it was spent in a very political pork barrelling manner.

Mr. Speaker, the Youth Diversion Program in Grand Falls, another program we had in place; we had a petition of over 1,000 names in support of that program. The Minister of Social Services, who does not show the care and attention to the youth of the Province he showed when he was on this side, has taken away the funding for a program that was working, for a program that was helping troubled youth in the Grand Falls area. So this great Budget has taken away funding for the Youth Diversion Program in Grand Falls, Mr. Speaker, which is another very despicable move.

Mr. Efford: How come you asked me no questions about it?

An Hon. Member: It is too bad! Too bad!

Mr. R. Aylward: The 1,000 people who petitioned this House, Mr. Speaker, asked the question would the Minister reinstate this program in Grand Falls? The answer these 1,000 got back was an absolute no, we are not going to provide increased funding for this program. Probably it seemed to be too successful. I do not know, but it seems to be the type of logic this Government is using. They cannot stand successful programs, Mr. Speaker, so they cut them out.

Mr. Speaker, the Youth Services vote in the Department of Provincial and Municipal Affairs has been cut this year by some

\$85,000. Another great move by this Government which is trying to drive the youth of this Province away so they can cut down on their unemployment statistics. Because everyone will have left this Province, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Will the hon. Member adjourn the debate.

Mr. R. Aylward: It being 4:30 p.m., I adjourn the debate, Mr. Speaker.

#### Debate on the Adjournment [Late Show]

Mr. Speaker: I recognize the hon. the Member for Fogo.

An Hon. Member: Lay it on! Lay it on! Give it to them.

Mr. Winsor: Mr. Speaker, earlier this afternoon I asked the Minister of Fisheries about the impending crisis on the northeast coast and, I guess, the fishery in all of Newfoundland, because of the storm over the last four or five days, and the Minister, in his answer, was again very wishy-washy, saying the Province is not in a position to do anything about it. Mr. Speaker, the people of Newfoundland cannot accept that type of response from the Minister. This crisis is far too great for that. In my own District, from Lumsden to Ladle Cove, fishermen who were fishing 300 lobster traps are just picking up buoy ropes this morning, all 300 traps are in on shore. They haven't been able to examine the extent of the damage to lump gear yet, but most likely, they figure, there are just headropes and footropes left because of the high seas and rough weather conditions

which have been encountered over the past two or three days.

The Minister has indicated there is something that can be done; there is a trap bank in place, traps have been sold for \$7 each in the past. The Minister is well aware that the fishery has been off to a late start; it was mid-May before the fishery got off the ground. Lump roe has been, I think, 45 to 50 cents a pound, lobster has been selling for anywhere from \$1.00 to \$1.50, depending on where you are in the Province. For a fisherman who has had 300 lobster traps destroyed, at \$7 a trap, it comes to \$2,100. These fishermen just do not have \$2,100. That is in addition to the expense they have already encountered with gas, licencing and everything. The amount of money fishermen had at their disposal to buy things has now been spent, and it is imperative that the Province step in.

This is not a resource problem. The same lobsters that were in the water yesterday are still there today. As a matter of fact, the prices now have edged upward slightly, so fishermen could have a more prosperous summer if they can get traps back in the water. The problem these people are experiencing is they do not have traps and there is no immediate solution. The Province was to examine it. The season closes, I remind the Minister, on July 15th, but effectively, in most places, the season closes July 1st for fishermen, because they take the traps out of the water because of the shortage of lobsters. Usually, at that point in time, they won't trap. So now we have five or six weeks left of the lobster season. If fishermen cannot have traps to put back in

the water by Monday morning, then, I would suggest to the Minister, that the future of the northeast coast and, indeed, in Mr. Speaker's District, Bonavista North - the devastation in that area is equal to what has been experienced in Fogo and, I would assume, Twillingate would be experiencing the same problem.

It is not good enough for the Minister to say we are examining it and we are going to estimate the damages, we are going to evaluate. The Minister now has to get his officials out into the field, get the actual losses and, by Monday of this week, have a program put in place to assist these fishermen who also, by the way, have had their UIC benefits terminated as of May 15th and are now in the same position as the fishermen along the coast of Labrador whom we just supported.

The Minister now can do something for these fishermen. He has the traps in the bank; it is not going to cost the Province anything, the traps being there. Why doesn't the Minister take them, distribute them to the affected communities along the northeast coast, and the west coast, I think. My colleague from Port au Port says his fishermen are experiencing the same kinds of difficulties. Give the fishermen the traps so they can get on to the business of fishing to make a livelihood for their families, to get them through the summer, so the Minister of Social Services will not have to deal with it in two or three days time. The Minister is now in a position to do something and he should do it. Let the Province for a change, put some money into the fishery as it should.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

Mr. Carter: Mr. Speaker, I do not know where the hon. Member gets the impression that I was wishy-washy in my reply to his question, because I certainly was not. I did indicate to the Member and to the House that we do have a lobster pot bank, a supply of lobster pots that were built for that very purpose. We cannot very well go down and start doling out lobster pots until we, first of all, do an assessment of the damage and see how many people lost lobster pots, see where the losses occurred. And then, Mr. Speaker -

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Carter: Time, Mr. Speaker, we will have to make time. We have to act in a responsible manner. We have to act in a responsible way. I know that the fishermen have a problem, but we cannot just cast aside all rules and regulations to accommodate them, as much as we want to. We have to take time to, first of all, find out how many lobster pots were destroyed and how many fishermen will want them replaced. Then, having done that, and I mentioned earlier about the cost, I believe it is around \$7 for a pot which is far, far less than what a lobster pot would cost I am told. Under normal circumstances that would only represent, I suppose, two or three lobsters, but I know this year the price is down.

Mr. Speaker, I can only tell the Member now that my people will be acting with all due haste to find out first of all how many lobster pots were destroyed, where they

were destroyed, talk to the fishermen concerned and try to find some way to alleviate the problem.

An Hon. Member: How many lobster pots are in the bank?

Mr. Carter: Pardon? How many lobster traps in the bank? I have no idea, quite frankly, but I know there are a considerable number of pots around the coast. How many?

An Hon. Member: A thousand.

Mr. Carter: A thousand, well it might well be that we are not going to have enough pots in the bank to accommodate all of the losses. But that was a program, Mr. Speaker, that was started some years ago on a make work program and I believe it has worked very well. Prior to the time when that program came in place, lobster fishermen on the northwest coast and down in the Fogo District area would suffer severe losses of pots, and would have to spoil their summer trying to rebuild. So, we decided we would put together a large number of lobster pots in a bank that would be made available to fishermen for a nominal cost. And that is what we are still doing.

So, Mr. Speaker, I can only tell the Member today what I told him this morning or this afternoon. We will work as fast as we can and do all that we can to get lobster pots back into the hands of the fishermen who suffered losses. We realize that time is of the essence, and if they lose a day then it could very well have a serious impact on their chances of making a decent living this year.

So he has my word for it. We will be acting as rapidly as possible

to do what needs to be done to get these men back into the fishery.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for St. Mary's - The Capes.

Mr. Hearn: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My question was also to the Minister of Fisheries, and it concerns the lease payments being made by various operators around the Province.

In the last few days the Minister, in talking about the Twillingate situation in particular, has said over and over that he would not do anything for Twillingate that he would not be willing to do for any other operators in the Province. He treats them all alike, and I respect that.

What we are saying is that a number of operators, this year in particular more so than any, are going through hard times. Anybody who thinks that plant operators today are out making a fortune, I think, are thinking incorrectly. There is no big lineup for many of the plants that were open for new buyers or operators or leasees, whatever. In fact, Governments, Provincially and Federally, had to go out and solicit in some cases invitations to come in and have a look and to take over the plants. The Minister was quite lucky to get an operator like Dr. Blackwood to go into Twillingate and we have been fairly fortunate in getting operators into places like Branch, and as of yesterday St. Mary's. Still the River Head plant is not open, and there is no big lineup for plants. A few years ago you would have them lined up for miles, but the -

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Hearn: Well it is certainly

not my buddies. It might be the Minister's buddies but it certainly is not mine.

And it is unfortunate that this plant is closed - it really is. The problem is a number of them, and I will refer specifically to Branch and St. Bride's, in Branch where Mr. Tilly and Woodford and those have gone in after a number of years trying to get operators, it is not an area where people are going to have access to a lot of fish and they have had problems getting operators. The Committee has managed now to get people interested and hopefully it will be a successful operation. But unless they are given some concession on the lease, it is going to be a burden. If they are, being new operators and they have to work out that deal with the Provincial Government, certainly it is a Provincial plant, I think the same deal should apply then to a plant like St. Bride's, which is in a dilapidated condition, and where the operators have done a tremendous job, as the Minister is well aware, under very, very trying circumstances. But the amount of money paid for the lease is really a detriment to any operator.

In Admiral's Beach, for instance, just a couple of years ago before the operator went into a lease/purchase agreement, I know he was paying \$30,000 a year. That might not sound much in a good year when on caplin, crab, cod or whatever, operators are making a lot of money. In a bad year where a lot of them are just hoping to stay alive until things turn around, it is significant.

So, when the Minister says, that he did, or they have made a good

deal to encourage the Blackwood Company to go in to Twillingate, and as we say we have absolutely nothing or we are not in disagreement with that, nothing to say against it, what we do say is that if you are going to do it for one group, then certainly the same thing could be passed on to others.

The Provincial Government has been saying that the problems in the fishery are a result of poor management by the Federal Government. We have no argument with that, as we have said before, it is true. Many of the problems they cannot do anything about because it is all under Federal control, that to a certain point is true also. They do have control, however, over the leasing and the arrangements made in the leasing of fish plants that they own specifically.

For this year, I would suggest to the Minister it would certainly be taken to be in very good faith if the Minister would do, in all other areas, what he intends to do in Twillingate and that is, to say to the operators out there, if you are having a tight year financially, then we will forgive the lease payment. Maybe the Minister intends to do that. I would certainly appreciate if he would stand up and clarify the remarks he made when he said, we will do for the others what we will do for Twillingate.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

Mr. Carter: I assure the hon. Member now that this Member is much more popular in Branch today than what that Member is in Twillingate.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hearn: I (inaudible) buy that. Do you want to try it?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear! Right on.

Mr. Carter: Because I can tell you now, Mr. Speaker, I was on the telephone last night as I usually am, calling constituents, and I can tell you now that the people of Twillingate are not amused by the actions of the Members opposite. They do not take too kindly, Mr. Speaker, when people do and say things that will have the effect of jeopardizing their livelihood. I can tell you now, I suppose, I will benefit from it to some extent, because I would suggest to you that after the outburst from the Members opposite yesterday and their criticism of the Twillingate plant opening, that within a few hours a Tory will be an endangered species in Twillingate District.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some Hon. Members: (Inaudible).

Mr. Carter: They can shout all they like the damage is done, Mr. Speaker. The damage is done.

Getting back to the question -

An Hon. Member: They should apologize.

Mr. Carter: Yes, they should apologize. They should get on their knees and apologize to the good people of Twillingate for the way they acted yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, on the matter of leases, these are properties that are owned by the Province and the Province endeavors to collect a reasonable rent for some of these properties, but there is nothing



written in stone. Every case is pretty well judged on its own merit. If an operator comes along who has a reasonable amount of equity, has reasonable access to a reasonable amount of raw material, and who shows some promise, we will certainly not let a lease payment stand in the way of that person getting that fish plant. That is the way it has been, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, in the case of Twillingate we have another example of where a company that was bankrupt, that for three years ran a very substantial loss: we want to give them a chance to see what they can do. They are putting up their own money. In fact the \$2 or \$3 million in working capital will be put up by Dr. Blackwood's company. They did not ask for a guarantee, nor did they get one, and to me that is having enough faith in the industry to encourage us to give them a break, and we are giving them a break on the lease payment.

But certainly, Mr. Speaker, getting back to the question, in cases where a person comes to us wanting to lease one of our properties, all things being equal, we are quite willing to sit down and talk to that person and negotiate a fair lease. Now anymore than that we cannot do. We try to keep the playing field as level as possible and treat everybody alike, but we do have different scales. For example, in Labrador there would be a different scale from a plant that was being leased in Branch or Jerseyside, or in some isolated community like Great Harbour Deep. There is a slightly different rate than would be charged in say, Jackson's Arm or Englee, but we do endeavor to accommodate good potential operators. I do not know yet of a

case where a lease payment, or a person's inability to meet a lease payment, prevented that person from getting a plant, all other things being equal.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Port au Port.

Mr. Hodder: Mr. Speaker, I am not satisfied with the Minister's answer to two questions that I asked today, each dealing with the west coast and with Port au Port. My problem with the Minister is that he has not shown in any way that he has any inclination to roll up his sleeves and do the job. On a number of occasions, as the Minister has alluded to, we have lost an operator in Port au Port, and the Minister continues to get up and say that the plant is not viable, but, Mr. Speaker, the plant is viable.

The last company did not go bankrupt in Port au Port. The last company became over-extended by taking over a plant in the hon. the Minister of Development's District. They made money in Port au Port for two years. In the last year they had some problems, but the problems were related to over-extension. When National Sea was in Port au Port, National Sea made money in Port au Port. When they left Port au Port they did not leave Port au Port because of Port au Port, they left a number of small plants all over the Province. They left plants in Bay of Islands which are now operating, they left plants on this part of the coast, that was back some years ago, but whether or not the plant is viable at the present time or not is not the question, Mr. Speaker, the plant can be made viable.

And the Minister gets up and says

the plant is not viable but yet, Mr. Speaker, he does not go out and sit down and talk to the people there, and have a look at it. One person has visited it. And this has been going on since sometime in January when the announcement was made. There have been a number of requests to him. I know he is going there soon, but, Mr. Speaker, that is just not good enough. I have just heard the Minister's comments regarding the plant in his own District. He mentioned it in Question Period today and gave credit to the Economic Recovery Commission in the job that they had done in helping the Twillingate plant. Well I am not against the Twillingate plant opening up. Good! I am glad it is opened. But what I am saying, Mr. Speaker, is that I did not hear anything about an Economic Recovery Commission trying to make the facility go in Port au Port. And what is the difference between Port au Port and Twillingate? Well I will tell you what the difference between Port au Port and Twillingate is, Mr. Speaker, it is that the Minister is the Member for Twillingate not the Member for Port au Port.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hodder: And, Mr. Speaker, what I am saying is that the Minister has not done that sort of job in Port au Port - he has done nothing in Port au Port except sit and wait.

Now there were two things that we asked for in Port au Port, Mr. Speaker. We asked that the Minister advertise? He said, 'No, he would not advertise.' We asked for an operator for the plant. We asked that some splitting tables be put in, that the place be

refurbished to a certain extent so that we could better promote the plant. The Minister would not do that.

Mr. Speaker, in asking those questions the Minister hurt the chances of the plant, because he got up and told the Province that the plant was not viable and he did it here in this House. So, Mr. Speaker, that is not fairness and balance. And the Minister cannot sit and look after the plant in his District and forget a plant in Port au Port, the Piccadilly plant.

The other part of the question which I asked today, Mr. Speaker, had to do with the Lobster Pot Program and the disaster which has happened on the west coast. Anywhere else in this country if the type of disaster happened in the fishery that happened on the west coast of the Province, and is still ongoing, Mr. Speaker, at this moment as I speak, that the Governing party, the Premier, the Minister, would be there flying around in helicopters pitching down and talking to the men and showing them that they were on their side, and at least somebody cared, and that is one of the things that has not happened.

In the District of Port au Port this year fish prices are down, lobster prices are down, UIC takes fourteen weeks, their plant is closed, the ice came in and now they do not have any lobster pots left. They cannot do it. Now the Minister says, \$7 is not much for a lobster pot. But when a fisherman has lot 300 lobster pots, Mr. Speaker, and that is what most of them have lost, that is what most of them fish and what most of them have lost. When they lose 300 lobster pots that is over

\$2,000 they have to find three days after the season starts.

Now I know that the Minister did not bring the storm. But, Mr. Speaker, what I am saying is that I would like to see an Administration that when there are problems such as that, when the plant is down, when the fishery is in trouble, I would like to see the Minister over there, and I want to see him sitting down and his officials putting their heads together with the organizations over there, the Port au Port Development Association, the unions and everything else. At least, Mr. Speaker, if nothing was accomplished they would know that they had an Administration and that somebody cared about them.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

Mr. Carter: Mr. Speaker, the closing of the plant in Piccadilly, of course, is bringing some hardship, no doubt, on the people affected. This Government did not invent the practice of closing fish plants. In fact, given all the circumstances and the state of the resource, I think we have done pretty well in avoiding the closing of fish plants, given the fact that between 1985 and 1989 the previous Administration and the then Minister, the present Leader of the Opposition, stood by and allowed twenty-four fish plants to close in the Province.

