

*Supply—Transport*

who do not understand the hazards of operating these small craft without these things.

The other matter I was going to bring to the attention of the minister is this. I have had a number of people who are interested in launch clubs and boat clubs and who are particularly interested in this question, say to me that a special effort should be made to have strict enforcement of the regulations covering this aspect of water traffic. I realize that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police do the best they can. They patrol areas at certain times. They inspect boats for their licences and things of that sort. I also know that they make periodical visits to outlying places where small craft are anchored or used in order to see that they are equipped with life savers, fire extinguishers and things of that sort. They do this to the best of their ability but they can do only so much. They have other duties to perform. You get small craft in considerable numbers operating at some distance from where officers of the R.C.M.P. are likely to be unless they were making a special trip on other business.

In view of the greatly increased traffic and the hazards that go with it, not only to operators of boats themselves and passengers but to people in other boats, I have been asked to suggest to the minister that he give consideration to arranging for special water police in co-operation with recognized organizations—they could be special police under the Royal Canadian Mounted Police—who could take certain rudimentary instruction from the local R.C.M.P. as to the law and regulations and would then be empowered to inspect boats and enforce the law with respect to small craft.

I think that could be done because we had the same sort of thing with respect to our forest service in British Columbia where we had honorary fire wardens and sometimes details of special police having the power and authority of police officers for certain purposes. I think this would be of great assistance in providing the extra personnel necessary, without compensation. I know people who would be willing to do this work and who would be greatly interested in it. At the same time you would secure the co-operation in every district from several groups, shall I say, of rank and file water people who are interested in water sports and water traffic and in the problem as it presents itself today and who consequently would be interested in co-operating with the department in seeing that the law was enforced, not from the point of view of fining offenders and punishing people but from the point of view of informing people and, shall I say, policing them to their advantage and for their own good.

[Mr. Herridge.]

**Mr. Hees:** In answer to the hon. member's question may I say that the regulations in force in 1958 are basically those that are in force today. There have been some improvements and modifications. We shall be glad to send along to the hon. member for Kootenay West information showing these changes that have been made.

As to the effort to promote safety on lakes and rivers and so on, I dealt with that matter quite extensively when my estimates were up for consideration the last day. I shall be glad to send the hon. member the pamphlet we have produced entitled "Safety Afloat" and also all the other information we have on this matter showing the steps that are being taken and our efforts to co-operate with the provincial police, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and so on in order to achieve the end that he has very rightly said is a most important one.

**Mr. Herridge:** Just before the minister concludes, may I ask whether he will express his opinion on the suggestion that it might be worth while considering during the summer months having some sort of auxiliary organization in the form of special police under the supervision of the R.C.M.P. or provincial police to assist in the administration of the law and regulations?

**Mr. Hees:** I am advised that the R.C.M.P. and the provincial police have been consulted on this very matter and that they are doing everything they possibly can in this regard to bring in the municipal police who, it appears, are the ones who would be best able to deal with this particular matter. We are working on this matter all the time. As I said the last time my estimates were up for consideration, we have yearly conferences with all parties interested in this matter. The suggestions the hon. member has made will certainly be taken into consideration when these matters are further discussed. I can give him that assurance.

**Mr. Broome:** I do not want to take up too much time of the committee but, because of the speech made by the hon. member for Vancouver East, I think I should say a few words on shipbuilding. I believe the hon. member for Vancouver East was quite fair and reasonable in his remarks. However, it is an absolute fallacy to consider that the Canadian government can keep all of the shipyards in Canada under a full employment picture. There are just too many yards and there are not enough ships to be built. I believe the minister brought out the point that when there were a number of vessels to be constructed for his department tenders were called for those vessels by regions,