

*Softwood Lumber Products*

Mr. Speaker, did you know that in 1982 and 1984, they set aside a mere \$50 million in their Budget for the industry? That is far less than they promised. Are we going to believe these people? We must let Canadians be the judge of whether these people are telling us the truth, whether the federal Liberals, and I am not naming any names, are sincere when they say they are defending the interests of the Canadian people and of our lumber producers. Mr. Speaker, they were the first ones to put Canadian forestry operations in jeopardy.

**Mr. Gauthier:** You don't know what you're talking about!

**Mr. Champagne (Champlain):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday afternoon, I was listening to the Hon. Member for Richmond—Wolfe, who said: We have a serious reforestation problem. Yes, Mr. Speaker, we do have a serious reforestation problem because when the Liberals were in power, they did nothing for the forestry sector. For twenty years they paraded their arrogance and walked all over the provinces. In Quebec we remember what it was like. In Quebec, Mr. Speaker, people remember when the former Prime Minister of Canada, Pierre Elliot Trudeau, referred to Mr. Bourassa, the present Premier, as "*Un mangeux de hot-dogs*". That was a sample of Liberal arrogance, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we must be watchful. Canadians must be told. We must tell them to be perfectly honest, that with these people opposite, their personal interests always come first.

Mr. Speaker, if they had only considered sitting down and consulting, a word that unfortunately is not in their dictionary, our country's forestry industry might have been in much better shape.

Mr. Speaker, when we were elected in 1984, our Government recognized its responsibilities. We were faced with a serious deficit. We had a problem. The provinces would not talk to the federal Government because of their experience with the incompetence of the previous Liberal Government.

Mr. Speaker, we have signed agreements in the forestry sector. The Progressive Conservative Government has increased by about 400 per cent the federal contribution towards reforestation through subsidiary agreements with British Columbia, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Saskatchewan, Prince Edward Island and Alberta. Mr. Speaker, these are much more than election promises, these are achievements.

We spent \$300 million to repair the damage done in Quebec by the previous Government, Mr. Speaker, \$300 million to maintain 300,000 jobs throughout Canada, including Quebec. We are not talking about petty politics, Mr. Speaker, these are concrete measures taken to honour our election commitments.

Mr. Speaker, I can only laugh when I hear the Hon. Member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell (Mr. Boudria) say that the Progressive Conservative Party has failed to live up to its election promises. He should be more concerned about his own unkept promises, more concerned about the fact that he and his Party have misled Canadians.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to quote a statement which again proves clearly and in no uncertain terms just how arrogant the former Liberal Government could be with respect to Quebec. Mr. Speaker, here are some of the remarks made by Quebec's External Trade Minister Pierre MacDonald during a press conference:

Had there been no negotiations with the United States we certainly would have been unable to launch our reforestation and forest management program. There is no way we could have asked the industry to pay a tax of much more than 15 per cent which would have been collected by the United States and which would have added 7, 8 or 9 per cent to this levy. Thanks to the agreement signed with the United States we can now implement Bill 150 and revamp our forest management policy. We could not have done this if we had opted for a different solution.

Mr. Speaker, I suggest the message is quite clear.

**An Hon. Member:** He is not one of your Ministers!

**Mr. Champagne (Champlain):** And he is not one of the Conservative Ministers. If he were a Conservative Minister I might say I am being partisan to a certain extent. But no, Mr. Speaker, this is a provincial Minister who did support the understanding and who now abides by the agreement he signed with the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States. Mr. Speaker, his is a responsible Government and he is a responsible Minister. What I still fail to understand, Mr. Speaker—and the Opposition will have to prove—is why the Liberals and New Democrats insist on saying it is a bad agreement, whereas 90 per cent of all Canadians endorse our action. Indeed, if nine provinces out of ten, plus the federal Government are for it, it does add up to 90 per cent, not to mention the support of the labour movement, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the only advice I can offer the Liberals and New Democrats if they are sincere when they say they are aware of the Canadian people and are prepared to listen to them and to cooperate with the provincial Governments is this: Stop being arrogant, get to work, sit down at the table with us, forget about scoring political points and together we will build a strong and prosperous Canada, not as you seem intent on doing a rudderless country such as the Liberals left us with on September 4, 1884.

● (1340)

[English]

**Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver—Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, in rising to speak to this Bill, I want to tell my hon. friend who just spoke that there is an important national interest that must be addressed. He should consider that there are some very efficient mills in interior British Columbia that will begin selling to Ontario and Quebec if they cannot sell their lumber in the United States. That will push out some of the more marginal producers in those provinces. Therefore, there are ramifications all across the country.

I am sorry that the Hon. Member for St. Henri—Westmount (Mr. Johnston) is not in the House.