

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

TRANSPORT—CARIBOU-WOOD ISLANDS FERRY SERVICE—IMPROVEMENT OF FACILITIES

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, just a month ago I raised a question with the Minister of Transport (Mr. Jamieson) regarding the Caribou-Wood Islands ferry service. This was not the first time I had discussed the matter in the House. It has also been raised by my colleagues from Prince Edward Island and the hon. member for Central Nova (Mr. MacEwan). It is a matter of importance to the province. Indeed, it is a matter of importance to the whole area. Anyone who knows the story of Maritimes transportation realizes it has always been a matter of great concern to us. It is a most important economic consideration.

Surely a great need in Atlantic Canada is the full development of the economic advantages which we have. I recall the expression from the economic textbooks comparative advantage. In the tourist industry, a most expansive and expansible industry, we have an opportunity to help ourselves. The growth of tourism is most encouraging. I rejoice in this fact not only for mundane economic reasons but because I like people to see the beautiful part of Canada which is the Maritimes.

We have a most successful service from Wood Islands to Caribou. This is shown very clearly from a few figures which I will quote. In 1957, 84,000 passengers were carried on this service. Up to November of this year this figure had risen to 320,701. The automobile traffic has risen from 23,000 to nearly 95,000, a phenomenal growth. Many more people would use this ferry service if it had more boats and more room.

● (10:00 p.m.)

As the great tourist attractions of the other island, as we call it down there, Cape Breton, become more widely known and appreciated this route will become one of the great routes for tourist traffic and for vacation tours. A natural vacation tour is Prince Edward Island, historic Pictou County where my ancestors were dragged out by the nasty English, Cape Breton's magnificent Cabot Trail, and that wonderful fortress at Louisbourg

[Mr. Francis.]

which is becoming so attractive. We need more boats and more service from the boats which are there. I am not yet convinced that navigational aids cannot be put there which would allow night-time traffic.

I pay tribute to the efficiency of the crews. They are courteous, they are competent and they move traffic as well as they can, given the existing facilities. But we must have more boats. The Minister of Transport, for whom I have a high regard, although he disappointed me somewhat because of his lack of a sense of urgency in connection with Charlottetown Airport, is, I hope, the kind of man who can do something about this problem. I expect good things from him. The present need is known; it is demonstrated clearly. Future needs can be clearly forecast. We need no more studies, no more looking into the situation, no more consideration. The people want to use the service and they have demonstrated this for many years.

It seems only a few years ago that the hon. member for Central Nova and I went over in the *Lord Selkirk* when it was a new boat. We had a most delightful trip across the Northumberland Strait and I hope we can repeat it when a new boat is put there. I would say that the *L. M. Montgomery* would make a fine ship there if facilities are suited, but it would be foolish to rob Borden to pay Wood Islands. I would suggest a new ship, and I am so co-operative and thoughtful and helpful tonight that I am even prepared to suggest a name for the new boat. I would suggest it be called the *John Angus MacLean*, recalling the services of a man who has distinguished himself in the House of Commons for 18 years and whose ancestors settled in the Belfast area which is served by the Wood Islands-Caribou service.

I have suggested a name. I have provided the inspiration, I hope. I surely do not have to detail the argument. I hope the hon. member for Central Nova and I can make this trip again in a new ship and that we can call at that wonderful restaurant over in Caribou, the Seahawk, which is outstanding for its blueberry pie and other treats in which the Minister of Transport and I ought not to be indulging. The parliamentary secretary might get away with it because he has a better figure. But this, too, is a feature on the Caribou side which should be developed to improve the facilities on the pier for the waiting public. The main thing is to get a new boat to strengthen tourism and to develop our economy. I hope we shall hear some good news from the parliamentary secretary