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It is with a great deal of pride that I address this Honourable House for the first time as the representative of Her Majesty.

Since assuming this high Office, I have become aware of the respect and reverence with which it is held by the people of this Province. I have been deeply touched by the expressions of loyalty and support that I have received from all over the Province. When I agreed to accept this appointment, I did so with determination to make the Office more open to our people. This I have endeavoured to do.

My Government's greatest challenge, and indeed the greatest economic and social problem facing our Province today, continues to be the need to create meaningful employment opportunities for all our residents. This need was referred to in the Speech from the Throne delivered by my Distinguished Predecessor in 1986. It has been the primary focus of My Government and will remain its most important objective. The status quo is simply not acceptable.

However, it will not be easy to make significant accomplishments in this area. Panacea solutions are not available and, although some progress has been made, we cannot look to our traditional resource-based industries to singly lead us out of our present situation. The economic recession of the early 1980's inflicted an enormous impact on these traditional industries, and international market forces are continuing to limit recovery and expansion in these sectors of our economy. Indeed, the global economy has changed dramatically over the past decade and further structural changes are expected. As a small open economy, Newfoundland must adapt to these changes, primarily through economic diversification and balanced growth and development. We must build upon our traditional strengths and vigorously pursue new economic enterprises. Opportunities must be pursued in all sectors of the economy – in the service sector as well as in the resource sector -- and they must be pursued in all areas of the Province, both urban and rural. No matter how large or how small, all potential employment opportunities must be seized upon.

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

We have seen that Newfoundland's economy did not perform well in the first half of this decade. However, some encouraging signs of improvement were present in this past year as average employment increased by over five thousand jobs, the first substantial increase recorded since 1981. Some of the successes of 1986 arise from the revival and strengthening of a number of industries in our primary sector, the traditional pillar of the Newfoundland economy. This strengthening is important and will provide a basic stability. It has been brought about, in no small part, by the dedicated efforts of My Government.

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

A few years ago, the deep sea fishery was restructured by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Government of Canada. This restructuring, combined with an almost miraculous strength in the market place, has resulted in a very successful Fishery Products International. In addition to being very profitable in this past year, Newfoundland's largest fish company was most successful in its divestiture of a number of inshore plants around the Province. In many cases this has allowed the expansion and strengthening of existing Newfoundland companies. In other cases we have seen the arrival of new owners with diverse backgrounds. My Government looks favourably upon our new corporate citizens in the fishery and welcomes the strengths and innovations that they bring to our shores. Recently, the shareholders of Fishery Products International have approved a strategy to achieve the return of that Company to the private sector, several years ahead of projected schedules. My Government looks forward to the ongoing contributions which that Company will make to our Province.

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

At Cinq Cerf on the South West Coast of Newfoundland, a major new gold mine is currently being developed by Hope Brook Gold Incorporated, a subsidiary of BP-Canada. My Government has provided encouragement and considerable financial and infrastructure assistance to this project. The mine will achieve partial production in 1987 and full production in 1988, at which time some 275 people will be directly employed at the site. Hope Brook will produce an estimated 1.2 million ounces of gold from already proven reserves, making it the sixth largest gold mine in Canada. Also, My Government is pleased that this operation will see a more forward looking approach to the impact of mining operations on people. The men and women making up the workforce at Cinq Cerf will commute from their home communities, rather than create a new one-industry town which would be devastated by the eventual closedowns endemic to the mining industry.

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

1986 also saw reactivation of the fluorspar industry at St. Lawrence with the assistance of both orders of Government through the Burin Peninsula Development Fund. In addition to the traditional mining operation, the new owners have constructed a milling facility, which will provide further and diversified employment opportunities. It is anticipated that over one hundred persons will be employed, once full operation is achieved later this year. This, along with the revival of the fish processing operation in St. Lawrence, has provided a thriving economy to a town just recently threatened by devastating unemployment and inactivity.

At the Baie Verte asbestos mine, Government financial assistance, boosted by certain concessions from the municipality, the employees and the Company, has permitted the continuation of the operation and the maintenance of several hundred jobs dependant upon it. In particular, in this past year, Government has agreed to continue its financial operating support and to speed up payment of the $12 million equity contribution which is being provided to remove the over-burden and improve access to the ore body. The net effect of this will be to dramatically lower the per tonne cost of production and thereby enhance the ability of Baie Verte Mines to be viable into the future and to succeed in the increasingly competitive world markets for asbestos.

