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**Nova Scotia: Education’s speech, Fourth session of the Fifty fourth legislature, 1989**

THUR.. MAR. 24. 1988

 HON. RONALD GIFFIN: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I thank honourable members for that subdued ovation. (Applause) I have learned over the years that you take what you can get. I am delighted to bring greetings to you on behalf of the people of Truro and Bible Hill, a rapidly growing constituency of almost 20,000 people now, up considerably from when I was first elected to represent them, a sign of the growth in our community and, indeed, the growth in our province.

 In opening my remarks, Mr. Speaker, may I first congratulate His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor, on his delivery of the Speech from the Throne, and also to congratulate Mrs. Abraham on her always gracious discharge of the duties of her office. I know, like all members, that I look forward to their hospitality in April at Government House.

 Mr. Speaker, I congratulate you on continuing in your very important office and I want to make particular note of the fact that you are now engraved in stone and I think that is quite an achievement for any Speaker who still is alive and well and in the Chair. Indeed, I congratulate you on that and on the wonderful job that has been done here in this historic building, in its renovation and the great personal effort that you put into that. I think it speaks well for you that you have done that.

 I also congratulate the Deputy Speaker, who just left the Chair, on continuing in that office and express to him my very sincere thanks for the excellent cooperation

that he and I have had over the years in representing adjoining constituencies and,

indeed, in representing what is really one community, because while the constituency boundary lines are there, certainly when we talk about the constituencies of Colchester North, Colchester South and Truro-Bible Hill, we really are talking about one community.

 When I say that, I had better congratulate the mover of the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne, the member for Colchester North. He has not served as long in the House as the member for Colchester South and myself, but since entering the House in 1984, after the 1984 election, he has represented the people of Colchester North extremely well. I have no doubt that after the next provincial election, whenever

that may be, that the member for Colchester North, the member for Colchester South and hopefully the member for Truro-Bible Hill will be returned to this House (Applause) to represent our common shared community for another term in this House and in this government.

 I also, Mr. Speaker, congratulate the seconder of the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne, the member for Kings North. His family roots are in Colchester County and I know that he is well aware of the needs and concerns of our

community and while he has to represent the people of Kings North, he is also always very sympathetic and considerate towards those matters which involve our part of the province. So I congratulate him as well on the remarks he made to this House in seconding the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne.

 Perhaps before moving on to a large number of matters with which I want to deal that concern the constituency of Truro-Bible Hill and the community of which it is part, I would like to express my personal regrets about the passing of the late Henry Muggah. He was not only a wonderful servant of this House and before that a devoted public servant to successive governments of the Province of Nova Scotia, he was also a personal friend.

 I first met him when I was attending Dalhousie Law School in the mid -1960's and I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that you will recall that he lectured some of us on matters related to the drafting of legislation. Indeed, I think it is a tribute to him that the legislation that was put forward by succeeding governments of the Province of Nova Scotia has been so well drafted and free of error. I am sure that those of us who were taught by him at the law school have brought those lessons with us to the floor of this House and I certainly enjoyed the time that we spent in each other's company. He was a wonderful person, a very kind person and a very learned one. I know that we shall all miss him very much.

 I would now like to turn, Mr. Speaker, to deal with a number of matters that are important to my constituency. First of all, to review a number of matters which have now been brought to completion and I would then like to speak about a number of matters which I want to see happening in our community and in my constituency in the

years ahead. It has become fashionable in the last few years to talk about the year 2000 but it has occurred to me that before we get to the year 2000 we are going to have to pass through the 1990's and I would like to talk about some of the things that I want to see happen in our part of the province in the 1990's.

 First, allow me to review some of the matters that we have brought to completion in the 1980's which I think are very important to our constituency. Other members who have spoken in this debate have emphasized the importance of the delivery of health care services in our communities and certainly that is particularly true in our community. We have recently completed Phase I of the expansion of the Colchester Hospital and that is the first major step that has been taken toward turning that hospital into a truly regional hospital.

 I first of all want to express thanks to the former Minister of Health, the member for Annapolis East who announced his retirement recently and that certainly is a matter of some regret, I think, to us all in this House that he has indicated that he does not intend to reoffer in the next provincial election. I always appreciated the fact that he came to my constituency in the 1981 provincial election at my nominating

convention and had the good sense to promise his support for Phase I of the expansion of the Colchester Hospital and indeed we were then able to proceed with that. The final announcement and approval took place in 1983 and in the fall of 1986 we were able to open that major $9 million expansion to the Colchester Hospital. That is of great benefit to our community, to the area which is served including not only the Colchester County area but also East Hants.

