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| ***Province*** | ***Législature*** | ***Session*** | ***Type de discours*** | ***Date du discours*** | ***Locuteur*** | ***Fonction du locuteur*** | ***Parti politique*** |
| Terre- Neuve et Labrador | 39e | 1ère | Discours du Trône | 10 mai 1982 | William Anthony Paddon | Lieutenant Gouverneur | PC |

It is my privilege and pleasure to welcome you to this First Session of the Thirty-ninth General Assembly of the Province of Newfoundland.

Since my last address to this Honourable House, the residents of Newfoundland and Labrador have passed judgement on the performance and policies of my Government and in so doing have addressed themselves directly to my Government's stand on resources, particularly on the offshore.

The results of the April 6th election constitute an overwhelming affirmation and endorsement of the position taken by my Government on offshore resources. From Wabush to St. Shotts, from Corner Brook to Logy Bay, their message came loudly and clearly. Newfoundlanders and Labradorians know that the resources of this Province belong to them by right. There can be no doubt in any person's mind that our people firmly and clearly support with abiding conviction my Government's determination to maintain control of our heritage. Their expression of support for my Government's policies will be reflected in the course for the coming year which I shall place before you today.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Honourable House of Assembly:

A few weeks ago the final step in the constitutional independence of this Nation took place. I refer to the patriation of our Constitution. My First Minister participated fully and played a significant role in reaching an Accord whereby this historic event was made possible in the traditional Canadian way of negotiation and consensus. My Government is pleased that the principles set forth by this Province at the beginning of the Constitutional discussions are enshrined in our new Constitution. We now have a Constitution which fully recognizes the equality of Provinces. It also reinforces the concept of a federal state within which sharing amongst all Canadians is embodied. These principles are a sound basis upon which to build a greater future for this Province, and for all other parts of our great Nation.

The new Constitution recognizes the importance of resource management and control as the principal instrument of provincial policies. Within the Canadian Federation, clear division of powers exists between the provincial and federal orders of government. Powerful economic tools such as monetary, fiscal and exchange rate policy rest with the Federal Government. Yet it must be recognized that the most pressing and costly social programs, such as health and education, are areas of provincial responsibility. The heavy responsibilities of the Province in social fields impose great pressures in responding to the many needs that must be met, much less in reaching Canadian standards. The necessary funding for social programs can only be made available by the careful exploitation and management of our natural resources, under a system of provincial control that is sensitive to both national and provincial needs. My Government firmly believes provincial control over resource management is essential in achieving our social and economic objectives so that our people may enjoy a standard of living equal to that of other Canadians.

When the Dominion of Newfoundland became a partner in Confederation in 1949, the Terms of Union confirmed that the resources belonging to us prior to Union were to be retained and fully protected in the Constitution, just as they are for all other Provinces. Section 37 states that "all lands, mines, minerals and royalties belonging to Newfoundland at the date of Union...shall belong to the Province of Newfoundland". The purpose of this clause was to maintain the position of Newfoundland as a partner in Confederation, with powers over resources identical to those which it possessed as a Dominion. It was also to ensure that Newfoundland had equality with the other Provinces who also maintain ownership and control of their resources.

My Government is extremely pleased that the new Constitution accepts and reaffirms provincial natural resource ownership and control, embodied in Section 109 of the British North America Act, a role which has been central to the Canadian Confederation. Yet in spite of the BNA Act and the new Constitution, my Government has had to take action to confirm ownership and control of Newfoundland’s resources to protect the rights of our people . In this, Newfoundland is unlike the other Provinces. No other Province has had to fight to win the basic right to transport its energy resources between Provinces as Newfoundland has had to do regarding its electric energy.

My Government has responded to the basic requirement to recapture control of our natural resources by taking bold initiatives in all sectors: offshore minerals, fisheries, forestry, mining, agriculture, and hydroelectricity. The right to manage our resources has been asserted in three basic ways: through legislation, through judicial action and through negotiations. Action has been taken on these three fronts to secure a sound economic and social foundation for present and for future generations.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Honourable House of Assembly:

My Government is not alone in its conviction that the mineral resources of our Continental Shelf belong to us. As I have already noted, the people of our Province hold the same conviction, as evidenced by the resounding vote of confidence which they recently gave to my Government.

