

Supply—Public Works

Mr. Asselin: No, this would not embarrass me at all.

Mr. Duquet: The hon. member is not unaware of the fact that a 1,000-foot-long wharf is being built at a cost of \$2 million, the second one to be erected on the Beauport sand bars at the mouth of the St. Charles river. Another wharf of the same size was constructed last year. This is something worth mentioning.

Mr. Asselin: That is a small beginning. I shall revert later on to the matter of the St. Charles river.

In 1965, the government and government members from the Quebec area publicized widely, in conjunction with the chambers of commerce and the municipalities, that they were to launch a huge project for the development of some of the Beauport and Beaupré sand bars.

I am very happy to have this information and I thank the hon. member for Quebec East. Of course, I cannot get this information as I do not sit on the government side of the house, but all the same I thank the hon. member for Quebec East. But if this is all, we are no longer dealing with the project of the Liberal members as well as the municipalities and the chambers of commerce concerning the use of the Beauport sand bars. If it is a beginning, so much the better. I hope the hon. member for Quebec East and those of the province of Quebec will do their utmost to convince the Minister of Public Works to go ahead. And if the hon. member for Quebec East needs the humble contribution of the member for Charlevoix, I am at his disposal.

There is also the much debated question of the St. Charles river. But, Mr. Chairman, here I am praising the hon. members opposite.

• (9:20 p.m.)

Mr. Langlois: Keep it up, you are doing fine.

Mr. Asselin: When the mayor of Quebec City states publicly that the matter of the St. Charles river does not concern the hon. member for Quebec East, he is making a big mistake. That matter concerns not only the hon. member for Quebec East but also all hon. members from the Quebec area because it should have been settled a long time ago. And if the hon. member for Quebec East is entitled to political thanks, he should get them all. If he has worked, as he seems to have, on the St. Charles river project, he should be

free to state publicly that this matter concerns him as much as the mayor of Quebec City and as much as hon. members from the Quebec area.

The hon. member for Quebec East should continue his efforts, so that those of Quebec City as well as the agreements concluded by the federal government and the provincial government may result in practical and concrete action. The inhabitants of that area have endured unacceptable conditions for a long time. I think it is time that Quebec City as well as the provincial government, with the co-operation of the federal government, take definite steps to end the pollution of the St. Charles river. It is a terrible thing for Quebecers to admire such a beautiful river which is polluted and, in my opinion, represents a real danger for the owners of riverside properties who live there.

Mr. Duquet: It has been settled.

Mr. Asselin: So much the better, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member for Quebec East tells me that the matter has been settled. He is justified in keeping his political merit, because he needs it. If the mayor of Quebec City tells him to mind his own business, he is wrong. For once, I agree with the member of Quebec East. I congratulate him for his work; indeed, I suggest that he should continue to settle the important sanitation problem in that magnificent part of Quebec City which if it were developed according to the wishes of the public, would perhaps become the most charming site of Quebec City.

Mr. Chairman, since 1963, my constituency has not been spoiled by the Department of Public Works. From 1958 to 1963, \$4 million were spent there. Almost all the wharves in the constituency of Charlevoix had been constructed or rebuilt. I was unable to build a few others, because I was defeated in 1963. I would like to draw the attention of the minister on the wharf of Ile-aux-Coudres, in my district. This wharf is deteriorating and it is very useful to tourists who use the ferry between Saint-Joseph-de-la-Rive et Ile-aux-Coudres. I have made representations in this regard to the Minister of Public Works. I have even asked the engineers of the department whether blueprints had been submitted to the department in order to try and repair the wharf of Ile-aux-Coudres or to add thereto a cage 200 feet long so as to allow year-round navigation. I wish the minister would consider this. I understand Quebec engineers have