

*Customs Tariff*

Government to do through the back door what it is afraid to do through the House of Commons.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Pierre H. Vincent (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, Tuesday I heard what Members opposite had to say about Bill C-87. Unfortunately, not one actually spoke to Bill C-87 and the motions tabled in this House. Attempts were made to discuss free trade, although Bill C-87 is a strictly administrative measure. It is really unfortunate, Mr. Speaker, and I will start with Motion No. 2—

**Mr. Cassidy:** That is absolutely false!

**Mr. Vincent:** I will start with Motion No. 2, Mr. Speaker. They don't like to hear the truth on the other side of the House, but what do you expect?

Motion No. 2 demands parliamentary approval for increases and reductions of certain tariffs. Mr. Speaker, I am sure you realize this motion would be disastrous for the administration and development of this country. In certain cases, decisions must be taken quickly, including decisions on increases or reduction in tariffs and that are vital to the development of this country and its individual regions. That is how things are done, Mr. Speaker. It has always worked that way, and the public interest has always been protected. So I think Motion No. 2 should be rejected on those grounds.

Mr. Speaker, Motion No. 3 would deny the Governor in Council the right to reduce rates or give certain developing countries lower preferential rates. Mr. Speaker, to vote in favour of this motion might distort international trade, and I want to say that I am speaking strictly about the substance of Bill C-87 and not about free trade.

Motion No. 3 refers to developing countries, and when I heard the debate on the motion this week, Hon. Members were talking about free trade. I do not think the United States is a developing country.

Motion No. 5 would prohibit the Government from quickly taking a position when imports are harming our Canadian producers. That is what the motion intends to do, Mr. Speaker. That motion was presented by the socialist party that wants to prevent quick action to help our Canadian producers when they are harmed by imports.

**Mr. Cassidy:** That is just not true! There is no restriction.

**Mr. Vincent:** This is the position of the New Democratic Party: Kill our Canadian businesses as soon as possible! That is their position.

**Mr. Cassidy:** That is absolutely false!

**Mr. Vincent:** That is their position. That is what the motion is about. If the Hon. Member would care to read it and understand it, that is what it says.

The same thing applies to Motion No. 6. Again, they want to restrict government intervention with respect to imports that are harming our Canadian producers. That is what Motion No. 6 is about. Read it carefully—

**Mr. Cassidy:** On a point of order.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** The Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy), on a point of order.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Mr. Speaker, I am sorry, but the Hon. Member made statements that are absolutely untrue. There is no interference with a government's authority to adopt motions to block imports—

[*English*]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** That is not a point of order. It is a point of debate.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Vincent:** Mr. Speaker, if the Hon. Member wants the floor, he will have his chance. Now perhaps he should find out how the system works. If certain goods arrive in Canada tomorrow morning which could harm our businesses, and if we have to get parliamentary approval, and if the Opposition Party acts up as usual and tries to obstruct the proceedings, even when the issue is urgent, I do not think the motion proposed by the socialist party would be a good thing for Canadian business. The truth always hurts, and I notice that at least the Hon. Member was not asleep and that he listened to what I had to say.

Motion No. 7 boils down to the same thing. Here again, they want to prevent Canada from acting quickly in case of imports from the Caribbean Commonwealth.

**Mr. Cassidy:** That is a lie, that is absolutely false!

**Mr. Vincent:** Mr. Speaker, Tuesday I listened to him and I did not interrupt. I trust he will have the courtesy to do the same.

Motion No. 9 is intended to keep the Government from conducting its foreign policy in a sensible and orderly fashion while protecting Canada's interests. Mr. Speaker, Motion No. 9 does not consider the fact that the Minister of Finance must advise Parliament of what he has done within two weeks. So I think, Mr. Speaker, that the interests of Canadians and the interests of this country are well protected, while Canada has requisite flexibility to apply its foreign policy.

Mr. Speaker, Motion No. 10 suggests setting up a tribunal. Another socialist invention that will harm Canadian business. Mr. Speaker, here again, and this is a very important point, when imports are dumped on our market, we must have ways to deal quickly with the situation. Motion No. 10 would merely make existing procedures take much longer.

As for Motion No. 11, Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could give you a quick summary. They simply want to paralyze the administration of this country and with it, Parliament, by