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

In the forestry sector, the major rehabilitation and modernization projects at both Corner Brook and Grand Falls have proceeded more quickly than had originally been projected. Capital expenditures on these projects in 1986 totalled approximately $100 million. In addition to the direct construction employment, these investments will ensure that our newsprint industry remains competitive into the future providing ongoing job stability in these operations. 1986 saw an increase of 2% in newsprint exports from Newfoundland and a further 7% increase is anticipated for this year.

When viewed in retrospect, the success achieved a few years ago at Corner Brook with the attraction of Kruger Incorporated is possibly even more dramatic than what might have originally been believed. The total modernization project is ahead of schedule and, when completed, will have cost in the vicinity of $300 million. The final result will be a modernized mill with all five paper machines operating. The direct employment in the mill, the forest and the related transportation sectors, together with associated spin-off, makes a continuing and very significant contribution to the economy of the Western and Central regions of our Province.

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

In the industrial sector, the Federal and Provincial Governments have recently reached agreement with Fishery Products International whereby that Company will construct seven new wet-fish trawlers at the Marystown Shipyard. These ultramodern vessels will enable Newfoundlanders to utilize the most advanced harvesting technology and their construction will generate over 500 person years of employment at the Shipyard. The twenty-one million dollar cost of this project to the Federal and Provincial Governments is more than offset by the economic returns to Canada. It will also enable the Province to maintain its "critical mass" of sophisticated shipbuilding technology at Marystown which will help us take advantage of the upcoming development of our offshore resources. The alternative was to have the new vessels constructed at offshore yards with little economic benefits to our economy.

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

Without any doubt, the most striking symbol of the revitalization of our economy over the past year has been the commencement of the rehabilitation of the Come-by-Chance oil refinery. What was once a monument to the failure of industrial development in our Province is being resurrected, phoenix like, as a result of the dogged efforts of My Government.

This undertaking, when completed in the Summer of 1987, will employ up to 200 people in the refining of crude oil into gasoline and other products for firm markets in the North Eastern United States. It has been funded entirely by private resources, without the large subsidies that might have been anticipated by many. We welcome to our Province the new corporate citizen,

Newfoundland Energy Limited, and we look forward to our future together.

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

The above successes, in our traditional fields of endeavour, are important to the individuals who have benefited directly and to our society as a whole. They provide stability for certain core areas of our economy and the efforts of My Government have been a very significant component in their achievement.

Similarly, new initiatives and new job opportunities must be pursued with our most intense energies.

For the past few years the prospect of the development of our tremendous offshore resources has been present, but seemingly just beyond our grasp. In recent weeks, negotiations between the Federal and Provincial Governments and the partners in the Hibernia project have proceeded well, and a decision is expected soon on whether or not the fiscal arrangements are such to permit project release at this time.

When the project release comes, the potential benefits that can flow into our Province from offshore development cannot be overstated. By way of example, over twelve billion dollars will flow into the Canadian economy from the development of Hibernia alone. My Government has been very active, in the partnership with the Federal Government established by the Atlantic Accord, in ensuring that Newfoundland is the primary beneficiary of these benefits as contemplated in the Accord. One example of this effort is the use of the Canada-Newfoundland Offshore Development Fund Agreement to offer incentives to the Hibernia Partners to establish a combined gravity based system graving dock and main support frame assembly site in this Province. This Development Fund, in keeping with the terms of its establishment pursuant to the Atlantic Accord, is also being used to defray the social and economic infrastructure costs related to the development of the Province's oil and gas resources and to ensure the Province is well positioned for this development. To achieve these objectives, educational and training programs and research and development projects in petroleum related fields have been assigned a high priority.

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

The further development of the natural resources of Labrador has long been an objective of, and a challenge for, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. Such development requires a favourable combination of complex factors: transportation policies, energy pricing, labour force availability, productivity, private investment and Government vision and assistance. Most of all, it needs a trigger industry around which further enterprises may coalesce. This view was first articulated in detail in My Government's White Paper of 1981 entitled "Labrador Resource Development and Transportation Plan", and since then intense efforts have been underway to attract such an industry.

