

Mr. Hicks: Mr. Speaker, I listened to most of the Hon. Member's comments. I listened to his criticisms. We all want Canadians to develop a greater fishing fleet, a first-class fishing fleet. The Hon. Member took a great deal of time to criticize the Government and its lack of commitment to the development of the shipping industry in Canada which would, in turn, create jobs. Surely, the Hon. Member is forgetting two or three things. He is forgetting that the Government has created 900,000 jobs since it was elected three years ago.

With respect to the shipbuilding industry in Canada, I think the Hon. Member alluded to the Class 8 ice-breaker that is being built, which will be one of the leading ice-breakers in the world. It will be built in Canada.

He also alluded to the 10 submarines, which involves a \$7.5 billion program to take place over the next few years. They will be developed in Canada. One cannot say that the Government is ignoring the shipbuilding industry. He called it irrational because the submarines will go under the ice. I hope the Hon. Member realizes that this is a three-ocean country with a two-ocean navy and that these nuclear-powered submarines will have the capability of defending Canada in all three oceans at any one time.

The Hon. Member forgot to make reference to the six Canadian patrol frigates that are being developed in Canada. The first six Canadian patrol frigates are being developed at a cost of, I believe, about \$5 billion, and there will be another six additional patrol frigates built after that.

The Hon. Member forgot the reference in the White Paper that was tabled in the House on June 5 to the fact that Canada would develop mine-sweepers.

I make reference to these matters to point out that at no time has the Government turned its back on the shipbuilding industry. It is developing the shipbuilding industry, and it will continue to develop it.

Canada does not have any mine-sweepers. If our harbours were to be mined, we would find that we do not have the capability of clearing the mines out. This is why that commitment was made in the White Paper. This is why many items were overlooked, and I hope Members of the House and all Canadians realize that the Government is doing everything it can at the moment for the shipbuilding industry and that it will continue to do so.

Mr. Skelly: Mr. Speaker, I will take the Hon. Member's comments in sequence. He first referred to the Conservative Government having created 900,000 jobs. The only response to that, one which most Canadians are giving, is one of shoulders shrugging and saying: "Truth like beauty is a phenomenon that occurs only in the eye of the beholder". I do not think that anyone seriously and credibly accepts that. The method of tallying jobs and employment has been so doctored in the country by the present Government and in the dying days of the past Government that one cannot recognize adequate job statistics. Quite frankly, most people say: "Nonsense".

Coasting Trade and Commercial Marine Activities Act

The Hon. Member's second comment was with respect to the ice-breaker and the patrol frigate program. These are previous Liberal programs.

Mr. Mayer: I think you have been smelling your own running shoes to make statements like that!

Mr. Skelly: Come on, Charlie—

Mr. Mayer: What a goof!

Mr. Skelly: I suggest that the Minister relax. He should take a look at who is at the 24 per cent mark in the polls, if we are talking about goofs.

I hope that the Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board will take a more responsible position when he appears in Cabinet and begins to look at the communities. When the individuals come down from communities such as Vancouver, Saint John and various other places to demand that the Government live up to its promises, hopefully he will be there to explain to them, not to me, why the Government has failed to live up to its promises. Perhaps he will be able to explain why the exceptions are in this legislation, the exceptions that we have been fighting for years. The Minister does not have to explain or comment on my comments. These are the comments put forward by the people who live in those communities and work in those yards.

Mr. Mayer: He does not think that 900,000 jobs is important.

Mr. Skelly: We do not believe the Government, yet it believes its own rhetoric. I am prepared to admit that truth like beauty occurs in the eye of the beholder. If that is what the Hon. Member sees, it is not what other people see. It is not what is reflected in the Gallup polls or in other polls.

Mr. Mayer: The NDP does not care about jobs!

Mr. Skelly: I wish the Minister would relax, Mr. Speaker, and let me deal with the other two comments.

I think that if we go to the people and say: "Look, do we want nuclear-powered submarines? Do we see that as one of the first priorities in the country?" The people will say quite clearly: "Nonsense".

We do have a sovereignty problem in the Arctic, and it is an important one. The question we must ask is whether or not Americans will begin to drill for oil and gas and other resources in territory that Canada claims. It has done that. Will it completely run the northern seaways unfettered by Canadian regulations in waters that we believe are Canadian? Will nuclear submarines do anything to deal with the basic bread and butter sovereignty issues that we have? The answer to those questions is no. The ice-breaker was a positive move. Announcing the ice-breaker in western Canada was a positive move, and I say that not just because I am from western Canada. The use of some major technology in the Arctic is a start in the right direction. We have to recognize what those