Some Hon. Members: Twenty-four?

Mr. Carter: Twenty-four fish plants were closed, Mr. Speaker, during the period April 1985 and April 1989. You know, as good as we are, I do not think we can beat that record. I do not think we

can even come close to it. I do not think we can even come close to that record, twenty-four fish plants in three years.

Mr. Speaker, getting back to the plant in Piccadilly. We have had a number of enquiries, very positive enquiries. We have had some positive enquiries from people with respect to the Piccadilly plant, and my officials have talked to them, in fact it was only a day or two ago I signed a letter, it is going to some gentleman in the States who has expressed an interest in the Piccadilly plant. I can only say what I said this afternoon, that every effort that can be made, is being made to find an operator, but, Mr. Speaker, it is not easy, and the hon. gentleman might talk about the availability of raw material but I think the fact that that plant has changed hands now about four or five times, about two or three times in as many years, that pretty well speaks for itself. You had Connors Brothers there, I think -

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Carter: Three times for the lack of resource - by and large for the lack of resource. Mr. Speaker, be that as it may, I intend to visit the Port au Port peninsula next weekend, and I will be happy to sit down with the interest groups out there and find out just what can be done, and if there is any possible way of getting an operator in that plant, you can be sure we will find it. Getting back to his lobster pot problem, I can't say much more to him than I said to his colleague from Fogo. You know we didn't create the storms, the damage that has been done to the fishing gear is not of our making, but

certainly we will move in when the time comes or at least when things settle down, and do an assessment of what damage was done. If there are enough pots left in the bank, and if the fishermen want to avail of them, then we will make them available to them, and if the fishermen can't afford to pay the seven dollars, then let us talk about that too. But certainly we are not going to keep a fisherman from fishing, for the sake of a seven dollar fee for a lobster pot, if it can be demonstrated that he just doesn't have the money. So these are the things we are doing, Mr. Speaker, and I don't know what more we can do. It is not an easy task to keep everything moving, especially this time of the year when you have storms and gear losses and all that, and I would expect a little more understanding from the Members opposite because they have gone through it and they know the magnitude of the problem. And getting up and trying to attribute blame and point fingers at people who are responsible, that serves no purpose whatever.

An Hon. Member: You did it in Opposition.

Mr. Carter: No, we didn't do it. We were a more reasonable opposition and more compassionate and more human in our approach to things, more understanding, and consequently we developed a very good working relationship with Members opposite, and I would ask the Members opposite to take the same line and maybe it might get them a little further. There is an old saying that: Honey attracts a lot more flies than vinegar and obviously those gentlemen have not heard that saying yet. So, Mr. Speaker, getting back to what I was saying,

we will endeavour to do what can be done to assist the fishermen. We will have an assessment done of their losses and then we will try to find ways of getting lobster pots back in their hands.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved and seconded that this House do now adjourn.

All in favour, 'Aye'.

Some Hon. Members: Aye.

Mr. Speaker: Contrary minded, 'Nay'.

Some Hon. Members: Nay.

Carried.

Mr. Speaker: His Honour will be in the Chair at 7:00 p.m.



Province of Newfoundland

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

***Speaker: Honourable Thomas Lush***

The House resumed at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: Order!

The hon. the Member for Kilbride.

Mr. R. Aylward: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Now that I have had a good supper, Mr. Speaker, I am revitalized, and I want to continue my devastating attack on this unfair budget against the people of the Province. I just want to recap some of the things this Government has done to the youth of the Province, Mr. Speaker - how a Government can be so unfair to the most deserving people of our Province, the future of our Province. When they start attacking the youth, it is a sign of a desperate Government, especially when they start attacking the sick children in hospitals and take away the teachers.

I am really surprised, Mr. Speaker, that every time I mention the taking away of teachers jobs in the hospitals of this Province, that a former president of the NTA continues to interrupt. He is a person in this House who should be standing up for the teachers, if not for the young people, if he does not see that the young sick people of this Province deserve to have their education continued while they are in hospital. A former president of the NTA, the Member for Exploits, should be standing here supporting his teachers, or the teachers that he once represented. According to the Telegram today, the NTA is having an emergency meeting now, and I guess it is going to cause some problems for former NTA presidents that are sitting in this House, before the

negotiations are completed with the NTA, Mr. Speaker.

But when we finished debate before supper, Mr. Speaker, I was mentioning the Youth Diversion Program in Grand Falls, a program, which seemed to be working to help out young people of this Province who were having some difficulty, and a program that seemed to be successful. It is a shame that the Minister of Social Services would have allowed the money for this program to be taken away by the Minister of Finance of this Province, Mr. Speaker.

There is a Division in one of the Departments, Youth Employment Services, and that part of our budget has been reduced by \$185,000 this year, which is another blow to the youth of this Province who are trying to get educated and get their lives straightened away and provide themselves with an education so that they might have more opportunities than even their parents did.

Mr. Speaker, this budget also has a drastic effect on consumers of this Province. It shows a trend, as I said one time before in this House of Assembly, the trend of the way this Government and this Cabinet and this Premier that we have are thinking about representations of the ordinary people of the Province. The trend comes through, Mr. Speaker, when you consider such actions of this Government as taking away the consumer representative on the Public Utilities Board.

Mr. Speaker, some years ago, when the hon. Members opposite were in Opposition, and I remember one of their Members, in particular, he used to represent LaPoile at the

time, Mr. Neary was his name, and every time, Mr. Speaker, that electrical rates were to increase even by the amount of inflation for the year, which does not seem to be too much of an unreasonable increase, but every time there was ever a mention of an increase of electrical rates, that Member would practically hit the ceiling.

There was a lot of concern in the Province from the consumers of electricity at the time, about the increases, and there was a lot of activity by the Government, and I remember the Member who represented St. John's East, at the time, the House Leader, took it upon himself to try to work out some method of allowing the consumers of this Province, the consumers of electricity, to feel that they were being represented in these hearings from the Public Utilities Board so that, at least, they had a say in the decisions.

And one of the recommendations, and one of the actions that were approved by that Government, Mr. Speaker, was to put a consumer representative on the Board of the Public Utilities Commission. This suggestion came through the Member for St. John's East and through a group of consumers, and I particularly remember one person's name was a Mrs. Peddle from Flatrock, who were very active at the time. When the consumer representative went on the Public Utilities Board, they had a comfort, that they had some input into the say of how much they would be paying for electrical bills.

Mr. Speaker, what did this Government do but take away that comfort, take away the person who was representing the consumers on the decisions, and they replaced

it with a consumer advocate, I believe it is called, and the person that is doing the job part-time now, is a Mr. Casey here is St. John's, and I have no problem with Mr. Casey, I do not know the man, he might be the most competent person in the world, Mr. Speaker, but to do this type of a job, on part-time, is just not practical. You cannot represent the consumers interests on a Public Utilities Board part-time.

The person who was acting as the consumer representative on the Board, Mr. Andy Wells, did a very good job in my mind, and not only in my mind, but in the mind of the Supreme Court of Newfoundland, when a decision of his was upheld only last week to save the consumers of this Province nearly \$1 million. Mr. Speaker, I think it is very disappointing that this Government would remove such an active person, such a knowledgeable person from a position where he could help consumers and where he proved by his actions that he was helping consumers. But Mr. Speaker, this is a part of the trend that this Government is inflicting on the people of this Province.

We also saw a story in one of the local papers about the Auditor General's term coming up in in two years from now, and that story reported that the watchdog of the Government purse was going to have the Legislation changed and he was probably going to be replaced. A very competent person also holds that position in this Province now, Mr. Speaker, and again the trend for Government is to replace this competent and very experienced Auditor General with someone less experienced than presently exists today.

Then we have another action of this Government which completely baffles me, I do not understand it, I will never understand it, Mr. Speaker, when I know some of the people across the way, I do not think they agree with it, but I know them to be fair-minded people. I know them to want to have consumers or the general public in this Province have an avenue to express their complaints or to express any dissatisfactions they might have with the Public Service or the politicians of this Province, or the police of this Province. When the office of the Ombudsman has been cancelled in this Province, it has to be a step that far backwards, that we will never get out of the dark ages again, when it is accomplished. We still have time to change our mind on that one, Mr. Speaker. For a couple of hundred thousand dollars a year, \$300,000, whatever it cost last year, to have the position of Ombudsman in place so that, again, there is a comfort from the general public to know that they have a last resort person to whom they can make their final appeal and there will be an independent assessment done of their complaint.

There was an article in one of the papers there a little while ago by a political science instructor from University, Boswell, I believe is his name, he did an article on the abolishment of the Ombudsman only a couple of days ago, and his assessment, his reasoning of why this was done, he said himself that he cannot understand for the life of him why we would take away this position of Ombudsman. One good point that he did make is that he would expect that the public service of this Province would be in favor of keeping the Ombudsman's office

because, of the complaints that are dealt with by the Ombudsman, most of them come down on the side of the public servant or the Government Department who made the decision. And the person who complained feels a bit better about their complaint, that it was looked at by an independent person, Mr. Speaker. The savings for the Ombudsman's office will be very small, and the Ombudsman had nine hundred complaints to deal with last year, of those, four hundred of them, he was able to work on.

Now, Mr. Speaker, rather than take away the Ombudsman office for dealing with complaints, and we realize that he could not deal with the whole nine hundred of these complaints, and that is a problem for him, so what did we do to solve his problem, we take away the position rather than increase his responsibilities and powers so that he could deal with more of these complaints, Mr. Speaker.

And when we took the money away from the Ombudsman's office, I guess they had to find somewhere to spend it and obviously one of the areas where they wanted to spend it, Mr. Speaker, was on the new office of the Information Services. This new office now will come under the Directorship of the Premier and his press secretary, Judy Foote, I believe is her name. Mr. Speaker, that will politicize the office of Newfoundland Information Service, something that was never done in the time that I served as a Minister of this Province, actually I had press releases refused from NIS because they were considered to be too political, and I am not recognized as being an overly political person, but I did have press statements refused



by NIS. I was a Minister of the Crown and there was not a thing I could do about it, and it was the right thing to do.

An Hon. Member: Table it.

Mr. R. Aylward: I do not need to table it, Mr. Speaker, because it is public information, because when I feel the need to get out a statement, if I have to walk around to all the media personally and deliver it, I will do that. I will not need Information Services.

Mr. Speaker, one other thing now, and this is something new that was not available to me, yes there probably was one in the Department, but I do not recall using it, but every Minister and every Member now can have their own fax machine. So, I mean, these fax machines can be used quite easily by, certainly they are used a lot in our office, I realize, so there is no reason to double the budget for Newfoundland Information Services, and there is no reason to put it in the Premier's office.

Mr. Hogan: The role is changed.

Mr. R. Aylward: Yes the role is changed. I agree with the Member for Placentia that the role is changed now. It was a completely non political role at one time, Mr. Speaker, just to explain Government policies and Departmental programs, and right now the role will be changed, it will be used as a political propoganda arm for the Premier and Executive Council. Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not say that frivolously, I believe that. I certainly believe that that is what will happen to it.

An Hon. Member: And that is true

too.

Mr. R. Aylward: Mr. Speaker, the hon. Minister of Forestry and Agriculture suggested that I compare my office to his, and actually the office that he is using now is the exact office that I was using, Mr. Speaker, and I do give him credit for not stripping out the meager bit of furniture we had there, it was very conservative furniture, and he kept it, he saw the wisdom in my setting up that office rather frugally and he accepted the equipment that was there, and did not try to change it and waste money.

Mr. Speaker, I do not have very much time left in speaking on this Budget, but I do have one more thing I want to say. I guess I will have an opportunity again, when the nonconfidence motion is moved by one of the Speakers in this House, so we will all have a chance to speak at least twice on this debate.

I do want to make a comment on the words of the Premier, the insulting words of the Premier of this Province, only two days ago, when he called the constituents of the District of Kilbride parasites. I really felt insulted when I heard the Premier of this Province call my constituents parasites. Mr. Speaker, I can assure the Premier and the Government of this Province, that there are no parasites, the people of my District are not parasites.

I was also insulted when I heard him call the constituents of the District of St. John's South, parasites. I can assure him that the people I represented on Shea Heights some years ago are not parasites in this Province. They

are very dedicated, hard working Newfoundlanders, and they are not parasites as characterized by the Premier of this Province.

The people in Plesantville that I know are not parasites. They are hard working people. A lot of public servants, and they contribute as much as anyone in this Province to the economy and the working of this Province.

The people I know in St. John's North, and I expect that the Minister of Education will get up and agree with me, and condemn the Premier for calling his constituents parasites. I am sure the Minister of Education, who is a very principled person, will get up in this House one of these days and say that his constituents are not parasites, as the Premier called them only a couple of days ago.

I am not sure if the Minister of finger lickin good is going to get up and apologize. One of these days, he is going to go up into a cloud of secret herbs and spices and explode. But he will not get up in this House and ask the Premier to apologize to his constituents. Unfortunately, he will not be able to do it.

The Member for Mount Scio, who is not here now, probably some day, although I am not sure, I think he wants to get into Cabinet too bad. I am not sure that he will ever get up and stand up for his constituents who happen to live in the City of St. John's.

The Caucus chairman, who abdicated his throne a little while ago; I am sure he will not get up and ask the Premier to apologize because he is too anxious to get into Cabinet. I would say, from my

assessment of the people on the other side, it is just as well for him to get up and ask the Premier to apologize to his constituents because he is not going to be in Cabinet anyway.

One person over there who I think might have the nerve to do this, one representative from the City of St. John's, who might be able to stand up and ask the Premier - he might have to do it privately, I am not sure - to retract these remarks, the Member for St. John's West. It is quite possible that he might ask the Premier in some quiet time to apologize to his constituents, because I know, and he knows that his constituents are not parasites.

I am not sure if the Premier was referring to all the constituents of the District of Waterford - Kenmount, because some of them happen to live in Mount Pearl. Maybe the Premier only believes that the St. John's constituents of the Member for Waterford - Kenmount, or the Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs; maybe the Premier only thinks the St. John's part of his constituency and those people are parasites.

Mr. Speaker, what a disincentive for amalgamation around this area, when you have the Premier calling the residents of the City of St. John's, parasites. Who is going to want to go into a City that the Premier considers to be parasites.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please!

The hon. gentleman's time has expired.

The hon. the Member for Placentia.

Mr. Hogan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker it gives me a great deal of pleasure this evening to rise in my seat in support of the hon. Minister of Finance.

An Hon. Member: What?

Mr. Hogan: In the very fine budget that he presented to the people of the Province. So fine that, Mr. Speaker, that he had that crowd over there mesmerized.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Furey: They were astounded, there was perfect silence in the House.

An Hon. Member: I never saw so many open open mouths in my life.

Mr. Hogan: That is right.

An Hon. Member: They were dumbfounded.

Mr. Hogan: That is right, well they are dumb anyway, but they were dumbfounded.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hogan: I mean they could not see the substance and the benefits that were in this budget compared to those in the past. Now granted the budget was not good enough, it never is going to be good enough, no matter who is there. The Man Himself could be there with a thousand 6-49 winnings in His pocket and He still would not be able to satisfy all the Members in this House, including myself.

But under the circumstances, and with what he had to work with, it was a good budget, and the people in the Province recognized it, and probably the only ones who did not recognize it were some of the Members opposite, or all of the

Members opposite I should say, and they are being purely partisan. Every time they have risen in their seats yet, they have picked out the negative aspects of it or tried to find some negative aspects of it and just could not.

My hon. friend from Kilbride stood in his place today, and at least four subjects that he touched on that I can recall, were twisting around and misinforming the House, misinforming the press, misinforming the people in the galleries.

An Hon. Member: That is a lot of twisting.

Mr. Hogan: Well you have not heard very many good ones, I can say that to you.

The first thing he touched on was the Labrador Travel Subsidy program. Granted one part of it has been cancelled, I am sorry to say, and I do not agree with that.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Hogan: You should ask your own Member about ferries, do not ask me about them.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Hogan: Mr. Speaker, the athletic support subsidy was never cancelled, it was expressed that it was being examined, but it never was, despite what the hon. friend for Kilbride said.

He spoke of the teachers aid program in the hospitals, that was cancelled but it is going to be replaced by a better and broader and more informed program.

He also spoke of, what other subject did he speak of, he spoke

of the diversification program in Central Newfoundland which the hon. Minister of -

An Hon. Member: The virgin program.

Mr. Hogan: The virgin program whatever they are doing out in Grand Falls and the hon. Minister of Social Services is going to implement a program which is broader and better and more suitable for that particular project.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hogan: The money that was out there was not being spent in a prudent manner, it was not being as productive as other monies in other parts of the Province in similar programs. So it was decided by those who know well and has to be supported by some of the Members over there, at least they do privately, that the money was going to be spent much better in the new manner. And the Province reacted well to the Minister's budget, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Hogan: The very next day.

