

*Committee Reports*

(Mr. Crosbie) so that we can work on a new policy which would apply to all regulations, not just this regulation.

What we are saying is that we are, under the Minister of Justice, open to suggestions which will improve the process. We, as much as anyone, want to have regulations which will stand up under the laws which are passed. However, if we need a new policy, then we are suggesting that the committee might sit down with the Minister of Justice to see if we cannot work out an arrangement which would be satisfactory to all Parties.

The House will also know that this particular matter is being reviewed because of the amendments to the Canada Shipping Act which the Minister brought forward and which were first debated in this House on Tuesday, October 15, 1985. I know that in the regulations the committee made reference to the fact that Bill C-75, an Act to amend the Canada Shipping Act and to amend the Arctic Waters Pollution Act, the Maritime Code Act and the Oil and Gas Production and Conservation Act, was before the House. So we have amendments to the Act before the House, and there is every intention that the concerns of the committee, as put forward in its report, will be addressed.

● (1430)

In his remarks on that Bill, the Minister of Transport (Mr. Mazankowski) put great emphasis on environmental problems. Our Government has always had an immense interest in conservation of the environment. We know this is of concern to all Canadians and that is why we brought forward these amendments. I understand the Bill has gone to committee and I am sure the work that the committee has done will be helpful in the debate. There is a lot of interest in this issue on our side. Our Members represent all 10 provinces and the Territories, which is not the case with the other two Parties, unfortunately. Members of the NDP and Liberal Party are rather restricted because of the narrow geographic scope of their membership. The Liberals have some Members from Newfoundland but not too many. When we talk about the Arctic, there is no one from the NDP or the Liberal Party with that familiarity with those areas and their waters. There is only one Liberal from the West Coast as well. Therefore, the committee work will be carried by our Party with its 211 Members representing all parts of Canada, and doing very well at that.

As I said, the Minister of Transport has shown great concern for problems in this area. For example, at page 7620 of *Hansard* he points out the problems which would occur, for example, if a 60,000-tonne laden tanker importing crude into Canada experienced a spill. He says as well:

Improvements are to be made to the maritime pollution claims fund, which will be renamed the ship source oil pollution fund, whereby small claimants, such as fishermen and resort owners, will in future be able to claim directly against that fund.

As well, earlier in my comments I referred to the tourist industry. We are concerned that should an oil spill occur, we will be able to compensate the many people in that industry who would suffer. We are also concerned about the regulations dealing with the carriage of dangerous goods in bulk.

In bringing my remarks to a close, I would just point out that some comments by members on the other side were partisan in nature. The Hon. Member for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps) got carried away, as she often does, and tried to bring some extraneous issues into the debate. Her colleague, quite properly, made a good summation of the committee's position. It is unfortunate that in the middle of a discussion on shipping regulations we had this extraneous interjection by a Member who did not understand the process and who was trying to be partisan. I know that is not the nature of the chairman who brought forward this report. We cannot erase those remarks from *Hansard* but I would hope that anyone who reads the record in future will understand that perhaps the Hon. Member got a little excited and tried to start a debate on something that was not before the House, namely regulations promulgated by the CMHC.

Just to put that in perspective if I may, there is no question about this Party's efforts on behalf of the disabled. The House will know that the Minister of State for Transport (Mrs. Blais-Grenier) brought forward new regulations for the disabled dealing with transportation. This is part of our ongoing effort to try to right some of the wrongs which exist. It is hoped that in the future people reading *Hansard* will understand that that was an unnecessary intervention on the Hon. Member's part, and perhaps in due time the member will find another vehicle for venting her spleen.

In any event, I think it is very important that we have these reports considered. I appreciate—

**Ms. Copps:** Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Lewis:** Oh, oh!

**Ms. Copps:** Mr. Speaker, I had to come back immediately I saw the Hon. Member denigrating the fact that my remarks about the disabled were not relevant to the debate and dealt with another problem. However, he demonstrated the poor logic of his argument by going into a long comment about his Government's record *vis-à-vis* the disabled. If we accept his first argument that my intervention regarding the disabled was out of order, then why does he buttress my intervention by commenting further on the record of his Government in this area? It is totally illogical.

**Mr. Speaker:** I take it that this was an attempt at a point of order which was not a point of order, but that is all right.

**Mr. Lewis:** Mr. Speaker, that is the first time I have ever had a question in a point of order. We appreciate the Hon. Member is having some difficulty adjusting to this House. We are very much behind her under the circumstances. I think it was very kind of the Chair to let her go so far while trying to bring in a question on a point of order in this very important debate. I think she will find, as time goes on, that she will become aware of when to ask questions and when to make points of order.

In any event, I wanted to close by making direct reference to the comments of the committee chairman who pointed out the