

The Budget—Mr. Boulanger

the European common market, the inner six, the outer seven, the trade blocs of communist China and Russia, and the new impact of competition from the South American countries. Canadians will have to get out and sell themselves and their products as never before. Once again, in the same way in which I congratulated the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fleming) I congratulate the Minister of Trade and Commerce and say that we in this house and indeed people throughout Canada are happy that the same leadership is being provided in the field of commodity trade.

I said I intended to be brief but I should like to make one additional point perfectly clear before I resume my seat. My point is that the type of budget introduced, designed to give a stimulus to the economy, is basically sound. I should like to make clear to the Minister of Finance, nevertheless, that all of us wish to see more Canadians invest in this country. I believe this will come about if we provide to Canadians incentives in the form of opportunities to compete with their United States and foreign counterparts. If this incentive is provided I believe the program of the government contained in this budget will prove even more successful than we dreamed possible today.

In the area of Canada which I represent we are approaching what is perhaps one of the most interesting developments of all time. For example, we very shortly expect to hear the government make an announcement with respect to a national policy for the marketing of oil. We have already seen the impact of the export of surplus natural gas and its by-products. With the growing importance of this industry the western section of Canada is becoming something more than just an agricultural area. We require great confidence and great optimism about our future. I suggest we have no reason to look back but should look only forward to the future and the accomplishments that will be made possible under the policy supplemented as I have suggested, and which has been enunciated by the minister.

(Translation):

Mr. Samuel Boulanger (Drummond-Arthabaska): Mr. Speaker, I should like to say a few words concerning the budget introduced by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fleming) and deal briefly with the textile problem in Canada. Because of the difficulties facing that industry in this country, I want to use the last minutes at my disposal to repeat what the governor of the Bank of Canada said:

[Mr. Smith (Calgary South).]

The best way to check unemployment is to reduce imports in order to increase the production of those goods which are needed in our country.

That applies especially to the textile industry in Canada and more particularly in the province of Quebec. The number of people employed in the textile industry has decreased from 98,000 some ten years ago to 74,000 these last few years, or a decrease of 24,000. No doubt imports have something to do with the decrease in the number of those workers and yet that development occurred in a period when domestic consumption was on the increase.

Figures published recently in the periodical *Textiles* of January 1961 show that the share of our industries in our domestic market is now 47 per cent for various fabrics, from 48 per cent in 1959 and 66 per cent in 1950.

I could also give figures related to the production share of the Canadian market. For instance, since 1956 there has been a decrease from 75 to 70 per cent in the production of artificial or synthetic fibres. As far as cotton is concerned, while the production percentage was 51 per cent in 1956, it went down to 41 per cent in 1959.

As for woollens, production has decreased from 53.4 per cent in 1956 to 51.4 per cent in 1959.

Yet I remember that during election campaigns, especially that of 1957, when the Minister of Finance visited the constituencies of Sherbrooke and Drummond, he said: If you vote for the Conservative candidate, the question of textiles will be solved.

The Conservative government has now been in power for three and a half years and during that period we have seen a decrease in the number of employees and an increase in the volume of imports. Thus, last year we imported \$45 million worth of textiles from Japan, an increase of \$5 million a year since the Conservative party took over.

I should have liked to hear the hon. member for Sherbrooke on the question of textiles in this house. The hon. member for Sherbrooke—

Mr. Pigeon: May I ask a question of the hon. member for Drummond-Arthabaska?

Mr. Boulanger: When I have finished, of course.

Mr. Graffey: That is untrue. The hon. member for Sherbrooke often referred to that question.