 At the same time, the development of regional hospitals in communities like Truro I think helps to relieve some of the burden on the hospitals that are concentrated here in the Halifax area because, as services are made available in places like Trursday that previously had only been available here in Halifax, the demand on those services here in Halifax is lessened.

 So I see the development of regional hospitals as being an important part of the long range plan for the delivery of health care in the province. Certainly at the Colchester Hospital we now have greatly improved services for out-patient services, emergency patient care and other technical facilities. So when we move ahead into the 1990's, I certainly hope that we will be able to proceed with Phase II of the expansion

of the Colchester Hospital. I know that the board, with which we have had an excellent working relationship over the years, has been hard at work on this and that the Department of Health will soon be considering proposals from the board of the Colchester Regional Hospital with respect to the development of Phase II of the expansion of that hospital. So that'; something that I certainly look forward to in the 1990's and that I know is extremely important to us.

 We are really talking in some way, Mr. Speaker, about a wide range of responses to social needs when we talk about health care and other programs that we have. In Trui"o and Bible Hill now we have a total of about 200 senior citizens' housing units. The latest one which we opened was on Lyma Street in the east end of Truro and

that is the first one in the east end of town. It has certainly not only increased our

capacity to deal with that demand but it has also enhanced the neighbourhood in which the facility was located. I think that we should always keep in mind when we are developing these facilities that they not only meet the needs of our senior citizens but that they can also, if they are properly designate and landscaped and located, greatly enhance the neighbourhoods in which they are placed. So I am very pleased about the success that we have had to date in that regard.

 Another matter to which I should make some reference, Mr. Speaker, and which

is always of importance in our community is the effort that we have made since taking office in 1978 in dealing with the flooding problems that we have historically had, not only in Truro and Bible Hill but in the surrounding communities. We have spent, since taking office, well over $1 million on a wide range of measures to alleviate our flooding

problems and to protect certain areas from flooding problems. That includes work on Highway No. 102 to help with the movement of floodwaters in that area. It has included extensive dyking programs, particularly along the Salmon River on both the Bible Hill

side and the Truro side, and it is interesting that during the very adverse weather conditions that we have had this winter and with the potential for very serious flooding problems in the Truro/Bible Hill area that we have had, apart from a few flooded basements which happens just about every year in certain low lying areas, we have not had a major flood.

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 I have been advised by the Director for the Emergency Measures Organization in our part of the province. Mr. Joe Saunders. who has been extremely helpful in dealing

with these matters. that there were at least. (Interruption) yes. a former resident of Lunenburg East. that there were at least three occasions in the past winter when many

people in certain parts of the east end of Truro and in the low lying areas of Bible Hill would have been flooded out of their homes if it had not been for the dykes which we have constructed on both sides of that river.

 So while we have not been able to prevent flooding altogether and. indeed. could

never do that. those dykes had their first real test this winter and they passed that test and on at least three occasions we avoided what could have been an extremely and serious and dangerous situation. One of the problems. of course. with floodwaters is that they always have to go somewhere and by establishing those dykes we have protected residential areas but we found ourselves faced with a flooding problem which closed down one street. known as Park Street. which leads to the Park Street Bridge

which is now being completed. which I announced on the last day that I was serving as Minister of Transportation. in November of 1983. and which was brought to completion within a couple of years and which is now open and which has helped greatly in the movement of traffic between the county and the Village of Bible Hill and the Town of Truro.

 We found that the closing of that stretch of road leading to the Park Street Bridge because of flooding for a period of several weeks this winter did create serious traffic problems. So I know that the Department of Transportation and the Minister of Transportation will be examining that situation very carefully and that the engineers in the department will be looking at that situation to see what changes can be made in the portion of Park Street that was flooded this winter to see if that can be prevented in the future. I do not attempt at this point. Mr. Speaker. to suggest what the correct solution is. Obviously. it is an engineering problem and we shall have to rely on the engineers and the recommendations that they make to us as to how best we can deal

with that. Nonetheless. it is a matter that we will have to address so that we can ensure that in the future the traffic flows on Park Street will not be adversely affected by any flooding conditions.