An Hon. Member: The next day.

Mr. Hogan: The very next day, Mr. Speaker, the editorial in the Evening Telegram, these fellows are always presenting editorials, but they never presented this one.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Hogan: It said that the budget was probably the most prudent one that was brought down in many generations of budgets that have been brought down. And this is what they said, Mr.

Speaker, in part. 'The second budget of the Wells Administration is hardly daring or adventuresome. There is little room given the Province's poor credit rating, nor perhaps need for gambling. On the other hand, it shows imagination, as well as a determination to observe the principles laid out during the election campaign.'

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hogan: And all of these Members over - that is only in part, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, all they can think of is twisting things around and not looking at the positive parts, the growth in the Health Program, the growth in the Education Program, the monies that are being applied in Economic Development and Economic Recovery. Granted, they have all the right in the world to criticize the principle, it is a new thing, untried, unproven. But what are we going to do, sit still? Sit still and just waste and go on wasting and making spot check corrections in our economy instead of sitting down and planning and preparing for the long term.

Mr. Speaker, every time that any of them stand in their seat, they think of twisting things around and accusing the Premier of being the master of deception, the Minister of Employment and Labour Relations of being a whimp, and on it goes. Name after name, day after day, all we can get into is name calling. There is no such thing as settling down and taking the Budget apart, piece by piece, and criticizing it for what it is.

For example, I never heard any reaction from them when they stood

in their places over there one day and accused the Premier of somehow getting rid of an employee that was on the payroll, a fellow by the name of Robert Cahill. The next day they were calling him the master of deception for something or other, but they never, ever did come back when the Premier tabled information in the House about the termination of this employee.

Just to give you some of the details of that, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Cahill became a public servant in August 1981, when he was hired through the Public Service Commission as a land use technician for the Department of Rural and Northern Development. In October he became a public information officer with the Newfoundland Petroleum Directorate. In June 1986, he was hired as a public relations specialist with the Department of Fisheries, through a Public Service Commission competition. In March 3, 1988, the Minister of Fisheries wrote to Mr. Cahill and offered him a position of press secretary to the Minister. It was clear that both individuals were aware the press secretary position was political staff, and that Mr. Rideout indicated to Mr. Cahill in writing -

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Hogan: I am taking the same kind of concentration as you fellows take. Just stepping out into the gutter with you guys.

He could be offered re-employment in the public service.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Hogan: You cannot listen. You cannot bear to stand it. You can not take it.

This was certainly acknowledgement that the press secretary's position was outside the public service. In March 1989, Mr. Cahill even accompanied Mr. Rideout on his leadership campaign, but he remained on the payroll of the Department of Fisheries while he was at it. And reference has been made to Mr. Cahill's being on secondment, but he was still officially press secretary to the Minister of Fisheries. A political staff job.

And on it goes, Mr. Speaker, I could read out more details. A memorandum from former Deputy Minister of Fisheries, R.A. Andrews, it dealt with the transfer of staff who had been seconded to the Premiers office up to March 31, and indicated that a number of these would be placed on the Premiers office payroll. Mr. Cahill was the exception, instead of being retained by Mr. Rideout in the Premiers office, he was returned to the Department of Fisheries, but not as press secretary. Mr. Andrews appointed him to the public service position of public relations officer, which was clearly outside his authority. To do it was contrary to the Public Service Commission Act. Actually illegal, Mr. Speaker. And then they accuse the Premier of being deceiving and being a master of deception.

The Deputy Minister of Justice and the Deputy Attorney General, that is who said it, that is good enough for us.

Section 12 of the Newfoundland Public Service Act says, "Notwithstanding the provisions of any other Act, but subject to Section 5 of this Act, no appointments or promotions to positions within the Public

Service shall be made except on the recommendations of the Commission." So, Mr. Speaker, clearly the man was hired illegally. And then these people over there will sit in their places and call names to people over here for their conduct which has been, to date at least, above question. However, Mr. Speaker, enough of that.

I would like to take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to address a subject which has arisen a couple of times in this past week in the House of Assembly and that is the year-round service to Argentina.

As I understand it, Mr. Speaker, in recent days, from the media, anyway if you can follow that -

An Hon. Member: Board of Trade.

Mr. Hogan: The Board of Trade, the St. John's Board of Trade have changed their position, Mr. Speaker, and are withdrawing their support of the year-round service.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Hogan: And I also read in the press where the president of ACE, the Atlantic Containers Express Company, which is the owners and operators of one of the water carriers that comes from Halifax into St. John's and plies that particular traffic corridor.

Mr. Speaker, I find that the remarks that were attributed to Mr. Giles Champlaine, the president of that company, I find them to be those of many that are opponents to the year-round service into Argentina. I find them to be those of greed, narrow-minded, and rhetoric, fear-mongering, like we have been

hearing a lot from over here, and filled with misinformation that was passed on to the particular group that he spoke to the other day, Mr. Speaker. And instead of attacking negatively an operation which has been proven through a study commissioned by the Department of Transportation, instead of attacking it negatively, I think a person that is in the position of Mr. Champlaine should be standing and addressing groups such as the ones that he addressed the other day, and probably pointing out the merits and the benefits of the service that his company offers as opposed to those that are offered by Marine Atlantic. And I think more of us should be, probably, conducting ourselves in that particular fashion.

An Hon. Member: I agree with him.

Mr. Hogan: Mr. Speaker, as far as that report is concerned, and one of the misconceptions that Mr. Champlaine was trying to demonstrate to his listening audience, was that there was going to be a great loss of jobs in St. John's, when in fact, the study points out that there is going to be very little, if any, loss of jobs in St. John's, and if there is going to be a loss in one particular area, there is going to be a shift in employment. There will be no loss of jobs in St. John's as far as this report is concerned, or Corner Brook, as far as that matters, and less in Corner Brook. My hon. friends are listening, and I do not think, Mr. Speaker, for one minute it is the intention of Marine Atlantic to drive the private shipping companies out of business. And if you would permit me, and my friends in the House would permit me, I will just refer to some

information, some statistics to argue that point.

If you look at what has been happening to the industry, what I am saying is very evident, Mr. Speaker. Marine Atlantic, in fact, has lost 56 per cent of its container traffic to these same private interests, and the chance that they will ever regain that is highly unlikely according to the reports that I have read, and these are good reports. For example, Mr. Speaker, in 1989, Marine Atlantic carried seven thousand five hundred containers on the gulf as opposed to some seventeen thousand in 1988. The majority of the container traffic diverted from Marine Atlantic consisted of Canadian National freight, which Mr. Speaker, by design, diverted freight deliberately, in Moncton to Halifax.

Now if anybody from the west coast wondered why Port aux Basques and that general area is short on freight of some ten thousand containers from one year into the next. It is because when they took the railway out of Newfoundland, when they decided to close down the railway, there was a deliberate policy and practice undertaken by Canadian National to divert all container freight by rail at Moncton to Halifax.

An Hon. Member: (inaudible)

Mr. Hogan: This is right, I can, very easily, I can show you a copy of their policy and their direction. The majority of the container freight traffic diverted into the Atlantic, consists of Canadian National freight. Canadian National has entered into a multi year agreement with ASL to ship their containers and this

contractual agreement ensures such traffic will remain with ASL, whether it is year round service in Argentina or not. As well, the private shipping companies ACE and ASL have international container traffic which is not available to Marine Atlantic. For example, Mr. Speaker, here is where these private water carriers are misinforming the public and misinforming every body else. In no way is Crown Corporation or Canadian taxpayers money ending up in their coffers. The agreement, the origin of freight from Moncton to Halifax to avoid the Cape Breton area and Sydney area, in itself, is a contribution. Then the contractual agreement, the contractual agreement, Mr. Speaker, which guarantees freight from Halifax to St. John's, is another contribution. The freight, Mr. Speaker, is stored in that part of the Bedford Basin, in Halifax known as Hallterm? Owned and operated by Hallterm. Hallterm is fifty per cent owned by Canadian National, and it is a port which apart from distributing freight into the St. John's area which is a very small part of their freight business, is distributed internationally and all over Eastern Europe, and other parts of the world, Mr. Speaker. This is all Canadian National money which in turn comes from the coffers of the taxpayer. Marine Atlantic's main commercial niche is time sensitive tractor-trailer traffic, with drivers, and this cannot be handled by ACE or ASL. Marine Atlantic (inaudible) is therefore primarily passenger, passenger vehicle, and commercial vehicle traffic. In 1989, Mr. Speaker, Marine Atlantic carried sixty thousand commercial vehicles of which thirty five thousand were tractor trailers and twenty thousand were trailers only, or

drop trailers. The container shipping companies do have the potential to carry drop trailers and a portion of Marine Atlantic's drop traffic has also been diverted to the private shipping route. A year round service will offer greater potential for tourism and domestic travel in the Province, Mr. Speaker, as I outlined earlier. It would lessen that safety hazard on our highways. It would, Mr. Speaker, cut down on the wear and tear on our highways. There are as many advantages, as a matter of fact, I think, I recall, the figure of either six or sixteen million dollars, I think, in savings, Mr. Speaker, just on highway traffic alone. The comments of Mr. Champlaine in his address, Mr. Speaker, indicate that he would deny and others who oppose this very vital service, would deny the right of the people living on the Avalon Peninsula to convenient year round ferry service for connection with mainland Canada. The options now for people who want to get their vehicles across is to drive five hundred miles to Port aux Basques, Mr. Speaker. So it is with some disgust, Mr. Speaker, that the residents of my particular area, and I feel I can probably speak for a greater portion of the Avalon Peninsula, to see people who are in executive positions like Mr. Champlaine to take such a position, one ridden with emotion and lacking in substance to go out and attack, be it self seeking, negatively attacking the undertakings and the ambitions of other parts of the Province. The freight handling business is expanding and growing in St. John's. Hopefully, if there is any further development down the road for us, the freight incoming will grow immensely, and there is going to be room. They

are talking about expansion in St. John's harbour every day. There is some fellow in here who wants to dig a tunnel through the Southside hills and open up -

An Hon. Member: Tom Kerrins.

Mr. Hogan: Tom Kerrins wants to dig a tunnel in the Southside hills for the expansion and open up into Freshwater Bay.

All we are asking in our particular neck of the woods, Mr. Speaker, is for that service to expand into our area. Let us have the overflow in the Argentia area, and in the end the whole Province will benefit and not just the self seeking interests of certain companies in St. John's.

Mr. Speaker: Order!

The hon. gentleman's time is up.

The hon. the Member for Fogo.

Mr. Winsor: What did he have, a minute to finish up? All right, I will give him a minute to finish up if he wants to Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please!

Did the hon. Member want a few minutes to clue up?

Mr. Hogan: (Inaudible).

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Fogo.

Mr. Winsor: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It gives me great pleasure to take part in this Budget debate. The previous speaker -

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry. The hon. Member may carry on. I was



under the assumption that it was twenty minutes. I apologize. The hon. Member may continue.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hogan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the rest.

An Hon. Member: Now let's hear the rest.

Mr. Hogan: Listen to old chipmunk over there.

Thank you Mr. Speaker, thank you hon. Members opposite. Would someone put him back in his jacket again, to keep him quiet. Put a gag on him.

I must also mention, Mr. Speaker, regarding this particular service, that the report that was commissioned by the Minister of Development, Tourism Division, in co-operation with the South East Regions Tourism Committee, - or whatever the name of that association is under, it points out quite clearly; and these people are supposed to be the opponents of the year around service in Argentia, they point out quite clearly that there would be very little impact. That is why I am wondering why some of the people who represent that part of the Province have not really looked into the substance of what they are arguing.

Their own report indicates that there would be very little impact on that particular region based on the information that they have. This is their own report. It is not a report put out by the Ministry of Transport, nor a report from the east coast. It is one that was initiated and introduced by the people on the south east coast.

I must refer also to the plant at Long Harbour. There has not been much success over the past year, Mr. Speaker, in finding alternative operators for that particular plant. I can say now, and if the owners of that particular plant - and I do not say this in any disparaging way - but if my friends opposite, when they were in Government had to take a close look at that when the announcement of the shut down came, we probably could have avoided the shutdown.

I think now, Mr. Speaker, that the owners of that plant see that they could have been operating for another three to five years. Three hundred jobs that we have lost because we too willingly accepted the approach of the owners of that particular company to shut down, and to withdraw their particular company from this particular Province at this time.

It has been clearly demonstrated and identified that there is now a phosphorous shortage out in the world marketplace. It has been definitely determined that the customers of the phosphorous that was produced in Long Harbour are very dissatisfied with products that they are buying now in the market place. It has been determined, Mr. Speaker, much to my gratification, and should be to the Members of this House, that the best phosphorous produced in the world, was produced in Long Harbour. The highest quality of phosphorous, Mr. Speaker, ever produced on the marketplace.

The equipment at one particular plant down in the United States that uses phosphorus for multi-purposes in manufacturing, I think it is nine different products, an amazing plant, Mr.

Speaker. I was there some years ago, where this plant can be converted by computer, and converted by a number of valve closings and openings, and switching of pumps, in something like four hours, to switch the use of manufacturing a by-product of phosphorus. And they have nine different by-products that are manufactured down there. That plant is now working at 30 per cent capacity because it has not got the fine product that it was used to operating with, and it was built for, and that was the phosphorus out at Long Harbor.

An Hon. Member: Has free trade got anything to do with that.

Mr. Hogan: Subsequently -

An Hon. Member: Free trade?

Mr. Hogan: Oh yes, it was part of it. There were wondrous things seen by misguided principals in that company, Mr. Speaker, who I might add are no longer with that company, it seems like all the authors of the shut-down at Long Harbor have now had to find employment elsewhere, I am delighted to say. And a prediction that I made last year when they were shutting down actually came true, Mr. Speaker.

But Mr. Speaker, what I want to reiterate, and I mentioned it here last year in the House of Assembly, and it did not get much attention, Mr. Speaker, and we probably saw the proof in the pudding again this year with so many major shut-downs in our fishery, is that neither my friends opposite or this Government here, at least as far as I know, do not have in place an emergency response mechanism that could deal with failures of

businesses. I think we should have in place, and I think Members opposite and Members on my side of the House and particularly those in Cabinet, should consider and put the forces to work within the civil service to draft an emergency response plan that would respond, for example, to a case like Long Harbor, and where there would be automatic mechanisms kick in place where UI would be looked after, and where training would be looked after, problems with severance would be looked after, problems with pensions would be looked after, all these little things that I am sure all Members of this House run with when there is something shut-down in their particular Districts and we are just not ready to respond to it.

Right up to the present day, Mr. Speaker, I am still dealing with problems in Long Harbor. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, one of the greatest problems is severance pay, and I was hoping that my friend from Grand Falls was around because he is dealing with a situation in Grand Falls at Abitibi in the same manner, is that a lot of people that were laid off in Long Harbor now are receiving severance pay, sort of a year later, through this contractual agreement which they have with the union and through other measures. So they received their severance pay this month. I know of two couples that have been in to see me already that received their severance pay at the first of this month, and within ten days the UI people were at their doors looking for them to pay back every cent of Unemployment that they earned last year, or that they had come in over the last year, and here we have a group of people that have received \$12 or \$14 thousand in severance pay and the

Federal Government comes along, totally insensitive, Mr. Speaker, to the needs that are met with such a \$12 or \$14 thousand severance pay, and say I want eight or ten thousand dollars of it back, very insensitive, Mr. Speaker.

Probably I am a bit premature Mr. Minister of Fisheries to say that at the moment, we are very optimistic that Jerseyside will be opened before the first week in June, I hope, if all goes well. There are a number of things yet which have to be dealt with as far as the receivership is concerned, and as soon as they are dealt with, Mr. Speaker, and the new operator approved and he is up to snuff, the Minister of Fisheries will be more than pleased, I am sure, to stand in this House and announce that that plant will re-open this year.

Mr. Speaker, that about covers the topics that I had to, and I think I am nearing, I think, the end of my time anyway, Mr. Speaker, and I want to thank all Members of the house for bearing with me.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, Hear!

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member for Fogo.

