

THE SENATE

Tuesday, March 3, 1964

The Senate met at 8 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers.

TRADE RELATIONS

CANADA-U.K. TRADE TALKS—STATEMENT

Hon. John J. Connolly: Honourable senators, in accordance with the procedure that I suggested might be adopted with respect to government statements on matters of general interest, I propose now to make a short statement that was made by the Government in an other place. My purpose in doing so is simply to keep the Senate record more or less in pace with the records in the other place with reference to Government announcements. I now present a brief report on the talks held by the Minister of Trade and Commerce which concluded on Friday last.

The main purposes of the minister's visit to London were two-fold: first, to discuss with his counterpart in the British Government, Mr. Heath, certain complaints made by the British Government about the valuation of British exports entering Canada, and to discuss these complaints directly with British exporters; and, second, to speak to the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in London about Anglo-Canadian trade.

The discussions with Mr. Heath and with British exporters were useful. They gave the Minister of Trade and Commerce and the Government a clearer understanding of the nature of the complaints against our valuation procedures. The minister informed Mr. Heath and the British exporters that these complaints are under careful investigation by an interdepartmental committee and that, if the review should show that the complaints are well-founded, the Government would consider the kind of legislation required to remove any technical obstacle found to exist. The minister added that the evidence so far before the Government did not indicate that our valuation and anti-dumping laws were central to the problem of British sales in Canada. The minister also discussed with Mr. Heath the forthcoming Kennedy Round of Trade negotiations and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

The minister also took advantage of the occasion to discuss with the British Government certain of the trade barriers still facing Canadian goods entering the British market.

DOCUMENTS TABLED

Hon. John J. Connolly: Honourable senators, I wish to table a number of documents, and with your permission I will dispense with reading the list in detail, but will draw your attention to two or three that appear to be of particular interest.

One is the Capital Budget of Trans-Canada Air Lines. Another is the return of Unclaimed Balances in the Chartered Banks of Canada, as at December 31, 1963. There is a similar return under the Quebec Savings Banks Act as at December 31, 1963. The list includes copies of "The Columbia River Treaty, Protocol and Related Documents", issued by the Departments of External Affairs, and Northern Affairs and National Resources, dated February 1964. Finally, the main estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1965.

In connection with the latter document, perhaps it would be of help to honourable senators if I put on the record the following statement.

In the main estimates for 1964-65 the budgetary expenditures provided for the new fiscal year commencing April 1, 1964, including amounts already authorized by continuing statutes as well as moneys Parliament is being requested to appropriate, amount to \$6,703,513,508.

Parliament is also being asked to authorize the disbursement of moneys for loans, investments and advances, which add to the Government's active assets, in a total amount of \$108,897,000.

Not included in these totals, but set out in the estimates for information, is the forecast amount for Old Age Security Pension payments amounting to \$882 million. These pension payments are separated from the budget figures and are payable out of the old age security fund to which are credited the taxes levied for this particular purpose.

To compare the main estimates for 1964-65, totalling \$6,703,500,000, with expenditures authorized by Parliament to date for 1963-64, and which amount to \$6,619,100,000, would be misleading. The latter figure does not include the final supplementary estimates for the current fiscal year, and the former figure takes no account of the supplementary estimates for the new fiscal year. It is for this reason that a reasonably accurate comparison of total expenditures for the year commencing April 1, 1964, with those for the current and previous fiscal years, must await the budget presentations.

Finally, I would draw the attention of this honourable house to an important change in the form of the estimates for 1964-65. This change relates to the form of the items to be