Over the past two years, we have concentrated on utilizing the forest resource in and around the Goose Bay region. This resource has been virtually untapped and is of extremely high quality. The amount of wood fibre available within the economic radius of the Goose Bay area, on an allowable annual cut basis, is sufficient to supply a modern day pulp mill or a one machine newsprint mill.

Just over a year ago, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador initiated presentations to a number of forest products companies with respect to potential investment in Labrador based upon a new process called "instant pulp". Recently, one of these companies, a major Canadian newsprint producer, has expressed an interest in undertaking a detailed look at the feasibility of a forest products project based upon this resource. Teams at a very senior level have been struck in both Government and the interested company with the mandate to determine the economic feasibility of such an investment. My Government is hopeful that a positive indication can be given early in this Year.

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

One other very promising area for future developments in Labrador is with increased military activity in the Goose Bay area.

My Ministers have undertaken several missions to encourage our North Atlantic Treaty Organization Allies to increase their utilization of the Goose Bay site for military training and in support of other Federal efforts to have Goose Bay chosen as the site for a new NATO Tactical Weapons Training Center. If selected as the site for the center, Goose Bay would be the largest military airbase in North America, employing between 500 to 1000 civilians in addition to the approximately 3000 military personnel.

Even without selection as the site for the new center, Goose Bay will continue to benefit from increasing utilization as a training facility through the extension and expansion of existing bilateral agreements.

Concerns about the effect of this activity on residents of Labrador and on the environment have been expressed in certain quarters. These concerns are being addressed in full scale environmental reviews and every reasonable effort will be taken to mitigate any negative effects that might be shown to exist.

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

Large project successes are important in their own right and their impact must not be understated. However, they are not enough and must be properly balanced with the opportunities that exist in small scale enterprises and in other sectors of the economy.

My Government has been keenly aware of the tremendous growth potential in our service industries and in small scale manufacturing and secondary processing. For example, some very real progress has been achieved in the secondary processing of fish products, and priority attention to this area will continue.

Tourism related enterprises are being developed in many of our communities. In others, aquaculture holds great potential and an expanded development program for scallops and mussels, as well as salmon, is showing results.

In still other regions, agriculture makes the most significant contribution to the local economy and helps reduce our dependence on imported food products. Recognizing this and to assist us in better directing our support to areas of strength, My Government will establish a Task Force on agriculture. This Task Force will consist of representatives from both the industry and government and will be asked to recommend a long term agriculture policy and strategy for

the Province.

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

Notwithstanding the strenuous efforts made to provide jobs in our Province, persistent and debilitating levels of unemployment have remained. It was for this reason that a Royal Commission on Employment and Unemployment was constituted on January 23rd, 1985.

The challenge given the members of the Royal Commission was broad: to document the dimensions of employment and unemployment and identify the causes; to investigate the role of economic and population growth; to evaluate the adequacy of education and training; to assess the impact of job creation programs; and, to examine the successes or failures of the existing support systems.

There were many critics of the Royal Commission in the days following the announcement of its creation. In fact, in My Predecessor's address to you on April 25th, 1985, he referred to the cynicism that greeted the appointment of the Royal Commission. A plea was made at that time for our citizens to take the mandate granted seriously, and participate in the activities of the Royal Commission to the fullest extent.

I am pleased to advise that, in the main, our citizens did respond to this call, and as a result we have had delivered a comprehensive and systematic examination of the causes and consequences of unemployment, as well as a strategy and set of recommendations aimed at reducing its level.

The public debate and discussion that has ensued since the release of the Final Report, "Building On Our Strengths", has been healthy and instructive. For its part, My Government has been engaged in an intensive review and invigourating re-assessment of our traditional approaches to development, taking into account the views put forward by the Commission.

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

The Royal Commission emphasizes the importance of the education system in economic development. My Government concurs with this and takes seriously its obligation of ensuring that the years spent in primary and secondary school is of maximum benefit to the student and to society.

Recognizing this necessity, My Government in this Year will be introducing changes in the school curriculum to bring it more in line with today's needs. The first improvement will be the introduction of an Entrepreneurial and Business Concepts Program which will provide a familiarity with the processes of finance and business, how our economy operates, self reliance and business acumen. The second program will provide a new Newfoundland Awareness emphasis which will ensure that each student is more knowledgeable of Newfoundland's history, geography, natural resources, our literature and our culture.

