

Supply

That is certainly the case as a result of the statement made by the Government yesterday. What does the Hon. Member feel the Government should be doing in terms of an adjustment program for those families in British Columbia?

• (1200)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): A few seconds, the Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Fort Garry (Mr. Axworthy).

Mr. Axworthy: Mr. Speaker, I know the time is short and I will answer accordingly. First, I think we should still be making efforts to get that tariff changed. We should be making last ditch efforts until June 6 to appeal to the American President. Barring that, I believe the Government should introduce at this time the provisions under the Employment Support Act of 1971 which was brought in under similar circumstances when the Americans imposed a 10 per cent import tax. It helped many Canadian industries to maintain themselves during that period of time by making up the difference between the cost of the import tariff and their costs to continue their exports into the United States.

I am surprised the Government has not taken advantage of that Statute, which is still on the books, to establish an employment support board so that those 4,000 workers will at least be able to maintain themselves in business and have some future.

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, let me begin by thanking the Leader of the New Democratic Party for arranging this debate today. It is a matter of great concern to all Canadians and to all Parties in the House. I want to make a brief comment about the intervention of the Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Fort Garry (Mr. Axworthy) who is, as we all know, a Member of Parliament who is transfixed by the United States of America, even to the point of having his assistant down now working with one of the leading opponents in the U.S. Congress of acid rain legislation, legislation which would be helpful to Canada.

Mr. Axworthy: A matter of privilege. That is not the truth, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Order. The Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Fort Garry on a question of privilege.

Mr. Axworthy: Mr. Speaker, the Minister has just stated an untruth. I would ask him to withdraw it.

Mr. de Corneille: Get off your knees.

Mr. Gauthier: You're switching the truth again.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Order.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): Mr. Speaker, I repeat my allegation. If the Hon. Member has any evidence, let him bring it forth.

Mr. Axworthy: You are making the accusation.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): On the question—

Mr. Axworthy: I ask the Minister to withdraw a statement which is untrue, by the rules of this House.

An Hon. Member: Come on. Sit down, Lloyd.

Mr. Axworthy: He cannot come into this House and give a direct lie. It is a direct lie the Minister has stated and I ask him to withdraw it.

Mr. Frith: Ring the bells.

Mr. Gauthier: We will.

Mr. Axworthy: That's a lie and he knows it.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Order. Order, please. After some consideration, the Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Fort Garry may find he is in strong disagreement, to say the least, with the Right Hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark). But for him to say what he has said is in fact to use unparliamentary language, *per se*, and I would therefore ask him to withdraw. I think he knows that he would have to withdraw.

Mr. Broadbent: If I may speak on this point of order, Mr. Speaker. It seems to me that it is incumbent on the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) to accept the word of Hon. Member. One of the rules of the House is that if someone says something is not the case, it is presupposed that we accept the word of that someone. I think the onus is really on the Secretary of State for External Affairs to withdraw his comment before there is a suggestion that the Hon. Member, who has been challenged by the—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Order.

Mr. de Corneille: Tell him to get off his knees, first.

An Hon. Member: Withdraw.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): What is relevant to the Chair at this point in time is not the question of fact as presented by the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Broadbent), and I understand his point. What is relevant to the Chair now is that we are now in a forum of debate and it is not expected that Hon. Members on each side of the House always agree on the facts. We all understand that. What is very relevant to the Chair now, and the only thing with which the Chair wants to deal at this point, is the fact that unparliamentary language has been used.

Mr. Axworthy: Mr. Speaker—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Order, please. Let me just finish so we can come to a clear understanding on this. The Chair once again understands full well that perhaps the Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Fort Garry does not agree—strongly disagrees with the Right Hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs. He has made that quite clear. But the only