

Customs Tariff

which you will recognize, Mr. Speaker, do affect items in the schedule, such as the silk item and other things? I should like to know to what extent the percentages that have been agreed upon with Japan with respect to certain trade categories compare with what applied in 1959. What is the proposal for 1960 with respect to some of the textile items?

I do not know of any other way by which we can properly discuss some of these trade agreements that have been made with Japan. We have to pass here the legislation. In this bill we have certain schedules; we arrive at certain rates of duty. Then some of those are altered by negotiation between the minister and for example Japan. I think before the government asks us to pass legislation of this kind the minister should report, as he has not yet done this session, specifically upon the negotiations with a very important trading nation such as Japan.

Mr. C. W. Carter (Burin-Burgeo): Mr. Speaker, on the second reading of any bill we discuss the principle of the main bill—

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Not of the main bill, only the amending bill.

Mr. Carter:—well, of the amendments, and their application to our economy. The tariff system is a weapon which the government can use to assist our economy and, in particular, certain industries which are having a difficult time to exist. Now, the fishing industry is one which derives two thirds of its dollar income from the foreign market. Of late, prices in the foreign market have not risen fast enough to keep pace with the increased costs of production and marketing. Consequently, if this industry is to survive, the government must do whatever is in its power to offset this disadvantage. I have looked through the schedule and I find on page 10, under item 124b, that the item which was formerly confined to squid has now been extended to include octopus and cuttlefish.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): This is a matter which could be raised in committee. If the hon. member wishes to deal with a specific item in the schedule, then the committee is the proper place to do so.

Mr. Carter: I thank the minister for that remark. I only referred to it because on looking through the schedule it appeared to be the only request made by the fisheries council of Canada to which the government has seen fit to accede. The fisheries council made several other requests, one of which was that some alteration be made in the wording of the item under which fishing

vessels are imported. The item now refers to vessels of 100 feet, and the council requested a change to 80 feet.

The purpose of this tariff item is to protect the shipbuilding industry in Canada. These ships, however, are not built in Canada. The basis of the tariff item, the length of a ship, is not actually in accordance with scientific and technological developments that are taking place in this industry, because today a ship is built and designed for a certain purpose. A ship much smaller in length but of different design can very well do the same job and do it better than a ship 100 feet in length. In this connection I should like to draw the minister's attention to a resolution passed at the annual meeting of the Fisheries Council of Canada. It reads as follows:

Whereas some processors of fish are suffering severely from lack of suitable fishing vessels; and

Whereas the federal government restricts the acquisition of the desired craft in the foreign markets through:

(a) The necessity of having to secure permission from the Department of Transport to import a vessel—a restriction which we do not believe exists in the case of instruments of production in any other Canadian primary industry;

(b) Heavy duties levied on vessels up to 100 feet in length when imported from most favoured nation countries; and

Whereas experience has shown that larger vessels are going to play a more important part in production in future years;

Therefore be it resolved that the Fisheries Council of Canada request the federal government to remove these hindrances to the adequate building up of the Canadian fishing fleet.

I urge the minister to reconsider the government's policy toward the fishing industry and in particular toward this request made by the Fisheries Council of Canada. Actually any reduction in the length of vessels under this item would be helpful especially if the length could be reduced to 80 feet.

The salt fish industry is the most depressed sector of the fishing industry. In my own province in particular we are trying to develop this industry and particularly to process the fish in our own province in order to give as much employment as possible to our own people. Therefore this 22½ per cent levy on salt fish dryers and on the parts which must be imported for the maintenance of these dryers is a heavy burden on this particular sector of the industry. I hope the minister will remove this tariff—and if he cannot do it now I hope he will do it as soon as possible—which I do not think adds a great deal to the revenue of the country but is a very heavy burden indeed on this depressed sector of the industry.

The other articles which the government—