

*Government Organization*

keep for our Canadian textile workers that part of the market to which they are entitled.

As Mr. Demers states in his letter, the main factor with regard to foreign competition is that it is done with much lower paid workers in under-developed countries.

But, even if it is our duty to help the under-developed countries, I believe our first obligation is to Canadians, and if measures that might upset the countries who wish to conquer our market are needed, we should not hesitate to take such measures.

I said, at the start, that the minister should display boldness, firmness and alertness. Everyone knows that some foreign exporters are not always as mindful and as respectful of the law as they should be. In many instances, my attention has been drawn to the fact that the name of the country of origin which should appear in letters as high as those of other words on the label is sometimes hard to read.

In spite of their good intentions, the public servants who are required to watch for this type of thing, often let them escape their notice. The minister should, I believe, since we are talking about the reorganization of a department, entrust a particular person with the task of doing away with unfair competition. It is in fact a violation of the law and no effort should be spared to ensure that the law is fully respected.

Our Canadian financiers should also be encouraged to do their share for the Canadian people. I have here a photostat of an article published in the December 1967 issue of the magazine *Men's Wear of Canada*, which states that Canadians and Americans invest money in countries with small income levels in order to manufacture garments with which the Canadian market is subsequently glutted.

I suggest that if those Canadian interests really wish their country to expand as it should, they should give up some profits and manage so that the profits which they want to make come from Canadian industries rather than from foreign ones.

Finally, I would also like to remind the minister that the shoe industry has been going through a most difficult period for a number of years. It is known that since 1963, a great many shoe manufacturers have closed down again because of the competition from countries with low production costs. I would

[Mr. Ricard.]

indeed like to see the minister give also consideration to that matter; he would thus render a service to his constituents, to the workers of the province of Quebec and of the whole country.

• (4:30 p.m.)

**Mr. Mongrain:** Mr. Chairman, as I rise to speak, I feel somewhat reluctant and I will tell you a story to explain that feeling.

During the last electoral campaign, I had the pleasure to speak in the riding of the hon. member who was to become the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, and I recall that at one moment—he was to speak after me—he got up. I admit that I had spoken too long and that I did not have to talk so long to convince the audience to vote for the Minister, as they already had so decided. Then, he said to the audience: Ladies and Gentlemen, when the hon. member for Trois-Rivières gets on his feet in the Commons, he always, or most of the time indicates that he did not plan to take part in the debate, but will try to be brief; then he uses up all the time allocated to him, if not more.

Of course, I remembered when I prepared my comments. Besides, the minister at the end of his speech last night, said this:

Personally, I hope that the debate will be shorter than the one on the establishment of the Department of Communications.

Naturally, such a remark is likely to intimidate someone as shy as I am. Mr. Chairman, I want to assure the minister that I shall be brief.

However, the member for Saint-Hyacinthe (Mr. Ricard), with his usual good nature and politeness, has challenged me in a way and I must reply, only for his information or that of his colleagues who may not know what is going on.

I wish to say to the member for Trois-Rivières—I beg your pardon, I meant the member for Saint-Hyacinthe (Mr. Ricard) to whom I would never give up my riding—that several months ago, government members formed a kind of task force which looked into the problems experienced by the shoe industry and particularly textiles. The group was made up mainly of members in whose ridings there are textile industries. At the beginning, the group was worked on provincial basis. Today it is national, there are representatives of every province with a textile industry. We wanted to study the problem in depth, not only to rise in the house and tell the minister: There are too many imports, and this must