

we were considering it in this chamber, I believe that on reflection every hon. member will agree that it is in the interests of the country at large that there should be judicial intervention and what amounts to the fiat of a judge before the powers conferred upon the commissioner are exercised with respect to either (a) an investigation under oath, or (b) the punishment of witnesses, or (c) the production of documents, in view of the fact that the contention which we made as to the admissibility of evidence of documents has been conceded, subject, of course, to the provision that they must be used in a trial for infringement of the provisions of the act or of section 498 of the criminal code.

I feel it is only fair to say, in view of the strenuous attitude taken by the minister with respect to the legislation, that he should be congratulated upon having accepted what I cannot but think will be regarded as a reasonable compromise, protecting on the one hand every legitimate claim that any person in Canada could make either as to regularity of procedure, opportunity to be heard, or deprivation either of property or individual liberty; and on the other hand he will find that in operation the bill will be satisfactory.

There is one section which I certainly still think is wrong, and that is the one which takes away from the Dominion Trade and Industry Commission the powers which would, for instance, be called into operation if the furniture manufacturers of Canada were to be asked to meet together to submit plans for reorganization.

Mr. ROGERS: It was to be exercised at discretion by the governor in council.

Mr. BENNETT: I was not quite sure.

Mr. ROGERS: Yes.

Mr. BENNETT: That is what is to be done about it?

Mr. ROGERS: Yes.

Mr. BENNETT: Well, that is better than the proposal as I saw it originally.

Mr. ROGERS: It was originally so.

Mr. BENNETT: No.

Mr. ROGERS: Yes.

Mr. BENNETT: No, no. The minister and I are at cross purposes.

Mr. ROGERS: I am sorry.

Mr. BENNETT: As the act now stands, the Dominion Trade and Industry Commission could call together certain people for the purpose of accomplishing certain ends.

Mr. ROGERS: Fair trade conferences.

Mr. BENNETT: As a matter of fact I have made some inquiries, and I find that the present chairman of the tariff board in his capacity as commissioner has adjusted a very large number of intricate and difficult cases—some that I was astonished to hear had been adjusted—and that other applications had been made. My information, although I could not hear quite clearly on the telephone, was, I gathered, that the furniture people themselves suggested the desirability of an early meeting with the commissioner to see what could be done to improve their position. I cannot believe that the commissioner would be quite as good a tribunal before whom to appear to accomplish that end as the commission would be as defined by the Dominion Trade and Industry Act. But that is a difference of opinion, and the minister has succeeded in impressing the Senate with the desirability of having his views prevail. However, I still hold my opinion—which shows that after all there may be differences with respect to important matters of this kind. That does not detract from what I desire to say, which is that I think the minister and the government are to be congratulated upon having accepted these proposals as being more consistent with the general principles enunciated the other day, for instance, by the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe). They are generally in keeping with the British-Canadian conception of the administration of justice as to the conviction of those who may have offended against the statute law of the country, which always contemplates that the accused are innocent until they are proved guilty, and that they shall have the utmost and the freest opportunity of presenting their case before any person who is empowered by statute or otherwise to adjudicate upon their guilt or innocence. For that reason I join with the minister in his motion that the amendments be concurred in, with the earnest hope that nothing which is of importance in the measure under consideration has been taken from it, and that in practice it will have behind it a body of opinion and confidence which it would not otherwise enjoy.

Motion agreed to; amendments read the second time and concurred in.

#### SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am about to move that the house suspend its sitting until nine o'clock. However, I should not like the session to close without expressing on behalf of my colleagues and myself to