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| ***Province*** | ***Législature*** | ***Session*** | ***Type de discours*** | ***Date du discours*** | ***Locuteur*** | ***Fonction du locuteur*** | ***Parti politique*** |
| Novia Scotia | 54e | 2e | Discours sur l’éducation | 1986 | Thomas McInnis | Ministre de l’éducation | Progressive Conservative |

**Nova Scotia: Education’s speech, Second session of the Fifty fourth legislature, 1986**

HON. THOMAS MCINNIS: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I was just sitting there thinking how many times I have had the opportunity to reply to the Speech from the Throne. I believe this is the eighth occasion. For me it seems the years have gone by very quickly. Yes they have. This opportunity affords members of the Assembly an opportunity to stand up and talk a bit about their constituencies and perhaps as a double role for the members of Cabinet because they can as well talk in a general way about the portfolios which they hold. So I welcome the opportunity to say a few words this evening.

First of all, of course, as all members have done, Mr. Speaker, they have congratulated you, and the member for Inverness North did it so very well just a moment ago I simply want to put ditto marks under that and concur with it because it is indeed a fact that you do uphold the Chair in a very dignified and respectful manner.

I want to as well take this opportunity to commend you, sir, for the job that you are doing on Province House outside, the face lift. I think it perhaps was overdue and I cannot wait for the staging to come down, because this is a tremendous tourist attraction, and it is something that I like to boast of to tourists that I have an opportunity to speak to. So it will be nice to see that nice new building.

The new Deputy Speaker deserves congratulations, the member for Colchester South. I am sure he will carry on in the fine capacity that the former Deputy Speaker did, the member for Cape Breton North.

Of course congratulations are in order for the new Leader of the Opposition. He was acting Leader for about a year and one half and it is nice now for him to finally get his chance to take on the leadership mantle. I wish him well as Leader of the Opposition, but not too well. It is a tough job, I know that, but I am sure he will equip that office very well.

I want to say just a word or two about the three ex-members of Cabinet, the honourable member for Annapolis East who everyone now knows is one of the finest Ministers of Health the province has ever had. Not only was he a fine Cabinet Minister, I don't know that I have ever heard him in all of the meetings that I have attended I don't know that I have ever heard him raise his voice, but could he ever make a point. He is so very well regarded and respected, and it was always a pleasure if you had a difficulty in your riding pertaining to health, or you wanted to bring a group of people in, he always handled himself so very

well in that he was always cordial, very forthright, frank and candid in his remarks, and while he may have said no people felt good about it, and that I think is a tribute.

Now before I say anything more about the other retirees from Cabinet perhaps I will yield the floor to, I believe, a member wants to make an introduction.

Of course, leaving the Cabinet was the honourable member for Victoria who has had many years of experience in government and I have always found a delight and a joy to work with. Always a witty character and once again a very able Cabinet Minister around the table, and perhaps an individual that has a quick grasp of political issues and can go to the root of the problem fairly quickly. From time to time I chat with him to get some political advice.

The honourable member for Halifax St. Margarets, I don't know that anyone could ever say anything bad about that individual he is such a humourist, and he is always in such a good mood, but you know a very capable individual as well, and added a great deal to our Cabinet, and of course needless to say a personality such as that leaving the Room you lose something. So we all miss him very much.

We have now three new Cabinet Ministers. I am so pleased to see the honourable member for Lunenburg Centre in Cabinet. She, of course, being a female brings a different perspective and a different view to the Cabinet table. The Cabinet table is not nearly as messy now, for example. She stays on top of that type of thing. She is a very able lady, and I have always said that, when her late husband visited my riding he generally brought his wife with him. I have always said what a politician this lady would make and, of course, she

has borne that out and I think we are going to hear an awful lot from the lady for Lunen

burg Centre. .

The honourable member for Cape Breton North has equipped himself very well in this Chamber on several occasions and, of course, the Chair, sir, that you grace now, he was an able individual in that position and it is nice to see him in Cabinet. The honourable member for Clare, our Acadian friend, is going to be just fine, I have known him for some time, having served on the Provincial Executive with him.