In addition, My Government will encourage the broader introduction and use of the Junior Achievement Program which is sponsored on a volunteer basis by the private sector and which encourages youth to take calculated risks and develop entrepreneurial talents.

It is hoped that the longer term results of these initiatives will be a labour force with a far greater awareness of the potential for growth in our Province, and with the skills necessary to take advantage of these opportunities.

Teachers too will be required to possess not only the traditional skills, but also an improved ability to stay current in an evolving school system, while being challenged by economic and social changes faster and more profound than have occurred at any previous time in our history. In consequence, My Government, in conjunction with the Memorial University of Newfoundland and the Newfoundland Teachers Association, will undertake a major review of the teacher training programs at Memorial University.

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

Education does not end with the completion of the high school program. The opportunities of the future require new skills and changes in our traditional approach to higher education.

My Government will introduce in this Session, legislation to provide for a re-organized post-secondary education system to be initiated at the start of the school year, September 1987. This new system will consist of three Institutes with Province-wide mandates and five regional Community Colleges which, along with Memorial University, will bring to our citizens improved access to a greater range of higher education and training opportunities. These include new computer literacy programs and a variety of new programs of instruction in emerging applied technologies and first-year university courses.

My Government is convinced that local input into the decision-making process will make the community college system more sensitive and responsive to local and regional needs. For this reason, each of the five new regional Community Colleges will be governed by a Board whose membership will be representative of the region. Such an arrangement will greatly decentralize the decision-making process and will ensure that regionally identified needs are mirrored in course offerings. I am pleased to point out that this new direction is very much in harmony with the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Employment and Unemployment.

At the same time, a major professional development program will be undertaken to assist in preparing instructors for this new approach. Recognizing the benefits to be obtained from combining on-the job training with academic instruction, a major Career Development Awards Program will be instituted for students.

The future of our educational system is bright and we are confident that the action now being taken will serve our Province well in the years and decades to come.

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

As documented by the Royal Commission, a large portion of the provincial budget is allocated each year to the provision of services to the unemployed in our Province. Even greater amounts are spent by the Federal Government. Too often these efforts have been unsuccessful, with the work activity created becoming merely an unproductive interlude between long periods of enforced and undesired idleness.

In response, My Government will introduce a comprehensive package of programs which are designed to improve the Province's effectiveness in creating meaningful jobs and, at the same time, aid in addressing the so called "ten week syndrome". This package will include the re-direction and modification of existing programs and a new assistance program to the private sector for new jobs it creates. Funded activities will be designed to add significant long-term value to the provincial community and provide workers with a credible job experience leading to long-term employment prospects.

First, commencing in April of this year, My Government will be instituting major job creation initiatives in the form of long term projects in such areas as park improvements, silviculture, fisheries enhancement, agriculture and tourism. These projects will be designed, implemented and supervised by the appropriate development-oriented line Department of the Provincial Government.

Second, in recognition of the recommendations of the Royal Commission with respect to private sector involvement, a new program will be established to be cost-shared on a fifty-fifty basis with private proponents to fund new jobs created by them in any sector of our economy. These jobs will have a minimum duration of four months and priority will be given to projects of longer duration up to and including full-time employment. Safeguards will be in place to ensure that such jobs are incremental to the employer's normal requirements. All proposals will be evaluated by an interdepartmental board with final approval by the Department of Career Development and Advanced Studies.

It is estimated that these two programs will, in 1987, support some 6,000 jobs which would otherwise not exist. In addition, as a specific requirement of each program, at least 40 per cent of the jobs will be for young persons.

Third, a joint Federal-Provincial program entitled "Employability Enhancement" will provide funds to address attitudinal problems associated with chronic unemployment and for an appropriate training component.

Fourth, the Community Development Program, which provides jobs for selected categories of social assistance recipients, will be continued in line with its original targets and objectives.

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

Directly related to this theme is the question of an appropriate income support system that best fits the particular characteristics of our situation. Both the Royal Commission on Employment and Unemployment and the Forget Commission on Unemployment Insurance have made recommendations in this regard.

