

Canada Shipping Act

Coast and those up North will have to pay the cost of ice-breaking. Therefore, if one follows the logic of the Government, we will have to charge those on the West Coast for the use of their warm water. I really do not think that move is imaginative or logical. It was big-hearted of the Government to say that it will not charge for ice-breaking on the West Coast. That is fantastic. I wonder how much was paid to a consultant to dream up that idea.

The move is self-defeating. I mentioned this at a conference on risk management and handling of dangerous goods at the University of Waterloo yesterday. There were some people out there who were talking about user pay. In terms of risk management, to be logical and to take this concept to the proper conclusion, when someone calls the police department to stop a bank robbery then the police department should send a bill to the bank for the cost of recovery of the policeman's time, the patrol cars, the stopping of all the traffic and all the other costs involved. Alternatively, if someone's house is on fire and he happens to call the fire department, then the fire department should bill him for the cost of putting out the fire. The fire department can also bill the neighbours surrounding the home which was on fire for a portion of the costs, since putting out fires will prevent them from spreading. Thus those

homeowners who get some use out of fire departments should pay for some of the cost recovery.

These concepts are as logical as cost recovery is in terms of a public utility. We do not oppose some modest utility fees. We all pay taxes for our sewer and water systems. We also pay modest utility fees. However, our taxes for the system come to a heck of a lot more even though we all pay modest monthly fees. The St. Lawrence Seaway, the Coast Guard, navigational aids and dredging, all form part of public utilities for which everyone in Canada receives some benefit. Therefore, the nation as a whole shares in the cost of these utilities. To suggest that we be charged for navigational aids, ice-breaking and so on is simply self-defeating. It harms our economy. It harms dozens and dozens of communities. I hope that the Government will look at this matter, reconsider it and be prepared to accept these three excellent amendments by eleven o'clock tomorrow morning.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It being six o'clock, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 11 a.m., pursuant to Standing Order 3(1).

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.