Newfoundland's claim to ownership of offshore resources is well founded. Ownership of these resources resided with the Dominion of Newfoundland before Confederation with the Dominion of Canada. We entered the Canadian Federation as an equal partner, retaining certain rights and assuming certain responsibilities to the great nation of Canada. One of the rights retained was control over our natural resources. We had faith in the integrity of the British North America Act and in the Terms of Union. The Federal Government of today, however, has either lost sight of those sacred covenants or consciously chooses to ignore them. The Federal Government has unilaterally declared that it has the right to control our offshore resources, a declaration in contravention of the Terms of Union between Newfoundland and Canada. Their

position is nothing less than an unprecedented and unconscionable attempt to seize the resources of this Province.

My Government is encouraged by the precedents which were set by previous Federal Governments in dealing with the Provinces regarding control of their natural resources. Canadian history gives us several notable examples whereby Provinces received control of their natural resources, or had their boundaries extended, through the process of negotiation. For example, in 1912 negotiation was the way in which the northlands of Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba were passed over to these Provinces, together with ownership and control of all the resources contained in them. Similarly, in 1930 it was through negotiation that Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba received control of their natural resources. It is not surprising then, that Newfoundland expects the same treatment that her sister Provinces have historically received.

Even negotiation was not necessary in 1913 when the world's first offshore well was drilled on the Canadian side of Lake Erie. The Federal Government of that day did not dispute Ontario's proprietary and legislative rights with respect to the resources of the lakebeds. Since 1867, Ontario has owned and controlled the underwater resources of the Great Lakes, even though these lakes are international waterways.

My Government demonstrated its willingness to resolve the offshore ownership dispute in the Canadian tradition of negotiation. In good faith this Province entered into discussions with the Government of Canada to work out a joint management and revenue sharing regime on the understanding that the exclusive claim to ownership of both parties would be set aside during negotiations, and permanently if the negotiations were successful. The Federal Government initially agreed that ownership would be put aside. That was the basis on which discussions commenced.

Once negotiations started, however, the Federal Government gave only lip service to its stated intention to put ownership aside. Instead it insisted on negotiating from a position of ownership, with Newfoundland as a subordinate rather than an equal partner. In the interests of our people, my Government could not accept that position. It could not, and would not, and will not surrender the birthright of our people. If Ottawa persists in its present course, the Supreme Court of Newfoundland will have to decide who owns the minerals off our Continental Shelf. Our preparations for this case have been exhaustive. Our case is strong and our cause is just. The new Constitution should produce a renewed spirit of co-operation, and for our part, my Government is willing to resume negotiations with the Federal Government. The essential condition that must be met before negotiations can resume is that the Federal Government must put aside the question of ownership for the period of negotiations, and permanently if the negotiations are successful. The Province has already demonstrated that it can be trusted to do likewise. We believe that a negotiated settlement can be reached but the agreement must be based on a true and equal partnership.

The interests of our people would not be served by accepting an agreement similar to that recently reached by the Federal Government with Nova Scotia. The Federal Government has proposed that Newfoundland accept such an agreement. The agreement with Nova Scotia places total control in the hands of the Federal Government and explicitly provides for the application of federal legislation and for administration to be carried out by federal officials. It does not provide an adequate share of revenues into the future. The Provincial share of revenue will fall rapidly as the level of revenues increases and might even disappear entirely when the fiscal position of the Province reaches a certain threshold level.

My Government finds unacceptable any agreement that would fail to recognize the enormous shortfall which exists in our fiscal and economic positions. An agreement which denies the concept of joint management is unacceptable. A revenue sharing agreement which would give the Federal Government 100 per cent of additional oil and gas revenues beyond a certain level while the Province received nothing would be unacceptable. There must never be another Upper Churchill.

