

Proposed Legislation

error in part because I paraphrased it in my notes: "Any protective measures in European trade might deal a serious blow to Canada."

My question is this. How can the minister expect a further liberalization of trade in the common market and the United Kingdom free trade zone when the government's policy is moving in the direction of protection?

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: I think the hon. gentleman should reconsider that question. It seems to me it is not seeking information but rather making a statement as to what the government's policy is, and I would request him to frame it as a question for information if he can.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege, it was not a statement but a misstatement.

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Speaker, my question was based on the statement which the minister read for almost fifteen minutes. It is impossible in that length of time to retain everything that was said. There is no doubt but that, in effect, the statement was very much in line with my note—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: I am not quarrelling with the hon. member asking a question about something said by the Minister of Finance in his statement, but what I do suggest to the hon. member for Laurier with all respect is that in offering the information as to what the government's policy is he is only inviting a similar kind of statement in reply, and it is contrary to the rules of the house.

Mr. Chevrier: Let me put it in this way, Mr. Speaker. I ask the minister if he contemplates liberalizing the policy of the government to meet the position vis-à-vis the common market and the free trade zone in the United Kingdom in the light of the protective policies adopted by the present government.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Speaker, of course the hon. gentleman has not correctly stated the facts. The fact is that no country and no government has given more consistent support to the principles of multilateral trade as embodied in the general agreement on tariffs and trade than has Canada, and every step this government has taken in the field of trade since it came into office has been taken in complete harmony with GATT.

Mr. McIlraith: The protectionist ideas of the old Tories.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Speaker, we hear again the quavering voice of the past lifting itself in mournful cadences.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Does the Leader of the Opposition have a supplementary question?

Mr. Pearson: No, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillingate): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I should like to ask the Minister of Finance if he offered to restore the Liberal tariff on wool.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Speaker, it escaped the attention of the hon. member while I was reading my statement that there was no substantive discussion on trade at this conference. The conference was devoted to a discussion of the procedure and an organization for trade purposes and for aid, but that escaped the hon. gentleman's notice.

INDIAN ACT

AMENDMENT TO GIVE INDIANS RIGHT TO VOTE
IN FEDERAL ELECTIONS

Hon. Ellen L. Fairclough (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-2, to amend the Indian Act.

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mrs. Fairclough: Under the existing law Indians ordinarily resident upon reserves, other than veterans and their wives, are disqualified from voting in federal elections unless they have waived the exemption from taxation on and in respect of their personal property situated on a reserve, conferred upon them by section 86 of the Indian Act.

It is proposed to give Indians the right to vote in federal elections free from the restriction which now exists. This bill provides for the necessary amendment to the Indian Act.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

CANADA ELECTIONS ACT

AMENDMENT TO GIVE INDIANS THE RIGHT
TO VOTE

Hon. Ellen L. Fairclough (for the Secretary of State) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-3, to amend the Canada Elections Act.

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mrs. Fairclough: Under the act as it now stands the privilege of voting is extended to Indians on reserves only if they are veterans of world war I or world war II, and their wives. Other Indians on reserves must sign a waiver of tax exemption.

The purpose of the proposed amendment is to grant the franchise to Indians without