

nomination, to improve the harbour in St. George, again for both tourist and fishing purposes? These two harbours have been downgraded by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and will receive no attention unless it is from the Hon. Minister. I sincerely hope that he takes these two under consideration, in view of the number of trips each has made on behalf of his community and his small craft harbour.

Mr. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, again I reiterate that the program is not one for which I have responsibility, except within the narrow context of the administration of the Special Recovery Capital Projects. I will be more than pleased to bring the representations of my friend to the attention of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. De Bané) who is not in the House at the present time.

Mr. Parent: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Hon. Minister. It has been pointed out that small craft harbours seem to be either on the East Coast, as the previous speaker said, or on the West Coast. I would point out with respect—and ask for confirmation of my information—that the riding of St. Catharines, which is a Conservative riding, received a grant of \$1.6 million as announced last Friday. Indeed this is a neighbouring riding to mine, and I would suggest that the grant is helpful not only to that particular riding but to the entire Niagara Peninsula. What we are looking at here is a waterway—

Mr. Forrestall: We are talking about jobs.

Mr. Parent: Wait a second.

Mr. Forrestall: We are not talking about your little, picayune question.

Mr. Parent: Mr. Speaker, I take great exception to anyone calling my area picayune. I cannot let this go unanswered. He puts down not only my riding but the riding of one of his own colleagues. I am simply asking the Minister for confirmation that this is the greatest inland waterway in the world and that it is also being given consideration.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): The Hon. Member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath).

Mr. Parent: What about my answer?

An Hon. Member: It was a picayune question.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the Minister would accept a suggestion. Would the Minister recommend to his colleague, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. De Bané), that Members of Parliament from both coasts and from the inland areas, but from the Atlantic Provinces especially, be canvassed as to the priorities in their constituencies, just as Members are canvassed with regard to the Canada Community Development Program? If the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans would only do that, he would go a long way toward eliminating the accusation or the seeming prospect of this

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program being used for partisan political purposes. I offer that to the Minister, whom I respect, as a serious suggestion.

Mr. Johnston: I take that as a suggestion. I do not think it is my place to decide how these projects are chosen by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. I would point out that the whole small craft harbours program we are now discussing, in the context of the entire program, is one relatively small part of the \$2.4 billion projects distributed across the country. As I demonstrated in my earlier comments, some of the major elements of the program in Atlantic Canada are the college in Charlottetown and the Maritime Forestry Research Centre in ridings occupied by Members of the Progressive Conservative Party.

Mr. Forrestall: Mr. Speaker, the suggestion of the Hon. Member for St. John's East is in fact a very serious one, and I would like to add to the seriousness of it. The new innovation for price requests, processes and procedures for determining how these projects will be carried out is of some concern to us. Could the Minister find some way of advising the entrepreneurial or industrial community whether or not this is in fact government policy? If it is, would he take into consideration the real difficulty of Atlantic firms, entrepreneurs and business people in the Atlantic region, even where they are successful with respect to costing proposals to the Government either through tender or through a call for prices? Since we are in fact dealing with a Special Recovery Program and we are trying to look at the short, medium and long-term, would the Minister take up with his colleague the proposition that it is important in the final implementation of the program to take into account the seepage back into central Canada? I am referring to the very narrow portion of it, but I could expand it to include, for example—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Order, please.

Mr. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of State for Economic Development, and having responsibility in terms of the administration of the Program, I can say to the Hon. Member for Dartmouth-Halifax East—that he can rest assured the processes established by the Treasury Board as part of the regulations are being used with respect to these projects. When we talk about fast tracking or—

[*Translation*]

—or “la voie express” as they say in French, we are merely referring to mechanisms we have introduced for the purpose of accelerating the process, but we shall still be observing existing regulations and procedures. Of course, we are going to maximize work on the projects in each region. So let us hope that entrepreneurs in the Atlantic region will have a fair share of the work available in those provinces, and the same applies to the Western Provinces, Ontario, Quebec, and so forth.

Again, we are going to stick to existing regulations, and we are just going to speed up these projects within a closely monitored and, I believe, very effective system.