

Customs Tariff

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): If my hon. friend will permit me to do so, may I point out that the only change created by item 409e(1) relates to magnets for veterinary use. There is no other change.

Mr. Benidickson: Quite so, but I think the agricultural industry feels that the minister has not gone far enough, and that there are proposals with respect to item 409 that could have been considered by the minister and could have been presented to this parliament today for amending this schedule.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): On the point we are discussing I should like to say this if I may, Mr. Chairman. As you know, there are well over 1,000 items in the Customs Tariff, and they apply to thousands of commodities. We are dealing here with one change and one only, namely magnets for veterinary use, for insertion in the stomach of cattle in order to withdraw pieces of wire or other metal that cattle may have swallowed. That is all we are dealing with here. Surely this is not an occasion upon which to embark at length on questions of what somebody may have thought ought to be the subject of amendments. Otherwise we could have thousands of them raised here.

Mr. Benidickson: I do not propose to talk about a thousand items, Mr. Chairman, on the schedule to the Customs Tariff. I propose to address myself only to section 409, of the Customs Tariff which deals with matters of import which are of interest to the Canadian agricultural community.

The minister has indicated to you and to this committee that he wants you to believe that we are only concerned with magnets for veterinary use. I suggest to you, Mr. Chairman, that it would be quite appropriate to discuss at this time omissions from this proposed amendment, otherwise I think we are prohibited in opposition from proposing an amendment to this section which, although it does not mean anything in dollars and cents, might conceivably reduce the revenues of the crown. But we can see that the Minister of Finance is not prepared to allow this committee to discuss when this comes up annually for debate some of the items which are referred to always by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture in their representations as items which should be changed in connection with tariff revisions affecting item 409. I was referring to farm machinery and I was referring also to used farm machinery. I am sorry that the Minister of Finance sees fit to cut off this discussion.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Chairman, it is not a question of cutting off discussion at all. It has been pointed out before, and I am

[Mr. Benidickson.]

sure the hon. member is well aware of this, that questions pertaining to the importation of used farm machinery revolve round the questions of value for duty, and the Department of Finance has nothing to do with that. This bill has nothing whatever to do with that subject. That is a matter which should be raised with the Department of National Revenue and there will be an opportunity for raising any proper question related to the administration of that department when its estimates are before the committee of supply.

Mr. Benidickson: The Minister of Finance has not readily understood what I had in mind in connection with the proposed discussion under tariff item 409. The Canadian Federation of Agriculture has contended, and this is within the domain—

The Chairman: Order. I did not see fit to rule on the point of order raised by the minister because I understood the hon. member agreed it was well taken. As the only new wording of this section is "magnets for veterinary use" I do not think it would be relevant to discuss anything else.

Mr. Benidickson: Mr. Chairman, certainly you must agree that when we are looking at item 409e(1) we must have regard to the entire language in this large paragraph. The presentation of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture suggests that the ministry is not giving adequate regard to their needs when they have restrictive language in a section such as this, because—

The Chairman: Order. I cannot allow the hon. member to continue along this line. I think I made it clear that the only point which could be discussed is the item which added the words "magnets for veterinary use".

Mr. Benidickson: Mr. Chairman, I protest in the most vehement fashion over your suggestion that discussion must be related solely to four words in a paragraph which contains some 11 or 12 lines and which could be amended by this committee. I will accept your ruling for the moment but I do not agree with it, and I simply want the Canadian Federation of Agriculture to realize what has happened in this committee.

Mr. Bell (Carleton): After the rules of the house have been applied.

Item agreed to.

Items 90e, 124b, 180a, 237a, 399a, 403, 409e, 437b, 438f, 438g, and 438h agreed to.

Customs tariff—440m. Aircraft, not including engines, under such regulations as the minister may prescribe:

1. When of types or sizes not made in Canada: British preferential tariff, free; most favoured nation tariff, free; general tariff, 27½ per cent. On