

Duties Relief Act

Canada for 22 years, the longest term served by any Prime Minister in the Commonwealth. This is the way to teach the history of Canada—slowly and progressively.

● (1210)

When one considers the \$100-bill the same can be said. "Who is that Prime Minister"? The answer is that he is the Prime Minister who was in power during the First World War in which we lost 60,000 young Canadians whose names are inscribed in a book in the chapel here in the Parliament Buildings. We turn over a new page of that book every day. This is how to teach Canadians the history of Canada. It is not so difficult.

Bill C-118 provides us with a golden occasion. It is a Bill on which we will vote and which will say to those who are doing the job that it is the wish of Canadians, and of Parliamentarians, that progressively and intelligently without hurting anyone's feelings that it be done. I know that some people feel very strongly about not having any change, while others feel strongly about having faster change, as I do. The Canadian way is always the middle of the road. There are those who do not want any change and those who are in a hurry for a change, such as myself. My response to that is, okay, if you take a step forward then I will take a step back. We usually meet in the middle. That is the type of proposal I like to make. I hope that my suggestions will be retained by those people responsible. Therefore we will vote in favour of the Bill.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to and Bill read the third time and passed.

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DUTIES RELIEF ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

Hon. Walter McLean (for Mrs. McDougall) moved that Bill C-98, an Act to consolidate various enactments that provide for drawbacks, reductions, refunds and remissions of duties, other than export drawbacks for which provision is made in Sections 82 to 87 of the Customs Act, to amend the Customs Tariff and to repeal or revoke the enactments so consolidated, as reported (without amendment) from a Legislative Committee, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Walter McLean (for Mrs. McDougall) moved that the Bill be read the third time and passed.

Mr. G. M. Gurbin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, the Government is pleased to see the coming to pass of Bill C-98. It is long overdue and is

very much welcomed by the business community in general, and by anyone who has anything to do with the complicated and difficult tariff structures which we have been faced with in Canada for many years.

Principally, the Bill amalgamates and consolidates a number of pieces of legislation, Orders in Council and different techniques that have been used for a long time to try to provide opportunities and to give relief to people who deserve relief from tariffs that have been imposed on a variety of goods that come into Canada. This also applies to goods that are not available in Canada or are brought into Canada and then exported again to other countries, or are brought into Canada and are processed and then exported. This Bill has brought together those disparate pieces from a variety of sources into one comprehensive piece of legislation. It is readily available to see and to take advantage of in an area in which often only experts could ferret out the necessary information and provide the opportunities that are now available.

In the 1985 Budget the Government made a commitment to relieve both paper burden and the bureaucracy that are associated with many Government activities. Bill C-98 is representative of the constructive efforts that have been made along that line. Indeed, there will be fewer costs of Government, there will be less paper burden for individual businesses with which to deal in individual cases and there will also, not insignificantly, be fewer costs to small business people who will be able to use this current vehicle. The cost that will be avoided will be that cost which is now caused by the payment of a tariff which is eventually refunded. Instead of having money tied up for a tariff or fee, that duty which is imposed now, in many cases that extra financial burden, will be relieved.

By way of example, and not to protract the discussion at all, one of the interesting and important things that happens with this particular piece of legislation is that there will be provided a list of machinery that is produced in Canada or available in Canada from Canadian manufacturers, and there will be a list of machinery that is understood to be unavailable. In this way an individual manufacturer or businessperson will be able to refer directly to this list to determine whether or not equipment is available. If it is on the list of non-available Canadian equipment supplied by Canadian manufacturers then that person will automatically have the right to avoid any duty or tariff that would be imposed on machinery imported from other countries. There are other examples, but I think that that is probably the most outstanding one. There is no need to explain further the obvious advantages of this particular piece of legislation.

In conclusion, this is really a good news type of Bill. My understanding is that the legislative committee, with the co-operation of members of both opposition Parties, has facilitated the passage of this in all ways. It was introduced in February of this year and it now comes to us for third reading. We look forward to its proclamation as soon as possible, with the continued co-operation of all members of all Parties.