 At the same time. Mr. Speaker. I should mention that we have brought to completion the four laning of Highway No. 102. There were times when it seemed like we

would never complete that project but. at a cost of more than $10 million under the

federal-provincial agreement that we signed in 1982. that entire project has now been

brought to completion and. of course. it is not only of benefit to people in our community. it is of benefit to people throughout the province because tens of thousands of Nova Scotians use Highway No. 102 and pass through that area every day. Of course. that is where Highway No. 102 links up with the Trans Canada Highway and it is one of the busiest stretches of highway in the entire province.

 So for people in the Truro area. transportation is always of great concern to us. The location of our community is such that it is quite literally at the centre of the province and transportation is. when rails were first laid down in the last century. what really made Truro and the surrounding area into a community. It is really the history of the community and even today with the highway links that we now have in that area and the growth of a number of industries that are related to servicing the trucking industry and the transportation industry generally. that that remains an extremely important part of the economy of the Truro and Colchester County area.

 At the same time, we remain greatly interested in the maintenance and enhancement of the rail transportation facilities that we have. Certainly there has been nationwide a decline in the movement of goods and people by rail. But, nonetheless, the rail link that passes through the Truro area and that indeed constitutes the link between the Port of Halifax and the hinterland of the North American continent, remains one of Nova Scotia's most important single transportation links.

 Like many people, I have been very concerned about accidents that have occurred on that railway in the last couple of years. I have been very concerned about the long range needs for capital expenditures on that entire line, if it is to continue to serve, obviously not just the people of the Colchester County area, but if it is to serve the people of Nova Scotia and the Port of Halifax as a major transportation link. Indeed, when I served as Minister of Transportation and I know other Ministers of Transportation both before me and since, have made vigorous representations to Canadian National and to the Government of Canada about the need for maintaining that vitally important rail link. So I know that those representations will continue and I hope that they will be heard in Ottawa because that still remains extremely important to the future economic development of the Province of Nova Scotia.

 At the same time, we have attempted to meet other needs in our community. Mr. Speaker, I am really still just talking about the things that we have been doing. I have not yet talked about the things that we intend to do in the future but I will get to those between now and 6:00 o'clock.

 Some of the other things that have happened recently that I think should be noted would include the establishment of a new provincial court facility in the west end of Truro on Prince Street. That, indeed, was carried out by the former Attorney General who followed that matter with an enormous amount of personal interest and, indeed, took part in the opening of that facility.

 The establishment of facilities like that is not only important for the administration of justice in any particular community, but in that case we were able to use that as part of the revitalization of the west end of the Town of Truro. When the Mainstreet Program began when we first took office, and I certainly pay tribute to the then Minister of Development for the enormous support that he gave to that program, in Truro it was concentrated in the central part of town in what is now known as Inglis Place and the Esplanade and those parts of Truro.

 It was only after that work was completed in that part of Truro that we then moved the program into the west end of the Town of Truro. The result has been a

remarkable degree of economic development in the west end of the Town of Truro. So the establishment of that court facility and other facilities in the west end of Truro led to other major developments which have been very important, particularly in the service sector of our economy.

 I think that demonstrates too that we can have a very important partnership here between the expenditure of public dollars by government and the expenditure of private dollars by the private sector. Indeed, that is the very nature of the Mainstreet Program and one of the reasons why I have been so supportive of it.

 We have had a number of developments in both Truro and Bible Hill which indicate this continuing partnership of government and the private sector and I think that that

is the way we have to go. Obviously government can never do it all and we have to balance the two.

 I have mentioned the Village of Bible Hill and there are a number of important things there that I should mention. One is the recent development of major recreational

facilities in the Village of Bible Hill, in the College Road area in what was formerly a landfill site and it is interesting that that site began about 30 years ago. It was operated by the Village Commission of the Village of Bible Hill and I can recall when I served as solicitor to the Village Commission from 1966 until 1978 that we were very much involved in that.

 The long range plan always was to turn it into a recreational facility and we

have now done that. We already have several ball fields, playgrounds and other related facilities which are now located there to serve a rapidly growing community. I know that people are always concerned if they talk about having a landfill site in a community, but if it is properly managed in accordance with the requirements of the Department of the Environment and the Department of Health as this one was, then the end result can be extremely beneficial to the community.

 We now have there, with the assistance of what was then the Department of Culture, Recreation and Fitness and succeeding ministers in that department, we have been able to develop on a long range basis an excellent recreational facility in that part of Bible Hill on what was a landfill site. So, if one plans far enough ahead the benefits can be achieved there. There are other recreational needs in our community that we are going to have to address in the years ahead and I will come to those in a few moments.

