

Supply

fishermen, their helpers on the boats and plant workers on shore. Those plant workers were not just in P.E.I., they were in neighbouring provinces such as New Brunswick. Based on the success in year one I think we will see this Government continue to aid that fishery in our province because the resource is there. I know that that is not a major cost to government, but it is simply a matter of doing justice to the provinces.

● (1720)

Today opposition Members bewailed reductions in transportation services. I would like to speak for a few minutes about some of the things that have happened in my own constituency which indicate that transportation services and facilities have not all been reduced as has been suggested by Hon. Members. For example, after the election last fall the Minister of Transport (Mr. Mazankowski) moved quickly to ensure that we had additional ferry crossings from Wood Island, P.E.I., to Caribou, Nova Scotia. At that time there was a crisis in terms of getting agricultural products, highway material, and many items required by industry generally, from Nova Scotia to P.E.I. The additional crossings were allowed at considerable expense to the federal treasury.

That was not all, Mr. Speaker. During the winter months negotiations continued between the Department and Northumberland Ferries Limited, the carrier, and as a result we had better service last summer. There were additional crossings between P.E.I. and Nova Scotia which produced direct economic benefit to my constituency as well as the entire province. When the ferries are not running or are making less crossings, we feel the impact immediately. When the ferry runs open up, our economy opens up. Tours can go in and out and people can access markets more easily. The Government has shown leadership in that area.

Not only has the Government improved service, but it has entered into negotiations with Northumberland Ferries for the construction of new vessels for that run. Currently negotiations are under way which could result in two 150-car ferries installed for the run between Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. That would be a tremendous economic benefit to my province.

Another transportation matter which is important to the constituency of Cardigan is that the Government, through the Minister of Transport, approved a \$5.4 million contract for the reconstruction of the Georgetown wharf which was burned a few years ago. That wharf is very important to the eastern end of the province. Georgetown is a deep-water harbour used to load potato boats and pulp boats. It is also used by the Georgetown shipyard for repairing vessels which dock at the wharf. The port is used to unload asphalt, oil, and gas for a local oil company. That initiative, which was delayed, postponed, and pushed around with a long stick by the former Government, was acted upon quickly by the Minister of Transport. He has come up with funding for that very important project. In addition, he has approved the expenditure of \$2 million in the town of Surrey for expansion of its wharf

facilities. That is another benefit to the transportation industry and the fishing sector.

The Government has also assisted the agricultural industry. The hog industry in Prince Edward Island has been in crisis due to the fact that our main processing plant, a Canada Packers operation, was due to be closed by the owners. The plant was an antique, unable to keep up to standards and inspections which was losing money year after year. The provincial Conservative Government moved quickly after the decision by Canada Packers to ensure that the plant did not close and that our hog industry would not suffer serious consequences. It moved quickly in concert with producers of hogs and beef cattle, but it could not get the co-operation of the former Liberal Government.

I am pleased to say that once the federal Government was elected serious negotiations began between the province, the producers, and the federal Government. Those negotiations resulted in \$4.5 million of federal money being spent for the construction of a new plant which is now nearing completion. That plant will be paid for by hog producers, beef producers, and the province. The plant will actually be operated by Canada Packers under an agreement to manage and market the product from that plant. That has enabled us to consider expanding our hog industry and, more important, it has enabled us to save the existing industry.

I would like to mention a few more economic initiatives so that people will not get the idea that only a few things have happened. In the last 15 months \$6.8 million has been made available to P.E.I. for industrial competitiveness programs. There has been an expenditure of \$3.2 million for IRDP offers. A commitment in the amount of \$10 million has been made to the Atlantic Veterinary College in Charlottetown. There has been an allocation of \$7.3 million for a new terminal building at the Charlottetown airport. There has been an allocation of \$1.8 million for the dredging of the Summerside harbour so that it can receive potato boats necessary to export our process. There has been an expenditure of \$3.35 million to establish the Eastern Ventures and Development Corporation in my constituency which is now providing funds to enable small businesses to start up. There has been a provision of \$8 million to CFB Summerside in order to establish a mess and hospital facility. Federal money amounting to \$5.8 million has been allocated under a new tourism agreement which will allow us to continue to build on the tourism base which already exists in the province. Five million dollars has been spent on marketing and \$5.2 million has been spent on industrial milk assistance. There has been a \$7.5 million expenditure on fisheries and a \$13.6 million on forestry.

That is all federal money committed by the Conservative Government to ensure that jobs are created in P.E.I. It is just one more indication of the fact that we have not, in any way, shape, or form, abandoned economic priorities in Atlantic Canada.

I have not mentioned the big item yet, Mr. Speaker. The Conservative Government acted on a commitment made by our Leader prior to the election to address the very serious