

[English]

### TRADE

#### REPRESENTATIONS TO UNITED KINGDOM ON IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce but in his absence I will address it to the acting minister. Can the minister report on the outcome of representations made by the Canadian government to the government of the United Kingdom with regard to the new import restrictions recently put into effect, and especially the serious effect on imports of Canadian synthetic rubber, lumber, plywood and newsprint?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio):** No, Mr. Speaker, I cannot as yet report on the outcome of these discussions.

**Mr. Harkness:** I have a supplementary question. In addition to the representations made by Canada directly to the government of the United Kingdom, can the minister say whether Canada has made any protest to GATT and, particularly has the government of Canada taken the position in GATT that the British import restrictions are in fact a contravention of Britain's obligations under GATT?

**Mr. Lang (Saskatoon-Humboldt):** Canada is represented on a committee of GATT which will be studying this question and therefore will have direct access to the question of the position of these changes in relation to the GATT obligations.

**Mr. Harkness:** Perhaps the minister did not hear my question. I asked whether Canada made a direct protest to GATT with regard to this matter?

**Mr. Lang (Saskatoon-Humboldt):** Since the whole matter has been referred to this committee for study it was not really a question of making a protest at that stage.

### FINANCE

#### SUGGESTED INTERNATIONAL MEETING TO STABILIZE CURRENCIES

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Finance a related question. In view of the fact that we have had three monetary crises and an indication from the chief economic adviser to president-elect Nixon that we may expect six months of

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chaos and continuing crisis, can the minister assure the house that Canada will take the lead in seeking immediately an early international conference along the lines of the Bretton Woods meeting to make more satisfactory and permanent arrangements for the strengthening of international currencies and provision for orderly readjustment which may be necessary from time to time?

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, as I indicated to the Leader of the Opposition, there are continuing consultations taking place on matters of international finance and exchange. Canada will play its full part in any such negotiations.

**Mr. Stanfield:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I gather the answer is no, though it took the minister a little while to say so. Did he say on return from his recent trip to Bonn that the crisis which has just temporarily passed is "primarily a French or European problem"?

**Mr. Benson:** Mr. Speaker, I did say that there has not been any pressure on either the Canadian or the United States dollar as a result of this recent upheaval in international foreign exchange, and that the problem has primarily been a French-German-British problem. As my hon. friend knows, the movement in exchange was from France and Britain into Germany. Since the conference there has been a reversal of this situation, as I understand it, and quite a substantial outflow from the deutschmark.

**Mr. Stanfield:** A further supplementary question. Is the minister still—

[Translation]

**Mr. Speaker:** Is the hon. member for Abitibi rising on a question of privilege?

**Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi):** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

I hesitate somewhat to interrupt the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield), but I would like to submit that, since the beginning of the question period, none of our group has been recognized and the time has almost expired.

Even though there was a request for a debate on a very important subject, namely the wheat problem, the fact is that a debate on this subject has taken place on two occasions, that is during the discussion of the motion and during the question period. Why is it then that members of the Ralliement Crétitiste are not recognized this afternoon?