 At the same time, when I am talking about Bible Hill, that of course is the home of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, one of the major educational facilities of our province since the expansion of that college which was carried out under the direction of the Minister of Agriculture and with the assistance of the Department of Government Services. That has involved, and I have talked about this before in the House and I shall not dwell upon it, but it is now being brought to its completion. We have taken that institution from one that was offering a two year program to one that is now offering a four year program with a degree in agricultural science.

 The year before last, the Minister of Agriculture and I had the pleasure of attending, as we do every year, at the graduation ceremonies at the NSAC and to see the first student walk across that platform and to receive a degree was certainly enormously satisfying to me because that was a commitment that I had made in the 1978 provincial election campaign.

 If I had known how much it was going to cost I might have been a little more cautious about making the commitment but sometimes these things get done in the

course of an election campaign and I am glad that we did make that commitment and I am very proud that we were able to carry it out. We now have there a first-class facility which not only provides education but which also has a research capacity which is extremely important to us in terms of attracting certain types of industry to the Truro-Bible Hill and Colchester County area. There are facilities there now, particularly at the Cox Institute, which were not there before and which will be of great help to us in attracting certain types of industries in the years to come.

 On the educational side, I should mention as well a couple of projects which have

 been carried out by the Department of Education and the Department of Government

 Services. Those include the expansions of the Princess Margaret Rose School in Truro

 which is now nearing completion and the expansion of the East Court Road School in

Bible Hill which has now been finished. It is of interest to note, and I am sure that

the members for Colchester North, Colchester South and Hants East will bear me out

on this, that since 1984 we have dealt with every capital request that we have received

from the Colchester-East Hants District School Board. (Interruption)

 I still have a few openings to do, don't I? In fact, we will be opening the East

 Court Road School in Bible Hill, I believe, on Monday of next week. Both the Minister

 of Education and the MLA for that area intend to get together and cut the ribbon. I am not sure if I will bother inviting anybody else or not.

 It is the performance that counts, Mr. Speaker, and I may say too

 in passing that I have enjoyed an excellent working relationship with the chairman and

 the members of the Colchester-East Hants District School Board and with our NSTU

 local and others who are involved in the delivery of educational services at the local

 level. So that too has been accomplished and I am very pleased about it.

 There are some matters that I should mention. I mentioned the senior citizens'

housing and I will turn to some new things there in a moment but there are a couple

of other housing projects which have occurred in Truro which I am very pleased about.

One was the establishment of the Hub Town Co-op Housing Project. While the Government of Nova Scotia did not participate directly in a financial sense, nonetheless I was

very pleased to be at the opening of that project which really combines some of the

attributes of a senior citizens' housing project with a type of low cost housing on a

cooperative basis and I think it is an excellent type of project.

 I have some concern about the situations in which we create large senior citizens'

 housing complexes which may have the effect, even unintended, of isolating senior

 citizens or taking them out of the mainstream of the c0mmunity. I have found that

 these co-op housing projects, in which you have some seniors and some young couples

 who want to build up equity and so forth, that that is a better way to go.

 Another project in the same part of Truro, on Queen Street, was the Colliston

 Housing Co-op for disabled individuals and that is an excellent facility which we took part in opening a couple of years ago. Again that is meeting a very special need. I

 know that there is now a proposal afoot for the establishment of yet another co-op

housing project on the Ryland A venue area of Bible Hill. I think that that too will be

an important forward step in meeting a number of particular housing needs for some

people in our community and I support that kind of project as well.

 In talking about particular projects I would like to mention three matters with

 respect to the Millbrook Indian Reservation which is located within the boundaries of

 my constituency at the south end of the Town of Truro. I had the pleasure about two

 years ago now of attending the opening of the new church that was located there and

 I would certainly recommend that to members of this House, if they ever happen to be

 passing through the community to just stop there for a moment and have a look at the

 new church at Millbrook because it is not just a place of worship but it also reflects

the cultural heritage of the Micmac Indians of our province and especially of the Millbrook community and it is a very beautiful facility and I must say a real asset to our community.

