

Motions

do we have to worry about highways. We have a Highways Department in the Government of the Northwest Territories, but all the highways are located in the west. There are absolutely none located in the east. The new government leader who is from Iqaluit, a major centre on south Baffin Island, was very concerned about getting Iqaluit a wharf. I think that if at least some movement could be made toward the creation of harbours, then I would be able to participate in issues such as this.

The final point I wish to make is that the Hon. Member talks about fishing as a way of life. Hunting, which is also a way of life, is very similar. It involves the gathering of not just fish but other land mammals and birds. There is fishing and hunting done in every single place in my riding. But in the north when we want a place to beach our canoes and even larger boats we have to manhandle the boats on the beaches ourselves with our bare hands—just to get a place to beach our canoes.

I can say that I agree with the Hon. Member for Egmont (Mr. Henderson) regarding his request that the Government spend more on small craft harbours in Canada.

Mr. Henderson: Madam Speaker, I will make just a brief reply to the comment by the Hon. Member for Nunatsiak (Mr. Suluk). I totally agree with the Hon. Member. I am not as familiar, of course, as is he with his riding, but I have made a number of trips to the eastern Arctic. I want to tell the Hon. Member that I certainly understand the plight of the fishermen and, indeed, the hunters in that part of this great country of ours. The Hon. Member is absolutely correct when he says that it is very difficult to find a wharf up there. A lot of canoes and small vessels are hauled up onto shore by hand. This does present a great dilemma. I understand fully what hunting and fishing means to the people of the north.

I also want to mention to the Hon. Member from the eastern Arctic that there is some connection between my riding and his inasmuch as a number of fishing boats that are used by fishermen in Frobisher Bay and up in the northern Arctic were built at Hutt Brothers, which is located in Alberton in my riding. In fact, two went up there this spring. I have met a number of people from the Hon. Member's riding. I have had the opportunity to talk with them and try to understand their concerns and their problems. I think that I do understand them.

Labrador is another area with a vast coastline. The proper infrastructure necessary to accommodate the fishermen who make their livelihoods from fishing is just not in place.

Mr. Rompkey: Madam Speaker, I just want to ask my colleague if he does not see this as part of a pattern. The fact is that money has been reduced for small craft harbours. Also, the fact is that fishing vessel insurance has diminished, as have fishing vessel subsidies. This is in view of the fact, however, that inshore fish landings, according to statistics of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans over the past six years,

have consistently gone down. At the same time the Government is talking about giving away more fish to foreign countries; that is, to France.

Does the Hon. Member not see this as part of a pattern? Are we only talking about small craft harbours? I know that the Hon. Member understands this point better than I because of his long experience with provincial fisheries as well as with federal fisheries. I ask him to bear in mind that in these communities we are not talking only about fishing; we are talking about a way of life. We are talking about villages and a culture. Are we not talking here more than just small craft harbours, more than just wharves? Are we not talking about individuals who are facing not simply a crisis but extinction? Is that not the reality?

Mr. Henderson: Madam Speaker, in response to the Hon. Member for Grand Falls—White Bay—Labrador (Mr. Rompkey), I wish to say that I am in complete agreement with him. There is a pattern emerging with respect to the small craft harbours about which we are talking today. If we look at expenditures for 1979-80 we see that during that period the Government spent only \$28 million. As the Hon. Member knows, those matters are budgeted ahead for some time. In 1981-82, the expenditures totalled \$49 million. In 1982-83, they totalled \$46 million. In addition, with the Special Initiatives Program which was announced, a great deal of that money went into small craft harbours. Thus, in 1983-84, expenditures rose to \$108 million. In 1984-85, the figure was \$121 million. It then dropped back down. I do not take any solace in those figures.

What I have tried to say here today is that with respect to the A-base we have to get rid of those fluctuations in small craft harbours before elections. We have to have an A-base of \$150 million at the very least. If we can obtain those election goodies, then we will accept them on top of that. But, yes, the Hon. Member is absolutely correct. We have seen the vessel insurance diminish. There has been a drop in funding for small craft harbours. There has not been proper funding for sure. The vessels subsidies program also went out the window. We have seen a number of programs that were very important, especially to the inshore fishermen, that have been curtailed or slashed by the Government. Only now, if we look at it, enough money has been saved by discontinuing those programs to put this little blurb in, before an election, obviously.

● (1240)

But that is what we all have to fight against. Members of the Government, members of the opposition Parties, the New Democratic Party and the Liberal Party, have to fight to get rid of this once and for all and give the fishermen and the communities of this country something that they can understand and plan for in the future, not just before an election.

Mr. Binns: I have a question for the Hon. Member. I appreciate the remarks by the Hon. Member for Egmont (Mr. Henderson) in terms of how important is this new program