

*Currency and Exchange Act*

another? However, recognizing that as years go by different types of gold transactions between countries develop, this Bill authorizes the Minister to engage in such transactions, now using appointed agents if he feels that is appropriate.

The other major change involves treating gains received from gold sales as accounting gains rather than as current income to be included in the Consolidated Revenue Fund. This is obviously an important change and one that needs to be implemented. My general concern is that there are a number of references in the Bill that would provide more discretion to be used by the Minister of Finance. When one considers that an increasing number of Bills that we debate give more discretion to the responsible Minister, it is a trend that I believe needs to be examined. While a particular Minister of Finance may fulfil his responsibilities with honour and integrity, upon reflection one does not always have that same level of confidence with respect to other individuals. Therefore, I believe that putting more discretion in the hands of Ministers opens the entire matter up to more interpretation and builds, in a sense, vagaries into the system.

However, in order not to prolong this discussion unnecessarily, we will be supporting the housekeeping amendments that essentially make up Bill C-11. We will do our best to pass this Bill with considerable haste to enable us to get on with other more appropriate and important debate.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault):** Is the House ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** Question.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault):** Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the second time and, by unanimous consent, the House went into committee thereon, Mr. Guilbault in the chair.

Clauses 1 to 9 inclusive agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

● (1540)

**Mr. Evans:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. On Bill C-8 as well as on Bill C-7, which will follow, we have agreed that both of these Bills will be referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs and not to the Committee of the Whole.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault):** Is there unanimous consent for the proposal made by the Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Evans)?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault):** Agreed and so ordered.

**SPECIAL IMPORT MEASURES ACT**

## MEASURE TO ESTABLISH

**Hon. Roy MacLaren (Minister of State (Finance))** moved that Bill C-8, an Act respecting the imposition of anti-dumping and countervailing duties, to amend the Currency and Exchange Act, the Customs Tariff and the Export and Import Permits Act and to repeal the Anti-dumping Act, be now read a second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.

He said: Mr. Speaker, Bill C-8 implements the legislative changes set out in the Notice of Ways and Means Motion that I tabled in the House in December. It provides for the imposition of anti-dumping and countervailing duties, it amends the Currency and Exchange Act, the Customs Tariff and the Export and Import Permits Act, and it repeals the current Anti-dumping Act. It also proposes a few consequential amendments of a technical nature to other Acts.

The Bill is the product of a lengthy consultative process that began with the publication by the then Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen) of a discussion paper entitled *Proposals on Import Policy* in 1980. The proposals were referred to the Standing Committee on Finance for study which established a sub-committee on import policy to examine the proposals. The sub-committee held public hearings and presented its report in 1982. It accepted most of the 1980 proposals and made recommendations to deal with other issues raised during its work. Additional comments were subsequently received from the public after the issuance of the sub-committee report. The Bill now before us reflects the original proposals, the sub-committee report and the representations from the public.

Before going into details, I should like to recall the purpose of the legislative changes proposed. They are designed to ensure that the Government has the necessary authority to take greater advantage of our rights under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, GATT, and of the agreements on non-tariff measures negotiated during the Tokyo Round of multilateral trade negotiations which was concluded in 1979, in particular the agreements on anti-dumping and countervailing duties. They are particularly aimed at ensuring that Canada is equipped to deal effectively with injurious import competition and other trade problems. They will ensure that Canada's procedures are as effective as those of our main trading partners who have already adopted similar legislation.

In order to achieve these objectives, the Bill proposes changes in legislation relating to the imposition of anti-dumping and countervailing duties, to emergency safeguard action on imports and to the taking of trade measures to protect our trade interests.

The proposed Special Import Measures Act replaces the current anti-dumping and countervailing duty legislation and contains most of the legislative changes proposed in the Bill. Following this, a brief review of its provisions, I shall address other related amendments to the Customs Tariff and Export and Import Permits Act. The amendments to the Currency and Exchange Act are minor; they simply provide a firmer