

Tariffs and Trade

order to give effect to the provisions thereof. And the amendment thereto of Mr. Green.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Hon. members will recall, Mr. Speaker, that on Monday I drew attention to the desirability of dividing in two the resolution that now stands on the order paper as item No. 3, and of substituting therefor two resolutions. It was agreed by all the leaders that that was desirable, and that the method I suggested of effecting this would be approved. I cannot amend my own motion. Accordingly I would ask the Minister of Transport (Mr. Chevrier) if he would move the amendment to this motion which would permit what I have requested to be done.

Hon. LIONEL CHEVRIER (Minister of Transport): I desire to move that the amendment made by Mr. Green be amended as follows:

(a) by deleting the words "referred to the committee of the whole house with instructions to divide" and substituting therefor the words "divided as to"; and

(b) by adding at the end of the said amendment the following: "the said resolutions to be expressed as follows:

1. That it is expedient that parliament do approve the general agreement on tariffs and trade, including the protocol of provisional application thereof, annexed to the final act of the second session of the preparatory committee of the united nations conference on trade and employment held at Geneva from April 10 to October 30, 1947, together with the complementary agreement of October 30, 1947, between Canada and the United States of America; that the house do approve the same, subject to the legislation required in order to give effect to the provisions thereof.

2. That it is expedient that parliament do approve the complementary agreement of October 30, 1947, between Canada and the United Kingdom relating to the general agreement on tariffs and trade; and that the house do approve the same, subject to the legislation required in order to give effect to the provisions thereof.

Mr. JOHN BRACKEN (Leader of the Opposition): As I understand it, we are now dealing with two matters, the Geneva trade agreements and the exchange of letters between this government and the government of the United Kingdom with respect to the British preferences. The Prime Minister's motion on December 9 asked the house to approve both. When the hon. member for Vancouver South (Mr. Green) came to speak he moved an amendment. He said these were two different matters, and suggested that they should go to a committee to be divided and brought back to the house as two separate resolutions. As I understand it the motion of the Minister of Transport (Mr. Chevrier) accomplishes the

[Mr. Bertrand (Laurier).]

same end without having the matter sent to a committee. So the effect of the amendment to the amendment, if carried, will be that the resolution asking for the approval of the Geneva trade agreements will come here by itself, and a second resolution will come before us asking for approval of the exchange of letters regarding the British-Canadian preferences. Such a division is what was desired by the hon. member for Vancouver South, and that is what will be accomplished. We understand that these two resolutions will come back to us, and when they do we shall be in a position to support, oppose or amend each in turn. That is my interpretation of the motion now before us.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: That is correct.

Mr. BRACKEN: With that understanding we offer no objection. We approve this step in the procedure.

Mr. COLDWELL: My understanding further is that the subject matter of the Geneva agreements will be referred to the banking and commerce committee before the house is asked to adopt the resolution. With that understanding I think this is a good way to deal with the problem.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: That is correct.

Amendment to amendment agreed to.

Amendment as amended agreed to.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: In order to keep the procedure regular I believe it will be necessary for some hon. member to adjourn the debate on the amendment.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: I move that the debate on the resolution as amended be adjourned.

Motion agreed to and debate adjourned.

WAYS AND MEANS

EXCISE TAX ACT AMENDMENT

The house again in committee of ways and means, Mr. Macdonald (Brantford City) in the chair.

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to amend the Excise Tax Act and to provide:

1. That on and after November 18, 1947, there shall be imposed, levied and collected an excise tax of twenty-five per cent (25%) on the following goods imported into or manufactured or produced in Canada: (a) the following electrical appliances, grills, waffle irons; hot plates, roasters; kettles; chafing dishes; food or drink mixers; juice extractors; coffee makers; toasters of all kinds; portable humidifiers; curling irons or tongs; hair dryers; permanent waving machines and spacers or clamps; rods and heaters therefor; razors and shavers; food choppers and grinders; irons and ironers; vacuum cleaners and attachments thereof; garbage disposal