

*Customs Tariff*

The quota system announced in November or December of 1976 became cumbersome beyond any intent on the part of the minister. At least I hope it was not his intention to create such a bureaucratic mess deliberately. If it was a deliberate attempt, no minister of the government has ever succeeded so effectively. It is my honest belief that the government did not intend that this should be the case.

It is my belief the government intended this to be a quota system aimed at cheap clothing and material coming into this country, undercutting the cost of Canadian products. The high fashion products of which I speak are just not made in Canada. In my area there is a great demand for these particular items of clothing, most of this demand comes from those who are visitors to this country. Very often these articles are not sold to Canadians. British woollens, for example, and items by Jaegers, are among the items of clothing I have in mind. They are imported from Great Britain mainly for resale to United States travellers in Canada. Those people find they can purchase these articles in Canada, at comparable prices. One of the problems facing these retailers, and it has been created by this quota system, is that they are unable to supply the market.

Was this system really intended to kill this market? There is a market of this nature in my area as well as in Montreal, Winnipeg, and here in Ottawa. Many specialty shops carry these high fashion items. I do not believe the minister was aiming at these items when he made the announcement.

Also included in these high fashion items are articles such as kilts and other ethnocultural costumes. It is my hope that we can amend these schedules in order to get around these obvious difficulties. However, there is nothing more complicated to deal with than tariff schedules, particularly in deciding where an item can be included. Perhaps the officials of the department, or the parliamentary secretary, could assist us in developing the appropriate numerology to cover these items.

I was pleased to note the parliamentary secretary making copious notes when I referred to a number of problems, including those in respect of aircraft, aircraft parts and aircraft engines. He was also making notes when I referred to the stupidity surrounding the making of these rebates and the fact that the rebates are made without interest.

• (1652)

The particular man who has had to buy an engine must pay his \$1,100 customs duty on top of the cost of the engine, and may very well have had to go to the bank to raise the money for the purchase. He is not buying it for himself, but rather to fit into either a private aircraft or a commercial aircraft. The commercial aircraft may have farmed out the job to him. For example, it may have been a Pratt and Whitney jet engine for one of the PWA aircraft. Had they done it themselves there would have been no duty, but since the man I have been speaking of is doing it, he must pay duty and get it back on rebate because he is not a licensed carrier.

[Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich).]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner):** Order, please. I regret to inform the hon. member that his allotted time has expired. The hon. member may continue with the unanimous consent of the House. Has he unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** In summary, there is the aircraft problem and the megavitamin problem. With respect to the megavitamin problem, I am appealing in the name of people who are afflicted with a frightful disease that immobilizes them and makes it impossible for them to fit into the work force. Thus, there are good grounds for eliminating the customs tax and the sales tax, if that is what it is, on megavitamins. This is, of course, under prescription. I am not saying there should be a blanket withdrawal of the customs tariff.

As has happened so often in the past, there is again an appeal for an imposition affecting seasonal and regional influences. It is fair to say that the Department of National Revenue and the Department of Finance have got hold of the idea that there is a seasonal problem, but they do not seem to have grasped the idea that there is a regional problem. This is because there is a strong agricultural base here in Ontario which gets the favoured treatment, because they believe that when the season has arrived in Ontario it has also arrived in the rest of Canada. Well, the season arrives in Ontario in some cases after it is over in other parts of the country. This is something that Ontario should get into its noodle, that there are other growing areas in the country. The west coast is an example of an area that is favoured by its early growing season.

The ethno-cultural problem, which I favour, should be removed from the group restriction and individuals should be able to import. The quota matter of high fashion clothing—and somebody in this House ought to be able to stand up and say, "That was not our intention and let's get rid of it"—where it affects imports does not concern the high fashion clothing industry we are talking about at home because they are just not made in Canada. There is other good clothing made in Canada, and I wear the clothing that is made here.

**Mr. Lalonde:** I hope you can say that.

**Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** I certainly do. I look at the labels whenever I buy anything, whether it is food, clothing, and so on, and I buy Canadian and I hope a lot of other people do the same thing. However, when we are talking about high fashion clothing that is brought in to meet the tourist market, why should we not eliminate the customs duty that is imposed on it, and certainly eliminate the quotas?

I have had my say on those five items, and I thank the hon. members for extending my time.

**Mr. Bill Kempling (Halton-Wentworth):** Mr. Speaker, it is approximately two minutes to five, and with the concurrence of the House, may I call it five o'clock and begin my remarks at eight o'clock?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.