information, and if we cannot get it in any other way, then I think the committee should rise and report progress and the house should continue with other business until the information is available.

Mr. STEVENS: The manner in which my hon. friend has treated this matter in the last two or three days, and is now treating it, does not strike me as being reasonable, and I say that in a courteous way. There is no doubt that one could take a hypothetical case upon which to figure and arrive at a certain result, but that would not give anything which would be reliable or definite. There is only one way in which this matter can be dealt with to justify the placing of the reputation of government officials behind it. Let us consider kitchen and household hollow ware. In the first place, my hon. friend has not intimated whether he wants the retail, the wholesale, the export or some other price. Let us take some common factor which is capable of an accurate comparison. For the sake of illustration, let us take pig iron. Let us take the London and Pittsburgh prices quoted on a day when we can get the exchange rate in both countries—it must be remembered that the exchange rate which varies from day to day is very important. When we can get the exchange factor, we can figure from that point, but this requires a search in the journals for particulars because in no other way can you obtain an accurate comparison. I think my hon. friend has been arguing, perhaps not from false premises but from premises which are a little in error. He takes a certain amount of money and he translates that into a rate of exchange which might or might not be correct, and from that point he builds up his case. He is considering the exchange adjustment duty as though it were a penalty or a dumping duty, which it is not. What he speaks of as applying to Great Britain, applies to a score of other countries with depreciated currencies. I am taking up a little time, Mr. Chairman, in the hope that we can get away from a discussion of this matter upon every item.

The CHAIRMAN: I understand the hon. member has made a motion that the committee rise.

Mr. STEVENS: It was not made in the form of a motion.

Mr. YOUNG: I am quite willing to make such a motion.

Mr. STEVENS: I think my hon. friend is too good natured to do anything like that at this stage.

[Mr. Young.]

In dealing with any one of a dozen countries with depreciated currencies it is obligatory under the law that those currencies shall be considered as of a certain value. When an article enters the country the customs officer must look up the quotations on the milreis, the lira, the franc, the yen, the tael, the dollar, the pound or other currency, depending upon where the article originates. During the war, and in recent years, when exchange rates were fluctuating repeatedly, it has been and is the custom to stabilize such rates for a week or two; an artificial exchange rate is declared, otherwise it would be hopeless to ask the customs officials all over Canada to be posted upon the day to day or hour to hour rates. Sometimes these set rates may be good for a year; it depends entirely upon the fluctuations in exchange as between this and other countries. The customs officer turns to his bulletin and gets the rate of exchange, and if the article in question has come from a country with a depreciated currency, under the regulations and the statute he must impose a penalty, if my hon. friend chooses to call it such, or an exchange adjustment duty, as I prefer to call it, which brings the invoice price up to that figure. I will not say that these fluctuations occur daily in connection with all countries, but they occur often enough to prove to be a confusing factor. It would be quite fruitless for us to take an item, strike an exchange rate which we think is right, and start to figure on that basis. As an example, let us take the differential in exchange between here and the United States. If we have a 30 per cent duty against a certain article coming from the United States, when that article enters Canada the Canadian purchaser must find dollars to pay for it in addition to paying the 30 per cent duty, and for those dollars he pays 13 per cent in exchange. He pays not a 13 per cent penalty but a 13 per cent premium upon American dollars with which to pay his indebtedness. My hon. friend will see that that is a factor which must be always borne in mind. In making his calculation my hon. friend adds or subtracts, as the case may be; he takes that differential in exchange and calls it a customs duty. It is not a customs duty at all; it may have a similar effect, but it is an exchange factor due to the necessity of buying other currencies with Canadian funds. Perhaps my hon. friend will accept the suggestion of the Minister of Finance, that we take, say steel or iron or something which has a common factor where there is a world price, shall I say, in Pittsburgh or London, and figure out