My Government is willing to negotiate. My Government is willing to be reasonable. But reasonableness has its limits. To accept the agreement proposed by the Federal Government would be tantamount to sacrificing our offshore heritage to a serfdom of the Federal Government. Newfoundlanders deserve a better settlement. My Government will stand with the people of Newfoundland and Labrador and will live up to the trust placed in it by them on April 6th.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Honourable House of Assembly:

The Newfoundland economy is now suffering from the serious effects of the present international recession. Virtually all of our traditional export markets have been affected by the international downturn in business. My Government will shortly be presenting its budgetary plan to this Honourable House. In preparing the Budget, my Government is very mindful of the state of the Province's economy and will be attempting to provide economic stimulation.

My Government has taken action to create jobs in the face of a difficult economic situation. The construction industry is experiencing a serious downturn. In order to assist the industry and to generate employment, my Government announced a five point economic recovery program:

1 early tendering on transportation, housing, land and school construction projects;

2 building lot subsidies;

3 support to fish plants;

4 early tendering on municipal water and sewer projects;

5 early tendering on a local roads program;

This program responds to the current recession and the low level of investment activity resulting from high interest rates. By accelerating construction activity through early tendering, and advancing the start of capital projects, it is intended to assist the construction industry and to create jobs at a time when they are most needed. To achieve this objective and others, this Honourable House will be asked to address itself early to the granting of interim supply to Her Majesty.

Fisheries

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Honourable House of Assembly:

My Government will continue to seek greater legislative control over fisheries so that the industry can be placed on a strong foundation and yet be managed in a fashion which will fulfill our social expectations. It is too simplistic to suggest that the fishery can be managed purely from a cold economic perspective without recognizing the dependence of hundreds of Newfoundland communities upon the legacy of the sea. Through negotiation with the Government of Canada we propose to achieve a management position in the fishery. The Province has little constitutional control over fisheries at present. However, in the constitutional review process which will commence within the next year, my Government intends to press for concurrent jurisdiction over the fisheries.

Factors beyond our control made the past year critical for the fishing industry. Weakened market conditions, high interest rates and a failure of the inshore fishery in certain areas contributed to an unprecedented cost-price squeeze for most fishermen and processors. During this most difficult time, the industry has been and will continue to be assisted by the Province through various means in order to solve its severe problems. My Government has made financial assistance available to fishing companies which have potential to attain viability. Legislation will be introduced to ratify financial support extended to the fishing industry.

Members of this Honourable House will recall that last year my Government established a Royal Commission on the Inshore Fishery, the report of which was submitted towards the end of 1981. The Commission's recommendations will assist my Government in the further development of this vital industry. My Government also welcomed the appointment of the Federal Task Force on the Atlantic Fishery and will be making a submission outlining the Province's social and economic goals and objectives relative to the fishery.

My Government's commitment to the fishery is based on its major development prospects, and on the realization that only through the development of a vibrant industry can we have a strong rural and provincial economy. Clearly, no other renewable resource offers the employment potential associated with our fishery resources. Despite short-term problems being experienced in the fisheries sector over the past several years, my Government is confident that long-term stability can be assured.

Through negotiation, we propose to manage the fishery jointly with the Federal Government to rebuild and strengthen the industry. An assessment of recurring problems in the fisheries sector clearly shows that a number of structural changes will have to be made if these problems are to be resolved. These will deal with product diversification, quality and marketing. My Government will be placing greater emphasis on the attachment of conditions to its fish buyer's and fish processor' s licences in order to improve resource management, to maximize benefits and to attain the quality necessary to firmly establish the repute of Newfoundland marine products in the markets of the world.

My Government fully recognizes the role played by fish processing plants in various rural areas of the Province. A number of these firms experienced serious financial problems during 1981 and my Government has moved to alleviate these difficulties. Seasonal inshore operations will need to be supplemented with offshore landings to make them viable. My Government is taking the initiative in having a consortium of seasonal plants established for this purpose.

