

Employment Support Bill

Mr. Speaker, I have listened to the hon. member for Regina East (Mr. Burton) and I thank him for his long lecture on international trade and other matters. And, listening to him, Mr. Speaker, I said to myself: Professors never do change. Is this not so? At every opportunity they give a lecture and I hear the oh's in *Hansard*.

Mr. Speaker, the main argument of the hon. member for Regina East is that this bill is not perfect and this I am willing to admit. It will cure neither a cold in the head nor corns; it is not a comprehensive industrial policy. It does not propose an agricultural or a monetary policy, and neither does it create an international corporation. In short, there are lots and lots of things which it does not do. But, this bill is not meant to do everything the hon. member would like it to do. It did not please the hon. member for Regina East simply because it is not perfect. And therefore, I imagine that the hon. member and his party as well as the *Créditistes* are going to vote against it because it is not perfect.

• (5:10 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker, I point out that the decision of the two parties concerned expresses a low-standard evangelism. It would be a great help to the government if the whole House voted for the bill to show Americans in particular that public opinion in Canada is not insensitive to American measures.

I shall attempt with perseverance to find, both in the speech of the hon. member for Regina East and in that of the hon. member for Roberval (Mr. Gauthier), a few sentences saying that in fact the two parties concerned were in agreement with the legislation. But it will not be an easy task and once again, I hope that in a few minutes the two parties, being aware of their responsibilities and having made all provisos and necessary precisions, will none the less vote for Bill C-262 in order to make it publicly known in Canada, in the whole world and specially in the United States, what stuff Canada is made of.

Mr. Speaker, some say that this bill will not cope with all the problems that this surtax will create in Canada. I agree with that. At the present time, just the uncertainties brought about by the American decisions will disturb Canada-U.S. trade relations and will occasion, in a great many cases, the loss of contracts as well as certain difficulties for some Canadian firms. In a word, I mean that this bill attempts to save the house, the Canadian industrial structure which has been set up at the cost of many efforts over the years by industrialists as well as workers and governments. We are trying to save the house; we may lose a few pieces of furniture, but the commendable efforts of the government at this time should be acknowledged by all.

The hon. member for Regina East (Mr. Burton) seeks through his amendment to refer the bill to a committee for consideration of clause 11. I suppose his main purpose would be to submit to the committee the amendment he moved yesterday and which has been ruled out of order by the Chair.

The hon. member's interest is essentially the protection of farmers and fishermen. That would be his motivation.

[*English*]

If the hon. member had read beyond the figures he cited for animal and vegetable products affected by the sur-

[Mr. Pepin.]

charge he would have discovered that about 85 per cent are processed and therefore covered by the bill. This includes the \$175 million applying to whiskey and \$200 million applying to fish. I am not saying that all this whiskey will be protected. I am not saying that at all, because all the whiskey producers might not need the support of the government in this instance. I am saying that the 85 per cent of products subject to the surcharge are covered by this bill. Therefore, the hon. member is delaying action. He wants to send the bill back to committee just for that 15 per cent left out of the bill. I recognize that the 15 per cent is important to those people who are in that 15 per cent category. But then the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) has already said that he will bring about ways and means of helping those people. I think the Minister of Agriculture has a splendid record for responsibility. As a matter of fact, I know that my colleagues in the cabinet committee at this time are discussing just that matter. So, I suggest the hon. member is being very theoretical, very professorial—if I of all people may use that expression—in trying to delay the bill. He is trying to satisfy his own sense of responsibility which, in this case, is very misplaced.

Mr. Speaker, I shall not attempt to reply to the hon. member for Roberval because that would take too long but I shall see, or rather I shall try to see that the people are made aware of the remarks he made this afternoon. His statement that only Canadian firms should be protected by the legislation will, I believe, create quite a lot of dissatisfaction particularly among Quebec workers who work for such companies. I feel the hon. member, if he is sincere, should hold a press conference immediately to say that he is most anxious that workers in Quebec and throughout Canada, employed by firms with foreign origins, should not be protected by the legislation. I think at that time he will not get a very hearty reception.

Mr. Fortin: They will not be protected anyway.

Mr. Pepin: The hon. member has to make up his mind one way or another. At first he said that this measure is only for the rich, especially rich Americans, and now he says that workers employed in factories with predominantly American capital will not be protected. I know very well that logical thinking is not the strong point of Social Credit but there are nevertheless circumstances where it is possible that abuses—

Mr. Loiselle: They never have understood anything and they never will understand anything.

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, abortion and death sentences are at present the big topics within Social Credit. This indicates perhaps that an abortion or the death sentence is in sight for that party.

• (5:20 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker, I would like to be more serious when I answer the hon. member for Kent-Essex (Mr. Danforth). I think that his remarks this afternoon are quite serious and that he is truly concerned about the effects this legislation might have in certain cases.

[*English*]

I consider him to be a very experienced member and a very responsible one, so I think I should spend some time