

*Refitting of HMCS "Bonaventure"*

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Don't put ideas into their heads.

**Mr. Peters:** The committee worked very hard. Every member gave of his time and effort to the fullest extent. The report is a good report. For his part, the Auditor General was most diligent in helping to assess the accounts with the staff he had available. The government appears, sometimes, to be very stupid. Let them not be encouraged by the fact that they have a majority which will clap for them no matter what they do. Let them take the advice of the Minister of Supply and Services tonight and redesign the whole tender system so that we do not continually get into trouble of this kind.

There must be a way of arriving at a better tender system to ensure that this kind of thing will not happen again. From this point of view the lesson of the *Bonaventure* is one

well worth learning. If we are capable of designing new methods of estimating expenditures in advance and of controlling expenditures so that they remain within the estimate, if we are willing to eliminate the practice of allowing business people to decide for us how much we should pay for whatever we are buying, we shall be able in the end to say "Thank you" to the Public Accounts Committee and to the Auditor General. Moreover, many people will appreciate the efforts of a government which, having made a bad mistake shows us it is willing to change the whole of its procedures to ensure that the same mistake is not repeated again as it has been repeated hundreds of times in the past.

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

At ten o'clock the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.