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Speaker: Hon. Wilbur MacDonald

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10:04 a.m.

**MATTERS OF PRIVILEGE AND RECOGNITION
OF GUESTS**

Speaker:

Premier: It's a pleasure to welcome all visitors to the public gallery today. In particular, Mr. Speaker, we have the Grade XII Political Science class from Charlottetown Rural and their teacher, Florrie MacLeod. This is great place to learn about politics up close and Question Period will be taking place over the next hour. I hope you enjoy your stay with us.

Mr. Speaker, I also wanted to note that there are a lot of tourists and visitors coming to our province at this time of year, starting to come to PEI, and so I want to particularly welcome any visitors from across the country or United States that might be here in the gallery today. And I would point out, Mr. Speaker, that there are a lot of people around Charlottetown over this next few days. Many of them are part of 1,000 delegates that are here with the Motion Picture Theatre Association of Canada. They have a show... conference called Show Canada that is currently under way and they distribute it throughout the hotels in the Greater Charlottetown area and have meetings at the CP, that fine flagship hotel on the waterfront. So we welcome all the visitors today and hope our visitors to the public gallery enjoy the Question Period and the proceedings. (APPLAUSE)

Speaker: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to welcome all visitors to the public gallery today. It's a beautiful day here in Prince Edward Island, Mr. Speaker, and I know that there are a group of Grade XII Political Science students from Charlottetown Rural, along with their teacher, Florrie MacLeod, so I want to extend a warm welcome to them. As well, Mr. Speaker, there are quite a number of tourists that are beginning to make their way to Prince Edward Island. I was speaking with a group outside the House this morning from Hanover, Ontario and I know there are visitors as well from Toronto and Halifax and other centres across the country. So we certainly extend a warm PEI welcome to our visitors.

I might also point out, Mr. Speaker, that this is graduation weekend at the University of Prince Edward Island, and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all graduates and their families. Thank you. (APPLAUSE)

Speaker: The Honourable Leader of the Third Party.

Dr. Herb Dickieson (ND): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to welcome all guests to the gallery, particularly those who have come to visit Prince Edward Island. I certainly hope you enjoy your stay. I'd like to welcome, as well, my son and good buddy, Daniel, who's in with me this morning; and, as well, Mr. Speaker, I think it's important to note that it is the graduation weekend, as been noted. I wish the best to all the graduates and their families and, as well, it's a very special weekend. It's Mother's Day Weekend. I'd like to wish all the best to all the mothers across Prince Edward Island, including my own, Esther Dickieson, of New Glasgow; and as my colleague stated, from Souris-Elmira, stated there's nothing more warm than a mother's hug. I certainly hope that all mothers across the Island receive a good hug this weekend. Thank you.

Speaker: The Honourable Provincial Treasurer.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, want to take this opportunity to welcome everybody to the gallery on this beautiful morning. The visitors from out of province that I, too, had the pleasure of meeting before the House assembled. I also want to welcome Daniel Dickieson to the Assembly and, in particular, the Political Science class from Charlottetown Rural and their teacher, Florrie Bradley-MacLeod; and I want to single out some of the people in the class here that I do know - Pam Sellick, Sarah Carver and last but not least, my niece, my twin sister's daughter, Jill Forbes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (APPLAUSE)

Speaker: The honourable member from Sherwood-Hillsborough.

Elmer MacFadyen (PC): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, want to welcome everybody to the gallery, but I rise to inform the House that our Minister of Health and Social Services is still in Saskatoon. Our Minister

of Development is in Halifax and our Minister of Agriculture is in Halifax also on Government business and our Premier will be leaving at about 10:30, 20 to 11, to go to the Allied Youth Convention at Mill River.

Leader of the Opposition: Mr. Speaker, just in connection with the honourable member's announcement, I'm concerned, Mr. Speaker, about the number of Ministers who are not in the House during this session of the Assembly. The Premier campaigned on a very strong platform that he wanted to ensure that the Legislative Assembly had two sessions a year, Mr. Speaker, and that the sessions would be productive sessions; and Question Period is an opportunity for Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition to hold Ministers of the Crown accountable, Mr. Speaker, and here we have today, again, and as has happened on a number of occasions, we have three ministers who are not in the House. There's only 10 Ministers in Cabinet. Three are not in the House and the Premier's leaving in 10 or 15 minutes. It makes the work of the Opposition very difficult, Mr. Speaker.

Now you chastised Government about this some time ago, but apparently they are not heeding your words and I would ask you again, Mr. Speaker, to inform the Ministers that it's their responsibility to be in the House and to answer questions pertaining to their ministries.

Speaker: The honourable member from Sherwood-Hillsborough.

Elmer MacFadyen (PC): We realize that three Ministers of the Crown are not here today. There is business of Government that's required for Ministers to represent the Province outside of our own province. If the operation of Government relied strictly on only Prince Edward Island, we could see them being here; but I also would want to note that when Government is being held accountable, there is at times when the Leader of the Opposition has not been in the House as well.

Speaker: The honourable member from...

Leader of the Opposition: Mr. Speaker, I think my attendance record can speak for itself. I've been here every sitting day, with the exception of one day, Mr.

Speaker.

Speaker: The honourable member from Alberton-Miminegash

Hector MacLeod (L): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I, too, would like to welcome everybody to the gallery today and a special welcome to Stephen Hardy, who is from my riding, Alberton-Miminegash, and Stephen is also the President of the Waste Haulers Association here on Prince Edward Island. So, Stephen, I welcome you to the gallery today, and the lady, Evelyn, I believe is her name, from Winsloe, is there with you as well. Welcome. (APPLAUSE)

Speaker: The honourable member from North River-Rice Point.

Ron MacKinley (L): Mr. Speaker, I, too, would like to welcome all the people to the gallery, especially the students here today. But also I see Mr. and Mrs. Ken Peters here from North Rustico, which is the area I used to represent. It's nice to see you here today, along with Tom Kickham, Joe Christianson (sic) from Souris and Norbert Stewart and many more people that are here today in the gallery. I also see Mr. Richardson, the President of Fourth. Prince, I'm not sure, but the Minister of Agriculture's district is here also.

An Honourable Member: Nineteen.

Ron MacKinley (L): Nineteen. (APPLAUSE)

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Speaker: Statements by Members. The honourable member from Souris-Elmira.

10:12 a.m.

TRIBUTE TO MOTHERS

Andy Mooney (PC): Thank you Mr. Speaker. First off Mr. Speaker, I'd like to extend a welcome also to 2 good fellows from out in my district Mr. Speaker--- Mr. Tommy Kickham and Joe Christian. I'd like to extend a welcome on behalf of the House today.

Mr. Speaker, it's my honour to pay a special tribute to

the mothers of Prince Edward Island as we prepare this weekend to celebrate Mother's Day. Mother's Day is a special day set aside so we can show our appreciation or take time to remember all that mothers do and have done. In many families Mr. Speaker, it's the mother who displays the compassion, devotion, and energy that shapes the lives of the people we grow to be. Mothers provide lessons and care that allows generations of children to look to a future with confidence and hope. Mothers give us both strength and enable us to face our challenges and the love that comforts and sustains us.

Mr. Speaker, this Sunday mothers will be celebrating the day with their families in a variety of ways. Mothers of young children may receive gifts of little hand paintings or plasters or coloured cards, while mothers of grown children may be treated to a lobster supper or a drive in the countryside. But the sentiment is the same Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, mothers have a huge responsibility. Whether running a household with a spouse or as a single parent, mothers set the limits and rules, teach our children how to deal with time and money, sit up all night with a sick child, work, play, study, laugh, and cry with children. Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the 2 mothers who contribute so much to my own life and I want to publicly thank them and express my love for them Mr. Speaker, and that's my wife Lorraine, the mother of our 4 children, and my mother Kay Mooney, who is the mother of 10, Mr. Speaker.

And I'm sure everyone has a special story about their mother that they can relate with on this time of year Mr. Speaker. But one thing I'd like to just throw out fairly quickly is, as kids growing up, we had, my father, on their 25th anniversary, put a china cabinet in the house at home. And they had gifts, 25th anniversary gifts, but years after that, every Christmas they seemed to get fine china--tea cups and everything for Christmas. And as kids growing up on a farm, we were pretty rough little characters! And the one place we were never allowed was near the china cabinet. And it was a running joke for years that, I don't think there's a fingerprint yet of any of us kids on that china cabinet!

Anyway, shortly after the election Mr. Speaker, on a Monday in office hours, and Mr. Speaker, office hours sometimes, as both sides of the House will know, is kind of a stressful day, as you get more requests for help than you have help to help to provide to people. And I dropped down to see my mother on the way home Mr. Speaker, and anyway, she kind of knew I was off a little bit that day. And she said, would you like a cup of tea before you head home. Well Mr. Speaker, I sat down and just reading the paper over quickly while Mom put the tea on. And she said, Andy, come on in; the tea is ready. And I went in to sit down at the table and I looked, her finest china!

Well Mr. Speaker, this may not mean much to some, but to me it was something. And it just goes to show that, no matter if you're 2, 12, 22, or, like I was, 32, there's no one knows you any more than your mother and no one knows, some simple little word or gesture that can make things seem an awful lot better Mr. Speaker. And no matter how much grief these lads may throw some days, (LAUGHTER) I think back to a cup of tea in a china cup and things don't seem so bad! (LAUGHTER)

So Mr. Speaker, it's often been said that there's no love in this world like a mother's love for their children Mr. Speaker. And Mr. Speaker, they don't receive awards of merit or awards for years of service, but today, on behalf of our Premier and all the people in this Legislature, we'd like to extend a great day to every mother across this province and beyond, and may this day just be one of many great days to come Mr. Speaker. Thank you. (APPLAUSE)

Speaker: The honourable Leader of the Opposition.

JOHN FORTIER, JR., PARTICIPANT IN ROYAL CANADIAN GOLF ASSOCIATION HIGH PERFORMANCE TRAINING CAMP

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to take a moment to recognize the recent accomplishment of a young man that I'm very pleased to know, John Fortier, Junior. John has recently been selected to participate in the Royal Canadian Golf Association High Performance Training Camp to be held May 30th to June 2nd in Montreal. This is indeed quite an honour Mr. Speaker, and John will be joined

by 2 other Islanders---Craig Taylor and Tim Yorke.

The Royal Canadian Golf Association has recently undertaken the responsibility for young player development. And the Island threesome has been selected among the best and brightest young golfers in the country. Each camp is limited to 20 participants from across the country and at the conclusion of the camp, 16 golfers will be chosen to participate in a Team Canada camp to be held in August. Participants in this Team Canada camp will be eligible for selection to represent Canada at an upcoming international competition.

As I indicated Mr. Speaker, I know John personally and I'm very pleased with his selection to attend this camp. I can tell you that he is an excellent golfer. Last year at the Belvedere Junior Golf Championships, which consisted of 3 rounds Mr. Speaker, the 3 rounds that he had were 69, 69, and 72, and that is a pretty respectable threesome rounds for a young 16-year old golfer. What makes this recognition so special is that John's ability as a golfer are also matched by his qualities as a young man. I know he has a very bright future and I wish him well in whatever role he chooses. Thank you Mr. Speaker. (APPLAUSE)

Speaker: The honourable member from Sherwood-Hillsborough.

WORLD RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT DAY

Elmer MacFadyen (PC): Thank you Mr. Speaker. This Saturday, May 8th, is recognized as World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day. A hundred and seventy-five Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies world-wide will mark the birth dates of Henry Dunant, the founder of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent movement. This tradition began in 1948, but the origins of a special day celebrating the birth of Red Cross began in Czechoslovakia in 1922, with the proclamation of a 3-day truce at Easter to promote peace. After the Second World War, the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies formally adopted May 8th as the global Red Cross/Red Crescent Day.

This year World Red Cross Day comes at a time when millions of people in the area of Europe known as the

Balkans look to the Red Cross/Red Crescent for humanitarian aid as they flee their homes during this terrible time of conflict. Mr. Speaker, the emblems of the Red Cross and Red Crescent provide a measure of comfort for the refugees who have had their homes destroyed and their lives changed forever by this terrible war. The Balkans is just one of many areas in the world where the Red Cross/Red Crescent is providing humanitarian aid. The Red Cross is active in Sierra Leone, Tanzania, the Congo, Central America, and numerous other locations where basic human needs are not being met whether due to war or natural disasters.

Locally, the PEI Region of the Canadian Red Cross provides safety training to over 15,000 Islanders each year through our water safety program and First Aid training. The Red Cross Emergency Services Program provides food, clothing, and shelter for Island families who have lost their homes due to fire or other types of personal disaster. Red Cross is active in our Island schools as First Aid training is provided to all Grade 9 students in the province. And this past year, the Red Cross provided the Injury Prevention Awareness Program "Heroes" to 2,000 high school students in Charlottetown and Montague.

Mr. Speaker, to date the PEI Region, through the generosity of Islanders, has collected over \$17,000 in donations for the Balkans Refugee Relief Fund and, with the assistance of Atlantic Superstore and Glen Stewart Elementary School, have filled 500 comfort kits to be distributed to refugees arriving in Canada. This week PEI Red Cross volunteer and international delegate, Brenton MacLeod, of Cornwall has been assigned to the international Red Cross delegation in Albania, working as logistics officer with the various refugee camps located in the country.

Mr. Speaker, the local chapter of the Red Cross has provided pins for all Members to wear in recognition of World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day. With your permission Mr. Speaker, I will ask the Pages to distribute the pins now, and offer all Red Cross staff and volunteers on PEI our gratitude for all the work that they do. Thank you. (APPLAUSE)

Speaker: A point of privilege from the honourable member from Alberton-Miminegash.

WELCOME TO EXCHANGE STUDENTS

Hector MacLeod (L): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I did have one point of privilege already, but I have some guests came to the Gallery since that point in time. And Mr. Speaker, there's 3 special guests in the Gallery today who are travelling with Audrey Callaghan from the Miminegash area. Audrey is the president of my riding association. These 3 young ladies are exchange students and Audrey has them here today. And I would like to recognize Warrie Sunlee from Thailand, who is attending Holland College in Summerside; and Maria Jose Galarza from Ecuador, who is attending Westisle; and Juliana Salvador from Brazil, who is also attending Westisle. So ladies, welcome and I hope you enjoy the session. (APPLAUSE)

Speaker: The honourable member from Sherwood-Hillsborough.

WELCOME TO JOE MURPHY

Elmer MacFadyen (PC): Point of privilege Mr. Speaker. I never noticed the gentleman when he came into the Gallery, but Joe Murphy, well known on Prince Edward Island from working previous at Henderson and Cudmore, is in the Gallery, and I'd like to welcome him here today. (APPLAUSE)

Speaker: Questions by members starting with response to question taken as notice.

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS TAKEN AS NOTICE

There were none.

Speaker: Question? The honourable Leader of the Third Party.

10:22 a.m.

ORAL QUESTIONS**IMPLEMENTATION OF EMPLOYMENT SUMMIT RECOMMENDATIONS**

Dr. Herb Dickieson (ND): Thank you very much Mr. Speaker. And I have a question for the Premier, being

as the national statistics are in on unemployment this morning. And the statistic for Prince Edward Island, sadly, is stagnant at 14.8, possibly one-tenth of a percent better than it was the month before. Being as the Premier has failed to come up with an employment strategy of his own, being as an employment strategy has been provided for him through the employment summit, will the Premier now consider adopting the employment summit as an employment strategy to deal with the problem that he has failed to address on Prince Edward Island?

Premier: Mr. Speaker, I thank the honourable member for that question and the fact that he's related the Stats Canada unemployment figures. What the figures, in fact, show Mr. Speaker, is that the unemployment rate in the rest of the country, all the rest of Canada, went up by about three-quarters of one percent. In fact, in Prince Edward Island our unemployment rate didn't increase, which shows once again that our employment strategy initiatives are working Mr. Speaker. We now have the most people working in Prince Edward Island ever. I believe in successive months, compared to years earlier, we have the lowest EI rates in most months and, certainly, we're on the right track. The economy looks very vibrant. Help wanted index is higher in PEI than practically anywhere else in the country, in the newspaper reports. Building material sales are at a strong level. Generally, our employment situation is very favourable Mr. Speaker. I thank the honourable member for pointing that out.

Dr. Herb Dickieson (ND): Mr. Speaker, clearly, the figure is stagnant, in a double digit...double digit scenario, much as it was when he gained office in the first place. And our statistic stands out amongst the Maritime provinces. Yes, Newfoundland is the only province in the country that's a bit worse than we are. But should we be competing with Newfoundland for the highest unemployment statistics in the country. I believe this is wrong. Isn't it time Mr. Speaker, that the Premier adopted the employment summit, began to address the serious issue of employment in this province, and rather than just pretending that it's something that will go away by itself?

Premier: Mr. Speaker, I would point out again that Prince Edward Island is probably the only Atlantic province whose population is actually increasing. In

the case of Newfoundland, their unemployment rate is still, of course, much worse than ours. But the only reason it's as favourable as it is because most people had to leave that province in order to obtain work. And I think what's important here Mr. Speaker, is the long-term trend. Our population is going up. Our workforce is going up. And overall, our unemployment numbers are going down. And we see this trend that will continue into the next number of years. Mr. Speaker, employment objectives are working very well and we are working on the employment strategy document, which has been brought forward by the committee that earlier dealt with this matter. The Minister of Development and other departments are all working on the recommendations.

Dr. Herb Dickieson (ND): Clearly, the minister, or the Premier, and I've read his response to the employment report and it just gives excuses and it gives reasons why we should not come ahead, reasons why we should not have kindergarten in this province, reasons that we should not address a serious transportation issue in the province. This government has failed to address one of the most serious problems in this province. And to date, the Premier is still refusing to adopt the employment summit, to embrace it, to begin implementing some of its strategies.

