

*Customs Tariff*

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** I am told in particular that in the case of bilateral negotiations no report has ever been made except as to the result, the exchanges of advantages on the one hand for concessions on the other. I think perhaps part of the earlier discussion proceeded on the basis of a misapprehension. I think the position is clear now.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Perhaps I could state my understanding. I am not seeking to be contentious at all, but I was rather surprised, if I understood correctly, that once these negotiations had been completed, during the currency of an agreement, there would be any obstacle to telling parliament "we have made this tariff change because of negotiations concluded under GATT" and in another case because of representations from the automobile chamber of commerce and so on, as the minister has just said. I take it the minister has no objection to telling us in each case whether it is as a result of GATT negotiations that the change is being made.

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** No, I have no objection at all on that score. As a matter of fact, there is a large number of miscellaneous items here and, of course, the great bulk of them did not enter into the negotiations at all.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** That is what I would imagine. I think that clears up the difficulty.

**Mr. Benidickson:** Except for this, that I indicated to the house by quoting from *Hansard* of 1955 and 1956 that the then minister of trade and commerce had in both of those years—

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** Could my friend give me the reference in 1955 again, please?

**Mr. Benidickson:** The minister's statement is on page 4750 and the appendix he provided appears on page 4808.

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** Was that a press statement?

**Mr. Benidickson:** No, it is an official document provided to the House of Commons by the then minister of trade and commerce indicating the effect in considerable detail. As a matter of fact it is headed "Results of Tariff Negotiations at Geneva", and it has several subheadings. The first subheading is "Concessions by Japan to Canada" and the second is "Concessions by Canada to Japan". The third is "Concessions by the United States to Canada" and the fourth is "Concessions by Canada to the United States and Japan."

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** Will my hon. friend permit me to point out—we have the volume now—that what was reported on there was the result of original negotiations and not renegotiations, except as to the third

item. This was a matter of a new negotiation with Japan over the establishment in the tariffs of both countries of certain rates which were bound in favour of the other.

**Mr. Benidickson:** I made that very clear but let us go to the next year, 1956. I refer my hon. friend again to page 4792 where the then minister of trade and commerce did the same thing. It seemed to me to be a comprehensive review and a very proper report to parliament upon the results achieved by Canada's officials in negotiations of this importance over a past period. My difficulty is that I do not know the period for which the report is given. Certainly it was presented to the house in June, 1956. I make the point that in June, 1957, we were engaged in an election campaign but we met on October 14, I believe, and sat for some time. I would have thought that in 1957 we would have received a similar report from the new Minister of Trade and Commerce with respect to GATT negotiations for a comparable period.

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** I am afraid we are going back into the misapprehension that existed earlier. The 1956 report to which my hon. friend refers was a report on original negotiations. There were no renegotiations in 1956. What the then minister of trade and commerce gave to the house was the result of those original negotiations. That is the situation with respect to 1956. As to 1957, again there is a misapprehension. No negotiations under GATT were concluded in 1957. Some negotiations were started at Geneva in the fall but no negotiations were concluded in 1957.

**Mr. Pearson:** Perhaps we can sum it up that the minister agrees that when there are original negotiations under GATT all particulars with regard thereto should be made available to parliament as they have been in the past but as far as renegotiations are concerned he thinks that the procedure he has adopted is quite adequate.

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** Yes. We have laid everything before the house in this resolution. It is true that it is a bulkier resolution than the house usually has before it. It may be that we have been pounding on an open door here because I do not see that there is any difference between us with regard to the matter of the reporting. Where there are original negotiations involving changing the agreement on the part of Canada to make certain changes in return for changes on the part of another country or countries in their tariffs then of course a report should be made to the house giving the particulars of the changes; in other words, the quid as