

POLITICAL PARTIES

RESIGNATION OF PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY
SUPPORTER

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, the people of Manitoba are very angry with the Government. I wish to read the letter of resignation from a member of the Tory Party, Mr. Douglas Broeska of Fort Garry. The letter is addressed to the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and it states:

Dear Sir,

I am deeply sorry to have to inform you of my resignation from the Conservative Party of Canada. In addition, I intend to discontinue any future support or involvement of myself and my company with Conservative Party activities.

The blatant favouritism shown Canadair over Bristol Aerospace in the awarding of the CF-18 maintenance contract has shown the people of this country that the Prairies and Western Canada are effectively disenfranchised when it comes to making major development decisions.

It continues:

It is the reason that I hereby resign my Party membership and the basis on which I will work to defeat a Government which espouses such an unprincipled policy.

Respectfully,
H. Douglas Broeska.

• (1415)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

TRADE

UNITED STATES DUTY ON CANADIAN SOFTWOOD LUMBER
EXPORTS

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Now that the Canadian Government has buckled under once again to the United States, when is a final offer a final offer?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, there has been no buckling under of any kind. I assume my right hon. friend is referring to the lumber issue which is of such great importance to British Columbia, the province he represents. The position endorsed by the First Ministers was strongly endorsed by the Premier of British Columbia, the Government of British Columbia, and the Premier of Quebec, both of whom I believe control in excess of 80 per cent of the resource. The approach considered by the First Ministers is clearly in the national interest. We think that it will be of benefit to Canada—to British Columbia and to all other provinces.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister might forget that in citing some endorsement from some provinces, he is really saying that he yielded a purely federal matter in commerce and trade. He should be dealing

Oral Questions

with it on his own responsibility and on the responsibility of the Government of Canada.

[Translation]

CANADA'S ATTITUDE TOWARD UNITED STATES—
CONSEQUENCES

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, does the Prime Minister realize that by giving in to the Americans on the lumber issue, he is now laying himself open to U.S. attacks on pulp and paper, steel, the Auto Pact, fish, grain and so many other Canadian products?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, we have not made any concessions whatsoever to the Americans. The approach formulated by the federal Government and supported by all provincial premiers who were seriously involved, including Premier Bourassa from Quebec and his active support, is one that the federal Government judged to be in the national interest. The procedure is an entirely normal and responsible one, and with it we hope to be able to resolve a very serious problem, a problem that cannot be solved by the partisan appeals my hon. friend is making.

[English]

PRIME MINISTER'S POSITION

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, could the Prime Minister tell the House, in his obsessive pursuit of a free trade agreement with the United States, how far he is planning to go in selling out Canada? When will he begin to stand up for Canadians?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, what the Minister for International Trade put forward for consideration following discussions—and it was a position endorsed by nine provinces, nine First Ministers—has the objective of wiping any negative decision of any precedent value from the books against Canada, of managing Canadian forest resources on exactly our own terms, and of keeping approximately \$600 million per year in Canadians' pockets. I say to the Leader of the Opposition that he should explain to Mr. Vander Zalm and the people of British Columbia why he is proposing a course of action which would put \$600 million per year in American pockets. We are opposed to that.

TERMS OF CANADIAN OFFER

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Prime Minister. While we are on the topic of explaining things, would the Prime Minister be good enough to explain to the House what it is exactly that we are offering the Americans? What is in the deal? What is in the proposal? So far we have seen no terms. Is it a stumpage fee? Is it an export duty? What in fact is the Canadian Government offering as part of its concession to the United States?