

Employment Support Bill

Such is the lot of our Canadian manufacturers. One law for the rich and one for the poor. For a government that brags about creating a just society, that is an odd way of operating.

The Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin) who is piloting this bill must be aware of the results of its enforcement. In fact, he was warned of them by telegrams. Canadian manufacturers know the danger facing them, and among those who made known their views to the government a group, in particular, namely the Glove Manufacturers Association of the Province of Quebec Inc. of Loretteville was very clear. On September 8, 1971 it wrote to the hon. Jean-Luc Pepin, Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and I quote:

Mr. Minister, we hereby confirm the telegram sent you to-day: "RE: Bill under consideration regarding help to industry. Consider such legislation discriminatory for our members exporting 8, 10 and 15 per cent of their total production. They will suffer prejudice in relation to those being awarded subsidies.

Some of our members have been exporting to the United States since 1967 up to 8, 10, or 15 per cent of their total production.

If the bill is passed as it is these members will get no help whilst those exporting 20 per cent will be encouraged to the prejudice of smaller industries.

Our members already have to fight not to be swamped by the flood of gloves imported at ridiculous prices from the Far East and from other countries. It seems to us that all the manufacturers who export should be helped. This would be a way to encourage small industries.

We hope that you will consider our request.

Sincerely yours,

The Glove Manufacturers Association
of the Province of Quebec

The furniture industry is another area affected by the 10 per cent American surcharge which also plagues shoe manufacturers in Saint-Emile-de-Loretteville, Ancienne-Lorette and Quebec City. In short, the problem is the same throughout the province. While those people have already experienced the hardship caused by massive imports from other countries the Canadian government now is preparing to administer the mercy stroke with provisions such as those of Bill C-262!

The hon. minister may say that there is in this bill a clause which provides for special consideration in the case of industrialists who do not reach the export percentage mentioned in the bill. In fact, we find that the legislation now before us contains a paragraph which allows the government to indulge in patronage.

Mr. Speaker, I dare say these things because I have seen the Department of Regional Economic Expansion operate. For instance, we know that owners of small businesses with a hundred employees or so and savings of \$50,000 were told: Gentlemen, we cannot subsidize your business because the amount of your savings shows that you can pull through by yourself, while we have seen government grants made to companies with several thousand employees, worth millions of dollars and having long since demonstrated their ability of pulling through without assistance. That is why we are so deeply concerned about the bill.

Here is what the bill says in paragraph 2 of clause 15, on page 6:

[Mr. Godin.]

• (9:20 p.m.)

(2) If, following a recommendation under subsection (1), the Governor in Council so directs, the Board may authorize payment of a grant to the manufacturer for an assistance period in such amount as it considers appropriate for the purpose of maintaining employment and production at a plant of the manufacturer, subject to such terms and conditions, if any, as may be set out in the directions of the Governor in Council.

Mr. Speaker, terms and conditions will be set out by the Governor in Council. Let us imagine that the latter says to the manufacturer that under the act he is not eligible for a grant but can be given some assistance under certain conditions. What conditions? Will it suffice to show a membership card or will it be necessary to subscribe to the election fund of the Liberal party?

Mr. Rondeau: Both.

Mr. Godin: The Canadian government is introducing Bill C-262 for the purpose of controlling the unemployment situation, which is deteriorating from day to day. It must however be recognized that the amount of \$80 million to be paid out is a drop in the ocean compared to the amounts the government continues to extract from Canadians by way of the 11 per cent tax on building materials and the 12 per cent tax on all goods manufactured in Canada.

It is clear that the government has lost control of the country's economy and is operating the country on behalf of another power. It is an open secret that our present system is heading for disaster. The whole population is aware of the danger, since we are living in 1971.

If we go back, we realize that in the past the population had much more faith in its administration.

Around 1935, for instance, the impending disaster was felt only by experts. And among these, I believe I can name the former Prime Minister, the right hon. Mackenzie King who, in 1935, made the following statement: Capital flow should be related to the domestic social and industrial needs of the Canadian people.

Once a nation loses control over its currency and its credit, it does not matter much who in that nation makes laws. Once in control, money lenders will ruin any country.

Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister also said:

As long as control over currency and credit has not been restored to the government and acknowledged as being its most obvious and most sacred responsibility, any talk of democracy and Parliamentary supremacy is vain and futile.

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): This is still true in 1971.

Mr. Godin: Mr. Speaker, money lenders, once they are in control, will lead any country to its ruin. This is what the right hon. Mackenzie King stated in 1935.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): That was the time when he spoke the truth.

Mr. Godin: Never before had high interest rates prevailed as much as they have since 1967, in other words since the liberal government did away with the ceiling on interest rates.

We, members of the Cr ditiste party, have fought the adoption of Bill C-222 and we are still opposed to that bill which allowed banks to raise their interest rates.