

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

Mr. Speaker: When shall the said bill be read the third time? By leave, now?

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): At the next sitting of the House.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that it be read the third time now. We have had the debate. It seems to me that it would be pointless not to give it third reading now.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): It can be read at the next sitting of the House just as well as tonight.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House that we call it ten o'clock?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE—COM- PLAINTS RESPECTING HARASSMENT OF PORTUGUESE SHIPS

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, my grievance arises from a question I directed to the Solicitor General (Mr. McIlraith) on February 2 which will be found at page 3081 of *Hansard*. It refers to what I said at the time was the excessive harassment of a Portuguese ship at the port of St. John's by the RCMP. I am not quarrelling with the minister's reply; I am merely taking advantage of the opportunity which this adjournment debate gives me to elaborate on the question and to enlarge upon the premise of the question, which I could not do during the oral question period.

On Monday, January 26, the Portuguese ship *David Melgueiro*, with approximately 800,000 pounds of fish, put into the port of St. John's as a consequence of a mishap at sea. During heavy seas off the coast of Labrador the vessel ran into some ice and developed a leak. She arrived at the port of St. John's on Monday, January 26. It had taken her about two or three days to get to port, during which time the crew had to be on watch at all times,

[Mr. Speaker.]

without sleep. I say this because it is important to what I am about to say.

When the vessel arrived at St. John's, the crew naturally prepared to make up for the two or three days in which they had to stand watch at sea. On the night of Tuesday, January 27, the vessel was raided by the RCMP and 15 to 20 officers were involved in the raid. During the conduct of that raid they confiscated a quantity of cigarettes, cigars, wine and the usual sort of thing—not an excessive amount; but the conduct of the RCMP is the basis of my grievance.

• (10:00 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker, the Portuguese fishing fleet has been using the port of St. John's for the last 400 years. I hope the parliamentary secretary will remain for a few minutes, because he might learn something. The Portuguese fleet has been using this port for the last 400 years, as a matter of fact so much so that the Portuguese crews are considered to be an integral part of the community life of St. John's. When an incident like this occurs, where there is evidence that excess was used in the conducting of a search—a legitimate search—by the RCMP Police, it has the same effect as if the RCMP were to enter a private home in the city of St. John's and conduct themselves in the same way.

In his reply the minister indicated that an investigation was under way. We are anxious to know what the result of that investigation is, because if the Portuguese fleet is to be harassed in this way by the RCMP, obviously it is not going to use the port of St. John's because there are other port facilities available to it on the French islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon. We are very anxious to retain in St. John's the business which accrues from the Portuguese fleet. It is a very important source of revenue to the port, and instead of this sort of conduct we should be treating them with the greatest of respect and doing everything we can to encourage them to use our port facilities which were put there at great expense by the government of Canada.

Because of the limited time at my disposal, Mr. Speaker, I am going to quote directly from a letter sent to the Attorney General of Newfoundland by the master of the Portuguese vessel *David Melgueiro*, in which he recognizes the fact that there was an infringement of the law. Some whisky had been sold by a member of the crew, contrary to the regulations of the Portuguese authorities, and the regulations of the vessel. But notwith-