Every precaution will be taken to ensure that oil and gas development is supportive of the fishing industry. My Government has undertaken a number of initiatives to safeguard the interests of the fisheries sector and special emphasis will be placed on the formulation of a program which would compensate fishermen and companies for any adverse impacts of offshore resource development. Again, Offshore Oil and Gas the critical role of the fishery in the Newfoundland economy and the vulnerability of the fishery to oil development require that policy decisions be made through joint management between the Province and the Federal Government.

In short, my Government remains firmly optimistic about the future of the fishery and its potential to generate permanent stability in our economy. Moreover, my Government is confident that the proposed measures will serve to strengthen the overall structure of the industry and will result in the emergence of a more dynamic fishery. Through legislation and negotiation my Government will take action to ensure that this goal is achieved.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Honourable House of Assembly:

For centuries the waters overlying our Continental Shelf provided the source of livelihood for our people. During the past decade, other resources from within our Continental Shelf, the hydrocarbons of the Grand Banks and of the Labrador sub-sea areas, have been discovered, evidencing yet other gifts conferred by a bountiful nature upon the inhabitants of this Province. Thus there exists a striking continuity of our past with the present and our future, in that the huge Continental Shelf extending outward from our shorelines was, is and will remain, our most precious possession and the foundation of our economic well being.

The offshore resource heritage of our Province has attracted international attention. It is the birthright of our people and my Government vows it will never allow our people to be deprived of their rightful share in this resource for short term economic or political benefit. The mistakes of the past will not be repeated. We will not be lured into a management agreement which does

not ensure that maximum benefit will accrue to this Province. This is my Government's covenant with each and every Newfoundlander, a covenant which shall not be broken.

Exploration during the past year continues to confirm the potential for development of our offshore petroleum resources. Even the most conservative estimates of recoverable oil and gas from offshore fields illustrate the massive new contributions that these discoveries will make to the provincial economy through tax revenues and spinoff effects in the form of local employment, new technologies and growth in the local industrial goods and services sector.

Further successful delineation of the giant Hibernia structure continued in 1981 and significant discoveries were made at Hebron and South Tempest in the northern Grand Banks area. As well, the first oil was encountered on the Labrador Shelf at North Leif and a large gas condensate discovery was made at North Bjarni.

We must continue to emphasize that our response to future promise of massive scale offshore development must be tempered with prudence. Amidst enormous forces for change, development must be at a pace that will be in accordance with our own requirements for equality of opportunity and social and cultural well being.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Honourable House of Assembly:

Through firm legislative action embodied in The Upper Churchill Water Hydroelec Rights Reversion Act passed during the last Assembly, my Government moved decisively to regain control of this Province's largest hydro project and to secure justice and equity from the Upper Churchill hydro development for our people. It will be recalled that my Government undertook to withhold proclamation of this Act until it had been adjudicated to be within the power of this Legislature and necessary accommodation had been arranged with bondholders.

The first hurdle along the determined course of my Government to attain justice and equity from the Upper Churchill resource has been surmounted. Our people greeted with immense satisfaction the decision of the Court of Appeal of the Supreme Court of Newfoundland that the enactment of The Upper Churchill Water Rights Reversion Act is within the powers of this Legislature. My Government is confident that the Supreme Court of Canada will concur with this decision of the highest Court in this Province.

The goal of this Province is to achieve fairness and equity in the flow of benefits from the Churchill Falls project. That goal is closer to achievement with the decision on the water rights. The power generated at Churchill Falls will be available first of all to users in Labrador and Newfoundland. Power surplus to our needs will be for sale outside the Province on a reasonable recall basis and at a fair price subject to escalation in conformity with market conditions.

Advances in technology have made the Cabot Strait crossing feasible. A study by the Lower Churchill Development Corporation has confirmed the technical feasibility of a transmission line across the 120 kilometre Cabot Strait. Power from Churchill Falls would make this technical feasibility economically and financially feasible as well. My Government and the Government of Canada have already formed a partnership to develop the Lower Churchill sites at Gull Island and Muskrat Falls. The power from these sites will further enhance the feasibility of a linkage between Labrador power and markets in the rest of Canada and in the United States.

