

Export Credits Insurance Act

COCOM but to the list which has been devised by the government of which he is a member and on the recommendation of the Minister of Trade and Commerce.

Mr. Hees: That is correct, and in order to ensure that the kinds of items listed here are not shipped to Cuba, we have taken the definition and list made up by the 12 countries concerned and we do not ship to Cuba items of that kind which are considered to have a strategic nature as defined here.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): But then you do ship synthetic rubber. You do allow the shipment of electric transformers, motor vehicles—

Mr. Pugh: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman—

Mr. Martin (Essex East): You do allow industrial chemical specialties and explosives.

Mr. Pugh: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman—

Mr. Martin (Essex East): You do allow aircraft engines and parts.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. The hon. member for Okanagan Boundary is raising a point of order.

Mr. Pugh: It seems to me, Mr. Chairman, that we are straying a little far from the actual bill under consideration. You more or less made a ruling before, but we keep coming back to this same question, the export of strategic materials, which has nothing whatever to do with the subject before us at the present time. I think there is plenty of opportunity to debate this other matter at the proper time, but certainly that time is not now. It is not part of the subject before us. Could we have a ruling?

Mr. Hees: In answer to the hon. member for Essex East may I say I am advised that the items we have shipped to Cuba under 3(a) are quartz crystals for aircraft radio receivers, certain aircraft engine parts, a cobalt bomb for hospital use and radioactive cobalt for hospital use.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Is the minister suggesting that these are the only—

The Deputy Chairman: Order. I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member for Essex East but the hon. member for Okanagan Boundary has asked for a ruling on the matter of relevancy. I find that to some extent I am inclined to agree with him and I only measure my agreement by the precedents to which I listened when we were in the house a short time ago and the Speaker was in the chair.

This has made it difficult for me to be very stringent in holding the debate to a narrow sphere.

I should point out to the committee that clause 1 of the bill merely increases the number of members of the board of directors from five to six. I realize that on clause 1 of a bill the scope of debate is a little wider than normal, so I can only seek, before taking my seat, the co-operation of members on both sides of the house.

Mr. Martin (Essex-East): We thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for the care with which you have expressed your views as to the situation. May I assure the Chair that we have the fullest confidence in the view he has taken as to what should be the course of discussion. The reply given by the minister a moment ago was surely a limited one. In fairness to the minister, I hope he is listening. I hope the answer he gave a moment ago was not intended to be an exhaustion of the list of goods which have been exported to Cuba pursuant to section 3(a) of the act because the reply he gave the hon. member for Ottawa West clearly indicates that much more was sent to Cuba with government approval than the list mentioned by the hon. gentleman. Among those things were aircraft and helicopters, piloted or pilotless aero-engines, all sorts of helicopter equipment. Then we have military crash helmets, parachutes used for combat personnel and the like. These kind of things are all covered in 8-1 and are capable of being sent to Cuba. Is the minister going to suggest to us that articles of this kind are not to be regarded in themselves as strategic?

But we do not rely on this for the validity of our case. Rather, we rely upon the act to which has been appended a regulation authorized by the governor in council. That is the point, and the minister keeps evading this aspect of the matter. He says that the only goods he has not allowed to be shipped to Cuba are goods which are regarded as strategic under COCOM. We accept that. We have no alternative because the COCOM list is not before us. But we say what we object to is the authorization for export to Cuba of goods characterized as strategic in the government's own legislation, and the minister has not yet dealt with that point.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Chairman, it is impossible to make the hon. member understand. I have explained it over and over again and I am afraid I just cannot explain it further.

Mr. Pearson: May I ask the minister a very simple question? Was dynamite on the 3(a) list before the revision of December, 1961?