

## EVIDENCE

TUESDAY, March 10, 1959.  
10.30 a.m.

The CHAIRMAN: Good morning, gentlemen. I find it a little difficult to compete with the farm delegation this morning, but nevertheless we do have a quorum and can proceed. I hope that none of you find it necessary to leave because that would then bring us below the necessary quorum.

We are on page 354 under the heading—Ports—operation and maintenance. Before we proceed with the item under consideration, there are I believe one or two unanswered inquiries which I believe Mr. Sim, who is again with us, can reply to now.

Mr. DAVID SIM (*Deputy Minister, Customs and Excise, Department of National Revenue*): Mr. Bell had asked if it was possible to advise as to the increase in the exemptions under item 703b (2). It will be recalled this was amended at the last session of parliament and the statistics take several months to compute.

We are informed by the bureau they have no figures yet, but they are working on this and it is expected they will be keeping track of the entries under item 703b (2).

Mr. BENEDICKSON: Do you average out by country the claims for exemptions?

Mr. SIM: There is no attempt made by us to average it. It is simply a statistical business of reporting how much comes in from each country.

Mr. BENEDICKSON: But if I, for instance, am importing from the United States and claiming \$75 out of my exemption of \$100 or \$99.50, I am wondering whether you keep those figures?

Mr. SIM: The amount would be kept. You mean what would be the average for the year?

Mr. BENEDICKSON: Yes. Do you attempt to calculate that?

Mr. SIM: Yes. My recollection is that the average figure runs about \$45. In other words, Canadians are not taking full advantage of the benefits afforded to them in that respect.

Mr. Nesbitt asked a question about the progress we are making in respect of complaints about corn brooms imported from Poland. I indicated that in respect of goods coming from behind the iron curtain, we had to look to other countries where the economy was free in order to get the fair market valuation. I find we have made inquiries in this connection which involves not only Poland but also Hungary where some of these brooms come from. It is our intention to use the figures which we hope to find in Italy in order to check the values which we will use on the imports from Poland and Hungary. Our man expects to go there in April and we should have a report shortly thereafter.

Mr. Hales asked a question concerning allowances which our officers are getting in foreign countries. I indicated they do not fare quite as well as some of the other branches of government and this is confirmed by figures I have here. Our man in Tokyo now receives an allowance of \$5,314. If he were