Mr. Windsor: Thank you Mr. Speaker. The previous speaker in his remarks, said that all the opposition does about the Budget is to criticise it, we cannot find anything positive to say about it. The truth of the matter is that there was not a whole lot that was positive to say about it. Although I will say, that the Minister of Transportation in announcing a twenty five million dollar ferry for Fogo, did two positive things. He will at the

end of the process have created a reliable ferry service for Fogo Island, and in so doing stimulated a little bit of economic development in Marystown, and other than that there is not very many positive aspects. The previous speaker also said that the crowd opposite were mesmerized he said, by the budget, I wrote it down as a word he used. Mesmerized; in fact, if we were mesmerized, it was no more than the man who presented the Budget was the most mesmerized man in Newfoundland after that budget, was the Minister of Finance, when he tried to explain to the people of Newfoundland on numerous occasions, how he was going to impose his new payroll tax.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Mr. Windsor: That was what the Premier would have called an intemperate remark, I think, when the Minister of Finance made one of his statements. The Premier said, that was an interperate remark, and such remarks were not to be tolerated. That was a little one that the Premier slipped up on. I want to take a look at some aspects of the Budget, and I want to read a paragraph from the Budget speech, 'At least some segments of the fishery, some plants and communities are facing very lean and unsettled times. This troubles me and other members of the hon. House. Not only because we have the responsibilities of Government, but also because we have family and friends in these communities, and because we share the strong attachment our people have to their home and their Province'. What idle rhetoric. That is from the Minister of Finance in his Budget speech. How he can say that, when we look at

the Budget, and see that the total Budget for the fisheries is reduced by some two million dollars, two million dollars at a time when the Minister indicated that we were going through some of the most troubled times in our fishery. The Member from Exploits has been constantly interrupting all day, constantly interrupting, and it is for two reasons, one, the Premier is out of the House and he is allowed to have a few things to say, and he is also awfully sad today, he and the Minister of Labour have sat together because they know what is coming from the teachers, in 1985 it was this party that was stoned by the teachers out there. This year it will be the two across the House who will be stoned, because there a sellout of the teachers. Now, the Member from exploits, should keep quite and let me finish or I will tell some more about what is going to happen, and what did happen, when he was president.

Some Hon. Members: (inaudible)

Mr. Windsor: I will start to tell some things about the Minister, and tell about the negotiations. I want to get back to the fishery.

Some Hon. Members: (inaudible)

Mr. Windsor: No sir, I was out campaigning for the Conservatives.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Windsor: Mr. Speaker, the commitment to the fisheries, today in this House, I inform the Minister of Fisheries of the terrible disaster that has just befallen the North East coast, 15 to 100 per cent total devastation in any of the exposed shorelines. The Member from Placentia kept

interrupting to say how do you know how much damage there is? If he had seen the CBC TV program, tonight, I think it is clearly evident that the devastation that I talked about today, is a reality and we cannot wait until next week.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Winsor: I am not the Government, you are the guys who control the purse string. I have made representation on behalf of the fishermen, and let the Minister know what was going on, because I do not think the Minister was really ever aware how serious it was until today, when he was told in the House on several occasions, and the CBC program tonight might have confirmed what we have already told him. How can this Government and its Ministers say that there is a commitment to the fishery, when we have not seen anything positive except the opening of the Twillingate plant which was a positive step, and the Member for Placentia just said that Jerseyside might be opening, we view that as positive, these are two positive steps that are going to do something to stimulate the economy of this Province.

The budget goes on to say, "This Government will continue to support and encourage the fishery, and remains resolutely committed to the fishing industry as being one of the cornerstones of our economy." Now who in Newfoundland can possibly believe that, who can possibly believe that, after we have watched the performance of this Government. The excuse that they use when every crisis has befallen the fishery, it is a problem that the Federal Government created and they have got to fix it. That is the excuse

that they come up with, and admittedly so, much of the responsibility -

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Winsor: What is that?

An Hon. Member: How much did he increase the loan guarantee for?

Mr. Winsor: I will tell you, but I think the final deals have not been completed at this point in time, the signature has not gone on it and, in fact, I spoke to the Minister of Fisheries a couple of days ago and told him if he did not soon announce how much that loan was, that I would do it for him.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Winsor: No, not that. The Minister of Fisheries just said that he does not want to brag about it. The Minister of Fisheries said to me, why do you not ask me a question about it in the House, is what the Minister of Fisheries said. He wants to get up and brag about it but I did not give him the opportunity to. But the -

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Winsor: No, it would not be like that.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Winsor: I already talked about the ferry.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Winsor: I said it was a positive aspect of the budget, one of the few I could find. So the fisheries crisis that was bad a few days ago is now worse.

Dr. Kitchen: What about your stadium.

Mr. Winsor: I have not got it. That is coming next.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Winsor: That is coming next. But the fisheries crisis that was bad two weeks ago has now been made worse, and the Minister of Fisheries today indicates that it could take some time, some week or two weeks, before we can put anything in place to alleviate this crisis. Well I suggest to the Minister that two weeks, two days is too long. Action needs to be taken tomorrow morning so these people can go on with their lives and get back fishing.

The Minister of Finance just said, what about your stadium, the Liberal plan, a real change. On youth, they said, "We will establish more recreational facilities and programs throughout this Province". The first thing they did last year was to cancel the three recreational facilities that were announced.

An Hon. Member: Oh yes, they cancelled all of that.

Mr. Winsor: They canceled the three that were that were promised. Mr. Speaker was going to get a stadium in Bonavista North, he would have been delighted with it, the Member for Fortune-Hermitage was going to get one, and one for Fogo Island, and this would have been in keeping with the Liberal campaign platform of establishing more recreational facilities, that was last year. They pulled the rungs out, pulled the skates out under the feet of the people in these areas, that was last year.

This year they cut back the facilities programs for regional recreational facilities from \$4.5 to \$1.8 million, a Government that was committed to increasing the youth recreational facilities, and decreases the budget from \$4.5 to \$1.8 million and you call that progress.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Winsor: No progress. We see no provisions in the budget for the regional facilities program, but the Minister did announce in the House that he would, this year, announce that there would be a facilities program, eighty/twenty financing, and he would, in a few weeks or a few months or whenever, announce who was going to get them.

The Minister of Finance might be mumbling under his breath; that I'd better behave myself, or he'd take away what little you have. It is the fairness and balance. The Minister of Finance said; you'd better behave yourself, under his breath, or we will take away what little you have.

An Hon. Member: You did not say that.

Mr. Winsor: How is that for fairness and balance?

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Winsor: No, the Minister of Forestry that time.

The other Liberal strategy to help the youth of this Province was to revise the school curriculum to make it more relevant to rural communities. There is only way you can do that; it is to develop new curriculum.

I just happened to check through the Estimates tonight, and I see last year, under one Heading, there was budgeted \$604,000, this year \$565,000. A decrease. Last year in another category, \$1,032,000; this year \$982,000. In another one, \$783,000 was budgeted; this year \$769,000. Three categories of curriculum development in keeping with what you were going to do to develop curriculum, to make it more relevant to rural communities, a decrease in each section of the Budget. And this was a Budget -

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Winsor: You say hired or fired? More likely fired if you thought they were Tories.

An Hon. Member: Small schools, don't bring that up, they are closing them all up.

Mr. Winsor: Closing them all up. Yes I know the commitment to small schools. The Minister of Education will have lots of time to get onto his feet and to respond and tell us about the abolition of school tax.

Ms Verge: He won't even meet with the parents in Corner Brook.

Mr. Winsor: Won't even meet with the parents out in Corner Brook. The Minister will have lots of time to do that and tell us the pupil/teacher ratio in Western Memorial. We will find all about the Minister and his commitment to education when he meets with the Executive of the NTA. I would assume he has already done that.

The only thing I happened to see happening over there is the Minister of Labour and the Member for Exploits have sat together all

day. I do not know if it is in response to the article that appeared in the Evening Telegram today.

An Hon. Member: What was that?

Mr. Winsor: The article in the Evening Telegram - NTA calling urgent meeting.

Some Hon. Members: (Inaudible).

Mr. Winsor: I suppose, technically, she had to resign her position. She is the immediate past president of the NTA. So I do not suppose she is trying to worm her way into this Executive meeting to see if she can calm the troops. And she has gone to her former, former president to see if he knows some devious way that she can get into the meeting. What did he use when he was doing this thing, so that he could get to meetings. I do not know if that -

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Winsor: Did the Member say he had not done anything devious? I should tell about some of his university exploits. I just won't do it. I am too kind to tell about some of his university days that I know about. I would not dare do that. I am too honest to do it. No, no, I certainly could not do that.

This Budget that was going to focus on education, and I think the Member from St. John's north, got really, really excited the other day, because I think he saw a positive comment in the paper. One positive comment, he came in the House beaming, met me out in the corridor, hit me on the back, just about took the back off of me telling me about the positive comments he got. He had one

letter telling him about his computer response program and he was absolutely high, he was ecstatic, because as we like to sometimes call him, yesterday's man, just got some positive reinforcement. I must say, he really enjoyed it.

But to spend a few minutes looking at the Minister's Education Budget, we will spend a few seconds talking about the Minister's Budget, if I can find my notes, but if I do not, I will do it from memory. The Minister makes great, great efforts to tell about the great increase. Four percent I think it was, per pupil, four percent, Mr.. Minister, was it four percent? I think inflation will run around five percent. With declining enrollments it is going to be a significant reduction in the amount of money that is going to be in the hands of the school boards, 0.7 percent. The Minister did not give them any increase at all, is what is boils down to. Cut them, cut at them, cut the Budget, gutted the educational Budget of this Province.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Mr. Winsor: Yes, I will tell the Minister about the excellent joint service in Fogo Island. The excellent joint service in Fogo Island was initiated by the Progressive Conservative Administration. The previous Administration closed six small schools on Fogo Island, consolidated them.

An Hon. Member: (inaudible)

Mr. Winsor: Oh he started the small schools. Yes, we were better than that, we took and made one big school, combined them all

and did some good sound planning in education, and if the Minister wants to know I got no qualms about it. I told him on many occasions, that I am all for sharing of resources in education. Unequivocally, the Minister can have my total support on the sharing of educational resources, it was a move that this Administration started, and I hope that the Minister will not be wishy washy and insist that that kind of thing would continue. I hope that the Minister does.

An Hon. Member: Did you share consultants?

Mr. Winsor: Share consultants yes. Share schools, share facilities. No problem at all.

An Hon. Member: All talk and no effort.

Mr. Winsor: Now, the only thing is that the Minister says these things, but I think when he gets somewhere, because he does not like to be a little bit harsh and take a stand, and he then kind of does not want to ruffle any feathers and he says, OK we will take this back and we will do this. The only time that the Minister stood firm so far, was in his maintaining school taxes. President of Treasury Board, was adamant that school tax should have been eliminated. If the Minister wants to speak, the Minister has lots of time to get up. He likes to interrupt when someone else is speaking, and you never see anybody on this side of the House doing that. But, the Minister of Education, he likes to interrupt, and I will answer the Minister's question in a minute. But, the President of Treasury Board -

An Hon. Member: (inaudible)

Mr. Winsor: Oh yes, we are going to get to that in a minute. The President of Treasury Board, the Minister of Transportation, these were perhaps two of the leading advocates of the abolition of school tax. But I will say to the Minister of Education, he stood his ground, but he had to you see, because he had half of the teachers in Newfoundland who he has been teaching at university, teaching school financing.

An Hon. Member: Yes.

Mr. Winsor: School finances, is that the course, school finances? And where he has been such an advocate of having an improved, not the school tax that we have, but an improved school tax. The Minister just could not do it, he would have had too much egg on his face, that he had to say to his Cabinet colleagues, boys you are going to let me down, I have been such a strong supporter of school tax, I just cannot do it. And now the Minister wants to know what my stand is.

Well I will tell the Minister one thing, I did not knock on any doors in Fogo District, not one, and tell them that I was going to cancel school tax, not one door did we knock on, or anyone else in our Party, not one person knocked on doors in this Province deceiving the people, as some of the colleagues opposite did, not one person knocked on the doors and said they were going to abolish school tax, and we did not buy radio ads.

An Hon. Member: Where do you stand.

Mr. Winsor: The Member will find



out where I stand when I want to tell him.

An Hon. Member: Oh.

Mr. Winsor: And perhaps we will wait until the next election like you people did. That is perhaps a good time to let you know where we stand on it.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Winsor: So this great priority on education, we have got to look at some more aspects of it too, you know. The equalization; I think last year, a full \$14 million would have been needed to have full equalization, the Government, and I give them credit for last year's, not this year's budget, last year's, moved up to \$10 million.

An Hon. Member: How much was it the year before.

Mr. Winsor: I am not concerned about the year before, I am concerned about now.

Some Hon. Members: Oh oh!

Mr. Winsor: The Minister of Education might be yesterday's man but I am tomorrow's. I have two children in school and I am concerned about what is going on with them.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Winsor: I do not want to deal in the past. Let's deal with what is happening in education now.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Winsor: I am tomorrow's man, I have got a future and I hope my children have a future in this Province, and if it has, it has

got to come through education.

An Hon. Member: That is right.

Mr. Winsor: And the Minister cannot be yesterday's man, he cannot go back looking at 1961, I do not read the 1966 Royal Commission on Education anymore either, because that is irrelevant. I would like to see what the Minister is going to do with the two studies that are sitting on his desk gathering dust. They will soon be as old as the Minister's 1966 Commission on Education. The Crocker Report -  
An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Winsor: What a Commission.

An Hon. Member: It ruined education in Newfoundland.

Mr. Winsor: The ruination of education, besides that, it caused all kinds of trouble for students at University because everyone fell asleep in the library trying to read through it.

An Hon. Member: That is right.

Mr. Winsor: Every student who had to read it, fell asleep when they got the covers open.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Winsor: I had more naps up in the University in one of those little cubicles trying to wade and sift through that report on education that was done in 1966.

An Hon. Member: Did you pass?

An Hon. Member: I passed the Minister of Finance's course.

Mr. Winsor: I never had the Minister of Finance, I had a book belonging to the Minister of

Education one time.

But anyway, I want to get on to talking about the \$10 million, because the \$10 million was a big increase. But as everyone opposite knows, if you make five dollars or ten dollars an hour one year, the next year you have got to have a little increase, because things eat into educational budgets, especially since schools have moved into the age of computers where -

Mr. Grimes: (Inaudible).

Mr. Winsor: If the Member for Exploits is not quiet, then I am going to start to reveal some of these stories.

Now the Member for Exploits is up talking about what teachers are going to do and here he is there -

Mr. Grimes: I wish every public servant in Newfoundland, that was not teachers, that was every public servant.

Mr. Winsor: Yes and that is behind us again, that is the history of the past, yesterday's Party.

Mr. Grimes: We are the future.

Mr. Winsor: Here they are dwelling on things in the past when we have got a future ahead of us and these people do not have any programs to address it. An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Winsor: If this Administration soon does not change its ways, there will be no future.

Anyway, I want to get back to the Minister's \$10 million. Fourteen million dollars was needed last

year, perhaps the Minister will tell us what was needed to have full equalization this year, perhaps the Minister when he gets up for a few remarks will tell us what it would cost for full equalization.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Winsor: From this year to last year? No, not one cent, held steady, it's the same things the Minister did in school construction, the Minister in his 1989 budget did a commendable thing, it helped school finances for new construction up to \$27 million.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Winsor: That was the year before, and that was a laudable thing to do, I think it was \$20 million for school construction, \$5 million to retire debt and \$2 million to make it accessible in the budget of 1989. In 1990, it stayed at \$27 million, but the Minister also realized the cost of building schools has gone up too.

An Hon. Member: I think it was \$14 million in two years.

Mr. Winsor: Two years, see, they want -

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Winsor: And even then, it is still not \$27 million, there is so much for retiring debt, about \$20 million for construction again this year, \$20 million or a little better for construction, not a significant lot of money when you consider the cost of education, of building new schools has increased dramatically.

And then of course, if the

Minister wants to talk about funding, the Hospital Program: In education, let me tell you one of the things the Minister did. One of the leading advocates of having specialized education in this Province was the Minister. He worked with the Government back in the early sixties, in setting up special programs.

An Hon. Member: Yes.

Mr. Winsor: The Minister is going to acknowledge that it is true. The Minister wanted to get those students who needed specialized help, and got teachers and put programs in place. The same Minister -

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Winsor: I am drawing a parallel. The same Minister who thought it was important that every kid or every student in this Province would have an education, just gutted the school hospital program. Took it out. Left it in one school, the Janeway. Took it out of Western Memorial.

The Minister likes to get up and quote statistics. The Minister is putting wishy-washy programs that have never, ever addressed one educational problem in this Province. The Minister knows that in order to address educational programs, he has got to put some money where his mouth is; and there is no money in this program to do anything.

An Hon. Member: Maybe.

Mr. Winsor: Maybe. Maybe the Minister could. He was a good buddy of the Minister of Finance at university. Perhaps he could twist his arm a little and see if he could get a few dollars for

finance.

