

to the Minister with respect to free trade. Watch her go. Go, Bingo, go! Go get 'em, Bingo!" She is a tough negotiator, a real tough negotiator.

When the preliminary determination was made by the U.S. Commerce Department she had this to say: "We believe that the U.S. position is fundamentally wrong". I can just imagine her saying it since I see her in the House every day pounding her desk when she speaks. The Minister said that Governments have a sovereign right to establish conditions for the management and utilization of their natural resources. She further said that stumpage clearly does not constitute a subsidy and the imposition of countervailing duties is therefore inappropriate.

● (1750)

The Minister said that it was a question of sovereignty. The Minister was stating her position very clearly and very firmly. If it were to be even more clear, and we can see this picture of a determined Minister with both feet firmly planted, banging away, saying "You can't do this. We have a right.", at a press conference on October 22, this determined Minister, to drive home this determination, stated:

This decision strikes at the sovereign right of governments to manage their own natural resources for the benefit of our own people.

She told this to a news conference after a three-hour meeting at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. She further stated:

We are determined to fight this decision.

Well, Mr. Speaker, she fought. When the fight was on, there was the Minister from the beaches of Waikiki, and we can imagine her saying this, "We shall fight them from the beaches, we shall fight them from the Aloha Lounge of the Waikiki Hilton, we shall fight them on the telephones; we shall never surrender".

The Minister accused the Americans of blinking. How would she know, she never eyeballed them, she was never there. She was sunning herself on the beaches of Hawaii. She was fighting them from that vantage point. I get this big picture of the surf rising in crests, the Minister lying on the beach in dark shades with a bank of telephones shouting instructions over the telephones: "Don't blink, eyeball them. I am right behind you." When the dust settled, what did bingo have to say? What was going to be the big battle over the fact that the Americans did not have a right to tell Canadians how to develop their forests, and what stumpage to charge? Now, instead of being pushed off the ledge of the Hilton in Waikiki, we jumped. We jumped without a safety net beneath us. In the Minister's own words, what is indeed a defeat for us, because it is the Americans who will tell us what stumpage to charge, and in fact the Minister's words on January 6, 1987—

Mr. Riis: What were they?

Mr. Rodriguez: There are the words. She first said that the Americans would have got a hell of a lot more out of a

Softwood Lumber Products Export Charge Act

countervailing duty than out of this negotiated agreement. She reinforced it by saying, "By limiting the Americans only to the arithmetic we kept them out of our forests, out of our books, and out of our hair". Can you just see it, Mr. Speaker. Then she went on to say, "They blinked. We didn't.". She said the most important victories are fighting off U.S. attempts to force changes to our stumpage system. What a crock of bingle. Fought them off? When she went in to negotiate there was an exemption for the softwood forestry industry in the Atlantic region. After the dust settled and she had fought this great fight in the trenches, lo and behold, they got the 15 per cent being applied to the softwood industry in Atlantic Canada. Is that not marvellous? What great negotiations.

She snatched defeat from the jaws of victory, and then turned around and talked about how she made the Americans blink. Some blink. Some eye. The sad part about this is that the Americans now recognize that we have a patsy negotiating for us, a real patsy. It is not only the Americans who recognize that we have a patsy, but all the industrialized nations of the world. The Japanese are now talking a 15 per cent duty, because they think that we are going to be dumping our softwood lumber into the Japanese market.

Mr. Brisco: I rise on a point of order. In a fit of compassion, I thought it might be instructive for the Member to know that the camera is having a great deal of difficulty following him. It is a great speech, but if he would try to remain in place long enough for the camera to see him, then all of Canada could watch.

Mr. McDermid: The Hon. Member should not use the name of the Minister.

Mr. Rodriguez: The Parliamentary Secretary has said that I am using the Minister's first name. When I use "patsy" I use it in a generic sense, meaning a push-over.

Mr. Riis: Carney queen.

Mr. Rodriguez: The Carney queen. A push-over, Mr. Speaker, that is what we all understand that term to mean.

The Japanese are now talking about challenging this patsy. The Europeans are talking about a 15 per cent duty.

It is a sad day, and the late Sir John A. Macdonald must be turning over in his grave at the display of this spineless reaction by this Government. If it was wrong for the Americans to try and tell us that our stumpage was too low, and that we had that sovereign right to determine the stumpage fee and any other matter regarding our resources, then we see them in court. That is what we do, we see them in court. We do not do what they want us to do for them.

Mr. McDermid: That's good, and lose all the money to the Americans.

Mr. Angus: I rise on a point of order. Looking at the clock, I see that we only have two minutes left. I wonder if the House