

right hon. leader of the opposition could have been raised with equal force against his own legislation of 1934 with respect to the United States processing taxes. He might very well have said then "we cannot import these goods with these high taxes, but we have no power to disregard them."

Mr. BENNETT: I am simply pointing out the inconsistency of the action of the government. I have succeeded in getting the government to come to the defence of the very action which we took ourselves, and I am content. I have listened all through this session up to to-day to a continuous approval of what was done in the five years from 1930 to 1935. At that time the opposition opposed this action hour after hour and day after day.

Mr. ILSLEY: We never opposed that one.

Mr. BENNETT: Now I have it in black and white.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): My right hon. friend must be proud of it.

Mr. BENNETT: I am.

Mr. ILSLEY: We certainly never opposed that section.

Mr. BENNETT: Oh, yes.

Mr. CAHAN: This section states that the governor in council, whenever it is deemed expedient to do so, may order that import, excise and other duties and taxes, in whole or in part, shall be disregarded. The reference is to import, excise and other duties and taxes of the foreign country from which goods are imported. That is clear.

Mr. ILSLEY: Yes.

Mr. CAHAN: It is not with respect to import, excise and other duties in Canada.

Mr. ILSLEY: No.

Mr. CAHAN: Then if it is the import, excise and other duties and taxes of any foreign country that shall be disregarded, why not say so?

Mr. ILSLEY: The answer to that is that it cannot be read in any other way.

Mr. CAHAN: Oh well, I think so.

Mr. ILSLEY: No. It would be meaningless to say that the import, excise or other duties and taxes imposed by the Canadian government shall be disregarded in estimating the value for duty of goods imported into Canada. You could not possibly take into account the import taxes on goods coming into Canada in estimating the value for duty

of goods coming into Canada, therefore it must be clear to anyone reading the section that it means the import taxes of another country.

Mr. CAHAN: Why leave it to implication when the insertion of the word "foreign" will make it so clear that there can be no other meaning?

Mr. ILSLEY: Well, there has never been any difficulty about section 36A of the Customs Act, which reads as follows:

The governor in council, whenever it is deemed expedient to do so, may order that excise duties and excise taxes in whole or in part shall be disregarded in estimating the value for duty of goods of any kind imported into Canada from any specified country and may vary or rescind such order.

All we have done is to add the word "import."

Mr. BENNETT: Which, I think, is a serious thing to do. What is involved in the Netherlands case in the way of import taxes?

Mr. ILSLEY: Principally rice.

Mr. BENNETT: No, I mean the rate.

Mr. ILSLEY: I am sorry I have not the rate, but it is an abnormally high rate, away out of line with the ordinary import duties. It is what they call a monopoly tax.

Section agreed to.

Section 2 agreed to.

On section 3—Certain values for duty deemed lawfully fixed.

Mr. SPENCE: I am utterly opposed to so much power being given, ostensibly to the minister, as is proposed to be conferred by this bill. I am speaking with reference to importations of food, which are the products in which I am most interested. If this power were to be exercised by the minister I would think nothing about it, but it is given to the appraiser at the port, and if the appraiser is arbitrary-minded he can make a lot of trouble. I understand that these officials are intended to serve the convenience of business men, not to trouble and harass them. These actions appear to me to be illegal and now you are trying to make them legal through this house. Time after time cases have arisen where values which were arbitrary have been put on goods by appraisers, and the trade were forced to pay, under protest, those extra duties. If a car of strawberries or some other perishable goods comes in in the morning, and your business starts at seven o'clock, your deposit is made at the customs house, the