

Supply

This motion is designed to help them show that there is unanimity in the concern in this House for the people of British Columbia who are directly affected by the action taken by the President. What could be more clear?

If they wish to drag in all of these stray cats, and raise extraneous questions about what the Liberal Party in British Columbia may think about the export of cedar logs, I suppose that is fair game. That is up to you to decide, Mr. Speaker. However, that is not what we are talking about here this afternoon.

Mr. Robinson: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Debate. The Hon. Member for Burnaby (Mr. Robinson).

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise to participate in this important debate this afternoon. Before getting to the substance of my remarks, I want to spend a moment reflecting on a very serious matter that was just raised by the spokesperson for the Liberal Party concerning the position of the Liberal Party on the question of the export of cedar logs and shake bolts. The Member for Saint-Henri—Westmount (Mr. Johnston), apparently speaking on behalf of the Liberal Party, stood up on the floor of the House and made a statement which would have a devastating impact on the people of British Columbia and on the workers in the shake and shingle industry in that province.

I am astonished that a former cabinet Minister, a former spokesperson on regional industrial expansion, would actually be prepared to stand up in the House and advocate action that could destroy the jobs of thousands of British Columbians. That is exactly the impact of the policy of the Liberal Party as enunciated by the Member for Saint-Henri—Westmount.

Let us take a moment to examine the implications of what he has said. If the industry is allowed to export raw cedar logs and shake bolts to the United States, the industry would effectively be exporting jobs from British Columbia to the United States. Of course, the source of this raw material for this industry is in British Columbia, yet the Hon. Member for Saint-Henri—Westmount, as spokesperson for the Liberal Party, is saying to go ahead and take our raw materials, our raw logs, our shake bolts, our market and our jobs from the people of British Columbia. That is the exact position advocated by the Liberal Party of Canada.

Let me assure the House that the people of British Columbia will be made aware that the Liberal Party of Canada, through its spokesperson on external affairs, is advocating the export of raw cedar logs and shake bolts which would destroy the industry in the Province of British Columbia. There is an unholy alliance in the House today between the Conservative Party and the Liberal Party. On the one hand, the Conservative Party has been dragging its heels and not been prepared to stand up for the workers in British Columbia. On the other hand, it was revealed today for the

first time that they are buddies with the Liberal Party. We see the dynamic duo of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and the Hon. Member for Saint-Henri—Westmount who, together, are cozying up to one another for the first time. The workers in the Province of British Columbia are getting the shaft.

In this debate on a motion moved by the Liberal Party, I am pleased that for the first time the Liberal Party of British Columbia and the Liberal Party representatives in Canada are revealing their true stand on this important issue. I am pleased that those of us in the New Democratic Party who have at least been consistent on this question will have an opportunity to quote throughout British Columbia the words of the Member for Saint-Henri—Westmount who is advocating relinquishing jobs to the workers in the United States. That is a shameful abdication of responsibility by the Official Opposition on this important question.

I am pleased that my colleague, the Hon. Member for Skeena (Mr. Fulton), was able to finally smoke out the Liberals and see where they really stand on this question.

The reality is that the shake and shingle tariff we are speaking about today is a punitive tariff that will effectively kill the industry in the Province of British Columbia and, indeed, across Canada within a matter of months. The irony of this position is that not only will the British Columbia industry be destroyed by this punitive tariff, the American industry will be severely hit. That is, unless the policy of the Liberal Party is adopted. In that case, all our raw cedar logs and shake bolts will be sent south of the border, as the Member for Saint-Henri—Westmount has indicated.

This tariff decision is sending a very clear message from the American administration to the people of Canada, particularly the people in British Columbia. The message from the President of the United States is that he is prepared to stab the Prime Minister in the back. While the President says the Prime Minister is his good friend from the time of the Shamrock Summit, where they stood together to sing "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling", when it comes down to the crunch, the President sells us out and stabs the Prime Minister in the back.

No one should have been particularly surprised by this decision. On May 8 the President wrote to Senator Robert Packwood and said: "I am committed to finding a rapid and effective solution to the Canadian softwood lumber problem. I will take such action as may be necessary to resolve this problem consistent with U.S. law".

• (1710)

Some 4,000 families in the Province of British Columbia are paying the price for this promise made by the President of the United States. I might say that many of those families live in my constituency of Burnaby and many of them work in the riding of the Hon. Member for Mission—Port Moody (Mr. St. Germain) where a significant part of the shake and shingle