

We have long heard that subsidies are necessary to make sure that our Canadian shirtmakers can be more competitive. Indeed, we have even been told that maybe one day they will be able to export. I do not know how they will be able to do that, if they are now incapable of resisting imports. But, Mr. Speaker, we have heard all this, and perhaps it is time for the minister and his department to get down to deciding how precisely they are going to go about it.

This idea of temporary measure put upon temporary measure, extended for six months, and extended for a year, is simply not good enough. If it is a viable industry let us assist it properly. If not, we should retrain the workers in it, and import shirts. But let us not continue with a policy that is plainly no policy at all. I hope that in his closing remarks, the minister will make some comment on this matter because we have heard a great deal about a new policy in this House today, about how in the future things will be better, and that we will not need this type of protection. However, we have had very little inkling of what such a policy might be, or indeed if there is any possibility of achieving this goal through any change in government policy.

It is disappointing to me to see the hon. member for Okanagan-Boundary (Mr. Howard), coming from the west and theoretically a free trader, supporting such a measure. But of course he happens to be a parliamentary secretary and thus is in the position of supporting his minister. Perhaps it only indicates that we British Columbians are all protectionists at heart, and our reaction depends on whether the policy touches our areas. In any event, I do hope that sometime before the end of the debate we will hear some figures and facts with respect to how many workers are protected, about how long this protection has been given, and about how long it is expected similar temporary measures will be put one on top of the other. I should like to know, too, what the decline in shirt production in Canada has been in the last few years as a result of foreign competition, and when we can expect a new and viable program which will get the shirt industry out of the problems it now faces?

[Translation]

Mr. Roland Godin (Portneuf): Mr. Speaker, the following motion appears in today's order paper:

That this House, pursuant to subsection (1c) of section 7 of the Customs Tariff, do approve that the Men's and Boys' Shirts Surtax Order, being Order in Council P.C. 1970-959 of 2 June 1970 made under subsection (1a) of section 7 of the said Act, continue to have force and effect until the 29th day of November, 1971.

Mr. Speaker, it is not very often that the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin) deserves congratulations, but since he was kind enough to introduce this motion concerning our imports, I must recognize that he made a commendable effort.

Unfortunately, this order is restricted in part to imports from Korea. As regards Canada's purchases in that country, its implications are rather insignificant.

Surtax on Shirt Imports

● (4:00 p.m.)

And the only item that may be of advantage to us is found in paragraph 2 of the Men's and Boys' Shirts Surtax Order, of which I got a copy in French from the Library. This paragraph reads as follows:

2. That the import of woven fabric men's and boys' work, dress and sports shirts shipments of which the Republic of Korea has not duly approved for export to Canada under the restrictive agreements reached between Canada and the Republic of Korea threatens serious injury to Canadian producers of men's and boys' work, sports and dress shirts;

The third paragraph reads as follows:

3. That the government of Korea has agreed that the Canadian government should take appropriate measures to help control shipments which are not approved for export;

So Korea is prepared to control its shipments whose export is unauthorized, which means that men's and boys' shirts may still have access to the Canadian market provided they come from either Japan or China.

I quote paragraph 4:

4. That subsection (1a) of section 7 of the Customs Tariff authorizes the Governor in Council, when satisfied that goods of any kind, the growth, produce or manufacture of any country are being imported into Canada under such conditions as to cause or threaten serious injury to Canadian producers of like or directly competitive products, to order that the goods be made subject to a surtax at such rate as is specified in the Order;

Mr. Speaker, I will read again these words which struck me:

—the Governor in Council, when satisfied—

I will say that the Governor in Council is hardly prepared to take advice and consequently, very hard to convince that mass imports threaten Canadian manufacturers.

The proof of it is, Mr. Speaker, that all the recommendations made to that effect in this House in recent years, recommendations made by the supposedly democratically elected members, have been completely ignored. The manufacturers meet the minister, explain their problems, make suggestions, but His Excellency is not convinced.

Plants close down in St. Jérôme, Granby, Sherbrooke, Grand-Mère; thousands of Canadians lose their jobs in plants located in Beauce, Drummondville, Montmorency, Trois-Rivières, Montmagny, and the minister is still not convinced. To convince him, he needs the report of his political friends, Messrs. Jacques St. Laurent, Annis and Campbell, whom he recently delegated to go and see. Mr. Speaker, I suppose the next time he meets those boys, there will be musical entertainment; he can sing them the song entitled: *Dis-moi ce qui ne va pas?* (Tell me what the trouble is.)

Mr. Speaker, if Mr. Jacques St-Laurent, a lawyer, was experiencing financial difficulties, it really was not worth asking him to tell us what we already know about the textile industry. All he had to do, as all other victims of the present system and administration, was to go to the office of the Family and Welfare Department in Quebec,