

*Customs Tariff*

regard to goods and services, we mean that markets have to be opened. When you tell me that you are worried about too much open-mindedness in protectionism, I do not think that small firms would be threatened in Canada. You would have to find another issue, because we are surprisingly well equipped from a technological viewpoint to compete anywhere in the world. If markets are opened, our Canadian technicians will be competing for them.

[English]

**Mr. Redway:** Mr. Chairman, could you help me on a point of procedure in connection with this discussion? It seems to me that we are no longer on first or second reading nor are we any longer discussing general principles. We are into specifics in Committee of the Whole and we are into a clause by clause debate. My understanding is we have already passed, in discussions, up to Clause 12 and we are now looking at Schedule 1. Surely the remarks of Hon. Members should be relevant strictly to the matters set out in Schedule 1, which are particular tariff items setting out particular tariffs. There is nothing in there as far as I can see, Mr. Chairman, that indicates we are now going to be in a period of free trade. There are a great number of tariffs set out in that Schedule. I would hope all of the remarks will be relevant to that Schedule, which is the matter we are now discussing.

**The Deputy Chairman:** I agree with the Hon. Member. The Chair has been very lenient concerning the debate. I felt we should have some debate in this regard.

**Mr. Ouellet:** We appreciate it.

**The Deputy Chairman:** I agree with the Hon. Member's comment. I will allow the Hon. Member for Shefford another question.

● (1720)

[Translation]

**Mr. Lapierre:** Mr. Chairman, my concern . . . and I readily agree with my colleague that Schedule 1 is important, but there are underlying principles to the schedule which have to be discussed. I think it is important for our Parliamentary Secretary to give us the opportunity to benefit from his great learning.

And, as it happened, he made that speech on Monday last and the following day, the President of the United States (Mr. Reagan) announced a war chest of some \$300 million.

I would like to ask the Parliamentary Secretary whether that is some sort of protectionism according to his definitions?

[English]

**The Deputy Chairman:** It is a general question. I would hope the Parliamentary Secretary would just answer it.

[Translation]

**Mr. Lanthier:** Mr. Chairman, I believe that you have already ruled on this point. This is a general question and we are now having an item-by-item discussion. Once more, I do not want to get into general discussions. I believe that the call to order of my colleague earlier was quite appropriate and we should follow his advice if we want to get anywhere.

[English]

Schedules 1 and 2 agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** When shall the Bill be read the third time? Pursuant to an order made earlier this day, now?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn (for the Minister of Finance)** moved that Bill C-71, an Act to amend the Customs Tariff Act be read the third time and passed.

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford):** Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to take part in this important debate, especially as the Government House Leader is here.

Mr. Speaker, we have tried to obtain explanations from the Parliamentary Secretary about the Customs Tariff, and instead of answering, he simply said that the industry had been consulted.

However, Mr. Speaker, I am certainly convinced that all industries were not consulted. For years, Mr. Speaker, this department has had problems setting tariffs, and it is not because we have a new Parliamentary Secretary that the department has changed. What we have found is that the tariffs are set by a small group of initiates.

My colleague for Papineau (Mr. Ouellet) mentioned small engineering firms. The situation is exactly the same as concerns the setting of tariffs.

I can see the Minister of State for Small Businesses (Mr. Bissonnette), who used to be a prosperous businessman. I would like this Minister to tell me later when he speaks on this bill whether or not he was consulted about various tariffs when he was in business. Did the officials in the Department of Finance or the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce call the Minister to ask him: What do you think of this? Do you find this reasonable or not? I would like to know how many calls he received during his brilliant career as a businessman.

That is a fact and I am sure Hon. Members will agree with me it looks as if some insider groups are being consulted and often on issues which directly concern us.