And for example, one thing that the Premier could do, if he was going to show some sincerity in his belief that this problem should be addressed would be to set employment targets. Will the Premier set a realistic employment target with a deadline for that target to be reached?

Premier: Well Mr. Speaker, I don't have the report in front of me or the numbers. But I want to point out that our workforce has now reached 73,000. That's the highest number of people that have ever been working in Prince Edward Island. We have probably the highest participation rate of any province in Canada in the workforce. And the reason Mr. Speaker, that we have high unemployment numbers is due to the fact that we have a very seasonal economy. It's no secret to anybody that you can't farm in the wintertime. You can't fish with the Gulf is frozen over. A lot of woodland activity is restricted. The tourists don't come in the wintertime the way they do

in the summertime. We will always have that crisis. But despite that Mr. Speaker, we are making very good progress. And as I pointed out, our numbers probably exceed the rest of the country.

Speaker: The honourable member from Cascumpec-Grand River.

INTRODUCTION OF RIPARIAN RIGHTS LEGISLATION

Keith Milligan (L): Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Fisheries and Tourism. Mr. Minister, this morning on a radio report, my interpretation of your comments was that the riparian rights legislation has not been introduced in the House yet but it will be coming. Would you clarify for the population of this province that riparian rights legislation has been introduced to this House?

Hon. Kevin MacAdam (PC): Thank you Mr. Speaker. To the honourable member, you are correct. In fact, I did hear the same report. Actually, I heard it yesterday as well that they had announced, a number of media outlets, that the legislation was introduced the day before. In fact, it was last Thursday I believe, that the legislation was introduced.

Keith Milligan (L): Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister indicate to the House when we can look forward to second reading of this particular amendment?

Hon. Kevin MacAdam (PC): Mr. Speaker, certainly, given the fact that we've tabled it, as I said, last Thursday, I would believe that in all likelihood that it will be brought forward sometime next week for second reading and as we proceed throughout the House session, it will go on to third reading.

BRUDENELL II GOLF COURSE (further)

Keith Milligan (L): A new question to the same minister Mr. Speaker. On Tuesday, I asked a number of questions as it regards the structure of shareholders in the Brudenell II golf company. The minister undertook at that time to bring whatever information he is privy to to the Legislature the next day, which would have been Wednesday. This is Friday. Mr.

Minister, do you have those answers today?

Hon. Kevin MacAdam (PC): Just a point of clarification honourable member. You asked the question on Wednesday. And I apologize for yesterday, in fact, which was Thursday. Today is Friday of course. The answer to your question honourable member, is, as I'm quite sure you're aware of, government over the years, probably since Confederation, has hundreds of contracts with, contractual arrangements with companies in the private sector, whether it be hoteliers, tourism operators, fisheries, farming, what have you not. And we...the share structure of a lot of these companies is private information. And as I recall and as I was informed on December, I believe, of '97 or.....'97, when the announcement was made by the group of 10 investors, they had made a public statement on the shareholders. So, that is the information that I can bring back to the House.

Keith Milligan (L): Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. So, the minister is saying this here. You took 400 and some acres of Crown land, which is land owned by the people of Prince Edward Island, and you gave it to a company that had a bunch of people associated with the company, and the government didn't know who owned what in the company. Is that what you're telling....? And we have no right as taxpayers giving this land away, to know that answer?

Nancy Guptill (L): That's what he said!

An Honourable Member: Who did they give it to?

Keith Milligan (L): Mr. Speaker, there's a number of issues that were raised by the honourable member. First of all, you are correct. Ten investors were given an opportunity to build a golf course. Something that you're failing to mention of course is that there's a transparent lease arrangement; whereby they are given entitlement of a lease payment. The criteria that was set out, they've met that. They've provided a turnkey operation, a world-class golf course. And honourable member, and again, I know you're aware of this, as a corporation, which they've incorporated themselves, like any corporation, they're subject to the laws of the province. And we've taken an opportunity to invest with them and as a result, we have a world-class

facility.

Nancy Guptill (L): No answer!

Keith Milligan (L): Mr. Minister, see, what's going on here, the government is saying that they're not going to provide this information to the public of Prince Edward Island. Now, the question I asked on Tuesday was a little different. Subtle difference, but very important difference. And the question I asked Mr. Speaker is, does the minister---because, see, the government made the decision to give this land away and to invest millions of dollars in the infrastructure---did the government know who it was giving the land to? Do you Mr. Minister, personally speaking, do you know what the share-holding structure of the company is?

10:32 a.m.

Hon. Kevin MacAdam (PC): Mr. Speaker, again, there's a number of inaccuracies. First of all, I wasn't in the House on Tuesday. I was in Ottawa. So, the honourable member asked the question on Wednesday, which I was in the House. The reality is honourable member, the 10 investors have made an investment in regards to this particular golf course. Now, the honourable member can sit there or stand there and try to, try allay, or try to create some fears that something wrong has been done here. Again, 10 investors honourable member, 10 well-known Island businessmen, good business people in this province have made an investment. They put their money on the line. They've invested and put a world-class facility in place.

And honourable member, the land that you refer to was fallow land, land that was sitting there for many, many years under your government. And I remind the honourable member (UPROAR) it was a public request for proposal honourable member, that was made by your government. The call for proposals to develop this particular property. And as a result of that honourable member, we've acted upon that. And what we have is a world-class facility. It will greatly contribute to the golf product in this province. It will greatly contribute to tourism industry, certainly, in the eastern part of the province. And I think it's a great thing for tourism and I think it's a great thing for the

residents of the south eastern part of the province. And it's a good news story Mr. Speaker. And you know, I beg to differ with the honourable member. Your tactics are obviously, whether it be this company or Agrawest or what have you not, is to turn down good Island business people and prevent them from investing.

Nancy Guptill (L): Sure!

Hon. Kevin MacAdam (PC): And the climate you're trying to create honourable member, is one that no good business person would want to step up to the plate and invest in this province if your attitude persists....(INDISTINCT)

Nancy Guptill (L): More walkers over there!

Hon. Kevin MacAdam (PC):in government.

Keith Milligan (L): Mr. Speaker, with all due respect, I've not said anything negative and I've not said anything disrespectful about Brudenell II. I'm asking legitimate questions. Now Mr. Minister....

Nancy Guptill (L): You have a bunch of guilty consciences, every one of you!

Keith Milligan (L):I apologize because....

Nancy Guptill (L): Guilt all over your face!

Keith Milligan (L): ...the questions I did ask was on Wednesday, not on Tuesday. You were not in the House Tuesday. Sorry about that.

Leader of the Opposition: Not a substantial matter!

Keith Milligan (L): Now Mr. Minister, the question I asked was not answered and with all due respect, I will ask you it again. Do you Mr. Minister, yourself, as a minister of the Crown, know what the shareholding structure is of the company?

Hon. Kevin MacAdam (PC): Mr. Speaker, the answer to that question is no. Again honourable member, and I will remind the honourable member that, again, government does business with hundreds of companies, whether they be insurance companies or

computer companies, companies in the private sector such as farming community or the fishing community. And shareholder structure is not a prerequisite. And if the honourable member was that adamant knowing the shareholder structure, then I refer the honourable member to any of the deals in one particular company. A good company, good business in the province, certainly, in Atlantic Canada, throughout the country. The Irving Corporation. They're one example. They don't provide their share structure. So, I think the honourable member is well aware of the fact that companies, for the sake of business and, certainly, private reasons, don't have to release their share structure.

Keith Milligan (L): Mr. Speaker, again, with all due respect to the minister, that's totally incorrect because if I'm a private company and I'm applying to....responding to a tender in Transportation and Public Works, I have to outline my shareholder structure. That is part of the public process Mr. Speaker. And I would argue that it's also part or should be part of the public process. And I think Mr. Speaker, the government knows exactly what the shareholder structure is and they're withholding the information.

A new question Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I asked the minister to update the House on how Brudenell II golf course development is progressing. And he ensured on Wednesday that it would be fully operational and no problem meeting the July 1st deadline. The Brudenell....the minister says that Brudenell II is a turnkey operation. And I guess Mr. Speaker, I have to interpret that for myself as to what turnkey operation means. But I guess what it means is, developers build it and own it and Prince Edward Island people pay for it and operate it.

Now, under the operations management agreement Mr. Speaker, the government has the right to inspect. And I should note here, in the operations management agreement it doesn't say "shall inspect". It has a discretionary clause in there. It says "may inspect". So, the government can exercise some discretion there Mr. Speaker....can inspect Brudenell II upon its completion and prior to its opening on July 1st. And Brudenell II Incorporated is to be responsible for any deficiencies, anything that doesn't meet spec will be

the responsibility of the builders as of July 1st, related to the design and the construction of this particular golf course.

My question Mr. Speaker, to the minister is this. Who will carry out this inspection and according to what standards?

Hon. Kevin MacAdam (PC): Mr. Speaker, there's a number of issues that were raised by the honourable member and I'd like to address them. In fact, I'll take him back to Wednesday. And I have some more information I'd be very pleased to table for the honourable member. On Wednesday past, this week, the honourable member made, launched some accusations that the course was in great disrepair. I think they had one of their researchers Mr. Townsend or somebody, perhaps Mr. Lavers, go down and actually look at the course and come back. And the honourable member again levelled some accusations that, you know, there was great disarray and it probably wouldn't open. And I think it's certainly his wishes and hopes and intentions that it doesn't open.

But honourable member, to answer a number of your questions, I have some pictures that I had somebody from the office go down and Brudenell I and, of course, for Dunderave. And I think that the....a picture is worth a thousand words and I think they speak for themselves. There's a number of holes here. I want to inform the House that the grass has been cut, I think, on 3 occasions now. There's some beautiful shots and I'd be only too glad to share them with my colleagues.

I also have a letter honourable member, in regards to part of your question as to who will look at this check-off list, who will look at the quality of the course, and it's from our Director of Development, Mr. Ron MacNeill. And if the House would indulge me---or I can table the letter---in essence, what it is saying is the course is coming along great. It's in good shape. All the provincial courses are in good shape. With respect to Dunderave, everything has come through the winter (UPROAR) in well shape honourable member, and, you know, basically, that things are on schedule. And honourable member, I have every inclination to believe that the course will open on or before July 1st, and I invite the honourable member to come down to the opening ceremony.

Keith Milligan (L): A new question Mr. Speaker, to the same minister. So, the minister has a letter from one of his own employees saying that the course is on schedule and everything looks great. Whoop-de-do! Now Mr. Minister, the question was something totally different. My question was this. Mr. Minister, who will carry out the inspection because on July 1st, the golf course is going to be turned over to the province and at that point in time, the province pays \$635,000 per year for 10 years and you assume total responsibility for any deficiencies in the quality of the course.

Now, before that course is turned over, an inspection---independent, objective, arm's length---should be carried out. Who carries out that inspection Mr. Speaker? And would the minister inform the House who that is today?

An Honourable Member: A PC poll captain....(INDISTINCT)

Hon. Kevin MacAdam (PC): Mr. Speaker, I'd be pleased to inform the House. You know, and again, I'm not surprised honourable member, that you would attack the credibility of our Director of Development. I mean, we know what your record is with public servants in this province. The 7½% rollback was very indicative of the fact that the respect level is very, very low. Second of all honourable member, this same director, I believe, was there under your previous minister. A very credible individual, well-respected within the tourism industry. And of course, we have, of course, Nancy Pierce, who has looked after and brought a project, the Links at Crowbush Cove, to the only 5 star golf course in Canada, certainly, the only one of 10 in North America. So honourable member, we have qualified professional staff that can look after this. Unlike the honourable member, I have faith in this staff. And if you suggest that they should be at arm's length. And basically, you're suggesting that the credibility of their written word is not worth the paper it's written on. And I challenge you on the fact that we have qualified staff. And honourable member, they are very well respected in the golf industry and they tell me that things are in good shape, I take them on their word.

An Honourable Member: Here! Here!

Keith Milligan (L): Mr. Speaker, the minister can challenge me all he wants. That doesn't bother me one iota. But what is established here this morning is 2 things. I asked you a question about shareholder structure, in terms of ownership. Mr. Speaker, the minister will not answer that on the floor of this House. So, the taxpayers of this province, who own the land that was given away and who invested a million dollars, have no idea who they give it to. I have a pretty good idea Mr. Speaker, but the minister won't confirm it.

Nancy Guptill (L): As we know!

Keith Milligan (L): Now, the second question I asked, is there going to be an independent, arm's length, objective assessment done before you accept the responsibility for paying out \$635,000 per year. The minister Mr. Speaker, does not answer that question either.

Ron MacKinley (L): No!

Keith Milligan (L): So, just to be noted, neither question was answered. Could the minister please outline to the House then Mr. Speaker, the capital infrastructure, the infrastructure that was put in place not by the private developers but by the Government of Prince Edward Island, which has been put in place at Brudenell at government expense to accommodate the new and existing golf course. What infrastructure improvements and additions have been made and what is the total cost to the province of these improvements?

10:42 a.m.

Hon. Kevin MacAdam (PC): Mr. Speaker, again, the honourable member has levelled a number of accusations and tries to suggest again, and whether the honourable member wishes to be challenged or not challenged, I stand by what I said. He is challenging the credibility of senior staff members within the Department of Tourism, that have been there for a number of years. People that are paid professionals to make this kind of decision-making. And I think the Hansard will certainly speak for itself in that the honourable member is, basically, negating their abilities and the fact that they are able to give a professional, qualified opinion on what is happening

whether it be in regards to Dunderave or any of our golf courses.

Honourable member, in regards to the funding or the infrastructure that you're referring to. And I've said it before in the Legislature and I'll say it again. Funding that has been provided for the infrastructure work down there is in conjunction with the Rodd Hotel Resort Development. It's certainly an expansion, making that facility that much greater. It is...it's a development that's going to enhance the tourism industry. And you know, the honourable member would try and suggest or lead the viewers and certainly members of the Legislature to believe that it, again, is something that's specific to the developers that built this golf course and that's not the case honourable member.

The reality of the matter is this. We have Mr. David Rodd, who is a well-known, well-respected (UPROAR) cornerstone of the tourism industry in this province, has expanded his own facility down there. And like our government and your government (UPROAR) were working with them honourable member, to make sure that future expansion, excuse me, will be enhanced and, certainly, provide a wonderful accommodation for the people of this province and for the visitors of this province.

An Honourable Member: Here! Here! (APPLAUSE)
(UPROAR)

Keith Milligan (L): Mr. Speaker, see, what, our worst suspicions are coming true on the floor of this Legislature this morning because in the agreement that the minister signed Mr. Speaker, it allowed the discretionary power of government who may appoint an independent, objective person to assess the course before it's turned over. And what the minister is saying, he's going to have his own staff do that. He's not going to exercise his discretionary power.

Now, the other thing Mr. Speaker, I asked was, there's 3 questions I asked this morning. Shareholder structure, we didn't get an answer. Secondly was the power of discretion with an independent person doing an assessment before it was turned over.

An Honourable Member: No answer!

Keith Milligan (L): And thirdly Mr. Speaker, was the amount of public dollars spent on infrastructure and the minister did not answer that question. So Mr. Speaker, we do know this. The Island taxpayer has contributed handsomely to the overall capital construction (INDISTINCT) the infrastructure at Brudenell II.

Nancy Guptill (L): Tell us about it!

Keith Milligan (L): I understand that the government is constructing a new clubhouse facility to serve both the existing course and a new course. Would the minister tell us how that particular project is coming along? I've been told that the foundation was to start last week but hasn't started yet.

Richard Brown (L): He's getting some coaching there!

Nancy Guptill (L): Yeah! From the golfer!

Hon. Kevin MacAdam (PC): Honourable member, again, you know, the member from Grand River-Cascumpec, you know, I think, is incredibly skeptical. Obviously, he's trying to throw out suggestions that we haven't answered questions. I have answered your questions honourable member. The reality is, number one, that we are having....

An Honourable Member: What's the shareholders....(INDISTINCT)

Hon. Kevin MacAdam (PC):our people, from our department.....

Keith Milligan (L): What's the shareholder structure?

Hon. Kevin MacAdam (PC):paid professionals go down there and to assess the quality of that course.

Keith Milligan (L): That's not what....(INDISTINCT)

Hon. Kevin MacAdam (PC): We're assuming control of it. We will make sure honourable member, that the checklist of what it is that we want done, that we expect to be done, will, in fact, be up to speed, so to speak, so that when assume control of (UPROAR) the golf course it will be where we want it. And

honourable member, again, in regards to the shareholder structure, and the honourable member knows this and he's trying to again, and that's his right, play politics with an issue. The reality is honourable member, there are 10 private business people.

Keith Milligan (L): What's the answer?

Hon. Kevin MacAdam (PC): They are the investors, and what we are paying them is a lease fee. The honourable member knows that. They're internal share structure is their own business; it's not my business. And honourable member, that is information that they have and the honourable member knows that.

And in regards to the other issue honourable member, we have worked with Mr. David Rodd, again, from Rodd Hotels and Resorts. And I challenge the honourable member again. Your government, as have successive governments, worked with this individual, certainly, a great businessman and a cornerstone, as I said, in the tourism industry and we are making sure that the product that he has, which is a great product already, will be that much better in the coming tourism season.

Keith Milligan (L): Now Mr. Speaker, I want the public of this province to understand. This is the fourth time this morning that the minister has not answered the question I asked. My question was about the clubhouse. How is it progressing? Last week, I understand, that the foundation was supposed to be poured for a new clubhouse. What is the status today of the clubhouse?

Hon. Kevin MacAdam (PC): Mr. Speaker, I don't have an exact up-to-date statement on what the state of the clubhouse is. From my understanding, it is on schedule when it is being built. And I will ascertain any information that would bring the honourable member up to speed on the state of the clubhouse and I will try and bring that back for Tuesday.

