

Supply

projects of the Minister of Transport. For example, \$12 million has been spent for a new airport in St. Anthony on the northern peninsula of Newfoundland. Also \$77 million was put into the Newfoundland railway to provide it with a five-year period in which to see whether we could make it economic. We are making it economic, we are making it viable, and it is starting to work. The Minister of Transport has had the vision and foresight to say, "We will give it a try". That is happening and we will try to make it work. Another \$23 million was put into airstrips along the Labrador coast.

Some can say that it is partisan if they like, but these are people who are in need and up to now have had some of the worst transportation infrastructure anywhere in the country. Again, I do not apologize for responding to that kind of need. It was \$23 million spent to bring Labrador into the twentieth century and to give it up to date transportation services.

Also I would like to point to the other measures taken by the Minister of Transport and by the Government in the Atlantic Provinces. For example, a new air terminal building and runway was constructed at St. John's airport at a cost of \$2 million. A Coast Guard college was erected in Cape Breton at a cost of \$17 million. These are projects throughout the Atlantic Provinces. Approximately \$15 million was spent for port development on the Miramichi River. There was \$5.5 million spent on a federal wharf in Digby. The time had come for all these projects, they needed to be done. The idea is to move forward on projects for which we did not have the money until now and to create jobs before the tax measures had a chance to take their bite. I pay tribute to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and again to the Minister of Transport for their foresight.

With regard to partisanship, I would like to refer to several other ongoing projects which were done because of need, not as a result of partisan consideration. For example, a \$55 million Arctic Marine Vessel Research Institute is being built in St. John's. We can add to that the \$27 million or 60 per cent of the cost of a new fisheries college in St. John's. These can hardly be said to be partisan projects because they are in ridings not held by us and they are educational institutions. As everyone knows, education is a provincial responsibility, but there is a need for these facilities. If we do not do it, Newfoundlanders will not be able to participate in a meaningful way in offshore development. Yes, the money might come, but jobs will not be had unless people have skills. This is what the fisheries college will provide; it will give Newfoundlanders skills. This is being done with federal dollars.

I am pleased and proud that the Government of Canada is responding in this way. The Marine Arctic Vessel Research Institute, the fisheries college and the university facilities will make our Province—St. John's in particular—a key centre of excellence not only in Canada but in the world. We in Newfoundland had to be the best we could be at what we do, and what we do is concerned with the sea. Ever since our Province was discovered, our people have made their livelihood from the sea. This is what they know and this is what they do best. These facilities, largely paid for the Government of Canada in agreement with the Government of Newfoundland, will help to

make our Province a centre of excellence in marine research and development, not only in the country but in the world. I am proud we are doing that, and I think it is important to put it on the record.

I welcome the opportunity the Hon. Member has provided by introducing his motion for debate. We on this side of the House intend to continue to respond to the needs of Atlantic Canada in transportation, in fisheries and in many other areas. Just the other day we signed a \$63 million ten-year agreement with the Government of Newfoundland for further development of the Gros Morne National Park, including some funds for that park and some funds for the Terre Nova National Park. My colleague, the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Roberts), has also shown foresight in building up the infrastructure in those beauty spots in our Province. They will not only create jobs but will attract tourists in the long term. These are irrefutable facts which show the Government's response to the real needs of the Atlantic Provinces, and the Government intends to continue with that kind of response.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest to my learned and hon. friend. I agree with many of the things he said. Many of the projects he listed are very essential ones. No one can quarrel with the need for a trans-Labrador road, for example, and others as well. But there is a concern which has to do with the small craft harbours budget where there is clear evidence of partisan abuse.

The harbour of St. John's, Newfoundland is one of the busiest inshore fishing ports in the Province. The Minister knows that as a result of the building of the synchrolift St. John's fishermen have no place in which to put their boats. Also he knows that when we were in Government we allocated funds to provide a small boat basin for St. John's fishermen. To this date they still have nothing in the way of facilities. Indeed, they are worse off because they were displaced by the synchrolift. The President of the Newfoundland Fisheries and Allied Workers Union wired the Minister a few days ago, bringing this matter to his attention. Why have funds not been included to provide badly needed facilities in St. John's for inshore fishermen? There are over 120 of them and they have no place to tie up their boats, to handle their fish or for shelter in storms. Would the Minister please address that question? It would go a long way toward reducing the charge that there is partisanship at work in the allocation of moneys under the small craft harbours budget.

Mr. Rompkey: Mr. Speaker, I was trying to address spending as a whole. I mentioned the fisheries college and the Marine Arctic Vessel Research Institute, both of which are in St. John's. I could mention other amounts to be spent on the Avalon Peninsula and in St. John's as well.

The point of my hon. friend is well taken. It is a project to which I am certainly very sympathetic. It needs to be done. There are a lot of fishermen in the St. John's area. Sometimes people do not think of St. John's as a fishing port. They think of it as a transport port, one of the great ports in Canada, but