

*Textile Labelling Act*

created. Naturally, a large number of other jobs would also have been created in the related field of clothing.

The Canadian textile industry is much more in need of encouragement than of a measure making it mandatory for a manufacturer to identify in a particular way the various elements found in textile products. As I said before, the measure in itself is good, but it is not exactly what we wanted. Those involved in the Canadian textile industry claim that because of the very active competition, their warehouses are overstocked with enough merchandise to last over a couple of years. This situation could be remedied by merely guaranteeing some 70 to 75 per cent of the Canadian market to Canadian industry.

It does not strike me as an exaggeration to ask the Canadian government to reserve 70 per cent of the Canadian market for the Canadian textile industry. Expenses of this industry, the considerable amounts invested in it each year, deserve better consideration from those who are now in charge of the nation's affairs. According to information made available to me, Canadian manufacturers, provided they could depend on 70 per cent of the Canadian market, are in a position to guarantee that by 1975 they will have created from 16 to 18,000 new jobs within the industry itself. They also guarantee that the prices of their products will not be higher than they are now.

Moreover, it is very interesting to note that during the last ten years, the prices of textile products have practically not increased. In fact, they have increased by only a fraction of a cent while this industry has to pay for services much more costly than in the past and to make expenditures that have never been so considerable.

Those are the few remarks I wanted to make in the matter. In the name of Canadian workers, I reiterate my request to reserve to the Canadian textile industry a reasonable portion of the national market, that is, from 70 to 75 per cent. In so doing, the government would help, not only the workers of the clothing and textile industries, but also the population in general, since people working in these two sectors spend their money in the country and therefore contribute to the economic life of Canada.

[*English*]

**Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to say just a few words about this bill before third reading is given. I feel that this bill meets with

[Mr. Ricard.]

the approval of consumers across Canada in general, and the Consumers' Association of Canada, as far as it goes.

● (4:30 p.m.)

After all, this is only half a bill because it provides for labelling in respect of the fibre content of textile articles and lays down penalties in that regard but does not include the other provision which the Consumers Association wished to have included in this bill. I refer to care labelling; in other words, instructions in respect of the washing and care of the textile fabric or article. I do not think this is a matter which should be brushed aside lightly. The minister indicated he believed it would be better if this were handled on a voluntary basis. If it is deemed necessary for consumers to have legislation containing a guarantee in respect of fibre content labelling so that there will be no fraudulence or error in this area, I cannot for the life of me see why it should not be equally mandatory that once the consumers have purchased the article they should be able to see right on the garment or article instructions with regard to washing and cleaning.

The statement of the minister that later on he will introduce legislation in respect of voluntary care labelling does not meet the request of the Consumers Association of Canada. After all, this organization represents all the organized consumers in this country. I should like to point out that their request was not the result of a hasty decision. The Association has looked into this matter for many years and resolutions on that point have been passed at conventions over a long period. This request resulted from a definite resolution passed at the last convention, and was to the effect that both measures be included in the legislation. In my view, the absence of provisions in respect of care labelling in this legislation is a shortcoming in a bill which otherwise would be a satisfactory one. I am sure consumers will be waiting for the provisions in respect of voluntary care labelling, but rather than have them contained in separate legislation I would much prefer to have the minister open up this measure again and include them as a fundamental part of this mandatory legislation.

Rather than have legislation brought in which would contain purely voluntary provisions, we would like to have a bill which contains both halves rounded up in one package. Some of us will not rest content until we have the second half of these necessary provisions on a mandatory basis. Legislation in