

*Canada Shipping Act*

the question period and I was hoping I could recognize one or two hon. members before we call orders of the day.

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## HOUSE OF COMMONS

## REPORTING OF COMMITTEE EXPENSES

**Mr. Mac T. McCutcheon (Lambton-Kent):** I should like to direct my question to the Government House Leader. In order that the House may have better control of its activities and expenses, will the Government House Leader bring in a motion referring to the Committee on Procedure and Organization for report the need of all committees of the House to file a complete report of the expenses incurred during the previous session?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council):** This subject was touched upon in our debate on the establishment of the Constitutional Committee and I believe there was general agreement that we should look at this question. How we do it is a matter that I will be happy to consider.

**Mr. McCutcheon:** Would the minister also consider including in any motion when setting up a special committee the matter of the estimated cost? The figures of \$300,000 to \$500,000 are being bandied about regarding certain committees, and this is very nerveracking.

**Mr. MacEachen:** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Orders of the day.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. A moment ago, when I suggested that the Solicitor General might make a statement early next week giving the information for which I asked, the minister indicated he was willing to give it now. Would the House agree to revert to motions to allow the minister to make his statement because it is exceedingly important to the House to know what persons have been detained and what disposition has been made of these persons?

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the House agree to reverting to motions?

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Speaker:** There is no agreement. Orders of the day.

● (12:00 noon)

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

## CANADA SHIPPING ACT

## AMENDMENTS RESPECTING DISCHARGE OF POLLUTANTS BY SHIPS

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport)** moved that Bill C-2, to amend the Canada Shipping Act,

[Mr. Speaker.]

be read the second time and referred to the Special Committee on Environmental Pollution.

He said: Mr. Speaker, a few years ago if there were to be an amendment to the Canada Shipping Act the chances are that it would not even cause a ripple of excitement, except among the relatively small shipping community. However, over the last few years that situation clearly has changed, and as I speak to this proposed amending bill today I am very conscious of an incident which occurred several months ago, in fact in February of this year. At that time, I flew over a very attractive part of Nova Scotia known as Chedabucto Bay and saw the appalling damage that had already been caused as a result of the grounding of the tanker *Arrow* and the subsequent spill of many hundreds of thousands of gallons of crude oil on to the waters and shoreline of that particular area.

This incident was probably the most dramatic of many that have occurred in recent months and years. It brought home to us all very clearly the necessity for significant changes in the powers that the government must have, that the people of Canada must have, to ensure first of all that such incidents are kept to an absolute minimum and, secondly, that when these do occur there is a means through which we can ensure that the responsible parties cover the costs involved in any clean-up operation.

It might be useful, Mr. Speaker, if on this occasion I took a moment or two to discuss the *Arrow* incident and its aftermath. In doing so my first responsibility, and indeed it is a pleasure, is to compliment Dr. McTaggart-Cowan and the members of his task force on the excellent job they did in cleaning up and controlling the aftermath and the effects of the *Arrow* oil spill.

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

**Mr. Jamieson:** It may be, Mr. Speaker, on this particular occasion and in the circumstances in which we find ourselves in Canada today, that it is also appropriate for me to call the attention of hon. members to the fact that the Canadian Armed Forces, particularly those stationed on the east coast of Canada, did a superb job under very difficult conditions. They illustrated in that case, as they have in the past and I have no doubt will again in the future, their ability to cope with an extreme situation of this sort whether it be in terms of the environment or in any other way. So, I do want as well to pay a well deserved tribute to Canada's Armed Forces and their leaders for the invaluable help they gave us in connection with the *Arrow* disaster.

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

**Mr. Jamieson:** Mr. Speaker, when I was in the broadcasting profession, I could not possibly imagine any field in which there were more instant experts. Almost invariably I discovered that the total population of Canada knew far more about broadcasting than I did, but I can now report to you with a great deal of accuracy that there is one other subject on which all Canadians appear to feel they are experts. I refer to the method of cleaning up oil spills and coping with these problems generally.