

Export and Import Permits Act

unlikely that the actions of the agricultural prices support board have been in any way influenced by the existence of this act. If this act did not exist the agricultural prices support board might find it impractical to attempt to support the price of a particular agricultural product because the floor could be broken by that product being brought in from outside the country. The existence of this power is really a support of the action taken by the agricultural prices support board, and certainly not a limitation of it.

Mr. Fleming: I think the committee should have some information with regard to the matter of strategic materials and any changes that have recently been made or that are in contemplation with respect to the countries included within the scope of the export prohibitions with regard to strategic materials. At the bottom of page 4 and the top of page 5 the report of the Minister of Trade and Commerce respecting operations under the act for the year 1956 has this to say with reference to general export permit No. EX 2 of June 2, 1955:

It allows—

“It” being this general export permit.

—certain non-strategic goods, irrespective of country of origin, to move freely to all destinations, with the exception of Albania, Bulgaria, China (including Manchuria but excluding Taiwan), Czechoslovakia, Estonia, Germany (Soviet zone only), Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Mongolia, North Korea, Poland, Roumania, Sinkiang, Tibet, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Macao, and Indo-China, without the necessity of obtaining individual export permits.

It is evident, Mr. Speaker, that non-strategic goods are permitted to move freely to all destinations with the exception of those countries which are under communist governments or are communist satellites of the U.S.S.R. The report continues:

This general permit also allows the same non-strategic goods, when of Canadian origin only, to move freely to all destinations with the exception of China (including Manchuria but excluding Outer Mongolia and Taiwan), North Korea, Sinkiang, Tibet, Macao, Indo-China and Vladivostok and neighbouring ports, without the necessity of obtaining individual export permits. Hence considerable relaxation has been established on shipments to Hong Kong and also to a lesser degree the European Soviet bloc countries, by dispensing with certain formalities.

There are various questions that arise out of that reference. I should like to begin by asking first of all if that report, from which I have read an extract, represents the position today. In other words, can we take it that no amendments in the control provisions have been made since the report to which I have referred?

Mr. Dickey: I am informed that there have been no changes in the list and no changes in these general permits since that time.

Mr. Fleming: Are there any changes in contemplation either in the list of proscribed countries or in the terms of the export order to which I have referred?

Mr. Dickey: I am informed that there are no changes contemplated at the present time in the area control list.

Mr. Fleming: What are the commitments or agreements with the United States which enter into the imposition of either export or permit control on the part of Canada?

Mr. Dickey: Did the hon. member say just export control?

Mr. Fleming: Or import.

Mr. Dickey: With respect to export control, goods are permitted by the United States to move freely into Canada without the imposition of their export controls, so we have to see that our export control provisions are similar in character and in effect to the export controls of the United States in order to ensure that goods of United States origin which come into Canada free of their export control are not then transhipped out of Canada to a destination to which they would not have been eligible to move from the United States itself.

Mr. Jones: Can the parliamentary assistant inform the house whether to his knowledge fruit, potato and other vegetable growers have tried to come under the provisions of the act? I understand they could not directly, but have they tried to do so indirectly?

Mr. Dickey: No. I am informed that we have no knowledge of any efforts of that kind. Certainly no approach would be made to the minister or the officials responsible for the administration of this act from such a source. It would have to come from the board itself.

Mr. Jones: The act would cover it if they complied with the other provisions? Am I to understand that?

Mr. Dickey: Once action has been taken by the appropriate body that has the authority to institute some sort of price support program, then action could be taken under this act to implement that decision.

Clause agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Applewhaite): When shall this bill be read the third time?