

The House met at 2:00 p.m.

**MR. SPEAKER (Dicks):** Order, please!

The hon. the Member for St. John's South.

**MR. MURPHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I am sure all hon. members of the House are very much aware of the great showing that was made in Norway in the last two weeks. I stand today to especially congratulate -

**MR. SPEAKER:** I should say that if the member has consent of the House to address the House - it would be a bit out of order but but I think we extend him the courtesy, normally.

Go ahead.

**MR. MURPHY:** - to pass on congratulations through Your Honour to Newfoundland's first athlete to ever win a medal at the Olympics. The very first Newfoundlander to win a medal at the Olympics is Dwayne Norris.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. MURPHY:** I know we all feel it was an extremely tremendous achievement. The Canadian team did exceptionally well as did all Canadian athletes and I am sure all members of the House would want to pass on to Dwayne our sincere congratulations.

Thank you very much.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The hon. the Member for Humber Valley.

**MR. WOODFORD:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to echo the comments made by the Member for St. John's South in congratulating the Canadian Olympic Team, and especially Dwayne Norris, of whom every time his buddies were interviewed they referred to him as the Newf. And Dwayne Norris certainly didn't feel out of place when they referred to him as Newf. I saw every interview that was done by CTV and all his colleagues always referred to him as Newf and he certainly never felt out of place, and he certainly didn't look out of place when he was on that ice in Lillehammer - a far cry from what the hon. the Member for St. John's South used to look like when he was on the ice, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The hon. the Member for St. John's East.

**MR. HARRIS:** I would like to join in and make unanimous the expression of the Member for St. John's South of our pride in our native son, Dwayne Norris, receiving a medal as part of the Canadian Olympic Team. He is not the first Olympian from Newfoundland, as the hon. the Member for St. John's South, and we all know, but we are very proud of that and we are only disappointed that he did not get his chance for a second shot on goal because I am sure he would have made us prouder still, if he had gotten that chance.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** On behalf of hon. members, I would like to welcome a delegation from the Town of Milltown, Bay d'Espoir, Mr. Jerry Kearley, Mayor, Doug Sutton, Deputy Mayor, and Mr. Clyde Sutton representing the Canadian Legion and the senior citizens from Greenwood Manor, of Milltown.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

their member, who should have been supporting them, has really pulled the rug out from under their feet and now they do not have an opportunity.

So I want to say to the Member for LaPoile, I support your petition 100 per cent, and I support the people who are trying to keep their community alive and to find some employment opportunities.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

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

**MR. CARTER:** Mr. Speaker, in speaking to the petition I want to congratulate the member for presenting it. I met with the delegation that he referred to this morning, in my office, just before lunch, and I think they pretty well understand the situation and how limited the options are.

The plant that is in Rose Blanche has had a long history. I believe it was built there by the Hardy interests, and subsequently sold, I believe, to Rose Ting, and subsequently to that, expropriated by government at a time when there were plants expropriated in Port aux Basques and St. Lawrence and, of course, the one in Rose Blanche.

Now the delegation this morning, I think, pretty well agree that maybe that is where the problem really started, back in 1988, when the government of the day expropriated that plant, because in so doing, on looking back, it probably deprived the people of Rose Blanche from getting a good, solid operator to move in there to buy the plant and to have a long-term commitment to its operation and to -

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order, please!

I am having trouble hearing the hon. minister, and he is fairly close to me.

**MR. CARTER:** Mr. Speaker, the current owners, Conpak Seafoods, rented the plant from the government and just a few weeks ago, in fact, notified government that they were no longer interested in its operation, and they walked away from it. The main problem, of course, given by the company, was the fact that there was a shortage of fish. That, Mr. Speaker, is common around the Province these days.

I explained to the group this morning the problems that we are having, and that everybody recognizes the fact that we do have considerable overcapacity in the processing sector. We have to downsize the processing sector, and it would not be fair to tell them, or to give them an assurance, that the licence would be reinstated in that plant, because the conditions under which that would happen are far beyond the capability of anybody in this House. In fact, I don't suppose there is a person on this planet who can predict, with any level of certainty, just how much fish will be here next year, or ten years from now. So it is difficult to be able to say what plants will be open two, three, five or ten years from now, not knowing how much fish will be available for them to process.

