

Motions

That is not what we asked for. We asked for a lot more than that. However, I suppose we should be happy receiving at least that much. I was brought up in the school which believes that a half a loaf of bread is better than no bread. But I want to give warning to the Minister and to members of the Government that I will continue to fight. I am sure that when I say that I have a lot of support from Conservative backbenchers, certainly those who represent ridings which have fishing and recreational harbours within their boundaries.

In 1988-89 the A-base, of course, is still \$48.5 million, but the harbour revitalization program is now \$61.5 million, which gives us a total next year of \$110 million. There is obviously a breakdown somewhere, because if I add up the figures of the revitalization program I come to \$150 million. I guess there was some money put into the A-base for a short period of time. I imagine that is the explanation. In 1989-90 the A-base, once again, will be \$48.5 million and the revitalization program will be \$46.5, for a total of \$95 million. That gives us a peak, if you will, next year. I never accuse anyone of anything in the House of Commons, but one could say that perhaps we could expect an election next year because there is a peak. This year, 1987-88, it is \$90 million. In 1988-89 it is \$110 million, but 1989-90, the A-base, including revitalization, will be \$95 million. That is a total for revitalization of \$150 million over three years. However, I stand corrected in that because the announcement was for \$85 million for revitalization and I am told the A-base has not been increased. So somewhere along the line there is some other money going somewhere.

I know there was a lot of money spent on the St. John's East by-election for purposes we all understand. It was not too fruitful, of course, to the Government. I think that points out to politicians and governments that they cannot fool the people. They cannot have those little booms and busts. They cannot spend money a year or so before an election, and then after the election cut it off and freeze the capital.

In 1979 it was quite obvious that everything to do with small craft harbours was frozen under the former Conservative Government. I am not making any accusations because I am happy with the kind of money that has been committed thus far. We need more money in my riding. I need work done in Howard's Cove, paving and dredging. We need about another \$350,000 for Miminegash. Tignish, one of the major ports in my riding needs an awful lot of work. We made strides in the 1970s and early 1980s, but we had three years of virtually nothing done at our ports and harbours in Atlantic Canada and, indeed, in British Columbia. The A-base was just enough to barely cover operations and maintenance. In fact, that is why we have seen so many barricades. We need a program. The wish list of \$1 billion is perhaps a little high, but I presume it is being projected over a long period of time. I have said for many, many years that the A-base for small craft harbours should be \$150 million. Everyone knows with escalating costs, looking at 1981 dollars, that is only about \$100 million in 1987-88, so we need at the very least \$150 billion in A-base. If there are a few political crumbs coming

during election time from small craft harbours, every Member who represents a fishing riding, will accept them. Let us not kid ourselves. There has always been a problem with under-financing of this very, important infrastructure.

There is one other area in my riding for which I was able to obtain \$164,000 for dredging, and that dredging has been completed at Milligan's Wharf. That was badly needed because we really did not have enough water for our boats to come in with even half a load of fish. Under the emergency program we were able to have it done this year. Those are the things about which I am speaking. I am sure every Member who represents fishermen in this House of Commons understands exactly what I am saying. There is tremendous problem when an infrastructure is subjected to the elements. If it is in salt water we have the added problem of salt corrosion. I would suggest as honestly as I can that we need better inspection on our wharves and harbours when contracts are given out.

The Minister made an announcement in committee for the operation of this new program. The Hon. Member for South West Nova mentioned parts of it, but I would like to look at paragraph 3. That paragraph deals with the new management approach.

● (1230)

I have no problem with fishermen determining their own destinies. Indeed, in my riding, and I think in most ridings, we have port chairmen and port committees elected by the fishermen. They were not political elections. I was here from 1980 to 1984 and I never made a recommendation with respect to the appointment of a port chairman. It was strange that out of my 18 wharves and harbours a number of these chairmen were relieved of their duties after the election. Mind you, very few were relieved of their duties; the ones who were known to be Liberals were relieve. The majority stayed on, which proves that I never got involved in that matter. Anyone who gets involved in playing politics at that level will never succeed.

I know that my time is almost up. I want to thank you, Madam Speaker, and Members of the House for your attention, and thank the mover of the motion for bringing forward this very timely subject. I also wish to tell my colleagues, and I hope that they will support me in this, that while this is a small step in the right direction, let us work together to get some more money so that all the ridings can share in the same sort of revitalization that is so needed and necessary.

Mr. Suluk: Madam Speaker, I merely wish to make a brief comment regarding this subject. Every single arctic community in my riding is located on the arctic coast, the Sea of Hudson Bay or along Baffin Island. In fact, Baker Lake, which is supposed to be an inland community, is connected by waterway to Churchill from where that community receives its supplies.

I should say at the outset that I do not have to worry about user fees because we do not have harbours to begin with. Nor