

*Customs Tariff*

This industry deserves something more than words and it will require more than words to meet its needs of that industry. It will take more than the type of attitude the Leader of the Opposition exhibited here this morning. The hon. member made no contribution whatsoever to the solution of the problem.

Let me now deal with the recommendation of the tariff board and the action the government is inviting the house to take to carry into effect the recommendation of this board. No one pretends for one minute that this modest recommendation is the solution of all the problems of the textile industry.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** Of course, it is not the whole solution to the problem. We are accompanying the proposal with a very important ingredient in the program of the government, namely the revision of section 35 of the Customs Act to meet the problem of dumping which has been at the heart of the problem.

**Mr. Benidickson:** Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, surely the minister is anticipating a debate which he expects next week.

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** Mr. Chairman, I am not launching into that subject at all.

**Mr. Chevrier:** You are.

**Some hon. Members:** You are out of order.

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** Mr. Chairman, I am not going into a discussion of that amendment to section 35 of the Customs Act. There will be an opportunity on another occasion. An amendment to section 35 will be introduced soon and when we are asked today to accept a cheap jibe from hon. members opposite and to believe that this amendment to section 554b of the Customs Act is inadequate in itself to meet all the problems of the woollen goods industry then we shall say at once, of course, that this modest proposal is not enough of itself but that is not the whole government program. Take the government program complete and ask yourself if it does not do a whole lot more to meet the needs of this industry than the do-nothing policy of the previous administration.

Hon. members opposite speak about the budget. Mr. Chairman, they were very selective again as they have been on many occasions of late. It will be remembered that the budget proposed measures that were carefully omitted in the remarks of hon. gentlemen opposite today when they are complaining not about the plight of the Canadian textile industry but about the plight of others in other lands. This seemed to concern them much more than the plight of the Canadian textile

industry. Let me make it clear that with the utmost good will to all other countries interested in this problem our first responsibility is to Canada and Canadians.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Canadian farmers and fishermen.

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** Mr. Chairman, looking at this problem frankly as we did in the budget, what we did was this. We knew that this slight increase was not going to hurt any British exporter materially.

**Mr. Pearson:** They loved it.

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** Nevertheless in the minds of some of them it may be regarded as a matter of regret. But we did something else in the budget that helped them very much. We increased the tourist exemption—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):**—and that is going to be of considerable assistance to the British textile industry.

When questions are raised today by hon. members opposite about the commonwealth conference, does it not gladden your bosom and warm the cockles of your heart, Mr. Chairman, to find hon. members opposite, these Liberals, showing some interest at last in the commonwealth trade and economic conference?

**Mr. Benidickson:** Pretty heavy.

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** What big hearts these gentlemen have today! They are filled with solicitude for the outcome of the commonwealth trade and economic conference. More moisture was on the floor of this house today than at almost any other time as their huge crocodile tears flowed left, right and centre. These are the same hon. members who not so long ago were deriding the efforts of this government to promote the commonwealth trade and economic conference.

**Mr. Habel:** There is no flag draped on our desks, though.

**The Chairman:** Order. I regret to interrupt the minister but I believe we are straying away from the terms of the resolution which is before us.

**Mr. Pearson:** He has never been on it.

**The Chairman:** It would be appreciated if we tried to keep as close as possible to the terms of the resolution before us.

**Mr. Pearson:** Mr. Chairman, on the point you raised, I think we ought to be as liberal as possible to my hon. friend and let him go as far as he will in this direction. We are interested in what he is saying. I think he