

sideration before the minister. One of the difficulties that Canadian manufacturers are suffering from arises from the fact that when branches of manufacturing organizations in foreign countries are established here an effort is made to standardize every product that is required by naming specifically their particular make of goods. If an American architect is consulted he asks for some standard product produced in his country, and in other branches, be it engineering or any of the allied professions, the same situation prevails. So we have tenders called for the construction of beacons for airways, and the specifications involve inspection by a man from Washington representing the Bureau of Lighthouses; they involve construction in conformity with United States standards. The hon. minister will observe from the brown prints—rather than blue prints—which I have sent across the floor to him, that in that particular also a United States beacon and not Canadian beacon is contemplated, and that the words "Department of Commerce" are marked upon the brown print as well as the words "U.S. Airways." I protest against that, and I trust the minister will take steps to see that something is done better to protect Canadian industry than would appear to have been done in this case; and that further steps be immediately taken for the purpose of ascertaining why these beacons have not been inspected as provided by the specifications.

Mr. RALSTON: As my hon. friend appreciates, this is a complete surprise to me.

Mr. BENNETT: Quite so, I only got it myself a short time ago.

Mr. RALSTON: I have just been speaking to the Controller of Civil Aviation here and the information that he is able to give me at the moment is this. He feels satisfied that the actual specifications and call for tenders which went out contained no reference to the American details or to the American plans, except one, and I have it in my hand.

Mr. BENNETT: That is the one I sent across the floor to the minister. It is part of the set.

Mr. RALSTON: He feels that some contractor may have sent to Washington and got these American specifications. He says the specifications were all made over on Canadian lines. It is true the United States has gone further in the matter of lighting airways than any other country, but we have no intention of encouraging American manufacturers of this equipment. The records of my department will show that we are trying to encourage

Canadian manufacturers, and after Canadians then British manufacturers. The Controller of Civil Aviation feels that there is some mistake. He tells me the specifications were entirely revamped along Canadian lines. May I point out to my hon. friend that on one of the prints he sent me there appears in the corner the words "Department of National Defence"—

Mr. BENNETT: Yes, that makes it all the worse.

Mr. RALSTON: Yes; on the face of the drawing there also appears indications of the words "Department of Commerce" as though made by a rubber stamp. I appreciate my hon. friend bringing the matter to my attention, for we do not want things of this sort to occur. We are drafting our own specifications for these beacons, and as far as Canadian manufacturers are concerned we are endeavouring to protect them and develop Canadian industry, not only in connection with this equipment but in connection with aircraft manufacture in every possible way. I believe this contract was let to the Canadian General Electric.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes. My hon. friend will see that his suggestion that that plan came from Washington is negated by his reference to what appears in the corner, because on all the three brown prints he will find a reference to Canadian Airways Limited down in the lefthand corner.

Mr. RALSTON: I see it.

Mr. BENNETT: So clearly this is a plan that was official. What I object to is that we are placing ourselves in such a position that we will be dependent in the worst sense of the term on "standardized" American equipment.

Mr. RALSTON: There was no inspection by the man from Washington.

Mr. BENNETT: But there has been no inspection of any kind in connection with the tanks.

Mr. RALSTON: The Controller of Civil Aviation states that our own departmental inspector inspected the beacons and tanks.

Mr. BENNETT: I am referring solely to the tanks, because they were produced at a cost just one third of that quoted by the Vulcan Iron Works.

Mr. QUINN: The minister is just as familiar as I am with the situation in Halifax with respect to military property. Forty-five per cent of the property there is tax exempt,