May I first turn, then, to the constituency that I have taken on since I last sat in this House and that is my portfolio of Education. I would be remiss if I did not say a word or two about the previous minister. I think that probably he is regarded and respected throughout Canada as one of the finest Ministers of Education the province has seen in some time. Needless to say, the call from the Premier, not asking but suggesting and perhaps even

telling, that I was to go on to education. I had a certain amount of trauma knowing that

I was following in the footsteps of a very fine minister.

The staff of the Department of Education, headed by the Deputy Minister, Mr. Gerald

McCarthy, are well-organized and well-tuned. They have an organization set over there so

that a minister can come in and adapt fairly quickly. I will tell you that the portfolio of

Education sort of reminds me a bit of highways in that I have never seen so many lobby

groups in my entire life. (Interruption) Pardon me? And I am going to see some more. So it

does remind me a bit of Education and I want to tell the Minister of Transportation now

that they delivered the mail over across the street to the Department of Highways I think it

was six times a day. I am not sure how many times they deliver it to the Department of

Education but I know I get almost a foot a day, it seems.

It is a portfolio that I was pretty much forced to get adapted to fairly quickly because

as soon as I arrived at the door, they wall,ced in with a Report on Post-Secondary Education

which, of course, made tremendous headlines. Just exactly what I needed after just getting

behind my desk, you will appreciate, but a report that I think if nothing else is done, if we do absolutely nothing else in regard to that report I think it has made those in the academic

community and those in government and those concerned period, with respect to education,

stop and think, it made them look at themselves. We looked at ours, and of course it is still

going on vis-a-vis education, and most certainly the university community, albeit at first

blush they were out and they were swinging, and so on, but they too realize that it has

made them form committees to sit, review the report, look at the various aspects of edu

cation, the programming the expenditures that they are making. So the report already, in

my humble opinion, has been very effective.

Tonight the member for Antigonish alluded to the recommendation for a council on

higher education, which was one of the recommendations, and as I said in this House in response to a question, the only recommendation that this government has before us is

whether or not there will be a council .°!l higher education, and that is indeed, what we are

about now. The matter is currently before Policy Board.

I felt it to be important, as the Minister of Education, and because post-secondary

education was obviously high on the agenda I felt it important to get out into the university

community and speak with those that are on the front lines, and as a result tonight I can tell

you that I have been on every campus in the Province of Nova Scotia. I have had private

meetings with the presidents, I have met with the department heads, the administrative

staff, the faculty, the student unions, and it has been time consuming and exhausting, but I

must tell you. . .

Yes, and Sister Bruce, and yes I must tell you, Mr. Speaker,

it is my opinion despite the fact that there appeared to be an overwhelming thought out

there that a council would be a bad idea, it is my opinion that the majority in the academic

community want a council on higher education.

For example, and I will just give you this example and I can cite several. I recall stand

ing just ready to go into dinner with the president of a university and we were standing in

his living-room and he was flanked by three department heads. The president said, and you

will recall the forum that the university community had here to review the report, the

president said, Mr. McInnis I want you to know that tomorrow I will be speaking at the

forum and I should tell you, in fairness, that I am vehemently opposed to the idea of a council on higher education. As I said, he was flanked by three department heads. They

looked at me and they said, we want you to know, Mr. McInnis, that we are vehemently opposed to his decision.

I wouldn't say it is 3 to 1 but there is a silent majority out there that want something to happen, whether it is a council, some form of compromise or what have you, there definitely is a move afoot for a change. I don't think we should be so radical and we shouldn't rush into things without proper thought. So what we have done in conjunction with the presidents and not just listening to the presidents, although I have the greatest respect for them, but they have formed a subcommittee and they are working with my department and we have had several meetings with them. Hopefully, in the very near future we will be coming up with one recommendation.

