

Canada Shipping Act

will find themselves unemployed. South of the border, someone who did not have a job will get one. The Government of Canada is making a blood transfusion out of that major transportation artery, the St. Lawrence, to the Mississippi and other U.S. transportation systems.

What does Noranda have to say? Its representatives say that they feel the taxes for navigational aids and ice-breaking services would really penalize Noranda for operating in a climate and along a shoreline not of its choosing. Is that not the real issue? All of those companies that would wish to establish themselves in the riding of my friend from New Brunswick, the Province of Newfoundland or the Quebec north shore—another impoverished area which in fact is represented by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney)—shall be penalized because they will have to pay the costs of the environment. The Government is going to charge them for the weather. It is cold in the North and cold creates ice. The Government of Canada will charge those companies that wish to provide regional development and jobs a penalty for setting up in those parts of the country along the coastline or in the North.

It is incredible that the Prime Minister, who was the President and chief operating officer of the Iron Ore Company of Canada which had mines in Quebec, Wabush and Labrador City and depended upon not only a rail link but on the St. Lawrence Seaway to move its product to market, would not respond to the representations of the very man who now occupies his job. The Prime Minister abandoned his job as the President of the Iron Ore Company of Canada just as he abandoned Schefferville which was closed down. He abandoned the salary, job and title that he used as a stepping stone to get the job of the Right Hon. Member for Yellowhead. Did he abandon the region when he abandoned his principles? Did he abandon the concept of regional development? Did he really want to run for election in Montreal or perhaps a suburb of Toronto? He walked away from Schefferville by closing it down and waiting for it to be bulldozed over. He was an employee of an American company because Iron Ore Company of Canada is a subsidiary of a big American concern. He had been working for that company for a long time. As President of the Iron Ore Company, he abandoned Schefferville, watched the ploughs come in to bulldoze it over, and arranged for pension cheques to be paid out because he was running for the leadership of the Conservative Party. Did he just abandon the town, or did he abandon the concept that Canadians have a right to services no matter where they live in the country?

● (1300)

We have noted that the Government JetStar has taken the Prime Minister more often to West Palm Beach, Florida—and that is from the Government's own records—than the JetStar has taken him to Baie Comeau. We on this side of the House have noted that the government JetStar has flown more times with the Prime Minister to West Palm Beach than it has to Baie Comeau or Manicouagan. We are thinking of renaming him the Member for West Palm Beach.

I do not know whether there is some symbolism in that. I do not know whether it is an indication of where the Prime Minister's interest lies. I do not know whether that is an indication of his preference in terms of where he would like to spend his time and with whom.

However, I should like to tell the House the thoughts of those of us who live in large, rural, coastal constituencies like that of the Prime Minister. In fact, the Prime Minister's constituency is right across nine miles of water from mine. We have the great northern peninsula of Newfoundland, nine miles of water, and the north shore of Quebec, and that is the Prime Minister's riding. His riding is nine miles away. One can take a ferry from Newfoundland across to it. It is nine miles away, but I have never seen him. Those of us who live in similar constituencies are wondering whether the fact that the JetStar with the Prime Minister aboard goes more often to West Palm Beach than it goes to Baie Comeau or Manicouagan is an indication of where the Prime Minister places the Baie Comeaus of the world on his list of priorities.

One of the reasons the Government is so insensitive to the impact of the Clause 4 user charges, this penalty for living in rural Canada which will be imposed by the Minister of Transport is that cabinet Ministers do not ride VIA Rail any more. They do not ride the buses any more. They do not even deign to put themselves in such a shabby place as the first-class compartment of Air Canada! They do not travel in first-class compartments; they take whole airplanes—get an entire JetStar and fly! While the rest of us are wondering whether Air Canada will land in our riding so that we can have some kind of link, the Prime Minister is taking an L-1011 to Europe. Flying along at a slower pace behind the L-1011, chugging for all its worth and trying to keep pace, is a Hercules aircraft loaded with two trucks and video gear to take pictures of the Prime Minister.

Mr. Robichaud: Is that what it is for?

Mr. Tobin: Yes, that is what it is for. It is a Hercules aircraft. Mr. Speaker, did you ever see such a brute? It has a big belly. The Prime Minister also has two vans which he keeps on standby here in Ottawa. The door of the aircraft goes up and they drive them aboard. There are seven crewmen and eight technicians, as well as video cameras, audio equipment, light systems, and sound systems, and the Prime Minister goes off to make the latest version of "Bedtime for Bonzo".

The reason this kind of legislation can be introduced is that after 18 months the Government is no longer living in the real world. I know Hon. Members opposite are living in the real world. I know there are Members opposite sitting in the House today who are as concerned as I am about the tendency, not toward presidential-style politics, but toward emperor-style politics. Thank God for the Hercules, in some ways. It is a Trojan Horse for the people of Canada to have a peek at the emperor's entourage and the presidential travelling style of the Prime Minister.