

Fishing and Recreational Harbours

It does not state that this will be done with the consent of the provinces. If I have misread the bill it was not my intention to mislead the House. I submit, however, that as long as the present wording stands that "The minister may undertake projects" for the construction of recreational harbours, etc., without saying that this must be following consultation with the provinces, then the bill gives the minister wide powers to build recreational harbours wherever he chooses. I should like the hon. parliamentary secretary to clarify that clause. It is one to which we on this side took exception in the belief that it granted wide powers to the minister.

Mr. Fleming: Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier in my comments, as I understand it from our officials, other parts of the bill reassure that it will work on a co-operative basis. I want to assure the hon. member, because of his deep concern, that I will take the matter back to the department and see that they are either prepared to defend that clause as being fair and equitable or have it changed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Would the parliamentary secretary accept a question from the hon. member for Carleton-Charlotte (Mr. McCain)?

Mr. Fleming: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. McCain: Mr. Speaker, in view of the vast amount of evidence to indicate that the wharfage system is not an equitable system of collecting fees at the harbours would the minister, through his parliamentary secretary, give consideration to the elimination of that clause from the bill and to establishing an equitable system of fee gathering?

Mr. Fleming: Mr. Speaker, I do not profess to have the expertise of the hon. member for Carleton-Charlotte (Mr. McCain), and I say that sincerely because of the nature of his riding. My understanding is that we want to straighten out many of the inequities. We appreciate that wharfingers operate in some areas and not in others and that is inequitable. In turn we do not want to introduce a system which brings

hardship to people already suffering hardship by levying some heavy fee against them.

One reason why I am anxious that this bill go to committee is that we may hear the contributions of thoughtful members from ridings that have this kind of situation so that we can seek a solution that will be equitable to everybody. I agree with the hon. member that it is not entirely equitable now.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry.

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**STATUTE LAW (METRIC CONVERSION)
AMENDMENT ACT, 1976**

AMENDMENTS TO WHEAT BOARD ACT TO FACILITATE
CONVERSION TO METRIC SYSTEM

Hon. Len Marchand (for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce) moved that Bill C-23, to facilitate conversion to the metric system of measurement, be read the third time and do pass.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): The hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Towers).

Mr. Towers: Mr. Speaker, may I call it 10.30 p.m.?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): It being 10.30 p.m. this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at two o'clock p.m.

At 10.26 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Special Order.