

Fishing Vessels

ernment policies in the days ahead, because that is how we will really find out for certain whether the government is determined and is interested in the survival of the industry. We hope it will take its responsibilities seriously and will ensure that there is a good future for the textile industry of Canada.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, when reading the document the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin) tabled in the House today, we could have thought, from the number of its pages, 19 exactly, that it contained all the solutions to the problems of the Canadian textile industry.

● (2:50 p.m.)

This would have been a great opportunity for the minister, whose riding is in the Eastern Townships, one of the most important textile centres, to show not only our region and our province, but also the textile industry, that today he was presenting to the House the real solution to the problems that industry is facing.

I have been in the House for at least eight years and every week hon. members have reminded the minister or his predecessors of this problem. But on reading this document today, we must say that the solutions announced by the minister are very disappointing. The only thing new in it, with respect to the textile industry, is that a new Board is to be set up to review the problems in the textile industry whereas we have been waiting for eight years for a solution to the difficulties encountered by spinning mills which must close down in an increasing number and which can no longer compete with low-cost imports.

Mr. Speaker, the only solution the minister is going to offer today is the reorganization of the textile industry. But he knows only too well that in his very constituency such reorganization has taken place without doing away with the problem.

A big industry in Drummondville expanded itself and improved the operation of its board of directors, in Montreal, mainly an export firm. In spite of that, they are having now the same problems they had ten years ago.

The minister also proposes to create a Textile Review Board. Now, in this industry, development has been going on for 10 years. It has been able to adapt itself to the new fashions we have seen each year. The industry also succeeded in meeting technical progress. But a problem is still plaguing this

industry, that of prices. The problem does not reside in new fashions nor in technique nor in the products themselves but in prices in relation to exports and imports.

Whatever the minister says, he who has always laughed at solutions advocated by the Créditistes, there is only one solution to the textile problem. A compensated discount should be granted to the Canadians producers so as to enable them to sell their production at the same price as imported goods. There is no other solution but to grant a tax exemption to the Canadian industries. I submit that we should give the Canadian consumers a compensated discount so they can buy textile products at the same price as imported products.

If we do not adopt that solution, the minister will in five or eight years from now set up a new commission to inquire into problems that will still be the same, as they were ten years ago.

This is a problem of imports and, as the government bleeds the textile industries not only through taxes but also through its import policy, these industries are caught in the cost-price squeeze, and the Créditiste solution is the only way out, and that solution is to give the textile industries the compensated discount in order to enable consumers to buy the Canadian production at the same price as imported goods.

● (2:50 p.m.)

[*English*]

FISHERIES**ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW VESSELS**

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, I want to make a brief statement this afternoon about financial assistance for the construction of new fishing vessels in this country. This program applies to all new vessels of more than 45 feet in length. It applies to fishing vessels built in Canadian yards and it will be of benefit to Canadian fishermen and Canadian boat builders alike.

This program, which has been developed in close co-operation with my colleague, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, replaces two existing programs. It replaces the so-called "wooden fishing vessel" program previously administered by the Department of Fisheries. It also replaces the "large steel trawler" program which, up until now, has