

Industrial Activity in Maritimes

We are worried about this. We have brought this forward to the attention of the house. I think the final straw was when H.M.C.S. *Bonaventure* went to Montreal. She went up the river and will be there for one year, as we understand. Mr. Speaker, we have been asking questions in this regard. I have put them on the order paper. I have asked orally of the minister what the story is. Of course the Minister of Industry, following the announcement of policy made I think in July, 1965, pointed out that all this naval refitting work must be done by way of tender.

I recall a question I put to the minister. It was respecting a ship bearing a Cape Breton name, H.M.C.S. *New Waterford*, which, during the winter of 1964-65 was due for a sizable refit that would mean much to a small yard such as would be found in my own constituency. At that time we were told, after putting in a new drydock, after doing the building necessary to handle a ship of this size, that we could not do it. We had gone to considerable expenditure; but the Minister of Industry apparently said that tenders would be called. Coming back to what I was speaking of, I am not sure whether the Halifax shipyards and officials concerned were given an opportunity of bidding on H.M.C.S. *Bonaventure*. On speaking to the former general manager of the yard that would have done the work, I understood that they were not given an opportunity to tender.

There are other questions we could put to the minister, which would succinctly bring out what we have in mind. I see that the Minister of Transport did not wait for me to finish. He has gone, as well as the money from the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Tomorrow, sir, I intend to put a private member's resolution on the order paper asking for a return to the original shipbuilding subsidy program instituted by the former Conservative government and which has been cut down by the present government. The resolution is to the effect that there should be a return to the original program.

In his original announcement the Minister of Transport seemed to think that the cut-back to 25 per cent, and so on, which is to go on in succeeding years is sufficiently large enough to provide for our Canadian shipyards. Well, sir, the original plan was brought forward by the government of the present Leader of the Opposition to enable our

[Mr. MacEwan.]

Canadian shipyards to compete effectively with foreign shipyards. As a result, after a few years in this country we were able to do this, especially in the construction of fishing trawlers. The Minister of Transport has now said that no doubt these fishing trawler subsidies will continue, but on the commercial end of it they are not sure just what will happen. This is the kind of thing—

Mr. Howard: I wonder if the hon. gentleman would permit a question?

Mr. MacEwan: Yes, certainly.

Mr. Howard: I wonder if the hon. gentleman, realizing that it is only two or three minutes to ten, would perhaps desist in his remarks. I do not say that he should do that because of the importance of his question or otherwise, but I suggest he ought to wait for a moment or two, because it is almost ten o'clock, and because it seems to me that some minister on the other side is waiting for the hon. gentleman to sit down so that he can rise and make a declaration of policy.

An hon. Member: They have not risen yet.

Mr. Howard: I know they have not risen yet. I have watched them attentively. I wonder if the hon. member for Pictou would give them at least one last opportunity to say something.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): Make a statement, you mean?

Mr. MacInnis: The interjection of the hon. gentleman who did not rise in his seat, to the effect that the hon. member for Pictou did not want to give the minister an opportunity to speak, is unwarranted. I would draw to the attention of members of this house, including the Minister of National Health and Welfare that the hon. member for Pictou in making his remarks offered an opportunity for the Minister of National Health and Welfare to say something on this matter, and the minister declined.

An hon. Member: He refused to get up.

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I should like to make a short reply to the comments which have been made. It is true that I did invite the hon. member for Pictou, because I thought he ought to have the opportunity to participate in what is becoming known to the House of Commons as a—