

*Supply—Finance*

aspects of the Kennedy round of negotiations and some of the problems which Canada will face as a result thereof. Mr. Chairman, I have some difficulty in competing with the voices all around me.

**The Chairman:** Order. I wish to bring to the attention of the house that there is a little more noise in the chamber than is usual. This makes it difficult for the Chairman to hear what is being said and for the hon. member who now has the floor to make his remarks.

**Mr. Lambert:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. May I say first of all that I believe it is apposite for us to discuss these estimates at this time notwithstanding the fact that not so long ago we concluded the budget debate, and we also had a discussion on the estimates of the Treasury Board. However, as has been pointed out, there are some estimates of the Department of Finance to which we must come back.

I do not know how long the debate will take today, but we all know that the guillotine is to fall at the end of the day and there are still a number of points that have not been answered by the government in any way. For instance, the minister has not indicated, even when he had the chance to do so this afternoon in answer to a question put by my colleague the hon. member for Kamloops, what expenditures would be cut back in this year's estimates. In speaking of this business of dressing up the so-called cut-backs in the estimates I am reminded of an article in today's *Globe and Mail* entitled "Ottawa Not Retrenching Despite Talk of Pruning" written by Fraser Robertson. We find there the following statement:

On close examination, and it need not be so very close at that, it becomes plain that the government is not really bent upon retrenchment. So far, about all it has done is restrain ministers who were determined to increase departmental expenditure.

This point of view has been put forward in the house time and time again in the last few days.

The real reason I am glad to see the minister here this afternoon is that if we waited until next week to see him we might have difficulty in finding him, because he is likely to be in Edmonton. The house might be interested to know that the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Transport and now I understand the Registrar General are all to be in Edmonton on November 10 and 11. I understand there is to be a Liberal annual meeting there at that time. I rather suspect

[Mr. Lambert.]

this will be a trotting out of show horses or an appearance before the public in the light of possible events in the coming year. I would be interested to know whether each of them will have a hand on the wreath which presumably may be laid by one of them at the cenotaph in Edmonton on November 11. It will probably take the combined strength of all three of them to carry it.

To come back to the Kennedy round, I should like to caution the minister against any haste in introducing legislation with regard to any agreements concerning anti-dumping legislation, or any haste in deciding what Canada will do with regard to the Kennedy round. Let us face it; the key to the success of the Kennedy round lies with the United States. Canada, because of its peculiar trading pattern, cannot engage in across the board or straight line reductions in tariffs, and has had to do it on a bilateral basis with the United States or on a commodity for commodity basis.

• (3:30 p.m.)

However, the Kennedy round negotiations were instituted by the late President Kennedy as a result of a presidential election. President Johnson has inherited them. Unfortunately, the presidency does not control everything in the United States. Recently we have seen efforts being made in the congress, and particularly in the senate, toward the introduction of measures which call for the imposition of quotas on the importation of certain commodities in which Canada is very interested. In fact, if these measures reach the status of law, then frankly the whole of the Kennedy round is literally washed out. In connection with steel, oil and a great many other commodities in which Canada is vitally interested, there is no doubt that the action now being taken will frankly sweep away any hope of benefit that Canada may have had as result of the Kennedy round. I say to the minister, therefore, there is no rush for us to get on the statute books those changes which we might be required to make as a result of the Kennedy round.

Having made that point, I would like to go back to some other things I have said in the house. First of all, the other day I asked the minister, in view of rumours, whether it was true a budget would be presented in the next few weeks. Reading between the lines of some of the speeches made by the minister of late, as well as the speech made by the governor of the Bank of Canada yesterday, I think there is a good deal of truth in these