

If any of the steel manufacturers negatively impacted by this decision wish to do so, thanks to the free trade agreement they may file for a panel under chapter 19 of the FTA.

Mr. Steve Butland (Sault Ste. Marie): Madam Speaker, I agree the question was one of substance. Unfortunately the answer was not.

I want to cite some statistics that illustrate just how out of whack our system of trade appears to be. Revenue Canada made a preliminary ruling in April that six countries were dumping steel sheet and plate into Canada and duties were levied up to 130 per cent. The CIIT came along yesterday and said no injury was occurring.

I want to ask the minister or the parliamentary secretary a question. If there is dumping with margins up to 130 per cent how there can be no injury to Canadian steel? How does he reconcile these figures?

Mr. Peter L. McCreath (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for International Trade): Madam Speaker, I suggest that my hon. friend wait until the tribunal issues the reasons for its finding, which it will do over the course of the next couple of days.

I would ask him, though, to tell me if it is the policy of his party that the Government of Canada should interfere with the decisions of independent arm's length adjudicative bodies.

Mr. Steve Butland (Sault Ste. Marie): Madam Speaker, I am asking for a change in the legislation to give Canadian steel producers a break.

To further illustrate the imbalances in the Canada-U.S.A. system the CIIT conducted hearings on this ruling for 11 days. It ruled against us. In the U.S.A. we were given 15 minutes to defend a multimillion dollar case at the trade commission. It is a kangaroo court. It is free trade for Americans and no trade for Canada.

Canadian steel producers are only too aware of this government's failures. What is the parliamentary secretary's next step?

Mr. Peter L. McCreath (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for International Trade): Madam Speaker, I guess my next step is to say that is absolute bunk and nonsense. The member just said there were 11 days of hearing during which this independent tribunal heard

the evidence presented as a result of the complaint filed with Revenue Canada.

I again say to him that we cannot have a system of independent adjudication of disputes on the one hand and then say on the other that we want the government to change the law or interfere any time we lose.

As for FTA panels I would remind my hon. friend that Canada has won over two-thirds of those. The system has served us well.

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• (1430)

GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENTS

Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax): Madam Speaker, we understand that Arni Thorsteinson is to resign today from the board of the Bank of Canada.

My question is for the Minister of Public Works. Why was this man appointed in the first place, 16 days after it became public knowledge that his company's financial problems could cost the taxpayers up to \$6 million?

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of Public Works): Madam Speaker, it is common knowledge that various market conditions in different parts of Canada have caused a lot of people to have difficulties.

Under the circumstances, Mr. Thorsteinson's organization has indeed been having some difficulties. I understand if Mr. Thorsteinson has not tendered his resignation, he is about to do so. It is important, as the House knows, without casting aspersions on anyone, to make sure that the probity at the Bank of Canada is maintained.

Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax): Madam Speaker, what is clear is that Mr. Thorsteinson's Tory credentials outweighed his financial credentials. Last week my colleague from Glengarry—Prescott—Russell was excoriated for even daring to bring up these credentials.

I want to know how could this appointment have been approved by the Prime Minister, by the cabinet and by the minister himself given this man's unfortunate financial history?

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of Public Works): Madam Speaker, the member opposite is exaggerating. I certainly did not excoriate the member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell. I think it is rather mean spirited and unfair to attribute any motives to this process. After all, the opposition quite properly pointed out some difficul-