

Navigable Waters Protection Act

interests of the safety or security of Canada. Then we are told that one of the ways in which this is to be enforced is by the revocation of the certificate that the seaman has. This brings me to a further reason why I have some concern about these special provisions relating to seamen on the great lakes. We have heard already in the house some reference to a man named Hal C. Banks. This subject is one which will be discussed at greater length on another occasion, but when the government seeks methods of this kind to permit it to deal with safety and security measures with regard to seamen it perhaps is appropriate that we recognize the almost limitless power of this man, Hal C. Banks, with relation to seamen working on the great lakes because of his authority over the unions operating on the lakes.

I have great concern about the way in which the government deals with this problem when I find that they have shown such an extraordinary lack of interest with regard to the background of Mr. Hal C. Banks. The government approved, and in approving accepted its own responsibility, Mr. Banks as our representative at a certain labour conference at Geneva. Mr. Banks has also been permitted to stay in Canada not in his original capacity as a special organizer brought here for a particular purpose but with the idea of his becoming a resident of the country. We know that the government was informed about Mr. Banks' background before he came here. Mr. Banks, because of the position he occupies, receives very large sums of money from the seamen of Canada. I think the government is well aware of how large those sums are, running into hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Mr. Banks also has very wide powers respecting the right of seamen to work on the great lakes through his position in these unions. Yet the government was aware and is aware that Mr. Banks had a record in the United States that would not ordinarily commend him to a position of great responsibility with regard to matters of this kind. The government is well aware that convictions for very serious offences were registered against this man in the United States. The government is well aware that he showed his appreciation of the hospitality extended to him in Canada by getting convicted here for smuggling a large quantity of cigarettes very shortly after his arrival.

Mr. Harris: I had expected this debate might arise on my estimates, Mr. Speaker, and I would not want to engage in it here at the moment. What my hon. friend has said is not quite correct. If we leave it at that, we will not get into another debate.

[Mr. Drew.]

Mr. Drew: In what way is it not correct?

Mr. Harris: He did not smuggle the cigarettes.

Mr. Drew: Does the minister suggest he was not convicted in connection with smuggling cigarettes?

Mr. Harris: He was convicted of having cigarettes that had been smuggled, which is a slightly different matter.

Mr. Drew: He was convicted in connection with the smuggling of some 30,000 cigarettes.

Mr. Harris: No, the conviction was with respect to having cigarettes which did not have the excise tax stamp.

Mr. Drew: He was a receiver of smuggled cigarettes?

Mr. Speaker: Order. May I remind hon. members that they are now considering the second reading of a bill. Great latitude has been afforded to hon. members to debate the second reading of this bill, but I do feel we should not anticipate the committee stage.

Mr. Drew: I was referring, Mr. Speaker, to the statement in connection with the certificates seamen must have, and pointing out that along with the certificates which the government could grant there are also those certificates which are given under the authority and influence of a man named Hal C. Banks. I should like to refer the minister to a summary, which I know to be in his possession, of the charges and convictions concerning this man, and which refers to smuggling cigarettes in Montreal for which this man was fined in 1952. If there is some refinement in regard to the details, that is something I should be happy to hear about in more detail. However, that is the entry on the form which I know was placed before the minister in connection with this matter.

I come back to this, that we are told one of the things the government would be directed to do under these orders is to deal with the right of a seaman to work by revocation of a certificate or otherwise. Perhaps I shall not go farther as to the government's interest in this until we do discuss the matter in detail on the estimates of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration. There is also the question of the right to work over which this man to whom I have referred, and about whose activities the government is so well informed, has some control. I put that forward for no other purpose than to refer to the introduction of the subject by the parliamentary assistant.

I point out that we should not be passing any loose regulations of this kind submitting the seamen on our ships to any possible