

Customs Tariff

Congress will obtain the two thirds majority that is necessary to override the presidential veto. We must persuade those in the United States who wish to carry out such an action, the imposition of import quotas, not to do so. We can persuade the government of the United States not to impose its quotas if the government of Canada says to the United States government and to the United States people that we have no intention of lowering tariffs with respect to any goods coming from the United States if, on similar goods coming from this country, the United States imposes import quotas. A clear cut statement to this effect by this government will deter those in the United States who seek to impose quotas.

We sincerely hope these quotas will not be imposed. We hope the great benefits which President Kennedy thought would flow from a reduction in tariffs will be achieved.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I wish to say only a few words on behalf of our party. Every forward looking person has greeted the idea of freer trade in the world with enthusiasm. I share the concern of the hon. member for Northumberland, and no doubt the minister and his colleagues feel an equal concern about certain proposals in the United States. I wonder whether we could empower the governor in council not only to postpone the coming into force of any resolution but, as well, enable him to withdraw any cutbacks in our tariff if, later, quotas are set against the importation of Canadian goods.

● (3:40 p.m.)

I should also like to say that as is the case in other such situations, the ancillary legislation which I understand is to follow is just as important as are these resolutions. I refer to the legislation which will deal with the transitional period during which industry and workers will be adjusting to the cuts made following the Kennedy round, legislation which will, I hope, make provision for the capital and retooling required by industry as well as for opportunities and funds for retraining and relocation of employees. All of this, to us, makes one package and we are looking forward to discussing these measures as well as the resolutions.

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): I would only say on behalf of this party that we welcome the announcement by the minister with regard to the resolutions which are to be introduced.

[Mr. Hees.]

Surely this action is urgently required; one can but agree with the hon. gentleman that it is wise to retain with the governor in council the prerogative of determining when the Kennedy round concessions should come into effect, especially when one hears repeatedly about the attitude of the United States in implementing its own policies and the Kennedy round agreements which have been referred to earlier. It may also be necessary for the governor in council to retain the prerogative of withdrawing from some of these agreements should circumstances justify taking such action.

The disastrous effect on Canadian agriculture caused by the shift in United States wheat marketing policy following failure to renew the international wheat agreement is evidence that Canada must stand firmly on her own feet. In this regard I will only say I regret that Canada did not take a firmer stand earlier on this issue. It is certainly imperative that we safeguard our position in the future vis-à-vis other nations in respect to the Kennedy round agreements.

QUESTIONS

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

***DISMISSALS OF PUBLIC SERVANTS
FOR SECURITY REASONS**

Question No. 381—**Mr. Bell (Carleton):**

1. Pursuant to section 7(7) of the Financial Administration Act, as enacted by section 3 of chapter 74 of the Statutes of Canada 1966-67, has the Governor in Council promulgated regulations providing for the conduct of an inquiry into the dismissal of any public servant in the interest of the safety or security of Canada?

2. If so, on what date?

3. If not, what consideration has been given to the matter?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of National Revenue and President of the Treasury Board): The answer is as follows: 1. No regulations have been promulgated, and no case has arisen which would require provision to be made for such an inquiry.

2. Not applicable.

3. As a result of consideration by the officials responsible, the matter was referred to the royal commission on security as one falling within its terms of reference and on which it would clearly be desirable to have the advice of the commission.