

permit it to stand and the house would permit it to stand in its present priority while further consideration is given to the point.

Mr. Nielsen: I have no objection to that course, Mr. Speaker, if the house would give its unanimous consent.

Mr. Pickersgill: I was just going to say that we on this side of the house are quite agreeable to the course Your Honour is suggesting, and apparently the hon. member directly concerned also agrees.

Mr. Speaker: I thank the house for giving me an opportunity to come to a rather firmer conclusion before the measure is proceeded with. I take it this is at the request of the government, if I may put it that way.

Order stands.

CANADA FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES ACT

AMENDMENT TO PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATION BECAUSE OF AGE

On the order:

January 22—Second reading of Bill C-29, an act to amend the Canada Fair Employment Practices Act (age discrimination)—Mr. Howard.

Mr. Speaker: Dropped.

LOTTERY

PROVISION FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF CANADIAN LOTTERY COMMISSION

On the order:

January 22—Second reading of Bill C-30, an act to provide for a Canadian lottery—Mr. Pigeon.

Mr. Speaker: Dropped.

FLAGS OF CANADA

MEASURE TO PROVIDE FOR NATIONAL FLAG OF CANADA

On the order:

January 22—Second reading of Bill C-31, an act respecting flags of Canada—Mr. Boulanger.

Mr. Speaker: Dropped.

MERCHANT SEAMEN COMPENSATION ACT

AMENDMENTS RESPECTING PAYMENTS FOR ORPHANS OF SEAMEN

Mr. C. W. Carter (Burin-Burgeo) moved the second reading of Bill C-39, to amend the Merchant Seamen Compensation Act.

He said: This bill, Mr. Speaker, is so simple that there is not much need to say a lot about it. It seeks to improve the Merchant Seamen Compensation Act in so far as orphans are concerned, and though it is a simple bill nevertheless it is a very important one for

Merchant Seaman Compensation Act

the people in my province. As hon. members know, many people there get their livelihood from the sea but every year the sea takes its toll and children are left fatherless.

As the act stands at the moment, if a seaman leaves no widow, or if the widow subsequently dies, the care and maintenance of the orphans constitutes a claim against the Merchant Seamen Compensation Act. The act provides for the children to be taken care of by relatives or foster parents who must, of course, be satisfactory persons in the judgment of the administering board. Unfortunately, however, for some reason I have never been able to discover, the act provides that orphans cannot receive the maximum benefit unless the relatives or foster parents move into the house that was actually occupied by the orphans' parents.

There does not seem to be any necessity for this restricting provision in the act. I cannot see that it serves any good purpose and it places a handicap both upon the orphans and the people looking after them. In many cases the home of the foster parents may be much better and more comfortable than the original home of the orphans but, as I say, when the orphans move into the foster parents' home they cannot receive the maximum allowance provided by the terms of the act. It is to remove that handicap that I have introduced this bill.

All it seeks to do is to give to orphans and foster parents the same benefits as they would receive if they were living in the deceased parents' home and I hope the bill will commend itself to all hon. members.

Mr. E. L. Morris (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Trade and Commerce): One is most reluctant, Mr. Speaker, to contend with authorship in private members' hour. The hon. member who has brought this matter to the attention of the house has contended in his remarks that this is a simple matter of legislation but I question whether it is altogether adequately described by that. In so doing I hasten, however, to assure the hon. member and the house that which I think we all share, namely an understanding of and a regret for the men who ply their trade upon the sea and, as the hon. gentleman said, the sea taking its toll, leaving behind dependants for whose care and provision surely parliament desires as adequately as it properly can to provide.

However the amendment which is proposed, in my view, is not wholly satisfactory in its present form. To introduce my comments upon it perhaps it may be useful to those hon. members of the house whose other duties are so onerous that they have not a close awareness of the history of this legislation, if I set the matter briefly upon the record.