

dredge our harbours, they run our ferries, they leave their families sometimes for months at a time. They can spend three or four months at a time on a ship in the Arctic.

What is the effect of their not working? We saw it just 10 days ago when 1,700 lobster fishermen put out to sea in high waves and high winds in support of an \$85 million industry for Canada. Those fishermen put out to sea without the normal search and rescue operations that safeguard their lives and safeguard their contributions to the economy of this country.

The cost of not having these people working is \$2 million a day to ships that are trapped in the seaway system and in the Great Lakes system. We are seeing grain not being able to move out of the prairies and into the shipping system. Contracts are perhaps being abrogated. Grain is not meeting that important window of opportunity for shipping. We are seeing our inability to respond to environmental spills. We are seeing overfishing in Canada's fishing grounds because these ships' crews are not out there patrolling and protecting an important resource of Atlantic and Pacific Canada.

We see ships moving through the Great Lakes system and through the seaway system without adequate guide services, without adequate navigational aids and we see those ships carrying chemicals, crude and refined oil and we should realize that without the navigational aids provided by these ships' crews workers that passage is not as safe and not as secure as it should be.

One may wonder why the ships' crews workers are so adamant about getting a decent settlement this time. The last collective bargaining for their previous contract produced the conciliation board's report that recommended a settlement.

This government chose to ignore that settlement because it had these people designated as essential workers and it knew they could not go on strike. The government ignored that conciliation board report and imposed its own settlement.

I want to talk about the hospital services workers. These are the orderlies, the nursing assistants, cooks, cleaners, seamstresses, the people who provide all of the essential services in both National Defence hospitals and veterans homes. They provide the community health services to our veterans. They care for our veterans who are elderly or disabled, those whom time and injury have robbed of ability to care for themselves, or in many cases

even to relate to the world on a day to day basis. They feed them, bathe them, clean their soiled linen.

The effects are less visible, but no less real than the scenes we have seen of the shipping lanes in the last few days. We have people in these institutions getting inadequate meals, lacking personal care, with not enough attention to their needs for cleanliness and just plain personal attention.

I repeat, both these groups are among the lowest paid workers. Both are seeing their ability to provide for their families whittled away as this contract drags on over two years. Inflation has eaten into their purchasing power. The government knows that the longer it delays the more taxes it gets to collect on these wages.

Lest you think I am exaggerating, let me say that these workers start at \$16,000 to \$18,000 a year. The average person is earning in the very low \$20,000s. Government ministers sit in their fancy offices collecting a fat pay cheque and drafting laws to force these people back to work at those wages.

I said earlier that the reason we find ourselves in this position today is because of government bungling, government arrogance, government mismanagement over the last two years. If the government is concerned about the safety, security and health of Canadians, it has a perfectly legal tool to use to protect the safety and security of the public in case of a work stoppage. That tool is called "designating essential workers". Once the contract ends and the bargaining agent has said it is ready to get down to negotiating a new contract, all the government has to do is table a list of people that it thinks are essential workers. Those people are then prevented from going on strike.

Treasury Board failed to do that. It failed to do it because of what is called "administrative ineptitude" by the Public Service Staff Relations Board's negligence. It failed to do it because it arrogantly thought that it did not have to live under the laws passed by this Parliament.

The deadline for designating people came and went. Nine departments with essential services workers failed to get their lists in. Treasury Board failed to make sure that it was getting done. It thought it could just go after the fact, saying it made a mistake and needs these workers designated. It certainly wants to designate a lot of workers. Over 100 per cent of the ships' crews workers were to be designated and over 100 per cent of the