This is a most complex issue and one which comes under the responsibility of both the Provincial and Federal jurisdictions. I am happy to announce that My Government has established a task force of Ministers and officials to fully analyze these proposals in preparation for constructive discussions with the appropriate Federal authorities to see how such a program can be established without destructive social impact.

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

As part of its consideration of the challenge of economic development in the various regions of Newfoundland and Labrador and the various sectors of our economy, the Royal Commission addressed the role of Government Lending Agencies and Financial Incentive Programs. The Commission concluded that there were deficiencies in the applicability of these financial programs to the service industry and, further, that would-be entrepreneurs and investors were finding it difficult to obtain accurate information about the various programs. My Government concurs with these conclusions and in response has decided to expand the mandate and programs of both the Rural Development Authority and the Newfoundland and Labrador Development Corporation. In both cases, increased emphasis will be placed on accommodating the small entrepreneur and business enterprise. These new initiatives are as follows:

First, the Regulations of the Rural Development Authority are being amended, and appropriate funding provided, to allow an expanded lending program to include service sector enterprises.

Second, the term lending program of the Newfoundland and Labrador Development Corporation will be broadened to include assistance to industries and economic enterprises in the service sector.

Third, the existing Venture Capital Program of the Newfoundland and Labrador Development Corporation will be expanded by the allocation of additional funds.

Fourth, a new Business Equity Program will improve the chances of success for small under capitalized enterprises through equity investment which in turn reduces borrowing requirements.

Fifth, a Youth Entrepreneurship Program will, for the first time, provide young entrepreneurs with access to risk capital and a substantial business support system.

Sixth, the concept of "one stop shopping" will be implemented through the main office and three regional offices of the Corporation. The intent will be that, by making a single phone call, a would be investor or entrepreneur could have their enquiry heard in a professional manner and receive direction on the applicability of any Government program and appropriate follow-up action required.

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

My Government will be undertaking a renewed effort to ensure the maximization of its usage of local materials, goods and services where price, quality and delivery is competitive. Requirements will be applied not only to all Government departments and agencies, but as well to all organizations funded through the provincial treasury.

The strength of Government's purchasing power can provide for our producers, tradesmen and service people a secure market for their labours. Similarly, if properly harnessed as a development tool, it can provide the required stimulus to justify new manufacturing enterprises to replace existing imports.

Combined with these efforts, My Government will commence a Province-wide awareness campaign to make all Newfoundlanders more knowledgeable about the enormous range of goods and services available from within the local economy. This education campaign will make our people more appreciative of the benefits that accrue to all of us by making as much of our expenditures as possible within our Province.

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

The creation of meaningful employment opportunities and the utilization of our natural advantages are most difficult tasks. They require a concerted effort by all levels of Government, by the private sector and by our labour force. Further, such development occurs -- or fails to occur -- in a climate which is as complex as that of our natural environment.

Newfoundland's economic climate is strongly influenced by the winds of international trade. Over the past year, My Government has devoted considerable resources to this policy area and has been encouraged by the progress made towards further trade liberalization. Bilateral negotiations between Canada and the United States towards a comprehensive freer trade arrangement are well underway and in September 1986, a new round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations was launched in Uruguay.

Newfoundland is a trading Province. Exports contribute about one and a half billion dollars to our provincial economy, equivalent to eighty-seven percent of the output of our goods producing sector. Access to the world's markets is absolutely essential for our fisheries, mineral and forest industries. Access that is secure, improved and enshrined in a trade agreement, is the objective of the current negotiations with the United States, which takes 73 percent of our total exports. My Government supports these objectives, and is actively participating at all levels to ensure that Newfoundland's interests are effectively promoted.

As stated, My Government supports "freer trade" for the secure access so important to sustaining the jobs and economic activity in our export sectors. However, there are other benefits from the potential trade agreement that are also important, such as cheaper consumer imports in many categories of goods, cheaper industrial inputs for business, improved market access for our fish processing and other sectors where tariff and non-tariff barriers are now significant, and finally, an improved climate for investment in Newfoundland for firms which hope to cover the entire North American market.

My Government is also interested in securing the longer-term trade liberalization which may be possible under the Multilateral Trade Negotiations. Progress here is an essential ingredient in creating the opportunities for Newfoundlanders to be competitive and productive in the international marketplace.

