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Atlantic Canada but we do have an important inland fishery. More importantly, we do have a tremendous tourist industry which depends on small craft harbours.

I want to congratulate those people who work in the small craft harbours branch of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in the Ontario region because they work with a staff of about seven permanent employees and about five temporary employees. They carry out a simply tremendous program. If anyone said that a \$27 million construction program had to be implemented with a staff of 12 or 15 people, it would be very difficult to imagine that happening. However, these people work in a very constructive and purposeful way.

Yesterday, in my own constituency, I announced a program of \$1.84 million for small craft harbour development. I was pretty proud of that. I thought it was a tremendous injection, certainly the largest since I have been a Member, for capital construction for small craft harbours. I would like to discuss it a little further. However, by comparison, today a \$4 million small craft harbours program was announced in the constituency of the Hon. Member for South Shore and he called it a drop in the bucket. I hope my constituents in Algoma-Manitoulin, which has the largest number of harbours of any constituency in Ontario, will not hear his comments so they will not think the allocation we received of \$1.84 million is not very much. It is certainly an important injection of capital.

It is obvious that the comments of the Hon. Member for Dartmouth-Halifax East are simply not the case when we consider how much money has been allocated to the Maritime Provinces compared to Ontario. Over 50 per cent of all the boats in Canada are in the Province of Ontario. Eighty per cent of all vessels visiting Canada from the United States come to Ontario waters. Therefore, our allocation, by comparison, is very small. It simply disproves the argument that less funds proportionately are being allocated to the Maritime Provinces than to Ontario. The allocation of funds for small craft harbours under the Special Recovery Program is very important to my constituency. There were eight projects approved yesterday.

• (1610)

An Hon. Member: How many?

Mr. Foster: There were eight small projects included in the \$1.84 million program. I point out to the Hon. Member for Dartmouth-Halifax East that that is less than 50 per cent of the amount approved for the South Shore constituency and which the Hon. Member for South Shore called a drop in the bucket. I hope his remarks will not be heard in my constituency where we received half that amount.

We have a number of projects to develop the small craft harbours around the north channel of Lake Huron which is, without doubt, the best cruising and sailing area in North America. It rivals the British Virgin Islands and the Greek Islands which are the two most often compared with our area.

Just to the south, at the end of Lake Michigan and Lake Huron, there are some 25 million Americans who come to the north channel of Lake Huron to sail. It is unquestionably the best tourist opportunity we have for economic development in

that part of the country. Not only are we attracting literally thousands of people and hundreds of American boats to that area, but we will be able to develop major new harbours as a result of the allocations given yesterday in Little Current. We will be able to carry on dredging in the Spanish River for that harbour of refuge, complete a new harbour at Bruce Mines as well as other harbours at Richards Landing, Gore Bay, Manitowaning, Gros Cap, Thessalon and Blind River.

These are all harbours which surround the north channel and which will provide an access for people to the water. As well it will provide to those tourists sailing in from American waters an opportunity to rest and buy fuel, food and accommodation in those many communities. This is not simply a convenience for the person who has a boat to go sailing on a Sunday afternoon; it literally brings hundreds and millions of dollars from the United States to that part of the Great Lakes. I would point out that even though it is a major injection of funds it does not come very close to the amount which is being expended in Atlantic Canada.

I would also like to comment on the question of forestry laboratories. In the City of Sault Ste Marie, which is in the constituency next to mine, a major forestry complex was announced a week or two ago. That complex is to be an addition to the existing forest research laboratory and will cost some \$13 million. The Hon. Member for Sault Ste Marie (Mr. Irwin) worked very hard to secure that major addition to a most important industry of northern Ontario.

I would point out that the Hon. Member for Dartmouth-Halifax East said in his partisan comments that all these projects were going to Liberal ridings held by Government Members. However, when one sees the Maritime Forest Research Laboratory located in Fredericton, \$22.5 million has been allocated to that constituency which is held by the Hon. Member for York-Sunbury (Mr. Howie) who is a Member of the Official Opposition and a former Minister of the Crown.

I suggest that this disproves the argument being made about partisanship being involved in the whole question of Special Capital Projects. What is more important is that I think Members on both sides of the House would agree that those major laboratories for forestry research are very important to that industry. I am sure it is as true in Atlantic Canada as it is in northern Ontario and areas in B.C. that major strides are needed to be made in forest research if we are to reach the objective chosen by the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Roberts) and his provincial counterparts to increase our forest products by 40 per cent during the next 17 years. This will involve a major investment by the federal Government, and in fact the forestry Minister said that we would have to increase our funding from \$300 million annually to \$650 million a year during the next few years in order to increase the production of wood fibres to meet the needs of the future.

I cannot think of any more important factor in achieving that goal than forestry research. The massive losses from insects and diseases clearly demonstrate the important and