

Supply—Trade and Commerce

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): Does that mean that all British automobiles that come in here come in under special permit?

Mr. Howe: No. They come in freely. It is only the scheduled countries that are affected; that is, the hard currency countries.

Mr. Green: What about the goods that are not kept out for dollar reasons, such as rice? The minister mentioned rice a few minutes ago. Is it still subject to import control?

Mr. Howe: It is a hold-over from an international agreement. It will come off very shortly, probably by September 1.

Mr. Green: It is coming off this year?

Mr. Howe: Yes.

Mr. Green: It seems unfair to prevent importation.

Mr. Howe: This is the last of the foods that are under import control. There are certain times for taking these things off, and the proper time would be September 1.

Mr. Green: Are there any other commodities besides rice which are subject to import control?

Mr. Howe: No.

Mr. Green: For reasons other than emergency legislation?

Mr. Howe: No, rice is the last of the import controls. We hope to clean the list up very shortly.

Then there is the publicity division. It has charge of the various publications of the department. There are a great number of publications, particularly those connected with the—

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): Has the minister skipped steel and timber controls?

Mr. Howe: They have been abolished.

Then there is the fairs and exhibitions department which has charge of the trade fair and various Canadian exhibits at fairs outside this country. Then there is the exhibitions commission. The standards branch has charge of weights and measures, the Precious Metals Marking Act, the Electricity and Fluid Exportation Act, the National Trade Mark and True Labelling Act, the Electricity Inspection Act, Gas Inspection Act, and the Weights and Measures Act.

Mr. Green: Is the priorities division still functioning?

Mr. Howe: No. The department is responsible for certain crown companies: the board of grain commissioners; Canadian Arsenals; the Canadian Commercial Corporation; the

Canadian wheat board; Crown Assets Disposal Corporation; the dominion bureau of statistics; dominion coal board; Eldorado Mining and Refining Company; Export Credits Insurance Corporation. The Fraser valley diking board has been disposed of, but we now have instead the Red river diking board. Then there is the industrial defence board; the Polymer Corporation and the Trans-Canada Air Lines.

Mr. Green: Is the atomic energy division under the research council?

Mr. Howe: Yes, it is under the research council. My list includes the national research council and the bureau of statistics.

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): What about the research foundation?

Mr. Howe: Any research foundation would be inside the national research council.

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): Is that not under the minister?

Mr. Howe: Yes, the national research council and the atomic energy control board.

Mr. Fraser: The minister used to have a real estate branch in Trade and Commerce. Is that still functioning?

Mr. Howe: Yes, part of the general administration.

Mr. Fraser: What does it do?

Mr. Howe: It buys and sells real estate.

Mr. Fraser: What for, the Department of Trade and Commerce, or what?

Mr. Howe: It is charged with the settlement for real estate that we acquired during the war years. It also acts for the Crown Assets Corporation in disposing of real estate.

Mr. Fraser: It does that instead of War Assets?

Mr. Howe: It acts for War Assets. War Assets have the responsibility but they use this branch a bit. The branch is down to one man and a stenographer.

Mr. Hatfield: Will the minister tell me how long the wartime import control board is to function? How long is it going to continue? What commodities can we import from the United States? No customs officer seems to know.

Mr. Howe: It is a long story, and I do not know that I can tell it. A good many commodities are administered by the Department of Finance. Consumer goods are administered by the Department of Finance. Only capital goods are administered by the Department of Trade and Commerce. There is a