Canadian Museum of Oceanography

Maritime Museum of the Atlantic which is a beautiful facility on the shores of Halifax Harbour, that has with it one of the earliest oceanographic vessels that were in use in this country. Generally speaking, it provides as a museum a concept of sea life in the shipping industry going back over the last couple of hundred years, wherein the Province of Nova Scotia has played a central role.

He might also have mentioned the Atlantic Command Museum which is located in HMCS and CFB Stadacona in Halifax which provides a naval history museum as a complement to the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. He spoke of the Bedford Institute of Oceanography, one of the premier oceanographic institutions of the world. Surely there could not be a better location to expand on that facility and make it available to people visiting that area to see the impact and the role that the oceans play in our life in our society.

There is one other extremely fine institution that exists in Nova Scotia, and it happens to be in the famous, historic town of Lunenburg. When we think of the ocean what town in Canada is better known than the Town of Lunenburg; the town where the *Bluenose* was built; the town where the *Bounty* was built? We have today an outstanding Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic in Lunenburg. I would encourage my hon. friend opposite to come and visit the Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic. I would encourage all Members to come there. There is no better place to spend the summer than the South Shore of Nova Scotia. I look forward to doing that myself, and the sooner the better.

The Hon. Member will find there a marvellous aquarium of the sea life of the Atlantic; live fish, lobsters, scallops and clams. You name it, they have got it in their natural habitat as it has been recreated. We already have a marvellous aquarium in this facility. The museum also provides an opportunity to understand the harvesting of the ocean. We have a display, for example, that traces the technology of the fishing industry, over 400 years as it has evolved both in–shore and on the Grand Banks. It also provides an opportunity to visit two floating museums, the *Theresa Connors*, which was a two–masted schooner that was active in the Grand Banks fishery in the 1920s, and a salt banker, the *Cape North*, which was

one of the early steel hull longliners. It seems to me that we already have a marvellous facility.

The previous speaker made the suggestion that possibly we should have more than one of these museums. He, I am sure, would be pleased to visit the Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic, which provides the basis of the kind of oceanographic museum that the Hon. Member for Ottawa Vanier anticipates. It would be marvellous to have all types of museums in all parts of Canada. However, the reality is that when you talk about national museums, you have to focus on a major centre.

I do not see how anyone could seriously propose to have an oceanographic museum anywhere but by the ocean. You can build a beautiful building in Ottawa, and they have. I have taken advantage on occasion to visit the beautiful museums that we have here that are being built. We will soon see the opening of the Canadian Museum of Civilization. We have the wonderful National Art Gallery. We have the National Aviation Museum and wee have the Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography. We all look forward and I would encourage the Government to provide the resources so that we can soon have a new National Archives. However, there is no reason that everything national in Canada must be in Ottawa.

The country began on the East Coast. Our first industry was the fishery. That is what brought people here before they began the settlements of Newfoundland. We have had settlements close to the ocean and involved in the sea life for over 200 years. To me it is inconceivable not to mention the fact that it is not particularly practicable: How can you have an oceanographic museum without the ocean? You can build a great-big tank, but it would be a better idea to encourage people to travel to the East Coast so they can develop a real sense of the ocean. The concept of an aquarium gives people the opportunity to see up close what various types of marine life are like, both fish and the flora and fauna in the ocean. If you see it in a tank in a big city like Ottawa or Toronto, Ontario, it is not the same as being right beside the ocean when you can walk down the shore and see some of these things as well.

It is important to understand that as we evolve our museum system in Canada, we have an opportunity to share these resources for the benefit of all Canadians