 I should also mention that the Millbrook Band Council has been proceeding with the construction of a centre located again on the Millbrook Reserve which will not only provide a gymnasium and recreational facilities for people at Millbrook but will

also be a centre for the organization which was developed recently of the band councils, the Micmac Indian Band Councils which are located on the mainland of the Province of Nova Scotia. That centre will certainly be of great benefit to the reservations which are located on the mainland and I am pleased that Chief Lawrence Paul and the members of the Millbrook Band Council had the foresight and the energy and the determination to proceed with that particular project. I may say that I have been advised today by the Minister of Community Services that his department is now able to respond to an application which had been made some months ago on behalf of the Millbrook Band Council for a grant from the Government of Nova Scotia for $75,000 as a contribution toward the construction of that centre. (Applause)

 I want to thank the Minister of Community Services and as well his predecessor in that portfolio, the former Minister of Social Services for their kindness and attention

to that request and while we have not yet officially communicated that to Chief Lawrence Paul, the funding has been approved by the Minister of Community Services and will be made available as a provincial government contribution to that project.

 At the same time projects of that nature can only go so far. One of the experiences that I have had in government has been that of dealing both at the constituency level and at the ministerial level and on the Cabinet Committee on Aboriginal Affairs with the wide range of great problems and challenges that native peoples in our province and indeed across this country face. We still have to recognize the need for long range economic development proposals that will assist our native peoples not only in improving their economic conditions but also in improving their capacity to evolve models of self -government, which I think is, in the long run, the best route for native peoples in our country to travel.

 We have had meetings with Chief Lawrence Paul and representatives of the Department of Indian Affairs and members of the Millbrook Band Council to discuss long-range economic development proposals at Millbrook. While we are not in a position yet to say anything specific about that, I am certainly encouraged by the proposals that have been put forward by Chief Paul and on behalf of the Millbrook Band Council. I know that my colleagues in Cabinet will give very sympathetic consideration to those proposals as they are advanced in the years ahead.

 So, Mr. Speaker, I guess I am starting to move now from those things which have been done in recent years in my constituency to those things that I would like to see happen in the years ahead. One very important matter that I should not pass while I am speaking concerns the water system in the Town of Truro. The former Minister of Municipal Affairs, Mr. Nantes, came to Truro on Friday, May 22nd last year and announced provincial government funding for a project which will cost a total of $9.8 million and, under the provincial Capital Assistance Program, the total cost will be shared equally between the Town of Truro and the Government of Nova Scotia, through the Department of Municipal Affairs. That will concentrate on the construction of a water treatment plant and reservoir at the Lepper Brook and we expect that when that

project is completed that all citizens of the Town of Truro will have a safe, clean, excellent water supply. That, of course, is important to us not only in terms of individual users of the system but it is also the type of thing that has to be done if we are to continue to attract to our community the kinds of industries that we want to have located there.

 That is a project which is now underway, which will be completed over the next two or three years and which will be of great and permanent benefit to our community.

 I have already mentioned, as I have been looking ahead to what we want to do in the 1990's to Phase II of the expansion of the Colchester Hospital, I know that the Minister of Health will be giving his consideration to that and there are a number of other matters that I want to mention as we look ahead. One, and again we are talking about responses to social needs, is the establishment of a transition house in the Truro area. I know that the Truro area and the Amherst area are the places that are next on the priority list of the Department of Community Services for funding for the development of transition houses.

 I may say that I had excellent cooperation from the former Minister of Social Services and I have had excellent cooperation from the present Minister of Community

Services in responding to that need. I am satisfied now that within a very few months that with the cooperation of the Department of Community Services, that we will have established a transition house in the Truro-Bible Hill area that will meet the very important and pressing needs of individuals, especially women and children in home situations that are intolerable for them.

 I am very supportive of the work that has been done by the organization that has been involved with that and I know that with the cooperation of the department and the minister that that will become a reality within the ntxt few months and certainly well before the end of the year.

 A number of other projects that are still before us and which are important in our community include the meeting of a number of transportation needs. In the Village of Bible Hill, which has been growing very rapidly, its population has virtually doubled within the last 10 or 15 years, the traffic demands are increasing rapidly. We now have the approval from the Department of Transportation and Communications for the establishment of traffic lights at the intersection of Farnham Road and Park Street and Main Street in Bible Hill. I understand that those traffic lights will be installed this year and will meet a very serious traffic problem that has developed in that area as the result of the construction of the Park Street bridge and other traffic improvements and increases in the number of vehicles passing through that area.

