

Statement on London Trade Talks

in French of the letter dated February 13 from Premier Robarts of Ontario and also copies of my letter and attached memorandum of January 11, 1964, on the subject of pensions.

POWER

COLUMBIA RIVER—TABLING OF WHITE PAPER ON TREATY

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): As the house will shortly be considering the resolution calling for the reference to the external affairs committee of the Columbia river treaty and protocol I think it would be convenient for all members to have in a single volume the main documents relating to this subject. Accordingly a white paper has been prepared which contains the texts of the Columbia river treaty, protocol and other related documents. With the permission of the house I now wish to table copies of this publication in both the French and English languages. Copies of this convenient volume are being made available to hon. members of the house, and I sent to the leaders of the house copies of this document ahead of time this morning.

TRADE

REPORT ON BEHALF OF MINISTER ON LONDON TALKS

Mr. Jean-Luc Pepin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I should like to make a statement on behalf of the Minister of Trade and Commerce. The minister had a long standing engagement to address the Canadian club of Toronto at noon today and is therefore unable to be in the house. He will be returning later today. He has asked me to make a brief report on his talks in London which concluded on Friday last.

The main purposes of the minister's visit to London were twofold; first, to discuss with his counterpart in the British government, Mr. Heath, certain complaints made by the British government about the valuation of British exports entering Canada and to discuss these complaints directly with British exporters; and second, to speak to the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in London about Anglo-Canadian trade.

The discussions with Mr. Heath and with British exporters were useful. They gave the minister and the government a clearer understanding of the nature of the complaints against our valuation procedures. The minister informed Mr. Heath and the British exporters that these complaints are under careful investigation by an interdepartmental committee, and that if the review should show

[Mr. Pearson.]

that the complaints are well founded the government would consider the kind of legislation required to remove any technical obstacle found to exist. The minister added that the evidence so far before the government did not indicate that our valuation and anti-dumping laws were central to the problem of British sales in Canada.

The minister also discussed with Mr. Heath the forthcoming Kennedy round of trade negotiations and the United Nations conference on trade and development. The minister also took advantage of the occasion to discuss with the British government certain of the trade barriers still facing Canadian goods entering the British market.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I do not want to make any reference to the remarks made by the hon. gentleman, but I think for the purpose of the record it should be made very clear that no parliamentary secretary should be speaking in a secondary sense about what a minister has done, when the minister will be here tomorrow.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, on the point raised by the right hon. gentleman, the minister returned from Europe only over the week end. He had this engagement in Toronto, where he is speaking to the Canadian club on the subject of trade matters. The minister felt a report should be made on his behalf at once to the house, so he would not be open to the criticism on his return of saying things outside the house that had not been said inside the house.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Following what I said a moment ago, Mr. Speaker, the statement could have been made by the Prime Minister. This house should not be accepting a secondary statement from a parliamentary secretary on a matter such as this.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, this is not an appropriate time to discuss the remarks which have been made by the parliamentary secretary on behalf of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, but I think it should be placed on the record that the minister says he was in London to acquaint British businessmen and the British government with the fact that, in the minister's opinion, the valuation for duty purposes under the anti-dumping legislation is not central to the problem of British trade with Canada.

I hope the minister will seize an early opportunity to explain this to the house rather than just to the British government and British businessmen, because I want to say that for my part I am far from satisfied