Keith Milligan (L): So Mr. Speaker, the minister came in here this morning, having been asked questions earlier this week on the golf course, was supposed to go out and research and bring back

answers to those questions. And he came in this morning and he had a whole billfold full of pictures to show me about the progress of the course, but when I start to ask a specific question Mr. Speaker, all of a sudden....

An Honourable Member: Oops!

Keith Milligan (L):oh, don't know the answers!

Ron MacKinley (L): No!

An Honourable Member: Bring the pictures!

Keith Milligan (L): Now, would you tell the House Mr. Speaker, the minister, whether he's had any discussions on the clubhouse in the last week or 2?

An Honourable Member: Look at the pictures....(INDISTINCT)

Hon. Kevin MacAdam (PC): Sorry member, I didn't catch the last part.

Keith Milligan (L): Have you had any discussions with anyone regarding the clubhouse in the last week or 2?

Hon. Kevin MacAdam (PC): Mr. Speaker, no I haven't.

Keith Milligan (L): Mr. Speaker, my understanding and my source of information tells me that there's a new clubhouse to be built in Brudenell II and that the clubhouse is to be built and owned by government.

Nancy Guptill (L): (INDISTINCT) This is good, isn't it?

Keith Milligan (L): Now, could you tell me, on whose land the clubhouse is to be built?

Nancy Guptill (L): (INDISTINCT) you know this....(INDISTINCT)

Hon. Kevin MacAdam (PC): Mr. Speaker, again, the honourable member is trying to cast doubt on a project that I think is going to be very successful.

An Honourable Member: Whose land?

Hon. Kevin MacAdam (PC): And what I said to the honourable member is, the golf course or, sorry, the facility and the infrastructure that is being put in there....

Nancy Guptill (L): More whoopers!

Hon. Kevin MacAdam (PC): ...is an investment by the province in conjunction with the resort developer, Mr. David Rodd, and information that I have in regards to the clubhouse and that, I will bring back to the honourable member on Tuesday. I just don't have it at my fingertips honourable member.

Keith Milligan (L): Mr. Speaker, with all due respect to the minister. Did you not tender and award a contract for the building of the clubhouse?

Hon. Kevin MacAdam (PC): Mr. Speaker, no.

Robert Morrissey (L): No? A million-dollar clubhouse! No tender!

Keith Milligan (L): Mr. Speaker, I don't know whether the government, the minister is playing semantics here or games or whatever it is. Did your government, any minister award a tender for the building of the clubhouse at Brudenell?

Nancy Guptill (L): Yeah, he's got it...(INDISTINCT)

Ron MacKinley (L): Yeah! You're caught now!

Hon. Kevin MacAdam (PC): Mr. Speaker, again, I will bring back to the honourable member on Tuesday. And I want to be....

Nancy Guptill (L): Sure! (UPROAR)

Keith Milligan (L):I want to be extremely clear on the issue. And what I will do is, I will find out the specifics in regards to the questions that you're asking....

Nancy Guptill (L): You know Kevin! Come on!

Keith Milligan (L):and I will table it and I will

bring it back to the honourable member on Tuesday.
(UPROAR)

Keith Milligan (L): Mr. Speaker, maybe I can help the minister out. My source of information tells me that there was a tender call and that there was, government awarded the tender to a private company to build a clubhouse at Brudenell II---I'm sorry, at Brudenell---to be used by Brudenell I and Brudenell II and to be built and owned by the government.

An Honourable Member: The taxpayer!

Keith Milligan (L): But Mr. Speaker, according to my source of information, major mistake because what I am told is, it was proposed to be built on the land owned by the Brudenell II investors---Mr. Eugene Rossiter and his other partners. Now, would the minister confirm or deny that he is aware of this problem?

Richard Brown (L): The footings are in!

Hon. Kevin MacAdam (PC): Mr. Speaker, the, you know, the honourable member is almost like the *National Enquirer*, you know, he's got sources and he's got rumours...

An Honourable Member: You've got the picture!
(UPROAR)

Hon. Kevin MacAdam (PC): At least I'm prepared to table it and it's actual fact honourable member. It's not a rumour. The picture speaks for itself. Honourable member, what I have said to you is this, that I will ascertain to....

An Honourable Member: You don't know!

Hon. Kevin MacAdam (PC):track down all of the information.

Nancy Guptill (L): Sure!

Hon. Kevin MacAdam (PC): And I will bring it back so that the House will be very clear...

Nancy Guptill (L): (INDISTINCT) you can't give that information; it's private!

Hon. Kevin MacAdam (PC): ...you will be very clear as to what is happening down there. I do not have it at my fingertips. I apologize for that. But when I have the information I will...

An Honourable Member: Go down and look!

Hon. Kevin MacAdam (PC): bring it back for the honourable member.

Keith Milligan (L): So Mr. Speaker, the minister now, his memory see....

An Honourable Member: Yeah!

Keith Milligan (L):all of a sudden, starts to change, to focus a little bit. I have another question on the same topic Mr. Speaker. I'm told that the government is presently in negotiation with the principals of Brudenell II, and here's what the negotiation consists of. On July 1st, if we turn over the golf course to the government and there are any deficiencies in the quality of the course, then the private people have to pay for those deficiencies. But if you want the land that you're going to build this clubhouse on....

Richard Brown (L): The footings are in!

Keith Milligan (L):then do away with that clause, you pay for the deficiencies as a government, and we'll give you the land.

An Honourable Member: What a sham!

Keith Milligan (L): The land that we, as taxpayers, already gave as a gift in the first place.

An Honourable Member: Sham!

Nancy Guptill (L): Unbelievable!

Keith Milligan (L): Will the minister confirm or deny this?

Nancy Guptill (L): Disgusting!

An Honourable Member: Shame!

An Honourable Member: He doesn't know!

An Honourable Member: Oh Speaker, he almost tripped!

An Honourable Member: He's getting a little weak!

Hon. Kevin MacAdam (PC): I'm solidly on my feet. (UPROAR) Honourable member, again...

Leader of the Opposition: Give him a little support there!

10:52 a.m.

Hon. Kevin MacAdam (PC): ...the leader from Grand River-Cascumpec loves to live in the rumour mill. You know, he's always throwing out skeptical accusations. (UPROAR) What I will say to the honourable member is this. I will bring back the information.....(INDISTINCT)

An Honourable Member: It's true! True!

Nancy Guptill (L): You know it's true!

Hon. Kevin MacAdam (PC):and in regards to the course....

An Honourable Member: (INDISTINCT) the Premier had a hand in this!

Hon. Kevin MacAdam (PC): ...this is land honourable.....(UPROAR) The honourable member talks about giveaways...

Nancy Guptill (L): I don't blame you for being embarrassed!

Hon. Kevin MacAdam (PC):and land. The land was land that was fallow. It was sitting there.

An Honourable Member: Foul! (UPROAR)

Hon. Kevin MacAdam (PC): I think as my colleague said, there was nothing running through there but rabbits. I think he said at one time. (UPROAR) And basically Mr. Speaker, it was a call for proposals started and initiated by your government, which we continued on. We followed up on.

Nancy Guptill (L): Oh come on!

Hon. Kevin MacAdam (PC): And as a result of that (UPROAR) what we've done is, we partnered with the private sector, with 10 very, very good business people in this province. And I know the Opposition has a tough time believing that the private sector in this province can actually do something and that you don't believe in them. Certainly, you're not prepared to invest in them. And in all likelihood, that's the main rationale or probably the main reason you're sitting on that side of the Legislature. (UPROAR) Mr. Speaker, we believe in the private sector. We believe in working with them and we are working with them. And as a result of our cooperative relationship, we've been able to provide a world-class facility to an additional part of the tourism community in this province. (APPLAUSE)

Nancy Guptill (L): A half-hearted clap!

Keith Milligan (L): I don't blame Mr. Speaker, the clap for being weak!

An Honourable Member: Yeah!

Keith Milligan (L): Because Mr. Speaker, if I was a minister of the Crown....

Nancy Guptill (L): Disgusting!

Keith Milligan (L):and the type of information I'm laying before the House this morning was erroneous, then I would be standing in behind my desk and putting out the true picture. Mr. Speaker, we're not seeing that. (UPROAR)

An Honourable Member: No!

Keith Milligan (L): What we're seeing is a total fudging of the situation! There is no clarification and no answer to any question that's posed on the floor of this Legislature this morning. None!

Ron MacKinley (L): None!

Keith Milligan (L): Now Mr. Speaker....

Speaker: Question?

Keith Milligan (L):a new question. Does the minister expect Brudenell II golf course to make a profit after expenses in the year 1999?

Hector MacLeod (L): There!

Hon. Kevin MacAdam (PC): Mr. Speaker, we hope and, certainly, believe, in fact, we're extremely hopeful that golf is paying for itself. Golf is a good investment for the entire tourism (INDISTINCT) (UPROAR) in this province. (UPROAR) (INDISTINCT) honourable member, we do expect to make enough revenue that it will pay for itself, (UPROAR) (INDISTINCT) be a successful investment.

Speaker: Order please. Order.

Keith Milligan (L): Mr. Speaker, just, once again, I'm sorry if I start to sound like a record, but over and over and over again we ask questions. There's no answers. Now, did you or are you as a government projecting a profit after expenses in Brudenell II in 1999? And if you are expecting a profit Mr. Minister, would you tell us what that projected profit is and would you table the documents showing how you're going to achieve that profit in the Legislature this morning?

Nancy Guptill (L): Next week!

An Honourable Member: Yes or no!

An Honourable Member: Not hopeful!

Hon. Kevin MacAdam (PC): Mr. Speaker, I'll give the honourable member the 30-second sort of briefing on the development down there. And that is honourable member, that 10 investors can turn around and put their money on the line. They've built a world-class...

Nancy Guptill (L): Answer the question!

Hon. Kevin MacAdam (PC):facility honourable member. And it's been the fastest built golf course in this country. It will be open in one year from the day (UPROAR) it was built. And honourable member, when it is open, it will be open, as I said on July 1st of this year, (UPROAR) and I know the honourable member knows that, in fact, today our provincial

course is open. So, we're going to lose, obviously, 2 months of revenue from a course that's only opening on July 1st. But the golf course will pay for itself. Yes honourable member, it will.

Speaker: The honourable member from Charlottetown-Kings Square.

WASTE WATCH PROGRAM (further)

Richard Brown (L): Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Technology and Environment. We received a letter yesterday from the PEI Waste Haulers' Association and I want to quote from it Mr. Speaker. "The PEI Waste Haulers' Association is very concerned about our members' livelihoods in the Island waste industry. The provincial government's deliberations have gone on far too long for this waste tender." And I have to agree with the waste haulers here Mr. Speaker. Mr. Minister, when will you be making an announcement on Waste Watch?

Hon. Mitch Murphy (PC): Mr. Speaker, as I indicated to the House earlier this week, we did discuss, (UPROAR) we did discuss Waste Watch at cabinet last Tuesday. Cabinet had some questions that they wanted some further clarification on, which I have obtained. When we meet next week we'll also discuss the subject then and, hopefully, come to a conclusion at that particular time.

But I also think it's important Mr. Speaker, to provide a little bit of background on the concerns that were raised here. The concerns, I think, are very clear cut from the private waste haulers and that is, they want a chance to compete or stay in business with regards to hauling waste in the province. What has happened in the past in the East Prince area, where Waste Watch is in operation, is that those contracts were publicly tendered. They were won by certain companies. The small waste haulers felt that they are not able to compete on a fair basis in bidding for those contracts because of the economies of scale. So, their concern is that they are given an opportunity to compete on a level playing field for various contracts across the province.

Richard Brown (L): Mr. Speaker, a new question. That's my point. If it goes to the private sector, it's

going to be one contract, one hauler. What are you going to do to address the concerns of the PEI Waste Haulers' Association? Are you going to change the process and zone each area if it goes private and allow the private haulers to maintain their contracts in those areas?

Hon. Mitch Murphy (PC): Well Mr. Speaker, that's one of the reasons why government has chosen to look at the private model. Back in December of 1997, there was a meeting between the private waste haulers, the Department of the Environment, and the Island Waste Management Commission. And at that meeting, 17 out of 19 haulers were opposed to the public tendering process for the reasons that I outlined in my earlier answer.

Now Mr. Speaker, if it does end up going private, it's in the RFP where there is a franchise fee to be paid for compensation basis for the small waste haulers. And if it doesn't end up going private Mr. Speaker, then government is going to have to sit down with the Waste Hauler's Association to work out a mutually acceptable agreement to both parties with regards to their participation in the business of hauling waste in the province.

Richard Brown (L): So, what you're telling us today, if it stays public, that you're going to sit down with the waste haulers, cut up the Island, zone it out like the Minister of Transportation does with the snow contracts, and negotiate contracts with the waste haulers in the same way the Minister of Transportation does with his snow routes?

Hon. Mitch Murphy (PC): No, I didn't indicate the methodology to be used honourable member. I just indicated that the concern of the waste haulers is that they be given an opportunity in some way, shape, or form to participate in the business of hauling waste in the province. And when the decision is made, government will sit down with the small waste haulers, work out a mutually acceptable arrangement to allow that to happen. How it's going to happen I cannot say at this point honourable member.

DISPOSAL OF FLY ASH

Richard Brown (L): Mr. Minister, at one of the

meetings in Wellington and at Tracadie Cross, you've identified the fly ash from the Trigen plant as being hazardous material. Where is that material going today?

Hon. Mitch Murphy (PC): What we said Mr. Speaker, is that there is 3 ash streams that come out of the energy from waste plant, from Trigen. Two of them, I guess, could be classified as what we know as bottom ash and one can be classified as fly ash. Presently, all 3 of the ash streams are mixed and deposited at Sleepy Hollow. Now, we had some concerns about that Mr. Speaker, and had some testing done on the mixed ash. And the testing showed Mr. Speaker, that all elements are within the CCME guidelines when they are mixed together. But what we would like to do is to take the fly ash out of that mix altogether and dispose it out of province at a hazardous waste disposal landfill. So, that's what we will do Mr. Speaker; when we get the decision made on how Waste Watch is proceeding, then there will be a call for a tender for some company to remove that ash out of province.

Speaker: Final question.

Richard Brown (L): Mr. Speaker, that's no excuse. He's just told the people of Prince Edward Island that he's done the testing and the fly ash---although it's mixed now---is toxic or hazardous waste. OK? He's going to look at it at some future date, separate it at some future date, and ship it off the Island. That's not acceptable to Islanders Mr. Speaker. If there is a problem with the fly ash right now we should be separating it right now Mr. Speaker, and disposing of it properly. Will he undertake to do this right away instead of putting that hazardous waste, as you call it, into an open pit landfill in West Royalty?

11:02 a.m.

Hon. Mitch Murphy (PC): No Mr. Speaker, I didn't indicate that there was problems with the fly ash being hazardous waste. What I did indicate is that, when it's mixed everything comes in within the CCME guidelines. There's not a process of separation that needs to occur here because the fly ash is collected separately. What I did say Mr. Speaker, is though, when that is, instead of mixing it with the bottom ash

that comes out of the energy from waste plant, that for environmental reasons Mr. Speaker, we want to take that fly ash and we think we can dispose of it in a better manner and that's by trucking it out of province to a landfill site that manages ash of that type Mr. Speaker. And that will happen and proceed when the decisions on waste management are made.

Robert Maddix (L): Should be happening now!

MR. SPEAKER: END OF QUESTION PERIOD

11:03 a.m.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Speaker: Statements by Ministers. The Honourable Minister of Community Services and Attorney General.

LAW DAY

Hon. Wes MacAleer (PC): Mr. Speaker, Monday, May 10, 1999 is Law Day on Prince Edward Island, a day in which the public can learn about the law, the legal profession and some of the legal institutions that form the corner stones of our democracy. Law Day is organized by the Canadian Bar Association, that is the Prince Edward Island branch, and the theme of Law Day this year is "Access to Justice". Throughout the day high school students from across Prince Edward Island have been invited to participate in tours of the newly remodelled Court House in Charlottetown and to view a mock trial being presented by members of the legal profession, presided over by member of the judiciary. The Court House tours are intended to provide high school students with an in-depth look at the judicial facilities on the Island, while the mock trial allows them to see how the real court case is conducted versus that which they may see on television.

The Canadian Bar Association is dedicated to the improvements in the law and the administration of justice. Some 35,000 lawyers, notaries and law teachers and law students from across Canada are members; and Law Day is made possible through the efforts of many lawyers across Prince Edward Island and Canada who donate their time to volunteer for this

event.

Mr. Speaker, while I am on my feet I just like to remind members that today is the Open House at the Correctional Institute at Sleepy Hollow, and I know the staff and the some of the clients there who will be making presentations would really appreciate some of the members attending that event which begins at 2 o'clock. I know these staff members deal with clients who are not there by choice and by our attendance I think it would show our appreciation for their efforts as well as provide encouragement to those who are attempting to reintegrate themselves back into society. (APPLAUSE)

Speaker: Minister of Education.

VERBAL ABUSE PREVENTION WEEK- RECOGNITION TO TAMMY MARTELL

Hon. Chester Gillan (PC): Thank you Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the Premier, who is attending an Allied Youth function today, it gives me great pleasure to rise in the House in recognition of the significant contribution of Ms. Tammy Martell and her ongoing efforts to raise awareness to verbal abuse. Mr. Speaker, for every change which takes place there is, first of all, some one who holds a vision of a better future. These champions are successful when they remain firm in their vision and when they work with others to expand their knowledge. Tammy Martell saw that verbal abuse hurts. She saw the toll that this form of abuse has on individuals and she has decided to work toward preventing it.

Tammy Martell is an example of how one person can and does make a difference. As you will recall last September, Mr. Speaker, Tammy walked across Prince Edward Island to raise awareness about verbal abuse. Since this time, she has continued her many efforts to raise awareness within our schools, within our work sites, within our families and, Mr. Speaker, within our communities. She prepared her own information report on this issue and I am pleased today to table that report in this Assembly so that all members can have access to this material.

