

*Supply—National Revenue*

Justice, and if an order in council is necessary as a result of government action as a whole it will be made. But it is nothing coming within the administrative jurisdiction of the Department of National Revenue. As a matter of fact, officially we have no knowledge of the matter whatsoever. There have been no discussions with my officials in connection with it and it is not anything which I can deal with today at all.

The hon. member for Vancouver South raised the question of sales tax exemption on machinery. I think that matter was largely rectified by the amendments we made last year as a result of sitting in committee when investigating the Department of National Revenue. Amendments were made to the Excise Tax Act which I think met that question substantially, although I admit not entirely.

Reference was also made to the importation of United States equipment. As the committee knows, this matter flows from a decision taken years ago, I think a proper decision, when as a result of letters exchanged between the then secretary of state for external affairs for Canada and the United States state department it was agreed that our Crown Assets Corporation would sell certain of these assets which had been brought in here by the United States and would take a flat sum for duty and the money would be remitted to the United States. That was as a result of this exchange of notes and the agreement which was brought into effect in 1953 or 1954, perhaps earlier, and which is still in force.

There is this difference, however, to which I would draw the attention of the committee. A year ago under the powers I have by regulation I imposed a dumping duty on these sales, and now a dump can be applied in the question of valuation.

The hon. member for Kootenay West, who always delights me with his questions, raised the question about ports closing and suggested they be open 24 hours a day. That is not of course an original suggestion; it has been raised by many hon. members, I can assure him. He also made what I thought was a very good suggestion about having a sign on the Columbia river where people using that river coming into Canada could be given directions as to where customs offices were to be found. I hope that will be done and if it is we will have it marked at the bottom in the Herridge style so that everyone will know who is responsible for it.

The hon. member for Fort William raised a matter which I pointed out was entirely out of order, but it was easier to allow it rather than argue. It had to do with the 7½ per cent

[Mr. Nowlan.]

excise tax on cars, a matter also referred to by one or two other hon. members. That again is a matter for the Minister of Finance. I administer the tax; I collect it, but it is not a matter which comes within the purview of this department and any discussion of that matter should be raised on the estimates of the Minister of Finance.

The hon. member for Fort William also complained about a step which this department took in, shall we say, making Fort William, as he termed it, an outport of Port Arthur. It is true we did make a change there. The collector at Fort William had reached retirement age and had retired; there was competent staff there and we all know the proximity of Fort William and Port Arthur. It certainly does not affect the efficiency of the department or the service. It may be a matter I suppose of some local pride that the port is now the port of Port Arthur and that Fort William is not a port but an outport of Port Arthur; I think that would be the technical description. But as I say the efficiency of the service to the public is exactly the same as before.

The hon. member for Waterloo North raised the matter of excise. There has been a great deal of consolidation in excise offices. We are trying to consolidate them and give better service by centralizing them across Canada instead of having excise offices in most of our ports. Outside of one area about which some complaints have been received we are effecting distinct economies and think we are giving a better service, because in this highly technical field it is desirable to have senior and competent officials in charge of administration.

The hon. member for Grey-Bruce raised again the question of marking goods. He has raised it privately with me before and I think I might say that some progress has been made there.

The hon. member for Laurier raised the problem about the Canadian association of income tax employees, Montreal branch. He was not in the committee when we started our discussion and apparently assumed we were covering both branches of the family, but we were only dealing with customs and excise; however, I will refer to this matter when we come to the taxation branch.

The hon. member for Moose Mountain raised the question of coal machinery. That machinery was brought in on a one sixtieth basis and presents this problem but we are going to study it again.

The hon. member for York North raised the question of "Made in Canada". I think the inference was that perhaps we should not have a "Made in Canada" ruling or that it