I have to tell you that right now, I would be much more concerned if the Minister of Fisheries would twist the Ministers arm and see if he can wrangle out a few more dollars for our fisheries.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Winsor: What do you want to know about fish? Talk about the fishery. Yes, I talked about the fishery and fishing in the District for the first fifteen minutes.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Winsor: I will tell the Minister what he can do if he wants to help the fishery. You give me leave. I can tell the Minister what he can do. The Minister can install a lift on the wharf in Carmanville that will accommodate a number of fishermen from Fogo Island who cannot get their product out of the boat. The Minister can designate a ferry for the caplin run so that Fogo Island fishermen will be able to sell much more of their product. The Minister can, tomorrow, not next week, announce -

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Winsor: The Minister of Fisheries must have something wrong with his hearing. Because I spent the first ten or fifteen minutes telling the Minister about the fisheries.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Winsor: Yes, well I am going to send it. And I am also going to send what the Minister had to say today about it too. I am certainly going to send the

Minister; telling lobster fishermen along the north east coast that he is going to solve their problem next week. That is going to be a great benefit to the fishermen who want the problem solved today; because they still have ongoing commitments.

An Hon. Member: What about teachers, salaries and pensions?

Mr. Winsor: You want teacher pensions too. I will not talk about that. It will take too long to talk about teacher pensions.

I want to address a few remarks. I think the Minister of Municipal Affairs is sitting in his seat there. About four weeks ago, we asked the Minister to table the list of recreational grants that had come out of the \$330,000 budget which was left from last year.

The Minister on one occasion in this House, indicated that he wanted to get up. We do not know what he was going to say. I think, Mr. Speaker ruled he was out of order because it was not the proper place to do so. We have waited for three weeks now, day after day after day, for the Minister to make a statement. We know of some. We have been able to find out two. The Ministers officials indicate the Minister has had it in his hands now for three or four weeks. It was certainly taken from the department and given to the Minister. The Minister was going to make his announcement a number of weeks ago. We are waiting. We are going to see when the Minister is going to announce his program, because we suspect that in it all, there is a fair amount more of political pork barrelling as it was in the past. The Minister of

Fisheries was concerned about fisheries, there is what the Liberal Government was going to do with fisheries you know.

Mr. Speaker: Order please, order please! The hon. Member's time is up.

Mr. Winsor: By leave, by leave, let me tell you a policy. No leave.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Stephenville.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. K. Aylward: You know it is a real pleasure, Mr. Speaker, to be in this House of Assembly. I have to tell you that every day I sit here is a real pleasure, and always is to represent the people of the Province, especially of the great District of Stephenville. I want to commend the hon. Member from Fogo for his intelligent speech. I disagree with a number of things he said, but he gave a good speech that was representing his constituents, which is what you are supposed to do in this place. And he did a good job of it. While I have to rebut a number of things he said, especially when it comes to education, I really have to rebut it because there is -

An Hon. Member: (inaudible)

Mr. K. Aylward: - and recreation, I am going to get all of that, now in a few minutes. But when it comes to education, when it comes to education, Mr. Speaker, the progress that has been made in such a short twelve months, it is really unbelievable, and you know when you look at it, even if you take away the biasness and you take away the political jargon and all that rumbling and all that, if

you look at the bottom line, which is the dollar amounts that went into education and have got to the school boards themselves for administration and for all the things that they want to do, when you look at the bottom line, the dollar amounts in the last twelve months, the progress alone that has been made, is unbelievable. How we could do it, I do not know, in our first year or so, I do not know. I was amazed and I still am. Because, knowing the restraint that we have, and knowing the dollars that we do not have, it is amazing that we could put that much of our resources, our very limited resources into education. So the Minister of Education does not deserve to be harangued, he deserves to be commended, as far as I am concerned. Now mind you I sit with him on this side of the House, but the realistic point of view that is there, the dollar amounts that are sitting in the school boards offices and they have been able to spend in the last year, have went up and have went up very well. And the DEC has more money to build more schools, that is a very real increase. It is a dollar figure increase that has been done. It is something that is real. It is not something that is fabricated, well as a 10 percent increase, or twenty percent increase, it is real dollar figures. And those real dollar figures, have now been out there in the last year, the last two Budgets, and has seen an increase in educational facilities being built, and has seen commitments given by the IEC and DEC and so on, have seen more funds provided and more schools getting built. I was up last week talking about it for ten minutes, just about education in my own district of Stephenville. Now

there are fifty-two other districts, and I am sure that other Members could provide some of the goings on in their own district, but I mean for my own district, which I represent, I again, am amazed, because it is very solid.

When I was in opposition, I would get up, I would get up on the Budget, and I would say, Government, here is what you are doing wrong, and Government, here is what you did not do too bad. Now I will say to the opposition, that you can come after us on all kinds of issues, but do not come after us on education. I will tell you that right now. This Minister we got, has brought it from way back, way ahead, in a very short period of time. Last Friday, we were in Stephenville district, the Minister of Education was invited to speak to the college graduation, Western Community College. And two people came up to me after and said, you know this is the first time a Minister of Education has been speaking at the graduation of the Western Community College in so many year, we cannot remember when. And I said, I cannot believe that, I am going to have to go back and check the records. Now I have not gone back to check them, but that is the kind of response that they were giving me and giving the hon. Minister, that he would come out and give a speech to the Western Community College, which is now getting a renewed mandate, because of this Government. Getting a renewed mandate. The community colleges are being given a renewed mandate to go out and develop new programs in the community college system, all around the Province, in rural areas of the Province. We are bringing more programs to the

people, we are allowing the colleges to develop themselves, instead of restricting them to a one-year mandate which the previous Government had done. And in our case, in Stephenville, it is allowing now the original Bay St. George Community College to start back again on the road of development, which they were not allowed to do under the previous Administration, especially in the last couple of years. They had done a very good job up until about two or three years ago, but with the restricted mandate we are not allowed to do it, and a number of other college campuses were the same way.

So there was a problem there, this Government is trying to correct that problem, so when the hon. Minister of Education was in Stephenville talking to the Western Community College and talking to the students and talking to the staff and the administration, and when he was there, they were very much appreciative of the efforts of this Government that have been made because of the review that has been undertaken, and have looked at the education system, especially post-secondary, and also primary and secondary. But in that case it was post-secondary. Well that was post-secondary. I was just mentioning now primary and secondary education.

The School Board Superintendent was at the Chamber of Commerce introducing the Minister of Education, the Port au Port RC School Board Superintendent, and he introduced the Minister of Education, and had very nice comments to make and very good comments to make about what this Government is doing in education.

And I firmly believe that what we have been able to do in such a short period of time is very amazing. What scares me the most is that we have only started, we are not even close to an election yet.

And here we are, you know, a lot of times Governments wait and they wait for the big plums and they throw them out towards the election and we increase everything by 50 per cent or 25 per cent or 30 per cent and you go and you got your big announcements and you go after the election, but what do we do, we are trying to fix education and a number of other major issues and we are trying to do it right up front. I do not know what we are supposed to do for an encore but we are going to try down the road and keep at it and keep at it.

But the point of the matter is this. We did not have to go and last year make a 100 per cent increase in school tax equalization up to \$10 million. We did not have to go and do that, we could have done it \$2 million at a time, we could have done it \$3 million at a time, we could have done it gradually along the way and it would have been a nice and steady increase.

An Hon. Member: The need was there.

Mr. K. Aylward: The need was there. We said no, it cannot wait, we have got to do it now. Now we are maintaining that level this year, and we are told, you did not increase it this year, only 100 per cent though, that is 50 per cent over two years. That is not bad in my books. I do not know about anybody else's, not bad in my books. So, we have got to

be a little bit fair, I mean we would love to increase it another 100 per cent this year, but you have to look at your different priorities and how you can address them over a period of time. So now, let's be fair when we do the assessment, that is all I ask, I do not ask anymore than that, I mean, there are certain things that we try to do and maybe we are not that successful, but on this one here, on that issue alone, we are doing very well. And I am very happy to see what we have done with it.

A number of school boards in our area, Port au Port RC for example, and I have the list of all of them here, everyone of them got over 100 per cent increase last year, within one year of this Government taking office, on school tax equalization, which is unbelievable, 100 per cent more money in one year. In the Port au Port RC School Board, over \$150 thousand increase. They only got \$150 thousand in the year before we took office, over \$150 thousand increase, not \$25 thousand, not \$50 thousand, not \$100 thousand, but \$150 or \$160 thousand.

Ms Verge: Why did (inaudible) write a letter to the Minister of Finance complaining?

Mr. K. Aylward: What? Oh he is allowed to complain, and any superintendent or any schoolboard chairman, and that is their job and duty to do so, and that is the proper thing, but I say to him and I say to anybody else that fairness is fairness and 100 per cent increase in one year should be looked at very seriously and said, "Way to go Government". We did not get any letters saying, "Way to go Government" when it was done, but we got a lot of

commendation and people should remember what we have done in that first year or so. So they have to keep pressuring and they have to keep putting the pressure on, so I have no problem with that, and proper thing I encourage them to keep doing it and we are going to try to address the other issues of educational funding especially primary and secondary. When it comes to the per pupil grant and so on, that is a system, again, established by the previous Government, let go for how many years. The Minister of Education, I have to ask you a question now, is declining enrollment, is this the first year of a declining enrollment.

Dr. Warren: No, 1971.

Mr. K. Aylward: 1971 so since 1971 we have had a declining enrollment, this year we increased by 4 per cent the per pupil grant, a system that has been in place since, I do not know when, and -

An Hon. Member: The grant system has not been changed in many years.

Mr. K. Aylward: It is years, what I say is; it is years since there was a change.

Declining enrollments have been going on for many years. The Minister of Education is undertaking to change the grant system. Looking very seriously at ways to change the system, to get more dollars into the pockets of school boards. He cannot do it all in one year. You have to give him a break. You have to give him a chance to get under way and to do it. It is going to take a little while. But he is undertaking to change the system, where since '71 we have been having a declining enrollment, but

the same system has been in place basically, all the way along. Very little change. Nothing to address the declining enrollment problem. This year we are supposed to fix all of that. We are trying, and it is going to take awhile, that is what I say. I would love to see it fixed today, but we can not do it overnight. You have got to bring a proper system in place which will address the needs of education and educational funding in the Province.

I am sure, I have great confidence

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible) last year.

Mr. K. Aylward: Last year. Was it May 24th? The House of Assembly opened May 25th last year. Less than a year, we have been in the House of Assembly, we have only had the Government formed about a year.

I say, not bad, hon. Phil Warren. Not bad for one year, sir. And I would say the progress we have made in one year is comparable to what they have done in ten. It is comparable, easily. No problem. I do not want to praise him up too much, because we have so many Ministers there doing a good job, what do you do. But that is only one issue that deserves somewhat of a rebuttal.

We admit there are certain things that we are trying to do. We are trying to fix a number of things with education. It is going to take awhile. And it is a very difficult process. When criticism comes forward, that is fine, but let us be real.

I have to touch on recreation, for

a second. Last election, April 17, 1989, I think; the hon. Premier of the day, present Leader of the Opposition, came to Stephenville. He came in and he met and talked with his candidate. The Aqua Aces swim team and the parents and so on went to the rally; and they were expecting to hear a commitment or promise of some type, for the Stephenville swimming pool complex. They went to the meeting, and it did not arise, it did not even come out. What they were told was that the Stephenville area could not maintain such facilities.

The day of the election, the day that people were going to the ballot boxes; a press release was issued over the radio, that the Stephenville swimming pool had been approved. I called in the next day, after the election was over, and checked to see what funds were there. I was told there was, I do not know how many, different complexes were committed in the last three or four days of the election.

Basically, what we have done, what the Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs has done; is gone out and has reformed the new policy. He has brought in a new policy. He has got two a year, which is what the previous Government was pretty well doing. Two a year, and the financing is done through the Municipal Financing Corporation. Which is a good way to go, because it allows for long term payment over a number of years and will allow a number of Municipalities who might have a problem coming up with the up front capital funding, to be able to finance over a number of years.



That is a pretty good initiative. I think we will see some positive initiatives on recreation in the very near future. They will come about and try to address the dire recreational needs that we have in the Province. We are going to see some progress made, Mr. Speaker, in that area, very much so, in the near future.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. K. Aylward: Well, development and tourism. We are doing our best. We have a Minister who is a fairly young fellow. Not a whole lot of experience. He was in Ottawa for awhile. But he is working on it. As a matter of fact, the Minister of Development and I used to share an office when we were in the Opposition, and of course, we have fond memories. I see him all the time.

An Hon. Member: He is not a bad fellow.

Mr. K. Aylward: He is not a bad fellow. I beat him in tennis last week again for the third consecutive time. To keep me on the straight and narrow, I have to say, the Minister of Development and Tourism, now my close friend, and buddy; we used to share an office together. He has fond memories, like I do, of our Opposition offices that we used to have down on the fifth floor; where we have two Members to an office, one secretary to two Members I believe is what it was. I remember all of those things, Mr. Speaker, It was only a short period of time, that it was like that. Again, this Government has come in and tried to address those things and done so very well, and giving an MHA a proper office and secretary and so on, and services, so that is a good thing that this

Government has done, and I believe that is a very positive thing.

But in Development and Tourism, Mr. Speaker, I believe that this Government is doing a good job there. With this budget, we have a number of initiative announced in the budget to further develop the Province and to promote tourism, the new tourism brochure is a stand-alone brochure that is the best thing that has come along in this Province in many many years.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. K. Aylward: Now, except for the picture of the Minister and I think maybe it is a great thing, but anyway no, I am only kidding, the Minister's picture is a very good one.

An Hon. Member: It was printed in New Brunswick.

Mr. K. Aylward: It was printed in New Brunswick, well I will tell you, I am not sure where it was printed, but what I would say is that that brochure and the way it is organized to promote tourism is an excellent brochure, it is sound and solid, it brings together theme routes for the West Coast, for Central, for the East Coast, for Labrador, it just puts together the tourism outline that is very attractive for tourists to come to the Province.

Now what I do not understand is that, again, this is a nice brilliant idea that this Government brought in and put forward, it could have been done before, but it was not, now I do not know why it was not but anyway, that deserves some credit, this Government deserves some credit for bringing it forward. I

have had rave reviews, I know in our region, from the Chamber of Commerce, who very much so, like this tourism brochure. You know one thing about this tourism brochure too, by the way, it's the first time in a number of years that Stephenville airport is in this brochure. The previous Government left out the Stephenville airport about six times, and I used to be re-rating, I used to go and call up the Department of Development and Tourism all the time, and say look folks, there is an airport in Stephenville you know, and we had to keep continuing to do that and it was always left out. Now, I do not know why it was left out, but we used to keep arguing with them and so on.

I am very glad to see that at least it is recognized and promoted along with every other airport in the Province, and it should be. And it is promoted very much so in the brochure, and I think it is done very well. I commend the Minister of Development and Tourism for that initiative, that alone is a signal to the hospitality industry, to the tourism industry that we are serious about tourism, that we want to see it organized and we want to see it promoted.

So the Minister, I am sure, is going to have a number of other initiatives to bring in over this coming year and coming years, and I see some positive things coming forward. And there are some very positive things happening so far, so I think it is worthy of note and should be looked upon as a positive development by this Government in a short period of time, that initiative alone.

We also have, I believe I noted in

the budget initiatives, there was \$450 thousand for an Asian initiative to help look at promoting development and trade in Asian countries. I believe that to be a very positive initiative with the global marketplace that we are into right now, we should be definitely aggressive, we should be getting out there and we should be out there promoting ourselves and very much so, opening into the countries in Eastern Europe, in Europe and Asia, these are big opportunities for our Province and for Atlantic Canada and Canada, and we should be out there promoting those opportunities. And we should be sending people over and we should be letting our entrepreneurs see what the opportunities are and try to bring back business here, and those things I am very happy to see. They are commendable items, very much so, and they are new initiatives, very much so.

So I believe that the Minister of Development is bringing in a change there in just attitude, he is sending signals to people in development in this Province that we are looking beyond our shores. We are looking very realistically beyond our shores and we are planning and organizing. And instead of just sending people off, we are sending them off with plans and we are sending them off with the proper outlines and the proper business plans and we have got to get into more and more of that. So I am very supportive of the initiatives taken by our Minister of Development and Tourism and I would hope that they will continue.

