

now understand that the United States government has made a decision, and that decision is that it will not, for the time being at least, place any restriction on the importation of foreign cars.

● (1430)

So the question that I would have directed to the Minister of State for Economic Development is this: In view of the United States decision—if, in fact, I am correct in believing that it has been taken—can it now be assumed or understood that Canada, for the time being at least, is not considering import controls or restrictions on the importation of foreign cars? I might add that I believe it is a fact that for October 1979 the total importation of foreign cars into Canada was 55 per cent higher than for October the previous year, and that for the ten months ending in October 1979 the total imports were up by just over 40 per cent as compared with the same ten-month period of the previous year.

**Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, might I ask, by way of clarification, if the honourable senator, when he speaks of foreign cars, means non-United States foreign cars?

**Senator Smith:** I thank the honourable senator for bringing that to my attention. I did mean to make it clear that United States cars were excluded from the import of my question.

**Senator Frith:** Well, honourable senators, I read yesterday's *New York Times* that the Federal Trade Commission made the decision that has been referred to after lengthy hearings. I shall endeavour to ascertain whether the government will automatically follow the results of that inquiry in the United States, or will simply take it into account in making its own decision.

### PRIVATE BILL

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION—SECOND READING—DEBATE  
ADJOURNED

**Hon. John M. Godfrey** moved the second reading of Bill S-15, respecting the Royal Canadian Legion.

He said: Honourable senators, this bill provides for four amendments to the act incorporating the Royal Canadian Legion. The first amendment deals with membership of the Legion, and an amendment in somewhat similar terms came before the Senate in Bill S-10 about two-and-a-half years ago in March 1978. That amendment provided that the Royal Canadian Legion, as well as offering membership to members of the armed forces, could have as members other persons who support the purposes and objects of the Legion. Senator Connolly, the sponsor of that bill, gave rather an extensive speech at that time describing the Royal Canadian Legion, its membership and so on, and I refer honourable senators to that speech which is reported in *Hansard* for March 16, 1978, at page 463. I shall not repeat what he said at that time.

The bill went to committee, where there were objections expressed to opening up the membership so widely, because

this had not been approved at a Dominion Convention of the Legion. There were, therefore, amendments proposed and carried in committee restricting the extension of full membership to the RCMP and sons and daughters of members of the armed forces. The bill, as amended, was passed by the Senate, and sent to the House of Commons where it received third reading on that basis.

At the Legion Convention held in Edmonton in June 1978 this question was discussed, and it was decided that they wanted the wider powers—that is to say, they did not want to restrict the extended membership to the RCMP and sons and daughters of members of the armed forces, but to extend it to other persons who support the purposes and objects of the Legion. This was specifically approved at that convention.

Then again at a convention held in Penticton this summer three other amendments were approved, which I shall refer to briefly. I might also add that when this bill was discussed in 1978 it was pointed out that the average age of the members of the Legion at that time was 61, and since a couple of years have passed since then it would seem that it is now 63. As time goes on, it is obvious that the people who have been the backbone of the Legion will gradually die off. The Legion has extensive programs for aged veterans, low cost housing, youth and sports programs, but eventually there will not be anybody left who is active enough to carry these on unless they have other people coming along to take the places of the present members. That is why they are concerned, and why they want to extend the membership. They will, no doubt, lay down detailed requirements in their by-laws as to who they will have as members.

The second amendment which is sought involves a technical change to allow the passage of by-laws to deal with the amalgamation of branches. Many more branches are amalgamating, and I suppose it is because of the dying-off of the members. But there was no actual provision for this in the original act.

The third amendment sought involves a technical change designed to allow the by-laws to deal with procedures for the election of officers at Dominion Conventions. The present act provides that the officers shall be elected by a majority of those voting at conventions. In fact, candidates for election as vice-presidents are usually put on one ballot, and this causes some difficulty because some people may be elected a vice-president who do not actually get a majority of the overall votes cast.

The fourth change sought has to do with protecting the words "Canadian Legion", "Legion" and certain insignia used by the Legion, including the poppies that are widely sold around Remembrance Day, and that is provided for in the bill. In that respect, I might say it was pointed out to me this morning that there is an error in the schedule to the bill which describes the poppy as being red with the centre portion being black, while, in fact, the centre portion is green. But that is an error that can be corrected in committee.