

they would like nothing better than to work. Mr. Speaker, this is not progress and this is not good legislation.

Mr. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, I am also going to vote against this bill for the reasons given by the hon. member who just sat down and for those given by the hon. member for South Shore (Mr. Crouse) when he spoke on third reading on January 31.

I will just summarize those reasons which are already well known to the House. We will vote against this bill because reasonable amendments which we offered in committee were not accepted. We will not grant a blanket authority to the minister and the government to decide what fee structure will be imposed in the future on the use of wharves and other harbour facilities used by our fishermen. We do not agree that the government should have the right to lease wharves to private individuals or other bodies without consultation, there being no requirement on them to consult with any local or provincial authority. These are reasons enough for voting against the bill.

The bill deals with the development and administration of certain fishing and recreational harbours in Canada. In Newfoundland, Mr. Speaker, there are 563 fishing harbours out of 573 harbours, according to the information that the government gives us. In 1973-1974, \$218 million was spent on those harbours; in 1974-1975, \$6.6 million was spent, an increase which took place because that was an election year. There was election spending in Liberal districts. In 1975-76 spending on the 563 fishing harbours dropped back to \$4 million. I do not have the figures for 1976-77 nor for 1977-78 but LIP projects and Canada Works projects are now being used to supplement spending.

In committee the minister said that spending on recreational and fishing harbours increased from \$22.3 million in 1973-74 to \$47 million this year. When we consider the inroads of inflation on the dollar, that is not much of an increase in real terms. This is particularly so when it is realized that 2,300 small harbours and 4,000 facilities in Canada comprising wharves, breakwaters and other structures would come under the administration of this bill.

The minister asks us to leave the decision to him about what is to be charged to commercial fishermen for use of facilities which they have used for centuries at no charge. I am not aware of any charge that has ever been made in the province of Newfoundland for the use of wharves, breakwaters and other facilities, yet the minister asks us for blanket authority to set charges in the future. I certainly cannot agree to that.

Other hon. members have made the point, and I should like to stress it again, that not enough money is spent on this valuable resource, particularly when it is realized it will be one of the growth industries in Canada for the balance of this century. Rather than being the sick man of the resource industries of Canada the fishery is going to be the growth industry in the next ten, twenty or thirty years, on the east coast in particular. Of course, this government will not be in office much longer so when this party takes over we will

Fishing and Recreational Harbours

increase spending and vastly increase spending on facilities on the east and west coasts.

There appears to be some discrimination in the legislation, Mr. Speaker. A lot more money is to be spent in Quebec than in the Atlantic provinces. According to the information I have, Quebec has 94 fishing harbours out of 364 harbours, on which in 1975-76, \$9.8 million was spent in that province. That is double the amount spent on the 563 fishing harbours in Newfoundland. I am not saying that the money should not have been spent on these harbours in Quebec. Obviously it should be spent on them as well as harbours elsewhere in Canada.

The spending is more biased in the supplementary estimates for 1977-78. Of a total supplementary spending on marine programs of \$25 million, the four Atlantic provinces will receive \$5 million, Quebec will receive \$15,700,000, Ontario \$2,300,000 and the Pacific coast \$2 million. In other words, Quebec is to receive an additional supplementary spending of three times the amount to be spent in the four Atlantic provinces. Of that \$25 million in the current and capital account, Newfoundland is to receive \$2,430,000 for its 563 ports. Quebec will receive \$15,700,000 or 6½ times as much. Doubtless the money is needed in Quebec, but it shows where the political priorities of this government are. The Atlantic provinces and the west coast should receive their share. There appears to be discrimination in this program and that is another reason why I shall not support the bill.

Much work should be done to harbours, wharves and breakwaters in my district. Mr. Speaker, I should say here that I find the personnel in the department to be extremely co-operative but I should like to remind them and the minister of some things that need to be done and that I expect to see in the estimates for the coming year. The most important is the wharf and breakwater at St. Bride's Placentia Bay. That is a community that the Progressive Conservative government of Newfoundland has made vibrant by financing the building of a small fish plant there. As a result of that there are possibly many dozens of fishermen fishing out of St. Bride's bringing in millions of pounds of fish for processing at the plant at St. Bride's operated by Quick Freeze Limited and the whole area has had an economic comeback.

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However the wharf is inadequate at St. Bride's. The breakwater is inadequate. Damage was done to it again. The government spent some money on the wharf last year by making repairs. However, they did not do a permanent job, and it has now all washed away. The government has agreed to commence work on this wharf again and hopefully it will be completed before the fishing season opens this year. This is a vital and urgent matter.

Branch is now becoming once again a vibrant fishing centre, Mr. Speaker, with long liners fishing out of that port. The people there are returning to the fishery. But dredging is badly needed and permanent improvements to the channel into Branch also should be made.