There are groups like NSCUF A who purport to speak for some 1,600 lecturers, professors or what have you, in the Province of Nova Scotia, who sat in my board room and even went further than the commission. They wanted a University of Nova Scotia. Well, I nearly fell off my chair because I thought, well, you know, this group would obviously be opposed. So I said to them, of course, then you would certainly welcome a council because that would be, never as far as a University of Nova Scotia or I wouldn't see it to be. Of course, we had a general discussion but they are providing me, in writing, the recommendation, or at least they told me they were, with respect to a University of Nova Scotia.

The matter of tuition fees came to the fore very quickly and that was, perhaps, unfortunate because, as all members know, the Province of Nova Scotia, the government does not set tuition fees. It can be argued that indirectly they do because of the funding that is provided but we don't directly interfere with tuition fees nor would a council do that. So that was kind of a red herring.

What I should tell you on tuition fees, because just from statistics which I would be glad to provide members, because I did ask this question and they had to get them, they weren't available readily, tuition fees have gone up in the province considerably over the last five years. In the last five years, tuition fees, on average, went up 50 per cent. It is quite an increase. I was surprised. In the last 10 years, 121 per cent. So tuition fees have gone up and undoubtedly will go up in the future, so that we should not be too taken aback by the recommendation by the commissioners with respect to tuition fees.

I want to turn quickly to schools and to say to you, sir, that the school funding of 3 per cent is very realistic. As I said, in a time of restraint, it is at least generous. I was pleased to be able to provide that to the various school boards around the Province of Nova Scotia because it is important that we maintain the quality of education we have in our elementary and secondary schools. School construction, which was touched on in the Speech from the Throne, I think the figure of 19 schools was used that are in the works. Actually, it is higher than that. Those that are getting ready and out for construction, I think it is something like 30, totalling approximately $80 million in construction. Those are schools, of course, that we feel were absolutely necessary.

Museums, I want to touch, before I leave the Department of Education, I want to touch museums because it is something that I have always been very, very fond of and always felt that this was really the jewel in the crown in the Department of Education. The province owns outright some 23 museums and there are another 47 that receive grants and are run by local boards. I asked how many people went through the museums last year and you would be surprised that 1.2 million individuals passed through the museums of Nova Scotia. So it is a very able contribution to the tourism sector in the province and I might say very, very well run by the director and those in charge of the museum section.

Well, that is the Department of Education. There are many more things I could say about it. I am enjoying it immensely. As all members probably know, you have no say as to where you go in Cabinet. You do not walk into the Premier's office and say I want this, that or the other thing. I never would have selected Education, I swear to you, and I never would have selected Municipal Affairs but, of course, when I got to Municipal Affairs, I really enjoyed it. There was so much I did not know and that is the same way with Education. I am still in the learning process but I hope to be able to, if it is possible, better the lot of those in Education.

I want to turn now and there are several points, I made some notes helter skelter and I hope I am not too disorganized here, Mr. Speaker. There are some things that I want to touch on that are constituency in nature and I hope that some members may be able to draw from some of the things we are doing and perhaps assist them in their own Tidings but there are some things of provincial and perhaps federal scope that I would like to touch on.

The fishery in our constituency traditionally along the Eastern Shore was a real solid base of the economy. In the last two decades, or perhaps even three decades, the fishery has pretty much died off. I am not sure just as to what the reason is for that but one reason certainly in the last 10 to 20 years is the matter of the lack of infrastructure.

You know, we have not had a meaningful dredging or wharf construction program in our riding in 20 to 2S years. It is quite a shame. Even this past year, when I read recently as to the funding that is provided for the Scotia Fundy region, I think it might have been $2.8 million and in the entire riding of Central Nova it was only about $88 million and none, of course, for the Eastern Shore. This is just this past fiscal year and, of course, when I look at other parts of the province and I look with envy, I must be honest, I look with envy and I look at some getting as much as $358,000 and so on and one close to $700,000. It is great for them but I do wish and I do hope that the federal government will start giving more than lip service to the infrastructure required on the Eastern Shore.

