

THE SENATE

Wednesday, April 21, 1971

The Senate met at 2 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers.

DOCUMENT Tabled

Hon. Paul Martin tabled:

Statutory Orders and Regulations published in the *Canada Gazette*, Part II, of Wednesday, April 14, 1971, pursuant to section 7 of the Regulations Act, chapter 235, R.S.C., 1952.

HON. MAURICE LAMONTAGNE

FELICITATIONS ON RETURN TO CHAMBER

Hon. Paul Martin: Honourable senators, before we proceed with the Orders of the Day I should like to say to the honourable Senator Lamontagne how happy we are to see him back in the house.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

FORT-FALLS BRIDGE AUTHORITY BILL

SECOND READING—ORDER STANDS

On the Order:

Resuming the debate on the motion of the honourable Senator Benidickson, P.C., seconded by the honourable Senator Paterson, for the second reading of Bill S-14, intituled: "An Act respecting the construction of an international highway bridge between Fort Frances, Ontario, and International Falls, Minnesota".—(Honourable Senator Benidickson, P.C.).

Hon. Paul Martin: Honourable senators, I think it is the intention of Senator Benidickson to let this order stand. He advised me that he is awaiting certain information which he wishes to receive before proceeding.

Order stands.

TEXTILE AND CLOTHING BOARD BILL

SECOND READING—DEBATE CONTINUED

The Senate resumed from yesterday the adjourned debate on the motion of Hon. Mr. Cook for the second reading of Bill C-215, to establish the Textile and Clothing Board and to make certain amendments to other acts in consequence thereof.

Hon. Herbert O. Sparrow: Honourable senators, I believe that on general principle this bill should be rejected. As a nation of free traders, and I am thinking particularly of western Canada and the Prairie region,

Canada has endeavoured throughout its history to work for free trade in all commodities. I say the bill should be rejected on that basis. However, I am not prepared to say that I will reject it, nor that this house should reject it, because there are other factors involved. The survival of Canada, particularly the survival of western Canada, depends on exports. The important commodities that we export from the west are, of course, wheat, pulp, potash and numerous other resources. Trade is a two-way street and we cannot survive unless we have that trade. However, we must face the facts of life as far as our industries in Canada are concerned.

Our standard of living is one of the highest in the world. In the textile industry itself the average wage is \$2 per hour. Compare that to our competitors in the textile and clothing industry and you compare figures such as those of Hong Kong, with a wage of 22 cents, Japan, 58 cents, Singapore, 19 cents, South Korea, 15 cents and Taiwan, 20 cents. These differences indicate that of necessity this industry must be protected by some form of tariffs or import restrictions. If there were no such restrictions and imports came into Canada freely we would, of course, see the downfall of the total textile and clothing industry in Canada, with the resultant effect of displacing 200,000 employees directly employed, plus the many other thousands in related industries. This industry employs approximately 12 per cent of the total labour force in manufacturing industries in Canada, which is a high percentage. Therefore, a close look must be taken at all times at restrictions on imports into our country.

The bill states that the board will have three members. I feel this is not sufficient, and I would ask the committee when considering the bill to look closely at the number of representatives on the board. I believe it is very important that each region of Canada have representation on the board. I refer to the Atlantic region, Quebec, Ontario, the Prairies, and British Columbia. I have no particular quarrel with the present appointments or with those persons who no doubt will be appointed under this bill, but they are all central Canadians and it would appear that they represent either the public service or the industrialists of central Canada. With so many millions of dollars involved in import duties that affect all Canadians, I think all of Canada should have representation on the board. We need people on the board who, when a decision is being made, will look at the problems of and the effects on each region of Canada—not only the economic effects but also the social considerations.

When we meet in committee I am sure that this point will be discussed. There will be objection to the establishment of this principle for such a board. No doubt it will be argued that this type of representation does not exist on other boards, such as the Wheat Board and the National Energy Board. However, this is an advisory