

Refitting of HMCS "Bonaventure"

Committee or in any Auditor General's report. Their names are there because the President of the Treasury Board did not do his job.

• (9:30 p.m.)

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Coates: And because he did not do his job, he should no longer be President of the Treasury Board. The President of the Privy Council (Mr. Macdonald) says we are carrying on a vendetta. Yes, we are carrying on a vendetta, but not against the public service of Canada: it is against the incompetent cabinet ministers sitting on the treasury benches of this House.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Coates: Our vendetta is aimed at the squandering of \$17 million of the taxpayers' money on the *Bonaventure*. We are carrying on a vendetta against a government unwilling to face its responsibilities. They are playing musical chairs by suggesting today that since the President of the Treasury Board is no longer the Minister of Defence Production, he should not be blamed for what happened, or that since the Minister of National Defence was at that time the associate minister of national defence, he ought not to be blamed. I say these men are responsible, and if they had accepted their responsibilities they would have submitted their resignations to the Prime Minister.

I listened to the Minister of Supply and Services (Mr. Richardson). He is a man who should be keenly interested in protecting the taxpayers' dollar, as should the President of the Treasury Board. As a matter of fact, his department more than any other can assure the taxpayer that tax money will be spent properly. I suggest that when a man like that comes into the chamber and categorizes \$17 million misspent on the *Bonaventure* as "historic perspective," he ridicules his position as giving little or no guarantee to the public of Canada that that mistake will not be repeated again and again. That is what worries me.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Coates: It is not historic perspective that we want, Mr. Speaker: it is action.

Mr. Dinsdale: History repeats itself.

Mr. Coates: We want guarantees for the taxpayers of this nation that we shall not see

[Mr. Coates.]

one *Bonaventure* misadventure after another. There is no guarantee in the type of statement made by the Minister of Supply and Services. We heard the tripe and gobbledegook spoken by the President of the Privy Council, but we did not hear anything about such a guarantee.

Mr. Gibson: The hon. member is wandering.

Mr. Coates: There goes the hoot again. It goes hoot, hoot, hoot. You can anticipate his hooting. Every once in a while you hear a hoot like an owl's. They say the owl is old and wise. Perhaps the hon. member for Hamilton-Wentworth (Mr. Gibson) is a wise old owl, because he hoots all the time. We are not interested in owls; we are interested in the taxpayer and the way tax dollars are spent.

Mr. Dinsdale: The government does not give a hoot about taxes.

Mr. Coates: We hope the government will give more of a hoot, in the days ahead, for the Canadian tax dollar than it has in the past. A new program was proposed to the provincial premiers in Winnipeg over the weekend. I am wondering whether we can obtain some kind of guarantee that the government will peg wasteful government expenditure at 6 per cent for the next year. If we obtained that kind of guarantee from the government we would need less and less in the way of guarantees from labour in this country.

Mr. Gibson: What chapter is that?

An hon. Member: Hoot, hoot!

Mr. Coates: If the hon. member could read, I would give him the chapter and verse. But all he can do is hoot, hoot, hoot.

An hon. Member: Like an empty vessel.

Mr. Dinsdale: An empty vessel makes the most sound.

Mr. Coates: We face a national strike in the postal service and the government refuses to budge from its fixed position. It is said that the government's proposal to the postmen would cost an extra \$41.5 million over 30 months, and that the union proposal would cost \$51 million over 24 months. How long would it take the government to meet the union proposals, in terms of the money it has wasted? For starters we can look at the misadventure of the *Bonaventure*. Altogether \$17