

mammals, while demonstrating Canada's expertise in the fishery sector and stimulating the general interest of the public. We estimate attendance at 1.1 million visitors during the first year. That is a lot of people!

By giving visitors an insight into various conditions in our environment, our conservation practices and Canada's water resources, we can teach them to protect the environment and to show respect for our ecology.

The museum would of course be associated with well-known scientific institutions and maintain close relations with research centres, colleges, universities and other educational establishments.

• (1710)

[English]

There is much material available to those who are interested in this subject. In looking over the material, I was interested by the Scripps Aquarium Museum in La Jolla, California. It is an interesting example of an aquarium-museum. Founded in 1905 and affiliated with the University of California in San Diego, the institute has an extensive collection of marine animals. It specializes in the study of infections contracted by aquatic fauna, aquariology and pigmentation research. They publish a quarterly newsletter and were very proud to associate themselves with the twenty-fifth anniversary of the University of California at San Diego with a special edition of that quarterly newsletter.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, here in the National Capital region, the issue of financing and relations with educational institutions has been given very serious thought. A study started in July 1988 by the National Capital aquarium committee shows it would be economically, financially and socially feasible to build and operate this kind of aquarium. The project I favour and endorse would become financially self-supporting and could be directed by a non-profit organization. Self-financing would be based on admission fees, private investment—the municipality selected would also invest a certain amount—, membership fees, donations, product sales, franchises, special events, funding campaigns, and other sources.

Canadian Museum of Oceanography

The Vancouver Public Aquarium, which is a similar project, makes an annual profit.

Although a substantial financial contribution from the federal Government is expected and would be desirable, a minimum contribution might include the gift of a lot of at least 20 acres plus the expertise the government has among its employees.

Mr. Speaker, we have some major human resources in both science and technology, in aquatic sciences and research that has been done by our scientists in this field, and I think this would be a major contribution on the part of the federal Government in setting up the museum.

As for cost and economic spin-offs, construction costs are estimated at about \$51 million, while the total start-up cost would be \$67,721,000. However, total economic spin-offs during the first year of operations would amount to \$204 million. It would create 1,752 jobs during construction and thus fill the void left with the completion of the National Gallery and Museum of Civilization; as well, 150 permanent jobs would be created in this new museum.

[English]

I appeared to make my comments to the committee considering Private Members' initiatives. The Member for Edmonton-Strathcona (Mr. Thorkelson) had asked me if I would consider accepting an amendment to strike out the words "in the National Capital Region" from my motion if it was put forward. Of course, I said at the time that I was mainly interested in the project because the study that had been done was made for the National Capital Region and I cannot speak for any other region. I am here to present something for the region that I know best.

A great number of factors have been taken into consideration, such as the number of visitors we have every year, the existing facilities, other attractions and more. However, this project does not prevent other municipalities from wanting their own aquariums. On the contrary. If other municipalities have the same potential as my region, then they should present such a project. I believe very strongly that a country which has