

Government Orders

This is not a matter of disability insurance. This man has been told by his doctors and by specialists in the areas that he can go back to work. The positions that he is entitled to have by seniority and whatnot have been assigned to other people with less skill and less seniority than he has. It almost looks like this is a deliberate attempt to harm his health even further by having him digging in a ditch with a bad back and other problems.

He is entitled to work as a machine operator. Yet the employer has exerted tremendous discrimination. The terrible problem is the extended period of time that they are hung up.

I know the hon. member has worked very hard to try to make the system fair. Hopefully when we send the material over to the Minister of Labour he will take some time to have a look at this very important case as an example of what is happening in the Public Service and in the federal jurisdiction to employees who are under the purview of the minister.

Ms. Langan: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for North Island—Powell River makes a very important point, and that is the length of delay in achieving justice for workers in the public sector. Under the Canada Labour Code the system is enormous, ponderous and slow. It is true that people like Joe Davey end up spending inordinate amounts of time without any income and certainly without any resolution to the case.

I would undertake with the hon. member for North Island—Powell River to pursue this particular case and address the issues so that we can try to ensure that there are not other Joe Daveys throughout the country who have to get justice in the collective bargaining process and legislative process for federal government workers and workers under the Canada Labour Code.

I will pursue this with the hon. member, the Minister of Labour and the President of the Treasury Board.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to, bill read the third time and passed.

• (1250)

CUSTOMS TARIFF**MEASURE TO AMEND**

The House proceeded to the consideration of Bill C-122, an act to amend the Customs Tariff (textile tariff reduction), as reported (without amendment) from a legislative committee.

Hon. Marcel Danis (for Minister of Finance) moved that the bill be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Danis (for the Minister of Finance) moved that the bill be read the third time and passed.

Hon. John McDermid (Minister of State (Finance and Privatization)): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise to speak on third reading of Bill C-122. I shall be brief.

Bill C-122 is important legislation that contains the long awaited textile tariff reductions. The bill will have the effect of amending the Customs Tariff so as to implement, as of January 1, 1993, the textile tariff reductions announced in the government's December 2 economic and fiscal statement.

This is not a new initiative. In 1988 the government announced that it would be reducing Canadian textile tariffs to levels comparable with those of Canada's industrialized trading partners, particularly the United States.

For years Canadian textile tariffs have been significantly higher than those of other industrialized countries. For example, United States textile tariffs are on average one-third lower than Canadian textile tariffs.

These high Canadian textile tariff rates have imposed additional costs on all downstream users of textiles, particularly the apparel and furniture industries. This has affected both the international and domestic competitiveness of our textile-using industries and increased costs to Canadian consumers.

In February 1989 the government asked the Canadian International Trade Tribunal to provide advice on how Canada's textile tariffs could best be brought into line with those of other industrialized nations in order to