I should point out that on that corner, on the southwest corner of the Province, there are presently four plants operating. There is a plant in Port aux Basques, of course, one in Burnt Island, Margaree, Isle aux Morts, and the plant in Rose Blanche would have been the fifth plant. I think the delegation this morning agreed, too, that that is too much capacity for that area, given the fact that the stocks are in short supply right now.

Mr. Speaker, I was happy to have met with the delegation and I can say they were very understanding and obviously got a very good grasp of what is happening. I can only tell them that as time goes on we will be presenting in this House our White Paper on fisheries at which time we will be outlying the criteria for the issuing of licenses. We will just have to wait and see, but I do not want those people to return to their communities feeling certain they are going to be able to have a license to operate their fish plant. I can only tell them the matter is under review and there will be a White Paper outlying government's policy presented in the House during this session and then we will have to wait and see what happens from there.

### Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** The hon. the Government House Leader.

**MR. ROBERTS:** Mr. Speaker, could we do Motion No. 1 first and then we will deal with the Address in Reply?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Motion No. 1. Motion, the hon. the Premier to introduce a bill, "An Act Respecting The Privatization Of The Newfoundland And Labrador Hydro-Electric Corporation," carried. (Bill No. 2)

On motion, Bill No. 2 read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The hon. the Government House Leader.

**MR. ROBERTS:** Mr. Speaker, we have received a report of the Select Committee to deal with the Address in Reply but I am advised it is necessary to adopt it formally so could the House move to that and then I will ask Your Honour to call the Address in Reply debate? I believe we are going to be treated to a speech by my friend for Grand Bank.

**MR. SPEAKER:** I might ask the hon. Government House Leader on the Address in Reply, we earlier accepted the report, did we not, the committee report?

**MR. ROBERTS:** We said presently and I guess presently is here, Mr. Speaker, but, of course, I am in your hands.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The motion in favour of adopting the report as tabled, carried.

The hon. Opposition House Leader.

**MR. W. MATTHEWS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I saw the Member for Eagle River rise in his place and I thought he might have had some urgent business he wanted to bring to the attention of the House.

It is my pleasure today to rise and have a few words in response to the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne of yesterday.

I suppose to a degree I can say I found it interesting. It is not too often you can say, or I can say anyway in the time I have been here, that I found a Throne Speech to be interesting, but with the bold initiatives that government is putting forward and going to bring to the floor of the Legislature over the next five or six months - I would say they will probably be brought to the floor of the House before, probably in the next two or three weeks, but before they are dealt with, if ever by the House, I am sure five or six months will at least have elapsed.

I see my good friend the President of Treasury Board, the Minister of Finance, and it seems as if he is smiling almost in agreement that he sort of anticipates that it just might be that kind of a sitting here as we begin now this day March 1, 1994. Mr. Speaker, I did find some of the things interesting and I look forward to a vigorous debate once the respective pieces of legislation are brought to the floor of the Legislature for members to peruse and debate. Of course the first one that we all know is coming is the privatization of Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro.

**MR. SIMMS:** I want to hear the back benchers' views.

**MR. W. MATTHEWS:** Sorry?

**MR. SIMMS:** We want to hear the back benchers' views.

**MR. W. MATTHEWS:** I'm sure that the members opposite will be on their feet in lively debate. I don't think that they will be stifled, I say to the Leader of the Opposition. I don't think any of them over there on these very important and dramatic issues, dramatic decisions that will be made on behalf of the people of Newfoundland and Labrador, that I think that we are going to see quite a participation by members opposite in the privatization of Hydro and the education reforms that are coming forward, and all the other issues that are mentioned in this Throne Speech. I'm sure they will be participating.

know what the hell was going on. Everybody was talking about phone calls - going to get this phone call. The only one I was used to getting was one from my constituents. There was one hon. gentleman there who, every time the phone rang, would just knock you down. Get out of his way. Well, I am sure that within the four or five days it took for the Premier to form a Cabinet, that he wore out two pairs of pants, guaranteed.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** He got the call.

**MR. WOODFORD:** Eventually he did get the call. Yes, he did. He got the call, but I can assure you there is a lot of stuff going on now. It is going to be very interesting to listen to the speeches.