In recognition of Tammy's efforts and the importance of this issue, it gives me great pleasure to announce

that September 12 - 18, 1999 will be declared Verbal Abuse Prevention Week on Prince Edward Island. During this week activities will focus on the importance of respect and the destructive impact abusive words can and do have on children. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of our Government we would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Martell, and I believe that she is in the public gallery today, for this significant contribution she continues to make to our Island community. Thank you Mr. Speaker. (APPLAUSE)

Speaker: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Mr. Speaker, I want to join the Minister in congratulating Tammy Martell for the excellent work and commitment that she has demonstrated toward the issue of verbal abuse. I think she did see the toll that verbal abuse does take on people in all walks of life and in all sectors. The workplace, the school, the family and her commitment translated, Mr. Speaker, in to very concrete action with the province-wide walk. So she is to be commended and I am pleased that we are going to dedicate a week, September 12-18th, as Verbal Abuse Prevention Week. So, I congratulate the Minister. (APPLAUSE)

Speaker: The Honourable Leader of the Third Party, on a Matter of Privilege.

MATTER OF PRIVILEGE

Dr. Herb Dickieson (ND): On a Matter of Privilege, I just wanted to thank the Official Opposition caucus for allowing me to ask my questions earlier on because the Premier was leaving and I would like to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your cooperation in that as well.

Speaker: We will have to call it a historic day, I guess. (LAUGHTER) The Honourable Member from North River-Rice Point.

Ron MacKinley (L): Thank you Mr. Speaker. As interim Chairman of the Standing Committee of Public Accounts I beg leave to table a report of the Standing Committee...

Speaker: Can you wait Honourable Member for Tabling of Reports. I'm sorry, it's my fault. Any more

Statements by Ministers?

PRESENTING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS
None

Speaker: Presenting and Receiving Petitions.

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. The Honourable Minister of Education.

INFORMATION REPORT IN RECOGNITION OF VERBAL ABUSE IN CANADA

Hon. Chester Gillan (PC): Mr. Speaker, by leave of the House I beg leave to table An Information Report in Recognition of Verbal Abuse in Canada and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Community Affairs and the Attorney General, that the said document be received and do lie on the table.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Honourable Members: Carried.

Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Fisheries and Tourism.

PEI LOBSTER MARKETING MECHANISM STUDY

Hon. Kevin MacAdam (PC): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to table a document the PEI Lobster Marketing Mechanism Study and I move, seconded by the Honourable Provincial Treasurer, that the said document be received and do lie on the table.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Honourable Members: Carried.

REPORTS BY COMMITTEES

Speaker: Reports by Committees. The Honourable Member from North River-Rice Point.

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Ron MacKinley (L): Thank you Mr. Speaker. As interim Chairman of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, I beg leave to table a Report of the Standing Committee of Public Accounts and I move, seconded by the Member from Stanhope-East Royalty, that the Report be received and do lie on the table.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Honourable Members: Carried.

Ron MacKinley (L): Mr. Speaker, I move seconded by the Member from Stanhope-West Royalty...East Royalty that the Report of the Committee be adopted.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Honourable Members: Carried.

Speaker: The Honourable Member ...

Ron MacKinley (L): I'm the mover.

Speaker: Yes. The Honourable Member from North River-Rice Point.

Ron MacKinley (L): Yes, Mr. Speaker, just a few short remarks. I want to thank everybody who was on the Committee, especially Charles MacKay, who was, acted Clerk. But also there is some difference of opinions on different issues, but the thing was they handled themselves very democratically, in any decisions that were made. We sat down with the Auditor General and we looked at province finances, public\private partnership and many more other things that are in the Report.

Also, it was the first time ever that an audit, value for audit, was done on the University of Prince Edward Island and of University of Prince Edward Island and there was a motion that was put forward in the House by the Member from East Royalty...Stanhope-East Royalty, seconded by myself, but I think that it showed a great insight into the university. I think that it showed a great insight into the univeresity, I know that I was very opened up knowing it's being an MLA here when the board, the Auditor went in, and it's value for money; but I think the Committee recommended,

especially when the university came in before us and it was agreed by the Committee, that the Province of Prince Edward Island is getting value for the money out there, but I think all of this is a good exercise.

Also, Mr. Speaker, we looked into other issues. There was Charlottetown Area Development Corporation and Dyne Holdings, we looked into that. There was the Manager, former board chairman (INDISTINCT), the Committee recommendations, so does lie on the table.

Speaker: The Honourable Leader of the Third Party.

Dr. Herb Dickieson (ND): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Did the seconder wish to address..

Jamie Ballem (PC): No, the mover said it all.

Dr. Herb Dickieson (ND): The...Mr. Speaker, there were some valuable items in that Report, including the audit review of the university and, although there was some contention around that, certainly it proved to be valuable exercise; and with the participation and cooperation of the university and other issues as well.

However, Mr. Speaker, with regard to the issue of a request that I made to the Public Accounts Committee to look in to the issue of Dyne Holdings, the financing of Dyne Holdings, the involvement of the CADC and the Provincial Government, this Report is a white wash, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately, our democratic system, our rules don't allow for minority report, but it's certainly a case of the tyranny of the majority that railroaded this issue through. They shut down the process. I'd like to digress to say that I respected the role of the interim Chair, who conducted himself very well and allowed for democratic discourse within the Committee, allowed opportunity for each member to have input and, but eventually the tyranny of the majority ruled.

I'd like to express appreciation, as well, for the member, for the official Chair of the Auditor...the Public Accounts Committee, the Member from Tignish-Deblois, who very graciously bowed out of the process when there was a possibility that his office may have been put in some question and allowed to... that distance to take place and certainly acting in a very democratic manner.

Unfortunately, Mr. Chair, what happened in terms of dealing with that request, that request of accountability to the people of Prince Edward Island through the Public Accounts Committee. It was thwarted in its activity from the beginning by the majority Government members on the Committee. They allowed for, I believe, three interveners in the process, three separate groups of interveners, but for the most part they attempted to shut down the process right when we were beginning to get some of the answers.

CADC did give a presentation. At the time the presentation was being given we had the understanding, at least I had the understanding, that CADC would be there for the afternoon or possibly come back for another meeting. They gave their presentation, we had the opportunity to raise a few questions and certainly considering the Bill Leave Report, that was written 10 years earlier, that had pointed out that there was a problem of accountability. That report was given to the then Minister Cheverie to deal with the issue of accountability with regard to the role of CADC and the involvement of the Provincial Government. There is a lack of accountability that exists there, Mr. Speaker, and that has to do with the fact that the Development Minister has a position, whoever he or she is, has a position on CADC. They are on the Board of CADC.

When a decision is made by CADC the question is whose decision is it? Is that a decision of CADC or is that a decision of the Provincial Government? That question remains unanswered because the Committee was thwarted in its efforts to deal with that issue, to sift through the process and deal with the specific case of Dyne Holdings and its application through the present structure and the relationship of CADC with the Provincial Government.

There is the other issue as well, Mr. Speaker, of friends of Government being involved, even friends of the Official Opposition, whether they be from the legal community, whether they be from the business community of Prince Edward Island. There was an attempt, a clear attempt, by the Government members to shut down the process. They voted in unison and every opportunity when requests were made for further witnesses to come to Committee, every time that came up it was voted down by the Government majority.

As well, what they did, Mr. Speaker, when it came to finding out more information what they suggested and, they put in the form of a Motion, that I, as Leader of the Third Party Office, should go down the street and do my own investigations into the issue. And this was totally inappropriate, particularly given the supports I have at the Third Party Office, totally inappropriate for a single member of the Legislature to go and carry out a private investigation when what should be a public issue. It involves public funds. It involves public accountability and this Government in majority shut down the process and this was...this is totally unacceptable. At the same time they wanted to blindly accept that everything was okay, everything was tickety boo, with regard to CADC and its relationship with the Provincial Government.

Certainly, Mr. Speaker, I realize that CADC has some very good persons on as board members within that committee, I believe that they have carried out some very worthwhile projects but that does not absolve them from public accountability, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, as was raised by one of the former Chairs, Stan MacPherson, who raised the question that by continually having questions there is a cloud over CADC and its relationship with the Provincial Government. I agree with Mr. Stan MacPherson when he makes that statement; and that cloud will remain until this issue is finally resolved, until we have all the answers, until we find out who signed the loan guarantees, which lawyers were involved in terms of allowing these loan guarantees to the amount that lead to a write off of three million dollars, three million dollars of the provincial taxpayers' resource.

This Government has defied a Resolution that was agreed upon by all parties in the Legislature that Foreign Investor Funds be used to help small business persons on Prince Edward Island; and instead they continue to support single projects and friends of Government and not allowing that development money, whether it be through CADC or other uses of the Investor Fund, to go to the smaller business people...persons and farmers and fishers across Prince Edward Island. And this is unfortunate, Mr. Speaker, that the Government pursues this course and continues to attempt to shut down any investigation.

These questions will keep coming up, Mr. Speaker,

and even, what was very surprising, what was very surprising when this Committee, lead by the Government majority, they were willing to say that everything is okay. We don't want to ask any more questions. At the very same time they knew that the Auditor General for this year had included within his Report 19 pages of criticism with regard to the use of the Foreign Investor Fund. They knew that that information was there and at the same time they wanted to shut down the process. This is totally unacceptable, Mr. Speaker, and I believe that what has happened here, and it's clearly indicated from the actions of the Government majority, that there is friends, there's business elite, there's people within the legal community that this Government is protecting. That they have friends they have connections, this has been indicated by some of the intervener information. It's been raised by the Auditor General's Reports in previous years, that there is a lack of accountability, that this Government wants to cover-up what's going on,

Richard Brown (L): Cover-up.

Dr. Herb Dickieson (ND): ...with regard to funds with CADC. It's totally unacceptable. I received threats as well it was indicated last year through a telephone call through the night, through a letter from a high powered lawyer threatening me to keep my mouth quiet. Do not talk about this issue for fear of legal consequences; and it's clear that these members have felt the threat, as well, and they have acted upon it; but acted not in the way of helping Prince Edward Islanders but they have acted instead, they have knuckled under, they have decided to be quiet on the issue, they decided to shut it down. They're putting their own personal priorities, protecting their own friends instead of standing up for the people of Prince Edward Island. This is totally unacceptable. It certainly

.....

11:23 p.m.

Dr. Herb Dickieson (ND): ... Mr. Speaker, this issue has been left too long. Previous governments have not addressed the issue and they have covered it up as well. But now, this government is the government that is at the mantle. They have the responsibility to be accountable to the Island people

and the Island people's resources. We can't see a three million dollar write down and write off of taxpayers' money without any public accountability. This is totally unacceptable, Mr. Speaker. I can assure you that this is not the end of the issue. The issue will still continue to smoulder until it's properly addressed and I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, and members of the Legislature that I am not going to let this issue go. There's still answers need to be found and this Government is in the position to allow those answers to happen and until they take responsibility, take the appropriate responsibility for the taxpayers of Prince Edward Island, I will continue to ask the questions and press the case until we have accountability in this province. Thank you.

Speaker: The Honourable Member from Stanhope-East Royalty.

Jamie Ballem (PC): I've heard this a number of times from other members. I wasn't going to speak on this, Mr. Speaker, however....

Robert Morrissey (L): Your point is leaving.

Jamie Ballem (PC): I'll try to make is short and quick. I'd... just in response to the Leader of the Third Party's comments on what went on in the Committee and the process that took place. I find he made the first comment that congratulated the interim Chair and the role that he did in allowing everyone to speak and I'd like to concur with that. Everyone had an opportunity to speak. Anyone who wanted to come before the Committee and speak had their chance to.

Dr. Herb Dickieson (ND): That's not so. (INDISTINCT) process.

INTERRUPTION

Jamie Ballem (PC): (INDISTINCT) sat there and listen to the rant and rave. Anyway, Mr. Speaker, we had some interveners who came to more than one meeting, spent hours and hours at the Committee and we listened to it and heard all of the stuff... of the information that they wanted to present. When CADC came before the Committee, Mr. Speaker, we had asked... all the questions that were asked by the Committee were answered. The decision the

Committee made, I know it's unfortunate that the Leader of the Third Party does not like the democratic process, but that's just what we're in, is the democratic system and the Committee decided that it...

Dr. Herb Dickieson (ND): (INDISTINCT) majority.

Jamie Ballem (PC): The Committee decided that if they didn't, if anyone wanted more information CADC made the offer, come and ask us. We'll supply it... if we can't supply enough information to you, come back to the Committee, as a member of the Committee and say, I want more. But that was never done. You keep falling back on I need more money. I need more research. Who's going to do it? Is he going to hire somebody to go and ask the questions? Well, that's his decision. When we look at... we had an extensive consultation with the Auditor General and his decision was he felt that CADC and the Dyne Holdings issue, that he was satisfied with it and that everything was done. So...

Dr. Herb Dickieson (ND): He didn't say that.

Jamie Ballem (PC): So, on one hand, it's convenient now to criticize the Auditor General, because they don't believe him, because it just happens to suit. I'm almost... get the feeling, Mr. Speaker, that we have a personal vendetta going on. Someone with a little bit of thin skin didn't like the fact that he was criticized, decided I'll use the Public Accounts Committee to go on my own personal fishing trip and when he didn't trip over something, or something didn't jump up and hit him across upside of the head, I want more questions. There's a cover up. It's a conspiracy. Well, unfortunately, (INDISTINCT) we've had independent report from auditors, from accountants, from lawyers for the last 10 years. The Auditor General said that in his view it was fine. What more do we want and I think there's no question to say keep going. No question because a personal vendetta isn't going to go away and the skin is just too thin and I agree with the Report and that's why I second it. Thank you. (APPLAUSE)

Speaker: The Honourable Member from Souris-Elmira.

Andy Mooney (PC): Mr. Speaker, I just want to throw out a couple of points. I guess I'm the member from the farthest point East elected, and one thing I have to say from the outside looking in at what's taken place over the years, I think CADC has done a wonderful job here in Charlottetown of keeping the downtown core alive and also a wonderful job down on the waterfront. They've done very good work and I think and I hear the Summerside Development Area Corporation does very good work in Summerside and the thing is, I sat on that Committee as well and I just have to say I support the work that the Charlottetown Development Area Corporation has done because I think it's this the capital of our province and it's a service to the people in this city to see the downtown core do well. So I also agree with the recommendations of the Committee. (APPLAUSE)

Speaker: The Honourable Member from Tignish-DeBlois.

Robert Morrissey (L): I want to acknowledge the excellent job the Chair did, Mr. Speaker, on the finishing the work of the Public Accounts Committee. Mr. Speaker, I simply want to speak briefly on...I've been a parliamentarian for 17 years and, Mr. Speaker, while you can be on the losing side or the winning side, Mr. Speaker, our whole democracy, which is (INDISTINCT) is built on the principle of majority, Mr. Speaker. Going right back to the days of the Magna Carta, when people uprising against the King who unilaterally could make decisions, Mr. Speaker, and took it into their hands. At the end of the day, there must be a majority decision, Mr. Speaker, or you go around the bush and around the bush and around the bush.

Mr. Speaker, you know, we, in the Opposition, don't get our way all the time. No Opposition does, Mr. Speaker, but the Government of the day, we must acknowledge, is given its authority, Mr. Speaker, by the majority of the people, who have given authority to govern, Mr. Speaker, and it has the majority, Mr. Speaker. So, Mr. Speaker, to...if you don't like it at the end of the day, and complain that the majority, at the same time, Mr. Speaker, it's the majority vote that protects some of our most sacred offices. The office of the Auditor General, Mr. Speaker, is protected by a substantive majority of this House, Mr. Speaker, which

gives the Auditor almost unbridled protection, Mr. Speaker, the Auditor General's ability to go exploring through Government, Mr. Speaker.

So, while interesting discussion, Mr. Speaker, I, over the years have somewhat watched, possibly with amusing, amusement, but sometimes disturbing, that if you don't get your way, well, if the majority rammed it down, Mr. Speaker, recognize, Mr. Speaker, where the majority came from. The majority have served, Mr. Speaker, we people very, very well over centuries, Mr. Speaker, and I simply, I removed myself from the Committee, Mr. Speaker, because there was a real potential for conflict. I was the Minister for a significant period of time when one of the key issues was going to be discussed, Mr. Speaker; and we have to, at the end of day, recognize that. We sit here, we can pose questions. We can put procedural hurdles in the way of Government, which is our right. We're supposed to do it, because Government, although it has the majority, should not have a direct access to get to where it wants to go. Our whole parliamentary system is built on the Opposition frustrating, Mr. Speaker, Government's desire to move too quickly.

So, Mr. Speaker, I simply wanted to add that, that the majority protects, and it protects us even more, Mr. Speaker, because, see, you, as the person that oversees the House now, in fairness, is now chosen by majority, Mr. Speaker. And, again, one of the greatest protections that I would point to, Mr. Speaker, the one that has really thrown fear into Government for years is the office of the Auditor General, and it should throw fear into Government, Mr. Speaker. But the Auditor General... if Government is not afraid of the office of the Auditor General, Mr. Speaker, then the office is weak; and that's why some majority, a substantive majority that protects that key office in this Legislature it also protects, Mr. Speaker, our democracy here. So I have a little problem with, at times when the majority is great, but when it don't suit your cause, the majority is evil. Mr. Speaker, the majority, like it or dislike it, is never evil. It's protected us for hundreds of years. (APPLAUSE)

Speaker: The Honourable Member from Sherwood-Hillsborough.

