

*Statutory Instruments Act*

to cushion the tariff changes, particularly on our major exports, I should like to ask the minister whether he can report to the House any specific items mentioned at that time which would give encouragement to Canadians?

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to leave this matter to my colleague the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce when he is in the House.

**Mr. Speaker:** Orders of the day.

• (3:40 p.m.)

**GOVERNMENT ORDERS****STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS ACT****PROVISION FOR EXAMINATION, PUBLICATION AND SCRUTINY**

The House proceeded to the consideration of Bill C-182, to provide for the examination, publication and scrutiny of regulations and other statutory instruments, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** I move:

That Bill C-182, an Act to provide for the examination, publication and scrutiny of regulations and other statutory instruments, be amended by deleting clause 10 thereof and that all subsequent clauses be renumbered accordingly.

It would be really wishing for the moon to have this motion accepted, Mr. Speaker. However, the clause of the bill which appears on page 7 of the amended text, as reported back by the committee, reads:

The Queen's Printer shall continue to publish the *Canada Gazette* as the official gazette of Canada.

If the simple tenets of statutory interpretation are applied to the words of this clause, the plain, grammatical, ordinary meaning of those words appear to be declaratory in nature; nothing more or less than that. The clause appears to presuppose that the public officer known as the Queen's Printer has been, and presently is, publishing and printing the official gazette of Canada known as the *Canada Gazette*. Given this premise, the clause would authorize the Queen's Printer to continue publishing and printing the *Canada Gazette* as the official gazette of Canada. Why was this particular clause included in this bill, Mr. Speaker? Is it necessary? Is there not a Queen's Printer?

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** The research people are working overtime.

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** Does he not print and publish the *Canada Gazette*, and is the *Canada Gazette* not the official gazette of Canada? I heard the minister interject just now. Not having spoken to anyone before, I asked the minister about this matter in committee, as he may recall, because the thing looked too pat, too inno-

[Mr. Saltsman.]

cent. My suspicions were confirmed. We will see where the argument leads.

**Mr. Baldwin:** This government could not be innocent; it does not know how to be.

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** Let us look at the official gazette of Canada from an historical point of view. What I am concerned about is the statutory authority for the *Canada Gazette*, that is, the statutory authority for the publication and the statutory authority for the financing of it. Perhaps I can deal with the historical aspect in a moment. Nevertheless, the minister indicated that somebody slipped up in April, 1969, because we suddenly found ourselves without any statutory authority for the *Canada Gazette*. In all this fine moving around, and notwithstanding the advice of all experts the government employs, somebody dropped, so to speak, the *Canada Gazette*. Some interesting consequences flow from this and that is something at which the minister will have to look.

In chapter 7 of the statutes of 1869, which is slightly over one hundred years ago, we find an act respecting the Office of the Queen's Printer and the Public Printing. Section 2 of that act provided:

It shall be the duty of the Queen's Printer to print and publish, or cause to be printed and published, for the Government, under his Superintendence, the Official Gazette of the Dominion, to be known as the "*Canada Gazette*"—

In that quotation from the act of 1869 is to be found the statutory authority for the *Canada Gazette*.

Over the years, a department of the government of Canada was set up by Parliament called the Department of Public Printing and Stationary. The Queen's Printer was made the head of that department. The last statutory citation for the Public Printing and Stationary Act is chapter 226 of the 1952 Revised Statutes. Section 2 of the original act was carried forward into chapter 226, with only a slight change in wording. Until April 1, 1969, section 27 provided that:

The Queen's Printer shall print and publish, or cause to be printed and published, for the Government, under his Superintendence, the statutes of Canada, the official gazette of Canada, which shall be known as the *Canada Gazette*—

Then, on April 1, 1969, the Government Organization Act, 1969, came into force. Section 105 provided for the repeal or amendment of various statutes to the extent indicated in Schedule B to that act. Schedule B indicated that the Public Printing and Stationary Act, Revised Statutes, Chapter 226, was repealed. Thereby, the Office of Queen's Printer, the Department of Public Printing and Stationary, and the "*Official Gazette of Canada* which shall be known as the *Canada Gazette*" were abolished. As I say, all these were abolished.

Part V of the Government Organization Act, 1969, established the Department of Supply and Services. Section 48 reconstituted the Office of the Queen's Printer and set out his responsibilities. Section 48 reads as follows:

The Minister may, by order, appoint an officer of the Department of Supply and Services to be the Queen's Printer for Can-