

*Customs Tariff*

between two countries in such a way as has been suggested. It would be harmful to our future bargaining negotiations.

**Mr. McIlraith:** Mr. Chairman, I am not asking about negotiations which are pending; I am asking about negotiations which have been concluded with respect to any such items, and my understanding of the practice is a little different from the minister's understanding. That is why I want some clarification on this matter. As I understand the practice of this house under the former government, it was to bring before the house at the conclusion of any negotiation a statement involving the giving of a list of items for which we were successful in getting an increase and, at the same time, a corresponding list of the concessions we had to make. In other words, if there were advantages—if one can call an increase an advantage—to be gained by way of increase, at the same time a statement was given to this house indicating the list of concessions we had to make.

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** I think there has been some misapprehension on the part of my hon. friend who is, I believe, referring to the original negotiations, the net result of which was a series of tariff reductions on the part of both parties. That is very different from the matter of negotiation at a later stage involving concessions during the period when the agreements are running. It has never been the policy, as I am reminded, to segregate the items in negotiations or bargaining in either case, that is to say, as to the benefits received or the concessions given.

**Mr. Benidickson:** Did my hon. friend refer to future or past negotiations?

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** I am referring to past practice.

**Mr. Benidickson:** I know, but to past negotiations?

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** Yes, I think my hon. friend from Kenora-Rainy River was under a misapprehension when he referred to his own experience in that regard. I think he referred to the same thing referred to by the hon. member for Ottawa West, namely the original negotiations, the outcome of which is a series of reductions on the part of both parties. I am told it has never been the practice to make detailed reports on the negotiations carried out during the time when agreements are in effect, in cases where negotiations have been carried out in order that a change might be made on the one hand which involves the giving of a concession by the other party. I might also say that the resolution now before the house embodies the results of concluded negotiations. There

are no negotiations which have been concluded which are not embodied within the resolution now before the house.

**Mr. Benidickson:** Perhaps, Mr. Chairman, but has the minister yet indicated to the House of Commons and to the people of Canada the negotiations which, say, took place in 1957?

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** I reported on the negotiations in the budget speech I made to this house. Those negotiations had been carried out on this series of reports of the tariff board, and the negotiation results are embodied in the resolution now under debate. There are no other negotiations which are completed. I referred in my budget speech to one matter concerning another tariff board report which is not included in the budget resolutions. In that case negotiations are pending but there are no others which have been concluded.

**Mr. Benidickson:** Yes, that is fruits and vegetables. That is perfectly true, but my hon. friend in that reference was looking to the future, and we cannot perhaps at the moment, under our laws, probe the minister's negotiations in that sphere although we are naturally very interested. I am concerned, however, about the negotiations which have taken place, shall we say, within the last year and upon which we would expect to receive a report.

Has the attention of the minister been drawn to the report given by the previous minister of trade and commerce, Mr. Howe, when on June 14 of 1955, as recorded at page 4750 of *Hansard* for that date, he gave a very complete report as to the give and take which was involved in negotiations with respect to GATT for the period concerning which parliament and the public were entitled to information.

Mr. Howe on that occasion had this to say:

Mr. Speaker, . . . I wish to make an announcement about some tariff negotiations which have recently been concluded in Geneva. These negotiations have been carried out under three headings,—

Of course, one was with respect to a new entrant into the GATT arrangement, Japan, but something which is of more interest is the following:

—to give effect to the desire of some other countries to renegotiate certain increases in tariff rates bound under the general agreement;

3. I am reporting on renegotiations in certain Canadian tariff rates which are bound to other countries under the agreement.

And at that time he tabled before the House of Commons the results of this give and take over the years as a result of our partnership in this large association of nations in a trading sphere under GATT. The detail