You hear the raging debate today about traditional stocks and it is a fact that there are only so many fish to go around. You know, the quotas that are placed on the fishery are on the traditional stocks there to preserve them for future generations as well and we cannot overfish. We must look to at least two new areas, innovative areas as to where the fishery can grow and, of course, one is aquaculture.

I am so pleased that we were able to get started through the auspices of the Development Commission on the Eastern Shore an aquaculture program growing the European oyster and, of course, the mussel, a tremendous industry taking place down there now, you know, in the sense of potential. I think it only employs at the moment about 20 individuals but that is 20 jobs. It is an area that can really grow and I know that many of you, as I asked you in the Assembly, if five years ago you heard of mussels on the menus around the restaurants of Halifax/Dartmouth, or Nova Scotia, you would probably say no but when I go out to a restaurant I cannot wait to order a bowl of these mussels. So there is a tremendous market there in that particular area, not to mention the European oyster.

They are excellent. Another area, and you have read this in the news in the last three or four weeks, the matter of surimi, the imitation scallop, crab, lobster, that type of thing, which will be using under-utilized species which I am told are there in abundance. In other words, there are no quotas out there now for these species. I refer, of course, to silver hake, the dog fish, to skate, northern shark, to those under

utilized species but, you know, and I want to touch on this, it is parochial, yes, but there is

a fairly able group from the United States, actually one principal shareholder from the

United States and a Canadian, Lucien Forbes and Dr. Michael Todd, who want to set up a

surimi operation in Sheet Harbour.

Mr. Speaker, you would not believe the difficulty we have had in attempting to get a

small quota for these underutilized species. Well, I have got to tell you, we have been at it

for a year and a half. Of course, one of the difficulties is the by-catch. It is interesting to see

that the Russians can come and catch our fish with a 5 per cent by-catch, yet this gentle

man, who is becoming a Canadian citizen, must live within 2 per cent. Then we are not even

certain if he is going to get the licenses. We are fairly optimistic at this point in time.

That is an area, and as I said to those members of the bureaucracy in the federal

government and to the Honourable Tom Siddon, the Minister of Fisheries, that look it,

there are two areas, two mega areas within the fishery that can grow. One, aquaculture and

the other surimi. There are tremendous markets for these things. It is, as I say, a bit alarming,

particularly when you are dealing with an area that traditionally was strong in fisheries and

in an area where there is pocket unemployment at the moment of approximately 25 to 30

per cent. So, it is quite alarming and we are hopeful that we will be able to bring this in

dustry home to the community of Sheet Harbour.

Lands and Forests, just quickly to congratulate the minister on the policy. I know

from first hand, sitting beside him in Cabinet, how he nurtured it through, and the Policy

Board, and how they worked on it. I think the media coverage that the Minister of Lands

and Forests has been getting has been excellent, and deservedly so, It is a tremendous policy

that this government has brought out. I want to commend him as well, back two years ago,

for helping me implement a co-operative, and I commend this to all members of the

Assembly if they do not have it, and if they have woodlands in their area. That is a co

operative whereby you have the private landholders getting together and putting together

management plans. Of course, there is a funding arrangement through the provincial and

federal government. I believe it was executed in 1984, something like to the tune of $53

million. An excellent program, and as I say, I commend it to any members. Not only does it

bring under harness, in the Eastern Shore, for example, I think they have got 20,000 acres

now under management, but it creates employment in the area. So it is extremely important.

Tourism is a sector that has tremendous potential but I do not believe we should be

led astray. It is a tough industry today. The competition among other provinces is there,

in Atlantic Canada it is there. I think we have to put more effort into marketing and I

know the present minister and the previous minister worked on and certainly is working on

that at the moment, and I do not believe we should take for granted the matter of the

European market as being so dynamic. It is, indeed, dynamic, but it is also very, very

costly.

