

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

date larger and more modern vessels. Certainly, there are far better parking facilities and better conditions generally to accommodate the type of tourist traffic that results from better facilities than there are at present in the Caribou area.

I should like to read into the record part of a short statement made in the spring of this year by Mayor Clarence MacCarthy:

• (10:20 p.m.)

The town council of the town of Pictou has gone on record as being in full support of the proposals of the Pictou Chamber of Commerce respecting the following:

(1) The extension of the present seawall to pier "C".

(2) The construction of a new pier with a spur line railroad and warehouse facilities—as well as ample open dock facilities.

The town council is in full agreement that the above mentioned facilities should be provided at the earliest possible date.

It has been well over ten years since the serious fire destroyed much of the harbour installations at Pictou. Immediately after the fire a three-phase, long-range plan was prepared. It was a reconstruction program for this port. Despite the implementation of phase 1 and phase 2, the town of Pictou still suffers from lack of wharf space. There have been a great many suggestions during the past few years. At the present time, other than the limited dock space at Ferguson Industries the only modern pier available is the existing concrete seawall and what is known as pier "C".

I urge the department to immediately implement the third phase of the original plan and extend the existing concrete seawall to the present pier "C". Recently, vessels have had to berth three and four abreast. The lack of space has resulted in difficulties to Ferguson Industries. At present, this firm is building a new ferry. This demand on their facilities has resulted in their having to turn down other jobs because there is not enough wharf space. With the present unemployment problem plaguing Pictou, as it is most areas of this country, it seems a shame that these conditions are allowed to exist. When ships are being loaded or unloaded around pier "C", the wharf is blocked to traffic on and off the pier, especially when railway cars are on the spurline.

A few moments ago I had an opportunity to give the hon. member for Rocky Mountain, who is representing the Minister of Transport (Mr. Jamieson) this evening, some material which was given to me. It illustrates some

of the recommendations from responsible persons and groups in the Pictou county area. I will not read these into the record but perhaps a couple of excerpts might be appropriate. The Pictou Board of Trade, in a brief submitted to the Department of Transport this year, stated that it is imperative that the Pictou port be upgraded.

As I already mentioned, there is a great need for additional wharf space. There is a rock ledge which apparently hampers certain types of vessels coming into the port of Pictou. I am informed that this is a fairly narrow ledge and could be removed by blasting. It would do a great deal to improve the conditions as far as deep sea fishing is concerned. I urge the Department of Transport, if this has not already been done, to undertake studies to determine the cost and feasibility of removing this particular obstacle.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. I regret having to interrupt the hon. member, but the time allotted to him has expired.

Mr. Allen B. Sulatycky (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Transport (Mr. Jamieson) I would like to reply to the question posed by the hon. member for Central Nova (Mr. MacKay). As one who spent some time in that delightful part of the country this summer I can understand his concern for the area. It is both understandable and commendable.

The matter of port planning, as we are all aware, is very much in the mind of the minister since the announcement of his ports policy some time ago. In the case of port facilities at Pictou, the changing demands by industrial and local users are known to the minister as a result of his recent visit to that area. I can assure the hon. member that every consideration will be given to representations which are received from the municipality and interested local groups.

As is the case with most planning, there is need for consensus at the local level as to exactly what course ought to be followed. I acknowledge receiving from the hon. member of a number of documents reflecting representations made and the position taken by people in Pictou on this subject, and I undertake to pass them on to the minister who I am sure will be very interested in them and will wish to study them before he makes a final decision.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10.28 p.m.