

*Adjournment Debate*

convince the public were done in the ordinary course of government business.

If that were the case, I would expect that in the almost three months which have passed since that time we would have had \$33 million per month or another \$100 million worth of announcements of projects in St. John's East. We have not heard anything further on those announcements, and constituents in my riding are quite concerned about when those projects will in fact be started.

I understand that some work has been started on some of them. However, on August 13, I essentially asked for a report on when work would be available for the unemployed in Newfoundland, particularly on the projects to which I referred—a wharf restoration project in Long Pond, a project in Foxtrap for harbour improvements, the Bauline breakwater which was announced at a cost of \$1.5 million, and the breakwater at Flat Rock which will cost \$1.2 million.

I understand that there is some problem with these projects and fisheries improvements for \$6 million in St. John's. I would like to have a firm commitment from the Government on when these projects will actually be undertaken.

I understand that these announcements were made in the ordinary course of government business, so one would anticipate that all studies had been done, that all preliminary work had been done, and that they were ready to start spending the money and commencing construction on these projects.

I would like the Parliamentary Secretary, in answer to my question, to outline the scheduling of these projects, particularly the ones referred to in my question on August 13—the breakwater in Bauline, the breakwater in Flat Rock, the Foxtrap harbour improvement program, and the wharf restoration in Long Pond at a cost of \$6 million.

**Mr. Pat Binns (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Madam Speaker, I am pleased to have an opportunity to respond to the Hon. Member for St. John's East (Mr. Harris) on behalf of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. Siddon).

No one in the House is more concerned about small craft harbours than myself because indeed I have many of them in my riding. The Government has now undertaken a massive harbour revitalization program to bring my harbours in Prince Edward Island, his in Newfoundland, and others across the country into a good state of repair.

● (1815)

I am pleased that the Hon. Member for St. John's East recognizes that in addition to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans providing essential harbours and services to the commercial fishermen of Newfoundland, there are also substantial employment benefits to fishing communities derived from the construction and annual maintenance of these harbours. Our Harbour Revitalization Program, which was announced by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans last June,

has already committed over \$3 million to projects at Flat Rock, Foxtrap, Outer Cove and Bauline in the riding of St. John's East. These projects are now in the engineering stage and will go to public tender and then proceed to construction.

In the Province of Newfoundland, there have now been 25 projects approved under the special program of a total value of over \$20 million. While most of the projects are in the engineering stage, tenders have already been called on several projects and construction has started at Lower Island Cove and St. Bride's. Contracts for most of the remaining projects will be awarded prior to the 1988 construction season.

I might add that in addition to the Harbour Revitalization Program projects that have been announced for Newfoundland fishing harbours, the Minister has also approved some \$11 million of repairs and construction at 120 Newfoundland fishing harbours from the Small Craft Harbours regular 1987-88 maintenance budget. Virtually all of that work is already under way. To date this brings the total of approved harbour work in the Province of Newfoundland to \$31 million. I would conclude by saying that probably not since John Diefenbaker's Government has there been so much effort and money committed to revitalizing small craft harbours in Canada.

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne):** Before giving the floor to the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain (Ms. Dewar), I must say, looking at the gallery of the House of Commons, I have never felt so well protected. Should I become sick, I know I will be in good hands.

PUBLIC SERVICE—RECOGNITION OF PRINCIPLE OF WAGE  
PARITY/ADJUSTMENT MECHANISM

**Ms. Marion Dewar (Hamilton Mountain):** Madam Speaker, it gives me a certain amount of concern but also some pleasure to rise to speak on this issue because I think it is a very important one. As you have said, we may feel well protected but I think a profession that has been often neglected has been the nursing profession, not just in our country but in society in general.

Of course we have a very serious problem before us at the moment. I have asked the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Mazankowski Cotret) if he would take action quickly because the Human Rights Commission made a decision in July which provided that registered nursing assistants should receive equal pay for work of equal value. Of course, that skewed the balance that had existed traditionally in the nursing profession. There had been a historical differential of 25 per cent in the pay rates of registered nurses and registered nursing assistants.

In 1985, the President of the Treasury Board suggested that there be joint bargaining negotiations. The registered nurses working for the federal Government at the time entered into those negotiations with good faith. They were quite happy to be a part of that joint negotiating team and to look at equal pay for work of equal value. However, since then, the Human