

Canada Shipping Act

both of which are subsidizing their grain farmers to a tremendous extent. These factors make it more difficult for farmers to sell their grain, which means that less grain will be shipped. As a result, the railway workers in my constituency will have a more difficult time holding their jobs with CNR and CPR, where there have already been too many lay-offs.

The policies of the Government as outlined in this Bill will inevitably lead to more lay-offs and that is why I oppose it and support the amendment.

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier (Mr. Gauthier), who consented to my intervention at this time. He recognizes that while this matter is of great importance to him, as a Member from Atlantic Canada it is indeed of greater importance to me.

That is why I am rather amazed that Members opposite, particularly Members from Atlantic Canada such as the Hon. Member for Halifax West (Mr. Crosby), support the thrust of this legislation which will cause additional costs. The Minister of Justice (Mr. Crosbie) supports the Government in its attempt to add additional costs to fishermen for navigational aids, sounding, dredging, vessel traffic services, ice-breaking services and marine aid. I am very appalled that those Members would want to promote user fees for those types of services used by our primary producers.

It is likely that this legislation will be proclaimed by the Government of Canada and become the law with which people in my Province of Nova Scotia and other provinces will have to comply. It will be a great impediment to those who seek to make their living from the sea and by other means. For instance, this legislation will have a traumatic effect on the Prince Edward Island potato industry. That industry submitted a brief to the legislative committee that was studying Bill C-75 and the various amendments to the Canada Shipping Act. Given the recent events in Prince Edward Island, I would have thought that Members opposite who have a short time left to represent that province in the Parliament of Canada, would take heed of the message given by the people of Prince Edward Island to the provincial Conservative Party that they do not like this sort of action by the Government of Canada. User fees for these very important services will affect them in a very dramatic way.

The Prince Edward Island potato industry states in their brief that they are vigorously opposed to the introduction of charges relating to navigational services until an impact study on the potato industry's export business has been conducted. That industry knows that these user fees will have an extremely negative impact on their industry. Has the Government or have the Conservative Members of Parliament from Prince Edward Island provided that impact study? Have they provided the information that would address that issue? No. They support the Bill as it stands. One could conclude as a result of their lack of action and concern on behalf of the people whom they represent that they want to see that

particular industry decline even further than it has. I would hope that the message given to former Premier Lee of Prince Edward Island would be sufficient to make Members opposite cognizant that this legislation is discriminatory and unfair to the primary producers in Canada so much so that they would stand in their places and reject this legislation.

Not only do potato farmers find this legislation destructive to their industry, that sentiment is shared by the primary producers in the fishing industry. I am talking about those individuals who must rise early in the morning, set out to catch the fish and return to have their catch processed. There seems to be a myth that these primary producers are making large sums of money. However, we are not talking about National Sea, we are referring to that small independent fisherman who must go out on his boat on a daily basis to try to make sufficient money to earn a livelihood for his family. The Government is telling those fishermen that they may continue to do that, but they will not only pay personal income taxes, there will now be a charge for dredging services and navigational services. If that is not enough, the Government will charge for ice-breaking services and any marine aid that may be necessary.

The Government has singled out those small individual primary producers in our country and introduced discriminatory legislation that will affect them in a very negative way. That is very unlike what the Government has done for other sectors of the economy. I suggest that Members of Parliament from Atlantic Canada visit the wharfs and bays of Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick to explain to the people there how the Government can provide \$500,000 in capital gains tax provisions, provide millions of dollars in bail-outs to banks in western Canada, or provide special unrestricted income to the oil and gas industry in this country, yet the small independent primary producers in this country must pay more. Where is the fairness? Where is the equality of opportunity?

Unfortunately, the Prince Edward Island election has not come home true to the Cabinet or Members opposite. However, it will come true in the succeeding elections, both provincially and federally. The Conservative Party will be thrown out of the Province of New Brunswick and the Government will learn directly what these measures mean to the people of Atlantic Canada. I cannot believe that Members of Parliament with fishing ports and villages in their constituencies in Atlantic Canada could support such regressive measures. Of course, Hon. Members opposite will say: "We have to have user fees". That is like saying that if one drives on the highway one ought to be paying for the snowplough—

• (1230)

Some Hon. Members: Yes.

Mr. Dingwall: —and there should be a toll gate. Hon. Members from Ontario would agree with that one. But our Party does not agree with charging fishermen additional expense because what they are paying now is too much.