

*Canada Shipping Act*

● (1620)

What else does this Bill say? What does it say to those people who live in parts of Canada where ice builds up starting in the month of December and continues through January, February and March so that by April there are mountains of ice some 15 to 40 feet high? Tons of ice build up in some areas of Canada which separates fishermen from their boats and from the water on which they make their living.

The Bill says that if one calls the Canadian Coast Guard to come and make one trip to break that ice to allow a fisherman, his colleagues, his neighbours, his friends, his brothers and family to go back to sea to make a living from it, that it will be glad to oblige providing the fisherman pays. That is what Clause 4 of Bill C-75 says to fishermen on the Great Northern Peninsula.

I see that a former Minister of Fisheries and Oceans is in the House. During the time he was Minister, and insofar as fishermen are concerned, he earned a reputation, and rightly so, as one who would always err, if he erred, on the side of fishermen. He knows about what I am talking. He knows that the way of life that would see a man get up at five o'clock in the morning to go to sea in rain and snow and sleet and cold is not an easy one. He knows that fishermen, like farmers, miners and woodsmen, are our primary producers. They do not number among the wealthiest Canadians, but they are among the most efficient. They are among those who make the greatest contribution to this country. They are the people who will be negatively impacted as a result of this Bill.

What do we mean when we say "navigational aids"? We are talking about lights on harbour entrances that allow fishermen to come into harbour during severe weather or fog. The Government has now decided that it will provide navigational aids when and if local communities are prepared to pay for them, since they fall under the provisions of this Bill.

Canada is a marine nation. Perhaps there is no other nation in the world which has as much coastline, Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic, as does this great country of ours. Most countries develop policies to support their natural strengths, to recognize the realities of their environment. Can Hon. Members imagine Canada, which is the greatest marine nation in the world and with the largest coastline, developing a policy that would treat that intrinsic geographic nature of our being as something to be provided in the same manner as McDonald's sells hamburgers? That is to say, provide these services only when numbers warrant, only when the population is large enough to warrant it. Can Hon. Members imagine a nation which says to the people who live along the great coastlines, be they the coastlines of the Pacific, the Atlantic or the Arctic, those Canadians who by their presence guarantee our sovereignty, that they shall pay a penalty because of where they live?

Is it not insane to spend \$500 million on an ice-breaker to go up in the Northwest Passage because the Americans sailed through with the *Polar Sea*? Is it not insane to spend that amount of money on an ice-breaker which is used to reassure

our sovereignty when all we have to do is recognize the presence of our native peoples and others who choose to live in the North? They do not need these additional fees imposed upon them because of where they have chosen to live. If we are worried about sovereignty in the North, the best guarantee we have is the presence of our citizens. The best guarantee we have in terms of their presence is to treat them like decent human beings and not as another resource for the long pickpocket fingers of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) who wants to yet again grab—

**Mr. Nunziata:** Are you calling him a thief?

**Mr. Tobin:** No. I would not call the Minister a thief. That would not cross my mind. I would call him a Scrooge.

**Mr. Nunziata:** What is the difference?

**Mr. Tobin:** A thief would come and take from one's pocket when one is not looking. The Minister of Finance would not do that. On the other hand a Scrooge would weasel, pound, twist, turn and squeeze every last ounce of blood out of one before letting go. It is the Scrooge-like mentality of the Government which I protest.

We are warning Canadians here and now that the long hand of the Government is aimed at their pockets. It is determined to rob from them their last pennies. It is determined in the case of fishermen and farmers, who are facing the worst crisis in decades in terms of prices, to take one more slice of bread off their plates in the mornings. The Government is determined to remove a few more potatoes from their pots in the evenings. Yes, it is even determined to take a few more bottles of Labatt's Blue out of the case at the end of a hard week when the fishermen look forward to a bit of relaxation. Why? Because the Government is imposing these additional charges on our farmers and our fishermen.

**Mr. Benjamin:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I hesitate to interrupt the Hon. Member in his flights. Obviously, his tank is still full. I wish to ask him a question. Would he not mind getting to some facts of the matter in terms of transportation and in terms of the Minister of Transport's commitment to transportation? Does the Hon. Member not realize that the Government and the Minister of Transport have cut off a grant of \$48,000 to Transport 2000—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I think the Hon. Member has a speech he wants to make on the subject.

**Mr. Benjamin:** No. That is a question.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member knows that he is not raising a point of order. The Hon. Member for Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe (Mr. Tobin).

**Mr. Tobin:** Mr. Speaker, whether or not my colleague, with whom I have the pleasure of sitting on the Transport Committee, raised an appropriate point of order, he has raised a very good question. I wish to assure my colleague that having been