The Federal Government has assured my Government that it is willing to allow the National Energy Board to grant to Newfoundland the right to transmit electrical energy from the Lower Churchill across Quebec into Ontario, the Maritimes or the Northeastern United States. Early enactment of this legislation in the Parliament of Canada is eagerly anticipated. With enactment of this federal legislation, this Province will have achieved recognition of its right to transmit electrical power generated within the Province through sister Provinces in order to market it with the same freedom as oil and gas are now transported inter-provincially. With the technical feasibility of the Cabot Strait crossing now confirmed, the Province will be able to consider alternative routes of transmission.

My Government has already announced the renegotiation of the fixed price power contracts with ERCO, Bowaters, and Abitibi Price. The net effect of these renegotiated power contracts will result in Government receiving an additional $146 million in revenue from ERCO and an additional $120 million in the seventeen years remaining on the Paper Company contracts. This means that the total benefit gained for the people of this Province over the life of these renegotiated contracts is $266 million. Legislation will be brought before you for your consideration which will ratify these revised and improved contracts.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Honourable House of Assembly:

The forest resources of our Province continue to play a very important role Forestry in the social and economic well being of our people. While the current surplus of newsprint in North America could have negative short term effects, the long term outlook for the industry continues to be good. This sector of our economy is expected to maintain its relatively stable and strong performance into the future.

Great strides have been made in implementing sound management legislation in the forest sector. Negotiations with holders of large tracts of forest land have been successful in ensuring better productivity and higher returns to the Province. Substantial progress has been made in returning control of our forest lands to the Province. This year will likely see the culmination of discussions undertaken to rectify a land tenure system that has been in place for 75 years, a system that has not always served the people of this Province well. Twenty year conditional Forest Management Agreements are expected to replace the longer term arrangements. These new agreements will place responsibilities on both companies and Government to ensure that our forests are indeed renewed.

My Government has taken progressive steps towards intensive forest management. This effort was enhanced in 1981 with a chemical and biological spray program. This initiative, combined with natural factors, has greatly reduced the budworm population and protective measures will be continued in 1982.

The Newfoundland and Labrador Royal Commission on Forest Protection and Management presented its work last fall. My Government has undertaken a number of measures for implementing its recommendations and is confident that these efforts will enhance the future of the industry.

My Government will continue efforts to attract and to encourage the establishment of a forest based industry in Labrador. The wood resources and other features of the Lake Melville area of Labrador are being actively promoted.

My Government will be reviewing its policies with respect to public lands. A key objective will be to achieve greater co-ordination of land management policies in all areas of Government. The legislation will ensure that the rights of public use of, and access to, public lands and resources are not abused or denied by actions of private individuals or corporations. Such legislative measures are necessary to respond to the expanding pressures on these limited resources and the increasing number of conflicts being encountered.

Through negotiation and progressive legislation, my Government has Mining succeeded in regaining control of large tracts of undeveloped mineral lands in the Province. These lands were previously held for long periods under concession agreements or in perpetuity as Fee Simple Grants. Over the past three years, some one million hectares of mineral lands, to which rights were held with little or no exploration activity taking place, have reverted to the Crown. These lands have thus been freed for competitive exploration.

The close-down of the asbestos mine at Baie Verte dealt a hard blow to some 650 workers and their families. My Government is relentlessly continuing its efforts to reopen this mine, which still has sufficient asbestos to support an operation for fifteen years. The recent indefinite closure of Rambler Mines is causing further hardship in this area.

My Government will continue to develop enlightened policies and progressive legislation to attract new investment in the mineral industry and to ensure that these non-renewable resources are managed in the best interests of our people.

My Government will continue to encourage development and expansion of Agriculture the agricultural industry to reduce our dependency on imported food products. Primary program emphasis will deal with the identification, preservation and utilization of the natural soil resources; the training of farmers in technical and farm business management practices; and the adoption of the latest research and technology relative to both production and marketing.

Prime agricultural land in the St. John's area will continue to be reserved for agricultural purposes, and my Government will introduce measures to keep or bring this land into production.

