

### Customs Tariff

sets from abroad, and we do not have a tariff in this bill to protect the Canadian home entertainment industry. The brief estimates in fact that in TV assembly alone some 10,000 jobs have been lost.

In the appendices to the brief we read that, beginning in 1967, imports accounted for 39 per cent of the domestic TV market, and that by 1973 imports accounted for slightly in excess of 60 per cent. We see, following that, that in 1967 the trade deficit between import and export of electronic equipment amounted to \$370 million but by 1973 that deficit has grown to \$920 million.

Between 1969, when the total number of people employed in the electronics industry was 78,500, and 1973, that number has been reduced by a little over 10,000 to 68,000. In spite of the pleas of many people in the industry, of both the electronics union, and the electronics association which manufactures the sets as well as of the parliamentarians, we find that the minister has taken no action whatsoever to reimpose that tariff in order to protect Canadian jobs. At a time when unemployment is running at well over 7 per cent in this country with over 750,000 Canadians unemployed, we have in that group 10,000 who could have been employed in the electronics industry. The minister could have assisted them if he had re-imposed this tariff, and this would have been to the great benefit of this country.

In my constituency there is an RCA plant which is being closed down. A few years ago it employed 450 people, but by the end of 1975 there will be no employees. The minister has failed to act, he has failed to protect the jobs of these people who have worked for 15 years in the industry, and he has not found them new jobs. I have asked on a number of occasions what he wishes to do to remedy the situation, but he has said nothing in his letter, which is a rather ambiguous one.

I feel that a tariff could have been included in the bill before the House to protect the jobs of those people in the electronics industry before we try to assist other countries, because we have to stay strong economically if we wish to help people in other countries. We will not do this by allowing our electronics industry to shrink. In turn we are spending more money abroad and increasing our deficit by buying more of these products abroad, thus creating a loss of jobs at home and having to pay people through unemployment insurance and other social welfare schemes.

I ask the minister once again if he will reconsider this bill and bring in a tariff which was in existence until April of 1973. In this way we could protect the jobs of people in the electronics industry, especially those in the home entertainment field.

**Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North):** Mr. Speaker, I also would like to add my voice to the debate on the problem confronting us in the electronics industry by the importation of material which is made cheaper than we can make it in Canada. It is coming in under the quota system and it is being dumped. This threatens the jobs of hundreds of Canadians today. As you well know, Mr. Speaker, our unemployment rate has risen to unprecedented heights. This causes a further drag on the economy, both from the standpoint of the employer and of the employee who will

[Mr. Dick.]

have to pay in more to the unemployment-insurance fund. This means that the price of manufactured articles will have to go up further to meet the cost.

In my own area of Simcoe North we have an RCA Victor plant which is located in Midland. It is a very fine industry which employs hundreds of Canadians. If you look at the statistics you will see that first black and white television made its presence felt in the imports that were coming to this country, small ones at first—then larger ones. Gradually, as we watched that picture we saw the number of television sets manufactured in Canada diminishing. Now the same thing applies to colour television; we are losing our markets.

As I said before, RCA Victor located its plant in Midland. The industry was assisted in the hope that it would be of great value to the economy of the country and to the people in the surrounding area. It has proved to be an excellent industry, but now it lays off its employees simply because we have this problem of television sets coming in from Taiwan, Korea, and Japan. If this continues the same fate will befall this industry as did the shoe industry and other industries. We have seen them go down and out. This is what will happen to the colour television industry which used to be a very viable Canadian industry.

I remember first seeing black and white television when it was started in Japan with the help of the United States under the plans that were then devised to help those countries recuperate from the ravages of war. I remember so well seeing the sets go down the assembly line in a matter of seconds. You, Mr. Speaker, and I would not qualify for work in that factory because people 27 years old and over were considered too old to work there. Those sets were mass produced by people who were very efficient in that field. We next saw them moving into the production of colour television sets. Today we find ourselves in the situation where our labour costs are much higher, our standard of living is higher, and we cannot compete if we allow those goods to come in. As a result, Canadian workmen lose jobs in these industries.

I hope that I brought to the attention of members of the House the situation with regard to black and white television as well as colour television. As I said before, we have lost many markets for black and white television. The same thing will happen with colour television if steps are not taken to protect that industry. With regard to radios, with the gasoline tax in effect there will be fewer cars on the road. If this is true, that will cut down the sales of radios for cars. We have an excellent radio plant in the town of Midland—Motorola—and it specializes in fields other than car radios. It is able to equip ambulances with two way Tel-Radio and communications to reach hospitals and to reach other ambulances all over the country.

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We also have in the riding of Simcoe North two rubber firms which make tires. There is General Tire and also Mansfield Rubber. Both of those have been hit by a government which was certainly short on foresight when it put the tariff down from 17½ per cent to 12½ per cent. This meant that there was a 5 per cent difference in this tariff, making it much more difficult for the Canadian