

*Supply*

With respect to FFMC, my parliamentary secretary will be responding at greater length. There is a review under way and the parliamentary secretary has the responsibility for co-ordinating it within the department. We have met with most of the provinces at the officials level. There is one thing emerging, and that is that there is no consensus among the participating provinces on FFMC, which makes our decision more difficult. We are looking at all the options, but the evidence is not in yet in terms of the study. When it is, we will be making a decision with regard to the future of FFMC.

I should also remind the hon. member that it is my understanding that FFMC will be one of the topics before the standing committee next week when the estimates are once again before the committee. Perhaps at the time we will have an opportunity to go into the matter in greater detail in terms of what we found out so far as our studies are concerned. But I want to say to the hon. member that the study is under way, that until it has been concluded and there has been consultation at the political level, I cannot give the hon. member further information. I am afraid that is as far as I can go at the present time.

**Mr. Cyr:** Mr. Chairman, may I call it one o'clock, but before we adjourn may I ask the minister whether he will be present in the House this afternoon?

**Mr. McGrath:** Mr. Chairman, the hon. member should know that I am always in the House on Fridays.

**The Chairman:** It being one o'clock, the committee will now adjourn until 2 p.m.

At one o'clock the committee took recess.

● (1400)

**AFTER RECESS**

The committee resumed at 2 p.m.

**The Deputy Chairman:** When the committee rose at 1 p.m., schedule D of Bill C-23, for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service for the financial year ending March 31, 1980, was under consideration and the hon. member for Gaspé had the floor.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Cyr:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Today, I have no intention of giving a detailed account of the situation of Quebec fisheries. I merely wish to advise the House that the fishing industry in the Gaspé area has known considerable success since I have been its representative in the House of Commons.

The income of fishermen has gone up in no small measure in recent years in the province of Quebec and northern New Brunswick and that, Mr. Chairman, thanks to the policies implemented by the former minister of fisheries, the hon.

[Mr. McGrath.]

member for Westmorland-Kent. However, Quebec fishermen, the owners of fishing businesses and processing plant employees are quite concerned about the recent steps taken by the minister of this Progressive Conservative government, and more particularly by the budget cuts that have already been made in or are being planned for the 1980-81 budget concerning small vessel ports. In the last ten years, the Liberal government has built wharves and harbours to meet the needs of the Gaspé fishing industry. But there is still much to be done because everything cannot be done at once.

The minister has many files in his Ottawa office that were sent him or handed over to him by the former minister which prove that there is still a lot of work to be done in Gaspé. I trust the funds will be available, Mr. Chairman, to build the buttress for the wharf at Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, to go ahead with phase II of the works at the Tourelle fishing wharf, the breakwater and the launching ramp at Cloridorme, the stone-bedding for the small wharf at Cap-à-l'Ours, phase II of the Anse-à-Beaufils harbour, to improve the dredging and harbour facilities at Sainte-Thérèse, the wharf at Grande-Rivière, and to do major repair work on the wharf of Newport as well as its launching ramp. In addition, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans had promised to assist in the development of coastal and tourist fishing harbours in that area under the Canada-Quebec tourist development agreement. As I said earlier, the files are in the minister's office, and I trust that part of the 1980-81 estimates will go to that.

● (1410)

The Minister of Finance and the President of the Treasury Board say the former government increased the Canadian deficit too much. In the past, the government took steps to reduce spending, to lower deficits, but it never took them, Mr. Chairman, on the backs of Quebec or eastern Canada fishermen. That was a privileged class for the Liberal government. During the last election the Progressive Conservative candidate in the riding of Gaspé and all Progressive Conservative candidates in eastern Canada promised they would give fishermen access to fishing harbours for major repairs and would have launching ramps built here and there. Where is that work going to take place with the budget cuts announced by this government?

Mr. Chairman, I have been asking myself that question ever since this government took office and particularly with respect to the position taken by former Progressive Conservative members sitting on this side of the House who are now on the government side and the new members coming from Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland—where are they to defend the interests of fishermen? We do not hear from them anymore, Mr. Chairman. They are mute, as gentle as lambs. I am talking in particular of hon. members from Prince Edward Island, the hon. member for Malpeque, the hon. member for Cardigan, the hon. member for Hillsborough and the Secretary of State and Minister of Communications, the hon.