

Textile and Clothing Board Act

carry out some research in connection with winter wear. I suggest to the minister, and to those who are involved in the clothing industry, that the winter clothing we now produce in Canada is bulky, heavy, and in some cases far from warm or waterproof. It is unsatisfactory regarded from both a utility and fashion conscious point of view. In this respect, I think we can do much more than we have.

I agree that in this area we have moved part way. For example, the crew of the *Manhattan* were clothed in Canadian parkas. Probably we produce as good a parka for this type of activity as anyone in the market, but as one who has spent a great deal of time out in the cold in the wintertime, I say there is much room yet for improvement.

I suggest the minister encourage the textile industry, through the offices of this board, to concentrate, if you will, consciously on improving winter wear for Canadians. This is the basic reason I am speaking in this debate. I was talking to a young university student a short time ago who was complaining that the knee boots that women purchase deteriorate under the influence of salt. When a person buys a pair of boots, I think there is no reason for having to wax and polish them to keep out moisture or make them salt resistant. This should be done by the industry before the boots are sent to market. I think if we want to sell our products, we should make sure they are really good products. I just offer this as an illustration of why further improvement is required.

I have indicated that we manufacture parkas and such like, but I think we might be more conscious of the style of winter clothing. We see in our stores coats that come from Yugoslavia. I am not knocking them as coats, but why cannot our Canadian winter coats have the same style and appeal? I cannot help but feel we could do more in this regard if we had the desire. Obviously, if we want to employ more Canadians we must develop markets, and this is one area in which we could expand our market.

Canada has been waiting for twentieth century technology, and I think this is also the case with wearing apparel. It is said that the best type of clothing for wear in the Arctic is two suits of caribou skin, one worn on the fur on the inside and the other with the fur on the outside. I suggest that something more appropriate is required in this twentieth century.

A few days ago I was reading a book about the United States economic invasion of Europe. The reason this invasion has been so successful is that there was a vacuum in Europe to be filled. I suggest to the minister that if we are going to keep Canadians producing textiles in Canada, then we must produce top quality goods at reasonable prices. I suggest we should not let the United States continue to take over Canadian markets, and with them the Canadian technology that produces goods for those markets.

I am aware that the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin) cannot just manufacture initiative, creativity, style, or even salesmanship, but if he

[Mr. Thomson.]

would pay more attention to creating the proper atmosphere in which these things can develop, the workers in the industry will respond. I should like the minister to consider this suggestion in that light.

Mr. Paul St. Pierre (Coast Chilcotin): Mr. Speaker, as a westerner, I suppose that any time questions involving tariffs and other forms of protection are brought forward in legislation, I approach the legislation in the way that a prudent man approaches a beehive because I am afraid I shall get stung. It is the consumer who pays for this kind of protection. There is no pot of money—unless it is the citizens' tax moneys—into which the government can dip to support inefficient industry, if it be inefficient. When we raise the tariff barriers or put so-called voluntary import quotas on those nations which sell to us, thus raising the price of their goods in Canada or reducing the quantity of their goods that can be sold in Canada, then the consumer pays by paying more for his shirts, more for his textiles, more for his clothing generally.

It is to this matter that I am going to address myself. I have been astounded, I must say, at the attitude to this bill of members of the official opposition party, particularly those from western Canada to whom trade is so important. There appears to be nothing in this bill that they question. The only words we have heard from the spokesman for the official opposition party are to the effect that this bill is too little and too late; that protection is good and the more protection we have, the better. I would doubt this very much. After all, the Canadian textile industry started in this valley in the 1820's, with mills going up on the several streams in the Ottawa area and in other parts of eastern Canada. It was assumed that we had to protect this infant industry with tariffs, and no doubt we did. But how old is the infant now? It is one hundred and fifty years old, and we are still called upon to protect it because it is not yet ready to compete.

I would draw the attention of hon. members to a quotation from some remarks uttered many years ago, in 1893. A convention was held by the Liberal party and a delegate by the name of Mr. Gillmor had this to say. He was speaking of industries that live behind the safe walls of protective tariff barriers.

These industries are like the fatted calf, always sucking, and they will never get weaned. These infants are never ready to have their protective tariff taken off. You suggest a reduction of tariff to them and they look so lean and miserable that you would pity them from the bottom of your heart. But when they feel that the tariff is safe for them, they swell to enormous proportions, and display their carriages and footmen, and their eyes stick out with fatness.

Let me also draw the attention of the House to the remarks of Sir Richard Cartwright on the subject of protectionism, made about the same time as the previous remarks. I am going to place the whole quotation on *Hansard* because one should not make partial quotations, but I might say that I do not agree with the second half of the quotation in today's context:

The moment you introduce the protective system you create a class whose interests are essentially different from those of the people at large, and who become the ready contributors to corruption funds, sharing with their masters the plunder which they have been enabled to take from the people.