

Last year there were 6,000 pounds of beef waiting in Clarendville to be taken out. People were waiting for their money to get supplies for the winter. When I look at the money spent on the Avalon, it gets under my skin. Instead of a transinsular road, give us the roads to isolated places so that the people can live.

Mr. Hillier The section of the country I represent has received no attention. I would like to take you all over the road from Burin to St. Lawrence. One thing I would advise is that you have your life insured, another thing is to bring a nice, soft cushion. The roads are very narrow and very little money has been spent in that area. I agree that vast sums of money are necessary for roads throughout the country, but I do not think it is in order for so much money to be spent on one section. In the Lamaline area the roads are eight feet wide and the soil is soft. There has been nothing done in that area, apart from a man going over it with a horse and scraper. You can imagine what he can accomplish. These places should have closer attention. Mr. Reddy of Burin East could tell a similar story of the road problem in his section.

Mr. Ballam I think every district in the country has a road problem, and people throughout the country will hear of this ridiculous expenditure of \$500,000 on this road de luxe. But talking of it for weeks will not bring back that \$500,000. It is not our duty to define government policy on roads. It is something we can recommend to whatever form of government we might have in future. I know we have very poor road conditions in the Humber area. We are trying to do something about it ourselves. That is the only thing we can do at the moment. That is why I have not spoken about this report. We are all aware that the only thing we can do is recommend.

Mr. Reddy I am a firm believer in the building of roads, but the Avalon Peninsula has been very well favoured in road expenditure over the last few years. I note with satisfaction from the report that the Burin Peninsula road is to be undertaken next year. I assure you the people of Burin Peninsula will be very interested in this road, which will touch four districts; so I am not speaking for my district alone. It is essential to the fisheries, especially to the fresh fish industry carried on in Burin by Fishery Products.... As to the local roads in St. Lawrence, they are in a desperate condition.

Children, in many cases, cannot get to school because the roads are too bad. I hope the government will do more than they have done in the past to make better local roads for the people in the outports.

Mr. Harrington I feel just as strongly as Mr. Hollett does about the expenditure on the Avalon Peninsula, but as a member of St. John's West, I do not feel like hanging my head. After all, we are not here as part of a House of Assembly which is responsible for the outlay. I think if we were, we would be re-elected. One thing that has occurred to me as I read the report is that since 1934 the average mileage of roads constructed has been something in the neighbourhood of 22 miles a year. Before we get on to the future aspects, I would like to take a look at the past. From 1832 to 1934, the average has been 50 miles a year. In the very beginning, in the day of Sir Thomas Cochrane, 1835, the first roads were built around Conception Bay. I do not imagine a great deal of roads were built in the first 20 years of representative government, so the annual average would be 50 or 60 miles. If we consider that was done by pick and shovel, it stands up very well in contrast with the last 14 years with all types of modern machinery. The amount of money spent in these recent years did not get maximum results — the paving of Topsail Road at \$60,000 a mile is proof of that. That point should be brought to light. I would like to hear the other inhabitants of the Avalon Peninsula — Mr. Penney, Mr. Crummev and Mr. Jackman on that point.

Mr. Jackman Mr. Harrington referred to me as an inhabitant of the Avalon Peninsula. I do not know if I am or not; the fact remains that as far as Bell Island is concerned very little was spent on roads there.... We have on Bell Island one public road leading from the upper level of the island to the beach. We have 9,000 people. We have not a hospital. We have had many emergency cases during the last 35 or 40 years. It is through luck and God's help that these people reached a hospital. There have been cases where lives were lost.... This road has been neglected for years. It is a deliberate action on the part of the Commission of Government, because the people are urging for it and the government does not want it to be rammed down their throats.

Mr. Chairman It does not come within the purview of this Convention to make any attack upon