

Government Orders

lobster grounds. It can be dangerous. There is no question about that. The minister was not concerned about that. His reply in the House indicated clearly that he was not concerned. I think that was the day he talked about contingency plans being in place to take care of any eventuality.

It is obvious there were not contingency plans or we would not be dealing with this legislation today. Again, I am confused about whether the ocean became more dangerous before this bill was introduced last week than it had been the day before or the day the strike began, or than it had been two weeks before the strike began when we raised the issue in the House, or than it had been, in fact, two years ago when this contract expired and throughout the two years since when it has been subject to negotiation.

I think we in the Official Opposition well understand the dangers of the sea. The member for Ottawa West has not experienced it personally but she certainly listens to and is supported by colleagues who have.

The Minister of Justice also talked about the possibility of some 41 ships, which would be a record, that could be caught in the seaway as a result of the actions of the Liberal and NDP parties stalling this legislation. The one inevitable result of being a Canadian is that you prepare for winter. Every year winter comes. Every winter it gets colder. Every year ice forms on the waterways. Every year it snows. If there is anybody who lives in this country and does not know that, they obviously have not been outside in 100 years.

Mr. Harvard: You haven't been to Winnipeg, Marlene.

Mrs. Catterall: Yes, I have stood at the corner of Portage and Main and I do know that that corner exemplifies what Canadian winters are all about. In case the government did not know that, we made a point of letting them know. We let them know before this strike began. Before the government thought of this legislation, we made a point of letting them know. My colleague from Leeds—Grenville did stand up and remind the government that there is \$6 million worth of navigational aids in the St. Lawrence Seaway and that if those aids are not brought in before winter, they are lost. They are destroyed by the ice.

I guess the government did not hear him, or chose not to respond. It certainly had many, many weeks after we were aware of the problems to make itself aware of the problems and to get back to the bargaining table and say: "We had better get these people back to work". It chose not to do that.

The minister on Monday also said: "It doesn't bother anybody from Ottawa because they don't have empathy for the people out on ships." I think I have said enough on that particular point. The Official Opposition well understands that the government obviously does not care about the problems of people out on ships.

Then the Minister of Justice said: "Maybe I could ask the member from Ottawa to have some concern for our veterans and the people in veterans hospitals." If I did not have personal experience at those veterans hospitals, I only had to listen to the co-workers of the hospital services workers from Ste. Anne de Bellevue in Montreal who came to this city yesterday to show their support for the hospital services workers who work with them. These were not the people on strike. These are the professionals—the nurses, the dietitians, the doctors, the X-ray technicians. They are not on strike. They are the ones who are keeping the hospital running. They are the ones who are working 12 and 13-hour shifts, being bribed, cajoled, coerced and threatened into crossing picket lines and keeping the hospital going, working to the point of exhaustion.

They are the members of the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada, the union whose president wrote a letter to the President of the Treasury Board. The President of the Treasury Board used that letter in this House to imply that the professional workers in that union were in support of this back to work legislation. In fact, what they were supporting and urging was that the government get back to the bargaining table to recognize the legitimate claims of these hospital services workers and to reach a settlement with them.

The people who came here from Montreal yesterday to sit in and watch this debate, to meet with myself and with other members of the Official Opposition, came because they completely understand the value, which the government does not, of the work these workers perform, its importance to veterans in Canada living out their last years in those homes. They understand that