

Industry, Trade and Commerce Act

tions are often more important than the law. We experience it every day in the enforcement of the Unemployment Insurance Act which is about one quarter inch thick; the regulations are now three quarters of an inch thick.

They are regulations unknown to parliamentarians and they are often enacted against the legislator's intent. Now I think that in the case which is concerning us, the situation is most important. After enactment of this legislation the minister responsible should follow very closely the making of the regulations. These should come back if necessary not only before the cabinet, but sometimes also before the committee of the House so that the House may be sure that the regulations issued following the adoption of the act are consistent with the wishes and the conception of the legislators.

If we proceeded that way, we would not have unpleasant surprises afterwards. We must at least admit that in the daily economic life, explosives will always be necessary. We must not think that when we talk about explosives it is always in terms of disaster and destruction. I think we must first regard explosives as a means to assist man in controlling nature and destroying obstacles, thus allowing mankind and society to achieve with less effort projects that exceed human forces.

This, Madam Speaker, is my way of understanding the use of explosives, and I agree that we should have stricter controls. The regulations would also have to be flexible enough in our rural areas to enable a responsible person capable of maintaining an explosive depot to have control over the depot and be competent enough to go and help farm or industrial organizations that may need help. We should not have stranglehold regulations to the extent that no one be allowed to use this discovery, this essential economic force, thus depriving everyone of its advantages.

Madam Speaker, that is why I suggest that the people involved in drafting regulations have enough foresight and flexibility so that the regulations, once applied, be in accordance with the intent of the legislator.

● (2130)

[English]

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works.

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**DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND
COMMERCE ACT**

**AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE FOR DISCLOSURE OF CUSTOMS
DOCUMENTS TO MINISTER**

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce) moved that Bill S-15, to amend the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce Act, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.

He said: Madam Speaker, this is a bill which when approved will allow the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce to perform more effectively an important industrial development function.

[Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse).]

Through analysis of imports, Canadian entrepreneurs, particularly those in smaller businesses, are made more aware of market opportunities. They are thus in a much better position to make informed decisions which can and have resulted in new investment, production and employment. The use of import analyses, therefore, is complementary to the department's other programs to encourage the expansion of efficient Canadian industry. We have been providing these services for many years, but have had to operate in a rather cumbersome manner. The proposed amendments will make our operations more effective.

Detailed analysis of import information is required in order to produce these services, because Statistics Canada data is sometimes inadequate for this purpose since it is compiled to provide information for general use. For instance, the single import classification used by Statistics Canada for "surface active agents, compounded" includes no less than 40 products. This kind of more detailed information only comes to light by means of an examination through our import analysis. Such detail is a basic prerequisite to most feasibility studies carried out by entrepreneurs contemplating establishment or expansion of production facilities. Yet if Statistics Canada were to publish this detail for all items at all times, each publication would fill a room, not to mention costs, delays, and other problems.

In brief, then, the essential difference is that in contrast to Statistics Canada's broad assembly of data from customs documents into predetermined general classifications, the import analysis division of the department researches the precise identification of selected items and compiles them into more finite descriptive product categories.

Such information has already stimulated considerable development of industries in Canada, measured in terms of expanded production, increased exports and, particularly, additional employment. Opportunities frequently lead to the establishment and expansion of small businesses. Furthermore, these analyses, by identifying potential opportunities, can make a valuable contribution to resource upgrading by adding value through processing prior to export. At the same time these analyses are of value in the formulation of commercial policy and in tariff negotiations, particularly in highly complex product sectors. I do not need to remind the House of the important negotiations presently under way in Geneva.

The value of import analysis as an industrial development tool has been exemplified tangibly many times. Recent unsolicited feedback from industry indicated that the department's import analyses have played an important role in decisions to establish a number of new manufacturing operations as well as in numerous expansions of existing operations. Also based on the same voluntary information—and I emphasize the voluntary aspect of the information—these expansions and new operations resulted in several thousand new jobs with a capital investment of at least \$150 million. Inasmuch as this information was unsolicited, the data should be regarded as a minimum indication only.

The uses to which the import analyses are put make it essential that the basic data be as detailed and precise as possible, and that it be available in time to permit effec-