

*Canada Shipping Act*

**Some hon. Members:** Carried.

**Mr. Loiselle:** Please, gentlemen. It is not often that I have a chance like this. Allow me to have the pleasure.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Loiselle:** I shall not take too long. I want to go home, too.

The hon. member for Dartmouth-Halifax East has put forward a good recommendation, and we should surely think about it.

**Mr. Forrestall:** Better still, act upon it.

**Mr. Loiselle:** He suggested setting up an independent board to inquire into every accident, whether it involved rail, air, or navigation at sea. His point is well taken. I was glad to note at the end of his remarks he made it clear he was not inferring that the Department of Transport, in its investigations of these accidents in the past, had been biased or dishonest. The hon. member did not doubt the honesty of the department and I am glad he made this qualification at the end of his remarks. I agree it would be a relief for the department if, after an accident had occurred, some independent department or board were responsible for carrying out an investigation. Maybe we could respond, and further work could be carried out in the field of accident prevention.

**Mr. Forrestall:** That is the responsibility of the department. In order that there may be no misunderstanding about what I was saying, may I ask whether the Parliamentary Secretary is indicating that he will accept the principle that I was advancing? He implied that I had qualified my remarks. I in no way did so. Would he inform me whether it is his understanding that I want the department to give up its efforts in terms of the prevention of accidents? I was not saying this at all. I was attempting to make it clear that in my view investigative authority and responsibility should be removed from the department as swiftly as time will permit.

**Mr. Loiselle:** My mind is quite clear about that. I did not intend to imply that the hon. member had qualified his opinion about that. What I intended to say was this. Even if we made an effort to create a new board with responsibility for investigating accidents it seems to me we should react in some way by carrying out additional work in the field of accident prevention. I understood the hon. member very clearly and he may be sure that

is that it is damned hard for any of us to ask our wife whether she really wants to get her hair done today or whether she can let it go until next week. Of course she can let it go until next week, but does she really want to? We all appreciate the difficulty caused by a conflict of interest. I urge the government to do something about this situation by announcing its intention to remove from the Department of Transport responsibility in this area and to vest it in some such body as a national transportation council, using the services, the expertise and the professionalism of those who are presently employed in the corresponding division of the Department of Transport. Let it be made absolutely clear to all Canadians that from now on Parliament will not tolerate the situation which presently exists.

**Mr. Loiselle:** Before I turn to the substance of the observations which have been made by members opposite, I should like to point out that there is no direct relationship between some of the suggestions they have put forward and the contents of the bill which is before us.

The hon. member for Comox-Alberni talked about pilotage arrangements in the Arctic, both on the surface and under water. This is a subject which will be dealt with when new legislation is brought down this fall or early next year.

**Mr. Barnett:** I simply asked whether the points I raised would be dealt with during the preparation of this legislation.

**Mr. Loiselle:** I am unable to give the hon. member a complete assurance about this, but he will have an excellent opportunity to bring this matter up, and, later on, I may be in a position to give him personally a reply with regard to it. As I was saying at one o'clock, a number of questions affecting pilotage, the responsibility of pilots and so on will be dealt with in the course of that bill. The measure will go before the Transport Committee and members of the committee will have the leisure in which to pursue any questions which they think are pertinent.

Considerable time has been spent in the preparation of that legislation and, as a result, it was not possible to bring it in earlier. Officers of the department have contacted those engaged in pilotage services, as well as the various interests which use those services. It is only within the last few weeks that we have received the final comments of some pilots and companies concerned.