

Mr. McLEAN (Melfort): When there is not sufficient opposition it behooves the members of the Liberal party to develop a type of opposition of that kind.

Mr. MacNICOL: We can take care of ourselves.

Mr. BENNETT: How will they vote? That is the question.

Mr. McLEAN (Melfort): I am not worrying about how the opposition will take care of themselves; I am worrying about how they take care of the country.

Mr. MacNICOL: We will do that in the next election.

Mr. McLEAN (Melfort): When the opposition is not sufficient, I consider it my duty to oppose whatever is not in the interests of the country. This is what is being done in Prince Edward Island, in Saskatchewan and in other provinces. I contend it is not wise to increase this protection at the present time, because increased protection is no remedy for the trouble facing the furniture industry. That is what the tariff board says, and although I have no faith in that board, at least some consideration should be given to their opinion. The troubles facing the furniture industry lie in maldistribution. The result has been that at the present time they are selling less furniture than was sold in 1929 and they are employing a smaller number of men in the industry.

The hon. member for Moose Jaw compared the action of the tariff board to a psychic bid. The hon. member for Saskatoon referred to psychiatrics. Not knowing the meaning of those terms, I am inclined to think they were referring to a physic, or perhaps a tonic. The tariff board may be telling us that the industry needs a physic, but I am convinced that what they need to do is to set their house in order. If they did not do that in the last seven years, there is not much chance of their doing it in the next two years. I support the assertion of the hon. member for Saskatoon as to having little faith in a policy suggested by the tariff board to this government. The suggestion to the government that this industry needs a little added protection reminds me of the fellow who was out all night, woke the next morning with a headache and wanted some of the hair of the dog that bit him so he could start out on another jamboree. If this industry did not see its way clear in the last few years to put its house in order, what hope is there that they will do this in the next two years? This tariff board is composed of some men whom I know and some whom I do not know, but

I would not put it past them to be willing to create a situation which would be extremely embarrassing to this government in two years time.

Mr. BENNETT: That is very unfair.

Mr. McLEAN (Melfort): If this increase is put into effect on the assumption that it will be withdrawn in two years, what is going to happen if it is withdrawn? What is going to be said to those men who have been lobbying for a higher tariff?

Mr. BENNETT: Ask the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Euler).

Mr. McLEAN (Melfort): Certainly I will ask him. I might tell the leader of the opposition that I am always welcome to ask my leaders any questions I want to ask about things I do not understand.

Mr. BENNETT: Then they must be constantly employed.

Mr. McLEAN (Melfort): The leader of the opposition says that they must be constantly employed, but I would remind him that my leaders have never claimed to have the infinity of knowledge claimed by some gentlemen whom I know.

In connection with this item of furniture, since we are in a hurry to get through, I wish to point out briefly, so as not to delay the work of the house, that before protection of this kind was given to the industry in Great Britain it was told that it had to rationalize itself in order that it might be fit to live and not be a burden upon the people. I suggest that in order to avoid the difficult situation which will be evident two years from now, if this provision is allowed to run so long, the furniture industry—this great industry indigenous to Canada; with all or nearly all its supplies obtainable, usually cheaply, in this country; with sources of labour reasonably priced, in fact, according to the figures of the tariff board, low priced as compared with coloured labour in the southern States; with lumber available at a low rate, with transportation favourable, with skill and initiative and machinery of a high class available—this industry should be told to put its own house in order rather than come to the government and ask for further protection. I happen to know that for nearly ten years the problem of distribution or maldistribution has been worrying the brightest minds in the furniture business, and it seems to me that during that time, and particularly in the last five years, they should have gone a long way towards solving their own problems. To shut out the three per cent of furniture in consumption that is coming into