

the minister mentioned in his statement, that the representatives of the countries he met seek to promote their export trade to our country. It is obvious that in trying to increase their exports, Canada and those other countries aim to strike a favourable trade balance.

Accompanied by a delegation, the hon. minister visited countries which might possibly buy our excess production. It would have been far easier for him, had he wanted to give himself the trouble, to start with visiting the underdeveloped areas of Canada where he would have found elements capable of absorbing part of our production. Indeed, the domestic market is a neglected market.

Just when the minister goes to Europe to broaden the scope of our exports, and even our imports, restrictions are being imposed on the Canadian people. This is absolutely contrary to common sense. Just when unemployment is increasing in Canada, and in the province of Quebec in particular—55 per cent of the unemployed are found in the city of Montreal—the minister is trying to dispose of our Canadian production. Those are the areas which should benefit from the efficient assistance of the hon. member for Rosedale (Mr. Macdonald), who knows such districts, for there are some in Toronto itself.

So, I do not object to the fact that Canada increases its exports abroad, but the minister should first find a way to distribute our Canadian production on our domestic markets to meet the needs of the Canadian people, then he could consider exporting goods to help the underdeveloped countries throughout the world.

• (2:50 p.m.)

[English]

Mr. Howard Johnson (Okanagan-Revelstoke): We welcome the minister back and congratulate him on his efforts abroad to bolster the results of the Kennedy round, results which I believe will generally be favourable to Canada.

Moving on to the next stage in the very general statement we have been given this afternoon, one finds cause for concern. For example, we are told that means will be found to assist the developing countries to increase their trade and that this is to be done through a system of temporary trade preferences. The minister mentioned the importance of these arrangements being worked out on a mutually acceptable basis among the developing countries. I would point out that our experience in connection

with the wheat agreement, when we saw what one developed country can do to another in this regard, has made us all the more concerned that future agreements among the developed countries should be on a mutual basis.

We trust that methods of increasing trade with the developing countries, which depend largely upon primary production, should not be paid for at the expense of any single segment of the Canadian economy. The minister and the government must be fully aware of the mood which prevails within Canadian agriculture today, and though I am sure we would all agree on the importance of doing our utmost to increase trade with the developing countries, the cost of such an increase must be borne by every section of the economy, not by one particular group of people in this country.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

AMENDMENTS RESPECTING DRUG POSSESSION, TRAFFICKING, ETC.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of National Health and Welfare) moved the first reading of Bill No. S-21 (from the Senate), to amend the Food and Drugs Act.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

FINANCE

LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS RESPECTING COMPOSITION OF COINS

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance) moved the first reading of Bill No. S-23 (from the Senate), to amend the Currency, Mint and Exchange Fund Act and the Criminal Code.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

CANADA DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION ACT

AMENDMENTS RESPECTING CALENDAR, FINANCIAL AND PREMIUM YEARS

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance) moved the first reading of Bill No. S-24 (from the Senate), to amend the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation Act.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.