

Canada Shipping Act

the inquiry report on pilotage so that we do not make a giant step in one direction and lose ground in another.

We would like the whole problem of shipping to be studied by this committee.

[English]

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport) moved that Bill S-23, to postpone the expiration of certain provisions of an act to amend the Canada Shipping Act, be read the second time and be referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Gérard Loiselle (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the purpose of Bill S-23 is to provide that section 7 of the act to amend the Canada Shipping Act, chapter 53 of the 1969 statutes, which would otherwise expire at the end of this month shall continue in force. Section 7 was included in the 1969 Act in order to remove doubt about the validity of certain pilotage by-laws and licences issued under the Canada Shipping Act. The royal commission on pilotage had suggested that some of the by-laws were *ultra vires*, and the licences issued under them invalid.

The minister had hoped to bring in a new pilotage bill at this session, but this has not been possible. Early this year officers of the ministry consulted with pilots and the users of the pilotage service concerning the possibility of a new approach to the pilotage problem. They were asked to consider a system under which the government would regulate only in respect of such safety matters as the qualifications of pilots and the areas where pilotage would be compulsory. Other matters, such as the fees to be paid for the service, the arrangements for pilots to be available, the provision of pilot boats and so on would be left to be worked out by the pilots and the users of their services. This was put forward, not as a firm proposal, but simply as a possible solution concerning which we wished to have their reaction. We had hoped to receive their views in time for policy decisions to be taken before now but some of the replies were received only during the past few weeks.

As a result, the legislation arising out of the report of the royal commission on pilotage will not be ready for submission to Parliament until later in 1970 or early in 1971 and therefore, unless the provisions of section 7 of chapter 53 are permitted to continue in force after June 30, the administration of the pilotage provisions of the Canada Shipping Act

will no longer be possible. Bill S-23 provides that the said provisions of chapter 53 will continue in force until the end of this year or by proclamation for a further six months to June 30, 1971.

This is just a matter of postponing the time of the expiration of section 7 in order to give an opportunity to the royal commission on pilotage to report to the minister so that the minister can bring in a new bill on pilotage. This would take care of the suggestion of the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Fortin) that the whole problem in respect of pilotage be brought to the attention of the Committee on Transport. When the bill on pilotage is presented, it will be referred to the Committee on Transport of the House of Commons so that all the problems and suggestions may be discussed. We are now just asking that the date be postponed for six months in order to give the department an opportunity to bring in the new legislation.

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, we will not take very long with this bill, but certainly I do not think the government can be left off the hook as easily as the Parliamentary Secretary would like. This bill, which is before us today for consideration, clearly illustrates the sloppy way in which the government has mishandled this whole situation. The first volume of the Pilotage Commission report was brought in two years ago. At that time a question was asked in the House by the Leader of the Opposition of the then minister of transport with regard to the intentions of the government. The answer was as follows:

• (12:50 p.m.)

The government has not yet made a decision on whether to implement recommendation 39 of the report of the Royal Commission on Pilotage. It is anticipated that revised legislation to replace the present provisions of part VI of the Canada Shipping Act will be introduced late in 1969 or early in 1970.

But the government did not stop there. At that time the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), freshly minted, and with all kinds of ideas as to what was going to be done in the new, brisk, just society, issued the following statement in July, 1968. He was a brand new Prime Minister, not the battered and worn Prime Minister we see today. Here is what he had to say in his statement:

A small task force—