

Customs Tariff

those presents as provided for in this bill will certainly allow the free entry of more expensive presents of that kind, items which are usually offered to friends. It has probably been realized that this accounted for a very minor aspect of our imports, but there again, Mr. Speaker, I think those are items which we usually find in those shops where tourists are generally to be found.

Again these are things we can manufacture. When one visits shops or boutiques, either on Ottawa's Sparks Street Mall or elsewhere in Canada, one readily realizes that these establishments are full of products imported from Italy, Japan, China, from countries where production is cheap. Nevertheless, such items are often sold in Canada as authentic Canadian souvenirs. I remember that about two or three years ago, I wanted to offer a person who had done me a favour something representative of Canada's capital. Well, to my great dissatisfaction, I could not find anything that was of truly Canadian handiwork or fabrication. I had to offer that person something that represented neither the Canadian Parliament nor the national capital. These are things that are lacking in this country and that should be encouraged.

But, Mr. Speaker, once again I must say that this is a very modest bill that will yield very little results in the government's effort to encourage the creation of new jobs in Canada. Obviously, there are items that cannot be produced here in Canada; it is natural that custom charges should be dropped on such items; but for articles which can be produced in Canada, everything should be done to encourage domestic production and thus offer Canadians the adequate jobs which they are looking for.

● (1720)

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Penner): It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie)—External Affairs—Inquiry whether government conveyed to Egypt its approval of opening of Suez Canal—Canadian representation at ceremonies; the hon. member for Brant (Mr. Blackburn)—Immigration—Suggested review of method of obtaining background information on potential immigrants; the hon. member for Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton (Mr. Dick)—Administration of Justice—Suggestion minister order new trial for Dr. Morgentaler—Possibility of new trial or pardon in subsequent prosecutions.

[Mr. Laprise.]

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

CUSTOMS TARIFF (NO. 3)

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Sharp (for the Minister of Finance) that Bill C-67, to amend the Customs Tariff (No. 3), be read the second time and referred to committee of the whole.

Mr. Bob Brisco (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I do not want to become a bore and have lengthy discussion on this bill, but some parts of it are important. My concern is not so much what the bill contains but what it does not contain and the construction that could be put on some of the items it does contain. Of paramount importance to the House is the very first tariff item in the bill, the tariff on prayer books. I wonder if this is for the Canadian taxpayer, in face of the budget brought down by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) on June 23! There is no question that the Canadian public now needs the power of prayer. Maybe it is for the benefit of members on the other side who in three years or so will need to turn to prayer. It will be of no avail, but at least they will be able to obtain the prayer books tariff-free.

Reference is made on page 3 of the bill to aircraft not including engines, and to engines of aircraft. I am not a technical man, and I fail to see the reason for separating the two, unless there is an accident and as a result you need an engine but not an aircraft, or vice versa. I wonder why some are tariff-free and some indicate a high tariff. I wonder, too, how the tariff items can be explained in relation to the aircraft industry in Canada, and more particularly in relation to the lack of federal assistance, support and interest in the developing aircraft industry in British Columbia.

The only area in which the Minister of Finance has addressed himself to the aircraft industry is to impose a tax on the use of aircraft for pleasure, in order to save fuel. That makes about as much sense as the tax he imposed, and subsequently withdrew, on small craft. It also makes about as much sense as the tax recently imposed on gasoline. If ever there was an engine devised by man to operate on a low economy threshold, it is the aircraft engine.

Another area that is significant by its absence from the bill that I should like to remark upon is the tariff with respect to canning lids. I think if there were a federal election today, not one Liberal member would be elected in any agricultural area of Canada where the housewife has the vote.

An hon. Member: You were wrong before.

An hon. Member: You would not be back.

Mr. Brisco: I hear a vague disturbance from the other side of the House, Mr. Speaker.

An hon. Member: It was pretty specific.

Mr. Brisco: They continue in their blissful ignorance. I am sure they have not been down to the Niagara Peninsula or to Kootenay West or Okanagan Boundary. They have not talked to the housewives who want to can food