

*Canada Shipping Act*

what? By E.B. Eddy and C.I.P., important companies which are dumping waste in it all day long.

I say that it is a crime to pollute a body of water such as the Ottawa river. We have no right to allow companies to do so. They should find a way of disposing their waste products other than throwing them in waters which should not only be protected but should even be drinkable. Only yesterday, our waterways were being discussed. At this moment there is practically but one area in the entire province of Quebec where one may find pure and clear water, and I am speaking of north-western Quebec. Fishermen and hunters who travel to that area are more than happy to find out that they can breathe fresh air and that they can drink clean water. On the other hand, we have the Ottawa river polluted with mercury which kills our fish. Even commercial catches cannot be used for human consumption. This fish has become a hazard.

Mr. Speaker, had governments acted 25, 30 or 50 years ago, our rivers and lakes would have been protected. Nothing was done. I was reading recently about some people who crossed the Atlantic and reached Barbados on some sort of raft. All the way across, these people saw oil or tar floating on the waters. According to them, the Atlantic Ocean will soon be polluted.

Time has come for governments to wake up and require those responsible for pollution to be careful. Time has come for stringent regulations in order to stop them from polluting our waters.

The Great Lakes are completely polluted. By whom? By steel mills and coastal vessels dumping all their refuse into the water. Finally, everyone causes pollution.

In Hull some people throw their garbage into the Gatineau and Ottawa rivers, whether it be beer cans, oil cans or what have you. Even pieces of wood with rusty nails sticking out are cast into the water.

Individuals are partly responsible for the existing situation. It is a great temptation to put all the blame on companies. But we should blame ourselves also as we are equally responsible. Boaters sailing small pleasure craft on the Ottawa and Gatineau rivers are in the habit of tossing all their refuse overboard.

Today some people who would like to protect public health blame the companies. I also blame the companies, because they pollute water much more quickly than individuals. However, the citizens must also assume their share of responsibility. There are dumps but they certainly do not include the Rideau canal, the Ottawa or Gatineau rivers.

Some persons do not understand the matter at all. As soon as they see the floating waste of the E. B. Eddy, they immediately say that it is responsible for pollution. The E. B. Eddy, the CIP and the mills in Thurso and Hawkesbury, are the main culprits but the people must also take some of the blame and assume their responsibilities in this regard.

As for transoceanic oil transport, Canadian inspectors should go abroad and supervise the loading of ships to

[Mr. Caouette.]

prevent them from polluting our waters. This could be a service not only to Canada but to all other countries that import from Canada. Unfortunately, that type of cargo is handled by foreign ships over which we have no control.

As a means of preventing pollution and promoting the Canadian economy, I would suggest the creation of a merchant marine with more ships than now.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I apologize for interrupting the hon. member even if it is only for a moment. I do not think the debate should really include the matter of a merchant marine. The hon. member will agree that if we launch now a discussion on the need of creating a Canadian merchant marine service, the debate will last a long time, and without knowing in detail the bill now before us, I do not think it covers the establishment of a merchant marine. Indeed, I feel the hon. member meant to refer to that aspect of the matter in passing. It should not be the subject of the debate.

**Mr. Caouette:** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate your calling me to order since I want to limit myself to discussion of the bill before us. I only mentioned the merchant marine to point out that if we had more suitable Canadian ships to replace those that come to us from other countries and are not suitable, we would do away with pollution of Canadian waters.

However, Mr. Speaker, in order to avoid pollution we must take steps to control imported products and at the same time keep watch on what is happening here.

From the St. Lawrence river to the Great Lakes, pollution has become everywhere a serious problem.

Therefore, this bill must be immediately referred to a committee for serious consideration of proposals to be submitted to the House, in order to efficiently fight water pollution everywhere in Canada and to ensure public health.

[English]

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East):** Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I might, at the outset, join with my colleagues and, indeed, everybody who has commented in this House in support of the very broad principles which are set out in these amendments to the Canada Shipping Act. I must, in the same breath, wonder out loud how in the world such lofty principles and objectives could have been so badly approached as they are in the bill now before us. I would hope, in a spirit of charity, that this is simply because there was an urgency to get this piece of legislation drafted to indicate to the world that we are concerned about what is happening in our waters. As I say, that is about the only charitable thing I can say.

**Mr. Jamieson:** Thank you very much.

**Mr. Forrestall:** I find it a little strange to be at once in absolute agreement and at once absolutely dismayed, because the minister has a reputation for bringing forward better legislation than he has this time. I doubt if