

the Export and Import Permits Act and in our method of dealing with customs, we should not restrict these changes unnecessarily. I suggest there should be some means of throwing off customs duties rather than erecting them. In other words, there should be some means of removing barriers when the Canadian textile industry is not fulfilling a need that is very apparent, as proven by the example of the company to which I have referred. The minister nods: I thank him for listening to my argument.

• (3:40 p.m.)

I hope this point will be considered and that the law officers who will be briefing the committee when it deals with this legislation will be of the opinion that the powers are flexible enough to do what I suggest. We are not talking about many jobs, Mr. Speaker—perhaps 10, 15 or 20. However, we are talking about jobs, and since jobs are important, flexibility is a crying need.

My only other point is to warn the minister that he had better have a lady on this board. Three men are to be given the authority to decide what textiles Canada will manufacture. I do not know whether the minister reads the fashion pages or stumbles into the women's section of newspapers; I suppose the women's liberation news gets on the front page. But the ladies are in a fair amount of revolt, one of their main causes being fashions that they are asked to wear. Nowadays they decide for themselves; no man tells them what to wear. Therefore, it seems to me that if the minister does not have at least one woman as one of the powers-that-be on the board, he should at least have some female advisers in a pretty senior position; otherwise he might get himself into a great deal of trouble.

**Mr. Comeau:** With his wife!

**Mr. McCleave:** I am sure his wife tells him at home what he does wrong—but all wives do that. Perhaps the minister will agree that this move is imperative. With those thoughts I am delighted to have had the ear of the House for a few minutes.

**Mr. Joseph-Philippe Guay (St. Boniface):** Mr. Speaker, I too should like to say a few words in the debate on Bill C-215, though in somewhat different vein from the remarks of the hon. member for St. Hyacinthe (Mr. Ricard) and the hon. member for South Western Nova (Mr. Comeau). Every time I hear them speak in this House it seems to me the outlook is one of doom and gloom.

**Mr. Comeau:** You are never here.

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** I am always here. On that point I would compare my record of attendance with that of either of the two hon. members. In fact, I would put my attendance against their joint attendance any day.

**Mr. Comeau:** Look at the index to *Hansard*.

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** This industry holds a very important place in the Canadian economy. It is the sixth

### *Textile and Clothing Board Act*

largest employer among Canadian manufacturing industries, employing 124,000 persons. It comprises 22,600 companies whose total sales, including knitted outerwear, amount to \$1.3 billion, \$70 million worth of which goes to export markets.

It may appear unusual to some hon. members that a member from a western province should be so interested in a bill which appears intended mainly for eastern manufacturers. I would like to stress, however, that western Canada has an important share of the Canadian clothing industry. There are about 200 companies in the four western provinces. They employ over 10,000 persons and have total shipments in excess of \$132 million. My interest is all the more justified if one considers that 126 of the 200 companies mentioned are situated in the province of Manitoba, most of them in the greater Winnipeg area.

The shipments to date of these 126 companies amount to \$79.1 million, and the companies employ 6,300 workers. Comparing this with Saskatchewan, there are four companies in that province with shipments of \$4.8 million and only 300 people are employed by these companies. In Alberta, there are 22 companies with shipments of \$24.6 million and employing 2,000 people. There are 48 companies in British Columbia, with shipments of \$24.1 million and a labour force of 2,100. I think these figures prove the point I have endeavoured to make.

In light of these figures, it is fair to say that the Canadian clothing industry is one of demonstrated capability. It is in fact competitive with clothing industries of other developed countries from the point of view of style, quality and price. This is attested to publicly by an important array of knowledgeable and influential people. Let me give some examples. We often hear members of the opposition quoting articles in newspapers, and sometimes I think we on this side do not get our fair share of publicity. However, on this particular aspect I should like to say that the press did give us a fair shake, and they would not have done so had they not meant it.

There was an article in *Maclean's* magazine for June, 1970, praising the style and quality of Canadian-made garments, entitled "You mean all that stuff is Canadian!". This is an article all Canadians should read. It describes what articles Canadians are making, exporting and wearing. Also, an article appeared in *Men's Wear* magazine in October, 1969, and I should like to quote from it as follows:

Merchants say the reasons for more imports from Canada are rising prices of the European market, better deliveries, co-operative manufacturers and good quality and fashion...we like English fabrics, but the cost was getting too high. Now, we get the same fabrics from Canada...at a much lower price—

Two stores in the Atlanta area carry Canadian merchandise: Rich's and Rogue Specialty Shop. Rich's clothing is store labelled and purchased through the AMC buying group. The Rogue carries a line of leather goods and suits from Canada. Gerry Underwood, Rogue owner, reports the suits are one of his most advanced lines and bring a premium price—

The merchandise manager for another major men's wear outlet spoke well of a Montreal clothing resource which supplied suits for his firm under a private label.

Another article appeared in the *Ottawa Journal*, written by Richard Jackson and headed "Trade Dept. 'Go-Go'