

*Supply—Public Works*

1967-68 there were expenditures of \$4.8 million under the harbours and rivers engineering services on construction, acquisition, major repairs, improvements, plans and such for harbour and river works and so on. This year the expenditure is down almost \$2 million to just over \$3 million. In other words, it is almost cut by one half from what it was last year.

• (9:30 p.m.)

I notice too with a little reservation the minister's statement about the cooling off of inflationary tendencies. This has already been mentioned by a number of hon. members. I have one great reservation in this regard, because it seems to me rather contradictory to be talking about regional development on the one hand, thereby suggesting some special arrangement and programs, while on the other hand talking about the curtailment of the operational programs and expenditures.

The minister who is responsible for regional development made a statement to the Atlantic provinces economic council last week in which he referred to the great problems the government has in coming to grips with the necessity for stimulating regional development. On the one hand there is a problem in respect of stimulation of growth, while on the other hand there is apparently a need to cool off inflationary tendencies in areas such as central Canada.

There is a great challenge in this regard because any government program which is adopted on a national basis without regard for regional programs will have an adverse effect on areas such as the Atlantic region. The minister responsible for regional development is quite aware of this. I am sure the Minister of Public Works is equally aware of the fact that we cannot accept national policies and a curtailment of programs and expenditures at the risk of a lack of regional development.

The minister of regional development mentioned that there is difficulty in trying to curtail inflationary tendencies in Canada, while at the same time providing employment for the Atlantic region. Surely this necessitates a broadening of programs and government expenditure. This is one of the great contradictions in the various operations of government departments.

I have noticed in the last two weeks that almost every statement emanating from the government benches has had reference to curtailment and balanced budgets. They have

referred to cutting down on expenditures. The estimates we have before us now indicate a cut in expenditures in one small area by almost one half. This is contradictory to the philosophy of the present government that it will provide for regional development.

As I stand here today I am almost tempted to go into great detail, and I would do so if time permitted, to give the house a panoramic tour of my constituency. I am sure I would not be criticized because I believe it was Sailor Jack who was very adept at giving hon. members a panoramic tour of his district. I happen to represent almost the same area. I suppose hon. members are quite aware of the district that is now Gander-Twillingate which includes part of Green Bay provincial district, Notre Dame bay and Bonavista bay.

I could mention the various needs of the larger and smaller communities in this area and would like to do so, but I shall honour the commitment I made earlier to curtail my remarks. This will give other hon. members the opportunity to bring some of their problems to the attention of the minister. I hope that as a result of not giving a panoramic tour the minister will give a little extra consideration to my requests, which are reaching his desk every day. Time does not permit me to go into detail to point out the many and varying needs of these fishing communities along Notre Dame Bay and the Bonavista north region.

I represent three islands in Notre Dame Bay with a population of 15,000 people, who survive almost solely by fishing. This is one area in respect of which the minister can show me, as I am sure he will, that the just society will result in something tangible, and that we will receive consideration regarding the very modest requests we have made. We are not looking for great multimillion dollar expenditures, but we are looking for a variety of construction which will result in stimulating the fishing activity in the Atlantic region.

Surely the minister would be happy to recommend to his district and regional officials the implementation of many of the things I will and have directed to his attention. Let me express one grave reservation I have about one particular thing that has been brought to the attention of the minister's department. I represent the great town of Gander, Newfoundland, where the international airport is situated. This is one of the finest towns in the whole of Canada, and if it