

Export Credits Insurance Act

Then the various items are to be found in the reported list. There is no argument about these two answers, but with regard to the third answer I think the minister should give us a greater precision in his reply than he has given thus far, because he says no strategic materials whatsoever have been shipped to Cuba with the authority of this government. The question by the hon. member for Trinity was:

3. Are any items on the export control list for the purpose of ensuring that arms, ammunition, implements or munitions of war, naval, army or air stores or any articles deemed capable of being converted thereinto or made useful in the production thereof or otherwise having a strategic nature or value, will not be made available to any destination wherein their use might be detrimental to the security of Canada; and, if so, how many, and what are they?

If there had been any doubt about the nature of this discussion today on second reading, look at the reply which reads:

Yes, 166 numbered items. These are all the items in the export control list except those shown in part 2 and part 4.

Now we come to the fourth part of the question:

4. Are any items on the export control list for the purpose of ensuring that there is an adequate supply and distribution of such articles in Canada for defence or other needs; and, if so, how many, and what are they?

The answer is:

Yes, . . .

The details do not concern us. Surely the answer to number 3 should put an end to the misunderstanding which the minister says prevails between us. I want to ask the minister, as we come to the end of the time for the discussion of this matter today, does he not realize he is being put in a very difficult position? It is not going to be resolved by his being angry and using intemperate language, language that is not characteristic of him. Will he not seek to approach a resolution of this problem in a contrite, humble, conciliatory manner—

Mr. Walker: As the member for Essex East.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): As my hon. friend says, as the member for Essex East is seeking to do. I will admit that today I used rather vigorous language against the minister, for whom I have the highest regard—

Mr. Hees: For heaven's sake.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I am trying to urge the minister to be conciliatory and he now shows further signs of temper.

Mr. Hees: It is just boredom. You are just boring me.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): He says it is boredom. That is an unfortunate remark.

[Mr. Martin (Essex East).]

Mr. Hees: It is very true when you talk all afternoon.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): The people of Canada are vitally concerned about this problem.

Mr. Hees: And they are bored to death listening to you.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): The minister says the people of Canada are bored to death—

Mr. Hees: Listening to you.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I can assure you they are not the least bored to death with our efforts seeking to elicit from the minister a full reply on this vital matter. The hon. Leader of the Opposition has stated our position with regard to ordinary commercial arrangements with a country like Cuba at the present time and we support that policy of the government. We have not expressed any opinions with regard to that. Indeed, the hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River spoke about the export of wheat which started long before this. There were many exports of wheat to the present communist government of China, and the Canadian government had provided for the sale of Canadian wheat to Czechoslovakia and to Poland.

Mr. Benidickson: And Russia.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): And to Russia. That is not the point but what we are concerned about here is to ensure that we are not exporting to Cuba goods which could have a strategic value, that we are not exporting goods which under the law of Canada have a strategic nature, under the law which the minister himself has to administer. I say to him that the answer which his parliamentary secretary gave to the third portion of the question put by the hon. member for Trinity is a complete indictment of the position which the minister took here today.

Mr. Morris: Nonsense.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Goods of a strategic character have been exported to Cuba.

Mr. Morris: Nonsense.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): That is the reply of the government of Canada through the parliamentary secretary. The minister's only reply to this is that we have not shipped to Cuba any goods that are contrary to COCOM, that is, contrary to the strategic list devised by the NATO countries. We do not take issue with that statement. What we do say, and I repeat it, is that the government by its reply to the hon. member