

*Interim Supply*

that like the ancient mariner in Coleridge's poem they always have the albatross of their past misdeeds hanging around their necks.

However governments come and go but our constituents still have a number of urgent problems, and it is some of these urgent problems which affect my constituents that I wish to bring up now.

I was very pleased when I saw that one of the cabinet offices had been filled by a friend from British Columbia in the person of the Minister of Public Works. The matter I want to discuss comes within his department and it is a matter whose importance we have always had great difficulty in impressing on previous holders of that office. I refer to the very serious situation that now exists on the Pacific coast with regard to the provision of small boat harbours on Vancouver island and the adjacent mainland. I have a suspicion that previous ministers, not being fortunate enough to come from the Pacific coast, tend to look at the map and to see a very serrated coastline and to imagine that there must be unlimited numbers of safe harbours in the region. However anyone who is familiar with the situation knows that this is not the case and that the number of harbours in which small boats can tie up in safety in all weathers is extremely limited.

The problem is becoming very acute because of a new development—one which I presume is taking place on the Atlantic coast, too—namely the tremendous expansion of small boat ownership. There are places in British Columbia where small harbours are literally carpeted from side to side with boats, and there are innumerable small boats which are unable to find safe anchorage at all; indeed, some of my neighbours are obliged to haul their boats up by tracks to safety rather than leave them at anchorage in the event of the mildest of storms.

I would urge the new Minister of Public Works to have a very comprehensive survey made with regard to the need of the people of the Pacific coast for a large extension of small boat harbours, and to do so in connection with what I believe is the projected plan of the provincial government for the development of marine harbours. Here, I think, is a sphere in which the Department of Public Works should take the initiative more vigorously than it has done in the past.

There is another matter I wish to deal with, one that I have already taken up with two of the incoming ministers. It is a question I took up two years ago with the then minister of labour, and that is the employment of Canadian welders on the new pipe line project now going on throughout the country. I made particular reference to the

fact that in British Columbia two years ago I had received complaints that Canadian welders were not being given employment on these pipe line jobs. In most instances the contractors in charge of construction are United States firms, and in many instances the companies for which they are operating the pipe lines are controlled by United States capital. I received numerous complaints that it is virtually impossible for Canadian welders to get employment.

I brought this up in the House of Commons and asked the then minister of labour to investigate the matter. He did so, and gave me a reassuring answer that the only United States personnel being admitted to the country to work on these pipe lines were a limited number of supervisory personnel. Later, I received still more complaints, very well substantiated, and these I investigated as fully as I was able. I interviewed those in charge of the technical school in Nanaimo, I interviewed the graduates at that school, and some men who were personally known to me as having worked on engineering projects. Everywhere I found the same story and it was to my mind a shocking story.

It was brought extremely forcibly to my attention during the election campaign when I was speaking at one of the large construction job sites in my constituency. The first man I encountered was one with whom I had worked four or five years previous in the shipyards at Victoria. When I knew him he was a highly skilled welder and in addition to that he took extra courses to familiarize himself with the specific job of pipe-line welding. He told me that the first job he went on required the service of 24 welders of whom 23 were American citizens and that the company and the 23 American welders made life so miserable for him that he quit within six weeks. This story was repeated to me over and over again by responsible people.

I wrote to the Minister of Labour and to the Acting Minister of Citizenship and Immigration and I have no complaint whatever with regard to the replies I received from those two gentlemen. I have no suggestion whatever that their replies were anything but perfectly sincere replies. I feel, however, that they were grossly misinformed, otherwise they would not have been able to write me in the reassuring terms in which they did.

I found for instance that the union which has the certified bargaining rights for these jobs in British Columbia is called on to supply welders. They do supply welders