Oral Questions

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I am not in a position to answer that question at this time.

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GARNISHEE, ATTACHMENT AND PENSION DIVERSION ACT

DELAY IN PROCLAMATION

Hon. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice. Bill C-38 was passed by the House 14 months ago, and Parts II, III and IV have not yet been proclaimed. What is the cause of this unusual delay?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, litigation involving this legislation is presently in the courts. As Hon. Members may know, there is a dispute between the Department of Justice and the House of Commons as to whether Members and employees of the House of Commons are affected by that legislation. That has had consequences for the general proclamation of the legislation. There is a case now in the courts on which I cannot comment, but I hope that the matter will be resolved shortly by the courts, if not in some other fashion. It may be that we ought to seek further legislative clarification on this. I might consult the House Leader and my Opposition critic in the next week or two to see whether we can arrive at a legislative clarification so that this spectacle, which might be considered rather unedifying by the people of the country, would not continue to be dragged on.

SOURCE OF OBJECTIONS TO PROCLAMATION

Hon. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, given the fact that the Bill was passed in some parts unanimously and that, to some degree, there was unanimity throughout its entire passage, could the Minister of Justice explain whether it is Members of the House or Senators who are objecting to the proclamation of the Bill, or does it come from officers of the House?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, there may or may not be Members who are taking positions on this; I am not aware of that. The primary difficulty is that officials of the House, I think acting in pursuance of the tradition of parliamentary immunity from various kinds of legislation, have taken the position that Members of parliament and employees of Parliament should not be touched. I would not like to say that this is not a matter of importance. The point precisely is that I think Members had one intention when the legislation was passed. It is now running into these difficulties, which I quite agree with the Hon. Member have to be clarified within the next few weeks.

TRADE

INADEQUACY OF ANTI-DUMPING LEGISLATION

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Revenue. It is a question which may well be directed to the Minister of Trade, but I believe it is the Minister of National Revenue who handles it. How can we possibly effect the kind of economic recovery in Canada about which everyone speaks as being necessary, when the Anti-Dumping Tribunal and the anti-dumping legislation are totally inadequate, when the steel industry is already being subjected to tremendous pressures from dumping from at least 12 other countries in the world, and when the result of this dumping is an increase in unemployment and a decrease in productivity? When will we get some adequate legislation to protect our manufacturers from the totally inadequate legislation which currently exists?

[Translation]

Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member ought to know that responsibility for our antidumping policy legislation lies with the Minister of Finance. He should also remember that during the past two years, the Government has been considering a number of changes in our anti-dumping legislation, and thirdly, the Department of National Revenue regularly responds to requests for anti-dumping investigations from various sectors of the Canadian economy, including the steel industry, the heavy equipment sector, and so on. We carry out the investigations as quickly as possible, preliminary analyses are made fairly regularly, and we try to be as effective as we can.

[English]

PRICE OF AUTOMOBILES IMPORTED FROM RUSSIA

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, let me then direct my question to the Minister of Finance. How can a Lada car, which sells for approximately \$12,000 in Moscow, be sold for under \$6,000 in Canada?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, if the allegation of the Hon. Member is correct, there are ways of dealing with it. The Minister of National Revenue has said that one can put a complaint before the Anti-Dumping Tribunal for the matter to be examined. A number of products have been examined and measures have been taken by the Government to counteract such dumping. Every year we have taken steps in that regard. If the Hon. Member has a complaint, he should register it before the Anti-Dumping Tribunal.

As far as his reference to the steel industry and its problems is concerned, again I invite the Hon. Member to adopt the Crow legislation. It would mean orders for steel production which will help the steel industry in the Hamilton area quite significantly.