

characteristics of the water, plant and animal life, and the ocean floor.”

Now, what worse place to study oceanography than Ottawa, the National Capital Region? I could rest the case there but I want to go on in a more positive vein, without any further criticism of the Member, and point out the advantage of east coast locations.

The place that I have in mind, of course, is the Port of Halifax, which obviously has all of the advantages which the National Capital Region does not in terms of the definition of oceanography. We have an ocean. We have a year-round port, a harbour that can accommodate any kind of vessel and any kind of facility. Indeed, we have many of the facilities in place. In terms of the museum-type operations there is already in the Port of Halifax the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic which has over 150,000 visitors a year. It includes over 15,000 artifacts of a Maritime nature. There is not a great facility in terms of an aquarium, but I am sure there are ample facilities to which an aquarium could be attached if the national Government were prepared to fund such a venture. I did not catch all the financial implications that the Member for Ottawa—Vanier indicated, but I am sure he is calling upon the Government of Canada to assist financially in this project.

If you have been to the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic in the Port of Halifax, Mr. Speaker, and I think you have, you will know that it houses the famous Acadian Canadian Scientific Survey Ship and a number of other facilities. We now have one of Canada's famous corvettes available to the public for inspection. Beyond that, there are enormous other oceanography institutes in the Halifax Metropolitan area.

First and foremost is the Bedford Institute of Oceanography, a federal Government institution that has broad services related to oceanography. There is of course Dalhousie University facilities and the other university facilities. Halifax is one of the outstanding university centres in North America with seven degree granting institutions in the area. Beyond that, there is international flavour, the International Centre for Ocean Development is located in the Halifax area. I am beginning to think we are almost as bad as the National

Canadian Museum of Oceanography

Capital Region but we have facilities that relate to ocean activities and to the fishery.

I could go on with the facilities that are available which would form a welcome environment for a Canadian Museum of Oceanography and for the related aquarium facilities but I am sure they are pretty obvious to anybody who is familiar with the Port of Halifax. I do not want to be negative, as I indicated, and indicate the reason why such an institution should not be located in the National Capital Region. Besides that, I have only 10 minutes and I am sure I could fill a much longer period of time with the negative side of the Member's proposition.

Let me speak in broader terms. I am sure the Member will understand and he will not take this as criticism. The National Capital Region is blessed not only with the normal institutes of Government but beyond that, it has the National Gallery, the new Civilization Institute and a myriad of other facilities. I cannot imagine anybody seriously suggesting that to this great mass of public facilities should be added yet another facility when other parts of the country suffer from economic difficulties and suffer from the need to attract tourists and visitors to the area. Just as I am saying that, I see he is nodding. I think the Member for Ottawa—Vanier will agree that on second thought the Port of Halifax would be a better place for such an institute. He did indicate in his presentation that he was only involved in the proposition for the National Capital Region.

I am sure, as I have already indicated, the facilities available in the Port of Halifax, he will realize that that proposition is preferable to his own. He indicated that he is not open to any amendments. I would not ask him to consent to an amendment. However, I would ask other Members to consider the proposal put forward in light of other areas of the country, particularly the east coast of Canada. I will allow the Members from the west coast make their own arguments.

I should add, Mr. Speaker, because of my colleague from the federal constituency of South Shore, that there is a close connection between the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic in the Port of Halifax and the Fishermen's Museum in the Port of Lunenburg. They have always worked on a joint basis to cover the area. We would have that kind of co-operation so we would be helping not only the provincial capital of Nova Scotia but we would also be helping the whole of Nova Scotia.