 At the same time there is a growing need for traffic lights at the intersection of Vimy Road and Pictou Road in Bible Hill, an intersection which is quite dangerous and which causes us a good deal of concern and I have asked the Minister of Transportation

and Communications to have his officials examine that and I know that he has also had requests of that sort from the Bible Hill Village Commission. I am sure that as funds permit and after the necessary traffic studies have been completed that there will be improvements made and, hopefully, appropriate traffic lights installed at that intersection as well.

 We have other transportation needs that have to be addressed. The road leading

from Highway No. 102 into Willow Street in Truro, coming from the first exit into Truro as you are driving from Halifax, needs major work done on it. The large culvert established there is under increasing pressure and I am hopeful that negotiations between the Town of Truro and the Department of Transportation and Communications in dealing with that will be successful and that we will be able to proceed with some improvements there because there is a problem developing there which we shall have to address.

 Another matter which is presently under discussion between the Town of Truro

and the Department of Transportation and Communications concerns the CN bridge, a wooden bridge, which runs from East Prince Street, just at the east end of the Town of Truro, to East Queen Street and which is actually right on the boundary between the Town of Truro and the County of Colchester. We now have a survey underway to determine just where exactly that boundary line is because Canadian National is not prepared to spend any money on that bridge to upgrade it and yet it is an important transportation link in our community. I know that after the necessary survey work has been done we will then be able to resolve exactly who is responsible for what and then be able to proceed with the work that will be necessary for that bridge to be able to handle traffic and to make sure that its use is not lost to us.

 Another important matter, although it is not located in my constituency is certainly important to my constituency, is the commitment that has been indicated recently by the Department of Transportation and Communications for the twinning of Highway No. 104, the Trans Canada in the Colchester North and Cumberland County areas. That, obviously, is a long range, multimillion dollar project but it is extremely important because those of us who live in the area and who travel through the area know that there are many extremely dangerous areas on the Trans Canada as you proceed through Glenholme and through the Wentworth Valley because that is not a limited access highway through that area. There are many traffic conflicts and with the developments occurring, particularly at Ski Wentworth, the volume of traffic in

that entire area is growing tremendously. Major improvements are going to have to be made there in order to cope with that and to cut down on the accident rate that we have on that entire highway.

 Another point I will just mention in passing, I do not see the Minister of Municipal Affairs here but I know that he will respond favourably to this, is that since 1979-80 we have had a program in the Truro area of transit for the disabled. There are now two busses operated there by two groups and I know my colleagues, the members for Colchester North and Colchester South, will agree with me that additional financial help is needed to meet that very special and important social need. I know that the Minister of Municipal Affairs has at least one application before him now and that he will deal with those applications as favourably and as helpfully as he can.

 I am talking now about other matters that we have to deal with in the future in our community. In the Village of Bible Hill we need the establishment of an RCMP detachment. With the cooperation of what was then the Department of Social Services, the Department of Government Services and the Attorney General's Department we have obtained all of the necessary approvals at the provincial level. The land has been made available for the establishment of a new RCMP detachment in the Village of Bible Hill and it now awaits only the necessary approvals from the federal Treasury Board in Ottawa. I am very hopeful that that approval will be forthcoming because that is a

very important need, not only for the RCMP in terms of how they can do their job to serve that entire area, but also in terms of the community of Bible Hill, because it will establish a very visible RCMP presence in the community, in a rapidly growing area, and we think that is important.

 At the same time we have to recognize that there are other needs that we do have to meet in the community in the future. I mentioned housing earlier and I was very pleased that on Friday of last week I was able, with the help of the Minister of Housing, to announce approval for a new 16 unit senior citizens' housing project on Young Street in the Town of Truro. So that will add to our stock of housing for senior citizens. I do want to express to the Minister of Housing our appreciation that he has been able to find the funds to help out in making this project a reality.

 There is another very special housing need that I should mention with respect to our community and that is the need for a low cost housing project to serve the needs of our Black Community in the western part of the Town of Truro. There is land available in that area and I understand that representatives of the Black Community have made representations to Truro Town Council about this very important need.

 I have been advised by Mr. Tom Moore, the Regional Director for the Department of Housing for Northern Nova Scotia, that no formal application has yet been received at his office with respect to that proposal. However, I am hopeful that a proposal will be forthcoming from the Black Community in Truro to the Department of Housing for something of that nature. I know that if an application is received that it will be given very sympathetic and favourable consideration.

 At the same time, when we are looking further ahead to what else we are going to need in our community in the 1990's, I do not want to ignore our recreational needs. The Town of Truro has recently completed a recreational master plan and that, I know, will be of assistance to all of us in addressing those needs.

