

*Government Orders**[English]*

Mr. Len Taylor (The Battlefords—Meadow Lake, NDP) moved:

Motion No. 6

That Bill C-57, in Clause 13, be amended by adding after line 29, on page 5, the following:

“(2.1) The Ministers shall consult with the appropriate House committee before any vote is taken by the Ministerial Conference or the General Council authorizing or approving any one or more of the following actions by WTO:

- (a) the adoption of an interpretation of the Agreement or any other multilateral trade agreement to which Canada is a party;
- (b) the amendment of the Agreement or any other multilateral trade agreement to which Canada is a party;
- (c) the granting of a waiver of any obligation under the Agreement or any other multilateral trade agreement to which Canada is a party;
- (d) the adoption of any amendment to the rules or procedures of the Ministerial Conference or the General Council;
- (e) the accession of a state or separate customs territory to the Agreement; or
- (f) the adoption of any other decision if the WTO action described in paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) or (f) would substantially affect the rights or obligations of Canada under the Agreement or any other multilateral trade agreement or would require a change of any law of Canada or of any province or territory in Canada.

(2.2) Not later than 30 days after the end of any calendar year in which the Ministerial Conference or the General Council authorizes or approves any WTO action described in subsection (2.1), the Minister shall submit a report to the appropriate House committee setting out

- (a) the nature of the WTO action;
- (b) the efforts made by the Minister to have the matter decided by consensus in accordance with paragraph (1) of Article IX of the Agreement and the results of those efforts;
- (c) which WTO Members voted for and which voted against the WTO action;
- (d) the rights or obligations of Canada that are affected by the WTO action and any law of Canada or of any province or territory in Canada that must be amended or repealed, for purposes of conforming with the WTO action; and
- (e) the measures, if any, that the Minister intends to take in response to WTO action and if the Minister does not intend to take any measures, the reasons therefor.

(2.3) Where the World Trade Organization grants a waiver as described in paragraph (2.1)(c), the report under subsection (2.2) shall also describe the terms and conditions of the waiver and the rights and obligations of Canada that are affected by the waiver.

(2.4) Where the World Trade Organization approves an accession of a state or separate customs territory to the Agreement, the report under subsection (2.2) shall state whether Canada intends to invoke Article XIII of the Agreement.

(2.5) Promptly after submission of a report under subsection (2.2), the Minister shall consult with the appropriate House committee with respect to the report.”

Motion No. 7

That Bill C-57, be amended by adding after line 36, on page 5, the following new Clause:

“13.1 The Minister shall, twice in each calendar year after the proclamation of this Act, report to Parliament on any negotiations that take place under Article III(2) of the Agreement, including negotiations that pertain to the labour, social and environmental dimensions of the multilateral trade relations of member states.

● (1055)

[Translation]

Mr. Bergeron: Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Maheu): The member for Verchères, on a point of order.

Mr. Bergeron: Madam Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention that I do not see a quorum in the House.

And the count having been taken:

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Maheu): We now have a quorum.

The hon. member for Laval East.

Mrs. Maud Debie (Laval East, BQ): I rise today to speak on the bill to implement the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization. I wish to deal more precisely with the amendment presented by the Official Opposition, which is aimed at adding new clauses, namely clauses 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4, on page 3 of Bill C-57.

First, clause 3.1 proposes to establish a process for consultation with the provinces regarding three specific issues. It is important for us that the Canadian government establish, before the agreement comes into force, such a federal-provincial mechanism to implement the agreement. This is the first issue about which provinces should be consulted wherever the implementation of the agreement relates to a matter within provincial legislative jurisdiction. For example, the federal government should be obliged to consult the provinces on matters relating to copyright, agriculture, environment and labour. Sovereignists are not the only ones demanding such measures.

● (1100)

Since 1988, the provinces have demanded to be consulted in connection with the Uruguay Round trade negotiations. If we take a close look at what is happening next door in the United States, we see that such measures have already been introduced. In the Statement of Administrative Actions, the U.S. government statement on the implementation of the GATT agreement, it says, and I quote: “these consultations”, and this refers to consultations with the American States, “will begin immediately upon enactment of the implementing bill”.