

*Canadian Museum of Oceanography*

borders on three oceans and has one third of the fresh water resources of the world should have in its national capital a national aquarium—museum of oceanography.

In the National Capital Region we need not seek the public will, we already have it; we need not seek the leadership, we already have it; what we need now is the political will and I hope both sides of the House will give their approval to this project.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, six municipalities have suggested possible sites for a national aquarium. The City of Ottawa has proposed nine: the Le Breton Flats, Victoria Island, Britannia Park, the DesChênes Rapids, Lansdowne Park, Dow's Lake, Mooney's Bay, Bayview and the Arboretum. The City of Hull has suggested Leamy Lake, Jacques Cartier Park and the Armory; the City of Gatineau, La Baie Park; the City of Gloucester, Green Creek; Nepean, Shirley's Bay, Black Rapids and Jock River; and Hull West has suggested Meech Creek.

So we see that the municipalities have shown a fair amount of interest in this affair and they have all participated in developing this project.

Obviously, site selection will be based on the following essential criteria. The committee that conducted the study considered the following criteria to be essential: proximity to water, amount of land (18 to 20 acres), adjacency to an urban area, public services and minimal environmental impact. Also, location on the Ottawa River, accessibility on foot from other tourist attractions, accessibility from major arteries, etc. will be considered.

With these criteria, Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the committee will choose the best possible site for the success of this project.

Let me conclude by saying that the National Capital Region is Canada's fourth largest, with 820,000 inhabitants. The most important museums are found here. However, the region is also one of the few national capitals in the world that does not have its own aquarium. The Museum of Oceanography with a freshwater and saltwater aquarium would fill this gap.

As I said, according to the study, the participation of the federal Government is essential to this cultural, touristic, educational and environmental project.

Mr. Speaker, I conclude my remarks with the hope that both sides of the House will support this motion, which asks the government to give the project serious consideration. Let us proceed quickly.

[*English*]

**Mr. Howard Crosby (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, let me begin by complimenting the Member for Ottawa—Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) who just gave that sermon on behalf of the location of an aquarium in the National Capital Region. It is always dangerous to compliment Members opposite.

The last time I spoke in the House of Commons, the Member for Ottawa—Vanier was protesting the rise in interest rates on behalf of the debtors of Ottawa—Vanier and the National Capital Region, paying no attention to the fact that there are many more investors in this area than there are debtors.

• (1720)

Now he comes before us with a novel venture, paying no attention to the fact that there is no ocean in the National Capital Region and there are no ocean species or ocean facilities of any kind. That is why I credit the Member, because he is always there looking after the National Capital Region. Of course in the end, he made the worst possible argument, that they have all the national museums of Canada right here in this National Capital. It apparently comes as no surprise to him that they should have one more. I do not want to make sport because I know his intentions are of the highest order. I know that he wants to do the best for his constituents and all the residents of the National Capital Region. However, I am sure the rest of the country would take the very firm, honest and clear position that the National Capital Region has had more than its share of national institutions and that other areas of the country should be considered for any more national institutions.

I do not want to put down the Member any further than to indicate what the definition of oceanography is. What the Member is suggesting is a Canadian Museum of Oceanography. I have the *Oxford Dictionary* which states that oceanography is a "Branch of science concerned with the study of the ocean, the composition and