

*Canada Shipping Act*

Famous words—task force! How many task forces has this unfortunate government inflicted upon the country since then?

—under the direction of the Department of Transport will be set up to launch an early review of the report—

He is speaking of the report of the Royal Commission on Pilotage.

—with a view to expediting implementation and recommendation. The government intends to proceed quickly with the preparation of appropriate legislation, and the majority of the recommendations of the Commission appear acceptable in broad terms.

Two years have passed and we are right back where we were at that time. It is rather odd that this is the same department—and I am not attaching any blame to the minister because he was not the minister then—which a short time ago was compelled to come to this House hat in hand to ask for remedial legislation to legalize invalid regulations passed under the Aeronautics Act. These regulations had been in operation for a number of years and had been declared by the Supreme Court to be invalid. Here is the same department of the same government coming to us with exactly the same facts. The Royal Commission on Pilotage said very definitely that the by-laws passed by the pilotage authority under the provisions of the Canada Shipping Act were invalid. Two years have gone by and the same situation is prevailing.

The government came to us last year and legislation was enacted to deal with the situation. In spite of the fact that the government has in this session given us the most pedestrian kind of legislation—they have not tackled any of the real problems of this country such as inflation, unemployment, the divisions in the country and constitutional problems—the government comes in on the last day of the session and says: “please, we want to continue the system for one more year”. Of course, we have to give them that right, but I think it is a sad illustration of the manner in which the government conducts itself, particularly when we consider this government’s attempts to commit an indecent assault on the parliamentary system.

I think this time I will limit myself to simply calling it an indecent assault. The government has attempted to take away all the rights which the parliamentary process has made available over the generations to the House of Commons, and in their place in every bill which is brought before us they seek more and more authoritarian power.

[Mr. Baldwin.]

Never has any government in peace time sought for and obtained more authoritarian and dictatorial rights. Here, we see an example of what happens when these rights are exercised by a government which is contemptuous of Parliament and of parliamentary traditions.

There are those people who say that the only kind of government which is effective and efficient is one which acts dictatorially and arrogantly, and without regard for the rights of the people. This is an example which proves that is not the case. Those people who languish in that belief have a lot to learn. Governments, merely because they are strong, powerful and have the authority which has been given to them by the House of Commons, are not necessarily efficient. No better proof of that can be found than in the fact that here, within a period of one month, this government has had to come to this House to ask the House to make good illegalities in respect of regulations and Orders in Council that were passed.

I am glad that after prodding, pushing and shoving by members of this party, the President of the Privy Council in particular was persuaded to bring down proposals implementing the suggestions of the Special Committee on Statutory Instruments to safeguard against this very thing. It shows how necessary it was. We sometimes wonder how we have survived this long without that safeguard, and I hope as I resume my seat that this will be a lesson to the government to bring forward those proposals immediately. Let us not be put in a position where we have to come back and validate illegal, improper and retroactive regulations which are *ultra vires* and have not the legal effect which they should have. I hope the government will recognize this. I hope it will be a lesson to them, and I hope we will not find the government coming back here next year saying: “Please pass this act again for another year.”

**Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena):** I will only speak for a moment or two, not nearly as long as my friend, the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin), although I do not mean to detract in any way from the force of what he said.

First, I want to extend congratulations to the Parliamentary Secretary for being able to present to the House word for word an identical speech to that which was presented to the Senate when the bill was dealt with over there. I want to say that there is some efficiency in the department in that respect in the