

*Canada Shipping Act*

• (1120)

**GOVERNMENT ORDERS**

[English]

**CANADA SHIPPING ACT AND RELATED ACTS**

## MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed from Wednesday, April 30, consideration of Bill C-75, an Act to amend the Canada Shipping Act and to amend the Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act, the Maritime Code Act and the Oil and Gas Production and Conservation Act in consequence thereof, as reported (with amendments) from a legislative committee; and Motions Nos. 5, 6 and 11 (Mr. Angus, p. 12764).

**Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday we were debating motions put forward by my colleague, the Hon. Member for Thunder Bay—Atikokan (Mr. Angus), motions Nos. 5, 6 and 11. These are proposed amendments to Clause 4 of the Canada Shipping Act.

Hon. Members must realize that Clause 4 of the Bill will provide the Government with the authority to recover the cost of providing Coast Guard services. This is certainly a departure from the prior practice. In the past, these services were not charged for. There was no user fee for Coast Guard services. In Clause 4 the Government proposes to impose such charges. Indeed, under the legislation the Minister will have the authority to set the fee, not only for Coast Guard services, but fees for ice-breaking, navigational aids, dredging services, soundings and search and rescue. I ask you, Mr. Speaker, can you imagine what such a move will do to the East Coast, not only to fishermen but to farmers? Can Your Honour imagine what it will do to the economy of the East Coast of Canada? Do Members opposite from Atlantic Canada not realize the drastic affect this measure will have on the livelihoods of their constituents, since all these charges will have to be passed on down the line to the consumer?

We all know the statistics with respect to Atlantic Canada today. There are enough Tory Members sitting in the back benches, silent Tory Members—

**Mr. Tremblay (Lotbinière):** Some of them.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** I do not want to tangle with the Hon. Member for Lotbinière (Mr. Tremblay). He is the middle-weight champion of the House of Commons, and I do not want to tangle with him. He has a wicked left hook. He is a tough customer, just ask his riding association president. I don't want to fuss with that guy.

[Translation]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. The Hon. Member for Lotbinière (Mr. Tremblay) on a point of order.

**Mr. Tremblay (Lotbinière):** Mr. Speaker, certain lapses may be acceptable, but I would suggest that personal remarks concerning an individual are out of order in the House.

Admittedly, Hon. Members do enjoy immunity in the House, but I respectfully submit that ethical standards should prevail.

In my opinion, the comments of my colleague from Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez) were clearly related to the private life of a Member. For this reason, Mr. Speaker, I would urge him to apologize.

[English]

**Mr. Tobin:** I rise on the same point of order, Mr. Speaker. I wish to submit to the Speaker that there is no point of order whatsoever. The Hon. Member has referred to none of the rules of the House of Commons. He simply pointed out that the Hon. Member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez) in his usual oratorical flare has indicated some measure of respect for the Parliamentary Secretary. I think that the Parliamentary Secretary is delighted to be called a tough customer, judging by the grin on his face. Can we proceed with the excellent speech of the Hon. Member?

[Translation]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I fully appreciate the representations of the Hon. Member for Lotbinière (Mr. Tremblay)—

[English]

However, the Chair does not believe that there has been a breach of order or unparliamentary language used by the Hon. Member for Nickel Belt. I would ask the Hon. Member to get to the point of the debate.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** Mr. Speaker, I think that I should at least have the right to respond to what was said by the Hon. Member for Lotbinière.

**Some Hon. Members:** No!

**Mr. Crosby:** Tell us about your defeat in 1980.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** Mr. Speaker, I did not cast any reflection on the Hon. Member. All I did was repeat what was in the press and what is on the public record. I paid him a compliment. I said that he was a tough customer. I said that he was the middleweight champion of the House of Commons.

[Translation]

**Mr. Tremblay (Lotbinière):** Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Lotbinière (Mr. Tremblay) on a point of order.

**Mr. Tremblay (Lotbinière):** Mr. Speaker, I did not rise a moment ago when the Liberal Member of the Official Opposition—

**An Hon. Member:** The only one in the House.

**Mr. Tremblay (Lotbinière):** Again, indeed. I repeat, Mr. Speaker, we heard certain insinuations and innuendos which, to my mind, are a serious breach of ethical conduct in the House.