

*Fishing and Recreational Harbours*

official opposition as from the other parties, indicates the extent of some of the problems we face in the House of Commons these days.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Fleming:** We have heard from members today who have never before expressed themselves on small craft harbours and, frankly, I do not think they have ever stepped in a boat before. Today, they are experts. Some are experts and others simply espouse the words of other, thoughtful members among their colleagues who did make contributions earlier in the debate. Mr. Speaker, I am parliamentary secretary to a minister who is thoughtful, who works hard, and who has respect from both sides because of the way he discharges his responsibilities, which does not mean hon. members will not offer criticism, sometimes severe criticism, in areas of concern which relates to their own ridings. But I must say I find myself terribly disappointed when, after that kind of respect, members, for whatever reason get up and speak in such a silly manner with regard to legislation brought forward by the department. I am sorry, I cannot find words more honest than that.

For instance, I find the hon. member for Prince George-Peace River (Mr. Oberle) suggesting my minister is hiding behind the Local Initiatives Program. What absurdity! The fact is that during a period of restraint, when there is very heavy pressure on all branches of government to cut back on expenditure, or to hold the line—

**Mr. McKenzie:** You are spending \$231 million in Quebec, don't forget.

**Mr. Fleming:** I did not interrupt while the hon. member was reading another member's speech. I am making my own speech and I would appreciate it if the hon. member would not interject.

I find members like the member for Prince George-Peace River accusing my minister of hiding behind the Local Initiatives Program, when in fact he has fought hard to provide assistance to our fishermen in a time of restraint, even though it was not as much as he would like.

● (2210)

When in turn that minister is helped and, with the assistance of the parliamentary process, has made LIP work to the extent that an additional \$5.5 million is going into small craft harbours, I find I am disappointed in the hon. member who, from my experience, is not widely experienced in this subject when he says something as silly as that. I do not want to be angry, but I have had to sit through this for a long time and I find the debate on a bill as fundamental and as basic as this one to be long. This is a measure of the seeming degradation our process faces today, because some of us on all sides realize that if we want parliament to survive, if we want the most free democracy in the world to continue and progress, we will all have to be a little more responsible in the process.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

[Mr. Fleming.]

**Mr. Fleming:** Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to talk on a particular subject.

**Mr. McKenzie:** Tell us about unemployment.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner):** Order, please. The parliamentary secretary has the floor and I suggest we all listen to him.

**Mr. Fleming:** I wish the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre had been as original in his thoughts as he is now in his interjections. Various hon. members opposite have been critical of the amounts of money being spent on small craft harbours and have discussed this in the debate on the bill. In its responsibility for this program, the expenditures of the Department of Fisheries on small craft harbours varied from a low of about \$8 million a year to a little over \$13 million a year. The average annual expenditure for these years was \$11,789,000. That is in sharp contrast to the expenditure levels in recent years. In 1973-74 the government spent over \$22 million, in 1974-75 nearly \$31 million, 1975-76 nearly \$29 million, and this year we expect the total to be about \$40 million. The money for this year includes special funding of \$5 million for commitments under the Canada-Quebec agreement and \$5 million for the federal labour intensive program. I believe that the record speaks for itself.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Fleming:** We hear from particular members in the opposition about the concerns in their ridings. Surely that is their right and obligation as elected members. But I wish that collectively they would have some common sense, some priorities. I wish the official opposition could tell us how they would set their priorities. There are many demands for better facilities for small craft harbours, especially for our fishermen. But also I know from colleagues on my side and on the other side of the need for facilities for pleasure craft harbours. In my own province of Ontario I see immense pressure for better facilities with the growing number of pleasure craft, but I wish hon. members opposite would tell us what their priorities are. On each bill they rise in the House and demand heavy increases in expenditures, and yet they criticize us for government spending. They must make up their minds. They are speaking from both ends, and that is very difficult to do.

**Mr. McKenzie:** Who commanded Mirabel?

**Mr. Fleming:** I do not think any of us were brought to life by the speech of the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre, although it was better received last December when delivered by another hon. member. The hon. member for South Shore in his statement to the House last December said that under this bill the minister can build recreational harbours wherever he chooses without regard for provincial and municipal desires. In all fairness let me say that I believe the statement is misleading because Clause 5(2) of the bill makes clear that that is not the case. The earlier statement by my minister introducing Bill