A number of other things, Mr. Speaker, that I have to touch on, I believe that the forest industry is now going through some changes

and I believe that we are coming out of those changes very well. Abitibi-Price in Stephenville in the area that I represent has, for the first time, just finished processing a colored paper, colored product paper, for the first time ever at their mill, a new initiative again to get into a new market area. It is one of the newer mills in North America, a very excellent work force there, very industrious, they have been able to keep their costs down and they have been very concerned about their business and the workers and management there need to be commended and deserve to be commended. They are very productive and they have been able to break into markets that Abitibi-Price have been looking to do over a number of year, and they have been able to do it. So, they have done a superb job there and Abitibi Price is a very stable industry in Stephenville and I think they have a long term future. It is the best product, no doubt I have to say it, it is the best product which is on the market place right now, and some of the places that they are printing and sending their product to are Japan, South America, Europe, London, England, some of the top newspapers in the world are using their product. So it is good to see that kind of a thing, it says to us in Newfoundland and Labrador that we can compete with anybody and very much so. What I hope to see, and what I hope we will be able to do, is now to get into a little more secondary processing and manufacturing of paper products, and I think that is what we should be looking at, as a related industry, related industries, as to our raw material resources, that we have in this Province.

We are talking a lot about fish processing and secondary processing, we are looking at that and the Minister of Fisheries was today announcing some further initiatives in that area. We have got to do more in that area, but we have also got to do more in the forestry area when it comes to secondary manufacturing, a very big area for us and we have hardly explored it at all. And we should be listing off a number of ideas and giving them to entrepreneurs, which I believe would create a lot more jobs in this Province and there are market places out there looking for these products, and here we are with the raw material resource sitting here, and we ship it out and let somebody else manufacture a secondary product or a product that down the line we are getting back here. We have got to look further down the line, we have to look at creating things further down the line. So this Government is pro-active in that sense, very much so, and that is the kind of thing that we have to get into. I want to see more in a sense of business development, and business promotion. That is why I believe the Economic Recovery Commission that has been set up, that initiative I firmly believe will help to create opportunities and will help identify, there are a number of people who will say, it is not going to do this, it is not going to do that. I firmly believe, that it is getting people on the go out there, people who have some business ideas and is allowing them access to resources that they never could have before. And in our area alone for example in Stephenville and Bay St. George, we are looking at the possibility of a telecenter, a center with some computers that would have us on line across Canada to help develop business

ideas. The first time, I mean, this is good stuff, this is good stuff,

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. K. Aylward: I am not even wound up, Mr. Speaker. You know, this initiative, now of course, I will not commend the Minister of Development and Tourism for that, because that was started by somebody else. But I mean this initiative itself, to have a data base in different regions of the province which would allow for people who are wanting to get into business, to come in and sit down and help develop business plans, to look at markets and so on. That is the kind of positive initiative that will help for the long term and the short term. It is the kind of thing that we should have been doing for a long time. But I am very happy to see that we are doing it now. So, I think that at the very least the Economic Recovery Commission is creating ideas and opportunities and it is saying to people, let us have a look at a whole range of things, Mr. Speaker, and it is telling people, that no idea is a bad idea. Explore the idea and I think that we have to do that, and if we do not do that, then -

Some Hon. Members: (inaudible)

Mr. K. Aylward: That is right yes. And if we do not do that we are not going to get anywhere, you know, and I Mr. Speaker feel that this Budget laid down by the Minister of Finance is superb, I mean we have only been here for a short period of time, I am looking forward, I am looking forward, Mr. Speaker, I am not even half way through my speech, Mr. Speaker, and all the initiatives that we have been doing, but I mean so

far, in education alone, in fisheries, in forestry and Development Tourism, I mean the number of things - there are some major changes that have occurred in a very short period of time. That is surprising when you are in politics, because it takes a while to make some changes. So, The Minister of Finance, who has had to deal with the Budget, in putting it together and being able to distribute the funds to the proper resource areas; to the areas of health, which I have not touched on yet, and to the areas of education and social services. To be able to go and do that, and then also have this Province being able to come in with a bond issue, which he announced today, for example. To be able to come in with a very fine Budget, which is fiscally responsible, and present to the business community a very fiscally responsible Government. To be able to balance all of those things and be able to do that, I think is very commendable. I would think that the people of the Province appreciate that, and would hope that they would look forward to better and more even improved Budgets in the future.

This is our first couple of attempts at it, of course -

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. K. Aylward: That is right. A very solid response from the business community. Very supportive. The thing is, we are just getting going. We are not even close - I should say we are not close to an election, because you never know. I remember when they were in Government, they used to tell us that about every second week.

The time will come one of these

days, when the Premier will want to go to the people again. And I will guarantee you, within one year of what we have done so far, in a number of areas which I have just described, I will not even have enough time to get into health care, which I would love to do, but just in those initiatives alone, Mr. Speaker, what is going to be amazing is, what is going to happen when we get ready to go after an election. Really. We are here trying to solve some problems for the first three or four years. When we get ready to call an election, the Minister of Finance might even get more generous, God knows, a whole range of initiatives.

We might even go into their ridings, heaven forbid, and might even announce some initiatives in their ridings - in Opposition ridings. Now, we have to be careful, because if we do that, they might lose a few of their seats, so we have to be careful. They used to say to us, when we were in Opposition; don't you worry, we are going to call an election pretty soon, and we are going to go into your riding and we are going to announce fifteen different things, and you are going to get wiped out. That is what they used to say to me and everyone else. But we are going to say to them; that our Government is an open Government. If you have ideas and initiatives, you come see us, and if they are worthwhile, we will support them, and we will be there to help all areas of the Province, no matter what your political stripe is. I think that is commendable for this Government to be that open minded.

But let me say this, we are also a Government that wants the support of the people. And if we are

doing good things, we are going to ask for that support of the people. When we go the next time, well, I do not know, I think a few of them are going to have to look for other careers afterwards. We are going to be there, we are going to have a nice solid Government, nice solid majority. As we get more experienced, and we bring in more initiatives, I just get amazed, I do not know how we are going to do it.

My main speech, when I was first elected, was unreal, and I say it again, Mr. Speaker. This Government is going to be unreal, but the other thing is that we are very real when it comes to education, social services, health care and a whole range of other things compared to the former Administration that was there.

I ask them when they get up in their Opposition to us, to give credible criticism, not destructive criticism, but give us credible criticism. It has been a pleasure to give my comments on this Budget, which I fully support and endorse, by the Minister of Finance.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Grand Bank.

Mr. Matthews: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It is really a distinct pleasure to participate in this debate; following up the member for Stephenville, particularly. He talks about an open Government. I was saying to the Member for Eagle River yes, there is no doubt a very open Government, before the transition took place, they bored the center out of the locks of

some Minister's offices so they could not lock their doors. So, it was really, really open. Very open. They would not let you lock your door.

I just wanted to make a few comments, Mr. Speaker, on the Budget. I see the President of Treasury Board getting back in his seat. I suppose he expects all kinds of -

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Matthews: Yes, putting new locks on. Yes, before he even moved out. All kinds of heckling we can expect from the president of Treasury Board, and all this kind of stuff.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to make a few remarks, particularly related to what the Member for Stephenville said. He was a good young Member when he was in Opposition, and he has continued to be a good Member now that he is on Government side. It is a little disappointing for us on this side, that he did not end up in Cabinet, because he certainly would have been most representative of youth and young people in the Province.

An Hon. Member: Yes, exactly.

Mr. Matthews: And he had some very good ideas when he was in Opposition. When I was Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth, he used to shadow my Department and, I must say, he was very effective and I really enjoyed participating in the House with him then as I participate today debating after him.

But there are a couple of things that I want to say to the Minister of Finance and the Ministers

opposite about the budget particularly when you see cut backs and so on, in some areas, like when you look at the Recreation budget and the amount of money that has been allocated for recreation because, as I have said, I think it was probably last fall or last spring when we sat, that money spent on sport and recreation is really dollars that are very well spent for a number of purposes, of course, the people who are participants, athletes and so on, around the Province enjoy it very much, but what you have to remember is that the more young people in the Province we can get involved in sport and recreation, the healthier the society that we have, and of course, the younger the age you get them involved in these kinds of activities, then the greater the chances are that they will stay active for most of, or hopefully, all of their lives. And by doing that, of course, you are having a healthier society develop and consequently, then you will cut back on the health care costs to the Province, because one of the biggest costs and one of the biggest, I guess, issues facing Governments today is the increasing costs of health care. And the more fit our society becomes, then consequently, the less money that Government will have to spend in the future as they address the health care costs to the Province.

So I think it is something that I would like to ask the Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs who is responsible for Sport and Recreation in the Province to consider in future budgets, because this year there is a reduction in the money allocated for sport and recreation and that is regretful, because for a new Administration to be taking such

regressive steps when instead they could be spending money wisely that will serve as prevention in the future and cut back on health care costs.

Of course, the Minister of Finance has been on the hot seat ever since, I guess, the second or third day of his budget, and the Member for Placentia read from, I believe, an editorial in the Evening Telegram the day after the budget, which was very complimentary to the budget. And of course, most people in the Province, the day after the budget, thought it was a wonderful document, everywhere you went, it was, "Good budget, peoples' budget". And of course, the Minister touted it as being the peoples' budget and a good budget.

Dr. Kitchen: That is what I have been saying.

Mr. Matthews: No, no one today is saying that it was a good budget because people have seen, of course, what really was included in the Minister's budget, or more importantly, what was not included in the Minister's budget.

But there were some slick inclusions and slick references made in the Minister's budget that took a week or probably two weeks to expose, to inform the people of the Province just exactly what was in the budget. And of course, the Minister -

Mr. Speaker: Order, please!

Mr. Matthews: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Grand Bank already spoke on the budget debate on April 24.

Mr. Matthews: I am sorry Mr.

Speaker, when again, sir?

Mr. Speaker: On April 27th.

Mr. Matthews: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, I want to say to the hon. Members that I really could not remember that I spoke in the budget Speech, I have been speaking so much in this particular session on Throne Speech and other things that I am sorry, I apologize, I forgot that I spoke on the budget.

Some Hon. Members: By leave.

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

The hon. the Member for St. Mary's - The Capes.

The hon. the Member for St. Mary's - The Capes.

Mr. Hearn: Thank you Mr. Speaker.

I thought the clerk was probably saying that they had made a mistake and that the Member had not spoken, okay.

Mr. Speaker, certainly it is an honor to be able to speak in a budget Speech and my hon. friend the Member for Grand Bank, was just getting into high flight and getting into terminology that would adequately describe the budget, undoubtedly.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Hearn: And one of the terms, undoubtedly, he was going to use was a comedy of errors because originally people thought it was a very good budget on the surface, and listening to the Minister's explanation of it, of course, it seemed as if it might be a good budget until you looked at it and read and analyzed the figures that

were there. But once we looked at the budget itself and began to analyze the figures, then we realized that there was very little substance. And as time went on Members in the House and the public generally began to understand why the Minister brought in the type of Budget that he did. A Budget that was cut to the bone, where several programs were eliminated and not mentioned, of course, where new dollars were being brought in, and not being announced. He was sneaking by taxes, reaching out under the table and grabbing money that people did not see going until it was pointed out to them. And people began to wonder if the Government cuts a budget to the bone, and do not bring in money that they can fling around and create jobs and keep everyone happy, then how are they going to become very popular? But, the Government had a plan, they had a plan as to how they were going to attract attention and to look good. Part of it was going to come from the Federal Government. They pictured this billion dollars that they wanted from the Feds because they knew a big package was going to come down from Ottawa to help assist people who are displaced by the downturn in the fishery. And in their original consultations and so on, at the bureaucratic level with the Federal Government people, they were under the impression that all of this money was going to be channeled through the Government. However, it would not go to the people directly, through the Government or through Departments, such as the Department of Fisheries or the Department of Development. It will go through the Economic Recovery Commission, which was set up a year ago when all of this started for the sole

purpose of being the agency that would deliver all of this money. What money? Not the money that will come from the Province, because the Province has not got any money, or was not collecting any money for the Economic Recovery Commission to deliver to the people of the Province. They were going to take the money that came down from Ottawa because nobody out around, really cares where the money comes from. And the Economic Recovery team would be the delivering agency.

They would take all of these dollars and spread them around the Province and the make believe programs which they were coming up with, and everyone would be happy for a short time. But unfortunately, the little bubble burst, and the Feds got wise to the schemes of the Provincial Government. They recognized them for what they were and they did not deliver the funding through them. Consequently, two things have happened. The Economic Recovery Team has been trying to recover ever since, no one has heard a thing about it, every now and then, it is funny, every now and then when a Minister stands up to make an announcement of something that happens, a plant opens, or a small industry is revived, and the Minister will say in his statement, in cooperation with the Economic Recovery Team. Of course, the Economic Recovery Team, had no more to do with the reopening of the plant than the Minister did. And it is extremely embarrassing for people who really know the truth about how an industry started, or a plant was revived, to hear Ministers take credit and in turn, worse again, give credit to the Economic Recovery Team which had absolutely nothing to do with it. All they



have done is eat up big salaries and expense accounts, by travelling all over the place, creating nothing, going out and asking Rural Development Associations, what ideas do you have? And the Development Associations are sick and tired of banging their heads against Government doors looking for funding themselves. They could deliver their own programs and do a lot better job than the Economic Recovery Team. In fact, most of the things that are happening in rural Newfoundland today are being done by local development associations and Community Futures Agency Federally funded, certainly not by any Government agencies. And then the second thing we saw, we saw a Minister of Finance hastily bring in a payroll tax. He planned originally to bring in a provincial GST, which was going to bring in all kinds of new dollars to the coffers, of course, the finance critic, the Member for Mount Pearl, pulled the rug out from under him and mentioned that he intended to do it.

Back to the drawing board, quickly. In the darkness of the Treasury Board board rooms and the Department of Finance back rooms, the Minister and a few of his colleagues hastily conceived the payroll tax. And he said; what we will do is put on a payroll tax to anybody who has a payroll over \$300,000, that will only hit the big fellows. He did not realize from the last time he was out in the real world, salaries have gone up considerably.

They are in such a dilemma over at university, with their low salaries for so long, they forgot that salaries were going up around the Province and that anybody with ten or twelve people working now

qualified to pay the payroll tax.

Every small business around the province is being hit and is going to have to lay off people, because the Minister of Finance in haste to scabble up some dollars, when he could not find them anywhere else, will now have to pay a payroll tax.

The people who are going to be upset most, of course, is the Federal Government, who already knows that it is going to be the target for the payroll tax. The Minister has said it, and the Premier has said it; we are not out to get anyone in the Province, we are out to get the Feds. But in order to get the Feds, we have to get all you poor people out around the Province. It does not sound very logical, but that is what is happening. The unfortunate thing about it is they are going to get very little from the Feds and maybe nothing if they want to take issue with it. The people of Newfoundland, the small businessmen out there, who are having a tough time of it as is, are going to have to pay the Federal tax, to help the Minister try to balance his Budget.

The Minister is in a real dilemma. He is going to have a real problem collecting the money to balance his Budget. He realizes that his Budget has created very few initiatives, it has taken away several, I mentioned the number yesterday. Every program that the Minister of Employment and Labour Relations had in her Department, they cut. Cut some out completely, and cut others severely. The Department is a Department in name only, and of course, the Minister is a Minister in name only.

And on top of that the Minister is now having his own problems with the Newfoundland Teachers Association, as is the Member for Exploits. Both of them are extremely unhappy looking this last couple of days because of the pressure being put on them by their colleagues. They are expecting them to be the ambassadors to the Minister of Education. I understand the Minister of Employment and Labour Relations and the parliamentary secretary have been asking the Minister of Education for appointments to get in to see him, to discuss the present stand off with the Newfoundland Teachers Association.

I am sure that both Members must be really sitting back and wondering what has gone wrong, because they remember much happier times in the past. Whenever they had a problem, they could walk into the Ministers office, put their feet up, and have a cup of coffee, and say now; how much are you going to give us this year. The Minister would say; here is how much we have. They would say; here is how much we want. We shake hands and we have an agreement. The Minister of Education laughs about that. Well all he has to do is talk to the two Members, and they will tell him.

Let me use two examples. The last two agreements that were signed, were signed when there was another Minister of Education in the Department. The first one back in '85, after a hefty dispute, there was an election, a change, and a new Minister came into the Department. The Member for Exploits, who was then the incoming president of the Newfoundland Teachers Association, flew out to Corner Brook one

night, and said; we are having some problems with negotiations, I wonder if we could see you, sir. And we said, certainly, by all means, come on out. And after 10:30 actually, I believe on a Friday night, the Member and one of his colleagues arrived in Corner Brook, beat out after rough negotiations, and they said, you know, we know we can count on you to solve our problems, and before 2:00 a.m. that morning, the problems were solved. They had settled all the problems that the teachers had.

