

*Canada Shipping Act*

Mr. Speaker, I have to rise because the comments were made voluntarily and, I suggest, maliciously by the Hon. Member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez) who referred to various press reports to attack the private lives of individuals or Members of the House.

Mr. Speaker, I think we are entitled to a minimum of decorum, and it is a shame that I should be forced to rise to denounce these attempts to make people laugh at others.

That being said, Mr. Speaker—

[English]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Could we have some order, please? I would ask the Hon. Member for Nickel Belt to please get back to either one of the Motions Nos. 5, 6 or 11, whichever one he chooses to debate.

**Mr. Tobin:** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I would much prefer to hear debate on the amendments; but if the Speaker is going to allow a long speech on a non-point of order which bears no relevance to the Standing Orders of the House then the Speaker should at least rule that it is or is not a point of order.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** None of the three points I have heard thus far fall into the category of a point of order.

**Mr. Tobin:** Thank you.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Nickel Belt on debate.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** Mr. Speaker, I would always want to conform with what Your Honour suggests I should do. Just like Tommy Douglas, who was a former featherweight champion when he was in the House, I wish to make sure that I fulfil what Your Honour has requested.

I was saying: Where are the back-bench Conservative Members from Atlantic Canada? Clause 4 will have very drastic effects on fishermen, farmers and consumers in Atlantic Canada. Surely those back-bench Members from Atlantic Canada know that the area suffers from one of the highest unemployment rates in the country. We know that economically the area does not enjoy the same level of activity as does central Canada and some parts of western Canada. I am aggrieved that Conservative back-benchers who talk big when they are in their ridings about how they will fight the Government and how they will be tough on issues are just tabby cats when they come here to the House of Commons. They just sit in their places and say absolutely nothing when measures such as those envisioned in Clause 4 are put on the record.

My colleague from Thunder Bay—Atikokan has proposed three very reasonable amendments. Recognizing that the Government will use force to push through Clause 4, he says, first, that if the Minister is to be given the authority to implement fees for Coast Guard and all sorts of other services on the East Coast then there ought to be a review process. The

review process being recommended is that on the written request of 20 Members of Parliament the matter could be referred to the Transport Committee. It seems to me to be important that that kind of safeguard be attached to that clause. In other measures which are before the House, we can have other references on the request of 20 Members. I think it makes eminent sense that we should be able to do that.

● (1130)

In Motion No. 6, the Member has suggested that there be an automatic review of the charges by the Transport Committee every two years. This review would be to look at the economic impact of those charges on the East Coast economy. I would hope that the Government would accept that. I see the Parliamentary Secretary nodding. Is that a yes or is he just bobbing and weaving?

**Mr. Forrestall:** Bobbing and weaving to the tremendous blows.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** I know we are landing them. If I can get a nod—

**Mr. Forrestall:** You got a nod.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** We got a nod.

Motion No. 11 suggests that this clause not come into effect before January 1, 1988. We understand that it will come into effect on January 1, 1987. We proposed Motion No. 11 because we think there should be a phasing-in period. People have to get ready for this.

**Mr. Forrestall:** We have already provided for that.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** I see another nod. Is that more bobbing and weaving or is the Parliamentary Secretary just punchy? I know we are making some very logical arguments and I see that we are convincing the Parliamentary Secretary. We are getting another nod from him.

**Mr. Forrestall:** What you have to do is get your fist off that piece of paper, stop reading and come out swinging.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** Now that we have a nod from the Parliamentary Secretary, that amendment could very well be put into effect.

I would now like to turn to the matter of Government Members who come from Atlantic Canada. It seems to me that when this Bill was being drafted, it must have gone at some point to the Atlantic caucus. It is unfortunate that Government Members from Atlantic Canada did not see fit to indicate their concern about the ill effects of Clause 4 of the Bill.

The Transport Committee held extensive hearings on this particular Bill. Opposition to Clause 4 was overwhelming. The opposition came from labour unions, Inuit groups, grain exporters, farmers, fishermen, pleasure boat operators, vessel