

Supply

industry is located. I was home last weekend and had an opportunity to meet with those people. They asked me some questions I want to ask in this House. First, where were the Tory Members of Parliament from the Province of British Columbia before this decision was taken? There are 19 Conservative Members of Parliament from British Columbia, and my constituents who work in the shake and shingle industry asked why it was that this decision came as such a terrible shock to the Tory MPs from British Columbia. Where were they? Why were they not standing up for the jobs of the people whom they represent?

We have heard from the Hon. Member for Mission—Port Moody. I accept his words that he thought, and presumably his colleagues thought, that the decision would not go the way it did. But if that is the case, then we must ask some very serious questions about the source of his information. Presumably the knowledge of the Hon. Member for Mission—Port Moody, and of other Hon. Members, was based on information received from people who are supposedly working for us in our embassy in Washington. If these individuals were misrepresenting the position, if they were not sounding the alarm bells and saying: "There is a real possibility that this punitive tariff may be imposed", then they were not doing their jobs on behalf of the people of Canada. Certainly, I think we have to look very carefully at the role played by our embassy and by our ambassador in Washington in not giving us the warning that this decision was in fact a distinct possibility.

This industry in British Columbia is a very important one. It accounts for some \$250 million in exports. There are 4,000 direct jobs and many other indirect jobs involved in some 140 operations. Much of the industry is in the Fraser Valley and is a cottage type operation. Like the U.S. shake and shingle sector, there has been a very substantial rationalization and job loss in recent years. This is a devastating if not a terminal blow to this important industry.

Another question asked when I met with my constituents in Burnaby on the weekend was how we can trust the Prime Minister to negotiate a firm and fair deal for Canadians in these free trade negotiations when he gets sold out on the very eve of these negotiations. The Prime Minister rose in the House on Friday and said he was shocked, bewildered, incredulous and angry and that it was bizarre, confusing and goodness' knows what else. That is a portent of things to come in these negotiations. I want to note that we paid a very heavy price as Canadians for this special relationship between the Prime Minister and the President of the United States. We supposedly paid that price to avoid the kind of sell-out we saw on Friday. The Prime Minister said: "Yes, Sir" to the Americans time after time whether it was on the participation of Canadian industry in star wars, on the testing of the Cruise missile in Canada, on the blind and unequivocal support for the bombing in Tripoli and the death of innocent civilians, or the acquiescence to the invasion of our sovereignty in the Arctic Sea. Time and time again the Canadian people have asked what the Prime Minister was up to. Why he is selling

out Canadian interests? Why is he selling out Canadian sovereignty for no apparent price?

We were told that there is a special relationship between the Prime Minister and the President. They are good buddies. The prices we are paying in these other areas are the prices we are prepared to pay because President Reagan will never let down his good buddy, the Prime Minister. But what happened on Friday? The President made a decision which attacked the jobs of 4,000 British Columbians in the shake and shingle industry. The Prime Minister got stabbed in the back by his good buddy. My constituents in Burnaby are asking themselves if they really want this man and this Government to negotiate a free trade deal for Canadians when they have that kind of relationship of trust with the people with whom they are negotiating. The answer from the people I had the opportunity to discuss this with was a very clear no. They said there was no way they wanted to embark on those kinds of discussions. That is why we in this Party have said we do not believe these free trade negotiations should go ahead in the face of this deliberate attack directed personally by the President on the Canadian shake and shingle industry. We say that these negotiations should not go ahead when they can only get under way on such a shaky foundation.

I had thought that at least we had the agreement of the Liberal Party, the Official Opposition. I see the Hon. Member for Saint-Henri—Westmount, the Liberal spokesperson, is back in the House. There will be an opportunity in the time after my remarks for that Hon. Member to rise and say to the people of British Columbia: "Wait a minute. Perhaps I was a little hasty. Perhaps I was wrong. I take it back. We are not going to sell out your jobs". I admit that the Liberal Party, having considered the matter with care, does not now support the export of raw cedar logs and shake bolts. The Hon. Member for Saint-Henri—Westmount has had a chance to consult with his colleagues in British Columbia. I know they will have told him: "For God's sake, Don, set the record straight because if you do not, what is left of the Liberal Party in B.C. will be wiped out". Some of us would not shed great tears of sadness if that were to happen. But let us at least think of poor Art Lee who is struggling valiantly to build up the tiny and fragile Liberal Party in British Columbia. I plead with the Hon. Member for Saint-Henri—Westmount to consider the position of Art Lee and what he must be thinking now when he has been stabbed in the back—not in the back—he was stabbed in the front by his own colleague in the House of Commons. That colleague is the spokesperson on external relations who says to the workers in the shake and shingle industry in the Province of British Columbia the following. "We will allow raw cedar logs to be shipped to your competitors in the United States. Yes, we will allow shake bolts to be sent south of the border to compete with what is left of the B.C. industry".

● (1720)

My colleague, the Hon. Member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow), looks in shock and bewilderment as if to say: "Did