My Government, working closely with farmers' organizations, has developed an agricultural strategy for future years. Discussions will be held with the Federal Government to seek their support and involvement in implementing this strategy. My Government will continue to work cooperatively with our farmers, and to negotiate with the Federal Government and other interests with the overall objective of enhancing the prosperity of the industry.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Honourable House of Assembly:

New emphasis is being placed on the commercial development of the tourism industry. To upgrade our accommodations sector, financial assistance is available for the modernization and expansion of hotels and motels. My Government is encouraging the formation of regional tourism member associations to promote private sector involvement. Tourism industry training

programs are being introduced. My Government also plans to encourage the operation of private camp grounds, and is implementing regulations to ensure that hunting and fishing outfitters provide an acceptable level and quality of service.

Economic development will substantially increase water demands, which may result in serious water-use conflicts and possible shortage of water in certain areas. In recognition of the fact that adequate water supplies are a prerequisite for such development, comprehensive legislation covering all aspects of water resources will be placed before this Honourable House. This legislation will provide for total water use management and ensure that the rich water resources of the Province are utilized to our best advantage.

My Government is increasingly concerned about acid rain which threatens to become one of the most serious environmental problems of our time. This Province is in the path of weather systems that bring acid precipitation from the industrialized areas of central Canada and the northeastern United States. The problem of acid rain will increase with planned conversion to coal firing of certain power plants in both countries.

My Government will continue to support the Federal Government in its efforts to conclude an agreement with the United States Government to reduce

industrial emissions on both sides of the border. My Government will also be expanding its monitoring efforts through the installation of new precipitation monitoring sites, increased lake and stream monitoring and by increasing its analytical capability. Vigilance will be maintained in order that the Province is immediately aware of any increase in the acidity of its rainfall and alerted to new developments in this important area.

Our Province is unrivalled in its natural beauty and my Government recognizes its responsibility to conserve and protect the land and resources. The Environmental Assessment Act passed by this Honourable House in 1980 is a strategic element in Government plans in support of its quality of life objective. This legislation will guide all efforts in resource management and protection.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Honourable House of Assembly:

My Government remains firmly committed to the reorganization of its Courts Justice in order to ensure full access to the Court system, at all levels, for all citizens of the Province regardless of where they live. To this end, a new Judicature Act will be introduced to provide for the merger of the Trial Division of the Supreme Court with the District Court, as well as to provide a framework for the modernization of the practice and procedure of the Supreme Court.

My Government will continue its work in law reform, following in the steps of such measures as the Matrimonial Property Act, The Jury Act, The Freedom of Information Act, and The Privacy Act, which place this Province in the forefront of law reform in Canada. Further support will be granted to the Newfoundland Law Reform Commission to ensure the continuation of this work so important in a dynamic and changing society.

My Government reaffirms its commitment to reform in legislation covering elections. The "Select Committee on Elections, Controverted Elections and Elections Financing for Members of the House of Assembly" on this matter will be reinstated during this Session so that the necessary legislative amendments can be placed before this Honourable House.

My Government has received the Report of the Commission of Enquiry into Purchasing Procedures of the Department of Public Works and Services and has accepted all of its recommendations for implementation. At the same time, work is proceeding on legislation to implement our local preference policy. Comprehensive legislation will be introduced with respect to both public tendering and provincial preference. This legislation will extend the application of The Public Tender Act to confirm present tendering policy with regard to the leasing of office space and will include other provisions to strengthen the Act as recommended by the Commissioner. Appropriate provisions will be made whereby local content can be recognized explicitly in the evaluation of bids.

My Government will continue to implement its Five Year Plan for the development of a network of appropriate hospital facilities and service throughout the Province. This includes the regionalization of specialty services, the elimination of existing deficiencies, and the renovation and construction of new and replacement facilities to provide a capability of delivering quality health services.

Consistent with the aims of the Five Year Plan, a new hospital is now under construction at Channel Port-aux- Basques. In this fiscal year, construction will begin on a hospital in Clarenville and planning will commence for a new hospital to serve the Burin Peninsula.

