

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

have to look at the Public Service Employment Act. I do not have time to quote the relevant subsections 1, 2, 3 in clause 32 which are essentially as I have already referred to them. It seems to me, though, that it would be a very simple matter to extend the provisions of subsection 2 to provide that the display of a poster at one's home, whether inside or outside or on a lawn, is not in contravention of subsection 1 which states that no deputy head and, except as authorized under this section, no employee, shall engage in work for, and so on.

I think it should also be drawn to the attention of the government that there have been cases concerning the display of posters before the courts of Canada. I would in particular draw attention to the case of one Moses McKay and the township of Etobicoke, in the city of Toronto, concerning an incident in the 1962 federal election. This case eventually reached the Supreme Court, who found in its decision that the township was not allowed, under the provisions of the constitution and constitutional law, to prohibit a person from displaying a federal election poster. There is also one very significant quotation in the judgment handed down at that time. I quote from the decision:

If by-law 11737—

The relevant by-law.

—is construed as it has been by the learned justice of the peace and by the Court of Appeal, it does not merely affect, it destroys the right of the appellants to engage in a form of political activity in the federal field which has heretofore been possessed and exercised by electors without question.

I agree there are some differences in circumstances, but nevertheless I think the concern of the justices of the Supreme Court on this matter should be noted in this regard. I should also point out there is already a distinction set out in subsection 3 of the act between the situation of a deputy head of a department and other employees of a department. Both categories can attend a political meeting. They can contribute funds to a candidate of a political party. All employees except the deputy head can apply for leave of absence, which may or may not be granted, at the judgment of the government. The experience to date has been that people in the executive category and personnel administrators have not been granted this leave. I submit that the Public Service Employment Act should be amended to make clear that the display of a poster at an employee's home is not in contravention of the act.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gaston Clermont (Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Treasury Board): Mr. President, I am told that the act is now under study, and if amendments or explanations are to be brought in the area referred to by the hon. member for Regina East, the minister responsible will announce them in due course. The people involved in this study will no doubt take into account the hon. member's comments.

[*English*]

INDUSTRY—PULP AND PAPER—PROBLEMS DISCUSSED
AT CONFERENCE AND TYPE OF AID OFFERED

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, in spite of my repeated questions in the House over the past four months, for some reason or other I have

failed to get any meaningful answers and any recognition of the continuing crisis which exists in Canada's pulp and paper industry. My particular concern revolves around the close-down of a highly productive paper machine in the Bowater organization in Corner Brook, Newfoundland, which resulted in the lay-off of 350 skilled workers and which will affect an additional work force in the woods operations, therefore affecting in total some 1,200 employees.

Mr. Bell: Don't forget Bathurst, New Brunswick.

Mr. Marshall: My hon. friend reminds me of a similar situation at Bathurst, New Brunswick. The Bowater mill is the main industry in a city of some 2,800 citizens, and one does not have to be too intelligent to realize the effect of such a close-down on the economy of the city, the surrounding areas and indeed the whole province of Newfoundland.

Apart from this confined crisis in Newfoundland it is obvious to all that one of the foremost industries in our nation is now in a state of crisis. Almost daily we experience examples of shut-downs in paper mills in almost every province, yet the problem seems to be treated with complacency by the government. There is ample evidence of the seriousness of the situation in the figures disclosed by the Pulp and Paper Association. Let me record some statistics as published in recent issues of newspapers. A decrease in the demand for newsprint outside of North America was experienced for the first time since the Second World War. There was a decrease in the demand in North America for the second consecutive year, producing a world decline in demand in North America, western Europe and other areas. At the same time, capacity is increasing in Canada, in the U.S.A., in western Europe, in the Far East and in other areas, with evidence of a decline in Canadian shipments to overseas markets.

The larger decrease in total Canadian shipments compared with the decrease in world demand is explained by an increase in domestic shipments by U.S. and overseas producers. Canadian newsprint mills operated at 82 per cent of productive capacity compared with 88 per cent just last year. The Canadian increase in capacity was primarily in eastern mills, with a 205,000-ton increase in the Atlantic region and a 162,000-ton increase in Quebec, and this is the area of Canada where unemployment is highest. Yet at the time when these factors are so obvious, the Department of Regional Economic Expansion continues to give regional development incentive grants to establish mills in regions of Canada to create employment opportunities but destroys employment opportunities in eastern regions where unemployment is most severe. At the same time, the government is granting loans to overseas countries to establish mills, thereby destroying needed markets.

The Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin) keeps sending trade missions all over the world to explore export markets, yet no mention is ever made of the need to explore markets for paper, which is so vital to the Canadian economy. Many hundreds of highly technical employees of the pulp and paper industry are being placed out of work and yet the government treats with apathy the waste of our experienced work force, ignoring