

*Customs Tariff*

The Liberal party, in the speeches of its members today on tariff item 554b dealing with the woollen cloth industry, has demonstrated to Canadians—both industry and labour—that this industry is expendable. This is an industry which ever since confederation has employed a large number of workers in this country. Just to give the house an idea of some of the expressions of opinion voiced by Mr. Walter Harvey, I would like to mention two such expressions of opinion which the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate did not quote. The first of these is as follows:

If the Canadian producers really need a 50 per cent duty, they must be inefficient.

And secondly he has this to say in the *London Free Press* of July 3 last:

The lower wages paid to workers in Britain, or in Hong Kong for that matter, have nothing to do with the case. The Canadian woollen industry is not in competition for labour with any industry outside Canada. Wages are high in Canada because we have some efficient industries that can pay high wages and meet all comers in the markets of the world.

I should not say that I am amazed because the Liberal party is following the policy it has verbally espoused for many long years. However, when it was in power it did not practise that policy, and in fact gave a great deal of high protection to some industries which did not need it.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Would the hon. member permit a question?

**Mr. White:** No.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** That is perfectly satisfactory. I always do.

**Mr. Benidickson:** And he did this morning.

**Mr. White:** The hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate is at his best when he is interrupting people.

**Mr. Benidickson:** I think he is at his best when he is interrupted.

**Mr. White:** However, I was just saying, Mr. Chairman, that the Liberal party has indicated to this house that the Canadian woollen cloth industry is expendable. I think it has also failed to realize that in June of 1957 and in March of this year the Canadian people very plainly told the Liberals that they had had enough of this nonsense which had been going on for 22 years and as soon as the Liberals wake up to the voice of the people they will cease saying the things they said this morning about Canadian industry.

I was also interested to hear the views of the C.C.F. party. That party stayed on the fence; it shed crocodile tears for the workers

[Mr. White.]

but indicated it had no interest in the industry. Where does that get us? I think the Canadian people pretty well caught up to the C.C.F. in the last two elections, and I am just waiting to see the results of the next one.

I would also like to say that I am amazed at the opinions expressed by Mr. Walter Harvey, who professes to know so much and yet in some of his writings has revealed how little he knows about the political and economic facts of life in Canada. In this article he has demonstrated a very biased political opinion.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Would the hon. member now permit a question? Did I understand the hon. gentleman to say that the Liberal party had given more protection than was necessary to a number of industries?

**Mr. White:** Yes.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Would the hon. member tell us which were those industries?

**Mr. White:** No, I am not going to.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I did not think he would.

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** Mr. Chairman, the debate on the proposed amendment to tariff item 554b has been very interesting and useful contributions have been made by a number of hon. members who have come to this house from constituencies in which the textile industry is a very important factor in the economy of the local area and who have spoken with great authority as to the conditions in that industry.

Speeches were also made by the Leader of the Opposition, the hon. member for Assiniboia and the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate. I suppose if we were thinking in terms of sport we could say that the Leader of the Opposition had undertaken to demonstrate his dexterity at skating because if ever a member skated around a question, the Leader of the Opposition this morning skated around this one. He talked about various sides of the problem but he did not linger on any one of them; he talked about the industry and said it was not inefficient but he did say, or he seemed to say, that it was in need of some assistance. He did not, however, stop there. He kept on going until he went right around in a circle and to this moment I do not suppose any member of this house knows what are the views of the Leader of the Opposition on this subject.

**Mr. Pearson:** Our view is that it is a bad resolution.

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** He accused this government of making the worst of both worlds but certainly the Leader of the Opposition did his best to make for himself and