

*Canada Shipping Act*

We now have some idea about where the Government's mind is. We now have some idea about what is the Government's preoccupation. Its preoccupation is not to manage the country or its problems; its preoccupation is to manage PR. The Government believes that if it can manage PR and can manipulate public opinion, it does not really matter whether the Welland Canal walls are collapsing, the St. Lawrence Seaway is going bankrupt, and jobs are being moved south of the border as traffic leaves the St. Lawrence Seaway. However, we have a great picture of the Prime Minister! With his brand new presidential-style podium, with his brand new seal attached to it, with his brand new backdrop, with his brand new lights, with his brand new vans and Hercules aircraft, and with his brand new video cameras taking a nice picture of the Prime Minister, supposedly everything is fine. When we strip away the lights, the podium, the new presidential seal, and the backdrop, we find that there are problems in the country and everything is not fine.

On the one hand the Government is spending millions making video films of the Prime Minister, they say for posterity. At the same time it is imposing user charges on fishermen, for God's sake, living on the great northern peninsula of Newfoundland. We can be damned sure that the fishermen are not travelling in presidential style. Most of them are moving around in pick-up trucks over dirt roads to inadequate wharfs to try to scrape a living from the sea, from the salt water of the Atlantic, while clinging to the rocks. They do not seem to give a damn that a user fee will be loaded on to their backs in the face of that abuse of taxpayers' dollars for propaganda purposes, a user fee which will wipe them out.

I dare say that if the money spent by the Prime Minister alone to build up his personal entourage had been applied to the Department of Transport, it would not be looking for user-fees. I remember the Prime Minister promising a brand new day for Canada. We were also promised that the fat and out of control massive bureaucracy surrounding Pierre Elliott Trudeau had to go. During the campaign the Prime Minister used to ask: "Can you imagine 60 people in Prime Minister Trudeau's office, all those bureaucrats, and that waste of taxpayers' money? They have to go". However, what did the Prime Minister do? He has 120 people on his payroll. He doubled the number of people on the payroll.

One can draw two conclusions from that. The first would be that Mr. Trudeau's people were twice as bright and twice as good as the Prime Minister's people and therefore the Prime Minister needs twice as many people. However, I do not believe that. I reject that. I do not think Mr. Trudeau's people were twice as productive as those of the Prime Minister. The other conclusion would be that the Prime Minister, too early in his term, before he spent enough time examining the cracks in the Welland Canal, conditions in Atlantic Canada, and the position of the people in his own riding, spent too much time in West Palm Beach, hanging around with all the other megalomaniacs who find it necessary to have a personal entourage chase them around.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest):** Order, please.

**Mr. Tobin:** Is there a problem?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest):** A small problem. I just want to raise the question of pertinence with the Hon. Member for Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe (Mr. Tobin). I understand that the Hon. Member ties his remarks to the substance of the Bill. However, to some extent, entertaining a speech on the subject of the PMO versus the Bill for a very extensive or long period of time raises in my mind a question of pertinence. I only raise the issue for the benefit of the Hon. Member, to tell him that I have some problem with it.

**Mr. Tobin:** Mr. Speaker, I am glad you raised that point, because it would be inappropriate for me to spend a long period of time pointing out to the people of Canada that if all that money had not been wasted by the Prime Minister, it could have been applied to the Department of Transport, and therefore the Government would not need Clause 4 in Bill C-75. However, I have been watching the clock, and I have not spent a long time making that point. I have only touched upon it for about the last three minutes, and a check of the record by the Speaker will indicate that. I appreciate the Speaker's warning and I appreciate the Speaker's advice. I shall try to remain relevant, as I always do, to the matter before the House, and I hope the Speaker will watch the clock as well.

● (1310)

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Gustafson:** I am sure your constituents are not pleased.

**Mr. Tobin:** My constituents are extremely pleased that someone is getting up on his hind legs and not allowing this Bill to go through this House without even a whimper, without a sound or a word of protest. It is not my constituents who are not pleased, it is the Hon. Member's constituents who are wondering where he is.

I think Members have heard me list off the hundreds of organizations opposing this Bill. Some of them, I presume, are in ridings of Members opposite. All of those organizations are wondering where Members opposite are. Somebody described them as surfers. Surf in with the tide and surf out. I do not know.

**The Inuit Tapirisat and Baffin Island Inuit Association say:**

Increased volumes of shipping in the North will create serious environmental problems to this virgin area. Breeding and feeding areas for marine mammals will be disrupted, animals will migrate to other areas and any spill of contaminants will be very difficult to clean up.

The legislation contains nothing to meet the concerns of these native people in Canada's North, nothing.

**The organization went on to say:**

The technology and capability do not exist to adequately clean up a major oil spill in the Northwest Passage. To further compound the problem, the North is not equipped to deal with such an eventuality and the response time from the South will be such that major damages will already be irreversible.