

Oral Questions

APPLICATION FROM SIDNEY, B.C.

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Madam Speaker, since the Department over which the Minister presides has within it a branch of small craft harbours from which funds of this sort normally come, I wonder why the Minister is backing away from it. He should know that for a number of years from Sidney, British Columbia, there has been a request to his Department for much less money than this for a breakwater to provide one marina in Sidney, B.C. Why has the Minister abandoned his responsibility and turned it over to some other authority?

Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Madam Speaker, my hon. friend is confusing two issues. For the regular program of the small craft harbours, cabinet has instructed me to consult with the different participants to get their views on the level of expenditure for that program.

As for the other program, which is not at all related to my Department and which is not costing my Department one cent, it is administered by my colleague, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and DREE, and relates to the tricentennial anniversary of the discovery of Canada by Jacques Cartier, which is an international event. This is why it is funded by another budget, not from the budget of my Department.

* * *

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

FUNDING FOR EASTERN ONTARIO DRAIN PROGRAM

Mrs. Jennifer Cossitt (Leeds-Grenville): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, if I could get his attention. He is aware of my concern because I have telephoned his office on a number of occasions and I wrote a letter to him last December 23. My concern is with respect to the drain programs under the Eastern Ontario Subsidiary Agreement, an agreement which the Conservative Government introduced in 1979. This was an attempt to bring a resolution to the problem we had with the ARDA Program. Would the Minister give a commitment that the \$2 million for the drain program under the Eastern Ontario Subsidiary Agreement will be provided so that these drain projects for the farmers can commence?

Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Madam Speaker, as the Member of Parliament who worked for four years almost all by myself in preparing that sub-agreement with the Province of Ontario, I am very familiar with the programs, and I also know of the Hon. Member's interest in this specific aspect of the agreement.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Lumley: Unfortunately, the provincial Minister of Agriculture has written an erroneous letter to all municipali-

ties in eastern Ontario indicating that the federal Government was not forthcoming with their share of the funds for drainage. Once the Minister checked with his officials, he discovered that it was at the Province's request that we held back the funds for all individual drains because of the Province's desire to finance three major drains. I have since received apologies from the Government of Ontario for that letter that was erroneously sent out under the Minister's signature.

● (1500)

I have since decided that we will approve all the individual drains until such time as the funds have been depleted. However, the three major drains that were proposed, and for which the Province originally asked to hold back the funds, will probably not have the cost-sharing because it is expected that all the funds will be needed for the individual farmers' drains in the counties of eastern Ontario under the agreement.

* * *

PETITIONS

TABLING OF REPORTS OF CLERK OF PETITIONS

Madam Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the petitions presented by Hon. Members on Wednesday, March 23, 1983 meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

* * *

POINT OF ORDER

MR. LEWIS—PRIVILEGE OF MR. MACKASEY—OFFENDING MATERIAL NOT TABLED—RULING BY MADAM SPEAKER

Madam Speaker: I would like to rule on the point of order which was raised in the House yesterday by the Hon. Member for Simcoe North (Mr. Lewis) relating to the motion moved by the Hon. Member for Lincoln (Mr. Mackasey) on the question of privilege which was ruled upon and proceeded with by the House.

The Hon. Member for Simcoe North referred to citations from Beauchesne's Fifth Edition and the Nineteenth Edition of Erskine May. He asserted that the Hon. Member for Lincoln, at the time he presented his motion, should have made available to the Table certain newspaper articles which were documents relating to the complaint which led to his raising of the question of privilege.

The citations which the Hon. Member offered to the Chair were very interesting and they did deal with the case before us. However, I would like to point out to the Hon. Member that at Westminster, as here, there is a certain discretion allowed the Chair in these matters. I, too, will quote from Erskine May, which states as follows:

Where complaint was made of a series of articles in several newspapers, the Speaker said that if he called upon the Clerk to read all the articles, he should be trifling with the House, and that he should therefore take leave to depart from the ordinary course.