

*Time Allocation***GOVERNMENT ORDERS***[English]***CANADA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT**

ALLOCATION OF TIME TO CONSIDER REPORT AND THIRD READING STAGES OF BILL C-130

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Lewis:

That, in relation to Bill C-130, an Act to implement the free trade agreement between Canada and the United States of America, not more than two further sitting days shall be allotted to the consideration of the report stage, and two sitting days to the consideration of the third reading stage of the Bill; and

That fifteen minutes before the expiry of the time provided for government business on the second day allotted to report stage consideration and on the second day to third reading stage consideration of the said Bill, any proceedings before the House shall be interrupted, if required, for the purpose of this order and, in turn, every question necessary in order to dispose of the stage of the Bill then under consideration shall be put forthwith and successively, without further debate or amendment.

Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, as I was saying to the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner) just before we adjourned temporarily for Private Members' Business, the right hon. gentleman should tell the people the truth. It is a very surprising performance for a man, who was once regarded as a man of integrity, to take phrases from one part of the agreement and to apply them to another, distorting the real meaning of the wording and simplifying the application of yet others.

[Translation]

He should tell them the truth, Mr. Speaker. I would like to expand on that, if I may. Last Thursday, on August 11, the Hon. Member for Vancouver Quadra (Mr. Turner) rose in the House and proudly claimed that under the terms of the agreement, the Government of Quebec would no longer be able to promote investment by Quebecers in Quebec companies. Mr. Speaker, he was referring specifically to the Quebec Stock Savings Plan, better known as the QSSP.

I certainly would not want to question the intelligence of the Right Hon. Member with respect to his reading of the agreement. However, Mr. Speaker, I strongly question his ability to understand the wording without distorting the real meaning. His statement was a reflection on the integrity of the Premier of Quebec, a fervent supporter of the agreement who is well aware of the benefits it will provide for Quebec, and the Leader of the Opposition has proven once again that he has no compunction about resorting to tactics that rely more on rhetoric than on the truth.

If the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition had done his homework and had read the agreement, he would know that the investment provisions do not apply to investment portfolios, and that as a result, various levels of government are entirely free to establish investment promotion programs like the QSSP.

When they go through certain negotiations with the banks, other financial institutions, or the Farm Credit Corporation, it sometimes happens that they are granted certain concessions in terms of repayment. There are provisions under a program instituted by the Department of Agriculture whereby assistance is provided to some tobacco growers who are able to get out of growing tobacco and into some other line of work.

As a result of a combination of factors, it may end up that, because of reductions in moneys owing to a financial institution, the Income Tax Act requires that the taxpayer, the tobacco grower who is in considerable difficulty, has to pay a significant amount of tax in one year when he has not received any money and is grossly in debt to the institutions. Yet at the same time he is expected to fork out a significant amount of money to pay tax on what is deemed to be income in his case. If significant hardship can be demonstrated, a remission order can certainly be requested, and one would hope at times that that might be granted by the Government.

I agree with my colleague, the Hon. Member for Western Arctic that it would be very desirable to have Parliament scrutinize this type of activity where we give Canadian manufacturers concessions. However, to do so, and to bring it before Parliament in each and every case, would certainly be unrealistic, and would add to the burden we already have in the House. When one considers that yesterday we were asked to spend 350 days debating one Bill, one can realize the impracticality of bringing forward dozens of remission orders, whether they be for customs tariffs or income tax.

I applaud the Hon. Member for York East in what he is attempting to do in terms of bringing more openness to the financial aspects of government. However, I do feel I have to oppose this motion in light of the practicalities of the whole problem.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is the House ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I declare the motion lost.

I believe there is unanimous consent to suspend the sitting until six o'clock?

Mr. Rossi: There is unanimous consent to adjourn until six o'clock.

SITTING SUSPENDED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): It being 5.40 p.m., the House will suspend sitting until 6 p.m.

At 5.40 p.m. the sitting of the House was suspended.

SITTING RESUMED

The House resumed at 6 p.m.