Elmer MacFadyen (PC): Mr. Speaker, I sat on the

Committee as a member of the Government side and I take exceptions to the remarks that's been made by the Leader of the Third Party in regards to friends that are involved in CADC. If he was to ask me if I knew anybody at CADC, I guess I'd have to yeah, I know Stan MacPherson. I went to university with him at PWC, but I do take exceptions to his remarks. And I must say that I agree with what the member from Tignish-DeBlois said. We are elected democratically. We run a democratic system and the majority does rule. Sometimes as members even in Government, we don't get our own way, but rest assured that in regards to the interests and concerns that were being expressed to the Committee, based on the people who presented at the hearings of the Public Account, I believe that the member of the Third Party had all kinds of opportunity to ask the questions and there was a large number of questions that were asked during this last hearing in regards to Public Accounts; but this issue has been on the burner for the past ten years. There's been more reports written in regards to CADC and its operations than any other facet of Government... that Government's been involved. And when you say that there's been three million dollars, figure that taxpayers' money, I can relate to a lot of documents that I read where there has been other dollars that have been invested in projects that there wasn't as much concern about that project as there has been about CADC.

I guess the concern that I have in regards to the Leader of the Third Party is what the member from Tignish-DeBlois said. If, in fact, we're at a Committee meeting and he doesn't get his own way, it seems like he always says, well, we rammed this through or we rammed that through. I believe that the opportunity for the Leader of the Third Party to address concerns that he has about CADC, he'll have the opportunity again when the Committee meets again. The Auditor's Report have, has identified CADC in its audit report this year. No doubt it will resurface again and it will be a decision from the Committee in regards to what we want to do in regards to the CADC.

I also feel, Mr. Speaker, that at times we can only go on the information that is presented to us at the Committee hearing, and I recall when CADC people came in to give a presentation, before the presentation finalized we asked about assets that CADC had and we

were told that they had assets of 20 million dollars. Not too long ago, our Government, the former Minister of Economic Development and Tourism looked at the issue relating to CADC and the risk that was involved from the Province; and I believe that the steps that were taken by the Government at that time strengthened the position of the Province in regards to ensuring that the funds relating to the public was well protected.

I have problems sitting in this Legislature and listening to the Leader of The Third Party, every time he doesn't get his way, to get up and say they did this by ramming it through because they had the majority. I would wish that the Leader of the Third Party, if I had anything to say that I feel would be important, is that accept the fact that we do operate in a democratic society, that the majority does rule and we don't have that, we're going to be in bad straits. Thank you very much. (APPLAUSE)

Speaker: The Honourable Member from Charlottetown-Kings Square.

Richard Brown (L): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, want to address the Report on three issues. Number One, the interim Chairman, Mr. Speaker, done a wonderful job, the member from North River-Rice Point, and I would recommend, Mr. Speaker, to yourself if you ever need someone to take over your Chair for a couple of days or that, here's the perfect person for that position, Mr. Speaker. I think he'd do a great job in your Chair. I'm not getting him, you know, if you have to go away or anything, this is the person to get for the Chair, Mr. Speaker. He's open and free and he's open and he knows the word of what parliament means, Mr. Speaker. He knows what parliament means, Mr. Speaker, because he sat there and he let everyone have their discussions and he allowed them to go until there was proper time there. So, Mr. Speaker, I would, at any time, I would nominate this person for your seat. Only for the Deputy Speaker, Mr. Speaker. (LAUGHTER)

An Honourable Member: You want to second that Motion?

Richard Brown (L): Number Two, Mr. Speaker, the one thing I, one of the major things I got out of the

discussions was, especially when the President and the Chairman of the Board of the University come in, Mr. Speaker, and they did give an excellent presentation to the Committee and the fellow, my fellow parliamentarians here, Mr. Speaker. And their bottom line was, Mr. Speaker, is that we have a university. We have a great university for the province, the size of the province we have. We have a great program at the university and we have a great interim President there and the new President coming in will be just as great as him. But, Mr. Speaker, they made it quite clear to the Committee there are five million dollars in maintenance repairs that need to be done to the university, Mr. Speaker. If you have a university, Mr. Speaker, that is falling apart and I'm not saying UPEI is falling apart. They have some great buildings out there, but they did mention the Blanchard Hall that students have to live in and that the maintenance that are required on that, Mr. Speaker. The President made it very clear has to be upgraded, Mr. Speaker. He also indicated, Mr. Speaker, that there is the students' fees are going up too high, Mr. Speaker, and we may be losing students, Mr. Speaker. And we may be asking our fellow Islanders to not have the proper education, Mr. Speaker, not have the opportunities that Islanders should have, that I had when I was growing up, Mr. Speaker, because I had the opportunity to go to the university in the early 70s, Mr. Speaker.

An Honourable Member: Gifted student.

Richard Brown (L): As a gifted student. Yeah. Mr. Speaker, so as I, I want to say, the university, it was quite in that Committee, Mr. Speaker, the university needs more money in order for us to have a university on Prince Edward Island, in order for Islanders to have the opportunity to get a degree, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, on the matter of CADC, I have to agree with the Leader of the Third Party. I believe, Mr. Speaker, if we were allowed the opportunity to just ask a few more questions to the group, Mr. Speaker, in that forum, Mr. Speaker, I think a lot of the other issues would have been cleaned up. And let's not say, Mr. Speaker, we always get up here and say that the corporation has been studied and studied and studied. Well, Mr. Speaker, it only has been studied when red flags were put up by the Auditor General, Mr. Speaker. They have a responsibility, just as any other Crown

Corporation, Mr. Speaker, that receives Crown money, to report to the Crown, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I take offence to, when people say, well, you know, they've done a great job and I agree, Mr. Speaker, they have done a great job, Mr. Speaker. But that does not allow them to say, well, don't question us, Mr. Speaker, because that is public money and if members of this Legislature have questions, Mr. Speaker, and the Public Accounts Committee is that forum, Mr. Speaker, then that's where it should be done, Mr. Speaker. As for to say to the Leader, take a hike down the street and ask them questions, Mr. Speaker, when you leave, when the Leader of the Third Party left, leaves the Committee, Mr. Speaker, he leaves the authority of that Committee behind too. They could get him down in the office there, well, we can't give you this, can't give you that, can't give you this. But when he's in Committee, Mr. Speaker, 'cause I made an offer, I made an offer to the Committee, Mr. Speaker, that the Leader of the Third Party and myself would be a sub-committee of the Public Accounts Committee. That was rejected, Mr. Speaker, because then you'd have the authority to ask the questions and they'd have to answer them, Mr. Speaker.

But, Mr. Speaker, as again, I'm going to say, they did a good job. They are doing a good job, CADC, but just because they're doing a good job doesn't mean the taxpayers don't have the right to ask questions, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Speaker: The Report... the Question before the House is the adoption of the Report of the Public Accounts Committee. All those in favour signify by saying, aye. Standing vote? Sergeant-At-Arms, ring the bell.

Nancy Guptill (L): Mr. Speaker, we're just voting on the tabling of the Report, we didn't... the rest of the members did the... the adoption.

Speaker: The adoption, yes.

Ringling of the Bells

Speaker: I see cameras out front there. There's somebody being interviewed, so we better wait. I don't know who it is. Opposition House Leader, ready? You're ready. You're ready. Okay, all those in favour of the adoption of the Report of the Public Accounts Committee, signify by standing.

Clerk: The Honourable Minister of Education, the Honourable Minister of Community Services and Attorney General, the Honourable Minister of Technology and Environment, the Honourable Provincial Treasurer, the honourable member from Wilmot-Summerside, the honourable member from Sherwood-Hillsborough, the Honourable Minister of Fisheries and Tourism, the Honourable Minister of Transportation and Public Works, the honourable member from Stanhope-East Royalty, the honourable member from Crapaud-Hazel Grove, the honourable member from Souris-Elmira, the Honourable Leader of the Official Opposition, the honourable member from Evangeline-Miscouche, the honourable member from St. Eleanors- Summerside....

Dr. Herb Dickieson (ND): (INDISTINCT) Liberal Tories.

Clerk: ... the honourable member from Alberton-Miminegash, the honourable member from North River-Rice Point.

Speaker: All those opposed to the adoption, please rise.

Clerk: The Honourable Leader of the Third Party.

Speaker: And the honourable member from Charlottetown-Kings Square, please.

Clerk: The honourable member from Charlottetown-Kings Square.

Speaker: The Report has been adopted.

INTRODUCTION OF GOVERNMENT BILLS

None

GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

None

ORDERS OF THE DAY (GOVERNMENT)

11:43 a.m.

Speaker: Introduction to Government Bills. Government Motions. Orders of the Day Government. The Honourable Provincial Treasurer.

**CONSIDERATION OF THE ESTIMATES
(ordered for In Committee)
DEPARTMENT OF THE PROVINCIAL
TREASURY**

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Technology and Environment that the second Order of the Day be now read.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Honourable Members: Carried.

Clerk: Order No. 2, Consideration of the Estimates ordered for In Committee, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Technology and Environment that this House do now resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration the Grant of Supply to Her Majesty.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Honourable Members: Carried.

Speaker: The Honourable Deputy Speaker.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COUNCIL OF MARITIME PREMIERS
GENERAL**

Chair: The House is now in a Committee of the Whole House to further consider the Grant of Supply to Her Majesty. Is it your pleasure to consider the various proposed votes item by item?

Honourable Members: Agreed

Chair: Page 128. Council of Maritime Premiers.

General. Appropriations provided for funding of Prince Edward Island's share of the operating costs of the various agencies of the Council of Maritime Premiers, as listed below. Maritime Provinces Education Foundation - 16,200, Council of Maritime Premiers Secretariat - 76,700, Maritime Municipal Training and Development Board - 24,600, Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission - 50,800, Geomatics Board - 15,400. Total General - 183,700.

Member from Tignish - DeBlois.

Robert Morrissey (L): Madam Minister, is this not the Premiers jurisdiction?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): No, not from a fiscal perspective, the Provincial Treasurer tables it, but if you wanted to ask specific information about what happens within the council, when he comes to do his own budget then you could ask him at that time.

Robert Morrissey (L): Okay, so I take it on this it's...there's no change here.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): It's status quo.

Nancy Guptill (L): (INDISTINCT) I'm sorry, the bureaucrat who represents the council?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Keith Warnell.

Nancy Guptill (L): Keith Warnell is still there is he. Thank you.

Chair: Shall it carry?

Honourable Members: Carried.

Chair: Member of the Third Party.

Dr. Herb Dickieson (ND): Just a second now. Who does the funding for the Executive Council? Oh, Council of Maritimes Premiers comes under your department, the funding....

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Yeah, the financing part of it.

Dr. Herb Dickieson (ND): But in terms of....

Hon. Pat Mella (PC):issues relating to what they're doing, what they're discussing, the Premier has to come on the floor.

Dr. Herb Dickieson (ND): I don't believe, they haven't formally met, have they during the fiscal year?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): I'm not sure.

Dr. Herb Dickieson (ND): I'm just wondering if status quo budget for no action, doesn't seem to fit. I would question why the resources would need to be spent...were the resources actually spent last year? 128. Was the money spent?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Yes. Did you want a breakdown?

Dr. Herb Dickieson (ND): Sure.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): 16,200 dollars which is for the funding of the Maritime Provinces Education Foundation. That's to promote regional cooperation and issues relating to education in the Maritime Provinces new initiatives and to establish frame works if they want to you know, discuss teacher testing or curriculum development or whatever. So, that 16.2. 80 thousand 500 dollars went to the secretariat which is the staff that is there full-time to do the work of the office itself. Coordinate the activities of the Premiers and whatever undertakings they have, for example the Trade Mission to New England States and whatever other initiatives perhaps harness racing and some other issues would have been discussed. The third is 24,600 which is Maritime Municipal Training Development Board which assists municipalities in the Maritime Region on discussing local governments operations, ways to improve cooperation of municipal governments through common training of staff and educational in-service and that kind of thing.

The next is Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission which is a section of the Maritime Premiers Office or council, it's 50,800 dollars and this is for the more effective utilization of resources in the field of Higher Education in the region. Gives advice to institutions and governments for planning for cooperative initiatives in Higher Education. So, I suppose the students going to Truro Agricultural

College, students coming to the Vet College and coordinating Higher Education Institutions that we fund and have students transferring back and forth.

And the final 15,400 is the Geomatics Board which assist Maritime Governments in developing a plan for a Maritime Geomatic Industry. And, I'm not sure that I can tell you much more about that except that I believe it's an extension of what our own province has done in Geomatics which is a leader in that area. And there has been an interest expressed by other regions of the province to expand the computerized photographic assessments, or whatever you want to call it, for information on land use, information on taxation, information on well, I suppose environmental groups who would want to know how land is being used or where the waterways are or where the clear cutting is or whatever. So, I think the Geomatics initiative is very leading edge and I understand that the Council of Maritime Premiers has been discussing how that could encompass more than just our own province.

Dr. Herb Dickieson (ND): It seems that a lot of behind the scenes work is being done. There seems to be some level of cooperation at that level, but when it comes to the major projects, the major issues, whether it be the Justice School in Summerside, whether it be the toll highways. The major high profile issues seems to be a total breakdown of communication and cooperation. We have our province suing other provinces and that sort of thing going through the courts.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Well, that's correct. I guess that... I think the hope is that the Council of Maritime Premiers would allow the highest level people to get together and perhaps be...have a venue where they could address these issues before they get to become high profile political arguments. I would agree that it doesn't always work but it is a fairly small organization relatively speaking, and I think they do some good things that we probably don't hear about because if they're successful and they cooperate then it just happens and it doesn't get a lot of coverage. It's the confrontation that gets the coverage so.

Dr. Herb Dickieson (ND): Now, is there a channel for communication and inter relationship between say, Cabinet Ministers for the Maritime Provinces? I know

when they go to the National Meetings, the meeting is equal at that level, but is it only to the Premiers office that there's that kind of relationship in the Maritime Provinces or is there some sort of structure relationship for the other ministries for the Maritime Provinces?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Well, I can only speak for myself. I'm not sure whether there's any structured system for other Ministers. But in the case of the Finance Ministers for the Atlantic Provinces, what usually happens is when there is a federal meeting, we usually meet, it's really, sometimes it's set up ahead of time and sometimes we meet before the federal meeting 'cause we both all happen to be in the same area. But, we usually meet to discuss issues that are going to come up on that agenda that would impact on the region. For example, if we know that equalization is going to be on the agenda and there's going to be some people in the West who will argue a certain way and people in Central Canada will argue another way, then we do have some discussions in that regard. There are also issues like Atlantic Lotto that we meet on separate from a National Meeting because it involves issues that impact on the Atlantic area. But we don't have an entity where the Finance Ministers meet regularly, no.

Dr. Herb Dickieson (ND): How does Newfoundland fit into the picture? Because there is, they're kind of in on some issues and out on others. Is there any discussions about possibly calling it the Atlantic Council of Premiers or tying in Newfoundland as well?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): You'd really have to ask the Premier that. I think that the Atlantic area is represented very often in the Premiers meetings. I mean, the Premier will have to respond to that but from what I understand, the Premier of Newfoundland is involved in a lot of these discussions. I don't know, they have expressed concerns in the past that some of these groups, because the spinoff benefits of the group are not in Newfoundland, that what would be the point of becoming a structured member of it.

Dr. Herb Dickieson (ND): I guess the last question, probably have to save for the Premier, but, cause you're not sure if the Premiers even met. 'Cause it would seem that....

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): I really don't know.

Dr. Herb Dickieson (ND):..... if this structure is there and the Premier is not even utilizing it, it certainly would raise a question of his position regarding the Council.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Well, I'm not sure that we should conclude that because the Premiers haven't gone to Halifax or St. John and met that this isn't working. Like, I think the Premier has indicated that the Maritime Premiers have met, you know at an airport before they went somewhere or for the Trade Mission, they met for days on end. This Council is not effective because they all fiscally drive to Halifax and meet, it's effective because they've got an infrastructure there where there's staff who can follow up on what it is the Premiers want to have done. And to have them all go to one spot doesn't necessarily achieve much.

Dr. Herb Dickieson (ND): But, when we have serious issues like the Justice School in Summerside, I'd hope that it's not just a nod and a wink happening in the lounge of an airport, that our Premiers discussing it. Maybe that's why these issues have broken down, if he's not actually meeting and sitting down and doing a through discussion as opposed to just meeting.....

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Well, if you want to use that as an example, there has been a lot of discussions and a lot of negotiations and a lot of sit down formal meetings on that issue.

Dr. Herb Dickieson (ND): I'm afraid the barn door is closed after the horse is out in many of these issues.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Well I hope you're wrong Honourable Member. And I don't think I would take that approach if I were you.

Dr. Herb Dickieson (ND): Thank you then. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chair: Member from St. Eleanors - Summerside.

Nancy Guptill (L): Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Minister of Fisheries has that attitude. But anyway, Madam Minister, can I ask the....the Secretariat, is the

Secretariat for the Maritime Premiers.....is that Keith Warnell, is he the secretary overall?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Well that's my understanding, yes.

Nancy Guptill (L): Can Iit's rather strange, I'm just asking a question, but why would the salary be reduced, is he getting a role back? On that second line. Little strange, that's all I'm saying. You never see....I know it's only a small amount but I'm just suggesting to you that it's a rather strange thing, we never see a....

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Yeah, it's only 3 thousand dollars. I can't answer that question. But I can find out.

Nancy Guptill (L): Would you please. I mean , maybe there's a change, maybe Mr. Warnell is going to be leaving and a new one is coming on or something. Maybe there's a certain changeover there, I don't know. But, I'm just curious as to what's happening there.

Chair: Shall it carry?

Honourable Members: Carried.

Chair: Total Council of Maritime Premiers - 183,700. Shall it carry?

Honourable Members: Carried.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT MISCELLANEOUS GENERAL

Chair: Miscellaneous General. General Government. Appropriations provided for Premier and Ministers' out-of-province travel, Cabinet and other meeting expenses, protocol gifts. Administration - 130,000, Professional and Contract Services - 35,900, Travel and Training - 95,900. Total Miscellaneous General - 261,800.

Member from Tignish - DeBlois.

Nancy Guptill (L): Look at last years.

