

We need leadership from the Government, not a limp-noodle approach which suggests changing the names on the registration of a ship with no Canadian ownership requirements and no insistence that the ships be built in Canada. We need something strong which will be a real initiative for shipbuilding and seafarers in this country.

I wish to advise the House of one of the most outrageous things that I have heard concerning shipping and the care that we have for the Canadian seamen's involvement in shipping and shipping under Canadian control. My colleague, the Hon. Member for Comox—Powell River (Mr. Skelly), mentioned that Canadian Pacific was a great offender in the area of using foreign ships in what he called "a force of seagoing sweat-boxes". I heard from an organization which is concerned with providing jobs for seafarers. I was told a story of a Canadian seaman who was out of work and looking for a job with Canadian Pacific Ships. He was told that the jobs on CP ships were being handled out of England, so he made it his business to contact the people running these Canadian-owned ships, the shipping agent in London, and was told the following: "Sorry, we can't hire you; we don't hire foreigners". That must have come as a very great shock to that Canadian seaman who was looking for a job on a Canadian ship.

● (1720)

It was the policy of that company not to hire Canadians. The shipping agent, charged with staffing and crewing vessels, regarded that Canadian as a foreigner and, therefore, no job was available to him.

If that is the state of the Canadian Government's interest in the shipbuilding industry and concern about jobs for Canadians in the Canadian shipbuilding industry, we need more than a Bill or a measure which will change the registration of two ships. We need more than window-dressing with a list of exemptions, which leaves us with the *status quo*.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the House ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: 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 a legislative committee.

* * *

CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed from Tuesday, September 15, consideration of the motion of Mr. McMillan that Bill C-74, an Act respecting the protection of the environment and of human life

Canadian Environmental Protection Act

and health, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. There have been discussions among the Parties in order to try to assist the Hon. Member for Davenport (Mr. Caccia), the environment critic of the Official Opposition.

We are proposing that the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of the Environment (Mrs. Browes) continue from the other day and immediately thereafter the floor be granted to the Hon. Member for Davenport. We would suggest that the House not see the clock in order to allow the Hon. Member for Davenport to complete his remarks.

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, I rise on the same point of order. I just want to indicate that there have been some discussions in an effort to ensure that the Parliamentary Secretary has an opportunity to complete her remarks and that the environment critic of the Official Opposition has an opportunity to complete his remarks. We have agreed not to see the clock.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the unanimous consent to that effect?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Agreed and so ordered.

Mrs. Pauline Browes (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Government and the Minister of the Environment (Mr. McMillan), I am honoured and pleased today to be able to speak on Bill C-74 respecting the proposed Canadian Environmental Protection Act.

In the Speech from the Throne on October 1, 1986, the Government clearly acknowledged the essential relationship between a clean and healthy environment and the quality of Canadian life. We recognize the interdependence of environment and the economy. A clean and healthy environment is essential to the survival of Canada's resource-based economy.

The Government then signalled the high priority that it attaches to protecting and preserving the Canadian environment and made a commitment to introduce a new comprehensive federal environmental protection Act, to improve our country's capacity to deal effectively with pollution, particularly from toxic chemicals.

The very title of the Act tells Canadians what it will do—protect our environment. That is one of the most important challenges facing our society today.

Environmental protection involves each and every one of us. No one has a priority on the air we breathe or the water we drink. Our environment is a precious and delicate balance between human activity and nature. Unfortunately, human activity is tipping the scales in a dangerous direction.