

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

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**Monday, December 11, 1967**

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

### PROCEDURE

First, second and third reports of special committee on procedure—Mr. MacEachen.

[*Note: For text of above reports see today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

● (2:40 p.m.)

### TRADE

#### REPORT BY MINISTER ON RETURN FROM EUROPE

**Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, I have just returned from western Europe where I attended ministerial meetings of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in Geneva and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development in Paris. In addition I had talks with British ministers in London and visited Brussels, the seat of the European Economic Community, and the capitals of the four Scandinavian countries, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland.

I beg leave, Mr. Speaker, to table the communiqué of the GATT meeting in Geneva held November 22 to November 24.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Is that agreed?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Winters:** Mr. Speaker, Canada was among the leaders at this meeting in calling for a continued and sustained effort by all countries participating in the GATT toward further reduction and removal of barriers to trade. The conference reaffirmed the primary GATT objective of trade liberalization. In the light of the recent successful conclusion of the Kennedy round it was recognized that no new major and comprehensive trade negotiation could be expected in the near future. It was agreed, however, to proceed to prepare for further advance and a full work program for this purpose has been established.

Canada advocated trade liberalization covering both tariff and non-tariff barriers, including negotiations for freer trade in a number of important industrial sectors. On behalf of the government I urged duty free

treatment for primary industrial commodities and the elimination of nuisance duties. While noting the special factors affecting production and trade in agricultural products, I indicated this sector too should be the object of further trade liberalization. I called for a comprehensive program to improve the trading opportunities of the developing countries. Canada also suggested a new look at the possibilities for improved arrangements for east-west trade on a case by case basis.

Although the communiqué is in the general language characteristic of international meetings with representation from a large number of countries, I can assure hon. members that all of Canada's recommendations are reflected in it. Accordingly it constitutes a substantial step forward.

I also wish to table, Mr. Speaker, the text of the press communiqué agreed at the conclusion of the meeting of ministers of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development held in Paris November 30 to December 1.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Is that agreed?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Winters:** At this meeting the delegation had the benefit of the able assistance of the hon. member for Rosedale, the parliamentary secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Macdonald).

The main issue was how to assist the developing countries to increase both their present and potential trade. The O.E.C.D. endorsed at the meeting a certain number of considerations relating to a possible generalized system of temporary trade preferences for the developing countries. These considerations will be presented in February in New Delhi at the second meeting of the United Nations conference for trade and development and will form the basis of a common approach by the developed countries at that meeting.

The details of any preferential arrangement remain to be worked out. I indicated the kinds of conditions and reservations which in our view would need to be observed in developing any such arrangement. I said that Canada's final position with respect to the suggested preferential system would