

Navigable Waters Protection Act

I presume it will have been much higher last year. Then when the St. Lawrence seaway is opened up there will be hundreds more foreign ships coming into the great lakes. Am I correct in my understanding that these restrictions do not apply to foreign ships? In other words, a Russian ship could come up into the great lakes loaded with atom bombs, and it would not be affected in any way by these regulations.

Mr. Langlois (Gaspé): If the hon. member would look at the definition of "Canadian ship" in section 33 he would see that it reads as follows:

"Canadian ship" means a ship registered in Canada, and includes a ship owned, or operated under charter or lease, by a person who resides in Canada.

A foreign ship that is either under charter or a lease by a Canadian will be covered by these regulations.

Mr. Green: Oh yes, but there are not very many foreign ships that are leased by Canadians. Most of these ships to which reference is made in the Department of Transport report are foreign registered vessels. Most of these foreign ships that come into the great lakes are owned abroad. Is it a fact that they are not covered by these regulations?

Mr. Langlois (Gaspé): Some of them could be leased or under charter to Canadians, and then they would be affected by this bill.

Mr. Green: Is it a fact that these regulations will not apply to these foreign vessels unless they happen to be owned by Canadians or leased by Canadians?

Mr. Harris: If I may say a few words here, I think my hon. friend is making a distinction between cargo and personnel. Do I understand him to recommend that we establish a post at the outermost part of the St. Lawrence where every ship of foreign registration will be searched for the purpose of determining whether or not they have anything in the nature of materials for sabotage?

Mr. Green: Oh, no—

Mr. Harris: The hon. member was asking the ministry if there was any way of stopping that. My hon. friend knows quite well that there is not, but we are discussing personnel here and under my immigration regulations we deal with personnel on foreign ships.

Mr. Green: There is quite a difference between asking a question and advocating something. I was not advocating setting up such a control, I am merely trying to find out whether these regulations will apply to foreign vessels. I understand they do not.

Mr. Langlois (Gaspé): If the ship is under charter or lease to a Canadian, they do apply.

Mr. Green: Is the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration going to answer?

Mr. Harris: Yes, I will answer about personnel. I hope my hon. friend will not ask these rhetorical questions about materials for sabotage when, in fact, we are talking about personnel. Under the immigration regulations I deal with personnel on board foreign ships, and you may rest assured I will continue to do so.

Mr. Green: Does the minister screen the seamen on foreign ships before those ships can go into the great lakes?

Mr. Harris: I do not think my hon. friend would want me to outline the steps we take. I will be glad to disclose them to him if he desires, but I would just as soon we did not disclose the whole method here.

Mr. Green: Has the minister prevented any foreign vessels from going into the great lakes?

Mr. Harris: We do not prevent vessels going in, we prevent personnel; that is the point I am trying to make.

Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo): I wonder whether the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Transport could tell us if all the passengers going through the Welland canal are screened?

Mr. Langlois (Gaspé): In answer to this question I would refer the hon. member to the definition of "seaman". For the purpose of these regulations a seaman means a person employed in any capacity on board a ship, and includes the master of a ship. Any person falling within that definition could be screened.

Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo): But anyone else on the ship would not be screened. You have no means of controlling the movement of anyone else on the ship, if it is a passenger vessel?

Mr. Langlois (Gaspé): Not under this bill.

Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo): Have you under any other law or any other regulation?

Mr. Langlois (Gaspé): I do not think so.

Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo): In other words, as I said earlier, this is just a piece of nonsense.

Mr. Langlois (Gaspé): My last answer was qualified by what was said by the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration.

Mr. Knowles: Then it is qualified nonsense.