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Government MPs not denying that C.E.T.A. could cause the disappearance of the Canadian Merchant Marine and its' thousands of Canadian seafaring jobs.

MONTREAL, QC, FEBRUARY 13TH - Government M.P.s have consistently failed to deny, while questioned in House Debate on Bill C-30, that Canada's Merchant Marine and its' thousands of Canadian seafaring jobs could disappear as a result of implementation of the Canada-Europe Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (C.E.T.A.),

On the 12 days that Bill C-30 (C.E.T.A.)has been debated in Parliament(21/11/16, 22/11/16, 23/11/16, 7/12/16, 9/12/16, 12/12/16, 13/12/16, 2/2/17, 3/2/17 6/2/17, 7/2/17 and 8/2/17) , Government M.P.s, faced with questions from the N.D.P. on the Maritime aspects of C.E.T.A., have not once denied the likely disappearance of the Canadian Merchant Marine and its' Canadian seafaring jobs.

Indeed:

- When Member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on International Trade, Tracey Ramsey (Essex, N.D.P.) asked (7/12/16, 1640): “ ... CETA will lead to the immediate loss of approximately 3000 Canadian seafarers jobs... Does the member agree that these are serious concerns that deserve parliamentarians consideration before we rubber-stamp this agreement?”, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Leader of the Government, Kevin Lamoureux (Liberal), made a 3 paragraph reply which made no mention of Cabotage or Canadian seafarers.

During the same Debate, the Member from Essex , Ontario, asked (7/12/16, 1700):

- “ Why will the government not provide clarity to Canada's maritime sector about which Cabotage routes would be open to Europeans?”
- “How many jobs would these new rules cost us?”
- “Why are these provisions not reciprocated in the EU?”
- “Why are we opening up Cabotage ...when we know how many well paid maritime jobs are on the line?”

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- “ Why do we not insist that foreign-flag vessels employ Canadian and not foreign-flag crews?”

There was no reply then to any of the Member from Essex’s questions.

- When the member from Essex asked (3/2/17, 1040): “ This member represents cabotage workers, maritime workers. Where is the analysis from the federal government on the job loss, province by province and sector by sector, that will be incurred under CETA?”, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Trade, Ms. Pam Goldsmith-Jones responded: “ ... tariffs for fish and seafood products will be reduced by 25% in the EU market place...”

- When the member for Courtenay-Alberni (N.D.P.), Gord Johns asked (6/2/17, 1305): “ ... This will cost us 3,000 really good Canadian seafaring jobs... Will the member stand up for coastal British Columbians?... people who are worried about Cabotage?”, the member for Willowdale, Mr. Ali Ehsassi (Liberal), made a 2 paragraph reply in which neither British Colombians nor Cabotage were mentioned.

- When the member later asked (6/2/17, 1340): “ ... cabotage... estimated loss of 3000 coastal jobs, high quality, well paid jobs... and will affect 250,000 people... undercut Canadians, paying their employees \$2 an hour, with low safety standards and poor working conditions... what (are) the Liberals going to do , to fight for coastal British Columbians and these important jobs?”, the member for Laprairie, Jean-Claude Poissant (Liberal), replied:

“ ... these agreements will boost exports by \$1.4 billion and help us create good jobs in this sector.” and made no mention of what indicated C.E.T.A. would improve exports, assist Cabotage or British Columbians.

- When the member for Courtenay-Alberni asked (6/2/17, 1540): “ Will this coastal M.P. from Vancouver Quadra stand up for coastal British -Columbians, stand up for seafarer jobs, and stand-up for B.C.s’ economy?, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury Board, Ms. Joyce Murray (Liberal) responded: “ ... This is an arrangement with partners that pay wages that are, in many cases, higher than we pay in Canada...” and made no mention of British Columbians or seafarers’ jobs.

- When the member for Vancouver-Kingsway, Don Davies (N.D.P.) asked (8/2/17, 1545): “ ... by having foreign-flagged, foreign crewed vessels plying our internal waters,... loss of good, well paying jobs of long-shore union members and seafarers.. I wonder if... the minute the government signs CETA, Canada will lose good paying jobs on its’ internal waterways?”, the Minister for International Trade, Mr. Claude Philippe Champagne, responded:

“ ... my door is always open to them... I will be very happy to sit down with them... I meet these people regularly... I am certainly ready to meet these individuals and I hope my colleague will convey that message. I will listen to them...”.

While Bill C-30 (C.E.T.A.) has been debated on 12 different days since 21/11/16 and members of the government and Cabinet questioned directly 5 times and at least a further 6 times during statements, they have not denied the impending disappearance of the Canadian Merchant Marine nor properly answered any of the concerns raised by members of the House.

For this reason and others, there are concerns that, if the government of Canada’s M.P.s, Parliamentary Secretaries and even a Cabinet Minister will not make even one substantive statement on Bill C-30’s

effects on the Canadian Merchant Marine (even when questioned as to its' continued existence):

It may be that the implementation of C.E.T.A. will effectively cause the disappearance of the Canadian Merchant Marine and its' thousands of Canadian seafaring jobs.

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