

Mr. BALDWIN: This is a voluntary scheme which we have developed with the cooperation of the Canadian Boat Federation and the manufacturing and distributing industry. We cannot compel anyone to put on a plate, but we have achieved excellent cooperation in persuading them to do so. I think virtually the great majority of boat manufacturers—pleasure boat manufacturers producing boats for outboard engines—are now using these plates.

Mr. WRATTEN: I was wondering, when there are so many small owners of boats and boat makers who turn out four or five pleasure boats a year.

Mr. BALDWIN: We have not been able to cover all of them, but we have found virtually everybody cooperating with out inspection.

Mr. HEES: The publicity that has come out recently regarding this accident I think will make more and more boat buyers look for that particular plaque in future and make sure that they do not overload their boats.

Mr. McDONALD (*Hamilton South*): Is it contemplated by the department to set up certain regulations with respect to small boat owners, for example, that a child 10 years old cannot sail a 35 horse power 14 foot boat around a lake by himself?

I have been up north a lot, and we all know there have been many accidents in the last few years. Does the department contemplate any type of regulation with respect to the age of people who would be sailing any boats of this nature?

Mr. HEES: No. I think you have to leave a certain amount up to the common sense of the boat owners themselves.

Mr. McDONALD (*Hamilton South*): The automotive industry started out some time ago, and I feel within the next ten to twelve years that the boats on these small lakes will be of a very substantial size.

Mr. WRATTEN: You would need the whole Canadian army to police them.

Mr. CHEVRIER: I doubt very much if the Department of Transport could regulate such a thing because it does not come under the jurisdiction of the federal government. It is a provincial matter and it falls under property and civil rights.

The federal government I think has jurisdiction over the matter because of the navigation aspects only, but I do not think they can go further than that.

Mr. BALDWIN: We have statutory authority to invoke a system of licensing the boat operators. We now just license the boats but we could license the boat operators as well.

We have discussed this on more than one occasion with the various interested groups. It came up at the meeting which we held last winter with the industry and various boating groups.

One of the problems that always arises is the one referred to by Mr. Wratten, namely, that it would take a very large organization to police adequately the small boat field in this matter.

The other thing is that there are a great many difficulties in invoking your inspection and licensing system for operators, and the general consensus seemed to be that while it may become necessary some day, it was very important now to try to see what we might achieve through the means of education and cooperation by introducing new laws and new by-laws.

So I think we shall have further recommendations and discussions on this subject of licensing operators, but we have not yet reached the point where we think we should.

Mr. McDONALD (*Hamilton South*): Does it not come under the jurisdiction of the provincial police of Ontario, for example, to prosecute boat offenders on the lakes, or does it come under the R.C.M.P.?

Mr. BALDWIN: Any police authority may enforce the federal small boat regulations, be that authority provincial, municipal or the R.C.M.P.