I had the opportunity to attend a tourism convention over in London and to walk

around and talk with the various exhibitors, and to see, for example, the Province of

Ontario and the huge expense they were going through at that convention. And also to be

told that there are 80 countries with tourism offices located in London. So, the competition

is, indeed, there and perhaps we should not be too quick to spend small amounts of money

in the European market. Perhaps we should concentrate on the Eastern Seaboard. (Inter

ruption) .

It is nice to see that someone is listening. Yes, he was there, the member for Cumberland Centre. I will mail it to you in Hansard.

Mines and Energy is an area that, certainly, in the mining ins of Mines and Energy has not been that. . .

I took it as encouragement, Mr. Speaker. Mining was not a prominent thing on the Eastern Shore until of late. Of course, you have heard that saying, Mr. Speaker, there is gold in them that hills. Well, there sure is along the Eastern Shore. It seems every other week we are having a huge gold find. Of course, we have one at Hatchet Lake and one last week was reported at Beaver Dam. Just three miles up the road, approximately, from where I was born and raised. Just think, I could have staked that, Mr. Speaker, goodbye to politics. $170 million is the find there and this, of course, yes, this will be a job creator as well.

On a more serious note, I want to just touch on power generating stations. I think we should keep in mind, because sometimes we always think of power generating stations as, well, it is a source of power and we generate power but sometimes we fail to look behind the scenes and look at the construction jobs that are created during the construction. It is apparently a fact that for every 300 megawatt plant that is constructed in the Province of Nova Scotia it creates something like 500 jobs in the mine. So it is not something that should be taken lightly. It is a tremendous job creator.

I know our government is looking at the possibility of the construction of some of these plants and I do not believe that we should be remiss and should be narrow sighted in our view that we should only construct these plants for domestic consumption, widen our sights to the northeastern States and the export market for profit. I think that is something that we should do. Profit in real terms of dollars but also profit from the point of view of job creation. I think that is extremely important in this province and I also want to touch on the matter, while talking about generating stations, of acid rain, as the member for Pictou East touched on last week. We must be aware that we are quickly coming into a time when people are becoming concerned about it.

I know that Mr. Lewis, representing the United States, and Mr. Bill Davis, representing Canada, are currently working quite feverishly in some kind of an agreement. So that when we commence a plant today, keep in mind that it will not be completed until 1990 or

1991 and at that time probably there will be considerable restrictions on the emission of acid rain. Therefore, I want to come back a moment to the universities. I was most impressed and, once again, I encourage all members to attend the Technical University of Nova Scotia and see some of the technology these people have uncovered. For example, they have a fluidized bed combustion plant actually generating power down there. You do not have to worry about ash. You do not have to worry about acid rain. They also have the carbon gel. You can see the big tank of carbon gel and they are generating power with that as well.

The minds are working tonight, Mr. Speaker. You will have to add 10 minutes to my time.

Yes. But I am serious. I make light of it but I tell you this and I did not mention it when we were on to aquaculture and surimi but Dr. Bligh, for example, at TUNS, the research work that has been done, but I know that Clair Callaghan the president, and others, would welcome the opportunity to show members through and I encourage you to do that.

The member for Pictou East also touched on the mine at Pictou County and the most enlightening thing of that, quite apart from the fact that it is close to the plants at Trenton, but the most enlightening thing is that there is only one-half of one per cent sulphur content which is very encouraging, indeed, as we go into the 1990's.

The matter of development is always one to the fore in the Eastern Shore and I want to just, once again, for the record commend the Eastern Shore Development Commission on their fine work. I read with interest the Leader of the Opposition's platform when he was in the leadership campaign. I commend that to everyone as well for things as to what to do and what not to do, of course, Jim Cowan, his opponent.

I want to come back to the Leader of the Opposition because he picked up on something that I have said for many years here now and that being that there should be regional development commissions. It is somewhat ludicrous to have a Municipal Development Commission and you have several towns with development commissions and then the province has a development commission. I think there are something like 68 development commissions in the Province of Nova Scotia. It strikes me that it may be more effective if we had perhaps eight, nine, 10 development commissions that are given the authority to develop those respective regions.

