

Nova Scotia with regard to further studies surrounding the expansion of the container facility at Halifax as opposed to some more concrete action which might have produced jobs for the hard pressed Atlantic region. Could he explain the purpose of this further research?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Yes, I think so, Mr. Speaker. The position is that the additional money was provided for studies because these studies were determined to be necessary on a precise basis. There had been quite a bit of feasibility work, and I think there is general acceptance of the necessity to have an expansion or if you want a second terminal for containers in the Halifax-Dartmouth area.

There are still questions to be settled concerning the site, the design and things of this nature. That is the purpose for which the money was provided. The premier of Nova Scotia yesterday indicated that he hoped the work which will be financed by this \$1 million will be completed in short order.

Mr. Speaker: One supplementary by the hon. member for Dartmouth-Halifax East.

WILLINGNESS OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO AID EXPANSION OF CONTAINER FACILITIES AT HALIFAX

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if the minister could then indicate to us whether or not it is the position of the government at the present time that it is not prepared to enter into a financial arrangement with the province of Nova Scotia or Haltern or any other interested and capable groups to expand the present container facilities at this point in time and whether, as would be the common assumption today, if the province of Nova Scotia indeed wants the expansion of that facility so as to broaden work concepts and protect jobs it will have to go at it alone financially at least at the outset.

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, on the specifics of the last part of the question the answer is no. As I indicated yesterday, and have indicated on previous occasions, we would be quite prepared to enter into a special supplementary agreement with a view to expanding the facilities along the lines mentioned by the hon. member. Whether or not it would be an expansion of what exists at present or whether it would be in a different location are issues which still must be resolved among the parties of which DREE is really not a direct member. But when the project has been firmed up in respect of the ideas and concepts of those who are promoting it at the present time, then as I have said we are prepared to make a DREE contribution.

SUGGESTED PRIORITY FOR FUNDY TIDAL POWER PROJECT— GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. J. Robert Howie (York-Sunbury): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Since the total amount of DREE grants since the inception of the program do not look too impressive when

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compared to the costs of massive projects such as the Mirabel airport or Syncrude, is the minister prepared to press for a greater priority for Fundy tidal power development?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): I think I answered the hon. member in the committee on this matter. Again in principle the answer is yes. I had discussion on this yesterday again with Premier Regan. I do not believe I am disclosing anything he would not say personally when I say he mentioned the necessity for the construction of the Atlantic grid, the electricity grid, and this work has the full support of myself and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. I believe it is Mr. Regan's view as well as that of certain other authorities on the subject that the grid is a key element in the development of tidal power.

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[Translation]

TRANSPORT

REPRESENTATIONS ON SINKING OF FISHING VESSELS— GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport.

Has he received a telegram from Pacific coast fishermen about the recent losses in lives and fishing vessels which so tragically afflict this industry and the families in this area?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I have received representations following the shipwrecks of a number of small vessels, which have also resulted in fatalities. I am waiting for the report from the investigators we have dispatched to the Pacific coast. We shall certainly do the utmost to find out the cause of this tragedy which appears to me to be quite abnormal.

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● (1430)

[English]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

ADEQUACY OF SEARCH AND RESCUE FACILITIES ON WEST COAST

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of National Defence. In light of these tragic circumstances and with the summer boating and fishing seasons approaching, is the minister still satisfied that the resources at the disposal of the rescue and search centre on the west coast are sufficient to meet all the needs, both commercial and sporting?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Yes, Mr. Speaker.