

Customs Tariff

they do, they do in their best interest. They do not consider us for one solitary second in the process they go through. There is no one in the Congress of the United States who stands up and argues on behalf of Canada in the negotiation process. Therefore, before we give away that little protection we have left, I suggest that we wait until after the negotiation process has begun. We should wait until after we see what it is they are after. Then we should start to talk about how to bring down tariffs, if need be and if it is mutually advantageous, to a level which will cause them to be no longer a barrier.

• (1650)

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[Translation]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 46, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: The Hon. Member for Broadview-Greenwood (Ms. McDonald)—Publishing Industry (a) Prentice-Hall Company take-over (b) Government policy; the Hon. Member for Regina East (Mr. de Jong)—Trust Companies—Pioneer Trust (a) Plight of uninsured depositors (b) Uninsured income averaging certificates; the Hon. Member for Cape Breton Highlands-Canso (Mr. O'Neil)—Regional Industrial Expansion—Employment opportunities in Cape Breton.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[Translation]

CUSTOMS TARIFF

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Epp (Provencher) (for the Minister of Finance) that Bill C-71, an Act to amend the Customs Tariff, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

Mr. Lanthier: Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether it was my introductory speech or the vindictive spirit we were threatened with this afternoon by the Leader of the "small" opposition, but I believe he neither read the Bill nor listened to our comments.

I would like to say first of all, that all the changes in this legislation were made in direct consultation with industry. Second, many of these changes were the result of a decision of

the Tariff Board, a Government agency set up in co-operation with the private sector, and whose operations are entirely independent. I therefore fail to understand the Hon. Member's remarks. Third, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that, to my great surprise, there were many references taking the U.S. Government as an example. It was truly a revelation, coming from the New Democratic Party, to be told today that we should take the U.S. Government's protectionism as an example. Since when has the U.S. Government been an example for the New Democratic Party?

So this afternoon, I had two revelations. First of all, they completely ignored the intent of the Act, which was to enshrine changes already in effect and which had already been approved in consultation with the private sector, and second, we have the New Democratic Party taking the Americans as an example of how to run a country. Let me tell you, Sir, that this is a surprise to me.

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, I do not understand the reply. The Minister's Parliamentary Secretary cannot possibly use that as an argument.

[English]

It is not accurate, first of all, to say that that is what I said. I did not. I said we ought not to move until after we know quite clearly what the new U.S. posture is going to be. That is quite different from saying that we should emulate or imitate them. I said we had to know what they were going to do. It was a difficulty perhaps in the way I expressed it and I want to make clear to the Parliamentary Secretary that that is what it was.

Beyond that, I think the Hon. Member knows full well that I did read the Bill. That is what caused me to rise. If I had not read the Bill I would not rise. I never speak about things that I do not know anything about.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Deans: To infer that such is the case is to do a disservice to the House of Commons. I never questioned his method or motive. I do not doubt but that he is a lackey for the Government and I acknowledge that. I, on the other hand, am an independent spirit in this regard and I want to express the concerns that I personally feel, concerns I am sure that if he were not so closely tied to the Minister's coattails he would want to express, too.

[Translation]

Mr. Lanthier: Mr. Speaker, this afternoon nobody is watching me. Both my Ministers are absent, so I am quite free to speak and that is indeed the spirit in which I have spoken.

[English]

But I must add though, if I want to make myself clear—

Mr. Deans: Once in a while.

Mr. Lanthier: I do not think that we ought to rely on our translators, but should tell them the misunderstanding that exists between the Leader of the small Opposition and myself