

Softwood Lumber Products Export Charge Act

Mr. Lewis: Yes, I rose on a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Parliamentary Secretary rose on a point of order but he made it quite clear before he sat down that he was prepared to carry on with debate. I am prepared to recognize the Parliamentary Secretary on debate.

● (1550)

Mr. Penner: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I would argue that it is irregular for an Hon. Member to rise on a point of order and, without resuming his seat, seek recognition again for debate. That is not the regular way we proceed in this House. In fact, the Hon. Member has been recognized for two distinct actions and I submit to Your Honour that that is not the regular way to proceed.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps in trying to facilitate things, I have confused things. Is the Hon. Member for Cochrane—Superior (Mr. Penner) putting the point that there were others rising for debate?

Mr. Penner: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: I understand the point. Perhaps the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary would kindly defer. Who was rising on debate?

Mr. Penner: I was.

Mr. Speaker: I recognize the Hon. Member for Cochrane—Superior on debate.

Mr. de Corneille: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I would like to put it on the record that even as of this time, I have been unable to get a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding from the Table Officers. I have spoken to the Pages and they cannot get one because there are not enough copies available. Again, I wish to use this to illustrate to you the position in which we as members of the Opposition are being placed when it comes to checking if the document is the same one.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member has raised a matter of importance. I am sure something will be done as soon as possible to find copies. The Chair also points out that debate has gone on for a number of days apparently without copies or with one copy that someone could find. In any event, I recognize the Hon. Member for Cochrane—Superior on debate as I think that is what he wishes.

Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane—Superior): Mr. Speaker, in rising to debate this Bill, I am at the outset cognizant of Your Honour's instruction to the House that my participation will not in any way prejudice Your Honour's decision on the important point of order that has been raised this afternoon.

I must say that the softwood lumber issue is of immense importance and concern to the people of northern Ontario, the region which I have the honour of representing. Since this may be the tail end of a debate which will in time prove not to be in

order and since what has already been said and what remains to be said may be determined by Your Honour to be null and void, I have no choice in the matter but to move:

That this House do now adjourn.

Mr. Speaker: The House has heard the terms of the motion. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour please say yea.

Some Hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Speaker: All those opposed please say nay.

Some Hon. Members: Nay.

Mr. Speaker: In my opinion the nays have it.

And fewer than five Members having risen:

Mr. Speaker: I declare the motion negatived.

Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the point I wanted to make was that it is very clear from the opening speeches of the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner) and the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Broadbent) that the agreement in question was available to these Hon. Members. Hon. Members opposite who have claimed they could not get a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding had difficulties within their own caucus. On page 2377 of *Hansard*, the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition quotes from the agreement.

Mr. Manly: Does your Leader give everything to you?

Mr. Lewis: We will get to the Leader of the New Democratic Party in a moment. The Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition goes on to say that this agreement determines the price. This is the agreement to which none of the members of the Liberal Party had access.

On page 2379 of *Hansard*, the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition mentions the 30-day cancellation clause. Once again, this is from the Memorandum of Understanding which was not available to my colleagues in the Liberal Party yet the Leader of the Opposition had this agreement. He goes on at page 2380 to mention the agreement contained in this Bill. Obviously, in preparing his notes, the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition had available to him the Memorandum of Understanding which my colleagues opposite claim they were not able to obtain.

I do not want to leave the impression that the only competent person on that side of the House is the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition. The Leader of the New Democratic Party also had access to the agreement. On page 2385 of *Hansard*, the Hon. Member for Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent)