

Export Credits Insurance Act

Mr. Pearson: What, then, did his predecessor mean when he said that the export control list—and he was not talking about the COCOM list; he was talking about the export control list under this act—served an important function in indicating those items which are regarded as strategic?

Mr. Hees: The export control list includes the strategic list. Have I made myself clear?

Mr. Broome: Could I ask the minister a question arising out of the questions asked by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Pearson). Would the minister confirm that at least the Canadian export list does not include "invasions"?

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. Chown in the chair.

On clause 1—*Board of directors.*

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Chairman, there are several aspects of this matter about which we might seek further clarification. I have been examining the report of the Minister of Trade and Commerce for the year 1961 on the operations of the Export and Import Permits Act and I find that in the report it is stated that no additions or deletions were made to the export control list in 1961. That is the statement made in the minister's report.

The Leader of the Opposition has directed our attention to an order in council that was passed by this government in Quebec. That order in council states that the present export list is effective February 5, 1962. An examination will show that the present list contains 172 numbered items, and my information is that the export control list which the government adopted in August, 1958, contained 228 items. There were, therefore, a number of deletions from the 1958 list by amendments made on September 13, 1960.

In August of 1958 the present government revoked the previous list and established its own export list. I think this is important in the discussion in which we are now engaged. The present government amended that list in September of 1960 and also issued a new list last December, to which our attention was directed by the Leader of the Opposition when he made reference to the Export and Import Permits Act export control list, P.C. 1961, passed at the Citadel, Quebec, Thursday, the twenty eighth day of December last.

Therefore this government—and this is significant, I think, in the light of what the minister has just said in reply to the Leader of the Opposition—has on three occasions

taken formal action in regard to the definition of goods which have a strategic and military potential. This is a part of the record that cannot and must not be overlooked.

During the course of the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition the minister repeatedly said the Leader of the Opposition was confusing two lists. He was seeking to give the impression that the Leader of the Opposition was relying upon the COCOM list, the list of strategic goods which is made applicable to all NATO members; but no one had suggested that the government of Canada had permitted the export to Cuba, in this sensitive period, of goods that were covered by COCOM. The Leader of the Opposition was not speaking of a strategic list that had been devised by NATO members; he was speaking of a strategic list devised by the government of Canada itself. That is the point to which the Minister of Trade and Commerce did not direct our attention.

Of the articles that have been exported to Cuba, all of them but six come under that portion of section 3 which has to do with ensuring against any military potential that might be used in the country to which the goods have been exported. It is also important to recall once more exactly what is said in section 3 of the act respecting the export of strategic and other goods. The Leader of the Opposition has put this section on the record but I think it bears repetition. We are not talking about COCOM. We accept the minister's word, although we have not the list before us. He says it has never been made public and consequently, without in any way suggesting that we do not accept his word—because we do, if he makes that statement—we have no way of ascertaining whether or not his statement could inadvertently not conform with the facts and this would be, of course, merely by way of mistake.

The minister says that is a secret document that has never been made public. However, we are not talking about that. We are talking about the strategic list which the government of Canada itself has devised and, as I say, in regard to which it has taken special note on three occasions.

Section 3 of the act respecting the export and import of strategic and other goods says:

The governor in council may establish a list of goods, to be called an export control list, including therein any article the export of which he deems it necessary to control for any of the following purposes—

The purposes are three. I will deal with the second and third first, because they do