

Combines Investigation Act

Mr. Howe: The 15 per cent excise tax applies on imports as well as on home manufactures.

COMBINES INVESTIGATION ACT**AMENDMENT TO FORBID THE FIXING OF SPECIFIC OR MINIMUM RESALE PRICES**

The house resumed, from Wednesday, December 19, consideration of the motion of Mr. Garson for the second reading of Bill No. 36, to amend the Combines Investigation Act, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Fulton.

Mr. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, on the evening just before the big storm I was on my feet addressing the house on the question of this particular bill. This morning I propose to curtail my remarks materially in order that the business may be proceeded with. What I have to say will redirect the attention of the house to the legislation that has been before us.

To recapitulate briefly what I said the other evening, I had drawn attention to the fact that, on October 9, an indication had been given that legislation would be brought down dealing with this particular subject and that it was not until December 17 that the bill appeared before the house. I was going on from that point to indicate that there was a serious weakness in this legislation. I had intended making a comparison between legislation which has in it good features and meets with general approval and legislation which does not meet with general approval and which therefore must, on the face of it, be considered to be unsound.

Resuming my remarks at that point, I would say that we have had evidence in this session that legislation that has met with general approval has passed through this house without great delay. There has been full debate and discussion, but no great delay. An example of that is the legislation dealing with pensions for disabled veterans. But I point out to the Minister of Justice (Mr. Garson) that there are many examples to show that this legislation does not meet with general approval. The lengthy debate that has ensued upon it is one bit of evidence. The fact that supporters of the government side have risen to express their lack of approval of this legislation is another indication, and the general public reaction, showing a divided opinion throughout the country, indicates that this is definitely contentious legislation, and contentious legislation normally gets a rough passage through the House of Commons, as is quite proper.

the United States and certain other countries whose nationals are not treated as Canadian nationals are being treated under the selective service act of the United States?

Mr. Pearson: We can give consideration to this; but I am not sure that there is any such treaty between the United States and other countries covering this matter.

Mr. Coldwell: I took it from what was said that there were such treaties.

Mr. Pearson: I said if there was such a treaty; whether there are any treaties or not, I do not know. Whether Canada should have such a treaty is another matter, and we can look into it.

CHINA**EXPORT OF CANADIAN FUNDS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. K. Fraser (Peterborough West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Justice (Mr. Garson). As the United States have put into force the trading with the enemy act with regard to funds going to communist China, has the Department of Justice considered putting into force the defence of the realm act with regard to Canadian funds going to communist China?

Hon. Stuart S. Garson (Minister of Justice): Not as yet.

LABOUR CONDITIONS**IMPORTATION OF REFRIGERATORS—LAY-OFFS IN CANADIAN PLANTS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. C. W. Hodgson (Victoria, Ont.): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Howe) or to the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. McCann), or probably both, in view of the fact that I have had representations from some labour men in my riding who are employed making parts for refrigerators. They claim that last year less than 500 refrigerators came from the United States whereas this year the number is 98,000, and that they are affected by having lay-offs in the plant owing to this fact. I was wondering whether the minister has had any similar representations from any other sections of the country.

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I have had representations; but I think the facts are that resale price maintenance has had more to do with the situation than has dumping.

Mr. Fraser: The 15 per cent excise tax.