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

Another critical factor in determining the economic climate of a Country, or in fact a Province, is the ability of Government to make the necessary resource management decisions. This question of jurisdiction is nowhere more pronounced, nor more important, than in the fishery, the economic life-blood of many of our communities.

My Government has continued to be very concerned about the problem of foreign overfishing on our continental shelf. My Ministers have met with Federal Ministers on various occasions to emphasize the seriousness of this problem. It was the subject of a meeting of the Atlantic Fisheries Ministers in St. John's in January, 1986 and was raised in a Report by Fisheries Ministers to the First Ministers' Conference in Vancouver in November, 1986.

In September, My Government released a public document entitled "The Problem of Foreign Overfishing Off Canada's Atlantic Coast". This document reviewed the growing problem of overfishing on stocks which straddle Canada's 200 mile limit of extended fisheries jurisdiction. On the "Nose and Tail" of the Grand Banks in particular, foreign fleets have been taking substantial amounts of cod and flounder without regard to international management measures and conservation regimes. This problem has become worse in recent years and has now reached severe proportions.

Our fishing industry has estimated the total foreign catch in the Grand Banks area at 86,000 metric tonnes, compared to 145,000 metric tonnes of Canadian catches. If that foreign caught fish were landed and processed in Canada, it could provide employment for about 2,500 Canadians and generate sales of over 100 million dollars.

My Government has supported and applauded announcements by the Federal Government that it intends to strengthen measures to police the 200 mile limit, and to punish offenders of Canada's fisheries laws. To merely police the line, however, will not solve the massive overfishing effort outside the line, nor will it protect the livelihood of Newfoundland fishermen dependent upon these cod and flounder resources.

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has proposed what it considers to be the only feasible, and final long-term solution to this growing problem. That solution is the extension of the functional fisheries management jurisdiction of Canada over the "Nose and Tail" of the Grand Banks. This would fill the gap in existing practice and would be consistent with past national precedents.

My Government is disappointed that the Federal Government has not yet supported this solution to the overfishing problem. However, at the First Ministers' Conference in Vancouver, agreement was reached to establish a Task Force on this and related international fisheries matters and to propose further ways and means to address the problem of foreign overfishing. My Government looks forward to the recommendations of this Task Force.

Separate from the general problem on the Grand Banks, is the serious overfishing on the St. Pierre Bank in Zone 3PS. Here, vessels from metropolitan France are taking catches which exceed their quota several times over.

While My Government has been concerned about this problem for some time, it is only recently that the Canadian public is recognizing it as a serious national issue. The Canadian people for the first time have learned of the unreasonableness of France's demands for fish quotas in our waters; their intent to continue to overfish the cod stock on the South Coast of Newfoundland, which provides the livelihood for thousands of fishermen in the adjacent communities; and their intransigence in submitting the boundary dispute to third party arbitration.

My Government agrees with the position of the Government of Canada that the comprehensive and long term solution to this overfishing problem is a resolution of the boundary question through third party arbitration. However, My Government totally rejects any agreement to proceed to third party arbitration that contemplates any allocations to France of the valuable northern cod stocks. Rather, other levers in Canada's bilateral relations with France must be used.

My Government will be presenting a suitable Resolution on this issue in this Session.

As can be seen, the importance of good fisheries management to the economic strength and stability of this Province cannot be overestimated. Clearly, Canadian fisheries management control over the "Nose and Tail" of the Grand Banks is essential.

Similarly, My Government has long sought an appropriate share of jurisdiction over the fishery based upon the proposition that each coastal Province should have a constitutionally recognized competence to participate in decision -- making with respect to the harvesting and allocation of the fishery resource. This participation would be secured by concurrent Federal and Provincial powers.

Only in this way can we ensure that management decisions are made in the best interests of those most directly affected. To quote from the 1986 Address, "it is critical that we obtain a greater responsibility in determining how and by whom our fishery resource is harvested".

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

It is not possible to pass over the necessary climate for development without referring to the labour unrest in our Province.

During 1986 and thus far in 1987, we have seen major illegal work stoppages in the public sector, a construction industry strike and sporadic protests over the issue of utilization of non-union labour, particularly in the rehabilitation of the Come-by-Chance oil refinery.

