

HARBOURS AND PORTS

MAINTENANCE OF SMALL CRAFT HARBOURS—FEDERAL FUNDING

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Last week the Minister announced that there would be \$270,000 spent to extend the breakwater at Torbay, Newfoundland. There is no doubt that the work was needed, because small craft harbours are a disgrace all across Canada, and particularly in Newfoundland.

Since the Minister seems to be having more success in getting money for small craft harbours than the Minister of Fisheries, will he add his support to getting the funding proposal for small craft harbours through Cabinet where it has been stalled for at least three months?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, this will be bad news for the hon. gentleman, but the small craft harbours proposal has been dealt with in a very positive manner. At the appropriate time and place it will be announced. It will be announced in more than one place. It will be announced in place upon place, harbour upon harbour. Across this great Dominion there will be announcements about the small craft harbours program.

As a matter of fact, tomorrow I intend to announce that \$900,000 will be spent to repair the main breakwater at St. Bride's, Newfoundland, in the district of St. John's West, which was badly damaged by storms during the past winter. It is just the first of many such announcements.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Manly: Mr. Speaker, we appreciate those announcements. I hope the Government does not have to spend more money on public relations than it is to spend on the harbours themselves.

AMOUNT OF FUNDING

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands): Mr. Speaker, departmental officials have said that unless the funding is upgraded from \$48.5 million, which it is now, to \$120 million per year, 150 small craft harbours will be closed across Canada in the next five years, 47 of them in Newfoundland alone.

Can the Minister assure the House and communities across Canada that there will be adequate funding so that all small craft harbours will be maintained and the communities will not lose their harbour facilities?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to have the opportunity to thank and to congratulate my colleague, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, who is not here today and who is too shy and unassuming to take any credit for the tremendous work he

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has done on behalf of fishermen, ports, harbours, and facilities in the country.

I can promise the hon. gentleman that, without any assistance from him whatsoever, there will be a fine program of improving harbours and fishery facilities across the country.

The hon. gentleman is no better informed than his candidate in St. John's East who appeared before a Senate committee the other day and did not know that \$40 million was to be spent on drug research at Memorial University in Newfoundland when our new legislation passes the House. He is just as well informed as his candidate who is going down to ignominious defeat in that district.

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[Translation]

REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION

ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSURE OF A GM CENTRE IN MONTREAL—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard—Anjou): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion. On March 31, 1987, the Canadian Government and the Quebec Government made a \$220 million loan, interest-free over thirty years, to General Motors Corporation. That \$600 million gift over 30 years was made under the proviso there would be no loss of jobs at GM in Quebec. This morning, it was announced that GM Corporation will close its truck centre in Montreal, a loss of 131 jobs in Montreal. What is the Government prepared to do to prevent the shutdown of that GM truck centre in Montreal and to protect the 131 jobs that have been there for 25 years as well as the families of the employees involved?

Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is fully aware no doubt that some industries, especially the automotive industry, are facing difficulties of international competition, for which reason rationalization decisions must be taken such as in the case unfortunately of GM in Sainte-Thérèse. I have assured the Corporation and I would like to assure the Hon. Member of our concern in this matter and our intention to look carefully at how the Government can help again those workers. Again I would like to stress, Mr. Speaker, that since September 1984 this Government created numerous opportunities, and I think our overall assistance to General Motors in Sainte-Thérèse points to this Government's concern not only for maintaining jobs but also for creating new opportunities, not only in Quebec but across Canada.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONS—GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard—Anjou): Mr. Speaker, certainly with those \$220 million, interest-free loans