

*Provision for Dredging Lake Huron*  
**SHIPPING**

I ask you, Mr. Speaker, whether any question of privilege is involved.

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

**An hon. Member:** Arrogance.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. For the second time today I have to reach a decision on the question of whether there is a question of privilege. I may say, without going into a long harangue, that in the first case I did see a question of privilege; in the second case, I do not.

**Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I think the Chair should prepare itself in the same way as it prepared itself for the former question of privilege, and should not try to decide this matter and give an off the cuff decision such as has just been given.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. It seems to me that the argument the Chair used to reach the conclusion in the second case is very simple. If we are to have no political commentary at all we might as well fold up and go home.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. There is quite a difference between making a political speech and charging hon. members with certain activities which on the face of it are just not so. That is the difference. I do not want to overstress this matter, but it should be self evident to all hon. members, and I am sure it is.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Speaker:** I would urge the hon. member for Yukon not to continue along this line. I do not see where it does the slightest good. If it were a question of privilege, yes; but this is an argumentative statement, and I do not think anyone has been hurt by the decision rendered in the second case.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Mr. Speaker, it was not my intention to make a substantive motion with respect to this question of privilege, which I submit should have been the case with the last question of privilege that was dealt with, but I suggest to Your Honour—of course I bow to your ruling—that perhaps it would have assisted Your Honour had you read the words that I quoted.

**Mr. Starr:** Yes, to prepare yourself.

LAKE HURON—SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES TO  
PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL DREDGING

**Hon. J. P. Deschatelets (Minister of Public Works):** There have been many questions recently about the problem of water levels in the great lakes, and the government has indicated the seriousness with which it views this problem. I am now in a position to advise the house that as a result of surveys completed to date I will be including in the supplementary estimates, to be presented shortly, provisions for dredging at some of the main commercial harbours and channels in lake Huron.

Major projects will be undertaken at Colingwood, Owen Sound and Midland. In addition it is proposed to proceed with dredging at fishing harbours at Kincardine, Saugeen river, Bayfield, Stokes Bay, Port Elgin and Oliphant. We are continuing our surveys at other locations, and these surveys may well produce additional areas for increased operations in the near future.

To this end I am also proposing in the supplementary estimates some increase in our general dredging allotment. I hope hon. members will appreciate that we do not look upon this as a final solution to the water levels, but it is emergency action we feel justified in taking in order to ensure the continuity of navigation in the main channels.

This dredging in the lake Huron area is over and above our original dredging program in such areas as Grand Bend, Goderich, Howdensvale and Wiarton. The government is conscious of the importance of this emergency program and it will be given high priority.

**Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka):** It is certainly a matter for satisfaction that the government has finally recognized and come to grips with the very serious low water problem. The minister mentioned a number of places where emergency work is being done and I am sure, as he has stated, that there are still a number of others which must be investigated and assisted. However, we appreciate the statement of the minister as evidence of a first timid step toward meeting the emergency.

**An hon. Member:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Aiken:** I repeat, a first timid step. I say this because there are many, many locations which urgently need assistance, and they are