

*Customs Tariff*

The one thing Scots did not bring to Canada with them was the ability to make kilts. If the material were available, kilts could be manufactured in Canada. Unfortunately the tartan cannot be woven here. One must remember it is a specialized industry. In any event, when I received my kilt I was unable to have the benefit of a drawback because I was an individual. Even if this particular measure had been in effect, I would not have received the 99 per cent drawback on the customs duty I was required to pay on that kilt. I believe the duty was approximately 25 per cent or 30 per cent. In any event, it was somewhat high. A 99 per cent drawback would have been fine. It would have left one per cent. I am prepared to go along with that.

Schedule IV refers to ethno-cultural groups. What about an individual from Greece—

**An hon. Member:** The Ukraine.

**Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** Yes, people from the Ukraine are affected by this as well. I was thinking of an evzone costume from Greece, which is similar to the kilt. If an individual from Greece wanted an evzone costume, why should he be required to rely on an ethno-cultural group to import it for him? I see the parliamentary secretary is somewhat amused by what I am saying. Perhaps he agrees with me. If schedule IV referred to an ethno-cultural individual, that would be satisfactory. I do not think there would be abuse of this provision. Unfortunately some groups would not be able to bring in costumes from their countries of origin. I am thinking of Latvians, Estonians, and Lithuanians. These people make their own costumes. I do not know if Ukrainians could import their costumes as individuals. The Latvians, Estonians, and Lithuanians make their own costumes because they brought that cultural heritage to Canada with them. I object to the word "groups" being included in schedule IV. Hopefully that idea can be converted into an individual right to import and secure the drawback.

I should like to refer to another item which is not contained in the bill or the schedule. I am referring to the announcement which was made by the Minister of Finance some time in November or December, 1976, at which time he imposed quotas on imported garments and clothing manufactured from man-made fibres. At that time I remember sitting in the chamber and thinking I knew at what he was aiming. He was aiming at articles of clothing made in Korea, Hong Kong, and China. These are made from man-made fibres rather than from natural fibres, and they are manufactured in countries where the wages are not as high as in Canada. These articles have been coming in and flooding the market.

● (1642)

The minister stood in his place and said he was imposing a set of quotas. I thought he had in mind quotas in respect of imported goods, by way of non-tariff items, and this probably refers to the reverse application of the bill. However, I do think this is relevant. It was my firm conviction, when I heard the minister, that he was aiming at the importation of ma-

terials and clothing of man-made fibres from those countries that are able to produce these goods much cheaper than we can here in Canada. However, within a week we found that the quotas were aimed at all types of clothing being imported, including woollens and cottons. This came to our attention as a result of letters we received from what you might call high fashion establishments that import fine woollen materials from Britain, silks from Italy and France, and perhaps cottons to a lesser degree.

This quota imposition gave rise to the creation of what I believe is called a high fashion clothing committee. Some of this importation takes place by firms here in Ottawa. I better not do any commercials by mentioning names, but some firms here do a lot of this importing. They too have been put on quotas based on 1967 imports. Some of these firms find that the acceptance of their quota applications takes so long seasonal sales are lost. Some of these quota applications take months to be cleared. When dealing with clothes for the summer and winter seasons you must place orders six or seven months in advance so that quantities can be made up. Some of these items are specifically made. Some Jaegers items are made in large quantities. These are the kinds of materials and items of clothing which have been subjected to the quotas, unexpectedly, I might add.

We never did really get the minister to admit what his prime objective or target was in this regard. We do not know whether he had in mind man-made fibres and cheap clothing from Korea, Hong Kong, China and other similar countries, or intended that the quotas should include all these other high fashion articles. In any event, all clothing was covered, and the administrative problems created for the merchants of these high fashion clothing are absolutely tremendous. First of all they must get their quotas approved, and then order the materials or the articles of clothing from overseas far enough in advance to obtain those items at the appropriate season. The difficulties created are absolutely unbelievable.

We in this House have heard about a series of difficulties businessmen face in dealing with the masses of forms the government asks them to fill out. My colleague, the hon. member for Hamilton-Wentworth (Mr. Kempling), has described one method of dealing with this multiplicity of government forms, and that is to stamp them all "non applicable". Anyone who is in the business of selling high fashion clothing is not able to do that. He would probably prejudice his future applications for quotas.

These people dealing with high fashion clothes have to take certain steps. They must sort out the items they want and hope that the quota allotment comes back in sufficient time to allow them to order these materials or items from overseas in order that they will still be in style. One of the factors involved in the marketing of high fashion clothing is style, and styles change from one season to the next. A merchant may receive a quota for this fall, and then when applying for a similar quota for the following season may not receive the same quota. How does he deal with that situation? Maybe the quota volume would not be applicable the following fall.