An Honourable Member: Are you gone for the day?

Robert Morrissey (L): No, I'm fine.

Chair: Member from St. Eleanors - Summerside.

Robert Morrissey (L): (INDISTINCT) . When I was sitting out there I had an awful (INDISTINCT) and lecture.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): On?

Robert Morrissey (L): Travel and Training.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Yes, indeed you did.

Robert Morrissey (L): And to use the term.... and guess what, who was it from?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Yeah, moi.

Robert Morrissey (L): Moi, okay.

Nancy Guptill (L): But anyway, my question, the second line. What happened last year on this Professional and Contract Services that was for travel? Now, what in the name of heavens would that be? Protocol gifts. You must have been buying pretty nice stuff.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Professional and Contract Services.

Robert Morrissey (L): Oh, by the way. I want my share of money that goes into buying a gift for Prince Edward back. 'Cause I don't think the taxpayer of PEI in all due respect, should be buying a gift to send over to England for....

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): You don't.

Nancy Guptill (L): I think it's an absolute disgrace.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): And us called Prince Edward Island after this.

Robert Morrissey (L): Send him a card, get well, better luck than the last two, or three, sorry the last three.

Nancy Guptill (L): How much was the gift Madam Minister?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): I don't know anything about it.

Nancy Guptill (L): We'd like to know how much that gift was.

Robert Morrissey (L): No, I want my share

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Lucky this is not heard in London.

Robert Morrissey (L): Okay, London, are you on line? We don't agree. (Laughter)

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Professional and Contract Services. There are a number of initiatives, I'll go through them one at a time, that have been added to departmental budgets this year. This is some of the new money. One is, the City of Charlottetown Comprehensive Urban Services Agreement, now this is not the million dollars

Nancy Guptill (L): No it can't be.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): This is the money that we spent determining whether they deserve the million dollars.

Nancy Guptill (L): Hold on, now hold on now please. This is for Ministers out or province travel, meeting expenses and protocol gifts. Now Madam Minister, that doesn't fit there, I'm sorry. There's something wrong, you're on the wrong track.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Other meeting expenses, protocol gifts, Professional and Contract Services, I'm talking about a contract service to study the issue of a CUSA Agreement to determine the allocation of money to Charlottetown.

Nancy Guptill (L): Under this area.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Yeah, 31 hundred dollars.

Richard Brown (L): 31 hundred.

Nancy Guptill (L): 31, that's....go ahead. Absolutely ridiculous spot for it, but go ahead. Who did it?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Jim Johnson. Baker Consulting....

Robert Morrissey (L): (INDISTINCT) or building constructor Jim, which one?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Is that right, you'd know the answer, I don't.

Robert Morrissey (L): What? Which one was it?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Baker Consulting or...

Nancy Guptill (L): Bakers what?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Baker Consulting did a study for the Senior Compensation Plan. We were looking at reclassification and benefits to Seniors Compensation Plan.

Nancy Guptill (L): How much?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): And Lending Services as well. They did a whole big study on the new role of lending services and what they felt they had heard from the public.

Nancy Guptill (L): How much?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): So those two together....

Nancy Guptill (L): How much was his?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): 48.7, 48 thousand 7 hundred.

Nancy Guptill (L): 48 what?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): 48 thousand, 7 hundred.

Nancy Guptill (L): Was that tendered?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): I believe it was but I don't have that here.

Nancy Guptill (L): I don't think it probably was becausequite a difference. I've been watching this carefully, because Mr. Baker also has a 75 thousand dollar contract for the Workers Compensation that he got from his former boss, Mr. Lee, the chairman of the

board of the Workers Compensation Board and former colleague of his, the CEO who is Mr. MacDougall. I find this rather interesting, now that's 75 thousand plus 48 thousand which is almost another 50. That's quite a little nest egg from Mr. Baker, who was the former Deputy Minister, to... for the Premier, former Premier Lee who is the Workers Compensation, as I say, Chair who....you know, little tight nit pack here and out of the Premiers and Ministers, out-of-province travel, cabinet and other meeting expenses protocol gifts, he gets a 48,700.dollar contract. Could you bring the tender back so we can see the other names who tendered before that please Madam Minister?

12:03 p.m.

Nancy Guptill (L): Okay, that's 48,000 plus three, and the rest?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Okay, the next is the law firm of Cox, Hansen and Riley, who were asked to do work for the Wes MacAleer conflict of interest case.

Nancy Guptill (L): Okay, how much is that please?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Forty-six thousand, nine hundred dollars.

Nancy Guptill (L): Forty-six thousand, nine hundred...

An Honourable Member: (INDISTINCT) and Riley where'd you get that firm?

Nancy Guptill (L): Which Riley is that?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): I'm not sure. It's a law firm, that's all I know.

Hector MacLeod (L): You don't know if that's if it's in Summerside or Charlottetown?

Nancy Guptill (L): Would anybody know who that firm is?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Cox, Hansen and Riley, Charlottetown.

Nancy Guptill (L): Who's the Riley in that firm?

Jamie Ballem (PC): No, it's a regional...it's a Maritime firm.

Nancy Guptill (L): Okay, I appreciate hearing that answer. Thank you very much.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): And the other is Stewart and....

Nancy Guptill (L): That's a lot of money wasn't it?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): You're right it is.

An Honourable Member: (INDISTINCT) haven't got it resolved.

Nancy Guptill (L): Carry on.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Stewart, McKelvey, Stirling and Scales ...

Nancy Guptill (L): What?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): ...for Cardigan Landfill - 9,500.

Nancy Guptill (L): Ninety-five hundred.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): That should add up, I haven't totalled it, but...

Nancy Guptill (L): But, Madam Minister, I want to ask you, quite honestly. Now, you're the Treasurer and we're looking here under a column in your budget called Miscellaneous General - Appropriations provided for Premier and Ministers' out-of-province travel, Cabinet and other meeting expenses, protocol gifts. In this column, we find under Professional and Contract Services to unquestionably loyal true Tory supporters the amount of a hundred and twenty-some odd thousand dollars in contracts. Is this not a little strange? Why would ... this is why we're so suspect of your budget. You throw that kind of an item in under that type of a column, that you call Professional Services under Miscellaneous General for Travel. There's something askew here, Madam Minister. Your budget makes us very suspect. Everything else that's hidden in various parts. You, you know, it's... to me this is a travesty, to think that the books of Prince

Edward Island are kept in this way. They're cooked up books, Madam Minister. Probably full of slush all over the place. Who would know the difference? It's a criminal thing almost, Madam Minister, that we see something like this happen in a column like this. You should be ashamed of yourself, as the Treasurer of Prince Edward Island, to think that the books are kept in this fashion. I think it's an insult to Islanders, an insult.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Well, I think you have a point, one point; that is that this page, of course, is the General Government allocation, so if there's an issue that doesn't impact specifically on a unique department of Government and Government in general wants the work done, it happens to get put on this page. Now, under the description, as you have read out, where it says Ministers' out-of-province travel, Cabinet meetings, I would agree. The description, if we're going to put in the contract work, perhaps in the initial description it should have had that included. But other than that, all that would have happened, Honourable Member, is that instead of it falling under the miscellaneous grants section, it would have been down in the next section under Grants; and whether that would be any clearer, I'm not sure.

Nancy Guptill (L): But what it does, unfortunately, it kind of opens the flood gate of query and as to how a person is to be able to identify what is actually being spent in various parts of your budget. It holds up a great big red flag to me. It tells me that it should... and that... you know, we don't want to spend... we could be here, Madam Minister, I can tell you, if we were trying to really... and I've been told this... I've been told this by some people who have been saying you're looking at the... in the budget, they've got things hidden all over the place. And I won't even tell you where I got that information, but I'm telling you, that's what we're getting. You know, and it's a reality. I know it is. And this is how we find something and it's, to me, it's a representation of what you call good fiscal management and I call it playing with the books, that's the difference. And I think Islanders would agree with that.

Chair: Member from Charlottetown-Kings Square.

Richard Brown (L): Thank you.

Robert Morrissey (L): I have a question from before... I wonder could we get in on the conversation between the Principle Secretary and the Minister over there.

Chair: Honourable Member...

Robert Morrissey (L): No? Oh, you're swapping recipes? That's amazing.

Chair: The member from Charlottetown...

Richard Brown (L): The legal costs there. Like, you have some good internal lawyers there. Why didn't you have them do it?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Because it would be considered a conflict of a conflict, I guess.

Richard Brown (L): What about the study, Donnie Baker?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Well, that wasn't... that's not a lawyer thing, that's a...

Richard Brown (L): No, okay, but let's say Donnie Baker, we have a Civil Service Commission, we're spending millions of dollars on. We have a private company doing our negotiations now. Why couldn't you get them to do that?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Because that's not their expertise, that's not what they do.

Richard Brown (L): You're telling me Human Resources Inc., that's done by MacMillan, doesn't have the expertise to do a study into the Senior Compensation Plan.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Well, that's not what they do. I mean, I guess they could probably go and expand into that area, but, I mean, that isn't what they do.

Richard Brown (L): Human Resource Inc.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Certainly, I guess we could have gone to them and asked that they do it. Baker Consulting does do this kind of work and I guess the decision was made that they would do a good job for

us.

Nancy Guptill (L): I'm a bit nauseous, Madam Minister. There's no tendering process here and you know it. I mean, I think that you're going... I'm going to be waiting for that.

Richard Brown (L): How much is the contract with Human Resources Inc. now? 'Cause, you know, I know the people down there and they're good people and I, personally, I think they could do this job at a much cheaper cost, 'cause they're negotiating all your contracts now.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): This is not about negotiating contracts, Honourable Member.

Richard Brown (L): Senior Compensation Plan, what was it?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): That's not what the consultant's study was about at all.

Richard Brown (L): Well, what was it about then?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): It was about going around the province talking to banks, talking to Credit Unions, talking to lenders, talking to people in business and saying, how do you think the Lending Agency should be set up? That's what it was about.

Richard Brown (L): But you also said the Senior Compensation Plan. So it wasn't the Senior Compensation plan.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Only one part of it was the Senior Compen... the other was the Lending Services.

Richard Brown (L): Yeah, but I'm saying, why... I'm still saying Human Resources Inc. could have done it.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): They probably could have done that part.

Richard Brown (L): How do you justify 100,000 dollars to the Deputy Min... your Deputy Minister and some other Deputy's only getting 84 and 85?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): I'll tell you something,

Honourable Member, we are getting more than our money's worth out of Mike O'Brien in all of Government.

Richard Brown (L): And I bet you...

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): I tell you, the rest of the country...

Richard Brown (L): I bet you're getting 100,000 dollars...

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): ... would like to have him.

Richard Brown (L): I bet you're getting 100,000 dollars worth out of your other Deputies too.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): That may be, but I'm not...

Richard Brown (L): Your other Deputies...

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): ... going to defend them, but I certainly will defend my own Deputy for what we're paying him.

Richard Brown (L): What I'm telling you is all your Deputies down there are good. I think it's kind of unfair. I think...

Chair: (INDISTINCT) Honourable Member.

Richard Brown (L): I think it's kind of unfair to pay one Deputy 100,000 and the others 15 lower.

Nancy Guptill (L): That's right.

Richard Brown (L): It's 106,000 he's getting. You know, that's kind of unfair.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): That's not my decision...

Richard Brown (L): We got the lowest Deputy cost in the country.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): That's not my decision.

Richard Brown (L): What, that's not your decision? Hold it. You're in charge. Who's in charge of the Senior Compensation Plan?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): These people aren't through Seniors Compensation. These people are accountable to the Premier's Office.

Richard Brown (L): Okay, who handles...but they're un... the Deputy Ministers are under the Seniors Compensation plan.

Nancy Guptill (L): (INDISTINCT) over there. Mr. McQuaid is over there, he could probably answer the question for us.

Richard Brown (L): The Senior Compensation Plan... it's not... it's not Treasury Board policy? Premier policy?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Senior Compensation Plan is, yes.

Richard Brown (L): It's, okay, so it's under your jurisdiction.

Nancy Guptill (L): Will someone (INDISTINCT) McQuaid to the floor.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): These people are hired through the Premier's Office, and paid that way.

Robert Morrissey (L): Is that building still on Eugene Rossiter's land or not, we'd like to know.

Richard Brown (L): I'm just saying...

Robert Morrissey (L): Can you answer that, Peter?

Richard Brown (L): I'm just saying, I think it's unfair what you're paying some of the other Deputies. I think you're getting just as much value from a lot of your other Deputies that you're getting from your Deputy and I think they all deserve the same wage, because they're all doing good work. Thank you.

Robert Morrissey (L): Mr. Chair...

Chair: Member from Alberton... Tignish-DeBlois, I'm sorry.

Robert Morrissey (L): That's close enough. Madam Minister, just going back to.. Dr. Doug Cudmore...

remember him?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Yep.

Robert Morrissey (L): He's the doctor... our administration paid him an appropriate... somewhere over 100,000 dollars, I think, or it could have been 90, actually.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Medical Director, you mean?

Robert Morrissey (L): Yeah. You took great exception to that at the time.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): I what?

Robert Morrissey (L): You took great exception to his salary....

An Honourable Member: That's right.

Robert Morrissey (L): ... when he was Medical Director, being out of line with everybody else's.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): I don't recall that, but I mean... (UPROAR) I might have. I'm not saying I didn't, but what's your point?

Robert Morrissey (L): Oh, well...

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): What's your point?

Robert Morrissey (L): (INDISTINCT) that answer when you thought we're getting value for our money for paying him that. I.. Mike O'Brien's a good guy and I suspect if you listen to him, you're getting good advice. But I suspect a lot of times the overall Government is not listening to him, from what I hear. Doesn't take his advise, but, you know, it's interesting because there is professional people, I agree, that come in Government, you have to pay them higher. But it's interesting how this (INDISTINCT)... but I want to go back to something else. Cox, Hansen, Riley... who is Cox, Hansen, Riley?

Chair: They're out of Halifax.

Robert Morrissey (L): Sorry... they're out of...

Chair: Halifax.

Robert Morrissey (L): This was... and I don't want to belabour the point, 48,000 dollars was for the legal... whose legal fee? Was that the Legislature's legal fees?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Government, yes.

Robert Morrissey (L): The Government ones. The ones that, to engage legislative legal counsel?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Nope.

Robert Morrissey (L): 'Cause it was legal counsel advising the Clerk.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Yes.

Robert Morrissey (L): Is this it?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): But that was... no, that was separate. There is another bill.

Robert Morrissey (L): So this was in Government. Who in Govern... oh.. You don't know the lawyer?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): No. I don't know the details of it. I know that's what the allocation of money was for and that's how much it is.

Robert Morrissey (L): Because the Minister at one time I recalled saying that it was his own personal lawyers and the expense....

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Well, I believe he spent a fair amount himself as well.

Robert Morrissey (L): But you can't have two sides of the case here.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): No, just a lot of lawyers.

Robert Morrissey (L): Was the Government lawyer engaged privately to back up the lawyer that the Minister had? What was the need of the Government lawyer... who was the Government lawyer through this...sorry, not a Government lawyer, but who was the lawyer that was paid here... who...

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): For the Clerk?

Robert Morrissey (L): No this one, the one you talked about, from Cox, Hansen and Riley.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): I don't know which individual it was.

Robert Morrissey (L): You don't know who it was?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): No.

Robert Morrissey (L): Could you find out?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Yep.

Robert Morrissey (L): And bring back to what specific lawyer, not the firm. You gave us the firm. What specific lawyer was paid this 48,000 dollars, because we were, I was left with the impression. In fact, I think it's on the record a couple of cases where the Minister said it was his own lawyers and his out-of-pocket expenses.

An Honourable Member: (INDISTINCT)

Robert Morrissey (L): Hmm? No, that's not the Clerk. The Clerk is over in the Legislative Budget, I know that, because Legislative Management, we've already reviewed that. There's another cost there and I think it's 40,000 or something. We'll deal with that when it comes.

Chair: Shall it carry?

Honourable Members: Carried.

Robert Morrissey (L): But you're going to bring me back that specific...

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Yep.

Chair: Grants. Appropri...

Robert Morrissey (L): Have you got that question, Clerk?

GRANTS

Chair: Appropriation provided for miscellaneous grants, Grants in lieu of Property Tax and grants to racetrack programs. Eastern Premiers Secretariat - 5,100, Grants for Relief from Property Tax - 776,000, Grants to Charlottetown Driving Park - 725,000, Grant to Prince County Horsemen's Association - 85,000, PEI Neurotrauma Fund - Nil, Miscellaneous Grants - 298,600. Total Grants - 1,889,700.

Nancy Guptill (L): Okay...

Chair: Member from St. Eleanors-Summerside.

Nancy Guptill (L): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Madam Minister, why is there such a vast difference in the Grant that's given to Charlottetown Driving Park compared to the Prince County? That's unreal. That's quite a disparity in ...is that directed for operations of the Park?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): No, no.

Nancy Guptill (L): What is it for, please?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): The discrepancy is this is a...it's a rebate back of the tax that we would receive if we did charge for the pari-mutuel betting and so it's contingent...

Nancy Guptill (L): It really... if you collected the bets..

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): ..on the amount of betting.

Nancy Guptill (L): If you collected bets for both...

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Yeah, for each.

Nancy Guptill (L): There's quite a difference. I didn't realize it was that large.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): That's what it is.

Nancy Guptill (L): So that's...

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): It's...

Nancy Guptill (L): ...solely what it is, there's no other type of grant or anything

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): ...the purse pool for the horsemen, yeah.

Nancy Guptill (L): All right. The next line, the Neurotrauma Fund... you never spent it, or you did spend 50,000 did you?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): We... last year we had it in ... this is General Government and last year recall that we put 50,000 dollars into the Neurotrauma fund.

Nancy Guptill (L): Where did it go? Like, who's managing it?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Health. It's in Health, which is why there's a lot... nothing in the third line there. It's now in Health.

