

*Supply—Trade and Commerce*

think hon. members will recall that we stood item No. 1 and passed all the other items. It was stood at the particular request of the then leader of the opposition so that he might have a chance to consider and discuss the Kennedy round of negotiations, but the finger of fate in the form of political vagaries has intervened in the meantime and I am sorry he is not here now to pursue the matter. Because the item was stood to discuss the Kennedy round of negotiations perhaps at the outset I should make a few remarks on the Kennedy round.

As I indicated on June 30 these Kennedy round agreements constitute the most important trade pact in history, representing a major advance in the liberalization of world trade. The concessions secured in our major foreign markets will be of benefit to every sector of the economy and every region of Canada.

The agreements provide for wide ranging tariff reductions or elimination of tariffs on virtually all the products of which Canada is already a significant exporter. Of particular importance is the reduction of tariff levels on industrial and manufactured goods generally to levels of 10 per cent or less in Canada's major export markets. This is where the new opportunities are opened up. These tariff concessions will, for the most part, be phased over a period of four years, beginning January 1 of next year. The scheduling of Canadian tariff reductions will be announced in the near future by my colleague, the Minister of Finance.

In addition to the tariff concessions obtained, the Kennedy round resulted in the conclusion of a new international grains arrangement providing for significant increases in the price range for wheat and also in the establishment of a new multilateral food aid program. I shall go into this matter in more detail in a few moments.

The third important agreement negotiated in the Kennedy round, which will also be helpful to our exports, relates to a new anti-dumping convention. My colleague, the Minister of Finance, announced last week the setting up of a special committee to receive the views and recommendations of Canadian industries with respect to Canadian implementation of this anti-dumping convention.

The Kennedy round will open major new perspectives for the expansion of Canadian exports to our major markets both in the United States and overseas. The concessions obtained will, in particular, make it possible

[Mr. Winters.]

for Canadian industry to develop export markets in the new fields of manufactured industrial products, the most rapidly growing sector of world trade. The realization of these new trading opportunities will make a significant contribution to a more viable balance of payments, and to increased employment for our rapidly growing labour force. As I have repeatedly emphasized, it is primarily up to private enterprise to ensure that these market opportunities are fully exploited. Such export expansion will, through economies of scale, help to lower costs and increase productivity.

The positive response of the Canadian business community has been gratifying. In order to ensure that Canadian exporters are made fully aware of the new export possibilities we have embarked upon a series of seminars with the business community in every region of Canada, in co-operation with the provincial governments. Good meetings have already been held in Winnipeg and Halifax. A further Kennedy round seminar will be held in Montreal tomorrow, and in the following two weeks seminars will be held in Toronto and Vancouver. We expect that, in total, more than 2,500 firms across the country will participate.

Our trade development program in response to the new opportunities opened up by the Kennedy round will be a continuing process. A further series of meetings is planned with the export committees being established by Canadian trade and industry associations. We are gearing the services of the department in all its aspects to the new dynamic international environment for world trade. I have already announced the extension, for the first time, of export credits and insurance facilities for Canadian exports to the United States market.

The Kennedy round is not, of course, the end of the road. We are already engaged in the consideration of what further international trade initiatives might be taken to carry forward this process of opening up channels of international trade. In this connection, it is expected that there will be a meeting of trade ministers in Geneva this fall, under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, in which we will be looking to the possibilities for the future. I am planning to attend this proposed ministerial conference. I have already had an opportunity to exchange views as to future prospects for the liberalization of world trade with Ambassador Roth, the president's special trade representative, in the United States, and with Commissioner Jean Rey, the newly elected