

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, October 2, 1962

The house met at 11 a.m.

(Translation):

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF FRENCH PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

Mr. Speaker: Order. Before formally opening this morning's sitting I would ask the house leave to mention the presence in the Speaker's gallery of a delegation of four members of the national assembly of the French Republic.

This delegation, headed by Mr. Bosson, includes Mr. Thorailler, Mr. Douzans and Mr. Collet, secretary of the delegation.

These honourable gentlemen are on a tour of Canada. They have visited industrial plants in Quebec and Ontario. They have visited some of our universities in Quebec. They are also to tour Ottawa.

In addition, being parliamentarians, they are most interested in the proceedings of our own House of Commons. Therefore, I do not think I would be indiscreet if I revealed that I think I noticed them as spectators in various parts of the galleries yesterday.

I am sure I express the general feeling of this assembly in extending to them a most sincere welcome, the more so since the weather in Ottawa is so wonderful at this time of the year. Once again, I wish them a most happy stay in Canada.

(Text):

I would crave the indulgence of the house to draw to the attention of hon. members the presence in the Speaker's gallery of a delegation of four members of the French national assembly. They are members of the foreign affairs commission and have come over on the initiative of the French government to look at Canada, to look at some of our industrial and commercial installations, in fact to look into Canada and, in particular, of course, as parliamentarians they are interested in what goes on in our House of Commons.

I am sure that I speak for all hon. members in wishing them well and extending to them a very cordial welcome.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

TRADE

GATT—ANNOUNCEMENT OF LONG TERM COTTON TEXTILES ARRANGEMENT

Hon. George C. Nowlan (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I am happy to inform the house that the secretariat of the general agreement on trade and tariffs announced yesterday that a new long term arrangement on cotton textiles has come into force. Besides Canada, countries that have so far agreed to participate are the United States and the United Kingdom, on behalf of Hong Kong as well as itself; the six members of the European economic community; Japan, India, Pakistan, Portugal, Israel and the United Arab Republic. Several other countries are expected to agree to join in the near future.

The long term arrangement, which has five years to run, replaces the short term arrangement under GATT that expired September 30. There are two chief aims: to expand export opportunities for less developed countries that are engaged to a large extent in cotton textile production; to prevent disruptions in the domestic markets of importing countries.

Canada's position as both an important producer and importer of cotton textiles is a special one. This position is recognized in the arrangement. As a result, Canada is not committed to increase its imports of cotton textiles from low cost countries over the next five years. This does not mean that there will be no increases. In a letter to the executive secretary of GATT dated August 25, the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Green) said:

It is the intention of the government to continue to pursue a policy which, while avoiding disruption of the Canadian market for sensitive textile items, would permit an orderly expansion of the trade in cotton textiles on fair and reasonable terms when warranted by market conditions in Canada.

AGRICULTURE

EGGS—ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRICE SUPPORT PROGRAM

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I wish to announce that the agricultural stabilization board has been authorized to support the price of eggs by a deficiency payment program for the twelve month period from October 1, 1962 to September 30, 1963 at a national average