

Canada Shipping Act

Canada. I wish to point out that there are a good many other ports in Canada. For example, there is a port in the city of Winnipeg on the Red River. An agreement covering sick mariners would not be applicable to such a port. As matters stand, the port of Churchill in Manitoba is covered. In addition, any Ontario ports on salt water are covered.

As the hon. member has drafted his amendment, I do not feel it would be an entirely practical arrangement. While I appreciate the hon. member's motives in proposing this amendment, I regretfully do not feel I can support it as it stands.

Mr. J. M. Forrestal (Dartmouth-Halifax East): I wish to make one further observation, Mr. Speaker. I think distinguishing between ports, as to whether they are fresh water or salt water ports, is highly irrelevant in terms of the matter now before us. I urge the government to give some consideration to this amendment because the question of a sick mariner is indeed important, particularly to the poor mariner who is the one most directly affected. If a sick man happens to be on a ship, it does not matter very much whether that ship is tied up at a fresh water port or a salt water port. The fact of the matter is that, invariably, he will be away from his home and family physician. Usually, he will not have community contacts so will not know the specialists in the area. All these circumstances would tend to create difficulties.

I suggest there will be administrative difficulties within the departments concerned, both federal and provincial. The acceptance of this simple amendment would go far to remove that type of difficulty. I urge the government to accept the amendment. As the hon. member for South Western Nova (Mr. Comeau) pointed out, it is a very simple one.

Mr. Haidasz: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the comments and views expressed by hon. members with regard to this particular amendment. However, as I stated in this House during the debate on second reading of this bill, the entire Canada Shipping Act is being thoroughly studied. The Minister of Transport (Mr. Jamieson) has said that many amendments will be proposed to the Canada Shipping Act which may have to do with some of the points raised by hon. members. In view of this, it is the opinion of the department that we should keep the designated ports intact as at present.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those in favour of the amendment will please say yea.

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Some hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: In my view the nays have it.

Some hon. Members: On division.

Amendment (Mr. Comeau) negatived.

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare) moved that Bill C-10, to amend the Canada Shipping Act, as reported (with an amendment) from the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Munro moved that the bill be read the third time and do pass.

• (12:20 p.m.)

Mr. Comeau: Mr. Speaker, I again rise. I am sorry to take the time of the House. I like these Fridays, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I am the only one who is really interested in this bill because I do represent salt water fishermen and the bill was presented by a minister from a fresh water area. What struck me quite funny was the fact that I had an amendment similar to the amendment brought in by the department. In fact, I submitted my amendment to the Clerk yesterday and was advised that because it was exactly the same as the departmental amendment it should be retracted. I did, therefore, retract it. I must say I take a little credit for the amendment which is now on the books. My amendment was stolen, Mr. Speaker.

The point which was made on second reading and also twice today is that Part V of the Canada Shipping Act is to be phased out. It has been, and still is, my argument that in this case the government is simply renegeing on some of its responsibilities because, as I say, the government has had a long-standing and historic responsibility to provide medical assistance to sick mariners. Now, the government wishes to eliminate the provision in respect of free drugs. The bill fails to provide for the care of foreign fishermen. This is something which historically we have always done. Several provinces in which medicare is