The hon. Member for Eagle River just sat down. Nowhere in his speech did he mention anything about the change from ten to twelve weeks; never mentioned the Saltpine Corporation, never mentioned that; Newfoundland Hydro and privatization, a few things like that. They get right cosy with the Premier now for the next few days. We will see how it is going to work out for the hon. Member for Eagle River.

That aside, I wish him well. More power to him if he gets the call. I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, there is going to be some vying, and you will see some boots. I tell you, when you see the Premier walking down anywhere now, you will see some boots behind, I guarantee you that, and it will be no trouble to see the taps, I can assure you, over the next short while.

A very interesting non-confidence vote. I used to always hear this, too, over the last number of years, but never before have I seen it, or seen a time where it is more appropriate. This non-confidence vote today, if there was ever a time - take it a little further, take it out of the House of Assembly and challenge the Premier to put it to the electorate. Take it a little further and I'll tell you, if you want to know about a non-confidence vote! It was only ten months since we had one, but you put it to the people of the Province today, and I guarantee you, we won't get the same results. We won't get the same results at all.

Polls - members talk about polls. I tell you, it won't be the same polls they said they read out here eight or nine months ago. It won't be the same polls at all. Members opposite are getting it. Members on the back benches here and ministers are getting the same types of phone calls I am getting, the same kinds of phone calls we are getting. The hon. member will soon take flight. The hon. the Minister of Forestry is soon going to take flight. He will be gone. He is not worried anymore.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** And Hulan is drooling.

**MR. WOODFORD:** Hulan is drooling - yes, that was a good one the other day. The hon. the Minister of Fisheries is soon going to swim and take off. He is gone.

**MR. ROBERTS:** (Inaudible) adjourn the debate.

**MR. WOODFORD:** Okay, I will adjourn the debate, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The hon. the Government House Leader.

**MR. TOBIN:** He was just getting to you.

**MR. ROBERTS:** Mr. Speaker, I deny that the hon. gentleman for Humber Valley was just getting to me, as my friend for Burin - Placentia West advised the House. I look forward to this and when we call the Throne Speech again, I await it.

If the House would permit, Mr. Speaker - we are at 4:59 and counting - let me take a moment to outline the business that we plan to ask the House to deal with during the rest of the week. I have had a word with my friend for Grand Bank, but for the benefit of other members, tomorrow is Private Members' Day and there is a motion in the name of the gentleman for Kilbride, if memory serves me correctly; that will be dealt with, debated, and voted upon. On Thursday, we plan to call the Electrical Power Control Act. The bill was distributed in the House today, and it is in the Premier's name, he will introduce it. I have assured my hon. friend opposite that we will

ask the House to sit beyond the 5:00 o'clock adjournment on Thursday, bearing in mind that there is a Late Show on Thursday which may come in as well, to ensure that a representative of the Opposition has an opportunity to speak to the debate on Thursday. My understanding is that both the Premier and whoever speaks in response, be it the Opposition Leader or some other member, is entitled to an hour, so we will ask the House to sit late should that be necessary, to make sure that each side has an opportunity to express a view on this bill.

The Privatization Act, Mr. Speaker, I anticipate will be distributed here in the House tomorrow. It is at the printers and I say to hon. gentleman and ladies opposite that they may be disappointed because apparently they think they have copies of it; well, it is at the printers now, so whatever they have, isn't the bill itself. They may be drafts, or who knows - they may find it very drafty, indeed.

We propose to ask the House to begin the second reading debate on that bill, Mr. Speaker, on Friday morning. Again, we shall propose the same arrangement to the House. The Premier will speak to introduce the bill at second reading, and if it is necessary in order to accommodate a spokesperson for the Opposition, we will again ask the House to sit later than noon. Other than that, we have no plans to ask the House to sit later on that occasion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Saturday?

**MR. ROBERTS:** If the hon. gentleman would like to be here on Saturday, that's fine. I plan to be in Happy Valley - Goose Bay myself, but he is welcome to be here.

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** We are past 5:00 p.m. Normally, we would have to return at 7:00 p.m. I take it - it has to be unanimous - that we agree to adjourn until tomorrow.

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