A common user dock at Sheet Harbour, which we had to work so very hard for, and I am so pleased now that it has been approved by the federal government. Hopefully, construction will get underway literally within weeks. That is being constructed on one of the top five harbours in all of the Province of Nova Scotia. Sheet Harbour has been traditionally a great pulp mill town where ships used to ply the waters on a regular basis. It is nice to see now that we are putting a solid piece of infrastructure in place and there will be a small industrial park with that.

On a very serious note, I want to touch on the Black Communities of Nova Scotia. This is probably the first time, most certainly in recent history, where a government has mentioned specifically some of the difficulties or mentioned specifically the blacks of Nova Scotia. I think that, in itself, is an acknowledgement and I hope members of the Assembly took it as that, an acknowledgement that we do recognize that there is a problem in the Black Communities.

In my own riding, in 1984, I wanted to take the opportunity, and it was an excuse quite frankly, to go door to door, particularly in North Preston, to try to uncover what some of the difficulties were. I was appalled, not only by the housing conditions but by the lack of trust - I don't blame them - the lack of trust that they have in the politician because they have been promised over the years so many things and no one has ever delivered. I vowed and I swear to you, I did not go on political reasons because as anyone that looks at the election books, for years a Progressive Conservative does not do very well in North Preston, but I felt morally compelled to attempt to help the blacks of my constituency. When I came back to government, I asked Cabinet that we carry out an investigation. We did that quietly and privately, where we had several deputy ministers involved, members from the Black United Front and members from the Human Rights Commission. Mr. Speaker, I was so pleased that you, as a member of this Assembly, also participated in

that committee. There were many other members of the Assembly that have blacks in their riding, pockets of Black Communities.

What we have uncovered is that, indeed, there are problems, not only unemployment. In North Preston the unemployment rate is probably running at about 80 per cent, that is as near as we can tell. I heard reports last year it is 70 per cent, it is not 70 per cent, it is 80 per cent or 85 per cent even. I think that is disgraceful and I think something should be done about it.

We uncovered that, perhaps, education and training is necessary. We have got to go to the root of the problem and that most certainly is the way we must go. Housing, I sometimes think how fortunate I am to be able to go home at night and turn the furnace up when I want or have a bite to eat when I want. When I saw some of the conditions in North Preston, you know, it makes one wonder as to what right we have to live with such luxury and others that have it so poor. Water and sewer was most certainly another problem in North Preston.

So that this, if I could call it, private, in-house commission of inquiry, without fanfare, without press releases and we were not looking for that, we, I think, have uncovered and I think we are coming up - Mr. Speaker, I know you are aware of this - with some solutions. It is not going to be easy. We have before Policy Board now, and I know the Chairman of the Policy Board is aware, an interim report before we go out and consult with the Black Communities themselves, because I think that is very, very important if we are to solve the problems.

So I wanted tonight to touch on that because we have, in the past, and other governments, and they may have been serious, but I rather suspect they were not. I say to you, Mr. Speaker, perhaps I have not been as dedicated towards the Black Communities, particularly in North Preston, as I should have been. I vowed if this be my last term, I vowed that I would do something in this term to attempt to correct the situation. (Applause)

We have worked, we have acquired some 440 acres of land between North Preston and East Preston and we have constructed a connector road between North Preston and East Preston which, traditionally, they had the communities connected, and to drive up through there it has got some of the best agricultural land in all of Nova Scotia. Now that is hard to believe about the Eastern Shore but as I understand it, and I am not a Roger Bacon or an agricultural man, but there are seven counts of soil and the lower the number the better the quality. The Annapolis Valley has number two, I believe, and between North Preston and East Preston it is number two. When Governor Wentworth settled those communities up there, he had a thriving, agricultural community going.

