

Supply—Justice

purpose of the enforcement of small boat regulations through the criminal investigation branch establishment at Montreal. I should perhaps remind the hon. member, however, that there is in addition a provision in the small boat regulations published in the *Canada Gazette* for March 25 of this year under which a peace officer for the purpose of these regulations is defined as including a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, a member of any harbour or river police force, and a member of any provincial, county or municipal police force. So it will be seen that there are other personnel available for this work besides the members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

It may well be, therefore, that the problem here is one of co-ordinating the activities of the mounted police and the local municipal police forces. That is a matter which I shall be glad to ask my officers to discuss with the Department of Transport, to see whether there is any room for improvement in the situation by a greater degree of co-ordination of those forces.

Mr. Johnson: Would the minister permit an observation at this point. I raised the question of different peace officers authorized to enforce the law, but I was questioning the possibility of these peace officers excepting of course the R.C.M.P.—I am referring to harbour, river, provincial, county and municipal police forces—having authority to enforce the law so far as commercial navigation is involved. I believe these regulations cover the small vessels section but not the commercial, and I was calling the attention of the minister to this particular point, that since these police officers might not have this power with commercial vessels they could be laughed at—and that is a fact; they could actually be laughed at—by some of the pilots or masters on board big ships travelling close to marine clubs.

For example, I know that in Beloeil the officer there is doing a fine job in this field trying to stop these commercial vessels from running too fast on the river near the marine club, but he was laughed at and so was a sergeant or a corporal of the R.C.M.P. last year when he tried to warn certain persons. He was told that he could not do anything to them because they were travelling in their boats on the river. I believe what caused the whole problem in Beloeil in particular was that the corporal was laughed at by masters or pilots who they did not care whether they caused damage by running their boats too fast close to the marine clubs.

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Chairman, I will be glad to discuss this matter in the light of the remarks of the hon. gentleman, and in particular to discuss the question with the Department of Transport and see whether any amendment to the regulations is necessary to give the officers a greater degree of authority.

Mr. Johnson: Without committing the government, of course, is there any possibility that the R.C.M.P. could take the lead in a vast campaign on this particular matter of safety on waterways?

Mr. Fulton: It is a matter about which we have a certain amount of sensitivity still, Mr. Chairman, but we recognize the importance of the subject. We feel that the lead perhaps should be taken by the Department of Transport, and I understand that department is doing its best to give wide circulation to its safety pamphlet and also to the regulations regarding the operation of small boats. But as we are interested in the question of enforcement, and as enforcement is made more satisfactory when you have the co-operation of those concerned, we also have an interest in acquainting the public with the necessity of obeying the regulations in this regard. That is also a matter that I would be glad to have my officers discuss with the Department of Transport in order to co-ordinate efforts and see if we can contribute to bringing the importance of this matter to the attention of the public.

Mr. Pickersgill: Would the minister ask the Minister of Transport to establish a coast-guard on the Richelieu?

Mr. Fulton: I hardly think so, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Badanai: Mr. Chairman, I wish to touch on a point which has not been dealt with, and it concerns the role of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in connection with our tourist industry. The classical reputation of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police for intelligence, efficiency and training, as everyone knows, and for good looks as well, is practically world-wide. Tourists from other countries, especially from the United States, as soon as they cross the border expect to see our Canadian mounted police, the red-coated mounties.

Unfortunately they can only be found around our parliament buildings. I suggest that border points be considered as suitable locations for members of the force to be on hand to gratify the desire of these tourists to meet these world-famous men. I should like to ask the minister if any consideration is being given to this question and, more particularly, to the presence of these men