

Employment Support Bill

or 15 minutes the eminent member from Ottawa somewhere-or-other and make a few remarks, hopefully to counter in part the prostititional approach to the resources of Canada which has emanated from the speeches of various members of the Liberal party in the last few days. It is also a delight to take part in this debate with the other speakers who have participated.

I believe this is the first time since I have been here that we have had a full representation of Liberal speakers in every sense. Yesterday I believe we had five speakers representing the Liberal point of view, and today we have had a full measure including the hon. member for Ottawa West (Mr. Francis) who made an eminent 15-minute speech. I do not know the reason for all this. Obviously it reflects a type of concern about which we as Members of Parliament and the general public are not yet fully apprised. I hope this will become clear as time goes on.

I wish to make a few very modest remarks about a particular aspect of the Canadian economy. I do not presume to be able to talk about President Nixon, Secretary of the Treasury Connally and these great international statesmen because my background, my coming from a small, rural part of Canada, does not permit that kind of immodesty. However, I shall speak about an eminent Canadian industry.

I am, of course, rather surprised to find that during the last several weeks the events have shown the absolute contempt of the leaders of the United States toward the Canadian system of government, or at least toward the present government. I remember sitting in the living-room a few weeks ago with a number of my friends from the east coast and listening to a review of Secretary of the Treasury Connally's remarks about Canada, the journey of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) and his entourage to Washington and the response. I must confess to a small bit of shame that we have reached the point of degeneration where the United States people treat us with the same disrespect in many ways as they have treated some oriental countries or far eastern countries.

I believe these people in the United States, temporarily at least, have forgotten we are their northern neighbour and are not in effect a Chinese republic or some such country. There appears to be a sort of contempt on the part of the Secretary of the Treasury toward the Canadian delegation. I am sure this comes as a result of the last three years of rabble-rousing on the part of the leader of this country in international escapades in the Soviet Union and other places where he has gone on record as openly criticizing a neighbour which has been a steady part of the backbone of our economy.

I wish to make a few remarks about one of the industries which I say has been left out completely from the benefits which can accrue to Canadian industry from the \$80 million which is to be provided under this bill. The hon. member for Ottawa West and other hon. members referred to the fact that the primary industries in our country are being completely downtrodden, and all the problems the government is trying to overcome in respect of this surcharge.

[Mr. Lundrigan.]

The forest industry is now in a complete slump and is ignored completely. The fishing industry of Canada, in which last year there were exports to the United States of over \$200 million, has been completely overlooked. A number of speakers have referred to the major problem of conservation in the fishing industry because various countries of the world have been coming to our shores, ignoring our national rights and territorial fishing rights and scooping up the marine renewable resources which are so vital to the total Canadian economy.

Yesterday the Minister of Transport (Mr. Jamieson) announced that there is to be a meeting with the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) and the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Davis) at which there will be some high-level talks about the problem of conservation. This is after three years of pressure from here and, of course, coincidentally on the eve of a provincial election in the province of Newfoundland where everybody is scared of having the eminent Premier and Canadian clown of politics turned out. I am sure there is no political correlation here. Then we had the action of the Minister of Finance which tended to push up the value of the Canadian dollar. The end result is that Canadian exporters of fish to the American market lost 5 per cent or 7 per cent of their exports, which had a profound effect on our fishing industry.

• (3:10 p.m.)

Now we get the 10 per cent surcharge. I would like the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin), who certainly can understand what I am going to say—

Mr. Pepin: Thank you.

Mr. Lundrigan: —to take this particular point into consideration. Right now, the total effect of the \$80 million program is aimed at the very sophisticated secondary manufacturing industries in Canada. These are the industries with the most sophistication so far as their structure is concerned, the most lobbying power, and they are the most formalized under the Canadian context. However, when it comes to industries such as agriculture, the flower-cutters, the hog producers and fish producers, those with very little formalized structure or lobbying ability, we see that these people have been left out. I do not know whether this is because they have not been able to get their point across to the cabinet.

When we talk about the effect of the surcharge on certain industries some interesting figures come to light. I have already said that last year export of fish products to the American market amounted to \$202,316,000. Under present conditions the producers of almost every kind of fish going to the American market will be hurt financially. For example, frozen mackerel which sold at .45 cents per pound will increase to 2 cents per pound, fish blocks will increase from .2 cents per pound to 1.25 cents per pound, sea catfish fillets—hon. members are not very familiar with those—will increase from .2 cents per pound to 2.5 cents per pound. I could go on, Mr. Speaker. It is apparent that this will mean a loss to the Canadian fishing industry of \$3 million to \$3½ million.