

understand it, the Province of Ontario. It has nothing to do with the federal Government or this program announced today.

The answer to the first question is yes. It was clear at the meeting of the Canadian Council of Resource and Environment Ministers in September that the Provinces are anxious to participate in the program. The committee of provincial officials has prepared proposals which are supported by at least half of the Provinces. I could tell the Hon. Member which Provinces these are if I had a moment. The arrangements have yet to be finalized, but clearly there is a determined volition on the part of a large number of the Provinces to participate in the program. Specific details of the contracts, arrangements and so on still have to be finalized.

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, I have a question based on the shipbuilding part of the program. I appreciate that this is not necessarily within the Minister's administrative domain, but he did mention the \$630 million for shipbuilding. I have a wire service story on that release. I would ask the Minister how much of that \$630 million is new money as opposed to recycled money; and has there been a definition as to the division of that money between the regions, as mentioned in the press release?

Mr. Roberts: Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member said, this is an area that goes beyond my administrative responsibilities. I cannot reply to the second part of his question, though I am sure my colleague the Minister of Supply and Services will be in the House at Question Period and ready to respond if the Hon. Member wishes to put the question to him.

In answer to the first part of the Hon. Member's question, I believe I am correct in saying that this is all new money above and beyond what has previously been directed to the program. This is an addition of funds, not the reworking of existing funds.

Mr. Foster: Mr. Speaker, I would first congratulate the Minister on this concept of a national fleet of water bombers. He has graphically portrayed the advantages this will have to the country in terms of the loss from fires every year.

I would ask the Minister whether the national fleet of 16 planes as he has described it will include only eight aircraft, or half of them, owned by the federal Government that will be available to be moved to wherever in the country the fire danger is the worst or where in fact there are losses from fires, or will they all be stationed in certain Provinces? It seems to me that it would be advantageous to have 16 planes available on a national basis to go to wherever the fire hazards were the worst.

Second, a press report this morning, I believe from *The Globe and Mail*, indicated that the laboratory research facilities were going to be increased, I believe in Eastern Canada, Northern Ontario, and Western Canada. Is any of that funding under the Special Recovery Projects going to be allocated to increase the laboratory facilities at the Great Lakes Forest Research Laboratory in Sault Ste. Marie, which

essentially serves, at the federal level, research programs for Northern Ontario?

Mr. Roberts: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure whether there is a failure of communication between the Hon. Member and myself in relation to the first part of his question. I hope that there is not. Four of the water bombers will be in the Yukon and Northwest Territories. Clearly they will be federally operated. We are agreeing to purchase 16 more on a matching basis with the Provinces. I cannot tell the Hon. Member exactly where they will be because I cannot tell him which Province is going to buy five and which is going to buy three and so on. The extra 16 planes purchased by the federal Government would match the 16 purchases of planes by the Provinces and will be allocated to match the provincial contribution. If, hypothetically, Ontario bought four planes, the federal Government would buy four planes which would be owned by the Ministry of Transport but operated and maintained in conjunction with the four planes the Province had purchased. It will not be, as it were, one massive national fleet that goes swinging from place to place.

The Hon. Member may be concerned about the question of how these national efforts are going to be directed to specific locations as the fire problem shifts from Province to Province or area to area during the fire season. The answer is that we have established, with the provincial Governments, the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Centre at Winnipeg to co-ordinate all of these efforts. Thus, the federally owned planes plus the provincially owned planes from all of the Provinces will be allocated to meet the pressing fire need wherever it may occur. I do not want to get too trapped by semantics, but in a sense both the provincially owned planes from all of the Provinces and the federally owned planes will be available to focus on the current fire threat in whatever part of Canada it is to be found.

This is a first step on the part of the federal Government. We have never been involved in the purchasing of water bomber equipment before. We believe, however, that the need is so pressing and so great and that forestry is such a fundamental resource for Canada that we should participate. We must participate in a co-operative and co-ordinating way with the Provinces, since they are the owners and managers of the resource and already do have major firefighting installations at work. I may have gone on too long, but I am trying to answer the Hon. Member's question as specifically as I can.

In terms of research centres across the country and the Canadian Forest Service efforts, I cannot make any announcement to the Hon. Member at the present time about what will happen there. I can say that within the next few weeks I hope to be able to say some things with respect to it which I hope he will find encouraging.

• (1200)

Mr. Jarvis: Mr. Speaker, the CP wire story with respect to the recovery programs quotes officials as saying that "there will be a sleek publicity campaign over the next several weeks to attract maximum attention." I have no quarrel with "sleek"