

Customs Act

know what the solution was. Now, the minister said in the following paragraphs that there were two possible solutions, two possible approaches. One was to raise the tariff; and he recognized that no one is proposing that procedure. No one is proposing that procedure in this house today. The other one was procedure by way of arbitrary rulings. It may be, Mr. Speaker, that what we have in this bill is what the minister contemplated as the second approach. I think we shall wish to hear more on that score when we go into committee of the whole.

My final point is this. What of the administration of this amendment if and when it becomes law? If it does become law and if it is put forward as the means by which this unfair dumping of United States manufactured goods into Canada is to be curtailed, the house will wish to be assured, in the first place, that the measure is going to be applied forthwith. The other day the minister was asked about the means of enforcement, and on December 8, as recorded at page 693 of *Hansard*, he said:

... we have special investigators who are trained in particular lines of industry, and who make these investigations in the country of export.

The minister might also have said that prior to the war there were more of these investigators in the United States than there have been since. The problem did not seriously exist during the war. All production was required and the problem of dumping was not acute during the war. Therefore the government saw fit then to reduce the number of investigators maintained in the United States. But the minister might well have told the house that as yet the government has not since the war sufficiently increased the number of investigators of the department in the United States to cope with the problem they are going to be faced with if this measure becomes law.

For some reason or other the minister has refrained from giving the house any assurance that the administrative necessities of this measure are going to be met. Indeed, the only thing I have been able to find on the subject was a reference to it in the *Financial Post*, which ascribed to the government an absence of intention to increase at present the number of investigators engaged, on behalf of the department, in the United States in investigating the cost of production and marketing of manufactured goods in the United States. There is not much use in our enacting a measure of this kind in the brave hope that it is going to put an end to this

unfair dumping if there is not going to be a serious attempt made to enforce this law effectively.

If the principle of the measure be as I have broadly stated it, then of course we will approve it. But we have a great deal to say by way of criticism of this measure and its terms, for which there will be a more convenient opportunity in committee of the whole. Whatever good there is in the measure comes at least twenty-one months late, by the admission of the government. In that time how much damage may have been done to important segments of the Canadian economy by reason of the fact that this government, with full knowledge of the serious problem, has been content to let time run by, month after month, while it sat with its eyes shut and its arms folded!

Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, in so far as this measure is intended to prevent unfair trade practices we of course support it. We realize that at the present time great pressure is being brought on members of the house, particularly by working men and women who are feeling the impact of the present conditions, to do something to prevent unfair practices and the onset of difficulties for them. With that point of view we have every sympathy and we are prepared to go along with other members of the house in endeavouring to do everything we can to rectify such a situation. But I want to say this clearly to the house and to the minister.

Apart from the industries involved there are the consumers of this country to be considered. We cannot overlook the consuming public. The working people themselves who are involved in this situation, because of other unfair trade practices, are themselves the victims of high prices and must be considered in relation to these problems. Without knowing what the situation actually is and without a thorough inquiry into the matter, it is with great hesitation that I support anything which tends to give more protection to certain industries in this country. I say that particularly of the textile industry. There is no industry in Canada—and I am not now talking of the workers who have been exploited by that industry to an even greater extent perhaps than have the consumers of this country—which in regard to its workers and in regard to the consumers of this country has a blacker record than has the textile industry.

You can look up the pages of *Hansard*, and you can look up the records of investigation after investigation. There you will find