Nancy Guptill (L): What was it used for, do you know what it was used?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): It was... you remember Rick Hansen coming and...

Nancy Guptill (L): Yeah, I know all that, but was it ever used, the 50,000 or not?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): I'm not sure if they spent it of whether they're...

Nancy Guptill (L): So if I go to the Health....

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): I don't know. You could ask the Minister of Health.

Nancy Guptill (L): In Health? Okay, I'll remember to ask that and then I want to know what your grants are basically and why you're... and why you had an over expenditure of 100,000 last year, or close to it.. 90?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Two ninety eight....

Richard Brown (L): Just give us that white book.

Nancy Guptill (L): What type of grants would they be, Madam Minister?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): They're used to assist non-profit organizations who are hosting events in the

province and they get so much a delegate.

Nancy Guptill (L): Flat... did that go up from five to ten dollars?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): It went up from four fifty to ten dollars a plate, a delegate.

Nancy Guptill (L): But your budget then,... so you didn't do much about your budget. Less people would have the opportunity to be able to...

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Well, it depends on what events we have in a year. There are certain other criteria that apply. For example, if the event is held in July and August, no one qualifies...

Nancy Guptill (L): No, I understand that.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): ... because we're trying to get people to come in the season.

Nancy Guptill (L): I do understand that.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): If they have fewer than 200 delegates, they don't qualify.

Nancy Guptill (L): Okay.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): If it is a national event, they do qualify.

Nancy Guptill (L): But you've spent close to 100,000 dollars more than you budgeted for last year. What happened?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Two ninety-eight to three eighty? Whoops...

Nancy Guptill (L): Could you give us a list of the organizations you gave the grants to and how much? Could you circulate that for us?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): I can get that.

Nancy Guptill (L): And that would be the answer, but is there something... oh it's right in the book.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Actually, I guess, there's a

little error in my briefing book here. I've got 298.6, 298.6, 298.6 so I don't have an (INDISTINCT) (INTERRUPTION)

Richard Brown (L): And you said your Deputy is so excellent.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Well, my Deputy doesn't do the books here, at this detail.

Richard Brown (L): Geez... he doesn't do the Budget Book.

Nancy Guptill (L): Would you bring an answer back, then, to what the... what that 380...

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Who got the funding?

Nancy Guptill (L): Whatever happened to that 380.... whether you have an error in your book, whether this book delivered by you in your speech...your...

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): I suspect what happened was that there were more events than we had money in the pot and people came and said, well, we're having a national event. We're having 260 delegates. Where's our money? And if we had had several events before that that used it up, we have to put more money in, otherwise...

Nancy Guptill (L): I fully understand that, because I know that there would be... but most times you can pretty well budget that, because anybody hosting a national event, know well in advance, mind you, they... most communities know about that grant and that they're having a national event and they're having a major banquet, that they're eligible for that funding. There would be the rare occasion where somebody wouldn't be aware of it, because somebody comes very quickly to the table and tells them, don't forget to go and get your grant for the banquet. I mean, that's.. it's a bit of a known thing.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Well, yes, but the problem, from what I understand, is that they have until late June, I believe, to apply and then we divvy up the money, but if somebody happens to come along and say, well, we've got a conference coming in November

or March, there may be no money left, because we divvied it all up the previous June and they do qualify. So if they do qualify, even though we don't have any money...

Nancy Guptill (L): We have to give it.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): I mean we have to give it..

Nancy Guptill (L): And I think that that's right that you should, quite honestly, because it seems...

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): I'll find out where the 380 went.

Nancy Guptill (L): What I guess I'm saying here is that... the whole principle of what I'm saying here is...you've got, let's call it 300,000 dollars in the budget. You end up spending, say, 400... just to round it off. Why you would reduce it when you've raised the per individual grant or whatever you're going to call it... four fifty to ten.. Why don't you reflect it by doubling the amount in your budget because either that...you're going to have to spend it anyway, like you said.

Hon. Mitch Murphy (PC): I think your numbers are reversed. Like, I can see 298,600 in the '98-'99 Estimate, 298,600 in the Forecast and 380 in the new Budget Estimate. There's (INDISTINCT)

Nancy Guptill (L): Yeah, that would make more sense, you're right. I'll put it this way, when you come back next year, you've got 298.6 in here. That ain't going to cut 'er. We know that before you start, because you've doubled the amount that you're giving per place and that's fine. I don't have a problem with the fact that you're giving it, but your budget truly does not reflect what you'll be spending and you should have more money in there in the first place.

An Honourable Member: Point well taken.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Yes, I think you're right.

Chair: Shall it carry?

Honourable Members: Carried.

12:22 pm

GOVERNMENT INSURANCE PROGRAM

Chair: Government Insurance Program. Appropriation provided for insurance premiums to self-insurance funds and outside insurers, self-retained losses assumed by government and for risk management consultant. The program provides insurance to all Government departments, and most crown corporations, agencies and commissions. Administration 778,700. Total Government Insurance Programs 778,700.

Leader of the Opposition: Is this programing working, Madam Minister?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): It is...from what I understand, since government moved to its own risk management insurance program that it has saved us a significant amount of money.

Leader of the Opposition: What kind of a kitty is built up there now?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): I think I was asked that last night.

Robert Morrissey (L): I asked that yesterday, and you were to bring it back today.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): No, I didn't get time to

Robert Morrissey (L): You had time to remember the question.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): I will...I give my commitment, I will bring back every answer you've asked me. I give my word. I'll bring back every answer you've asked me.

Leader of the Opposition: Do you have any idea what

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): But I don't know how much money, what do you mean how much money do we have covered.

Leader of the Opposition: ...No, how much have we

build up...accumulated.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): How much have we accumulated?

Robert Morrissey (L): It should be up around 10 million.

Nancy Guptill (L): 19 (INDISTINCT)

An Honourable Member: Don't tell her that, she'll go get it.

Chair: Shall it carry?

Honourable Members: Carried.

Robert Morrissey (L): And with that high priced valuable Deputy Minister that you got everybody else (INDISTINCT) I'm surprised you don't have it.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): He'd have it on the top of his head, he'd know, I'd just ask him he would know to the penny.

Leader of the Opposition: Can you give us an average pay out, an average yearly pay out since the inception.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Is that a long time ago.

Leader of the Opposition: Oh, it's quite a few years ago. How long ago (INDISTINCT). Maybe just the last couple of years. I just want to get an indication of the a....

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Yes, I think that was one of the questions I got asked last night.

Leader of the Opposition: Okay.

MUNICIPAL GRANTS

Chair: Municipal Grants. Appropriations provided for the additional funding to the City of Charlottetown to carry out required road maintenance and repairs and grants in lieu of property taxes. Grants 1,000,000. Total Municipal Grants 1,000,000.

Honourable Members: Carried.

Chair: Question from the Member from St. Eleanors-Summerside.

Nancy Guptill (L): Madam Minister, ...

An Honourable Member: (INDISTINCT). Are you going to allow that question, Mr. Chair?

Chair: That's a good question honourable member.

Nancy Guptill (L): ...Mr. Chair, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chairman is not prejudice. Now, Madam Minister, I fully support what you are doing here, I want you to know that. I think it's a great thing that you are doing there. But I'll tell you where I'm really a little bit upset about this matter.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): I think I can guess.

Nancy Guptill (L): The Attorney General came out here and took away, changed the boundaries on Slemon Park and we lost 150,000 dollars a year in taxes, general revenue. Now, he said he was going to go up there and negotiate and have something back and I want to know today how much money you are going to give back, annually, to help recover the dollars that the City of Summerside put in their budget, which otherwish will put them in a tremendous deficit position, because there surplus was quite small but this will reduce it to a tremendous deficit. And I'd like to know if you've made a decision on making it right for the City of Summerside. Doing the right thing and putting some sort of return of dollars to make up for that change that was made in this Legislature, against the wishes of the city, and which has impacted their bottom line in the budget and that the taxpayers are now going to have to make up some how. Now would you please answer that question at to what you are going to do.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Well, I'm not sure that I can address the Slemon Park issue directly, but I will explain this and the implications for the City of Summerside. As you know, the million dollars that we gave to the City of Charlottetown was based on 3 things. First they were entitled to get a... taxes payed for having the Queen Elizabeth Hospital within the

City. So, that had not be done originally and that was now...that's now included. The second is whoever did the spade work to develop the CUSO Agreement when they drove around the City of Charlottetown they added the number of kilometres and they didn't add them right. So, the City of Charlottetown said we're getting paid for 195 kilometres and actually we got 206 and we want to get paid for 206, so, we said fair enough, if you got 206 you get ...that was the second. The third is that there are some streets within cities, well perhaps not limited to cities, that are more costly to service then others. If you are out in the country or if you're in a subdivision and you're not putting in a sidewalk or you're not having to work around the fire hydrant or whatever, then you could...the average cost...on the CUSO Agreement the average cost to pave 1 kilometre of street was 23,000 dollars and that was basically agreed to by the people around the table. It will cost, on average, 23,000. Well the city argued 23,000 is not enough if we have to do that on University Avenue. It..we cannot do it for 23,000 they said we've got to move things, we've got to do a lot of extra work, therefore, the real cost is probably closer to 40,000 in certain streets. So, there were discussions and the City was allocated an extra 20,000 per kilometre for certain streets that required more work then normal. So, those are the 3 things that lead to the million dollars.

Now, no surprise, but the City of Summerside was not oblivious to this discussion and so they are looking at what Charlottetown got and looking at the CUSO Agreement that they signed and saying well, I think we will have to take another look and see if we got the right number of kilometres for starters.

Nancy Guptill (L): That's fair, that's fair.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Sure, so they ...

Nancy Guptill (L): All's fair in love and war.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC):...Looked at that and their saying well we got Water Street in Summerside it probably cost more to service Water Street then it does Granville and Central..well what ever.

Nancy Guptill (L): Yes, Granville does.

Richard Brown (L): Now that the new hospital is going there, get that in.

An Honourable Member: They got to look at the total tax structure too.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): So, as a result they have been meeting with the departmentwith the government to discuss what they feel, similar to what Charlottetown has done, what they feel they are entitled to.

Nancy Guptill (L): So there is an anticipation of good dollars coming to Summerside, as a result.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Well I guess it would depend on how do you define good?

Nancy Guptill (L): Pardon me, no but you are looking at it and there will be an influx of dollars, I think, of what you are telling me because of what is happening, there will be new dollars (INDISTINCT) the City of Summerside. Will that be an annual thing, an ongoing thing too. Do...it will not be any less then the amount that tax revenues that they were receiving for the boundaries thatI wouldn't think so. I mean it would be more then that, sure it would be quite a bit more then that I would hope.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): I'm not sure what the amount is because it is only in the discussion, negotiating phase.

Nancy Guptill (L): No, it will come to (INDISTINCT) and I commend you for that because I do believe in fairness in that aspect. I'll tell you, Madam Minister, though I still think that the heavy hand, and I think Islanders agree, that when government walks in and unilaterally takes a decision to cut out a piece of property that belongs to

Richard Brown (L): Heavy handed.

Nancy Guptill (L):A city that wasit's worst then ...there expropriating from the city in favour of private enterprise and I think that was wrong. But any event, I look forward to seeing how much...when will those negotiations be completed and when do you expect the new dollars?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Well, I really can't answer that. I know that...

Nancy Guptill (L): But in this fiscal year.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC):The staff of my department ...oh, definitely, yes.

Nancy Guptill (L): They'll see it in this fiscal year.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Yes.

Nancy Guptill (L): Well, look I want to commend you for that and I ...but at the same time...

Richard Brown (L): You'll be at the ribbon cutting ceremony, the cheque ceremony.

Nancy Guptill (L): (LAUGHTER) ...I'll take the cheque up for you Madam Minister, I'll tell...

Richard Brown (L): No, the guy next to her will. (LAUGHTER)

Chair: The Member from Charlottetown-Kings Square was going to take my job away from me earlier. (LAUGHTER)

Nancy Guptill (L): Yes he was. (LAUGHTER)

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): (LAUGHTER).

An Honourable Member: I won't let on.

Richard Brown (L): My name is Ronnie MacKinley.

An Honourable Member: An he is lobbying the Speaker too.

Chair: That's right there is a conflict there.

Richard Brown (L): My thing about the 1 million dollar think is that the tax structure of PEI has to be reviewed, the municipal tax structure. Every other province has done it we have to do it here because if we want good communities they need the tax dollars that the province is collecting and keeping...

An Honourable Member: Equitable system.

Richard Brown (L): ...I remember in the... when the old City of Charlottetown like Spy and I use to have to go down every year and we would meet with the 4 MLAs of the area, and good MLAs they were because every year we'd walk out of that door with a million dollar cheque. That was for the old City of Charlottetown which is...was only 17,000 people...

Jamie Ballem (PC): Why did you amalgamate?

Richard Brown (L): ...What?

Jamie Ballem (PC): Why did you want to amalgamate?

Richard Brown (L): ...Because we thought we'd get more, but it didn't happen. It's not happening under this administration either but...we use to go down and you'd talk it out with them 4 MLAs and they'd go to the table for us and low and behold the next day we'd go down and get a call a nice cheque for a million dollars would be passed over to us.

Nancy Guptill (L): Oh, never new about that, that was money under the table I didn't know about.

Richard Brown (L): Which really did a good job, but it brang up the root of the problem is that it had to happen every year and I think we are getting, or every second or third year, and I think we are getting back into that mode. During the amalgamation process one of the recommendations was that a tax study would be done and when do you plan to do a tax study?

Because, like it is unfair to have the municipalities going to you and you can have all the negotiations you want, it really comes down to pleading and only of the good grace of the politician on the other end saying yes or no.

Hon. Wes MacAleer (PC): We didn't, we (INDISTINCT)deviated from the CUSO Agreement in any of the deliberations that we have undertaken by the municipalities. We did re-exam the envelope and stretched it in the case of Charlottetown but that was only because we re-examined the issues that were already on the table. What you are suggesting is that we change the basic principles of CUSO to accommodate the desire by the City of Charlottetown

to collect all its municipal taxes. Granted that might be an approach, but the challenge you have then is to change the principles under which we deal with 75 other municipalities, in the province, to accommodate Charlottetown and Summerside. And it's a question whether, you know, we should do that because that has far reaching implications for the development of communities through out Prince Edward Island.

Richard Brown (L): I agree, but our sister province New Brunswick, which our tax system is modelled after, our property tax system is modelled after, matter of fact, we use the same, 1972, I think we used the same Commission Report. The Premier of New Brunswick, at that time, did a study into the municipalities and he said we'll take over the taxing of the province and we'll run the billing and everything and send it all out and we'll take a portion of that tax, okay.

But, New Brunswick, what they do right now, they say if you're a full service community we'll not collect taxes from you. Because property tax, the theory of property tax, is for property improvements.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): That's not true.

Hon. Wes MacAleer (PC): The key issue here, what is your definition of a full service municipality?

Richard Brown (L): Charlottetown.

Elmer MacFadyen (PC): But in New Brunswick, honourable member, the assess the tax by owner occupied and owner unoccupied.

Richard Brown (L): What do you mean?

Elmer MacFadyen (PC): Well, if you own a property and you are living in it the tax does go to the municipality.

Richard Brown (L): That's correct.

Elmer MacFadyen(PC): But if you own a property and you don't live in it the tax doesn't go to the municipality.

Jamie Ballem (PC): It stays with the property. So, if

you owned a duplex and you live in half of it 50 percent of the tax stays with the province it doesn't go back to the municipalities (INDISTINCT).

Richard Brown (L): No, what I'm saying they're getting the property tax back.

Jamie Ballem (PC): Not all of it.

Elmer MacFadyen (PC): Not all of it.

Richard Brown (L): But if you own your property, you live in your house you get your property tax back.

Elmer MacFadyen (PC): In the City of Charlottetown,

Richard Brown (L): I'm not sayinglike the city agreed to the commercial tax, the province keeps the commercial tax, which is, by the way, how much did you collect from commercial tax from the City of Charlottetown? 5 million commercial, 3 million residential.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): I'm looking for it.

Richard Brown (L): They get a million of that back. Anyway, the point is what I recommend is that a review of the tax system be done on PEI, the municipal tax system.

Jamie Ballem (PC): That was already agreed to in the agreement with the city. Part of the agreement is that there would be a review and to (INDISTINCT)....

Richard Brown (L): That's only going to be a review of the city, I say you should do it with the whole province.

Jamie Ballem (PC): ...(INDISTINCT) the Summerside, Stratford and Cornwall included in that because they are the signatories for CUSO that if they wanted to be part of that review process to see what services are provided in ...by the province or by the municipality they can take part in it. So, that's already being done.

Richard Brown (L): You are not getting what I am saying. I am saying that all municipalities across the

province, okay. There should be a review done on the taxing all across the provinces.

Hon. Wes MacAleer (PC): That was done already by a joint committee of the municipalities.

Richard Brown (L): That was the municipal grant program.

Hon. Wes MacAleer (PC): That's right.

Richard Brown (L): Not the municipal tax system. The grants were done the equalization and that, that was done but I'm saying if you want to get to the root of the problem and fix the problem you go back to property tax philosophy and say okay, what is it. What do we want out of this, what do we want from our communities. What responsibility should our communities have and what responsibility should government have. And if we went back to that step and looked at it from that point of view, I think you would have a lot of communities out there happy and you'd have a lot of (INDISTINCT) communities.

Leader of the Opposition: (INDISTINCT) not agree that if you did that kind of study then you would have a good solid bases for going to vote. I mean it would effect all communities across the province but the 2 that we're kind of focused on right now is this the discrepancies between Charlottetown and Summerside. If you had a good solid study, tax study done, would that not then provide the bases for you to in a reasonable, responsible fashion explain....