It is not the practice nor the wish of My Government to take, or to be perceived to take, measures which prejudice the existence or operation of unions. The ability to bargain collectively is a hallmark of democracy and a guarantee of the rights of union members. These rights must, however, be balanced against the rights of, and the protection of, the private citizen; the individual who does not possess or desire membership in such an organization.

My Government feels that the current balance of protection of private rights and union rights in the labour legislation of our Province provides a fair and equitable treatment for all. We do not feel that it is appropriate to force an employer to hire persons of a particular status, through legislation.

Within the public sector our concern has been the protection of the security and safety of the individual citizen. In any competition between a right to strike and the protection of the helpless, we must have sufficient resources available at all times to ensure the provision of a reasonable standard of essential services. The question of an appropriate balance in this area is currently being addressed by a review group and My Government looks forward to receiving their conclusions.

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

The efforts of My Government and the programs we have established to realize our employment opportunities are not made in isolation. The Government of Canada in its most recent Speech from the Throne announced an Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency to facilitate and coordinate all Federal development initiatives in this area.

This is most welcome news and my Ministers have already commenced discussions with their Federal counterparts to ensure that the Agency is appropriately mandated and financed. To determine an appropriate level of financing, My Government believes it is necessary to return to the proportions spent on regional development in the period 1975-1976, when 56 percent of Canada's regional development monies were spent in the Atlantic region. Given this Province's level of disparity, a budget of $115 million should be allocated to Newfoundland for cost shared agreements following the current model for Economic and Regional Development Agreements.

The mandate of the Agency is as essential as its budget. The restructuring of the regional development portfolio of the Federal Government in 1983 changed the departmental focus from regional development to industrial development.

With that change came a dramatic shift in emphasis towards the central Canadian industrialized region, to the detriment of the Provinces of Canada most in need of developmental assistance. The national focus of current Federal policies is a further barrier to the effective application of these programs to Newfoundland where vastly different local conditions exist. It is axiomatic that development can only be based upon our assets and resources, our people and our organizations. The new Agency must be given a mandate that permits it to modify the criteria of existing Federal programs in a manner consistent with our local circumstances. Only in this way can we seize the opportunities that exist within our Province. If this is done My Government believes that the new initiative provides the vehicle for the redirection of development efforts and the reestablishment of programs more relevant to our needs.

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

The theme of this address, and the pre-occupation of My Government, is jobs. Meaningful employment for all our citizens must be our most sought after goal. To achieve it will require the pursuit of opportunities in all sectors of the economy -- in the service sector as well as in the resource sector -- and in all areas of the Province, both urban and rural. No matter how large or how small, all potential employment opportunities must be seized upon. This, My Government omitted to do.

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

My Government's efforts are concentrated on improving the employment prospects for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians; thereby realizing a vibrant economy, and creating a sound financial base for Government programs. Only with success in these areas can the social needs and aspirations of our people be effectively responded to. Human development is the desire of all public policy and My Government's commitment to human betterment through sound and sensitive social policies is unwavering. To this end, we will continue: to provide a comprehensive range of quality health care services; to protect and nurture the family through the provision of community-based services; to maintain an up-to-date education and training system that responds to the rapid changes of our time and the equal opportunity needs of our people; to support affirmative action programs for women; and to preserve Newfoundland's heritage, individuality and cultural uniqueness.

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

These initiatives of My Government towards human betterment represent an area of public policy in which I have a deep personal interest. For this reason, I have established a foundation on Family Life and a Family Life Institute with the objective of bringing together the various organizations in our Province that are involved in these matters. I look forward to the first annual conference on Family Life in Newfoundland and Labrador.

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

As we move forward with our economic and social programs in this Session and through 1987, we must do so with the faith and perseverance that characterized our forefathers. Their inherent strength and hard earned knowledge of wind and tide, and the complex currents of human experience, assured a good catch, a bountiful harvest. My Government pledges to use and maintain that legacy for this and future generations.

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

My Government plans to place a number of important pieces of legislation before you this Session. A full listing of this legislation will be tabled at the earliest opportunity so that all Honourable Members can be properly prepared for the upcoming proceedings.

During the course of this Session, you will be asked to grant supply to Her Majesty.

I invoke God's blessing upon you as you commence your labours in this Third Session of the Fortieth General Assembly.

May Divine Providence guide you in your deliberations.