My Government was pleased with the enactment of the Alcohol and Drug Dependency Commission Act during the last session of this Honourable House. The legislation will become operative on June 1st of this year and marks a new thrust in the treatment and prevention of alcohol and drug abuse.

There is a wise-spread concern among our citizens about the degree of dependency on alcohol and various forms of drugs, particularly among young people. Through initiatives that will be taken by the newly established Alcohol and Drug Dependency Commission, it is our hope that new programs will, through early education, bring about a greater awareness of problems associated with the overuse and misuse of drugs and alcohol. New efforts will be made to rehabilitate those citizens who are the victims of alcohol and drug abuse.

My Government will continue its efforts to meet the needs of a constantly increasing senior citizen population. New services have been developed to support the aged in maintaining the highest level of independence possible at the community level. My Government firmly believes that institutionalization of many of our senior citizens must be made unnecessary through the provision of home support services. To the degree to which this has been possible with the resources available, it has been a welcomed and unqualified success.

My Government will continue to expand its services to mentally retarded citizens. Through the accelerated development of group homes, special foster homes and support for parents to maintain mentally retarded persons in their own homes, my Government is arming to phase out its institutional programs in keeping with the philosophy of normalization to the highest level possible for the individual. Exon House will be maintained as a Developmental Care Unit for assessment and behaviour modification programs.

My Government is mindful that human development must be consistent with Human D resource development so that our people are equipped to reap the benefits of our natural heritage. Manpower programs must ensure smooth operation of the labour market, and safety in the work place, and must enable the labour force to meet the demands placed upon it. My Government's manpower programs are designed to meet those objectives and to promote harmonious relations between unions and employees through mediation, conciliation and consultative services.

My Government is hopeful that Federal Government funding for a new campus for the College of Fisheries and Marine Technology will be secured soon. If we are to respond to the labour market demands of the economy of the 1980's, it is imperative that we establish a modern Institute of Fisheries and Marine Technology with comprehensive programs to meet the growing needs of the developments taking place in the Province. The Federal Government has already pledged funding for a new Marine Emergency Duties Training Centre, which will be part of the Institute of Fisheries and Marine Technology.

My Government will continue to assess its existing programs geared to the petroleum industry to determine the changes necessary to make them adaptable to the needs of this growing industry. This assessment will include both institutional and industrial training and will require a coordinated effort with employers. Many of our people have already benefitted from training

programs now in effect. During 1981 some 675 workers were trained through on-the-job programs in the petroleum industry and approximately 550 persons received training in offshore related programs in the technical and vocational institutions. As exploration continues, and with the onset of the development phase, these numbers will continue to increase.

At least once every five years, Government is required to appoint a Review Committee to examine all aspects of the Provincial Workers' Compensation system. My Government recently received the report of the 1981 Review Committee and has already implemented the Committee's recommendation for substantial increases in benefits paid to the dependents of fatally injured workers. My Government is continuing its comprehensive assessment of the Committee's report and will be presenting appropriate amendments to The Workers' Compensation Act in due course.

My Government is pleased that the new constitution recognizes the need for affirmative action in areas of the country where there are relatively higher rates of unemployment and allows us to continue our local preference policy so that qualified Newfoundlanders are not denied jobs.

The phase-in of the reorganization of the high school program began at the Grade X level in September, 1981 and is progressing very well. The new program will see the first Grade XII graduates in June, 1984.

A reorganization of this magnitude cannot be fully implemented without encountering problems. In order to identify these problems and to correct them as soon as possible, my Government has established a Committee, consisting of representatives of all agencies concerned: The Church Authorities, The Federation of School Boards, Parents, The School Superintendents, and The Newfoundland Teachers Association, to monitor the phase-in period. This group has been meeting regularly and it is anticipated that through its work and the cooperation of all concerned, any problems associated with the phase-in will be resolved and the reorganization completed on schedule.