And then of course, two or three glorious years went by of peace and contentment and happiness in the Newfoundland Teachers Association, and negotiating time came around again. And what happened this time? This time the President of the Newfoundland Teachers Association, who is now the Minister of Employment and Labor Relations, she decided that she was going to take a little holiday, because if there was anyone who could tangle up negotiations, it is the Minister of Labor. Now I thought Ministers of Labor were supposed to be the ones who soothed out negotiations, but unfortunately her own people on the NTA figured that she would be the one who would throw a wrinkle into the negotiations. So they sent her to, I believe it was Australia they sent her to, and the Vice President and some other people came over and they said let's get negotiations out of the way while the President is gone. So while the President was gone, in the space of a few hours, before the old agreement had even run out, never heard of before in the history of Newfoundland negotiations with teachers, they just walked over to the Department, sat down in an office,

and by 2:00 a.m. in the morning again, there was an agreement. And the only fear they had was how fast can we get this solidified because the President is coming back next week and we do not know what she is going to do to try to tangle it up.

Ms Verge: (Inaudible).

Mr. Hearn: But apparently the President came back and she was quite delighted that she had such an agreement and she contacted me personally, I remember, and she was extremely happy with the tremendous relationship that went on between her association and Government.

Now that leads us to the point right now, can the Minister of Employment and Labor Relations and the Parliamentary Secretary, can they now convince the hard-hearted Minister of Finance and the, I was going to say the hard-hearted Minister of Treasury Board, but the President of Treasury Board is a half decent fellow, so there might be some flexibility there, I would suggest to the Minister of Employment and Labor Relations that if she is really going to be the emissary for the Newfoundland Teachers Association, that the person to work on is the President of Treasury Board. I think there is a heart, and she agrees that somewhere in there, there is a heart, because the former President of Treasury Board, now the Opposition House Leader, was exceptionally good when it came to dealing with the Newfoundland Teachers Association.

So I am extremely concerned here because I would really like to see the Minister beating our record of settling negotiations before the old contract runs out, now he has

about, I understand, less than a month to do that.

An Hon. Member: Listen, why do you not make a suggestion?

Mr. Hearn: Now I am not sure whether the Minister of Education has met -

Yes, a suggestion?

An Hon. Member: Make a suggestion. Get the NTA to buy her a ticket and send her out of the country and you will have it settled.

Mr. Hearn: Well that might be possible too. But hopefully when negotiations get down to the final crunch, of course, the Minister of Labor is always called in and now it is Employment and Labor Relations, and already the Minister is taking my advice and has now approached the President of Treasury Board and we hope to hear very, very soon that negotiations are back on track and that we will soon have a settlement.

Now the Minister of Education usually does not get involved in negotiations, but I always found that by having a good relationship with them and being up front and fair and honest, you can get rid of a lot of the little aggravations. So I suggest to the Minister of Education now that he call the President of the Newfoundland Teachers Association, a very good fellow, an excellent Vice President, and call him over and sit down and say, "What are really your problems. Let's get rid of all this foolishness and red tape and get to the bottom line". But he has a problem that I did not have. He does not have any problem getting a hold of

them, he is a good fellow, they will certainly come over, I know he is accommodating, but I had a President of Treasury Board who would listen to what I would recommend, I had a Minister of Finance who was a realist, and he was a tough Minister of Finance but he was a realist. He understood what was going on in the real world. And I had a Premier who had a heart, and he also understood what was going on. The Minister of Education now, has a lot tougher row to hoe, because he has a tight fisted Minister of Finance. I am not sure whether teachers are going to get improvements in their pension plan for instance, that they got during the previous round of negotiations. I am not sure whether they are going to get an increase that is acceptable, and I am not sure whether he can get them to sign an agreement before the old one runs out. We see that the action has started here tonight, so if it follows up, we might see a successful round of negotiations. I have noticed that the President of Treasury Board is smiling, I am not sure whether he is laughing at what is happening or whether he is smiling, I presume he is happy and pleased about it all and contented. And when he takes care of his nurses and the public service and everybody else, hopefully he can take care of the teachers. I think the President of Treasury Board is going to have a long, hot summer, and fall. What I pity is that the poor fellow is standing alone, a man with a conscience among so many unconscionable people, well I wish him luck. But anyway that is not saying very much about the Budget perhaps, although teachers salaries play an extremely important role in the Budget. In fact, they play such

an important role, that they give the Minister of Education the opportunity to stand up and say there is an increase in the Budget, Mr. Speaker. And if Mr. Speaker analyses the Budget, as it pertains to primary, elementary and secondary education, he will see that yes, there is an increase. I have not get it here with me, but I believe, that \$39 million dollars rings a bell. We will say it is \$39 million dollars and that is a good increase in the Budget of half a billion dollars. But if he looks a little bit closer, and he analyzes the different sections of the Budget, what he will see under the section Teachers Payroll, is that the teachers payroll is also up significantly. Now the teachers' payroll takes up almost eighty percent of the Budget in that section of the Department of Education, and eighty percent or close to it, is teachers salaries and a lot of the other twenty percent is also predesignated, money over which there is little flexibility, and I always use that argument when we talk, for instance, about the cost of denominational education, when people say it costs oh a hundred million dollars and all of that kind of stuff. The money is not there. There are only certain areas where you could save a few dollars if you eliminated the whole system and built one school somewhere. There are only very few dollars that can be saved. So all of that is a fallacy and we will not get into it now. Within this section dealing with teacher salaries, we see an increase of about \$39 million, which is exactly the total increase in the primary, elementary and secondary section of that Department. So in reality, except for the increase that the teachers get, because

some of them have gotten higher grades, and more qualified teachers are coming on stream, we have the increase that they will get I presume in the Budget, factored out at four percent or five percent, and all of that is built in there. So with the exception of that, there is not one cent of an increase to the Department of Education. Now the Minister might disagree with that, and say that there is an increase there, and an increase there, yes, and there is a decrease there, and a decrease there also. And one of the significant cuts in the Department of Education is in relation to staffing. And it is well known that when the Minister came into the Department he immediately axed some of the very competent senior civil servants, it was not his doing, I know that, he was told to do. But it was done, and ever since there have been little bits and pieces and the Minister has been losing good people. Presently, people have a notice in, and he is going to lose more good people. People that are going to be extremely hard to replace, and the Minister knows that.

A lot of it is not his fault. It is the fault of the people who give him the orders. The point is, there are also going to be a number of cuts, because the salary vote in most sections is cut, cut, cut, cut, cut. That means jobs lost. Jobs, jobs, jobs, jobs. You are talking about competent people; that means a poor service to the children of this Province, and that is sad.

Specifically, the Minister talks about an increase in capital construction. While it used to be \$22 million, he says, now it is \$27 million. Let me explain, just

in case people think that all of a sudden, school boards out there have a lot of extra money to play with, they have not, Mr. Speaker. School boards have \$20 million this year for capital construction. They had \$20 million last year, they had \$20 million the year before, and the year before that, and they will have \$20 million next year. Now, what they will have the year after, we do not know.

Back when another Administration was in power, the Denominational Education Committee, through whom capital funding goes, had three years to plan for capital construction. They were told you have a budget this year, here is what you will have for next year, and here is what you will have the year after. And as each new budget came in, they were told an extra year was added and added. This year, the third year was not added, so the boards out there are working and planning on two years. Now the Minister says, don't worry, be happy, I will take care of it. And when he stands up and says it - and I hope the Minister is right - I know that the Minister wants to say that. But the funny thing about it - I wish we had cameras in the House, because everytime the Minister stands up and says that they will have \$20 million in their third year, the Minister of Finance grips the handles of his chair and has a job to hold on. He is very upset with the Minister of Finance committee money, that of course, he has not budgeted. If the Minister of Finance gets his way, he might cut out the funding all together.

Let me analyse the extra \$5.5 million or whatever is there. \$2 million of it was always there to

cover for handicap accessibility or what have you. That was always there. The extra funding that was put in, not upon the Ministers plan, but upon the plan developed long before the Minister came to the Department, this Minister had a situation, if any Minister over there ever had a situation, this Minister of Education had it. He walked into a Department where there was a lot of long term planning. The extra \$5 million or the extra \$7 million - and if I did not know, if I had not come up with the idea, I would not know so much about it - was set aside to pay off the debt load of certain boards that had an unmanageable debt load. A very credible thing. I congratulate the Minister for going ahead with the plan.

There are school boards in the Province, who, through no fault of their own, have such a massive debt load, they could never progress. And as dollars went to them, they were just paying them off on interest and what have you, and consequently, they were in real trouble, and would never get out of debt. By bringing their debt up to a manageable, not eliminating it completely, not giving them a free ride; but by bringing their debt load up to a manageable amount, it was a very good move, well thought out, well planned. Then they have a chance to progress in the future. And the Minister -

An Hon. Member: Well implemented.

Mr. Hearn: Well implemented, credit where credit is due. The Minister never fails to give me credit for things that we have done. I will not fail to give the Minister credit. It was a good thing to do.

So that is where the \$27 million came from. It was not just out of the kindness of the heart of the Minister of Finance for school construction. It had nothing to do with school construction.

Teacher aides, or teacher assistants: now this is where the Minister of Education has disappointed me. When I came into the Department of Education, teachers who taught handicapped students out in the field had very little assistance, every now and then they would manage to get a person from Social Services for ten weeks, and when the person got ten weeks and got stamps, they were put on UIC.

An Hon. Member: Is that not strange?

Mr. Hearn: The Department or the schools could not then, quite often, find other people to come in and take their places. So we fought to have it changed, and after a heavy battle, the Department of Social Services agreed to bend their guidelines so that these people could stay in school for forty weeks, which meant that if we could find a person who was on social assistance to become a teacher assistant, that person would stay in the school for forty weeks.

An Hon. Member: That is right.

Mr. Hearn: Now the teachers were very happy, of course, the students and parents were, and the Boards were, to a point.

An Hon. Member: Did all your colleagues support that.

Mr. Hearn: Yes they did, very solidly, because they knew it was the right and proper thing to do.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Hearn: The Department of Social Services, of course, had some concerns because it meant shifting guidelines. But where it was the right thing to do, you can bend guidelines, you do not break rules or laws, but you can bend them until they touch, and quite often that was done for the right reasons. So then it was found that in many parts of the Province, it was extremely hard to find people because the economy under the Tories was quite good, and in most areas, the people were working, very few on social assistance

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hearn: Consequently they could not find people to go into the schools. So we implemented a new program whereby the Department of Education was going to do the hiring. Now that was implemented this past year.

An Hon. Member: He implemented it.

Mr. Hearn: It was implemented by the Minister but he has to admit that everything was in readiness, in conjunction with the Deputy Minister of Social Services, a very good woman, an extremely competent person who spent a lot of time on it, and cut out the bugs that were there in the Department and had everything ready, the program was in place, but the Minister came up with an agreement for those people that was way different from what we had planned. They were very disappointed with the agreement originally. But the intention was to get away from the Social Services because there were a lot of problems involved there and schools expected full

implementation of the program by the Department of Education.

What has the Minister done this year? He has cut it backwards.

An Hon. Member: What?

Mr. Hearn: Gone backwards, like the squid that used to be around.

An Hon. Member: Yesterday's man.

An Hon. Member: Cut, cut, cut.

Mr. Hearn: He is putting in the same amount of money this year as they have spent last year, and he is saying that that is not going backwards, but last year the program was not implemented until September, this year he will be starting with a full year and not a partial year, and he is not going to have money enough, he admitted that. And he said we will get extra money from the Department of Social Services. If that happens, then we are regressing. I hope that the Minister is going to make sure that every teacher assistant that is out there who is needed, can be hired openly without any hesitation, without waiting for weeks, and he says yes, and we will hold him to his word.

So if the Minister of Education is going to do what has to be done and what was laid out for him, then I will continue to heap praise upon the Minister.

I should not keep picking on the Minister of Education because the fellow has a good heart, he is trying to do his best and if he was not held back by the Minister of Finance and the Premier, there would be good things happening in the field of education today.

The Minister of Health is not in his seat, and I was going to suggest to the Minister of Health that a pet peeve of mine for quite some time, and I noticed that the Minister has not moved to much in relation to implementing the plan that we had talked about. That is in relation to the personal care homes, it used to be called the private boarding homes. In that area, we have spent a lot of time looking at that and opened up a freeze -

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Hearn: No, there was a freeze on.

An Hon. Member: Oh my!

An Hon. Member: We could table your election document, if you want us to.

An Hon. Member: Where is the trade unionist now.

Mr. Hearn: The freeze was eliminated and we started putting personal care homes in the areas of the Province where the need was. But I maintain that the greatest bargain that Government gets in the field of health care, and the Members around the Cabinet table should listen to this, the greatest bargain you have in health care which is extremely costly, is in your private boarding homes, the personal care homes.

Number one: They are constructed without any assistance from Government. People are told that if you want to build a personal care home, you go ahead. We will give you a licence if you think it is viable, if there are enough people in your area who will go in those homes. The person goes out,

spends his own money, builds the home, creates jobs in the community, then gets a licence from the Government, that is the only input, having to conform to very stringent rules and regulations about accessibility and fire safety and what have you. Then he hires or she hires a few people around to be night guards and assistants, whatever, creating more jobs, takes in people from the community and they pay most of the costs. The Government pays, I understand on the average, about four hundred dollars a month, half of that comes from the Federal Government, so in reality it is costing this Government about twenty-five hundred dollars a year to keep an elderly person in a boarding house.

Mr. Speaker: Order please, the hon. Members time has elapsed.

Mr. Hearn: I will sum up quickly, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Be kind, be kind.

Mr. Hearn: I am not criticising, I just want to point out this. If a person has to go to a nursing home or a hospital, the costs are atrocious. By enabling them to stay near their homes, in those homes, it is great for them, it is great for the business people, and it is a bargain for Government, so maybe it is one thing they will think about. There are many other chapters to this saga, Mr. Speaker, but we will get a chance another day, sometime between now and the middle of August.

Mr. Speaker: Before I recognize the hon. Member for Fortune-Hermitage, I would like to point out to hon. Members, I notice lately there has been quite an abuse of standing order no.



11. C) when a Member is speaking, no Member shall pass between him and the Chair nor interrupt him except to raise a point of order and d) no Member may pass between the Chair and the table, nor between the Chair and the Mace, when the Mace has been taken off the table by the Sergeant at Arms. This has been abused by not only new Members but by experienced Members, and I call hon. Members to the attention of their standing order 11. The hon. Member for Fortune Hermitage.

Mr. Langdon: Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to be able to participate in the Budget debate. As I read through the Throne Speech, I saw emanating from its pages key phrases like, change, renewal, commitment and responsibility. I think what it does more than anything else, is to ask us to look at ourselves to see what has happened in the recent past and in the distant past. One thing the Budget does in my opinion, is that it requires self analysis, and it requires community analysis, and it requires Provincial analysis, and it requires the analysis in education, in Government spending, Provincial resources in fishing, mining, forestry, hydro, and to look at what we have been able to achieve with what we have. I guess we ask the question then how much have we been able to achieve with the resources that has been at our disposal, and ask ourselves how far have we come, and then the next question is, could we have come any farther than we did. I think that if we look at that and see the compass point and if it continues to stay in the same direction then I think that we will not have a good future. We have to take a complete analysis of the whole gamut of society, and

Mr. Speaker, the world was not made in a day, and changes will not come easily. Because we have in this Province, like we have in other Provinces of Canada and other countries, I suppose and other societies entrenched ideas. We have entrenched philosophy and we have entrenched a way of life. And that is not fleeting and is permanent, and so to expect change, it will bring concerns, doubts, frustration and complexities if we are to have the change that we are looking at. When I look at the people in the Province and primarily in the primary sectors, in the fishery, in forestry in particular, I am amazed how sedate, how decorous, how passive the people are. I really am. If you stop and think for a moment, the people that is in the House of Assembly, all of us here, with the wages that we make, and then consider what the average person in the Province would make and in my own District, and to see how much they have to live on, I would suggest to you that we spend more pocket money than these people have in income. And you see that the problem with it, what we are saying is, can we allow ourselves to continue for these people to prosecute for example, the fishery, and to continue to come up with third world level salaries. And I say no, we cannot allow that, because if we allow that to happen we will never be able to progress in the way that we would want to. Because what we have out here in the rural part of the Province and in the urban part as well, we have young people, teenagers, from fishermen and farmers to some extent, I suppose not as great in number, but people who would like to participate in secondary education. They have brains, and they cannot do that, because they

are limited in funding. I was very pleased a couple of weeks ago when the Minister of Education decided to come to one of the communities in my District and to look at the situations in that particular school. And it is the first time, by the way, that any Minister of Education has ever been in that particular school and that part of the District since 1949.

What we have seen happening in the rural areas in the complete rural areas, is that the grants to the school boards have been given wrong, year, after year, after year. They have been based on per pupil grants and when you have a number of small schools, and in my District they are all small schools, we see what happens. We have buildings that are dilapidated, we have a lack of instructional material, lack of equipment and yet, these people in these small schools have to compete with people who are in the urban area, and they are at a disadvantage. And I think that once we realize that, then obviously, we can see where the Government came from in putting emphasis on education.

