

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

So far as the problem which the hon. member seems to bring forward every time, which is the question of filling in the water-lots and directing that retaining walls be put around them, the federal government is responsible to give permission for these types of projects in connection with navigation. If the federal government feels that the construction in question is going to hinder navigation, then it will not give the appropriate authorization for the construction of these fill-ins.

In the case to which the hon. member refers there was no obstruction of navigation; and that is about as far as the federal government can go.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The minister has exhausted his time.

TRADE—EXPORT OF MCINTOSH APPLES
TO SCOTLAND

Mr. Howard Johnston (Okanagan-Revelstoke): Mr. Speaker, I raised this earlier in the day. I asked a fairly direct question this morning. I should like, with the advantage of a little more time this evening, to expand on its urgency and its relevancy to the constituency that I represent. This constituency has a very important apple industry, and that industry is experiencing troubled times owing to frost damage. The problem of replanting damaged or destroyed orchards is an important one in the area at the present time.

● (10:10 p.m.)

In relation to this problem I should like to read a resolution presented by the Vernon growers to the British Columbia Fruit Growers Association at its seventy seventh annual convention in Penticton in January. This is a resolution regarding varieties of apples:

Whereas Duchess and Wealthies are unprofitable in some years and are not recommended for planting, and furthermore Tydeman's and soft fruits are uneconomical because of the geographic location and the pooling regulations, and

Whereas it has been recommended that no further planting of Spartans or Red Delicious be made, which will leave our area just McIntosh—

Then it goes on to request aid for research in developing a new variety.

In looking through this morning's *Globe and Mail* I came across a fairly extensive article dealing with the market for this particular variety of apple in Scotland and an attempt there to have the importing system changed to allow importers to buy apples from abroad under a system of open licences instead of the current system of rigid controls and restricted licence holders. Then there is

[Mr. Cardin.]

further explanatory material as to the favourable regard which the people of Scotland have for this particular variety of apple.

It would seem that there is a severe restriction on the importation of apples into Britain during the months from July 1 to December 31; and those months are, of course, crucial to the apple industry in the Okanagan valley. I spent a year in London, and I agree with the article in that it is very difficult to find in London apples from the Okanagan valley, though one can find them from almost any other part of the world.

My question was whether the Minister of Agriculture—and I suppose this also involves the Minister of Trade and Commerce—could assure this house and my constituency that they were making all possible representations to maintain and to enlarge the market for McIntosh apples in Scotland.

Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, coming from new Scotland as I do—

Mr. Knowles: Order.

Mr. Hees: Sit in your own seat.

Mr. Winters: I apologize again for a breach of the rules, Mr. Speaker. Coming from new Scotland as I do I can sympathize with the hon. member in his plea to have more McIntosh apples sold in Scotland. I intend to make just a brief comment about this important matter.

As the house knows, there have been restrictions on the importation of apples into Britain since 1959. The import quota allotted to the sources of supply in Europe and North America is 1.7 million hundredweight. This represents approximately 4.7 million 40-lb. boxes. Twenty per cent of the total quota only may be imported in the pre-Christmas period August to December; the other 80 per cent must be shipped after Christmas.

The British are well aware of Canada's concern about the lack of opportunity to export to Britain a product which is of such great importance to British Columbia, Nova Scotia and other parts of Canada as well. The last approach seeking relief from the controls was made early last year. The British advised us in September that in view of their then exchange difficulties they could not see their way clear to make changes in the regulations.

I can assure the hon. member that there is close co-operation with the trade and that everything possible is being done, and will be done, to ensure that this matter is pressed on every appropriate occasion.