

*Customs Tariff*

international standards required by international-calibre amateur athletes.

The bill would also implement a number of tariff changes based on the recommendations of the Tariff Board in its report on the dutiable status of scientific and educational equipment, known as reference No. 155. The Board had recommended that the current duty-free provision for such equipment be restricted to apparatus, utensils and instruments used directly in teaching or research that are not available from Canadian production. These changes will come into effect on July 1, 1981, to give eligible institutions, as well as the importers, distributors and dealers involved as well as customs officials sufficient time to adjust their administrative procedures.

Most laboratory glassware, which schools and research institutions can now import duty free, will become dutiable on July 1, 1981. Duty-free entry is being continued for printed matter, films and recordings used by schools, research organizations, libraries, museums and churches and for diagnostic chemicals not produced in Canada.

Duty-free entry is also proposed for a range of goods, including plant bulbs, television captioning devices used by the deaf—this will certainly please the hon. member for Brandon-Souris (Mr. Dinsdale) who is greatly interested in these matters—as well as apparatus used to collect oyster eggs and expanded perlite, an industrial filtering agent. An existing duty-free item relating to kits to convert retail scales to the metric system is being extended until December 31, 1983, and a duty-free provision under the general preferential tariff for shop towels is being expanded.

The bill proposes the introduction of a new tariff item to provide a single rate of duty of 15 per cent for shipments containing two or more different chemicals. This item will be used only at the request of importers and should result in reduced paperwork both for importers and the government. The bill, Mr. Speaker, also includes a number of amendments to restore tariff levels which were altered as a result of changes in tariff interpretation. For example, dental prostheses and filling materials are being excluded from a duty-free tariff item and amendments are proposed in the French-language version of several items covering printing plates.

I would like to say a few words about the measures which were included in the December 11, 1979, budget. The miscellaneous tariff proposals which were contained in that budget and which are being proposed in schedule III of this bill include the following: first, the removal of the tariff on certain nursery stock; restoration of a 10 per cent rate of duty on processed nuts; provision of duty-free entry for Bible recordings; and an increase from \$15 to \$25 in the value limit on gifts which can be sent or brought into Canada duty-free and tax-free.

This bill, Mr. Speaker, also provides for the transfer of authority to levy the excise tax on imported wines. In fact, this amendment is contained in part III of the bill which was introduced in a notice of ways and means motion last April 21.

The removal of authority to levy such a tax from the customs tariff means that the excise tax on imported wines will be imposed in the same manner as that on Canadian wines. In this way Canadian and imported wines will be taxed under the same legislation, that is, the Excise Tax Act.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to give a very general picture of the situation without going into the details of this bill which, as may be seen, is a sizeable and relatively technical measure, and I wanted to give the hon. members not only a general outlook but also a rather specific idea of the content of the bill. I am very pleased that the hon. members readily recognized the importance of this bill and co-operated with their parliamentary leaders to have this bill passed promptly this afternoon. I thank the hon. members as well as the House leaders. It is therefore obvious that the passage of this bill is of paramount importance if we are to consolidate Canada's enviable position within the ranks of the world's great trading nations. I trust that the members of the standing committee will give us their support in the same manner as all members of the House were willing to co-operate, so that we may dispose of this bill promptly and efficiently in committee.

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** Mr. Speaker, I would like first of all to thank the Minister of State for Finance (Mr. Bussières), who is here today, I am not sure in what capacity, either as acting or assistant minister for his colleagues since this is not his bill—

**Mr. Bussières:** Yes.

**Mr. Lambert:** This should not be his bill since under this Liberal administration, the Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen) is at the head of the pack. He is the minister who does not speak except when introducing a paper at budget time. For any other legislation, his colleagues have to take over his bills and pilot them in the House. However, I know the minister quite well, and I believe that we shall be able to work together in committee as I support the decision made by the House and our parties to amend our normal procedure concerning a motion and a bill on—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member, but the hon. Minister of State for Finance (Mr. Bussières) has risen on a point of order.

**Mr. Bussières:** Mr. Speaker, I would simply like to say that the bill has been introduced in the name of the Minister of State for Finance and comes within the responsibilities delegated to me by the Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen). I am responsible for the review of tariffs. While this might surprise the hon. member, this is probably why the bill is in my name.

**Mr. Lambert:** Mr. Speaker, I hope that you will excuse me, but we now have a minister of state who used to be responsible for financial institutions and who is now responsible for finance, which means that we have a Jack-of-all-trades minis-