

Supply—Public Works

We are building a breakwater. That will be completed, as I said, around July 1. I hope that statement does not add to the confusion that the hon. member said I created here last week. We are also building a scale model of the harbour. The hon. member sought to ridicule that sort of approach to the problem. Personally I do not ridicule it. I think we should do more building of scale models before we undertake capital structures.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Green: Why did you not do it before?

Mr. Hees: Why did you not do it before?

Mr. Winters: I think there is money to be saved in that way and I think there have been lessons learned which can be applied to good advantage in the future. I do not hesitate to say that, and that is why we are taking the action that we are taking now.

Mr. Harkness: It is a little late though, is it not?

Mr. Hees: Why did you not do it in the first place?

Mr. Winters: The works that have been done will all contribute to the benefit of the harbour.

Mr. Hees: This sounds like the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Mr. Winters: It certainly does not sound like the hon. member for Broadview.

Mr. Hees: No, we are straight and to the point.

Mr. Winters: I will say this to the hon. member for Broadview, that if I had made statements in the house as inaccurate as the statements he made when these estimates were before the house last Friday I would not wait to be asked to resign. I would volunteer to resign. I have stated the facts of the situation as I know them. If there are any specific questions the hon. member for Digby-Annapolis-Kings would like me to answer I would be glad to do so. He asked about the project at Whale cove on which we have had correspondence. I can tell him that is in the planning stage and we hope to bring it forward when the estimates are under consideration next year.

Mr. Nowlan: I have two specific questions. The minister told us that the breakwater will be completed some time in July. Subject to the tests of the working model, shall I say, proving that the breakwater is sufficient, is it the expectation that the boat will be put into operation shortly after July on this later

schedule? My second question is this. I am not sure whether or not the minister gave us this information. What will be the estimated cost of the projects which are now being carried out in the harbour, including the breakwater and anything else there?

Mr. Winters: The cost of the breakwater will be about \$186,000. The Canadian National Railways said at the time we held the meeting—it was not an established committee and I did not say it was a committee; I said that a meeting was assembled in my office to discuss this matter—that after the breakwater was built they would run the ship into Port aux Basques on an experimental basis in order to see whether the breakwater does achieve the improvements that they would like. If then it is decided on the basis of their own findings coupled with the findings on the scale model which my hon. friend seemed to ridicule—

Mr. Nowlan: No.

Mr. Winters: —to proceed further then we will set about building the other protective works that are considered to be necessary.

Mr. Nowlan: But at least on the scale model, or have you other definite works in mind now in addition to the breakwater?

Mr. Winters: We have no other definite works in mind. We will await the findings of the scale model and I presume the Canadian National Railways officials will have some views after they undertake the experimental runs following the completion of the breakwater.

Mr. Nowlan: May I say just one other word. I do not want any misunderstanding on the record with respect to this matter. I certainly was not ridiculing the idea of a scale model as such. What I was perhaps sarcastic about, and I think justifiably so, was the construction and the operation of a scale model after \$21 million had been invested without such a working model. That is what strikes me—as I think it strikes all the people of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland—as something which at least should create a smile. I do not think the people take the matter quite as philosophically as the minister would seem to suggest. He speaks about his own family and seafaring people there. I think the record shows that every seafarer virtually who had experience with that harbour had warned not perhaps the Department of Public Works but one or other of these Siamese twins who twist uneasily one against the other in trying to deal with this matter—I refer to the Department of Transport and the Department of Public Works—that the harbour was not