

Mr. KEAYS: I think that the Minister is aware there is nothing which becomes more permanent in government than temporary measures.

Mr. ROBICHAUD: That is right, Mr. Chairman, although I was pleased looking at the reports for the month of April, to know that the total cash in the Atlantic provinces was by far higher than in previous years.

Mr. CROUSE: On the same Vote, it states here, that the contribution for the expansion of the public aquarium at Vancouver last year was \$300,000. Has the Minister received any request for assistance to a public aquarium in the city of Halifax, Nova Scotia?

Mr. ROBICHAUD: Yes. Mr. Chairman, first I must say this assistance which is provided in the estimates now is the third phase of the construction of an aquarium in Vancouver, British Columbia, involving participation by the province, by the municipality, and by the university. I did receive a letter this morning from the Mayor of Halifax requesting special assistance. I stated a few days ago, when I was asked the question to that effect that we are always prepared to consider any application. I was in no position to commit the government. I am not in a position now to commit the government and say that the request will be accepted. The present aquarium was to be built as a Centennial project following participation again by the municipality, by the Province and by Ottawa under the Centennial agreement. Now, it is claimed that the amount provided will not be sufficient to build the type of aquarium that they would like to proceed with, and I received a letter to that effect this morning. I did not have time to reply to it or to consult my colleagues in the government, but we will certainly consider this request on its merit and try to give a reply at the earliest possible date.

The CHAIRMAN: I might say, as a supplement for Mr. Crouse's question, that this aquarium at Vancouver is just about the major tourist attraction in the city. It has been enormously successful. It sits in Stanley Park; they charge an admission of fifty cents, I think it is, for adults going through it now, and the traffic through it is so heavy that it pretty well pays for its operation. It is steadily expanding and it has proved to be just an enormous attraction. It beats the polar bears and the penguins and other displays in Stanley Park, and I think anybody in a coastal city who is thinking about an aquarium need have no qualms about going ahead. It is a huge success if you do it well.

Mr. CROUSE: Mr. Chairman, I wish to thank you for your comments along these lines, and I can assure you and the Minister that Nova Scotia, even though it is endowed with many natural beauties and is one of the finest provinces in Canada, still can use an additional attraction in the form of an aquarium; and I hope that your words in favour of this attraction will lead the Minister to encourage the Government to give favourable consideration to the request from Nova Scotia that a grant be given to Halifax so that one may be constructed in that area.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Howard had his hand up, and I presume he wants one at Prince Rupert.

Mr. HOWARD: The grain elevator and the fisheries research station are top items there. But what I was going to say is that coming from a province which