

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*

certainly no politics involved here as the mayor is a senior official of the Liberal party.

It turned out that none of the local industries had been consulted by the department before the decision was made, or before a recommendation was sent to the minister. The customs official did agree that he would try to work out an effective service for the industries concerned. But nothing has been worked out to date, and the only person sent to consult with representatives of the industries was an official junior to the one who made the decision—and one can well imagine the situation this would create.

I received a letter from the minister's office dated July 3, a copy of a letter which had been sent to the mayor, indicating that everybody was happy and that all the industries were satisfied. Today, I discussed the matter with the heads of the companies concerned and I found that no one is happy at all. They are all extremely dissatisfied.

The industries concerned are all industries which require large amounts of material from the United States. They include the Ingersoll Machine Company and its related company, the Morrow Company, the Chemical Lime division of "STELCO" Chicago Vitreous, North American Cyanamid, Moto-Mower Limited and Standard Brands.

The removal of the customs port has caused the greatest possible inconvenience. Let me say that Ingersoll Machine alone has to bring in 175,000 lbs. a week of forgings and castings for use in the automobile industry, particularly in the making of gears. If normal customs duty were paid it would amount to nearly \$12,000 a week; it is not the fault of the local industry that the government entered into an automobile pact with the United States with the result that duties are not collected. As a result of the closing of the port, 90 tons a week now have to be shipped to Woodstock and sent back 20 miles with all the extra cost which this involves. I do not have the time to give further examples, though I have pages of them before me. I have given the minister

an account of the administrative incompetence of certain officials who act without proper consultation and, much worse, misinform senior officials of the department and the minister. This cannot help but cause embarrassment.

● (10:20 p.m.)

I shall be glad to provide the minister with any additional information he may require; he will understand I do not have sufficient time to do so at the moment under the limit imposed. I hope the minister will take a firm stand in this matter and do something to clean up the mess.

**Hon. Jean-Pierre Côté (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, the remarks of the hon. member this evening are quite different from the question he asked in the house the other day, which was whether it was the government's intention to reopen the customs port of Ingersoll, Ontario. It is the feeling of the department that equivalent and equally satisfactory service could be provided more economically from the nearby port of Woodstock, which is ten miles distant. I know it is always very hard when a customs port is closed but this department, like every other department, has been asked to cut its expenditures, if possible without hurting anybody.

As far as the disruption of major industries is concerned, I will have my officials look into this matter, with a view to giving advice and assistance to the industries affected, if the hon. member will provide me with the names of the companies in question. I see he is ready to give me some more information.

I will take note of other remarks made by the hon. member. I am surprised at the serious accusation he made in connection with officials in the area, but I will certainly look into the matter and write a report to the hon. member later on.

Motion agreed to and the house adjourned at 10.24 p.m.