

by referring in any great detail to our policy, I would nevertheless like to quote from a statement on C.C.F. policy on the textile industry adopted in this city on March 20, 1957, as follows:

The C.C.F. urges that vigorous government action be taken to rehabilitate the textile industry and to relieve distress, not only among textile workers but in communities hard hit by the textile slump of recent years. In particular the C.C.F. asks the government to:

1. Endeavour to fill defence and other government orders for textiles from Canadian plants before placing any such orders abroad;

2. Eliminate the 10 per cent sales tax on clothing so that total sales of textiles in Canada may be increased;

3. Provide for the orderly importing of textiles through export-import boards and the setting of appropriate quotas which will:

(a) enable the Canadian industry to plan for the future;

(b) guarantee Canadian consumers an economical supply of good quality textiles at fair prices;

(c) provide security for the workers in the industry;

4. Ensure fair trade practices and prohibit the unfair dumping of textiles into Canada at distress prices;

5. Supervise the prices of textiles with power to fix or limit prices if necessary, so as to ensure that neither the consumers nor the workers are exploited by the textile companies;

6. Take action to promote the modernization and increase the efficiency of the textile industry and thus to maintain wage rates and working conditions comparable with other industries;

7. Actively assist in the establishment of alternative industries in communities where plants have closed down and there is no likelihood of their reopening soon;

8. Provide vocational training for textile workers where necessary to re-establish them in other industries;

9. Provide federal aid to help workers relocate in other areas if necessary to ensure full employment.

Those were the nine points that were enunciated as proposals to meet the great difficulties which the textile industry now faces, and more particularly the difficulties now facing the workers in the industry, while at the same time keeping in mind the interests of the Canadian economy as a whole.

Before I resume my seat, I repeat that this type of proposal by the government will do little to assist the textile industry, but it may do a great deal of harm by being adopted just before the commonwealth trade conference convenes. We hope the government will even now be prepared to allow this proposal to stand and not push it through parliament during this session, because we feel that this is the worst possible way by which the administration could deal with what we all admit is a very difficult problem. We think the efforts of the government should be directed toward increasing international trade and increasing the standard of living of all the people in this country, and in that we include the workers in the textile industry.

(Translation):

Mr. Lafreniere: Mr. Chairman, it is with pleasure—

The Chairman: I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member but I have recognized the hon. member for Waterloo South (Mr. Anderson). If the hon. member for Quebec-Montmorency will kindly wait a few moments he will be next in line.

(Text):

Mr. Anderson: Mr. Chairman, I am certainly not criticizing the Minister of Finance, because he has been of great help to me with his knowledge of the constituency which I serve and the large number of woollen textile firms in my constituency, but again I draw to the attention of the committee the serious plight of the various textile mills concerned, both woollen and cotton, in my area. Three large mills have closed completely, one with a subsidiary in Barrie and another in Peterborough. I may say that these large firms employed 2,500 employees, and according to the last information I had there were only four in the plant. And I received word yesterday that the largest remaining mill in my riding will be forced to close at the end of this month unless something can be worked out during the next few days.

While the management of the various mills are grateful for the meagre increase in the British preferential tariff, no change has been made in the most-favoured-nation tariff or the general tariff, and the reason for the major portion of our lost trade lies in increased imports from Italy, and some from Japan. The effect of these large mills closing is serious, and when I think of the wonderful contribution these firms made to the Canadian economy during war years I wonder where the government would turn in the event of a national emergency for the type of materials which were supplied by two of these very large firms in my constituency. One of these firms, the plant that may close this month, manufactures more than one third of all the woollen blankets made in Canada. The other, which is already closed, turned out a very large percentage of all the uniform material required and used in all the three services.

One of the mill owners, speaking to me a few weeks ago, put it very aptly, I think, when he told me that he realized the government had to plan in advance for defence and in so doing had to spend many millions of dollars. A striking example was the development of the CF-105. And yet, he said, they did not yet even have the pants for the pilots who were to fly these planes. It is my sincere hope that the government will make strong representations to the tariff