

Softwood Lumber

The dispute settlement mechanism can only say if the American law is correctly applied, not if the law was fair. As well, it says the Americans can change their laws, and that is just what the Americans did. The U.S. changed its laws about subsidies and used the charges against us. A deal like that is no good at all.

We are subject to American import laws, which as an exporting nation puts us in a sad situation. I well remember during the last election, during the numerous debates in my district of Cardigan, Prince Edward Island, we were talking about supply management and free trade. Things were going to be protected. Well today the dairy industry, the poultry industry and the egg industry are on the verge of financial difficulties.

I can assure you that it looks very obvious that the free trade agreement again is not going to be of any help, if not harmful. As I stated during the election campaign, free trade and supply management are two opposites.

Free trade, or what free trade should be, is the removal of tariffs and controls. But it is quite obvious tonight that it is not the removal of tariffs, only when the Americans decide to remove them, and to put them back in place when the Americans so desire.

Why I spoke so strongly for supply management was because I felt they were two opposites. Supply management meant that you could put protection in place to control the importation of certain products into the country. No, we were told, this was going to be protected. But, here again we could lose or jeopardize our dairy, egg and poultry industries.

It looks to me that supply management, along with softwood lumber and many other industries in this country, has come to a crashing halt because of this notorious trade deal this government got us into.

During the election we were told that with the trade deal the Americans would become our partners in international trade. This is simply not the case.

Look at GATT. Our problems there over supply management are caused by the Americans who want to destroy our system of supply management. It was the

U.S. that challenged us on ice cream and yoghurt. It was the U.S. that challenged us on the B.C. salmon processing. Now it is the Americans who are imposing tariffs on our softwood lumber.

The province most affected by this government's spineless attitude in dealing with the United States over softwood lumber is British Columbia.

But the people in the softwood lumber industry in British Columbia have a powerful ally in Gordon Wilson, the leader of the Liberal Party and leader of the opposition. Gordon Wilson has stood firm in his opposition to these protectionist measures and he stands proudly with the primary producers in demanding this government take action.

The Prime Minister must stop being the lap-dog of the United States President and start defending the interests of those Canadians who work in this vital industry.

The Americans are only interested in protecting themselves. The U.S. is not going to look after Canadian interests. The sad thing is that this government is not looking after our interests either.

The government has signed a deal that is unlikely to provide a favourable decision in this lumber dispute and until this government is willing to defend Canadian interests, I am afraid we will suffer.

Before the trade deal was signed, trade seemed to be going reasonably well between Canada and the United States. Today we have great problems with the Honda issue, the furniture industry, the manufacturing industry, and for sure with supply management. And it looks like the lumber industry is in a disastrous situation.

So I ask the government to stand and defend the lumber industry in this country.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): It being 20 minutes after midnight, this House stands adjourned until later today at 10 o'clock a.m., pursuant to Standing Order 24(1).

The House adjourned at 00.20 a.m.