

Customs Tariff

Mr. Benidickson: On the main item as amended may I say this. The minister indicated that this was indeed an item that did involve, in the recent past, negotiations with the United States because Canada had approached the United States for certain amendments to its agreements with respect to tariffs on other items. I wonder whether the minister would just indicate to us the essential items in this tariff category that were involved in the trading and perhaps the value of the trade per annum.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): The changes in the items or the descriptions, of course, are set forth in italics. The essential change, as far as rate is concerned, is that the rate has been reduced from 7½ per cent to free on goods of a class not made in Canada.

Mr. Benidickson: Are these invariably motor trucks rather than passenger automobiles?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Yes; all motor trucks.

Mr. Benidickson: Would the minister indicate what has been the past annual import value of items that are now subject to change?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Perhaps we can give my friend that information at the end.

Mr. Benidickson: I did not want to follow up until we came to an unusual item the remarks that were made by the hon. member for Vancouver South. But the minister will no doubt remember that I made reference to this delegation that we all received here from Windsor, Oakville and probably Oshawa, from the automotive trades industry because of unemployment that was bothering them severely. At that time the Minister of National Revenue indicated that rather than reducing the tariffs, as is indicated here, he and his new administration had provided something that was of benefit to the people that were working in Canada at this trade. Would the Minister of Finance give the committee some information on that matter? The industry as a whole was complaining that many of the things were imported from the United States that could very well be manufactured in Windsor, Oshawa or Oakville but that they were not manufactured there because of the protective element. I understood from the Minister of National Revenue that something had been done by the new administration in their favour. This would rather indicate something that makes it easier to import such things as transmissions and so on about which the hon. member for Vancouver South spoke.

[The Deputy Chairman.]

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Chairman, I do not know precisely what was the context of the remarks attributed to my colleague the Minister of National Revenue. However, I think it is obvious that he was talking about something quite different from what is involved in this resolution respecting item 438d. The changes contemplated here were requested by the Canadian automotive chamber of commerce—

Mr. Benidickson: Oh, surely; but they are dominated by United States industry.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):—and the automotive parts association who represent all the manufacturers of automotive parts in Canada.

Item agreed to.

Mr. Benidickson: Mr. Chairman, I was lenient with respect to 438c. I knew that we had before us a reference to something that might be done by the governor in council. I wonder whether the committee would grant me the indulgence of allowing me to refer to item 438c, although I admit that we are on item 438d.

The Deputy Chairman: Has the hon. member the consent of the committee to revert to item 438c?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Benidickson: I deliberately avoided discussion on item 438c because of the minister's reference that item 438d was the only automobile item that had reference to GATT. But in item 438c there is a paragraph, namely paragraph 7. As the minister and all hon. members of the committee will find, it reads as follows:

(7) The Governor in Council may make such regulations, if any, as are deemed necessary for carrying out the provisions of this item.

Have there been any orders in council with respect to this item since the new administration took office?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): None has been made since this new government came into office. But item 438c is not proposed to be amended in this respect at all.

Mr. Benidickson: Not here. I meant since June, 1957.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): It was in operation during the time my hon. friend was parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Finance and no additional use has been made of that power since the new government came into office.

Customs tariff—438e. Internal combustion engines of 348 cubic inches and under in displacement; Parts of the foregoing;