

Combines Investigation Act

trade marks or other brand identifications are removed. A vendor should also have the option of repurchasing such goods.

7. In any fair trade agreement, a vendor should have the right to adjust prices at any time, on a minimum of 10 days' notice. If this requires re-packaging or other changes in the retailer's inventory, the vendor should supply the materials without cost at 10 days before the effective date of the price change.

8. Where a retailer has a regular policy of employee discounts, they should be permitted on bona fide employee sales.

I merely mention that report to indicate the sort of agreement which is being considered now in the United States. I do not say that, in all its proposals, that is desirable; but it gives an idea of the general basis for fair trade practices. I have said before, Mr. Speaker, that with this safeguard of fair trade regulation the fears, as the brief says, of predatory raids by large retailer outfits are practically overcome.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I wish to lay these suggestions before the house because I recognize the desire to have a fair price to the consumer. Actually, without a fair price to the consumer nothing would be sold. As I said, the whole basis upon which our prosperity has been built has been the build-up of the price-volume-cycle of growth or the price-volume-equation of goods. If we are not to be allowed to have some safeguard against the loss leader, I believe we should not jeopardize the retailer by abolishing what, to him, is his one great safeguard for orderly, reasoned and competitive marketing.

Mr. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, I should like to say a few words in support of this amendment which has been moved by the hon. member for Hamilton West (Mrs. Fairclough) and which I have had the honour of seconding. We have reached the stage where I think it has become perfectly obvious that the government intends to put this legislation through the house. I am not going to go any further than that. I believe that is a fair statement, namely that it is obvious that the government is determined that this legislation is to pass, sooner or later.

Mr. Fournier (Hull): You never doubted that.

Mr. Fulton: Perhaps the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Fournier) is right that I may never have doubted it. I never doubted that they had the intention to pass it; but at one stage I hoped that they were open to conviction, that they had an open mind on the matter, and that it would be possible to convince them by the reasonable and solid arguments which were brought forward in

[Mr. Adamson.]

support of the proposition that the legislation should not pass in its present form.

Mr. Fournier (Hull): You have not spoken long enough.

Mr. Fulton: What I am saying, Mr. Speaker, is that it has become obvious that they do not agree that the legislation should not be passed and that they are insisting on putting it through in its present form. If they will not adopt our suggestion that the legislation should not be proceeded with at the present time while further consideration is given to the actual form and effect of the bill before us, I feel that we are justified in urging that they should give consideration to the enactment of concurrent legislation which will protect the retailer against the danger which is bound to arise and to which he is bound to be exposed if the legislation goes through in its present form.

I was therefore greatly interested in the amendment proposed by the leader of the C.C.F. party this morning. As a matter of fact, I have been awaiting that amendment with interest ever since he announced that he intended to present it; because one of the things that we ourselves urged in the committee, and again in the house here, was that consideration should be given to the desirability of passing some form of fair trade practice legislation, and that time should be allowed for such consideration. When the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggan (Mr. Coldwell) announced on Tuesday his intention to introduce an amendment, from what he then said I thought he had in mind the urging of consideration of some form of legislation similar to the fair trade laws of the United States. But from the form of his amendment and from the statement which he himself made after he had actually presented it today, it becomes apparent that the type of legislation which he is advocating is not legislation similar to the fair trade laws of the United States.

Mr. Coldwell: Will the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Fulton: Yes.

Mr. Coldwell: The hon. member has read what I said in the debate of November 6. The words I used in the suggested amendment and the words I used today in the amendment are the same.

Mr. Fulton: Yes. If the hon. member has taken from what I have just said any indication that I am saying he has reversed his position, I apologize. That was not my intention.

Mr. Coldwell: Oh, no.