

Ottawa. They are now selling at 87 cents. That is an increase of 85 per cent in two years. If there is no restriction on eggs below the border and we can get them in at a few cents cheaper, would it not be a good idea to do so, when people are having so much trouble with inflation that they find it difficult to make ends meet? That is just one example, but there are many things like that which the Governor in Council has the power to control—the power to keep out of the country or to limit in quantity or to prevent from leaving the country, and so on.

I am not pretending for one minute that there are not many people just waiting to do the wrong thing, but I do think that, after all, if we are going to have any kind of free economy we should not give carte blanche to the government to do what it wants with respect to export and import; to tell us that we can do this or do that or export potash or not export it, and so on. I am not saying that the government would stop anyone from exporting potash. I am merely saying that these powers are there and there is no reason why they should be there. That is what I am saying. During the war, of course, these things had to be.

● (1410)

A witness this morning told us that we had to stop people from exporting arms. Honourable senators, there are no arms made in Canada, or at least, nothing that today could be considered military hardware. In any event, when you see all the fighting that is going on all over the world, obviously everybody seems to be able to buy all the most expensive tanks and planes, and everything that they could conceivably want, without any trouble, so why should we be told we cannot export any arms? We do not produce any arms. We produce shotguns, perhaps, but that is hardly the same thing.

Here we are faced with all kinds of regulations which, to my mind, do not apply in this day and age—not to us, anyway. Therefore, it is a great mistake that we should have an important bill which is going to put a great many people in Canada, who are performing a useful service of giving employment, in a position where they are going to have to find out if the Governor in Council is going to allow them to do any ordinary thing that one would think they should be able to do. Under these regulations they are going to have to go and find out in a way that just puts everybody's costs up. If you are planning to produce a certain article because you can sell it in the United States, you are going to have to find out if the Governor in Council will allow you to sell it in the United States, so you are going to spend a lot of money on this finding-out process before you can make up your mind whether or not you can produce the article.

The way costs are going up is unbelievable, and so is the amount of legislation that we keep putting through all the time. Things are getting to be so complicated now that, honest to goodness, any business of any size spends about 8 or 9 per cent of all its expenses trying to find out what it can do and what it cannot do.

The Senate is one place that should take the necessary time to look at these things carefully and quietly rather than jam them through the day after it gets them. Many of our knowledgeable senators are not here today because we do not ordinarily sit on Monday and Tuesday afternoons. Some senators with practical experience who could really

help us when we are considering this type of legislation are unable to attend when we sit at odd times. They are active in something else; they have other things to do. All you have to do is look around the Senate now to note how many really active senators are absent, especially those who do not live in Ottawa or who are not fortunate enough to live in Montreal. How many times are they here when we make a difficult decision? There are at least 17 senators whose opinion on this bill would be valuable, but unfortunately they will never see it before it is passed.

Motion agreed to and bill read third time and passed, on division.

ROYAL ASSENT

NOTICE

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that she had received the following communication:

GOVERNMENT HOUSE
OTTAWA

7th May 1974

Madam,

I have the honour to inform you that the Right Honourable Bora Laskin, P.C., Chief Justice of Canada, in his capacity as Deputy Governor General, will proceed to the Senate Chamber today, 7th May, at 5.45 p.m. for the purpose of giving Royal Assent to certain bills.

I have the honour to be,
Madam,
Your obedient servant,
André Garneau
Brigadier General,
Administrative Secretary to the
Governor General.

The Honourable
The Speaker of the Senate,
Ottawa.

LAND USE

INQUIRY—DEBATE CONTINUED

The Senate resumed from yesterday the adjourned debate on the inquiry of Senator Norrie, calling the attention of the Senate to the question of land use in Canada.

Hon. Chesley W. Carter: Honourable senators, I should like to begin by complimenting Senator Norrie on her presentation of the inquiry now before us which directs our attention to the question of land use in Canada. As Senator Norrie pointed out, there is a widespread clamour from all parts of Canada for a national land use policy, and she is to be commended for focusing our attention on it at this time.

Ideas and attitudes concerning land use have changed throughout the years in accordance with the changing