

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

competition. When the shipping industry receives an operating subsidy which automatically fills any deficit, it does not tend to get out and dig for business.

I feel this has happened in the case of the ferry service between Blind River and Meldrum Bay. There has to be some new formula worked out for this subsidy to encourage an aggressive selling campaign of the service to tourists. Then, and only then, will this ferry be more self-sufficient and less of a burden on the government.

Five years ago when these operating subsidies for Manitoulin Island ferries were established, a public hearing was held on the island by the Canadian Maritime Commission. I have received many letters from organizations and individuals requesting that a hearing be held this year by the Canadian Transport Commission on Manitoulin Island. These are the people most concerned with this matter. These are the people whose lives and livelihood are affected by the decisions of the commission. Therefore, it is natural that they want the hearing held there.

● (10:20 p.m.)

The shipping season is now only a matter of a few months away. Decisions must be

made now in order that a good transportation service will be available for the summer tourist season. I believe the federal government should bring pressure to bear on the government of Mr. Robarts in Toronto, which seems to be dragging its feet on this matter, in order to resolve the question. The people of my constituency not only want to know what service will be provided this year, but what plans are being made for a future, improved service. The time is late. We want answers now.

Mr. Stanley Haidasz (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the question of the future of the Tobermory-South Bay Mouth ferry has been raised with the government of the province of Ontario and a reply is awaited indicating what interest the province may have in the continuance of this intra-provincial service. The federal government has indicated its willingness to discuss the future of the service, but could not undertake to participate in any improvement or building of docks without having reached a satisfactory agreement with the province.

Motion agreed to, and the house adjourned at 10.24 p.m.