

The Budget—Mr. Clermont

Production of hardwood plywood in Canada is vital to our economy as this is a basic industry and I should like to think that all phases of the production of this material from the beginning to the end take place in Canada and are carried out by Canadians with Canadian materials. Everyone is aware, of course, that we are selling to Japan and other foreign countries more dollar value than we are buying from them. Let me point out that when we import from Japan, for instance, a country where the basic salary equals approximately one sixth of that in our country, we are thus importing six times more man-hours from that country than we are exporting. This means that for every single man-hour we export to Japan at the rate of a Canadian worker's salary, we are importing six man-hours from Japan in the form of the Japanese counterpart.

I could go on referring to more and more industries that are certainly facing the same problem, but no doubt the minister must know about them and intends to take drastic measures to protect our industries. But we must keep in mind that these measures must be taken now or very soon; otherwise we might find ourselves faced with the complete impossibility of coping with our industrial problems.

(Translation):

Mr. Speaker, the government also deserves credit for the legislation just adopted concerning loans to small businesses. I found with pleasure that those loans were available to the tourist industry which, according to me, ranks among the most important ones in Canada, and is, without any doubt, the most important one in my constituency.

I shall not elaborate this point as I propose to deal with it again on some future occasion.

Mr. Speaker, before resuming my seat, I merely wish to add that Canadian industries are not at all asking for undue restrictions on imports from abroad, far from it. All they want is a measure of protection and a fair share of sales in our country.

There should be quotas on certain of the goods we import, and those quotas should not exceed a fair percentage, so as to allow a reasonable amount of imports.

Our manufacturers are prepared to take their responsibilities, to increase the quality of their goods, to step up production, to cut down their costs and to face all difficulties

that might turn up. In short, they are prepared to face the present problems. What they ask for, however, is a minimum of business security, trusting in their skill and ability to face other dangers that might come up.

I have so much confidence in this government, in the know-how of our industrialists and businessmen that I know that if we can give them the least encouragement, that is all they will need to get over their present difficulties.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to say how grateful I am over the decision of the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Hees) to change question No. 10 on the next census form.

The official opposition said that the government had to back track, and back down before the protests of certain ethnic groups in Canada. The members of the opposition are the only ones who think so. Newspapers throughout Canada, and particularly in the province of Quebec, far from looking upon this decision as a retreat, express great satisfaction about the changes made. I sincerely believe that the change in question No. 10 will do justice to all ethnic groups in this great country of ours.

I need not add that the Liberals who intended to make use of that anomaly in the census form for purely political purposes now feel crestfallen about it, and our opponents' old slogan "divide and rule" is now outdated and inapplicable.

The Conservative government has changed question 10 and, in so doing, strengthened national unity across Canada. All groups or organizations interested in the various cultural movements in our country are grateful to the Prime Minister and his government for having come up with a happy solution to this delicate problem.

I must add that the political football which our opponents intended to use against us is punctured. The only program they now have to offer the people of Canada are the contradictory resolutions adopted at the recent Liberal convention in Ottawa. After our fellow citizens have studied those resolutions and that program, I am sure they will be in a position to see the difference between the two large Canadian parties and that they will continue to give to the Prime Minister and this government the support and trust they deserve.

Mr. Gaston Clermont (Labelle): Mr. Speaker, I have not yet had the opportunity of