My Government is aware of activities in some Provinces which could eventually threaten the integrity of the excellent worldwide reputation now enjoyed by Canadian universities. We are fortunate in this Province to have a University with the highest standards of excellence. My Government is pleased with the recent installation of Dr. Leslie Harris as President of Memorial University and is confident that he will ensure that Memorial's enviable record of progress will continue into the future. To control the establishment of any other university in the Province, Legislation will be introduced prohibiting the establishment of universities or post-secondary institutions, or the offering of post-secondary courses leading to a degree, without the approval of this Honourable House.

My Government intends to assert its jurisdiction in the communications field as a means of furthering its cultural, educational and economic objectives.

New communications legislation will be placed before this Honourable House during this Session.

My Government will be introducing measures to provide for the regulation of pension funds in the private sector to improve their financial integrity and portability. My Government is not insensitive to the hardship suffered by workers who, in the middle of their productive years, find their employers thrust into liquidation leaving their workers without any or adequate pension rights. Indeed, in the past year, some Newfoundlanders, after many years of service to a company, have been thrown out of work with little or no security for their retirement. Others already retired from their lifetime labours have been subjected to the severe distress of having their pensions terminated. My Government regards such occurrences as completely unacceptable and intends to take measures leading to prevention of recurrence of such calamities upon the individual lives of the people affected.

My Government proposes to rectify this injustice and during this Session will lay before you a Pensions Benefit Act which will monitor the funding and solvency of pension plans. It is the ultimate aim of My Government to require provision of compulsory pension plans applicable to the widest categories of business in the Province and containing the greatest possible degree of portability. Such measures will have to be implemented after careful assessment of their effect upon the security of businesses and the jobs of employees concerned. My Government views enactment of The Pension Benefit Act as an important first step towards the necessary protection of the rights of workers who have laboured diligently and faithfully for years only to find themselves cast out of work without any security for their families and themselves.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Honourable House of Assembly:

I have mentioned only some of the proposed legislation which will be placed before you. Attached to the printed text of this Speech is a list of twenty major Bills which will be presented to this Honourable House during this Session. In addition more than forty other Bills are ready for the consideration of this Honourable House.

My Government will be re-introducing a Resolution into this Honourable House requesting unanimous support for a request to both Houses of the American Congress that the proposed amendment to the Merchant Marine Act of 1920 The Jones Act be withdrawn. This amendment would interfere with the rights of non-residents of the United States to sue American companies whose oil rigs operate in foreign waters. While the proposed amendment will not affect claims arising out of the Ocean Ranger disaster, it could, in future years, have adverse effects for Newfoundlanders working on American rigs and for their relatives in the event of loss of life. It is proposed that this Resolution be presented in person by the Speaker of this Honourable House to the Speaker of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives in Washington.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Honourable House of Assembly:

My Government has taken decisive action to improve the economic and social well being of our people. My Government's bold initiatives to gain ownership and control of all our natural resources will have far reaching benefits for future generations of Newfoundlanders.

Through negotiation and judicial action my Government is reaffirming its control of our offshore mineral resources. Through negotiation and legislative action my Government will regain control of our hydro-electric resources. Similarly, negotiation and legislation have been utilized by Government to strengthen the potential of the fishing industry. Negotiation was the route my Government used to rectify an inequitable land tenure system and thereby place the management of the forest resource under the Province. Negotiation and legislation were the instruments used by my Government to free up vast acreage of mineral lands so that they could be made available for active competitive exploration. Negotiation, combined with progressive legislation, has also been employed to advance the agricultural capability of the Province.

My Government has been guided in all its endeavours by the goal of development for the people. Resource exploitation has been made consistent with social goals, environmental concerns and quality of life objectives. It is precisely to meet the objectives and goals of our people that my Government has made exemplary efforts to obtain resource ownership so that our natural heritage can be managed in the interests of our people. My Government is committed to continue this course of action until resource ownership and control rest with the people of the Province and the benefits of their resources flow to them.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Honourable House of Assembly:

The Public Accounts for the period ending March 31, 1981 will be placed before you for your usual thorough review.

You will be asked to grant supply to Her Majesty.

I invoke God's blessing upon you as you commence your labours in this First Session of the Thirty-ninth General Assembly. May Divine Providence guide you in your deliberations.