

Natural Resources

(a) the price and cost of raw materials in Canada and elsewhere, and the cost of transportation thereof from the place of production to the place of use or consumption;

(b) the cost of efficient production in Canada and elsewhere, and what increases or decreases in rates of duty are required to equalize differences in the cost of efficient production;

(c) the cost, efficiency and conditions of labour, including health of employees, in Canada and elsewhere;

(d) the prices received by producers, manufacturers, wholesale dealers, retailers and other distributors in Canada and elsewhere;

(e) all conditions and factors which affect or enter into the cost of production and the price to the consumers in Canada; and

(f) generally, all the conditions affecting production, manufacture, cost and price in Canada as compared with other countries; and report to the minister.

In addition, I should like to quote a most important provision from the act providing for the establishment of the Economic Council of Canada. To my mind, it is imperative that this section be quoted, just as the other one I quoted from the Tariff Board Act a minute ago, because if this bill were adopted, it would interfere with the status, the mandate and the activities of those two organizations which already exist and have already accomplished valuable work for Canada. So I shall quote section 9 of the Economic Council of Canada Act:

It shall be the duty of the council to advise and recommend to the minister how Canada can achieve the highest possible levels of employment and efficient production in order that the country may enjoy a high and consistent rate of economic growth and that all Canadians may share in rising living standards; and in particular it shall be the duty of the council:—

... etc. I come now to subsection (c) and I quote:

—to consider means of strengthening and improving Canada's international financial and trade position;

... From there I pass on to subsection (f) which says:

(f) to study and discuss with representatives of the industries concerned and with representatives of labour, farmers and other primary producers, and other occupational groups and organizations, what specific plans for production and investment in major industries in Canada will best contribute to a high and consistent rate of economic growth;

Apart from those two commissions which are playing a part in the field covered by this bill, apart also from the existing legislation with regard to exportation and the economic interests of the Canadian people, this bill suggests or implies the creation of new positions. As I said a while ago, it contemplates the setting up of new groups of directors or

[Mr. LeBlanc (Rimouski).]

civil employees which, as far as I am concerned and things being as they are, would rather tend to complicate matters.

According to some parts of this bill, the Tariff Board would actually indicate guide lines to the Economic Council of Canada which, according to the law, is answerable to one head only, one chief: the minister himself.

The Economic Council of Canada could very well find itself some day, following the passing of this bill, with two heads, two chiefs, a situation which would mess up things in the administrative field. Any such complications always trigger off a flight of capital, because of the expenses brought about by these complications in the administration of this country.

• (5:30 p.m.)

There is another point on which I want to insist, namely the aspect of our federal-provincial relations. In this connection, I take the liberty of referring you to section 92 of the British North America Act, a section which is often mentioned in Canada and which deals with the exclusive power of provincial legislatures. I therefore quote the preamble of that section:

In each province, the legislature may exclusively make laws in relation to matters coming within the classes of subjects next hereinafter enumerated:

I will not refer to paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 but I will quote paragraph 5:

The management and sale of public lands belonging to the province and of the timber and wood thereon.

As I said earlier, our forests are one of our main sources, if not the first, of primary products, all the more so because the products of that source are renewable. We should not forget also our international commitments. Canada has commitments in the framework of the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade, and I quote paragraph 1 of article XI of that agreement:

General Elimination of Quantitative Restrictions
1. No prohibitions or restrictions other than duties, taxes or other charges, whether made effective through quotas, import or export licences or other measures, shall be instituted or maintained by any contracting party on the importation of any product of the territory of any other contracting party or on the exportation or sale for export of any product destined for the territory of any other contracting party.

We all understand that, without neglecting Canada's essential interests, we must show some flexibility in matters of international trade. We must protect our rights in the most flexible way possible, because there are in