

*Fishing and Recreational Harbours*

**Mr. Lalonde:** You are losing your time—the clock is turning.

**Mr. Oberle:** I'm ashamed you come from British Columbia.

**Mr. Lalonde:** You have already lost three minutes.

**Mr. Whiteway:** This government introduced the legislation on December 10. I think that that is indicative of the priority the government gives to this legislation. The legislation was introduced in December and the government waited through January, February, March, April, May, and now four days into June.

**Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi):** Can you count to two?

**Mr. Whiteway:** If the hon. member could count half as well as he pretends he can, we would have a lot more than \$35 million for the harbours of this country.

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

**Mr. Oberle:** Right on!

**An hon. Member:** He should talk; he has one of the maritime constituencies.

**Mrs. Holt:** And you wonder why the legislation does not go through parliament!

**Mr. McCain:** They don't put gags on us here.

**Mrs. Holt:** That's the trouble.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** Order, please. Hon. members are reminded that they should address the Chair.

**Mr. Whiteway:** We passed Bill C-37 in one day. Members on this side of the House are prepared to support good legislation, but we are elected to scrutinize the legislation presented to the House and I will not forfeit that right for any member of the government. If you insist on bringing in legislation such as this, then you better not expect to get it passed in one day. If it were half as important as you think or postulate it is, you would not have waited six months to put it back on the order paper, so do not stand up in your self-righteousness—

**Mrs. Holt:** I did not stand up; I am sitting.

**Mr. Whiteway:** That is the problem with you. You very seldom stand up in the Chamber and say anything. You Liberal backbenchers speak from your seats. Stand up in your places and explain to the people of Canada why there is only \$35 million for the small craft harbours in this country.

**Mr. Oberle:** You cannot serve your constituency if you hang on to the coattails of the six million dollar man.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** Order. Again I must remind hon. gentlemen that if they wish to take part in the debate they should rise in their places and be recognized,

[Mr. Whiteway.]

either on points of order or points of privilege, but at present I have recognized the hon. member for Selkirk (Mr. Whiteway).

**Mr. Whiteway:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Lalonde) again debating from his chair, again debating from his seat.

Bill C-7 deals with the administration and development of certain fishing and recreational harbours in Canada. At present the legislative authority for the administration of our small craft harbours is provided by the Government Harbours and Piers Act and its accompanying wharf regulations, as well as orders in council drafted in 1895 and revised in 1937. I think this is the proper time to have the government bring in some revision.

● (2110)

The present law certainly does not address itself to present day administrative needs of fishermen and recreational boaters, and it does not provide for the development of harbours. It was in June of 1937 that the responsibility for the administration of small craft harbours was transferred to the Department of Fisheries from the Department of Public Works, and the minister's authority has suffered over the years because the administration has been under orders in council.

In the minister's speech on this matter back in December of last year he pointed out that there are some 2,300 government facilities which are affected by this legislation and which come under the definition of small craft harbours. Fifteen hundred of these are primarily used to service fishermen, and some 800 are for recreation. I have already pointed out that the budget this year for capital costs to repair and to construct new docks for boats, whether they be recreational or used for fishing, is \$35 million. This is obviously grossly inadequate.

Let us consider Lake Winnipeg. I have spoken about Lake Winnipeg in this Chamber many times. It is the largest inland fresh water body which is totally within Canada. I was about to say it has a thriving fishing industry. It was thriving until the government opposite got hold of it. I wish the Minister of State (Multiculturalism) (Mr. Guay) were in his place because I am going to talk about something very near and dear to his heart, that famous processing plant located in the wheat fields of his riding. I will get to that in a minute. However, the docks and the maintenance of dock facilities on Lake Winnipeg have deteriorated.

**Mr. Oberle:** There's the hon. member for St. Boniface.

**Mr. Whiteway:** The minister has just arrived. I will get to the FFMC in a minute.

**Mr. Lalonde:** Hurry up.

**Mr. Whiteway:** The entire budget of the Minister of the Environment (Mr. LeBlanc), who is responsible for fisheries, this year is \$261.016 million. Let us compare for a moment the total budget of the minister—particularly the \$35 million directed toward the construction and maintenance of docks—with the budget of, for instance, the CBC.