

Textile and Clothing Board Act

clauses 26 and 27, I should have added after "textile and clothing goods" "and other goods", so that the importers could put forward reasons why the importation was not injurious to Canadian production.

The only criticism I have of the amendment is that owing to my busy schedule I did not fully realize the importance of clause 27 and I should have added after the words "clothing goods" "and other goods". But not having done that, the amendment stands as it is. Clause 12 clearly states that the board may receive evidence if it so decides. If they want to rule autocratically and bureaucratically they may decide that they do not want to hear any further evidence. We must bear in mind that this is a protectionist bill. The Liberal party has become a protectionist party for the Canadian manufacturing industry. They have cast western Canada and its free trade aspirations to the wolves.

Mr. Pepin: Try to import wheat into Canada.

Mr. Horner: The minister suggests we should import wheat into Canada. I have always felt that that is the true feeling of the Canadian government. They do not want to sell wheat; they want to import it. But we have a surplus of wheat in this country.

Some hon. Members: Louder.

Mr. Horner: What kind of poppycock is this? Of all the nonsensical positions that they may take, this is the most nonsensical. I have established this afternoon that the main purpose of this bill is to rationalize the textile industry. To this I have no objection. The rationalization of the textile industry first of all establishes the principle that we shall not build the textile industry solely for the Canadian market but that we should do so for the international market. The minister has admitted that in building the textile industry for the international market we must compete in sophisticated textile goods. He also said that we must protect the industry. This is where his rationalization and his logic fall down.

The minister said we must protect existing textile industries from low-cost production areas of the world such as the Pacific rim countries, which are our greatest customers. One of those countries is Korea. The Speaker of the parliament of Korea was present in the House. A reception was held in his honour. It is interesting to note that we export around \$18 million worth of goods to that small country and we buy \$15 million worth of goods from them. Most of the goods we buy are of low standard so far as the textile industry is concerned. We cannot compete with their price in the international market. But most of the goods which we sell to Korea come from western Canada.

It is interesting to note that so far as the rationalization program is concerned, the minister's logic falls down because we cannot build a viable textile industry within Canada to compete with low-cost textile producing areas. We can compete best with highly sophisticated textiles of countries such as Great Britain and the United States. It is also interesting to note that in our production of highly sophisticated textile goods we require more man-made

[Mr. Horner.]

fibres. The most rapid growth in the Canadian textile industry has been with man-made fibres. In fact, 46 per cent of the textile industry in Canada is concerned with man-made fibres. Supposedly, this bill protects the industry, but clause 8 of the bill rules out the hearing of any person who may be injured by the actions of the board.

It is interesting to note that in Canada, where many people are concerned about buying back Canadian industry, we find the Canadian government prepared to protect an industry which is completely foreign-owned. The section of the textile industry involved with man-made fibres is completely foreign-owned. It is owned by five foreign companies—and that section of the industry has the greatest growth potential. Let us consider the rapid growth of the carpet industry alone. The market for carpets in Canada has rapidly increased; carpets are being used in schools, municipal buildings and many other places.

Mr. Pepin: Mostly red carpets!

Mr. Horner: I do not understand the purport of the minister's comment. If there is any significance in the colour red, I would like him to know that I like red cattle. I do not know what he means by red carpets. Maybe he means Red China. Perhaps he is referring to Tories who call themselves red Tories. I have no appreciation of red Tories. I like red cattle. In any case, the point I am making is that when one looks at the growth potential of the textile industry in Canada one cannot exclude the rapid growth of the man-made fibres sector of the industry.

In 1950 man-made fibres constituted about 19 per cent of the textile industry in Canada. By 1970 or 1971 man-made fibres accounted for 46 per cent of the textile industry. The carpet sector is growing by leaps and bounds and the last five years have seen an increase of 25 per cent in this area of the industry. The prospects for this sector of the industry are unlimited. If the purport of this bill is protection for a viable industry, one able to compete in the international market, there must first be a high degree of sophistication, which automatically requires a high degree of man-made fibres.

• (9:50 p.m.)

The government makes great claims about Canadian ownership. It has made the bold boast that it will buy Home Oil purely for the sake of Canadian ownership. But now it introduces a protectionist piece of legislation. The hon. member for Okanagan Boundary, openly and perhaps proudly—I did not attend the committee that day so I cannot say how proud he was—stated that this new legislation heralded a marked change in Canadian assistance to manufacturing industries. I say that the man-made fibre sector of the textile industry has great potential, but in Canada it is completely foreign-owned. If the minister or his parliamentary secretary would like me to read the evidence which supports that claim, I will do so. During the committee proceedings the parliamentary secretary said that basically five companies own it all. Mr. Speaker, it is completely foreign-owned.