

idea as to what was the copper production of these things, or the consumption of these things, or what the exports were? How much does the government hope to save? I should like to know something about that, and I think it would be interesting to the committee to find out. I am sure the committee would like to know what the situation is in connection with these products. Can the minister tell us?

Mr. ABBOTT: I have not those figures available at the moment, but they can readily be obtained in a number of government publications. I could get them. Our production of copper, lead, aluminum and other base metals is well known and our exports are known, so that if one were to subtract the exports from the total production, one could arrive at the domestic consumption. I have not the figures this evening.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): What is the consumption of these various articles such as vacuum cleaners and radios? Take radios, for example. Most radio receiving sets made in this country today have something like 80 or 90 per cent Canadian content. What shall we save in that direction by reducing the production of radios and by a reduction in the consumption of this commodity? What effect will that have on investigation and research which is going on in connection with that industry at the present time? How will it affect that industry? I know the minister has had an interesting brief from the radio people and they have been turned down flat. What is the reason? It would be interesting to know something about reduction of employment in that business, and the same with vacuum cleaners and refrigerators. Can the minister give some estimate of the reduction that is likely to take place in the production of these articles?

Mr. ABBOTT: I have not those figures, but they are all on record. I gave figures earlier in the debate, but I have not them at the moment, as to the number of radios produced domestically and the number imported. From memory I would say that the larger proportion of radios purchased in Canada are domestically produced, while the proportion imported is relatively small. On the other hand, domestically produced radios contain in some cases a considerable proportion of imported parts, and even those which contain—

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): Ten per cent.

Mr. ABBOTT: Even if they did not contain one per cent, on the thesis I developed earlier this evening, we should reduce our consumption of radios if we are to continue
[Mr. Ross (St. Paul's).]

to extend aid to the devastated countries. We should do so even if they did not have five cents' worth of United States content.

The CHAIRMAN: It has occurred to me that the committee might be prepared to carry the amendment and then it could consider the resolution as amended.

Mr. ABBOTT: That would be helpful, and the committee would see what is covered by the proposed tax resolution, but I am in the hands of the committee.

Mr. MACDONNELL (Muskoka-Ontario): Is this amendment merely to give effect to what the minister told us had already been decided, namely, that the articles originally put in were many of them now taken out?

Mr. ABBOTT: Some were taken out and the provisions of the resolution rearranged. That is correct. The original resolution as tabled by me on December 19, or whatever the date was, is amended by removing from it a number of articles which it had previously been intended should be subject to the tax. That is the sole effect of the amendment. It is to narrow the scope of the proposed tax.

Mr. CASE: Before I am asked to vote on the amendment, I should like to ask the minister a question somewhat along the line of the questions asked by the hon. member for Fraser Valley. With regard to these things now appearing in the amendment, will tax refunds be made to the people who made purchases, if they are veterans or otherwise? With regard to all these articles on that list, and on which you are collecting taxes, if this amendment carries have we your assurance that refunds will be made to the purchasers?

Mr. ABBOTT: That really has nothing to do with the amendment. The situation will be this. This proposed tax is being paid now by the manufacturers or on importation. If parliament refuses to approve this tax, they will have the right to claim from the dominion government, and will receive, a refund of the taxes which they have paid. The purchasers of the articles which are subject to tax will have paid a purchase price for them which will not be segregated so far as tax is concerned, and it will be within their right to claim, from the person from whom they have purchased the article, a proportionate reduction in the price for such portion of that price as may involve the tax content. That may be complicated from the point of view of the original purchaser, but I do not think that eventuality will arise.

An hon. MEMBER: It is impossible.