I see no reason at all why we cannot get into certain aspects of agriculture, whether it be silviculture, Christmas trees, high bush blueberries, items like that and, indeed, residential areas, there are beautiful lakes in behind that particular area. Once again, it is going to take time and we must work within the confines of the communities and the black leaders and the black people must be 100 per cent on the front lines and being involved, otherwise, it is doomed for failure before we get it off the ground.

If I may touch - could I have the time?

Oh 25 minutes, that's fine, that's good. I will not be 25 minutes. I wanted now to touch on the federal government. I think it is important that

members of the Assembly perhaps start speaking out in support of that government and I

am going to try to attempt to justify why. Back in the fall of 1984, the people of Canada

gave the Prime Minister, Brian Mulroney, and the Progressive Conservative Party an over

whelming mandate for change.

There was absolutely no question in the minds of Canadians that night, they wanted an

end to the socialistic tendencies of the national government. They wanted jobs, they certainly wanted the financial state of the country rectified, they wanted rid of this grant

syndrome, this gimme, gimme attitude, people were fed up with that. They wanted a

cutback on waste and they certainly wanted harmony with the provinces. They generally

wanted the economy to right itself.

Now, to accomplish that, Mr. Speaker, there is absolutely no question tough moves had

to be made. They had to make and take some pretty tough measures. Last year, Mr. Speaker,

the economy of Canada grew by 4.7 per cent and Canada tied with the country of Japan for

the fastest growth rate. Inflation last year was 4 per cent and in 1982, not at all to kick the

previous administration but to give you an example, lest you forget, it was 12.5 per cent.

Interest rates - I don't know what it was in 1980 but that

is just one that I plucked out but it may have been lower. No, this is not selective, but I

want to tell you, you will recall it was running at about 10 per cent or thereabouts, the cost

of living, you will recall that.

Well, please, it dropped down, there is no question. If the

member for Cumberland Centre, and he is correct because I don't want to mislead him, he

is correct, it did drop. It was pretty much under control when the previous administration

went out but, if you will remember what I said, I said I wanted to give you an example of

what it was, it was 12.2 per cent. It is now 4 per cent and I give the previous administration

credit for at least getting it under control. That great parliamentarian, the member for

Cape Breton Highlands-Canso, always used to say he was going to wrestle inflation to the ground. Well, you know, I think he almost did it but he was not Minister of Finance when

it happened.

But not to get off the point, interest rates, which are very important as a stimulus to the economy, in 1982, and I am once again using it in the same situation, interest rates

were running at approximately 20 per cent, that is what they were. In October and November of 1984 they had even dropped to 9 per cent and, of course, now they are about 10 per

cent or 10.1 per cent, effective last Friday. So I think it is fair to say that interest rates are

coming down. The bubble went up slightly here in the last couple of weeks.

The deficit, Mr. Speaker, in the fiscal year 1984-85 was $36.9 billion, in the last year

of the previous administration's reign, in 1985-86, $33.8 billion, and in 1986-87 it is predicted that it will be $29.8 billion. Some tough moves had to be taken, but that most

certainly goes to the heart of the matter with respect to rectifying our financial state of

affairs.

Unemployment, in February of 1986, the rate dropped to 9.6 per cent, the lowest

in four years. The youth unemployment situation dropped by 2 percentage points. Of

course, they have gotten us off this grant syndrome. Katimavik, for example, where we had

a senator on a hunger strike, probably one of the most respected men in the Senate. No one denies that, but terribly bad judgment, in my opinion.

Yet, as I did, two or three Sunday nights ago, listening to Cross Country Checkup, which I guess you could take as a Gallup poll across the country, where people phone in and they give their opinion as to whether they agreed with the senator or they did not, I swear to you, probably 90 per cent of those calling in supported him. It brings me now to my point. Probably if there were a federal election today, our Progressive Conservative Party would not do very well, indeed, if you look at the polls. Now why is that? The people, a year and a half ago, gave them a mandate for change. They most certainly, and the figures can be verified, have brought some sense to the economy of Canada. One of the most important things that we talked about, and the Prime Minister talked about when he ran the campaign in 1984, were jobs. Here we have the unemployment rate the lowest it has been in four years, and dropping.

