

insurance covers a person only for a temporary period, and that the Minister of Labour (Mr. Mackasey) admitted the other day, in the statement he made on this bill, that that is not enough to take care of people who are displaced permanently. The very proposal before us now is one that provides when this temporary unemployment insurance runs out, if a person is over 54 years of age, he is to get a pension equal to 50 per cent of his average income over a past period of time. I suggest to the hon. member that I am fully aware of the present Unemployment Insurance Act and I am fully aware of the proposals that are in the white paper that the minister gave to us last year, but I suggest that as long as unemployment insurance is for the purpose of protecting workers for periods of temporary unemployment, that does not meet this long-range problem which I think society does have to meet.

Mr. D. Gordon Blair (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I rise briefly to support this bill. My purpose in speaking is to call the attention of the House to one or two points which I do not think have been raised heretofore, with the hope that they might be explored more fully in committee.

The textile industry in this country consists of various components. Yarn is produced; it is woven into cloth, and the cloth is used to make clothing. Indeed, in the case of artificial or man-made textiles, there is an even more primary process where Canadian raw materials are made into the essential ingredients from which the artificial fibres are made. But the whole industry in Canada is integrated.

There can be no primary textile industry making yarn, or making cloth, unless that part of the industry has some opportunity of a market to which it may sell its products for conversion into clothing. Conversely, and I think history has demonstrated this, there can be no healthy clothing industry in this country unless it is able to rely upon primary suppliers located in Canada. It is this integration of the total textile industry which I think should occupy our attention, and this is a measure of the problem which is faced by the proposed new Textile and Clothing Board.

For example, Mr. Speaker, I am told that at the present time two thirds of the sweaters made from synthetic fibres sold in the Canadian market are imported, and this disproportionate situation in the market reflects itself back to the primary levels of the industry. In my constituency, we have a very modern plant producing a certain type of artificial textile fibre, but this plant is unable to achieve its maximum efficiency because it is not able to produce at maximum capacity. We have a problem of immense proportions in that we are capable in this country of developing, and indeed we have developed, the technology which is appropriate to this modern age, but because of the disorders in the market caused by imports, principally from Asian and State trading countries, we are not able to achieve in practice that efficiency of which we are capable.

Looking down the line, and we should do this, there is another and an even more grave problem. This industry,

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and particularly the artificial fibre industry, is one in which there are rapid developments occurring in technology. In order to take advantage of these technological developments, it will be increasingly necessary for new and substantially large investments to be made in plant and equipment. And yet, Mr. Speaker, if order is not restored to the domestic textile market it seems perfectly apparent to me that these investments will not be made, and our country will be denied the opportunity to participate in these highly sophisticated and technologically developed industries which are important to us. We hear all the time that we should be concerned about secondary processing in Canada, and one of the most frequent examples taken is the production of oil and natural gas and the petro-chemical industry. It is the products of this industry which, to some extent, form the basic raw materials of the artificial fibre industry.

So my concern about the effect of foreign imports on the ultimate consumer market extends back to a whole complex of policies which involve our capacity, using our natural resources, for the improvement of employment and the development of better technology in Canada. Mr. Speaker, I desire only to bring these matters briefly to the attention of the House so that they may be more fully investigated in committee. I think that it should satisfy people in my position to know that the concept of injury which will be applied by the new textile board in measuring the effect on imports will not be narrowly applied to the finished products with which imported products compete. It should be widely and wisely construed in order to extend to all elements of the textile industry, so that we in Canada can continue to develop an efficient and technologically advanced industry in this country.

• (3:50 p.m.)

[Translation]

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise and say a few words on the means designed to assist the Canadian textile industry which has been facing serious problems for many years.

The Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin), considering his duties and his approach to a solution of the industry's problems, has not made much headway so far. He merely provides a limping industry with a pair of crutches to enable it to drag itself a bit further.

But this alone will not hasten its pace! I do not think the textile industry—or any other industry for that matter—will start running faster because the minister foresees unemployment. In fact, he wants the government to commit itself to paying salaries to those who are laid off, out of the citizens' income, consequently, out of public funds. New taxes will therefore have to be levied in order to pay a large number of citizens who are still unemployed in our vast country, with so much remains to be done.

While the means to keep all our citizens employed could be found, we are content to pay them to do nothing; some are robbed in order to pay others. In short,