

per cent tax on hemlock will result in a smaller demand that will result in less product in the sawmills. The Government that talked so much about jobs in the last election is, in effect, taxing the very jobs that exist.

Some timber rights in Ontario are more than 100 years old. People who own those timber rights spend a lot of money on reforestation and road maintenance. Yet they are being taxed for managing that forest.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): I regret that I must advise the Hon. Member that his time has expired.

[Translation]

The Hon. Member for Chicoutimi (Mr. Harvey).

Mr. Gauthier: Madam Speaker, on a point of order.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) on a point of order.

[English]

Mr. Gauthier: I move:

That the Member for Vancouver East be now heard.

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The Hon. Member for Vancouver East (Ms. Mitchell) did not rise at that point.

An Hon. Member: Yes.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): No, she had not risen when I recognized the Hon. Member for Chicoutimi (Mr. Harvey). The Hon. Member has the floor.

Mr. Gauthier: He had not said a word. I rose before him—

An Hon. Member: Let him be.

[English]

Stick to your toys, Paul.

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): It is true the Hon. Member for Chicoutimi had not started to speak. I must then ask the Hon. Member for Vancouver East (Ms. Mitchell) if she assures me she had risen. As far as I am concerned, I did not see her rise and ask to speak. If she assures me that she did so, as two Hon. Members at this point are seeking the floor, I will have to recognize the Hon. Member for Vancouver East.

● (2050)

[English]

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Madam Speaker, I am really glad I have a chance to make a few remarks on this very important Bill which has extreme implications for many people in Canada, particularly for the one million forest workers. I would like to say that I meet from time to time with many of the forestry workers and those people who are related to the forest industry in my riding of Vancouver East. For a

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long time we have been very concerned about the forestry policy in British Columbia, or the lack of policy, I should say. I mention this because I think the background is quite important to this Bill.

I think the Hon. Member for Skeena (Mr. Fulton) outlined from a historical perspective that for many years the Social Credit Government has really refused to look at what was happening to our forests in British Columbia. I think most Hon. Members would agree that we have the most beautiful forests in the world. Yet we have had our hillsides stripped and there has been really no government policy which has been effective in replacing those trees. This means that we are really selling out our future. The federal and provincial Governments from time to time have talked about reforestation and silviculture but they have done very little in this respect. We had hoped when the Conservative Government came into office it would appoint a senior Minister of Forestry and perhaps that person would mean we were finally going to get some real action in developing a sound forestry and reforestation policy. However, we have a very junior Minister and one from whom we have heard only a little, I am sad to say.

As to the lumber export tax, I think it is such a complicated process and policy that it is unfortunate the Government has chosen to try to stifle debate. I was astounded to hear from my colleagues that once again the Government is really trying to push this Bill through and in effect impose closure. It is important that we get all the facts. I would like to have a chance to do much more research and get more views as to the projected effects not just of the lumber export tax but of the whole precedence which has been set in place in the way this international incident, if you like, has been handled.

I think most of us on this side of the House, and I hope I can include the Hon. Members at either end when I say this, would agree that there has been really a lousy process of negotiation with the United States on this issue from beginning to end. We have been intimidated and have fluctuated back and forth. We have not been consistent. I can tell you, Madam Speaker, that the negotiations are not over yet. I would be very interested to see how the Government and the Minister makes out in trying to resolve many of the interprovincial policies with which she will be faced when this Bill goes through.

I am sure, as my colleagues have been saying tonight, that we negotiated from a position of weakness. That is very unfortunate. As I was coming out of my office this evening, I overheard one of the speakers saying it is absolutely appalling that the Minister could not take a sound and strong position. She probably should not have got involved in the first place. There are those who feel this should have been left to the courts. However, once she did get involved, the kind of inconsistency, which really weakened her whole position, and in turn weakened Canada's negotiating position, is well known and well documented. She offered 10 per cent as a final offer. I think she said two or three times she was making a final offer. Then, of course, she backed down and went up to 15 per cent.