

Supply—Finance

must take an active part in the reorganization and restructuring. It will not do to rely on guide lines and exhortations. In all probability the investment of public funds will be required in these newly grouped industries if we are to compete in the world and face the winds of competition that the Kennedy round will present to our industry. I hope that before long the minister will be more forthcoming on what his purposes are with respect to the fund.

Before these estimates are passed I hope we shall hear a commitment from the minister about the sort of statement he will make to the house on the economic condition of the country. From what he said today that statement might be made on motions. In that event only two or three of us will be permitted to comment on it. On the other hand, the minister may have in mind the presentation of measures that will enable members of the house to debate the economic condition of the country. That condition, as I said when I began talking, is radically different from that of June 12 when the minister spoke in such cheerful and optimistic terms. I am sure he would not repeat now what he said then.

I expect that we will be taking up another item before long and I hope to be allowed to make some remarks with respect to it without being ruled out of order by Your Honour.

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Chairman, since we are discussing vote 25 which deals with the Tariff Board we may discuss a number of matters, I take it, which are of relevance directly, indirectly or by implication, to tariffs, trade and trade relations.

If I may deal with a point that my hon. and learned friend from Edmonton West raised with regard to the method of proceeding, I hope the minister will, after reasonable consultation with the opposition parties, provide an opportunity for the entire range of the Kennedy round proposals to be discussed in a committee.

I sometimes wonder whether the minister does not long to return to the relative security of his former portfolio. I wonder whether he would not prefer that to the more exciting portfolio he now holds. During the Kennedy round negotiations I asked him if an opportunity could be provided for the house to discuss them. I prefaced my statement by the admission that we should be careful not to endanger in any way the sensitive negotiations which were then being carried on at Geneva. Had that opportunity been provided for a general discussion and had the various

components of industry in Canada had the benefit of a white paper, we would have been better prepared for the final discussions in this house and industry too would have been better prepared.

During the nine and a half years I have been a member of the house I do not think there has been an exhaustive debate on the issue of foreign trade. We have touched on the question when discussing external affairs or trade relations, but such discussion has been the tail of the kite, so to speak. We have dealt with the question occasionally on the estimates of the Minister of Trade and Commerce and on the estimates of the Minister of Finance. Nevertheless, this issue has never been raised effectively in a full scale debate.

● (4:00 p.m.)

I know that the great distinction which once existed between the major parties has become submerged in the course of time, and submerged far more deeply than I should like, coming from the place I do. I am strongly convinced that there will never be any certainty about economic conditions within the countries of this world until the whole question of international trade has been placed upon a far more manageable basis. In this light, the operations of the Tariff Board must be carefully considered and the extent to which references are made to the board must be regarded as an indication not only of the inflow of goods to this country but of the amount of exports leaving Canada. Trading relations must always be a two-way street, and in this sense I hope I shall live to see the day when the barriers which have done so much to restrict the free flow of goods to and from various parts of the world will be largely removed.

One of the most serious problems of all relates to the developing countries. Whether or not they can raise their living standards depends largely on the flow of trade, either bilateral or multilateral. Only if they are able to export can they obtain the supply of capital goods required for the development of their natural resources and the expansion of their own industries so that ultimately they are in a position to deal with the developed countries on a better basis than that which presently exists. With this in mind, it is imperative that we, for our part, should be prepared to offer substantial concessions to the developing countries with respect to the products they have to offer and allow them the exchange and the capital which they

[Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands).]