

Oral Questions

● (1510)

ENERGY

**USE OF CANADIAN SHIPS TO MOVE WESTERN OIL TO
EASTERN CANADA**

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, my question might properly be directed to the Minister of Supply and Services. What I am trying to get at is the registry of ships, namely, where we get them, the number of ships, the registry and the flag under which they are sailing. I am speaking of those ships now engaged in the movement of oil from the west coast to the east coast of Canada. Can the minister advise the House whether or not any Canadian ships are involved in this transshipment? If so, how many? If there are none, are we doing anything to encourage Canadian bottoms, Canadian flag ships, to move this oil from west to east?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, that question should be directed to the Minister of Transport.

[*English*]

Mr. Forrestall: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I might have the attention of the Minister of Transport, as the Minister of Supply and Services has suggested I should direct my question to him. Can the Minister of Transport indicate to the House whether any of the ships engaged in the movement of oil out of Alberta through the Trans Mountain pipeline and thence to the east coast of Canada are Canadian-registered vessels? If none of this oil is moving in Canadian-registered vessels, what are the plans or intentions of the government to encourage or to secure Canadian ships for this particular purpose?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, in principle we try to encourage—besides this is what was decided after a meeting with the Maritimes premiers—owners of vessels registered in Canada.

I had in hand last week a list of vessels used and copy of their registration for the shipment of oil. Maybe I could bring him such a list tomorrow. About ten vessels are involved but unfortunately I would be unable to give him their names by heart.

[*English*]

Mr. Forrestall: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Cossitt: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We are running short of time. I will recognize the hon. member on a supplementary but the hon. member for Leeds is rising on a point of order.

[*Later:*]

Mr. Cossitt: Mr. Speaker, a moment ago I directed a question to the Postmaster General. I believe it is a legitimate question as it concerns a matter of concern to all Canadians and to members of this House. On two occasions since I asked the question the Postmaster General has risen in his place in an obvious attempt to answer it. I

[Mr. Speaker.]

felt it was a legitimate question seeking information which it was within my rights to request.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member can ask a question if he follows the rules, but he knows he cannot ask a question that makes charges or allegations. It is easy to ask a question without using that kind of approach, as I am sure the hon. member knows.

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SHIPPING

**DATE OF WITHDRAWAL BY CANADA FROM BRITISH
COMMONWEALTH SHIPPING ARRANGEMENT**

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Transport advise the House whether a date has been set for Canada to advise the members of the British Commonwealth shipping arrangement of our intention to withdraw from that agreement? Will we do that before the end of the current year?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, it will be done pretty soon. It has to be done by cabinet, and I think this matter will be before cabinet soon.

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TRANSPORT

**REQUIREMENT THAT RAILWAYS PROVIDE PROVINCES
WITH INFORMATION ON COSTS**

Mr. Bill Knight (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. As the western provinces in July were led to understand with the agreement of the Minister of Transport that they would be able to obtain information relating to the costs of the railways, the CNR and the CPR, and as the minister has given the CNR and CPR an ultimatum to supply such information within ten days, can the minister inform the House whether the two railways have informed him that they will or will not supply the information?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I think I stated last week that the railway companies had not yet been requested by the Canadian Transport Commission to provide this information. I have contacted the railway companies directly and they have until December 21 to comply, but no reply has been received as yet.

Mr. Ouellet: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

Mr. Speaker, I suggest that this is a very serious charge which was laid a few minutes ago by the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Cossitt). I can assure him that the award of contracts partly to a Montreal firm and partly to a Vancouver firm was based on their competence. The unqualified success of the program bears witness to their competence since the production of coins cannot keep up with the demand.