Hon. Wes MacAleer (PC): Yes, I don't hear any disagreement on the issue except that there are probably 68 to 70 municipalities in this province that are...there pleased with the format and there is 1 or 2 that aren't and they (INDISTINCT)....

Leader of the Opposition: 1 or 2 (INDISTINCT) Minister, 1 or 2 that make up about two-thirds of your population.Holy God.

Richard Brown (L): I think if you went back to the municipalities and said...

Hon. Wes MacAleer (PC): ...And therefore we are going to be dealing with the 1 or 2 that have a

disagreement.

An Honourable Member: Yes.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): At the end of the day the discussion is political. The reality is do we want to have a system where the money collected goes back to the individuals who paid, or do we want to have it so that the province provides services for everyone. Now, we are predominately a rural province and because of that it's more problematic here then it is anywhere else. So, the question, you know, if you're to ask somebody in Christopher's Cross are they unfairly taxed versus somebody on Water Street in Charlottetown they might say yes. Because I don't have any services out here. I don't have a government building, I'm not near a hospital etc....

An Honourable Member: (INDISTINCT)

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): ...Yes, and people choose to be in Charlottetown. So, the debate is around whether or not the people that have the services in their area should get the money that results from having those services, and what you are going to have is a very lively debate among the residents of the province. Which, I don't think personally, enhances other the city or the rural area but I think it will come down to what does Charlottetown have, what does Summerside have, what do the rural people not have.

And the reality is that for the most part it is, in my own opinion, at the present time quite fair. You know, you can take the numbers but then you've got to look at what are the other benefits that accrue to the cities because the operations of government happen to focus and centre in the cities. So, it really is that kind of a discussion and then you get in to the farming community and I mean they have a different kind of assessment based on the fact that we think it's important to maintain a large farming community on Prince Edward Island because it is the essence of us being here.

So, you get lots of people saying well, I should be paying the same as that guy. I don't care if he is farming, fishing or running a store we should all pay the same. The reality is that I think our...the people who have gone before us have done a reasonably good

job of distributing the tax load to the residents of the province. I think if you... at the end of the day when you look at the benefits, the disadvantages and how much revenue comes in, I don't think anybody is unfairly treated.

Now, there is always adjustments like the CUSO discussion that took place, but it had to be based on reality.....

12:40 p.m.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): ...we didn't give Charlottetown a million dollars. We only gave them what, after lots of discussion, we felt they were entitled to, because of very specific things. Same thing would happen with other municipalities. But, you can easily have a discussion of you know, should you pay less in Charlottetown because you have more people and they're all paying in. Is that a good reason to have them pay less? In which case you know, you're living in the country and you don't have a lot of people and you're going to pay quite a bit more. So, I don't know, I think the system is reasonably fair. I'm not suggesting we shouldn't look at it, but I doubt whether they'll find a better system at the end of the day.

Richard Brown (L): So, what you're saying, your bottom line is, I work at DVA or I work at the Provincial Government Building. I make 50,000 dollars a year and I choose to live in the City of Charlottetown, okay. Or I work at DVA or I work at Provincial Government and I make 50,000 dollars a year and I chose to live outside the City of Charlottetown. That person that's inside the City of Charlottetown that's making 50,000 dollars with the same job, same everything, should subsidize a person outside the City of Charlottetown. That's what you just said to us.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): No, I'm suggesting that they're not subsidized.

Richard Brown (L): Yes, you said we should pay more in order....

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): No, I'm saying that, you know, DVA happens to be in Charlottetown, there's the first issue.

Richard Brown (L): Yes.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): You know, if you're living in Morell, DVA is not in Morell. They'd love to have it, so would Tignish, so would everybody.

Nancy Guptill (L): Don't talk about that one Madam Minister.

Richard Brown (L): This is the argument that everyone uses. They put down the City of Charlottetown just because we have a DVA Building. You know what that DVA Building cost? You know, you got to build the infrastructure to get it there, you got to have the lighting, you got to have the storm sewer system, you got to have the police force, the fire department, backing it all up. You don't put a DVA Building in a municipality and expect that no cost incurs to that municipality because that building is in there.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): The advantages...

Richard Brown (L): You guys use that same argument because you got the Government Provincial Building in the City of Charlottetown, you should be happy and you should pay through the nose.

Norman MacPhee (PC): You do an awful lot of growling if you go to them out here.

Richard Brown (L): Yes, and that's why I did.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): But you see the arguments....

Richard Brown (L): Why I argued that is because we have millions and millions of dollars of infrastructure in place that supports those facilities right now, that supports those facilities right now and if you were to take that facility and move it outside, you would have to put millions and millions of dollars in to support the infrastructure that supports it. You don't run a building like DVA by itself. You need streets, roads, sewers, fire protection to go to it.

An Honourable Member: You wanted them.

Richard Brown (L): That's right, we want them and we pay for them. Our tax dollars pay for them.

Chair: Honourable Members, we're getting carried away.

Richard Brown (L): But to put the City of Charlottetown just down because we have a few Government buildings that cost a lot of money to maintain on a municipal infrastructure program, I take offense to this. And consistently, governments for 100 years now have said that. Just because you got a Government building in the City of Charlottetown, you should be happy and the guy making 50,000 dollars in the City of Charlottetown, who chooses to live inside the City of Charlottetown, who moves there and the same person that's outside the City of Charlottetown, that person because he's got the Government building in his town, he should pay more property tax. That doesn't work with me.

Jamie Ballem (PC): But then you can use the argument that that person in Charlottetown had sewer and water and sidewalks, parks and everything else. The resident outside doesn't. (INDISTINCT)

Chair: Point of Privilege. Minister of Community Services and Attorney General.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

Hon. Wes MacAleer (PC): I have an important announcement for the House. I've just received this from the Minister of Health and Social Services and I want to update the members on the situation regarding medical coverage for Beach Grove Home, Prince Edward Home and the Hillsborough Hospital, which I believe has been covered in the newspaper recently. The Queens Region met this morning with three doctors now providing the service, and I'm told that it was a very positive meeting. They are confident that a full and final resolution will be completed within days and certainly prior to the end of the month. The Minister says, I want to assure the residents at these facilities and their families that they will continue to be able to access the physician services and that the matter will be fully resolved without any interruption to services. Thank you. (APPLAUSE)

Chair: Member from St. Eleanors - Summerside.

Nancy Guptill (L): Could I ask the Minister a

question? Minister do you have an update on the doctor situation, on the three doctors? Did she.....that's a critical situation as well. Would you...what is happening again?

Hon. Wes MacAleer (PC): Yes. Mr. Chairman, this announcement is with respect to the negotiations that are occurring between Queens Region Health and the three doctors that you're speaking of, who are providing services.

Nancy Guptill (L): It's finalized, period, not just temporary?

Hon. Wes MacAleer (PC): I am told that there will be no interruption in service and that a final resolution will be determined in the very near future.

Nancy Guptill (L): That's my question, you see. Because I understood by what was said and I think you know....I hope this has been resolved. But the last thing we heard was this morning, I think, on the radio that they were looking for at least an extension of service. Is this an extension of service or a permanent settlement? I find this a little bit strange.

Hon. Wes MacAleer (PC): Mr. Chairman, as I read this notice that this is an extension of service and that a final resolution of the issue will occur by the end of the month.

Nancy Guptill (L): Hopefully.

Chair: Member from.....

Leader of the Opposition: Mr. Chairman, that's nothing further than what we were told....

Nancy Guptill (L): On the radio.

Leader of the Opposition: I've had residents of these institutions contacting me. I've intentionally stopped...I haven't asked a single question because the medical director suggested that it might be more helpful if we didn't. But what you've shared with the Assembly today, is what he shared with me about a week or 10 days ago, a week ago, I guess, it's more like a week ago. So I don't know why you'd stand with this major breakthrough.

Nancy Guptill (L): Did the Minister phone you? Did the Minister call you?

Hon. Wes MacAleer (PC): Mr. Speaker, with absolute respect for this House and ensuring that everybody is fully informed, I wanted to stand with immediate response to a bulletin that was given, handed to me and I just wanted to share it with the House.

Nancy Guptill (L): Minister, if I might add, so the Minister of Health and Social Services has sent you a bulletin, is that what you're saying to you, directly to you? From British Columbia to tell you this. Is that how you got that (INDISTINCT).

Hon. Wes MacAleer (PC): No, this is from her office in Charlottetown.

Nancy Guptill (L): Oh. Oh!!!

Chair: Member from Tignish - DeBlois.

CONSIDERATION OF THE ESTIMATES (debate continued)

Robert Morrissey (L): Thank you Chair. Back to discussion, you know, it's always a fascinating one, but I have to speak from we rural Islanders, from the taxing side. To use the same analysis my colleague was given, the 50,000 DVA worker living in the country. You know, we country people every time we phone to the capital we pay taxes on our phone bills. We pay substantive tax on our gas that we have to constantly put in our vehicles. Oh, yes, but if I'm living out, and we'll say, Kensington and you're driving back and forth, let's take it probably 60 dollars worth of gas a day. Madam Treasurer, how much tax would that person pay on that gas, 60 dollars worth? Most of it is tax. Yes, 30 dollars. So 30 dollars times 52 weeks, is how much money? About 1500 dollars. Plus we still got to pay our property tax, we have to pay our rural fire dues, we're taxed and the burden, we can't stand it anymore. I had to sell my cottage.

An Honourable Member: No.

Robert Morrissey (L): Yes, because the tax burden was too high.

Chair: Member from Charlottetown - Kings Square.

Robert Morrissey (L): No, just wait until I'm through.

Chair: Alright.

Robert Morrissey (L): On this here...I just want to make....and it's always been the argument, see, and really if you do, an independent unbiased costing analysis, the rural person, the farther from the city pays a disproportionate amount of tax to the urban person, because of the cost of living there. There is a cost of living in rural parts, any place and there is a cost of living in the urban centre as well. But there's these added costs that people have, because if I look at my case in Tignish, everybody I need whether it's a specialist I have to go to at the Queen E, you have to phone long distance. If it's anybody that you need in Government, you have to phone long distance. You need professional, most of us here. In fact you know the Federal Government forces my fishermen from Tignish as well as from Souris to drive to Charlottetown to pick up their bloody licences, which is a cost and.... so there is that high cost, because everything that we do, like all those services are taxed, they're taxed provincially. I'm not knocking the city, but in the rural if you took the same person and added all the costs to it, you'd find that the rural was paying a higher tax than a similar person urban

Richard Brown (L): Mr. Chairman, I have to disagree with my colleague there.....

Robert Morrissey (L): You can rebut. You can rebut and you...

Richard Brown (L): (INDISTINCT)

Chair: Can you discuss that in you caucus?

Richard Brown (L): The Civic Centre, that's enjoyed by all Islanders....

Robert Morrissey (L): Who paid for it, the taxpayer.

Richard Brown (L): Well we paid three million bucks, four million bucks. Three million we put in plus it's 800,000 dollars a year that the citizens of

Charlottetown have to pick up there and the debt payment and the deficit each year, Mr. Speaker, and that facility is enjoyed, or Mr. Chairman, well he's Deputy Speaker.....But, Mr. Chairman, like, you know, and we're proud to do that. We're proud to contribute our share. And I'm just saying, you look, I'm paying 80 dollars a year out of my taxes right now to pay the deficit of that Civic Centre, which I'm proud because it is for all of PEI and the local MLA's and

Chair: Can we carry this?

Richard Brown (L): And we love doing it, we love doing it. We're getting a little tight on the belt.

Chair: Municipal Grants. Can we carry Municipal Grants for Charlottetown? 1,000,000 dollars for Charlottetown passed. Carried.

SALARY NEGOTIATIONS

Chair: Salary Negotiations. Appropriations provided for projected salary negotiations within the public service. Salaries - 5,308,500. Total Salary Negotiations - 5,308,500.

Shall it carry?

An Honourable Member: Projected increases ah?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Yes, this is salary negotiations took place this year and the reclassification, money for re-classification of positions.

Nancy Guptill (L): How much did it cost you for those....how many people did you hire so far, new people on your permanent part-time? How many new..... Is the money....

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): We only started the first of May.

Nancy Guptill (L): But is the money in here to pay for that already, for all of those permanent part-time?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): It would be in the....already in the system because they would have been getting paid. It's not a

Nancy Guptill (L): There's more expenditures than that.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): There's pension benefits, yes. That part is in., but...

Nancy Guptill (L): Where is it?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): In different departments, depending on where they work.

Nancy Guptill (L): What is the full amount, you would know that?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): I can't recall. I have a briefing note on that and I will bring it back but I'm really not sure of the number.

Nancy Guptill (L): Did I read somewhere where it was close to half a million dollars? Perhaps, would that be right?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): You're probably right. Yeah, I believe so.

Chair: Member from Tignish - DeBlois.

Robert Morrissey (L): This section dealing with, Oh I'm sorry. Did you...

Nancy Guptill (L): You'll bring that back Madam Minister?

Robert Morrissey (L): This section only dealing with public servants, the salary increase for public servants?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): No, sorry. I didn't answer this correctly. This is the '99 Budget, so this is not....this is for future negotiations.

Robert Morrissey (L): Well I thought that's what we started with the '99 Budget.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): This is for future negotiations. So there are the PEI Nurses Union, the Ambulance operators...

Robert Morrissey (L): Okay. That's your crowd, Richard.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): ... and classification of employees in the Regional Health Units, Regional Health Boards.

Robert Morrissey (L): Classification of the employees, why they're not classified now?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): No, they're going through a re-classification study.

Robert Morrissey (L): And that's going.... you're budgeting 5.3 million to do that.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): For those three things together.

Robert Morrissey (L): So, the two percent that you gave the public servants is already built in through the very salaries through.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Yeah.

Robert Morrissey (L): So the only ones affected here are your nurses, your ambulance operators and the health....

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): And the 775 which is left over from negotiations.

Chair: Member from St. Eleanors - Summerside.

Nancy Guptill (L): Madam Minister, when you came to the floor last year doing your Budget, here we go again, your Budget Estimate said, and you notice the 775,000 dollar line.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Yeah.

Nancy Guptill (L): You came here with a Budget Estimate of 5,838,100 dollars. Now why would that show 775 now and, in fact, you show that what you...your Forecast shows that you spent three million, six hundred or whatever, that should have been....by the looks of that it was a big over expenditure; but in fact you, according to the numbers you presented in the House here last year, is 2.3 million dollars less. How can you explain that?

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Well this particular entry for salary negotiations didn't use to appear in budgets

from what I'm told, because it would, it might lead some people to know how much money we set aside and therefore they may conclude what they're going to get. But, we did have it in last year and you're correct, it was 5,838,100 dollars. The 775 that's in that same column is what is left over from all of the negotiating that we did that used up the 5.8 million, the 775 left over....

Nancy Guptill (L): But this is very facetious, do you not... I mean....

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): No I think it's pretty open.

Nancy Guptill (L): No, no.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): It's in salaries, it's gone to the two percent. Yeah.

Nancy Guptill (L): Well then how, can you say that your Forecast ended up being three million instead it should be a heck of a lot more, if you're telling me.....what you're telling me doesn't jive, you know it and I know it. Now, it sounded good on the early end but it's really, doesn't add up on the.....if that's the case that should be about eight million dollars. So, now how do you explain this thing? It's a mess.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Well, as I'm telling you, this....those three columns, you can't read them the same as the other columns in the budget. Because what we did last year was set aside 5.8 million. We used all except 775,000, which was left over. Now, the middle column is what is....that's over and above the money that we had set aside....

Nancy Guptill (L): Then that should show eight million dollars.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): No, just a second. This money is going to be in a special warrant which you will get to debate, I'm sure. A special warrant in '98 to pay for the UPSE re-classification and salary negotiations. In other words, those negotiations are not final yet, but we're going to be paying for them in '98 and that's what the 3.6 is. Now, when you get to the third column, it's again something new. It is what I said originally. It's the Nurses Union contract, the Ambulance contract and the classification study for

health employees. So, each of those three columns.....Honourable Member, I know what you're saying, can't read this the way....like money allocated and money over (INDISTINCT).

Nancy Guptill (L): I'll tell you, on one hand on your first side of this story it looks like you saved 2.3 million, but then you take it and you add in what you gave last year and you spent 10 million. You can't have it both ways. And that's what you're saying. You can't have it both ways, and that's what you're telling here.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): It's possible that the salary negotiations entry in the budget instead of being set up the way all the others, it should be set up, this is what we have spent this year, this is what's up coming that we have to set aside money for and this is for the new year.

Nancy Guptill (L): No, no.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): That would be....

Nancy Guptill (L): That's not right. What is right is this. You put in almost a six million dollar line last year where it says 775. You told me you spent that six million, but there was 775 left over. And then you said, oh, but the Forecast, where the other new dollars, came up 3.6 which is almost four million. So, you add that up, that's 10 million dollars, rather than what you're showing here.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): That's right and that's exactly the point I'm making.

Nancy Guptill (L): That is facetious and wrong, why don't you say you spent your 10 million dollars last year in negotiations. This is why, this is the problem with this budget. It doesn't show that way and doesn't reflect that way. It's under handed. It's one o'clock. We'll pursue this next week.

Chair: Shall it carry?

Nancy Guptill (L): No. A definite no on that line.

Chair: Time.

Hon. Pat Mella (PC): Mr. Chair, I move the Speaker take the chair and the Chair report progress and request leave to sit again.

Chair: Shall it carry?

Honourable Members: Carried.

Chair: Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the House In Committee to further consider the Grant of Supply to Her Majesty, I beg leave to report that the Committee has made progress and request leave to sit again.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Honourable Members: Carried.

Speaker: Government House Leader.

Elmer MacFadyen (PC): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member from Crapaud - Hazel Grove that this House adjourn and stay adjourned till Tuesday at 2 o'clock.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Honourable Members: Carried.

ADJOURNED

Elmer MacFadyen (PC): I move this House now adjourn.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Honourable Members: Carried.

