

Supply

not only in Ontario where there are about 4,400 of them, but in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories.

The hon. member talks about the budget for small craft harbours and about the budget being \$6 million. He may well be talking about what the government did in 1987. Essentially, what they did with the department from 1984 to 1987 was nothing. Suddenly there was a big shot of money, I think about \$17 million, in the Ontario region to provide funding in preparation for the general election in 1988.

If there ever was a bass ackwards way to run a department and an industry, it is on the political kickout system. I did not say kickback, I said kickout. The hon. member is either talking about the budget for employees or he is talking about the special funding provided in 1987-88. You cannot even maintain the 4,100 or 4,400 small craft harbours in the Ontario region with an annual budget of \$3 million or \$4 million. That is why I am very concerned that we saw a cut-back in the recent budget of \$4 million from a small agency of government which can be extremely useful in assisting in tourism.

• (1610)

In my constituency we could easily use the entire Ontario region budget. We do not get it because it has to be spread over the other 90 per cent of the projects in the Ontario region. I certainly hope that the hon. member will be making representations to the government not to implement that \$4 million cut because it is not only going to hurt B.C., it is going to hurt the Ontario region. It is certainly going to hurt the Algoma-Manitoulin area where we have some 10 per cent of all the small craft harbours in the Ontario region.

Mr. Raymond Skelly (North Island—Powell River): Mr. Speaker, with regard to the regional development motion put forward by my colleagues, I congratulate them on raising a very important issue.

I wish to put a comment to the hon. member with regard to the sense of fairness and justice in this

economy concerning the recent cuts by the Conservative government to women's centres across Canada.

In my area the Campbell River and district women's organization had 100 per cent of their funding cut. That organization played a very important role in ensuring that women could participate in the workforce in a fair and equitable way. It assisted in putting employment training and retraining programs together. They were involved in counselling services, referral services, operated a drop-in centre and provided a very active organization in support of local child care.

In addition, this organization put together the initiative for a transition house to protect women and children from family violence. It was involved in putting together programs to assist in remedying child abuse, planned parenthood and providing legal advice. This was a tremendous community service and initiative to provide services to women. This helped to get women into the workforce, to get them out of job ghettos and into fair paying jobs and to ensure pay equity. The organization was exemplary in terms of a community service and absolutely important in terms of services to women in that community. The organization also became the spark that started women's organizations in other communities in more remote areas and in single industry towns where there are no employment opportunities in many cases. It did a tremendous job.

It is interesting that this particular Campbell River and district women's resource centre was started by the present Minister responsible for the Status of Women. She was one of the key individuals who started this particular resource centre. It is ironic that she would turn around and justify the government's position for gutting the community of this tremendous resource. I ask the member of the party that brought forward this important motion today whether he feels the government should immediately restore funding for women's resource centres and whether or not that core funding should be enhanced to an acceptable level in order that the centre may do the kind of work that would provide opportunity and equality for women in the employment opportunities which would be created in a rational regional development program.