

Supply—Public Works

Harbours and rivers engineering services—

30g. Construction, acquisition, major repairs and improvements of, and plans and sites for harbour and river works (including expenditures on works on other than federal property); provided that no contract may be entered into for new construction with an estimated total cost of \$50,000 or more unless the project is individually listed in the details of estimates, \$1.

Mr. Bower: I should like to speak on this vote. The western end of the province of Nova Scotia is the area where the heaviest fishing is done, perhaps, in Canada, but we are still very short of the infra structure needed to maintain the growth of this industry, which is one of the mainstays of the province.

Last year, for example, a wharf of a new design was built in this area. I am not being critical of the use of a new design; but the design was unsuccessful. Some \$1.5 million was spent on its construction, but on Christmas Day the wharf was incapacitated and the last I saw of it a fence had been built across it.

Serious consideration should be given to correcting this situation immediately. The money has been spent, but the facility is not operative. A large fish plant which has been expanding greatly in recent years—it is even going into whaling—is dependant on this wharf. I insist that steps be taken to correct this unfortunate situation. There are other areas in the western end of Nova Scotia where there is need for dredging. The Harbour at Meteghan River in Shelburne-Yarmouth-Clare should be deepened, so that the shipbuilding plants can handle repairs of the draggers and other vessels which, as things are, must often waste time travelling long distances to undergo necessary repairs. At Yarmouth the fisheries have grown to such a point that more wharfage facilities are badly needed. The same can be said about Pubnico harbour, where bigger and better structures are required if the size and scope of the industry is to be improved.

I see no evidence of any moves in this direction in the new estimates, and this creates grave doubt in the minds of the people of the area from which I come, particularly when they note the amounts of money which are spent by the national government on projects which are not productive of wealth. The works I am talking about will of themselves create prosperity in an area where the per capita income is relatively low in the scale of income of a province which, in turn, has a low per capita income compared to the rest of the country.

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We hear a great deal about Cape Breton and its problems and I do not want to detract by one jot or tittle from the seriousness of those problems, not do I imply that the government should not proceed with the steps it apparently plans to take to solve those problems. However, I submit that the western end of Nova Scotia tends to be forgotten amid the publicity given to the problems of Cape Breton.

Mr. Benson: The hon. member has made reference to a specific situation and since I am not the minister in charge I cannot answer what he has said. But I can assure him I will bring his representations to the attention of my colleague the Minister of Public Works.

Item agreed to.

National capital commission—

60g. Operation and maintenance, \$473,000.

Mr. Bell (Carleton): I forgo the pleasure of making a speech on national capital planning, in the interest of expedition, but I do want to say that it is intended to hold the Prime Minister and the Minister of Public Works firmly to their commitment to establish in the next session of parliament a special committee of this house to explore all aspects of national capital planning. In my view this should be done at the earliest opportunity next session.

I will merely add that I think the question of bridges across the Ottawa River is of vital importance, two of these bridges in particular, and that this is the crux of future progress in capital planning in this area.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL

5g. Corporations branch, \$5,900.

Item agreed to.

10g. Combines Investigation Act—Administration, \$100,000.

Item agreed to.

20g. Patent division, copyright and industrial designs division and trade marks office including contributions to the international office for the protection of literary and artistic works and the international office for the protection of industrial property and a grant of \$4,000 to the patent and trade mark institute of Canada to assist in defraying the costs incurred in the production of a film on patents, \$4,000.

Item agreed to.