

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, December 15, 1970

The House met at 2 p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

TRADE

TABLING OF AGREEMENT RESTRAINING CERTAIN JAPANESE EXPORTS TO CANADA

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 41(2) I should like to table in both official languages the export restraint agreement covering certain Japanese exports to Canada during 1970, and texts of letters exchanged between Ambassador Kondo of Japan and myself dated December 7 and 11, 1970, confirming the arrangement.

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FUNDY POWER AUTHORITY

PROVISIONS FOR ESTABLISHMENT, MEMBERSHIP, OBJECTS AND DUTIES, ETC.

On the order: Introduction of Bills:

December 11, 1970—Mr. Nowlan—Bill intituled: "An Act to establish the Fundy Power Authority".

Mr. Speaker: Before putting the motion I think I should mention to the hon. member for Annapolis Valley that the bill which is proposed for consideration by the House has caused me some misgivings. In many ways it is more akin to a private bill than to a public bill. I am sure the hon. member himself will have recognized that. At the same time, I am fully aware of the financial obligations entailed by the presentation of a private bill, and the nature of the propositions included in the proposed bill perhaps could not require that the hon. member should personally be saddled with these responsibilities.

In many ways this bill is perhaps a cross between a private bill and a public bill, or what has been called a hybrid bill. Unfortunately, our Standing Orders do not make provision for the presentation of a hybrid bill. There is no such—I was tempted to say "animal" but that would be highly unparliamentary. I would say that our Standing Orders do not provide for the presentation of such a bill. I would rather consider it a public bill and allow the hon. member, with a caveat, the right to present his bill.

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-210, to establish the Fundy Power Authority.

• (2:10 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House that the hon. member shall have leave to introduce the said bill?

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, I fully appreciate your caveat. I followed the precedent of the Newfoundland Tunnel Authority and a few other bills.

The purpose of this bill is to establish a hybrid body to be known as the Fundy Power Authority, involving the three Maritime governments, the federal government and associated agencies, to promote the multipurpose development of Fundy tidal power, potentially the greatest feasible single undeveloped power source on this continent.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

TRADE

POSSIBLE TARIFF WAR—SUGGESTED GATT CONFERENCE— GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce a question relating to trade. Arising out of the suggestion of members of the government that there ought to be a further round of GATT with a view to considering possible reductions of tariffs to avoid the possibility of a tariff war, particularly between the United States and the Common Market, can the minister tell the House whether this has just been a suggestion or whether he or some other member of the government has actually canvassed the members of GATT with a view to launching such a conference?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, this is more than a view on our part. To make things very clear, let me say that we have suggested two things. We have suggested that a number of elements which are presently being studied in GATT in Geneva should be extracted from the preparatory work and should be the object of international negotiation. These would be subjects that would not create major difficulty in the negotiations for enlargement going on at the same time.

Second, we have suggested that before the transitional period is over there should be a "mondialisation" of the results of EEC enlargement. These are the two things we have suggested, and efforts are being made now to convince others that this is the proper approach. Mr. Olivier Long, the Director General of GATT, is familiar with these ideas. I believe he shares some of them and is trying to work toward the same objective.