

Customs Tariff

informed us when we were there that our food and other aid programs were very much appreciated. However, he suggested we consider some changes and I wish to mention this to the House because all of us from time to time address non-governmental organizations who wish to help. There are two ways to help and sometimes we do the wrong thing. It was therefore suggested that we consider these changes.

The shipment of flour is not as helpful as we were led to believe. It was pointed out that we keep the wheat germ, the bran, the shorts and the middlings, and the refined flour becomes full of weevil and is hard to store. When I asked what they would like to have in place of bags of flour they said please send bags of wheat. They can grind it with grinders there and have a more palatable food for their people. They would also prefer that we send less milk powder. I asked why, because I saw their children starving. They said they do not have pure water with which to mix the milk powder. In its place they would appreciate cases of evaporated milk.

Here I was addressing perhaps 500 Afghan refugees in a refugee camp and I said if they were to come to Canada with a shopping list what would be the six or eight priority items for which they would ask. It is interesting, and this is what I want to outline especially for the House, that the first item they need is tents to house some of those people. If the tents do not have floors, they ask us to send rubber sheets to put in the tent. Third, they need quilts to go over the rubber sheets. It cools down to 90 degrees at night, but it is sometimes 110 degrees during the day and there is lots of condensation when those temperatures are in evidence.

The fourth item they asked for was more blankets. Fifth, they need boiling kettles, not enamel but aluminum, so they can stick two sticks in the ground, put a pole across, and use the kettle as a pot in which to boil water. The sixth item, naturally, was food. The seventh items was medicines, and the eighth was small children's books with large lettering—stories like we read to our own children, so they can teach their children the English language.

Those are the points that I wanted to highlight because all of us can help by using them when addressing NGOs, church groups or any other organization that wishes to send some help. They are doing a monumental job in Pakistan. They are fighting our war for us. They are appreciative of all we can do, but by rearranging our food aid program we can do a little better.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker, and the House for this opportunity to present these very important facts.

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if we might have unanimous consent of the House to forward the remarks of the Hon. Member for South Shore (Mr. Crouse) to the president of CIDA. I think they are very well-founded.

Mr. Speaker: The House has been asked for unanimous consent. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I was just noting my appreciation, along with that of all Members of the House, for the new rules which allow the chairmen of parliamentary associations to come into the House and give us a brief summary of their trips and their experiences. I want to thank the Hon. Member for this report. It is the first time in my experience that we have had such a comprehensive report from the chairman of that group called the Commonwealth Association. I congratulate him and I hope he continues the practice.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[*Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

CUSTOMS TARIFF

MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Hockin that Bill C-87, an Act respecting the imposition of duties of customs and other charges, to give effect to the International Convention on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System, to provide relief against the imposition of certain duties of customs or other charges, to provide for other related matters and to amend or repeal certain Acts in consequence thereof, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, I wish to make just a few remarks with respect to this Bill because our critic in this area will be making more extensive comments later.

There are three points I wish to make in particular. The first is simply to mention that there are some considerable objections by the Automobile Industry Association of Canada to this Bill and its rapid passage through the House. My colleague from Regina will be dealing with that point in detail.

Second, I am particularly glad that the Minister of the Environment (Mr. McMillan) is in the House. I wish to draw to his attention a very important change which is taking place with respect to customs activities in the City of Windsor. A barge service is being established which will transport from the American side of the border to the Canadian side, to quote from a government document, "hazardous materials that must now go over the Blue Water bridge even though the shipment originates near or south of Detroit". Included in these hazardous materials are both toxic chemicals and gases which I fear, given the very congested waterway of the Detroit River at that point, is an invitation to an accident which would seriously threaten downstream water in the Detroit River and