

Supply—Public Works

Mr. Chairman, if we study the estimates of the hon. Minister of Public Works, we can say that once again Quebec is discriminated against with regard to the amounts allocated by the Department of Public Works to projects which should be carried out in Quebec.

• (9:10 p.m.)

If we refer to page 397 of the Blue Book, we find that in relation to other provinces, we receive lesser amounts and are not treated on an equal footing as far as concerns our needs and services that the Department of Public Works should provide. This gap could be filled now by the appointment as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Works of the hon. member for Chicoutimi (Mr. Langlois), to whom I have not yet had the opportunity of extending my congratulations. I therefore congratulate him now for his appointment but, at the same time, I assign him a task, that is to watch over the amounts allotted to Quebec with respect to large scale projects that Quebec municipalities claim from the federal government and that come under the Department of Public Works. This is the task which the member for Chicoutimi, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Works will have to accomplish during his term. Considering his interest and affection for Quebec, I am sure that he will succeed.

Mr. Chairman, since the Liberal government has taken office, that is since 1963, the policy regarding the building of retaining walls along the St. Lawrence river has changed. When our party was in power, we built several such walls. However, the municipalities or the water-lot owners had to prove that the erosion was due to navigation and the Department of Public Works sent engineers to complete a survey. If there were sufficient grounds for the complaint, the municipality or the water-lot owners received the funds required to build a retaining wall. This happened along the St. Lawrence river, in Saint-Joseph-de-la-Rive and Saint-Irénée in my riding.

However, I am told that, for the past two years, the policy of the Department of Public Works has changed completely. Therefore, the time has come for the minister, during consideration of his estimates, to clearly define the policy of his government with regard to the construction of retaining walls along the St. Lawrence river. I made several requests in this regard lately to the department; it seems impossible, under the new

[Mr. Asselin.]

policy of the minister to find out for sure whether the erosion is due to navigation. If the land has been eroded and if the properties located along the St. Lawrence are in danger, it is because the department has not built, in due to time, the necessary retaining walls.

I should also like to deal tonight with the dredging and the building of marinas.

I know, Mr. Chairman, that the provincial Department of Fish and Game, in co-operation with the Department of Rural Development, has prepared plans for the construction of marinas, in various ridings in the country.

As far as marinas are concerned, for the last three years I have been asking the federal Department of Public Works to tell us whether it is really interested in dredging in places where marinas could be constructed in my district, as well as at Pointe-au-Pic, Tadoussac, all holiday resorts where dozens of sailing boats are coming every day from Quebec, along the St. Lawrence. Those sail boats and others need shelter so as to be able to continue their trip towards the Saguenay, up to the beautiful constituency of the parliamentary secretary, the hon. member for Chicoutimi (Mr. Langlois).

I would also like to know whether the minister has a policy to announce as far as the building of marinas along the St. Lawrence is concerned, especially at Pointe-au-Pic, in my own constituency, and at Tadoussac.

Mr. Chairman, before the election, a committee was set up in Quebec for the purpose of inquiring into the possibility of using fully Beauport sand bars. I know that members from the Quebec area looked into the matter and that city councils also met to study, in co-operation with experts, the possibility of using Beauport sand bars as an extension to Quebec harbour facilities. I am aware of the fact that both municipalities and chambers of commerce of the Quebec region were presented with a brief and reports. However, from the time this government was returned to power on June 25, nothing has been said about it.

Mayors of the Beaupré shore asked me lately to raise the matter in the house.

Mr. Duquet: Would the hon. member allow me a question?

Mr. Asselin: Yes, certainly.

Mr. Duquet: I would not like to embarrass the hon. member—