

which will be presented presumably after the House resumes its sittings following the summer recess.

The measure before us is a straightforward one. It replaces a part-time board with a full-time board; it strengthens the board and makes it possible for it to divide into panels and deal more effectively with the mass of work which has accumulated.

I joint those who have expressed appreciation of the work of the Chairman, Mr. Finkelman. Those who have listened to the testimony of both management and employee representatives have been impressed by the degree to which he has managed to retain the complete confidence of both sides, and his integrity and devotion to this work.

There is certainly recognition at this stage that a substantial backlog of work must be faced by the board. This is one of the principal motivations for the bill before us. Like many who have attended the committee hearings, I have been concerned about the number of prosecutions which have accumulated and by the inconsistency in the treatment of one illegal strike situation as compared with another. We recognize that the board has been grossly overworked and that a greater strain has been placed on the physical health and resources of those who serve, in many instances, on a part-time basis with the board. The measure before us is a means of rationalizing and strengthening the board.

I am confident, on the basis of the indications which have been forthcoming so far in this debate, that the bill will receive speedy passage and will soon go to the committee for clause by clause examination.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and referred to the Special Joint Committee on Employer-Employee Relations in the Public Service.

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CUSTOMS TARIFF (NO. 3)

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (for the Minister of Finance) moved that Bill C-67, to amend the Customs Tariff (No. 3), be read the second time and referred to committee of the whole.

Mr. Jack Cullen (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, once again I should like to express my thanks to the hon. member for York-Simcoe (Mr. Stevens) and to the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) for permitting me, as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance, to handle the second reading of this particular bill.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): You should handle them all.

Mr. Cullen: If I get the co-operation I am receiving today, I will. The bill we are now considering will implement the Customs Tariff changes contained in the notice

Customs Tariff

of ways and means motion which was tabled in the House on June 23.

The Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) said in his budget speech that because of the multilateral trade negotiations now in progress in Geneva, many requests for tariff changes will have to be considered in the course of these negotiations. The minister did, however, propose about a score of tariff reductions to come into effect on June 24.

One measure of considerable interest is the liberalization of the so-called gift item. In the course of preparation for the budget the minister received a number of representations requesting an increase in the \$10 limit on gifts which could be sent by persons abroad to friends in Canada, or brought into Canada by non-residents as gifts to friends, without payment of duties and taxes. More important, however, were the representations objecting to the requirement that duty and taxes be paid on the full value of gifts when the value exceeded the \$10 limit even by a small amount. In response to these representations it is proposed to raise the present valuation limit on gifts from \$10 to \$15. In the event that the value of the gift exceeds the new \$15 limit, duty and taxes will be assessed only on the amount in excess of this limit.

Continuation of the temporary duty-free entry provisions for aircraft and aircraft engines and for certain petroleum products is also proposed. For petroleum products such as gasoline, fuel oils, aviation and diesel fuels, for which free entry would have expired on October 23, 1975, duty-free entry will be extended until June 30, 1977. Aircraft and aircraft engines of types or sizes not made in Canada will be allowed duty-free entry for a further year until June 30, 1976.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): I have heard that for 18 years.

Mr. Cullen: Customs duties are being eliminated in respect of a number of other products, either by the introduction of new tariff items or by the amendment of existing items. Hon. members will have noted that duty-free entry is being provided for air conditioners for installation in combines. Also, in response to numerous representations, duty-free entry is being proposed for liturgical and certain other printed music, and for hymn books.

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Dealing with Bill C-67, I think it is fair to say that the matters we wish to raise are more appropriately dealt with in committee of the whole. I hope government representatives will accept my remarks, which will be brief, in the understanding that most of my comments will be forthcoming at the later stage.

I would say, in a general way, that I am disappointed that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) has failed to outline any over-all industrial strategy for Canada. This applies to the bill before us as well as to a number of other measures and to succeeding budget presentations. I believe that when one finds the Economic Council of Canada coming out with an extremely thoughtful study on developing trade trends in the world, it is time the Minister of Finance gave more direction to members of the House and to the public as to what, in fact, the government sees for the future as far as Canadian trade patterns