

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

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**Monday, November 16, 1953**

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

### RESTRICTIVE TRADE PRACTICES

#### TABLING OF REPORTS OF COMMISSION

**Hon. Stuart S. Garson (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to table two reports of the restrictive trade practices commission which were published after the last parliament was adjourned. One of these arose in Ontario, the other in Quebec.

The Ontario report relates to alleged price discrimination under section 498A of the Criminal Code between two retail hardware dealers in North Bay, Ontario; and it is the first report to deal entirely with this type of offence.

The Quebec report relates to alleged resale price maintenance in connection with the marketing of soap products in the Montreal district of the province of Quebec, and is the first one that we have received dealing with resale price maintenance since the passing, in 1951, of the new legislation.

We have taken the opinion of experienced and capable outside counsel in both of these cases.

In the Ontario case, the opinion of Mr. Norman Mathews, Q.C., of Toronto, is to the effect that it is a borderline case of a technical violation and it is not a suitable case upon which to found the first prosecution under section 498A of the Criminal Code unless, of course, the conduct disclosed in the report is persisted in.

In the Quebec case, the opinion of Mr. John Ahern, Q.C., of Montreal, is to the effect that since the offence was technical and isolated and had been committed without the knowledge and approval of the management of the company concerned, and apparently against its policy, the case was not a suitable one for prosecution, and a prosecution would not likely help the enforcement of the Combines Investigation Act.

The director of investigation, having reached the same views, has advised me to the same effect. I concur with these views and have therefore decided not to prosecute in either case unless further checks indicate that the offences are being persisted in.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Perhaps the house would permit a question. How many prosecutions have there been under the resale price maintenance legislation?

**Mr. Garson:** As I have indicated in my statement, this Quebec case is the first case that has arisen since the new legislation was introduced. It is thought, having regard to the fact that the offence was only technical, that it would not be a very good case upon which to base the first prosecutions under the new legislation.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** So there have not been any prosecutions?

**Mr. Garson:** No.

### INDUSTRIAL STATUS OF WOMEN

#### MEASURE TO REQUIRE EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK

**Mrs. Ellen L. Fairclough (Hamilton West)** moved the first reading of Bill No. 2, to provide equal pay for equal work for women.

**Some hon. Members:** Explain.

**Mrs. Fairclough:** Mr. Speaker, I think the title of the bill is fully explanatory. It is intended to prohibit discrimination against women in the matter of wages earned.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

### CANADA GRAIN ACT

#### AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE FOR FAIR ALLOCATION OF BOX CARS

**Mr. H. R. Argue (Assiniboia)** moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 3, to amend the Canada Grain Act (distribution of box cars).

**Some hon. Members:** Explain.

**Mr. Argue:** The purpose of this bill is to remove present discrimination in the distribution of box cars by providing in a new section of the car order book a rule for the fair allocation of box cars among elevator companies. By allocating their seeded acreage among the elevator companies at a marketing point, producers themselves will determine the distribution of box cars at that point.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.