

The subsidies Canadian taxpayers pay to the CBC amount to \$416 million.

**Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi):** A very valid comparison.

**Mr. Whiteway:** To subsidize this year's operating expenses of the National Art Centre will cost \$8 million. Most of my constituents will never in their lifetime see the Art Centre, let alone ever be able to see a round of productions. I am not arguing, as hon. members opposite who have some great fears might, against arts and culture in this country. I am categorically saying that the government has its priorities all screwed up.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Whiteway:** One of the government's priorities is to spend half a billion dollars in Mirabel. It is not quite the disaster we feared. It is not doing too badly. In the last fiscal year Mirabel lost only \$46 million. That was not quite as bad as hon. members on this side had anticipated.

**Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi):** That must have disappointed you.

**Mr. Whiteway:** The hon. member from New Brunswick ought to have been with me last week with the Transport Committee—

**Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi):** New Brunswick was well represented.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Whiteway:** Come the next election—

**Mr. MacDonald (Cardigan):** You'll not be back.

**Mr. Whiteway:** If hon. members opposite and ministers on the Treasury Benches are so certain I will not be back, why do they not issue a writ?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner):** Order, please. I suggest that the hon. member get back to the bill under discussion.

**Mr. Whiteway:** Mr. Speaker, as I develop my point you will clearly see that the attitude of hon. members opposite is a reflection of their inability to understand my argument.

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** You are the only one who understands it.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner):** Order, please. The hon. member for Selkirk has the floor.

**Mr. Whiteway:** It is interesting that the hon. minister opposite interjects before I develop my argument. He is characteristic of small fish which bite before the hook is even baited. My friend from New Brunswick left because he could not stand the heat of my argument.

**Mr. McCain:** The Mickey Mouse from Miramichi.

### *Fishing and Recreational Harbours*

**Mr. Whiteway:** I was talking about capital expenditures for small craft harbours. The attitude opposite is to laugh this matter off. To them it is not a serious matter. They spend countless millions of dollars on everything else but not on things which are valuable to people who want a return on dollars invested. The Minister of National Health and Welfare cannot control his laughter. That is the attitude of the government which is being displayed tonight. Let us compare the \$35 million I have spoken about with the expenditures of the National Capital Commission, of \$53 million. I could go on and compare this pittance, this tokenism of this government for small craft harbours, with other expenditures.

**An hon. Member:** Give us the punch line.

**Mr. Whiteway:** If the hon. member wants the punch line, perhaps the government should issue a writ. The Canadian people would issue the punch line.

**Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi):** That is not what Gallup says.

**Mr. Whiteway:** I am coming to the part which might be of interest to the Minister of State (Multiculturalism). I have already mentioned that the condition of the docks and the piers on Lake Winnipeg is deplorable, and that is part of his responsibility.

Lake Winnipeg is now going to be administered under this legislation, Bill C-7. Lake Winnipeg accounts for one third of the total production of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, and in order for that production to get to where it was before this government got hold of FFMC, back up to 70 million pounds or 75 million pounds—we are now harvesting only 30 million pounds from the lake—

**An hon. Member:** This sounds like a fish story.

**Mr. Whiteway:** —we need to maintain our harbours and docks in good repair. I will give the hon. member a good fish story.

Historically the dock at Selkirk, which is located on the Red River some 12 miles from the lower end of Lake Winnipeg, always had a fish plant. It has always been the centre for the processing of fish from the lake. The fishermen would pick up their supplies there and go back up the lake for another trip. This government, through political expediency rather than sound judgment, has robbed Selkirk of its historical and geographic advantage in the FFMC.

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These political vandals have plundered the birthright of the town of Selkirk. What did they offer in its place? Instead of offering a fish plant, improved docking facilities, new piers, and the kind of vital industry that has made the town viable, they offered a federal maximum security penitentiary. They took the fish plant from Selkirk, and where did they put it, Mr. Speaker? I grew up on the south shore of Nova Scotia and I know that in the Maritimes a fish plant is put by the harbour where the boats can dock, unload the fish, process it and send