

Supply

Lobsters are not being decimated. The stock in fact has been rejuvenated and it will sustain the present fishery. The problem is that the 15 year old law which allowed only 375 traps per boat was sufficient 15 years ago when boats were smaller, but now they have been enlarged for the protection of the men and they carry not one fisherman to sea but sometimes two and three. It is impossible for a boat 60 feet in size to earn a living with increased operating costs generally, and therefore they have asked for a review of that 15 years old law with an updating to maybe 500 or 600 traps per boat, so a sensible living can at least be earned by the fishermen. This is one of the major parts of the problem.

• (1600)

I submit that common sense, sitting down and reasoning it out with all the fishermen would resolve the issue. However, unless it is done, as stated in the letter that I read in the House, this fire will not burn out easily and more damage could be done of a physical nature.

The letters I have received indicate that a man named Mr. Stan Dudka, of the Department, threatened the lives of fishermen with a shotgun, boasting that he was the authority, that he had a gun and that he knew how to use it. A number of the letters—I cannot read them all into the record—have requested, “Please remove Mr. Dudka from the area or there will be more trouble”. I hope this message gets through to the Minister and his officials.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Are there any questions or comments? Debate.

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, I am happy to have a chance to speak to the motion of the Hon. Member for Dartmouth-Halifax East (Mr. Forrestall), because it gives a chance to speak of the Special Recovery Capital Projects Program the Government has been implementing during these past few weeks and will be implementing in the weeks and months ahead. Of course, the \$2.4 billion in the program is only half of the program. The Special Recovery Incentives Program for industry is something which will take longer to initiate because it is an incentive to the private sector. I submit that it will be just as important as in the long haul.

The other part of the motion which I found to be especially interesting involves the question of economic development in Atlantic Canada because, as Your Honour knows, since 1969 the area in northern Ontario which I represent has been under a DREE designation very similar to Atlantic Canada, those slow growth areas of our country, often with resource-based industries, where we have been trying to stimulate economic development. Therefore, a debate like the one this afternoon is of special interest to me as it would be to all Hon. Members from that area.

The Hon. Member for Dartmouth-Halifax East called attention to the number of Government Members who are in the House today. I would just point out that the motion was put down last night. The Opposition obviously knew that it would put down this motion for several days. In spite of that fact, most of the time today the Opposition has only had three

or four Hon. Members in the House. On this side, we did not know what motion would be put down, so it was no possible to have as many Hon. Members here. However, I am surprised that every Hon. Member from Atlantic Canada was not here when the Opposition obviously knew for many weeks that it would be presenting this motion today, because I know it does a lot of long-term planning on these matters.

I would like to deal with the question of partisanship in the Special Recovery Capital projects because I think there are some obvious disparities in the arguments put forward by the Hon. Member. Certainly the Minister of State for Economic Development (Mr. Johnston) and the Minister of State for Small Businesses and Tourism (Mr. Rompkey) have made very good accounts of the whole issue in the debate. However, I would also like to raise a couple of aspects.

It should be pointed out that we are discussing 100 Special Recovery Capital Projects. The minimum size is something like \$1 million, but most of them are major federal Government installations costing \$10 million or \$20 million. Naturally, if there are 100 projects, with 282 seats in the House of Commons not every constituency or area in the country will have one of these projects. In fact, it is probable that it will be something like less than one in every three. We should keep that in mind.

Of course, long-term economic benefit has been the special criterion which the Minister has attached to these projects which are being implemented during these few weeks. It is important that the Government implement them in a fast, dramatic way so that the economic benefit in terms of job creation is there. We know that our industry is down right now. The economic turnaround is starting. However, it will take time for those industries which have been working at less than full capacity to take up the economic incentives and \$2.4 billion in tax credits which were included in the federal budget and which will have such a dramatic effect on our industry in developing jobs during the next few years. Right now the Special Recovery Capital Projects will be very beneficial in doing that. Of course, they are located in many industries, in transport, in research, in vessel construction and in tourism.

I would just like to refer to two or three projects which have been mentioned here this afternoon in the course of the debate. The Hon. Member for Dartmouth-Halifax East and the Hon. Member for South Shore (Mr. Crouse) have mentioned the small craft harbours allocation. It is important to note what a tremendous injection of money the federal Government has committed to the small craft harbours program. It is also important to note that \$67 million of the \$127 million allocated to the program went to the Maritime Provinces—\$24 million to Newfoundland, \$25.4 million to Nova Scotia, \$10 million to New Brunswick and \$8.8 million to Prince Edward Island. That should be compared to Ontario which has a population of over eight million. The Ontario allocation was \$27.3 million under the small craft harbours program.

Some may say that Ontario does not have the fishery and so on. That may well be true. We do not have as large a fishery as