

of the applications filed by one particular applicant and recorded in his name. The average over-all time it took to dispose of each of these 263 applications including all the bad ones, the ones which took forty-five days, (and I may say that we found one that was even longer), the average time for the whole 263 was twelve days. Some were cleared in one day while the worst one, the slowest one, took sixty days to clear; but more than half of them were cleared in about a week, seven or eight days. May I say also that for all these cases I am giving you the elapsed time from the time the application was received until the final answer went out. It does not take into account Sundays and holidays. Very often an application would come in on a Friday night and possibly would not be finally dealt with until the Monday following. But including these delays at least one half of them went out in eight days, and the average was twelve days. I might also just put on the record a notice which the United States export permit authorities send out to people applying for permits. This is a quotation from their regulations: "Every effort is made to examine applications and advise applicants of action in the shortest time. Applicants should allow a period of two weeks plus mailing time, before inquiring as to the progress of individual applications. Certain types of application require more time for necessary examination and consideration". I think that possibly gives you a better understanding of the actual time that is involved in the issuance of these permits.

*By Mr. Michaud:*

Q. How many hours of labour on the part of the staff of your office was involved in getting out the information you have just given to the committee?—

A. The Export Permit Branch has a staff of about eighty. I do not know what it is translated into actual hours of work. There is a good deal of overtime in it. Perhaps Mr. Hills could answer that better than I could.

Mr. MICHAUD: Mr. Hills, how long did it take your staff to get out this information which has just been given to us?

Mr. HILLS: About four or five persons worked on it two days and two nights. In actual hours, that would be six and a half working hours a day, thirty-three hours of my own time; and I should say ten to twelve hours of time on the part of that staff.

Mr. JACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I may refer to a matter which I cannot quite understand, and that is whether we have an actual import control on wool. When I brought the matter up the other day I was told despite the fact that there is a tremendous amount of wool in storage, in Australia for instance, nevertheless the types of wool varied greatly; that the best wool was being used throughout the war for army uniforms, etc., and was not generally available to the trade. I read recently, just the other day, that the total production in the United States had gone down very considerably. Unfortunately, I could not lay my hands on the clipping just before coming down to this meeting. I do not think I am exaggerating when I say that the production in the States has declined about a third because it is considered to be cheaper for American industry to import wool rather than to grow it there. If that be true, that being the case, I do not know why we in Canada should have control over the importation of this commodity. I do not know why it should be. If we are willing to pay reasonable prices I think we ought to be able to get plenty of it. What is the reason for the need for this import control? I am merely raising the question, I do not wish to take up the time of the committee to deal with it.

Mr. HARVEY: Mr. Chairman, the situation there is that there is not actually any shortage of wool. The shortage arises in the conversion of wool into yarn; that is a question of industrial capacity. On the question as to why we should have any import control, in actual fact there is no import control applied at the