 I have mentioned the progress that has already been made in the Village of Bible Hill in this area but more will have to be done. These are multi-year projects that we are going to have to address on a multi-year basis and with a good deal of long-range planning.

 We also have a growing need in Truro and Bible Hill for the establishment of a second ice surface, particularly to serve the needs of the growing communities of Bible

Hill and Valley and that surrounding area. So that, too, is an area that we are going to have to address in the years to come.

 I have talked largely about governmental endeavours or endeavours that have involved governments at various levels. But, at the same time, we have seen in the 1980's in Truro and Bible Hill a great expansion by the private sector. We have had new shopping centres opened, we have had expansions at the Glengarry and Keddy's and we have found that we are now picking up a lot of convention business in our community that used to come to the Halifax area. The Halifax area, in turn, with the World Trade and Convention Centre, has now moved up to much larger conventions than it could host previously. As a result, a lot of the 300 and 400 person conventions are now coming to the Glengarry and to Keddy's in Truro. That has certainly benefited all of us and we now have a capacity to handle conventions there that we did not have in the past.

 At the same time, on the economic side, we have not only had expansions in the service sector, shopping centres both in Truro and Bible Hill, we have also recently had a major announcement of a $7 million expansion by Polymer International to their

plant in Truro. We have also had a major turnaround in the fortunes of Crossley

Karastan which employs more than 500 people, which is an absolutely vital industry in the Truro and Colchester County areas. Last year, for the first time in about six or seven years, Crossley Karastan has shown a profit. Under its new ownership I believe that that industry is going to prosper and that it will be able to employ more people in the years ahead.

 At the same time we have been fortunate that sometimes a misfortune in another part of the province may benefit one. The race-track on the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition grounds in Bible Hill, the track there has been prospering greatly because,

of course, much of the activity that had previously taken place at Sackville Downs has now moved to the track in Bible Hill. That track has enjoyed great growth in its revenues and the number of racing dates that it has available to it. It has been doing extremely well, indeed, and we have supported that track well over the years, particularly after the fire that took place there in 1981. With the facilities that they have now and the facilities that they will develop in the years ahead, I am very encouraged by the prospects for the future of that track and for the future of harness racing in the Truro-Bible Hill and Colchester County areas.

 So, Mr. Speaker, I notice that my time is growing short and I will be closing my remarks in a couple of minutes, but I want to make sure that I touch upon everything. I have already expressed my appreciation to the members for Colchester North and Colchester South for their cooperation and assistance over the years in the many matters that we have to deal with together.

 I also want to express my appreciation to the mayor and members of the Truro Town Council and the industrial commission for their help and assistance and cooperation and to the members of the Bible Hill Village Commission and those involved in

industrial promotion there, also to the municipal councillors who represent Bible Hill on the Council of the Municipality of the County of Colchester and, as well, to others in various volunteer and other organizations with whom we have to deal on a regular basis. I have always found them to be very cooperative.

 I have always found too that we have been very fortunate in dealing with this wide range of matters that I have touched upon here this afternoon, that generally speaking, we have been able to deal with these matters in a thoroughly non-partisan and cooperative way. I think in the long run that that is the best way to approach issues that are of importance to us in our community.

 So we have enjoyed, I think, very effective working partnerships between the Government of Nova Scotia and its various agencies and the volunteer organizations that we have in our community and certainly with the private sector and certainly with the other levels of government as embodied in such institutions as the municipal level of government, the district school board, the hospital board, the industrial commission and many other organizations that have to work with us to make things happen in our communities.

 Mr. Speaker, I am very optimistic. I am pleased about the things that we have been able to do in Truro and Bible Hill and Colchester County over the past 10 years.

I have heard it said by one or two members opposite that they seem to be operating under the illusion that this government is old and tired. I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, after all the work that we have done that there are times when I would be entitled to feel tired but I do not feel that way at all.

 I am indeed very pleased, not only about what we have been able to accomplish over the past 10 years, but I am also very encouraged by the prospects for the future in our community.

 It has been my pleasure, Mr. Speaker, to have been a candidate in every provincial election that has taken place since the Premier became the Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party in 1971 and I can assure you that I hope to be a candidate under his leadership in the next provincial election. I will be very proud to do that and for that reason I intend to vote for the motion and against the amendment. Thank you very much. (Applause)