Here we have a senator going on, a hunger strike for the youth, when the youth unemployment has dropped by 2 full percentage points. So, I think, as I did before the Truckers Association of Nova Scotia on Saturday and as I do every opportunity I get, I try to talk to the ordinary Nova Scotian and say, listen here, we voted this government in to make change and to bring about change, let us not betray them. Let us understand that we have to have some pretty tough moves. They are doing it and they are rectifying the economy of Canada in just, I might say, a year and a half of government.

I want to come quickly to Cape Breton, because quite often I hear where perhaps people get a little impatient, and I do not mean the members of this Assembly, but generally I hear some people in the media and whatnot, well, you know, yes, they have had these grant programs, but no, nothing is happening. Well, look, they have only been there for a short period of time. Give them some time. The fact that they have made the tough moves of doing away, which I agreed with 100 per cent, with the heavy water plants, and I know that most Cape Bretoners agreed with it, but I think that they are now putting some dollars into some long-term solid investment~. I think that is the important thing.

I have got to tell you, when I was Minister of Municipal Affairs, I had the opportunity to meet with many municipal leaders in Cape Breton and the plight of those people is also very difficult. I tell you that, in my humble opinion, the national government cannot do enough to assist. When I, as I did last week, had the opportunity to step downtown in Glace Bay and talk to some people, it is tough, but they understand the fact that the federal government is attempting to go to the root of the problem and try to create some long-term jobs for those people who desperately need it.

I want to finally touch on that, on the matter of the federal government, and I want to be as parochial, perhaps, as I have been tonight, in talking about, under the ERDA program, the tier system in my own riding. Despite the fact, and I have alluded to this tonight, that we have an unemployment rate in the most eastern part of my riding of approximately 25 per cent, we are the only place in the Dominion of Canada, that I can tell, that we do not fall under that program and, therefore, are not eligible for any incentive whatsoever. If you are on East Ecum Secum, on that side of the bridge, there are four tiers, you get number four. You step across the bridge, you get nothing. As I said, I have an unemployment rate in North Preston and East Preston running rampant, yet industry can attempt to locate on the Eastern Shore and they are not entitled to one penny.

I am so pleased, and I say this, that in Bridgewater and in Windsor, I use those areas because those are in the periphery, which are a shorter distance to the metropolitan area than Sheet Harbour, Sheet Harbour is 75 miles, they are entitled, we are not. Bridgewater,

God bless them, has a tremendous industry sitting right in the town, Michelin Tire, I wish I

had it. But once again, they are entitled, we are not. That is typical of the arrogance and the

neglect that we have received with respect to incentives to attempt to attract industry on

the Eastern Shore. I am hopeful that we will be able to rid ourselves of that and not be the

fourth level, even number two will be quite nicely, thank you very much.

I have spoken longer than I thought I would. I hope that I have been reasonably

constructive and I hope that some members will take some of the things that I have said

seriously, particularly the matter of the federal government because I do believe so very

much that that government is being so criticized by - I never like to kick the media - but

by the media. It seems every opportunity they get they take a slap at that government and

they fail to understand that they were the ones that were criticizing in 1984 the arrogance

and the neglect of the previous administration.

To come quickly to this Throne Speech, I think it was an able one and I do believe

that our government, even in difficult times, has been able to maintain those three major

departments, the so-called, social fabric, or the social network, that being of course, Health,

Education and Social Services. Those are the three departments that overall through the

restraint period that we had and the recession we had in the early 1980's that continued to

get sizeable increases and, indeed, not only did we maintain the integrity of the system, we

bettered it. I think that is extremely important.

That, of course, was seen once again when we talked about housing and other things

in the Throne Speech, shows the progressiveness of this government. It is with that in mind that I tell you, Mr. Speaker, that I most certainly will be supporting the motion and will

be voting against the amendments. Thank you very much. (Applause)