

to the amount of \$150 once a year can be estimated only in a rough fashion. I believe the best estimate has been that the imposition of that restriction would result in a saving of something in the order of \$30,000,000 or \$40,000,000 a year.

Mr. FRASER: Has it cut down travel to the United States very much?

Mr. ABBOTT: That is difficult to say. The period of extensive travel is the summer-time. Of course it is still open to Canadians to go freely to the United States and take not more than \$10 in United States currency and \$15 in Canadian currency, as often as they like.

Mr. FRASER: As often as they wish?

Mr. ABBOTT: Yes, that is correct.

Mr. FRASER: What are the regulations in respect of a man or woman under a doctor's care, who is supposed to go south for health purposes?

Mr. ABBOTT: I believe I covered that in my statement. Such persons are allowed whatever is reasonably necessary to enable them to spend the time they are required to spend in the southern United States, or wherever it may be, for medical reasons. The policy being followed there is the same as that followed at the end of the war and immediately thereafter. From what I have been told, I believe the board is pretty reasonable about that sort of thing. There is very little questioning in respect of elderly people who are advised by their medical doctors that they need to spend a month or two in a southern climate. There is very little difficulty about that.

Mr. FRASER: Are applications in respect of persons who are ill made in about the same numbers as in other years?

Mr. ABBOTT: I have not the figures here. However, I could get them, and give them later on.

Mr. JACKMAN: I have one or two questions about the general administration of the bill. It is interesting to learn that, so far, the department has found it necessary to make only fifteen changes in schedule I, seven in schedule II, and only one change in schedule III. It might be of interest to the committee to know how many applications for changes have been made, how many of such applications have resulted in refusals and how many are still pending. If the minister would give us information on that point we might form some idea, despite the minister's statement that they were put on after very careful con-

sideration extending over some months—my own feeling is that they were slapped on in a hurry—as to just how much disruption these regulations have caused in Canadian business.

Mr. ABBOTT: It is difficult to give my hon. friend any accurate figures on that. I suppose every interested party has made representations in the matter. There is a fairly long list of prohibitions, and I believe it is fair to say that pretty nearly everyone affected by the prohibiting list has made representations at one time or another. Other than that, however, I do not think I can give my hon. friend any detailed statistics.

Mr. JACKMAN: The minister did say that he had probably five or six delegations waiting upon him daily.

Mr. ABBOTT: Not daily, no.

Mr. JACKMAN: Weekly.

Mr. ABBOTT: To be fair, I would say they would average a couple a day, or about ten a week.

Mr. JACKMAN: I think the minister did say that the departmental officials had interviewed hundreds. I thought an estimate from the minister would be welcomed, so that we could learn how much of a monkey-wrench these regulations have thrown into the Canadian business structure.

Mr. ABBOTT: We have had all kinds of representations. Perhaps it would not surprise the committee to know that a good many Canadians have come forward and asked that additional items be banned, or placed on the prohibited list. We realize, of course, that it has a highly protective effect; and quite a number of Canadian industrialists, or at least, Canadian producers, have suggested that many United States dollars could be saved if we would add some items to the list, and thereby stimulate production in Canada. However, thus far we have not seen fit to accede to those requests. But there have been a lot of representations to that effect.

Mr. FULTON: As a matter of general policy, has the government any estimates which the minister would be willing to put before the committee as to the period of time which it is expected will elapse before the countries of Europe can be placed sufficiently on their feet to pay us in United States dollars, so that we can begin to take off these restrictions? In other words, how long will this short-range policy remain? When may we expect to begin to put into effect a long-range policy of removing restrictions and expanding trade? Can the minister give us some general indication of his views on the matter?