

Our agenda consisted simply of that briefing in advance of a 20 minute session between the Ambassador and Secretary Baldrige, and a 10 minute briefing afterwards. We did not see any Americans or talk to any American media. There was no meeting set up with American congressional leaders. We simply went to a meeting room with the Ambassador and, as if by magic, Canadian press representatives showed up at the embassy to take our picture with a very earnest looking Ambassador. Furthermore, when we called home we discovered that, magically, the newspapers contained headlines about a last ditch attempt being made to stave off the petition. We posed as best we could for these pictures since we were part of this last ditch effort. However, if this shallow exercise deserved the description of a last ditch serious attempt by the Government to stave off the petition that now threatens our softwood lumber workers, then we are in bad shape. My earlier suspicions that the Government is preoccupied with managing Canadian public opinion rather than our affairs with the Americans were confirmed.

A few hours later, we were on a plane coming back to Ottawa. However, we learned a lesson. The Government, like the young fellow in the school yard with the seat out of his pants and his eye blackened, is more interested in saving face in front of the Canadian people than trying to address our problems south of the border.

• (1240)

The whole attitude of the Government is personified by the actions of the Prime Minister in the last few days. He has in the last few days behaved like someone going through the pains of puberty. At one time he runs around the country complaining about the Opposition having its head in the sand, and a couple of days later he complains we have our heads in the snow. He is suffering from hot and cold flashes. He has launched what he says will be the issue on which he will fight the next election. He will fight the Grits and the NDP, but while he is doing so Ronald Reagan is taking pokes at him from the side.

What does he do when Ronald Reagan takes a poke at him from the side? He comes back and says: "I will battle the Liberals and the NDP. I will fight the next election on this". And Reagan punches him again, but all he says is: "The Liberals have their heads in the sand". And the President punches him again, and he is so confused he now has us with our heads in the snow.

Let Canadians understand that when we talk about a 35 per cent tariff on the Canadian cedar shakes and shingles industry, we are not talking about cedar shakes being penalized or shingles being penalized, we are not talking about trees being discriminated against, we are talking about people. We are talking about men and women and Canadian families who, for reasons they do not understand, have discovered that a bolt of lightning out of the blue has, in a remarkable way, altered

their lives. It has set them on the course to the unemployment lines.

### *Supply*

Why has this happened? It has happened because the President of the United States has a omnibus trade Bill before the Congress. It is kind of a grab-bag of protectionist measures which is incoherent and quite dangerous. That we all agree and acknowledge. The President wants to stop the Bill. In order to do so he has to demonstrate that he already has the means to impose trade sanctions. So he picks up his trade hammer and looks around the world. He has to strike that hammer somewhere. It used to be that the Americans would focus on Japan on trade problems. But he cannot strike Japan because President Nakasone is having an election on trade issues. He does not want to interfere in that process. The President looks at Great Britain but says: "No, my friend Maggie, is third in the polls. She already has enough trouble". So he cannot strike there. He looks at Europe and he says: "No, I cannot take a major trade initiative there because it will affect our foreign policy, our defence policy, and we still do not have our nuclear missiles in place in Denmark". Then he looks at Canada. He sees 211 Members of Parliament out of 282 forming the Government. He says to himself: "There is a stable Government. It is not going to be defeated for a few more years". He looks at the record of the Prime Minister and what does he see? He sees a Prime Minister who has stated: "In all circumstances, we shall give our great ally, our best friend, the U.S., the benefit of the doubt". He sees a Prime Minister who is desperate to start a free trade negotiation. So he gets the Prime Minister his free trade negotiation in the U.S. Senate and the price is a tariff on cedar shakes and shingles, and a blow yet to be struck against the Canadian softwood lumber industry.

Why has that happened, Mr. Speaker? You will recall the meeting between the President and the Prime Minister in Quebec City on St. Patrick's Day last year. The Prime Minister came out of the meeting and told the press: "You can be sure that when the protectionist winds blow, they will not be blowing at Canada. If I'm wrong, you can cut me into little bits". That bears repeating. The Prime Minister of Canada in the present context of a tariff on cedar shakes and shingles and a threatened tariff on softwood lumber said: "You can be sure that when the protectionist winds blow, they will not be blowing at Canada. If I'm wrong, you can cut me into little bits". I have no intention of cutting the Prime Minister into little bits, but if I held him to his word he would resemble chopped cheese before this day was out.

Over the last year and a half while the American protectionist sentiment was brewing in the United States, while it festered and finally erupted into an open sore which afflicted some of our trading partners, particularly Canada, over that whole period our Prime Minister was running around saying: "If I'm wrong, you can cut me into little bits. I have a special relationship with my friend, Ron".