

The Budget—Mr. Comeau

resources to be depleted. Every day there is discussion on our resources being depleted but nothing is done about it. This matter has not been brought to the attention of the United Nations or the international conference. This question should be studied under the international law of the sea. Rather than protect our rights, this government is allowing foreign fishermen to deplete our fishing resources. They have imposed licences and are limiting the number of fishermen. This could cause a blackmarket. However, I do not wish to deal with that subject this evening. It is a shame to see the way the government is pussyfooting around these matters.

The main problem with the Atlantic economy and the fishing industry is that the government fails to realize the potential in that industry. The rest of Canada has not been made aware of the potential of that industry and the money that could be derived from it. Every day the subject of wheat is discussed because the western wheat farmers have been able to create national concern. However, this has not been done in the fishing industry. With the correct policies something could be done about the potential of the Atlantic area. Why is the responsible department not protecting the rights of this industry?

I now wish to deal with a matter of particular concern to my constituency. I refer to the textile mill in Yarmouth which employs 500 people, the largest employer in my constituency. One would not think the closing of a plant in Toronto would affect a little town like Yarmouth, but 18 per cent of the production of the textile mill in Yarmouth was for the Dunlop industrial division in Toronto. In terms of employment, this affects 18 per cent of the employees of that mill. When this fact is coupled with the bleak picture in the Canadian textile industry, the results are astounding. There has been much talk about the textile industry in the past couple of years. I wish to quote from an article which appeared in yesterday's edition of the *Chronicle-Herald*. This article was written following an interview with the president of Cosmos Imperial Mills. It states:

Cosmos Imperial Mills of Yarmouth will close unless the federal government acts immediately on a policy restricting textile imports from foreign countries, said company president E. D. James yesterday.

He said in a telephone interview from Hamilton that 500 employees in Yarmouth would be out of work soon because the company could not continue operating at a loss.

[Mr. Comeau.]

I wish to emphasize the following paragraph:

He said 50 per cent of the textile industry in Canada had been taken over by foreign imports, "In United States they complain because the government allows 12 per cent," he said.

The European Economic Community restricted textile imports to only nine per cent of the total.

"I don't advocate we stop imports but let's have a reasonable limit in view of all other countries of the world," he said.

And the same import restrictions should apply to the electrical and rubber industries, he said.

There were many men in Ottawa who thought that buying at the lowest price was always the best policy, he said. "But if no one makes money here, who can buy?"

I want to emphasize the words, "But if no one makes money here, who can buy?". If Canadians do not make money here, who will buy the textiles, rubber and electronic products that are imported? The article continues:

He said the recently announced closing of Dunlop industrial division, Toronto, was a serious setback—for Cosmos operations in Yarmouth.

Each year Cosmos sold between \$750,000 and \$1,000,000 worth of industrial hosing and belting to the Dunlop company.

Unless some way could be found to bring imports of fully manufactured goods from low wage countries into proper balance, the Dunlop closing would be symptomatic of things to come in other industries, he said.

For seven years the textile industry has been asking for a government policy, yet every time the minister is questioned about it he smiles and says "Soon." Why can there not be a quota the same as other countries have?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Comeau: Why does Canada have to take a back seat in the fishing industry? Why do we have to take a back seat with regard to wheat? It should not be necessary to pay the farmers to stop growing wheat: this is ridiculous. Why do we have to take a back seat with regard to oil, textiles, electronic products and many other products?

An hon. Member: Somebody else has charge of the steering wheel.

• (9:00 p.m.)

Mr. Comeau: The hon. member says, "Somebody else has charge of the steering wheel". This makes sense. The economy of the country is not particularly good, as the budget speech has demonstrated, yet the atti-