I remember last year one time when I introduced a resolution in the House and I asked the Minister of Education to form a select committee of the House to see ways to improve student aid. I well remember his response to me, he said, give me time we are already looking at it. And sure enough, one of the things that he has found money for and has implemented, that is an increase in student aid, and primarily he has addressed the single parent. And these single parents now have a better opportunity to attend the post-secondary institution because

the Minister and his people in the Department have recognized that. And that is very important.

When we look at, for example, the scholarship system in the school that has been looked at and is going to change, it has been like that for the last twenty-five or thirty years, six hundred dollars, for getting the electoral scholarship in the District, it is a pittance, six hundred dollars is nothing. And the Minister has indicated that he hopes to increase it significantly and he should. If a student in a particular District has the faculty to do well and he achieves well, then he should be rewarded. And I have said earlier that we will lose a large number of our students to the mainland Universities because of the inadequacy of the student aid. And I am very happy to see that the Minister has already indicated that and is willing to do something about them.

I also indicated a few moments ago how passive the people have become. And I think in my own District of Fortune-Hermitage that I represent, in one particular community, the community of Terrenceville; for fourteen years, these people have been trying to get water and sewer to a particular point in their town. They had brought down people from the Environment and they had brought down people from the Department of Health, but to no avail. And it was one time some few months ago, when I had the opportunity to take the regional director to the town and we were there and we had the windows up and we could smell the sewer in that particular community on a cold October day. And I am glad that the Minister did recognize

that and gave funding to that particular community, the need was there. I go up around a little farther and I saw Bay L'Argent, a nice town of about eight hundred people, well maintained, no water, no sewer, but the Minister again, saw the need and granted, I think it was, six hundred thousand dollars for the initial phase to that particular town.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Mr. Langdon: In Harbour Breton, the largest town in my area, for eight years they have been looking for water and sewer extension, and had not got it; and the Minister came through.

In Hermitage there had been dry sewer in the ground for five years, and they too had a problem with the environment and with health. The Minister recognized it and awarded money to that particular community.

An Hon. Member: The only way to do it.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Langdon: This goes back to my point. When I think of the town of Belleoram, for example, which has a severe problem employment wise, I see that there is a special need, they could not even afford their sixty/forty. The Minister took it upon himself to take it to Cabinet to see if he could find some extra funding, and he did. And this is the passiveness of the people that I am thinking of.

I think of my own town of 600 people. Very well to do. Owes Government no money, not a penny. Not one red cent do they owe to Government, and yet, they have not

got one inch of water and sewer in that community over all these years.

Then we come to the community of Gaultois. We have heard a lot about that particular community since I have been sitting here in the House. If you go to that community you will find it practically impossible to collect garbage, because there has been nothing done with the main road in that town for twelve years. You take any road, in any community, and let it deteriorate over twelve years, and see what will happen. And that is what has happened to that town. It is a dirt road. In addition to that, there is not one inch of water and sewer in the town. There has to be a commitment to the people if the people are to continue to be passive. And I am not sure how long they will be passive under all these conditions.

Mr. Speaker, the other day, when the package was announced for the fisherman for the Province; I could not believe that any Government of any stripe who had a heart, who had compassion, could have left the people out on the south west coast winter fishery.

There are people there over the last two months, fishermen who have fished all their lives, have mortgaged everything they have; house, car, probably even the family to some extent, and have now come to social services to have their light bills paid, because they cannot afford to pay it. There are young people in the District, as I indicated earlier, that go to school without breakfast and have no lunch.

Yet, the Government, the Federal Government allowed the foreign

fleet, primarily the French, to pilfer, to steal, if you wish, the fish from these particular people, in the traditional inshore fishing grounds. They have recognized it, and yet, they have not come through with one cent to reward these people.

One of the councilors in the town of Gaultois, who said; we are happy we got our package. Do you know a word to use? It is a disgrace. It is criminal that any Government would not recognize the plight of the winter fishery on the south west coast.

He understood quite well. His father lived in one of these communities in Francois, in the District of the Minister of Works, Services and Transportation He went out and he strung a line out, and he brought in six codfish. What he did with these; he filleted the fish, and had them for dinner. This is the type of thing we find happening now.

When I think of the Member for Eagle River, only today, with his resolution. I felt like I wanted to stand and ask him to include the south west coast too. As of today, the weather is fine, they are able to fish in their longliners, but every one of them is tied to the wharf. Everyone of them. They are tied to the wharf. Why? Because the water is so polluted, that their nets are just like mats and they have had to take them in. They put them on the wharf and you could not get a spider through some of the webs because there is so much took up with kelp and slub and what have you. So they just decided that they cannot go out. Yet they have no UIC, their Unemployment Insurance has run out, they have no income from fishing, they have

no chance of getting any. So, with these types of conditions I really do not understand, really, how the families are going to survive, and I mean that, I am serious when I say that. Because, what had happened in that particular part of the Province for the past number of year; the lobster fishery has been in a sense a saviour for the people. They have earned \$8,000, \$10,000, \$12,000 in the spring of the year, and have got seven, eight, nine, or ten stamps in order to qualify for unemployment insurance. I had a lady call me a few days ago, she said, I do not know what we are going to do, my husband went out and he pulled 200 traps and after expenses was paid he made \$1.00. They have no chance to earn unemployment insurance contributions, they are not there. So you have a compounding of the problem. You have no money now to spend, you have nothing to tie you over until the unemployment insurance comes, and then when the unemployment insurance comes, there is no unemployment insurance, so it means social services. And that is very, very difficult for these people to accept, because what has happened over all the years is these people have been responsible, they have been hard working individuals. I am sure the Government will, in its wisdom, look at the situation and hopefully be able to diversify the economy. The thing I see about us as representatives in the House of Assembly: when I said a few moments ago, I think we have to get a new focus, because I am not sure sometimes if we have taken the lens on a 35mm camera and have taken a clear picture, it is muddy, where are we going? And I think it is incumbent on every one of us as Members of the House of

Assembly, in a sense, to help the Economic Recovery Team. To help Government, to see what we can push as much as we possibly can in our own District. I plan over the next couple of months to have an economic conference on the Connaigre Peninsula to look at our assets because we do have some, and to look at the negatives that are there, and how we can overcome them and see how we might be able to achieve and be able to become a vibrant part of the Newfoundland economy. Because I am very scared that if we do not do that then we will really have no District in which to represent, because our people will not be able to earn a living from what they are doing now. It is a very serious situation, as I said earlier, when you have people who are willing to take everything that they have and put it up and mortgage it and then to find that they have lost, it is a humiliating situation. I think if we were to again look at it from a clear perspective that we have to take a new attitude toward the industry that we do have. I am amazed for example in the fishery and I suppose there has to be ways and probably the bureaucrats might have become complacent as well and probably we need a shake-up or whatever the case might be, but I don't think we should have anyone tell us that we cannot do things. We should be able to do it, we should be able to have a positive attitude. I think of, for example the fishery, and we have been doing it for years, we catch it and we sell it, almost in a sense alive, and it goes into the Boston market and they make fish cakes, fish sticks and sell it back to us. These are where all the jobs are, yet, we cannot get any. It is our resource. I think of the same thing with forestry, and one of

the communities that I represent in my District, practically all of the people are loggers and every time I go to my District the Minister can recognize us. We went down there to the Harbour Breton highway, for about fifteen or twenty miles it is completely burnt, and how long has it been burnt?...ten years, and the remains are still there, it is not even scarified, it is not even ready for replanting, and if you go in to the Member for Exploits District in the Point Leamington Botwood area you will find three areas that have been cut out for fifteen or twenty years. No replanning, we are not aggressive enough we are not proactive. If you go into Scandanivia and you go into Germany; if they cut a tree, they plant a tree, and we are wondering about where we are going to get resources for the next ten years for our two or three paper mills that we have. And we talk about labour intensive, and I know the Minister of Forestry has signed a new agreement with the Federal Government to create a number of jobs, but I suggest to you that we could triple these number of jobs if we planned it right with people who could be involved in the forestry, not cutting but planning. And if we are to have a viable forestry industry in this Province then I would suggest to you that it would happen. Then I would like to touch on the idea of the recreation. We heard several Members talk about the decrease in recreation facilities. Hon. Members talk about the decrease in recreation facilities and programs. If the rural areas of the Province have already talked to the Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs about that, if certain rural areas of the Province are to have recreation

facilities, then they will not be able to apply by the rule that is set down for the larger centers. There will have to be some changes to that particular plan, because if we ever allow a community or communities to progress without having some recreation for the kids, and they can never do it because the economic base is not there, then I think that we are derelict in our duty to the people that we represent in the Province as a whole.

And that comes back to the point where the Minister of Education and some of the things that he has been able to do, like for the school board in Fortune Bay-Hermitage, one of the smaller ones that is there. In the writing-off of debt, that particular board was unable to operate and through the Department of Education, they took the initiative, they wrote off a large portion of the debt for that particular school board, and we met with the board the other day and they said we are managing because of the action that the Minister had taken. And these are the progressive steps that we have got to be able to do to make things happen.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Langdon: And this is where, I believe, the Minister of Finance is coming from when he says that we have to get a new focus, we have to look at things differently than we have in the past, because regardless of what the political stripe might have been, then we have not been able to filter ahead or go ahead like we should have. And we have the resources and we only have a limited number of people here to avail of that. But I also realize too, that we have

hundreds of communities that are scattered right across the coastline and that makes it very difficult to put infrastructure and all the things into that.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Langdon: Yes and I am sure the Minister has already recognized that for pre-schoolers, because you see, I remember doing a paper one time for Education 4360, I think it was Sociology, and I did it on the premise that - and I became a bit of a devil's advocate with it and I said, no more people go to university than they do because the upper strata of society does not want them to.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Langdon: It was a different approach to it.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Langdon: But if you look at that particular premise and if everybody out in the communities that we represent had the educational level of people here, then we would have a different society on our hands, a different group of people, different communities than what is out there. Many of the people in the communities, whether we like it or not, are functionally illiterate, and if we were to go to many of the homes, we see no libraries, we see no books. These are foreign to kids. Some of our children when they go to school they can read fluently, others are not able to recognize the alphabet, and they all start on the plane, but they are not on a level plane, and they will never be able to catch up, primarily because they have not been introduced to the same learning environment at birth.

And they will not see the same value for school. And I know, I have been in the educational setting for the last twenty-seven years. And I could almost tell a kid that came in in kindergarten, if he was to make it through or not.

And the people that did make it through, and this is something that I said here in the House before has amazed me and used to really hurt, that some of the brighter students just did courses to get them into Trades School rather than University because their parents could not finance them through, and that really hurt. And I think that we, as a society, must recognize that and do what we can to improve the student aid to the students in the instances where the parents cannot really do it.

Mr. Speaker, the world, as I have said over the last number of months I guess, has seen a change in the way that we want to govern ourselves, or the people in the Far East have. And we have seen more and more in the last little while that individual liberties of people have become very important. I think that as we, as a Province, continue to educate our young people, as we continue to improve educational standards for them; then they will expect more. They will demand more from Government. I think it is imperative, on all of us, whether we are in Opposition or whether we are in Government, to do what is in our ability to try and improve the lot of the people that we represent. I really think that the day will come, that if we do not have integrity on our part, to try to improve the lot of the people that we represent, then they will indeed hold us

accountable.

I also think, that once we as individuals come into the House and we do joke sometimes, and we make light of the things that we do. I guess if we did not, we probably might go berserk. I do not think that we should ever fail to realize that the majority of people who we represent in rural Newfoundland, are some of the lowest wage earners in all of Canada. As I said in summation, I would say again; it is incumbent on us, to do what we can to make life as meaningful, to use the number of dollars that we have to make life that way.

Earlier I was listening to the Member for Fogo saying that he fully supports the sharing of the educational facilities, and so do I. Mr. Speaker, I have seen a number of instances, if it is only one dollar, or two dollars, or three dollars; where there is duplication of services. We cannot afford to allow it to happen, because it is one dollar, or two dollars, or three dollars that we can use for something else; to improve the economy or to improve infrastructure. I believe we have to be vigilant in the number of dollars that we spend. I think that over the next number of days, and probably years, we will see that the people are going to be more and more receptive to the idea of shared educational facilities. There is, without a doubt, duplication, and where there is duplication, we cannot afford it.

Mr. Speaker, that is my part at this particular time. I know I probably have not made thirty minutes of it. Nevertheless, this is the gist of what I have to say, and I am happy to have been able

to participate in it.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member for St. John's East Extern has spoken in the debate before, I am told.

Mr. Parsons: I did not realize, Mr. Speaker. I thought I had spoken on the Throne Speech.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. gentleman has spoken, and unfortunately the rules only allow a Member to speak once.

The hon. the Member for Menihek.

Mr. A. Snow: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I will speak some good words about the Member for St. John's because a lot of the people in the mining industry are not. But his critic will.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to speak on the Budget. Previous speakers, such as the speaker from Placentia, tonight spoke very, very well, and talked about his support for the Budget, why he supported the Budget, and his support for the ferries, and lack of it. He talked about how the people of the Province initially supported the Budget.

An Hon. Member: Ask the Minister of Finance what he said.

Mr. A. Snow: He has already said enough, I think.

He talked about how editorial comments; and he quoted the editorial from one of our leading Provincial papers, the Evening Telegram, how they initially had come out and talked about how this

was a very good budget and well presented and that it was a good Liberal budget.

And a lot of people, I will agree with the hon. Member for Placentia, that a lot of people in this Province did initially believe that this was a good Liberal budget, initially. It was very skillfully presented, prior to a long weekend, with very little analysis done by, I will even admit, the Opposition, and the media, I do not think, did not really look into the budget. But after careful scrutiny, we found that, indeed, there were a lot of things in the budget that did not necessarily make it a Liberal budget. Of course that would depend then on how one would define liberal. I think if we were all speaking honestly in reference to this particular budget, we would see that it is not a Liberal budget by any stretch of the imagination, it is a conservative budget, small 'c' conservative budget.

Ms. Verge: Not progressive, Regressive.

Mr. A. Snow: Yes it is not a Progressive Conservative budget, it is a regressive conservative budget.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. A. Snow: But it was skillfully presented in the sense that it was deceiving, deceptive, smoke and mirrors, it was crafty.

Mr. Hearn: It was cooked up in the kitchen.

Mr. A. Snow: And some of the things in it - I will just mention a few - the problem was not when he talked about the tax increases,



of course we all know that the income tax increase was announced the year previous, that one percentage point would go up this year.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. A. Snow: We all know that the hidden taxes that were asked to be collected from other agencies, such as the increase in student fees, such as the additional revenue requested from the Newfoundland Liquor Corporation, we also know about the \$5 million extra that will be coming into revenue and increase other fees from other sources.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. A. Snow: Yes they are combined for what one could define as a very crafty or devious or deceptive budget.

An Hon. Member: Devious, that is it.

An Hon. Member: Cooked up in the kitchen, that is it.

An Hon. Member: That is unparliamentary.

Mr. A. Snow: It is not unparliamentary. And yes, I will agree with the hon. Member for Placentia, he said there are some things in the budget that I do see as positive. In my particular District there are some positive things in the budget, and as the hon. Member for Fortune-Hermitage mentioned, the analysis of the budget in three particular areas; he talked about the personal analysis, one has to analyze it personally, and in the District and in the Province, and we have to do it also by resources. When I do it in my District, I can see

some things that were good for my District.

The hon. Member for Eagle River attended a social function and the annual meeting of the local Labrador West Caribou Hunters Association a couple of weeks ago, and made an announcement while he was in the District, he made two actually, two announcements, the one I will repeat here is the one concerning the additional manpower that will be located in Western Labrador in the terms of having another Crown Lands office opened in Western Labrador, which is something that is needed in Western Labrador, and that is something that I welcome. It was unfortunate, of course, that -

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. A. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the debate on the budget.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Government House Leader.

Mr. Baker: Thank you Mr. Speaker.

I would like to inform hon. Members that we will be continuing with the budget debate tomorrow, and I would also like to inform hon. Members, and if the acting Opposition House Leader has a pen or pencil handy she might copy these down. I am ready to introduce a number of Bills as soon as the budget debate is finished.

Bills Numbers 30, 26, 27, 45, 49, 8, 41, 47, and 36. So these are the ones that are either ready or about ready to be called.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Baker: Yes.

Ms Verge: (Inaudible).

Mr. Baker: There are, I believe, two of them that have not, I think there are two of them. Most of them have, yes.

Mr. Speaker: This House now stands adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, at nine of the clock in the morning.