

Substantial Tariff Slashes Are Recommended By Board

OTTAWA (CP) — Substantial tariff reductions for importers of printing presses and equipment were recommended by the tariff board in a report tabled in the Commons Wednesday, by Finance Minister Sharp.

The government will study the report and Mr. Sharp asked interested parties to comment on the 200-page volume as soon as possible.

The tariff board conducted the inquiry on the basis of a 1963 finance department request for a review of customs duties in the light of recent technological changes in the industry.

Main recommendations are:

- Large presses used by commercial printers should be admitted duty-free from countries to which Canada accords most-favored-nation tariff treatment, in the same way as presses used for newspapers and periodicals. The presses now are imported with a 10-per-cent duty.
- Smaller presses, used in business offices, should continue to be imported duty-free from Commonwealth preference countries and with a 10-per-cent duty from most-favored nations.
- No change should be made in current duties on presses used for printing manifold

business forms, but the tariff on some ancillary equipment should be raised to 10 per cent from duty-free status.

1966 YEARLY BUSINESS

The board found that the Canadian market for machinery and equipment used in the printing and allied arts, and for the conversion of paper, cardboard and foil to finished products—the broad area of the board's inquiry—is a \$100,000,000-a-year business.

"The machinery and equipment under review is for the most part not made in Canada and the existing rates of duty appear to reflect this fact as well as a desire not to impose any unnecessary burdens on the printing and allied industries."

"The printing and allied arts are going through a period of rapid technological change.

"In some instances, of which typesetting is an example, machinery and equipment not provided for in the tariff items under review have been introduced."

The Graphic Arts Industries Association was the main witness before the board in arguing the case for the commercial printing industry. Its main argument was that presses and other equipment not made in Canada should be given differ-

ent tariff treatment than products made in Canada.

REJECTS DISTINCTION

The board rejected this in the new set of recommended tariff items. The basic approach, nevertheless, was to reduce and largely eliminate tariffs on machinery which must be imported to meet the growing Canadian demand and to retain them in fields in which some Canadian production needs protection.

The board said typesetting and typesetting equipment is an area in which technological changes "appear to have created the most difficulties as far as the (present) tariff is concerned."

There are insufficient statistics to indicate the full effect of the recommendations if adopted, the board said.

But the net effect would be "a substantial reduction in the duties payable by the commercial printing industry." The major reduction, to duty-free status for presses with a printing area of 374 square inches or more, might represent \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 a year.

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GIFTS FOR THE POPE

Pope Paul VI thanks children of the Italian Catholic Association for their gifts to him at the Vatican today. The Pope announced Friday at the traditional pre-Christmas audience for Cardinals that the first meeting of a unique worldwide synod of bishops will be held in September, 1967. The synod will act as an advisory council to join the Pope in governing Roman Catholicism.

(AP Wirephoto by cable from Rome)

Navy Plans Announced

HALIFAX (CP) — The navy has announced the transfer of two destroyers to the West Coast, the disposal of three Second World War frigates and the temporary return to service of four minesweepers.

A spokesman said the destroyer escorts Crescent and Algonquin will be sailed to Esquimalt, B.C., next March for service with the Pacific section of Maritime Command.

The minesweepers Fanny, Chignecto, Thunder and Chaleur, which have been in reserve since January, 1964, will be returned to service for six months beginning next April. They will be used "to meet training and centennial commitments," the spokesman said.

The frigates being removed from service are the New Waterford, Beacon Hill and Grandby. The New Waterford was paid off in a ceremony here Thursday.

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