

*Ways and Means—Supply Bill*

Mr. EULER: I have had a great many communications similar to the one read by the leader of the opposition. Representations have been made that in view of the fact that there are varying discounts in connection with the importation of different makes of automobiles, and that as difficulties in that regard are experienced in the department, it might be well to have a uniform rate of discount. That is as far as it has gone; nothing whatever has been done.

Mr. BENNETT: Is such action contemplated?—because we know a good deal in connection with what the hon. gentleman is talking about. There is an election pending, and we know what happened on a former occasion. We have the right to ask for a definite assurance, and we will have it if this house has to sit until to-morrow morning.

Mr. EULER: My hon. friend is even pointing his finger at me, and I may tell him that that is entirely unnecessary. I have given him the facts.

Mr. BENNETT: Those are not the facts.

Mr. EULER: No action has been taken.

Mr. BENNETT: I have asked if action is contemplated. That is the question I asked, and I have a right to ask it.

Mr. EULER: The representations have not been considered.

Mr. BENNETT: That does not answer my question. Does my hon. friend propose to give effect to those representations?

Mr. EULER: My hon. friend knows perfectly well that that would be a matter of policy, and that no one minister could make a definite statement in regard to it. Representations have been made and received, and have not been considered.

Mr. BENNETT: Now, does the minister think that we have no idea of what is involved in that?

Mr. EULER: I cannot read my hon. friend's mind.

Mr. BENNETT: No, but my hon. friend will understand his language. We can have no difficulty in understanding what is behind this; none whatever. Surely the hon. members who come from Saskatchewan and members to my left will have some interest in this matter, if they believe in what they have been talking about so far as protection is

[Mr. Bennett.]

concerned. The hon. gentleman says representations have been made to him. Were they made to him through the chairman of the tariff board?

Mr. EULER: They were not.

Mr. BENNETT: Then the representations which were made to the tariff board in connection with it have nothing to do with the representations made to him. Is that clear?

Mr. EULER: What were the representations?

Mr. BENNETT: The hon. gentleman asks what the representations were. They were representations in connection with varying rates of discount that were made by importers of goods into this country, and it was suggested that a uniform rate might be established on such importations for tariff purposes. The hon. gentleman at once sees what the effect of that would be; it would change the whole incidence of taxation with respect to given matters. Is the incidence of taxation to be changed by order in council with respect to automobiles? That is the question I asked.

Mr. EULER: The question is really one of administration. My hon. friend knows very well that as a matter of administration, when difficulty might be experienced in establishing what the discounts are to be, the government would have power to establish certain rates of discount. Certain difficulties do exist. I am not prepared to say that they exist to such a degree that we would be justified by order in council in establishing a certain uniform rate of discount. It does not follow either that if a certain fixed rate of discount were adopted it would increase the protection.

Mr. BENNETT: I did not say anything about increasing protection.

Mr. EULER: It might reduce it, as a matter of fact. The matter would have to be considered from the point of view of the administration of the department itself. No action has been taken at all.

Mr. BENNETT: I will ask this: Have these varying rates of discount existed now for the first time or have they existed for the last three years?

Mr. EULER: For a long time; and I can tell my hon. friend that it has been constantly necessary, in order that we might ascertain the actual prices in the country of origin, to make investigations in the United States to see whether those rates actually correspond with the rates made to apply when the goods are ex-