

Half measures or shy measures will never solve the problem. We must resort to extreme measures and protect the 90 per cent Canadian owned textile industry, to live decently and fully participate in the economic progress of the country.

During the last two years, Mr. Speaker, we know that imports, mostly from developing countries and some Asian countries such as Japan and South Korea, have caused considerable prejudice to our textile industry. Those massive imports have greatly damaged the textile industry in Canada. Everybody knows that GATT international agreements concerning textiles have been broken several times. Furthermore, we know that dumping was practiced at an alarming rate and that the Canadian textile industry felt its effects. We also know that the Canadian Textile and Clothing Board looked several times into the damages likely to be caused to the textile industry, and in most cases, it concluded affirmatively that there were indeed damages caused to the Canadian textile industry by massive imports.

How can the government redress the situation? In my humble opinion, there are several ways to do it. First, we should accept as such the recommendations the Canadian Textile and Clothing Board made when it was led to inquire into the textile field, where it is proven beyond any doubt that there was prejudice for the industry.

THE ROYAL ASSENT

[English]

A message was delivered by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable the Deputy Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable House in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker with the House went up to the Senate chamber.

● (1750)

And being returned:

Mr. Speaker informed the House that the Deputy Governor General had been pleased to give, in Her Majesty's name, the royal assent to the following bills:

Bill C-64, Appropriation Act No. 3, 1975.—Chapter No. 57.

Bill C-62, An Act to amend the Old Age Security Act, to repeal the Old Age Assistance Act and to amend other Acts in consequence thereof.—Chapter No. 58.

Bill S-15, An Act to amend the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce Act.—Chapter No. 59.

Bill S-17, An Act to amend the Explosives Act.—Chapter No. 60.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

The Budget—Mr. I. Pelletier GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[Translation]

THE BUDGET

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton) that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Stevens (p. 7063), and the amendment to the amendment of Mr. Broadbent (p. 7067).

Mr. Pelletier (Sherbrooke): Mr. Speaker, before the House took recess, I was saying that more than 100,000 workers depend on the textile industry in Canada, and there are 50,000 of them in Quebec alone. For several years, the textile workers have been concerned by the regular reappearance of a "marshy" and demoralizing situation in which we have cycles of timid prosperity and frightening stagnation.

A glimmer of hope appeared however some years ago. In 1970, following a very close assessment of the situation of the textile industry in Canada, hon. Jean-Luc Pepin, who was then Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, introduced in the House Bill C-215 to correct the situation of the textile industry which had been constantly jeopardized by the considerable fluctuations which we had known over the past few decades.

Through this bill, the then Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce wanted to correct a situation. His purpose was to make of the textile industry a modern, well equipped and competitive industry. He was setting up the Canadian Textile and Clothing Board, a body with the necessary terms of reference to prevent future ups and downs similar to those which had jeopardized the textile industry for so long.

Now that five years have elapsed since the introduction of this bill, when making a review of this short period, it is fair to say that, from 1970 to 1973 inclusive, the situation of the Canadian textile industry was fairly stable and encouraging. However, from 1974, for a great many reasons which would take too much time to explain here, the situation has considerably deteriorated. Of course, the federal government has adopted several measures aiming at correcting the situation, for instance in December of 1974 and March of 1975. But considering the effects of all these measures, one is now forced to admit that the time has more than ever arrived for the department to study seriously, and as early as possible, the overall situation of the Canadian textile industry.

The fact that a 15 per cent manpower reduction took place within this industry during last year alone is a serious indication that all is not well in this sector of the industry.

The measures adopted during the last ten months of the federal government were in most cases well received by union representatives of the textile industry. However, I must admit that in several cases, the measures adopted by the government at the suggestion of the Canadian Textile and Clothing Board did not give the expected results. One particular instance that suddenly arises in my mind concerns polyester fabrics. The suggestion of the Canadian