

Customs Tariff

United States, Japan or Canada to enter these countries duty-free.

And now, Mr. Speaker, on June 6, the Government decided to impose duty on those very same parts of data processing equipment and office equipment which at the beginning of the year had been the subject of an agreement with the United States and Japan.

On second reading, we said we agreed with the principle of the Bill, but we had some doubts as to the manner in which the Government would administer the legislation. Today, we can truly say that the Government said one thing when it signed an agreement at the beginning of 1986 and when it introduced a Bill on May 26, 1986, enacting this agreement, and another thing altogether on June 6.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to read to you what was said by the President of the Canadian Advanced Technology Association:

I just do not see what good Bill C-111 will do. It creates a situation where everybody—the Government, the Canadian consumer, the industry—will lose. The Government will lose because it will not achieve the objectives of its Bill; the industry will lose because it will be prevented from being competitive, and the Canadian consumer will lose because it will have to pay more.

The other factor I should like to bring to your attention—

—continued Mr. Gordon W. Gow, the President of the Canadian Advanced Technology Association—

—is the administrative burden which will result from this bill in terms of the very high cost for small businesses. This could even bring some of them to the brink of bankruptcy.

Mr. Speaker, it is only recently that the Minister of State (Small Businesses) (Mr. Bissonnette) was worrying that only 20 per cent of new small businesses prospered after five years of operation, while 80 per cent of them failed.

Because of the action taken by this Government on June 6, this Bill will cause many small businesses to go bankrupt.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, we support this bill in principle, but realizing all the events which have occurred since this Bill was introduced for first reading on May 26, we must accept it, that is to say, adopt it on division, because we have today the proof that the Government will not keep the promises it made when it introduced this bill.

[English]

Mr. David Berger (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, before I make my comments perhaps it would be advisable to entertain a suggestion on a point of order.

● (2150)

Mr. Frith: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. If I am not mistaken, we made an agreement between the three Parties in the House to put forward Bill C-116, dealing with the Canada Pension Plan. That is my understanding of the agreement.

I would ask my colleague if he might end his remarks on Bill C-111 shortly, perhaps in two or three minutes, which is what

your colleague from Montreal agreed to. If that could be done, we could introduce Bill C-116.

I do not know what the mix-up was and I am sure it is not the fault of my colleague. However, I would ask him to do so.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I may be able to add to what my colleague said. I have with me a draft House Order which is the result of negotiations among the House Leaders and the critics who are interested in Bill C-116.

You may find a disposition to agree that immediately after the remarks of the Hon. Member who is speaking, the order of business would be Bill C-116; and that debate at report stage and third reading will take no longer than 30 minutes, 10 minutes maximum debate for each of the three Parties; and at the end of the 10 minute limit among the Parties, participation in the debate by that Party is to be terminated by the Chair; and that 30 minutes after the debate commences all votes necessary to dispose of report stage and third reading would be put.

This would have the effect of allowing our colleague to complete his remarks and allowing for Bill C-116 to be passed in all stages this evening.

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, we are always trying to accommodate the business, but I would like to know just how long the Member for Laurier (Mr. Berger) intends to speak. We are now sitting extended hours. At the time that I entered into the agreement, I anticipated that an extension would take us until 10:10 p.m., which was a 10 minute extension.

If the Member wishes to spend a lot of time and make many comments, then, quite frankly we will be here tomorrow and we are perfectly willing to deal with this legislation tomorrow. However, if the Hon. Member is finished, as he may well be, then we would be willing to sit the extra five minutes to accommodate this particular piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair is now in some small difficulty. The proposal which the House has heard is that the conclusion of this speech would presumably lead to a vote prior to moving to Bill C-116.

Mr. Lewis: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: Therefore, we would then move to Bill C-116, 30 minutes to be allocated, 10 minutes per Party. The Hon. Member for Laurier (Mr. Berger), on the same point of order.

Mr. Berger: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the various discussions that have taken place between members of my Party and the other Parties on this particular point. All I know is that I have a deep interest in the subject matter of Bill C-111 which deals with the re-imposition of a tax on computer parts, which is very detrimental to the computer industry in Canada.

Unfortunately, there are many other decisions of the Government that have adversely affected the computer