

Customs Tariff

signed during a given year are cyclically and regularly made public by the Department of External Affairs. I cannot say, however, if this one has been made public yet. If it can be of any assistance to the hon. member during the forthcoming discussions, I shall be pleased to table a copy of the trade agreement with New Zealand.

[English]

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, in support of the case made by my colleague, the hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert), I think it important to point out that in some respects Bill C-90 suffers from the same defect the other bill which was introduced has attached to it and about which the hon. member for the Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) spoke.

Mr. Bussi res: No.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Excuse me, may I be permitted to continue? It stems in a way from the budget papers. There is no question about that. In the budget papers of November 12, at page 121, we have the provisions that are herein contained. There is no indication by the provision of the actual trade agreement that was concluded between Canada and New Zealand that this particular matter had to come into force on November 12, 1981. Perhaps it would lapse when the required law was brought forward. The whole tenor of this bill is related to that trade agreement.

● (1630)

Mr. Bussi res: No.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Well, if it is not related to the whole agreement, then we are in the position of having an omnibus bill. I think it would be very important to set aside consideration of this bill until that particular matter was cleared up in the sense indicated by the hon. member for Yukon in connection with the other bill. The implementation, Mr. Speaker, of a trade agreement—and it may very well require implementation—should not be done through a budget proposal. If the minister himself is clear on this point, I do hope he will be able to clarify it for the rest of us.

[Translation]

Mr. Bussi res: Mr. Speaker, I am sorry the hon. member causes us to become aware of his ignorance. First of all, he surely has not read the bill. Second, he certainly knows nothing about the trade and economic co-operation agreement signed with New Zealand because, had he read the very first clause of the bill, if indeed he can read and understands something about the Customs Tariff, he would know the clause states specifically what changes will be made in the Customs Tariff as a result of that co-operative trading agreement. Obviously, the hon. member is talking through his hat and knows nothing about the subject. Let us stop wasting time and get on with the job!

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Order, please. Since the Minister of State for Finance (Mr. Bussi res) has offered to table the trade agreement with New Zealand, I wonder if we might seek the unanimous consent of the House to do that. Is it agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Agreed and so ordered.

On the point of order raised, I would indicate to the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich (Mr. Munro) that the Chair is not aware of grounds which would lead to the same argument as was made by the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) with respect to Bill C-93. It seems to me the issue we are faced with is exactly the point of order raised by the hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert) in which, while he has been in possession of the original international trade agreement with New Zealand, he indicates the possibility the bill itself is not necessarily totally explanatory of the new trade agreement. The difficulty, therefore, is that possibly he cannot be as well informed as he ought to be in order to deal with this bill.

I have some sympathy with that argument in the sense an hon. member may feel there is a gap in his information. However, no argument has been placed and no citations have been put forward. I have been in the House on previous occasions when the same argument was brought up. I cannot recollect the citations, but I do clearly recollect that the absence of the trade agreement on the floor of the House at the time of debate has never hindered a bill from going forward.

So I appreciate the point made and understand and sympathize with the hon. member's feeling that he would like to have better access to information. However, no citations have been mentioned and the Chair has not been offered any argument based on a precedent which might allow the Chair to rule in that regard. Hon. members will have noted that I consulted with the officers of the Table, and the ruling of the Chair has to be that the bill can go forward.

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[Translation]

Hon. Pierre Bussi res (Minister of State (Finance)) moved that Bill C-90, to amend the Customs Tariff and to repeal certain acts in consequence thereof, be read the second time and referred to a Committee of the Whole.

He said: Mr. Speaker, the bill we intend to consider today will make a number of major changes in the Customs tariff and will also bring in further changes of a more technical or administrative nature, all of which were presented in the