

As Canadians, we recognize our responsibility to the developing countries of the world. We are concerned that they have an opportunity to trade in our markets and we are concerned that nations that buy from us will have an opportunity to sell to us. I should like to point out that as far as this particular commodity is concerned we have more than done our share. For example, we consume twice as many imported textiles per capita as do the people of the United States. We consume many times the number of imported shirts per capita as do the people of the European economic community.

Mr. Hogarth: We are always losing our shirt.

Mr. Howard (Okanagan Boundary): We do not take a back seat to anyone in sharing the load of offering trading opportunities to the people of the developing world. We have had to pay a considerable price to do this. I have great sympathy for the members who have spoken on behalf of workers in their ridings who have suffered because of the changes that have taken place in our trading patterns.

• (4:10 p.m.)

According to the figures which I have, approximately 1,400 workers in Quebec, 3,000 across Canada in the shirt industry have lost their jobs. I think at some point we have to call a halt to this deprecation. The hon. member for Waterloo (Mr. Saltsman) said that free trade must go hand in hand with economic planning. We cannot disagree with this point except to say that we should use the words "freer trade" because this is the objective towards which we are working. I think the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich recognizes that we are working for freer trade. In good conscience, we cannot see established industries wiped out by a program of freer trade.

Canadians can be proud of the fact that our exports to countries around the world are growing tremendously. If we are going to be fair to our fellow Canadians, we must allow some opportunity for adjustment and acceptance of these changes. This is what the motion deals with.

The government has appointed a Textile and Clothing Board to examine the situation that exists in the textile industry. This board has the power to recommend changes to the government which would enable existing industries to adjust and change, thereby making it possible for them to employ their workers in new lines of endeavour which will enable them to earn their living.

The emphasis of this program is to have industries concentrate on style promotion in order to develop export markets which do not presently exist. The emphasis is also on restructuring the industry. It is anticipated that our shirt industry will enjoy \$1 million in export business this year, the textile and clothing industry as much as \$200 million.

So, the shirt industry will be able to adjust to these changes, the government is making available a full range of programs to assist the industry, including consultations

Surtax on Shirt Imports

with economists and experts of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce. It also includes the range of help available to the industry under the GAAP program. I remind hon. members that the GAAP program has been very successful, not exactly of a stimulating nature, but in the nature of making a change such as was made in the automotive industry. This is what the government is prepared to do.

It is most important that these adjustment programs be successful. As I said a moment ago, the industry is suffering considerable deprecation. In 1966, for example, the Canadian shirt industry accounted for approximately 90 per cent of that market. In 1970 it will account for approximately 55 per cent. This is a considerable shock to that industry and it must have time to adjust. I think these adjustment programs which the government is suggesting will be effective, but a reasonable time is required to have them established.

The government is asking that the order be extended until November 19, 1971. During that period the Textile and Clothing Board will have an opportunity to make recommendations that will aid the industry and which will guide the government in introducing measures to help the industry to adjust.

I know that all members want this measure to be expedited. A number of excellent points were made by members this afternoon for which I thank them. The hon. member for Beauce (Mr. Rodrigue) suggested there should be a quota system with regard to shirt imports. I remind the hon. member that at the present time there is an excellent voluntary restraint system for countries with which we trade in this area. Today we are engaged in a measure to bolster this system.

In conclusion, I recommend the speedy passage of this measure.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

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PUBLIC ORDER (TEMPORARY MEASURES) ACT, 1970

PROVISION OF EMERGENCY POWERS FOR PRESERVATION OF PUBLIC ORDER

The House resumed, from Wednesday, November 25, consideration of the motion of Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton) that Bill C-181, to provide temporary emergency powers for the preservation of public order in Canada, be read the third time and do pass.