

Supply

vital role of research. I know some of the people who are involved in this research at the Great Lakes Forest Research Laboratory in Sault Ste. Marie and I am delighted that those facilities will be expanded. In no way do I detract from the importance of the \$22.5 million to be spent in the York-Sunbury riding for the Maritime research lab; I am sure they have equal needs in that area. I believe there was the announcement of three or four labs during the past week and they were obviously not made on a partisan basis but clearly on economic and need criteria, as the Minister indicated this afternoon.

I would further point out to the Hon. Member for Dartmouth-Halifax East that the funding of \$18.25 million from the Special Recovery Capital Project Program to the Atlantic Veterinary College went into the riding of the Hon. Member for Hillsborough (Mr. McMillan), who is a Progressive Conservative Member. No one on this side of the House detracts from that allocation. It is a project which has been waiting for funding and I am pleased that it has received it.

Since the Hon. Member has suggested that these allocations of funds are provided on a partisan basis, being a veterinarian myself, I can tell him that if we wanted to be partisan, that same amount of money could have been spent on the Ontario Veterinary College. That college has just lost its full accreditation as a veterinary school in North America; it now has a limited accreditation. The Hon. Member for Guelph (Mr. Schroder), who is a Liberal on the Government side, used to be on the staff of the Ontario Veterinary College. That money would have brought the school up to full accredited status. If these projects were implemented on a partisan basis, the obvious place to spend that \$18 million would have been at the University of Guelph which does not have full accreditation even though it has a long and distinguished history.

The review committee discovered that that college had inadequate lab facilities, inadequate classroom facilities and rundown office and clinical spaces as a result of inadequate funding. I would also point out that the federal Government has put up approximately 50 per cent or 60 per cent of the money for funding of the university. Therefore we must ask ourselves whether the Ontario Government has given it adequate priority.

• (1620)

I think many of the arguments made by the Hon. Member simply cannot be true. What about the three or four projects about which I have spoken? The motion, however, has given us a great opportunity to speak about the special highway projects, small craft harbours, veterinary colleges and topics near and dear to the hearts of Members from Atlantic Canada and those of us from areas like northern Ontario. We all face the same kinds of slow growth and economic problems which many of the outlying areas of our country face today. From that point of view I am glad we have had a chance today to have this debate.

Mr. Forrestall: Mr. Speaker, could I ask the distinguished Member a very brief question. Does he believe in the final analysis, when all is said and done, whether major projects

such as research centres, so vitally needed in the forest industry, the research centres in the Miramichi region, not altogether a Conservative riding, if you will, programs that have been in our budgetary process for many years, are not best funded out of general revenue?

In other words, is the Hon. Member suggesting to us that Canadians must wait until there is a massive economic crisis to get much needed help for the forestry and research centres? Is that what we are looking for? Twenty years ago the West Coast, for example, got an aquarium. An equivalent amount of money was promised for the East Coast. Are we only to go after these programs when Special Recovery Projects are underway or should they not be included in the ongoing, long-term process of normal Government expenditures?

I am prompted to ask the Hon. Member this because he is lamenting having received only eight special projects in his riding. I represent two-thirds of Halifax harbour. I do not even have one public marina in my harbour in spite of having pleaded for one over the last 15 years to 18 years. The Hon. Member for Algoma (Mr. Foster) has eight special projects for small craft harbours. I have a fishing community of 60 or 70 families directly dependent upon a wharf that is not safe to walk on. Indeed, the last 100 metres of it is, or should be closed.

Where is the justification for that, Mr. Speaker? Should we be waiting until there is a major economic crisis for a Special Recovery Program or should not these major things that are the basis of research, medical research not being the least of them, forestry research and mining, not be part of the ongoing budgetary process of Government?

Mr. Foster: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member poses a couple of questions. One aspect I find important in the Hon. Member's question is that we tend to get more of the big projects, such as I have outlined today in large centres, not in the small communities. For example, in my constituency there is one project with eight locations. Even that is a relatively small amount of money compared to the costs for big veterinary colleges or forestry laboratories. But thank heaven there are projects of that type which can be implemented and that have a long-term economic spin-off.

With regard to the second part of the Hon. Member's question, I would not say that we are doing projects now that have been in the wings. Some of them have been in the wings for some time, such as the Atlantic Veterinary College, because we could not get agreement. We still do not have an agreement from the Provinces for funding but at least we have a firm commitment of money. Nearly all of these projects were projects that were in the pipeline two or three years down the road and have been brought forward. I think that is the economic wisdom of the budget in taking those projects which were going to be built two or three years from now and building them now while we have slack in the economy, unemployed construction workers and the plant and capacity to do them. Many of these people will be facing unemployment benefits