

*Natural Resources*

If this bill were passed, I feel that there would be many complications detrimental to the national interest, to the interest of our fellow-citizens.

First, there is a detail which might seem of little importance, but in the bill, there is no definition of "primary products". There is no list, not even a brief one, of the main commodities to be considered as primary for export purpose.

In my opinion, the passing of the bill would lead to a very strict control, too strict in fact, of our farm, forest, mining and other products. That could also have detrimental effects at the primary level or, at least, at some levels of our manufacturing and production industry.

Another aspect of the bill must also be considered. Let us not forget the complications that could arise within the public service, the bureaucracy, which we sometimes criticize. I believe with reason that very harmful complications could arise with regard to the administration of the commissions and some government agencies.

Steps should be taken to make sure that the legislation as well as the provisions concerning prices and equity are complied with fully, in the interest of the country. If each case had to be studied closely, it would take a real army of civil servants and experts and that would be going too far.

I think that we must think of raising such groups, such armies in time of national emergency. It is said that comparisons are always unfair but one is needed. It happened when Canada had to raise groups of very competent and learned men during the second world war, for instance, and also when disasters struck some areas and cities in Canada.

• (5:20 p.m.)

I think that to justify the recruiting of such a group of competent civil servants, to whom rather high salaries would have to be paid, we would have to be in an emergency. Considering the present state of our economy, in spite of what some of our opponents claim, and as compared with the world economy, we can say that we have problems but that we are at a normal point on the curve.

We know that our government will take the necessary steps, as it has done to date, so that we may go up another point on the chart of our economy.

Before introducing this bill which is very short and very simple, it might have been

appropriate to consider first the present legislation which provides for the existing functions which are very important for our economy, not only on the economy as a whole but in areas the hon. member for Timiskaming (Mr. Peters) has emphasized.

I note, for instance, that section 3 of the Export and Import Permits Act provides for the establishment of control lists. I quote:

The governor in council may establish a list of goods, to be called an export control list, including therein any article, the export of which he deems it necessary to control for any of the following purposes, namely,

(a) to ensure that arms, ammunition, implements or munitions of war, naval, army or air stores or any articles deemed capable of being converted therein to or made useful in the production thereof or otherwise have a strategic nature or value, will not be made available to any destination wherein their use might be detrimental to the security of Canada;

(b) to implement an intergovernmental arrangement or commitment; or

(c) to ensure that there is an adequate supply and distribution of such articles in Canada for defence or other needs.

As you can see, our legislation, at a certain level, already provides, to a certain point, measures to ensure our market, our home market as well as the world market in the field of primary resources but always taking into account our economic progress within the framework of normal commercial activity in our country and in the world.

With regard to fair and reasonable prices for exports and raw materials, I wish to quote subsection 2 of section 17 of the Income Tax Act:

Where a taxpayer carrying on business in Canada has purchased anything from a person with whom he was not dealing at arm's length at a price in excess of the fair market value, the fair market value thereof shall, for the purpose of computing the taxpayer's income from the business, be deemed to have been paid or to be payable therefor.

It is obvious that the legislators have provided for economic stability not only with regard to our primary resources, but with regard to any revenue concerning the whole Canadian people.

Referring to the various duties, to the various functions which should be assigned to the group of civil servants or special agency entrusted with the application of that act, I read, under Section 4 (1) of the Tariff Board Act, as follows:

(1) In respect of goods produced in or imported into Canada the board shall, at the request of the minister, make inquiry as to