

Motions

storms and a lot of ice. The elements are very hard on wharves, breakwaters and haul-out slips.

There are over 2,300 harbours across the country. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans is responsible for the maintenance of wharves and breakwaters. The figure of 2,300 includes 750 harbours which are used mainly for recreational purposes but are still included in the budget of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. I have always maintained that recreational harbours should be funded by another source such as tourism. In the last number of years the budget for the maintenance of harbours has been between \$41 million and \$48 million. That hardly covers the most basic maintenance of wharves and breakwaters and leaves nothing for dredging.

Another problem we have in Atlantic Canada is in respect to dredging. Harbours which have good water depth this fall may, as a result of storms, be totally sanded in during the spring when the fishermen are trying to go fishing. This is especially true in Prince Edward Island although there are areas in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia that find themselves in the same situation with drifting sand. The fishermen do not know what the water depth is in the harbour until the ice leaves. The situation then, of course, can become an emergency. On top of all other problems we have a tremendous problem with dredging and getting dredging machinery when it is needed.

In my riding there are two seasons for lobster fishing, one on the northeast side and one on the west side of the Northumberland Strait. The season on the east side operates from May 1 until the end of June. It is imperative that the fishermen who fish in that district are able to set their traps by May 1 when the season opens. We all know that in the lobster fishery the first two or three weeks are generally the best weeks.

In my riding, the most important industry, in terms of employment, is the fishery. I was very fortunate this year. After much prodding of the Minister by the standing committee for improved funding for small craft harbours, there was an announcement made. I stress the word "announcement" because the work has not yet taken place and a number of announcements have been made in the past with no follow through. After a lot of debate and fighting, the Government announced that \$500,000 would be available for the improvement of the breakwater at Fishing Cove, a very important harbour in my area. Of that, \$25,000 is to be spent in this fiscal year on design with the remainder to be used for actual construction next year.

Alberton Harbour is another very important harbour in my area. The Government announced \$400,000 for projects there. Of that, \$200,000 is supposed to be spent this year with the remainder to be spent next year.

When the Government changed in 1984, tenders had already been called for Alberton. When the Government changed, it cut off the tendering process. Had that work been done at that time, as it should have, that would have saved the Government \$150,000. This situation is happening right across

the country. It is happening in British Columbia, the Northwest Territories, the Great Lakes area, Manitoba, and Atlantic Canada.

We were able to persuade the Government to announce \$800,000 for West Point in my riding. Apparently \$25,000 will be spent for breakwater reconstruction this year with the remainder to be used in a number of stages over the next year and a half. This work has been a priority of the port committee for the last number of years. A lot of work has been done there since 1974, but the completion of the work which was scheduled in 1984 for completion in 1984-86 was deferred, basically due to lack of funding.

With 2,300 harbours and wharves across the country it is only natural that a budget of less than \$50 million will not be sufficient to do the necessary work. I understand that there are priorities across the country. Therefore, I was very pleased, after a lot of prodding of the Minister by the standing committee, that those projects were announced. However, I repeat that they are only announcements. I will continue to keep after the Government to fulfil the promises it made.

My colleague, the Member for South West Nova (Mr. Comeau), tried to make the point that no politics were being played. Let us not kid ourselves. We are in a political forum. I do not get to make the announcements, of course, because I am a Liberal MP. However, that does not affect me. As long as I get the work done I do not care who announces it, and nor do the fishermen. They all know who fought for them. I have brought the issue up in the House and in committee many times. As a politician I make sure my people understand who is fighting for them in Ottawa.

• (1220)

Having said that, I am the first one to congratulate the Government for announcing these projects. It is proper, and I would fight for the people of South West Nova to get more funding. There was a headline in the Charlottetown *Guardian* on Tuesday, March 3, entitled: "Fisheries wish list carries \$1 billion price tag". That is the amount of money they could spend if they had it. I would not be so naive to think they could spend it all in one year because they cannot gear up for it that quickly, but that is the amount of money that is necessary.

I would like to read from the article which states:

Piled on the corner of Mike Godin's desk at Fisheries Department headquarters here is a wish list half a metre high, with a \$1 billion price tag.

It goes on to state where all this money is needed, and that is actually a fact. My colleague, the Hon. Member for South West Nova mentioned that there was something like \$85 million announced for the harbour revitalization program. The figures I received from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, naturally the A-base, continues at \$48.5 million, and the harbour revitalization program for 1987-88 is \$41.5 million, making a total this year of \$90 million.