

Customs Tariff

also with domestic policies, access to import markets and food aid. However, it was only possible to reach agreement with respect to wheat prices and food aid. I am sure all hon. members share the disappointment of the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar that the Kennedy round has not yet resulted in Canada achieving improved tariff access for our grains in western Europe. However, during the Kennedy round trading nations for the first time did try to grapple with the problem of domestic supports and internal subsidies.

The Leader of the Opposition asked for a breakdown by major countries of the over-all figures which I gave related to the increase in Canadian exports in the first nine months of 1968. I now have comparative data, Mr. Chairman, for exports to each of our major markets in the first nine months of 1967 and 1968, and the figures are as follows. I can read the figures into the record at this time, though the committee may prefer to have them printed as a table in *Hansard*. Might I ask at this time, Mr. Chairman, whether I have the consent of the committee to have this done?

The Deputy Chairman: Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[*Editor's note: The table referred to above is as follows:*]

	1967	1968
	(millions of dollars)	
All countries	8,344	9,881
United Kingdom	868	925
United States	5,275	6,625
Belgium	74	91
France	58	61
Germany (Federal Republic)	120	165
Italy	106	95
Netherlands	125	124
Norway	65	76
U.S.S.R.	109	82
India	121	91
China (Communist)	89	128
Japan	429	453
Australia	115	145

Mr. Gray: May I now deal, Mr. Chairman, with some of the other points made in the debate on second reading. The hon. member for Edmonton West went into some detail on the importance of the negotiations and the resulting legislation that is now before us. I think it is useful to remember that the standing committee on finance, trade and economic affairs held some 22 meetings for the purpose of studying the resolutions which are now reflected before us in Bill No. C-131. The committee heard many briefs from groups and members of the general public as well as

[Mr. Gray.]

evidence from government officials and ministers. I think we should keep in mind the detailed study that was given to the resolutions at that time and perhaps agree that this committee of the whole house may not feel it necessary to carry out the work that would have had to be done had the standing committee not been given the opportunity of making a detailed study of these proposals.

The hon. member for Edmonton West referred to the manner in which certain tax changes were continued in effect when the house was dissolved for an election. It is my understanding that no tax increases were kept in effect by order in council. On the contrary, Mr. Chairman, the order in council in question was put into effect for the purpose of continuing reductions in duties.

In this regard I might draw the attention of the committee to a statement made by the Minister of Finance on April 26, 1968, a statement which was issued in the form of a press release. In it the minister said that all of the proposed reductions in duties were being continued in effect by means of an order in council, under the authority of section 22 of the Financial Administration Act.

The minister did note at the time, that the budgets of June 1 and November 30, 1967 and the resolution introduced on November 6, 1967, resulted in higher customs duties on some imported products, and in line with the traditional and long-established practice followed by various governments of various political persuasions these increases had been collected on a provisional basis, pending parliamentary passage of legislation to implement them. However, he concluded his statement by saying that since the twenty seventh parliament had been dissolved before passage of the legislation in question, the Department of National Revenue was suspending the collection of the increase in customs duties effective April 24, 1968, pending action by the next parliament, and that the government would collect duties on the imports involved at the former rates.

The minister also went on to say that it was the government's intention to ask the next parliament to pass legislation implementing both the reductions and the increase, effective from the dates originally proposed in the tariff resolution submitted to the last session of parliament. This, in part, is the work that we are attempting to carry out at the present time.

I can assure this committee that the government is well aware that there may be