

*Government Orders*

cover would be a nightmare because of the legal jargon in which it is written.

It has been stated in this House many times before that it is time that we modernized Parliament by producing something in layman's language to accompany the bills. Then members would not have to stay up all night or read for a half a day or a day before they could get up and talk on a complicated subject. There must be some method of simplification.

People talk about complicated tax bills and complicated tax forms. In this House we have not corrected our problem of knowing precisely what the language of these bills means.

For example, this morning the minister talked about many things in what was one of his more informative speeches. I compliment him on the many things he discussed. He talked about such things as venture capital. He discussed some other technicalities of the bill. Tax bills and customs act bills and the rest of them are written in such legal, technical language that things get by without people noticing.

For example, there is a point in the free trade act that would relate to a customs and tax issue. Eddy Match Limited of Canada took two truck loads of matches to the Buffalo Customs Port about 10 days ago. They were stopped at the border. Why? Because the statement "Made in Canada" was not in the right place on each little package of matches. That is a non-tariff barrier.

Imagine, if the company had wanted to take those matches across the border for sale it was actually required to put "Made in Canada" right under the name of the restaurant or hotel to which those matches were to go. "Made in Canada" had to be printed in the same sized lettering as the name of the hotel immediately above it. If there was a chain of restaurants or hotels mentioned on that package of matches "Made in Canada" had to be put after each one, even though the chain may exist in Phoenix, Arizona, Tacoma, Washington, or Boston, Massachusetts, et cetera. The statement "Made in Canada" had to accompany each one in each different place in the United States.

This was just an excuse to put in place a non-tariff barrier to prevent that Canadian product from getting into the United States. Why? Because there is a match company in Texas in serious financial straits. Therefore,

you use non-tariff barriers on what is supposed to be a free trade border to help out your own industry in the United States despite the fact that you have a free trade agreement with Canada.

That shows a lack of credibility with that act. What concerns me greatly about a bill this size is that I am told that our officials raised this issue during the free trade talks and the Americans raised the issue. Neither one of them could come to any agreement on it, so they walked away from it and left it as it was. As a result, Canada is being penalized today because we do not have the same tax laws or customs laws with regard to the Americans bringing the same product into Canada. All they have to do is put "Made in the United States" in one line on it and it is across the border. That is on all their products.

However, U.S. customs wants "Made in Canada", and even if there are five hotels named on the package of matches "Made in Canada" must be on that package of matches five times. That demonstrates a total lack of sincerity in any free trade agreement. It is absolutely ludicrous. The Eddy Match company is now on what is called the "watch item" by the American customs and packaging regulation people. That is just one example.

• (1310)

This morning the minister mentioned something that is very dear to my heart and certainly very dear to small business in this country. That is venture capital. If there is any sector in which we are failing today, it is our inability to date to provide a proper source of the venture capital required for small business to operate. Until we get that problem solved we are not going to be helping small businesses to develop and expand in the way they should. Most of them are not looking for handouts. All they want is a fair deal. Give them the money and they will make money to pay it back.

**An hon. member:** And create jobs.

**Mr. Hopkins:** And create jobs, as my hon. friend says. Not only that, but solving this problem would help us to retain our natural resources in this country.

I will give you an example of what I mean by that. There is a company in the Ottawa Valley called Two Island Marble. It is a huge deposit and is one of the best quality marbles in the world. The family who has the property and is trying to develop it is looking for venture capital. The company can increase its business. It has all