

countries of Europe particularly, the table for duty free gifts costing up to \$15 would be the size of a tea tray, and the items would be very miniature indeed.

● (2010)

The sum involved would not seem to be large enough to accomplish a great deal, but I wonder whether it would be within the ingenuity of the minister and his officials to prepare a clause in a bill on duties that would permit the receipt of wedding gifts up to an appropriate sum. Certainly all marriages in this country must be registered, and therefore it would be quite possible to impose a 12-month time limit in respect of the receipt of a gift following the wedding.

The possibility of fraud in such a case would be very small because it would be a simple matter to request the couple claiming the gift to show up with their marriage certificate, which would establish the date of the marriage. This could very easily be checked. I would ask the minister again if he would look at this particular request. I am sure this is a matter which affects a great many people in this country in a particularly niggardly and biting way when, after the celebration, the young couple find they literally have to buy back from customs a gift that was sent from abroad without the knowledge that any taxes would be charged against it.

I would ask the minister to take a second look at that point. If he has given it some study perhaps he would consider it a little further and come up with a clause which, I believe, would gladden the hearts of many people and make weddings more enjoyable, especially for young people who at a time when they may not have much cash suddenly have to come up with the money to pay a tax that certainly cannot bring in very much revenue to the Department of Internal Revenue.

Mr. Paul Dick (Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I wish to take the opportunity during this debate to discuss what I believe is a glaring omission on the part of the government and the minister, even after significant representations have been made. I refer to the electronics industry in Canada. There have been numerous representations concerning the weakness of the industry and the need to continue the support which existed at the time the industry was built. It had been pointed out that without this support the industry would be in difficulty.

On May 9 of this year RCA Limited in Canada issued the following press release, which states in part:

RCA Limited intend to divest itself of two of its five Ontario manufacturing plants by not later than the end of this year, . . .

The press release further states:

Mr. Clark attributed the decision to give up the plants to drastically altered conditions in the Canadian market for electronic home entertainment products. It was a decision, he said, which has been taken with a great deal of reluctance and only after exhaustive efforts to find alternatives.

"The action being taken is the result of the fragmentation of the rather limited Canadian market for home entertainment products among a comparatively large number of manufacturers coupled with increasingly severe price competition," he said.

It is in respect of that last paragraph that the government's omissions come into play. There has been severe competition due to the alleged dumping of television sets

into this country, notably from the United States, Japan, and Taiwan. The government did institute proceedings through the anti-dumping tribunal. However, this action was thrown out on a technicality and it was necessary to begin once again.

We see, as of May 22 this year, the following in a communiqué from the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Basford):

On November 20, 1974, the Deputy Minister of National Revenue for Customs and Excise caused an investigation to be initiated respecting the alleged injurious dumping into Canada of colour television receiving sets originating in or exported from the United States of America, Japan and Taiwan, having an over-all diagonal measurement across the picture tube of sixteen inches and over.

It is interesting to note what advance has been made in respect of the investigation. As of May 22 this year the investigation was expanded to include goods originating in or exported from Singapore as well. So, we have not proceeded very far in respect of the anti-dumping tribunal, and cannot look for very much in the way of remedies in this situation. This matter has been brought to the attention of the minister on numerous occasions in this House; by the hon. member for Vancouver South (Mr. Fraser) on February 6, 1975; by the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Baker) on occasion, and by myself on occasion. On February 17, 1975, I took the opportunity to bring to the attention of the minister a very lengthy letter, which I do not intend to read in total, setting forth the problem in respect of which there has been no attempt at a solution. The situation basically is as follows.

In the twenty-ninth parliament Bill C-172 was passed which allowed the government of the day to exempt from any duty imports from the so-called emerging or developing countries. As a result the government of the day allowed these products to come in from Korea, from Hong Kong and, I understand, from Malaysia. The products involved are the component parts of television sets.

The importation of these component parts, 60 per cent of which are from these so-called emerging or developing countries, with a partly Canadian content, which are coming in duty-free, is causing lay-offs in the electronics industry in Canada. The International Union of Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, in a brief presented to the government, pointed out that the influx of imports due to the reduction of these tariffs is having the effect of further decreasing the number of jobs and the security of jobs in this industry. It is understandable that the government would like to assist the developing or emerging countries but we cannot, as a country, help those countries if we do not remain strong ourselves. The fact is that the imports of these component parts have exceeded 60 per cent of the market.

● (2020)

The brief indicates that in the television segment, where the picture is very bleak, although the market has grown by 80 per cent from 809,000 sets in 1968 to 1,480,000 sets in 1973, the "made in Canada" sales increased by only 50 per cent, while the American and off-shore imports increased by 230 per cent and 106 per cent respectively. In colour television the imports have grown by 320 per cent. So obviously we are now importing a great number of our