

Canada Shipping Act

ment designates physicians who become agents of the government and, therefore, responsible to it for carrying out the intent of the act, and also become responsible to the government as far as financial requirements and other procedures are concerned.

Without designation there would, in the view of the department, be no such responsibility to the federal government. Therefore, a totally new set of regulations would be necessary in order to establish procedures and standards to implement the act. Completely different arrangements would be necessary, and there is no intention of altering the existing arrangements to provide a completely different type of service during this phase-out exercise.

In most instances foreign sailors in large ports would not have sufficient knowledge of local physicians, for example, to make a logical choice of doctor. In the small ports where the majority of people treated are local residents, it has been customary to designate several port physicians, provided the physicians signify a willingness to do the work which is required by the government regulations.

● (12.10 p.m.)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those in favour will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: In my view the nays have it.

Some hon. Members: On division.

Amendment (Mr. Comeau) negatived.

Mr. Louis-Roland Comeau (South Western Nova) moved:

That Bill C-10, an Act to amend the Canada Shipping Act, be amended by striking out lines 26 to 30, both inclusive at page 1, and lines 1 to 4,

[Mr. Haidasz.]

both inclusive at page 2 thereof, and substituting therefor the following: "(c) 'port' means any port in Canada."

He said: Mr. Speaker, this is also a very simple and straightforward amendment. I have already made my argument. Hon. members can read the evidence of the committee or my speech made on second reading. Port, as it is now designated in Bill C-10 means:

—any port in

(i) the Province of Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, British Columbia or Newfoundland,

(ii) the Province of Manitoba on Hudson Bay, and

(iii) the Province of Ontario on Hudson Bay or James Bay.

In my opinion that definition is almost ridiculous. I realize that the government does not want to increase these benefits because they want to phase out part V of the Canada Shipping Act. I will argue this later.

The point I wish to make is that the definition of "port", as contained in Bill C-10, has not been changed from what it was in the old regulations under part V of the Canada Shipping Act. For example, it does not take note of recent developments in the Arctic where we will soon have ports. There is nothing in this bill to cover the situation of a ship docking in an Arctic port. The same applies to the Great Lakes. Also, I do not think the Yukon is covered.

My amendment is very simple and straightforward. It simply says "any port". If my other amendment had been agreed to, it would have covered any doctor. This change would have been very simple and logical. If someone became sick, he would simply have to forward the medical bill to the government agency. There would be no complications. I repeat, this amendment is very straightforward. I hope the government will accept it.

Mr. Barnett: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member had framed the amendment to cover the prospect of the development of seacoast ports on our Arctic shores, I would have been quite prepared to support him. I agreed with him when he raised this question in committee. I think this is something the government should certainly have in mind.

The act, as presently drafted, is designed to cover the seacoast ports of Canada and the operation of agreements covering sick mariners. As far as I can see, such agreements are unnecessary except in the seacoast ports of