

Supply

We will find out the truth about that as time goes by. Maybe Mr. Stevens will be writing a book some day and we will find out the real story behind a lot of it. But we do know this—

Mr. Epp: He wasn't even part of the agreement.

Mr. Gardiner: He was not even part of the agreement. Well, Mr. Stevens will write the book and we will see just exactly what the truth is behind it all, the truth behind the higher dollar.

Last night during discussions here in the House about the softwood lumber tariff, a subject with which I am very familiar, and how the rising dollar has helped destroy our forest industry in this country, we learned the thinking on the part of this government is that the memorandum of understanding on the softwood lumber tariff has done the job. Well, the job was done by the increase in the Canadian dollar that this government allowed in co-operation with their friends in Washington, D.C.

The question is, why does this government do this. I think perhaps we should look at Ronald Reagan's memoirs or something like that to get to the bottom of the thinking of this government. It is their view that the freeing up of government—

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Several members have questions and comments. Therefore, I must interrupt the hon. member. The hon. member for Sarnia—Lambton has the floor.

[*English*]

Mr. Ken James (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I noticed that the amendment put forward by the NDP adds the following words: "specifically its original commitment to restore 50 per cent federal funding for provincial health care costs".

The member who has just spoken was, in essence, running down the federal government.

• (1710)

Now they are coming through with an amendment of this kind that we would assume means the restoration of costs shared of all provincial health expenditures. That would cost \$5.4 billion.

Is the member aware that this could probably replace provincial health care dollars? Can the member be honest with Canadians and tell them where they would get the \$5.4 billion that the amendment he is supporting would have the government come forth with? What would they do? They should be honest with Canadians. Will they eliminate programs such as the illiteracy reduction program? Would they create job creation programs? Would they get the money from family allowances? Let's come clean with Canadians as to where they would find the \$5.4 billion. Would it be from research, from the green plan? Be honest with Canadians for once and tell us where you would find these dollars. It is easy to come out with these amendments.

It is time that the NDP, rather than call down this government that spends \$42 billion a year on human resource development, covering health and education, told Canadians where it would find the money.

Mr. Gardiner: Mr. Speaker, I have had plenty of advice from my colleagues and others to answer the member's question.

First of all, I suggest that it is unfortunate that the Prime Minister is not here right now because it was the Prime Minister who said across this country in 1983 that he thought that federal health care funds should try and reach 50-50. When the Prime Minister returns to the Chamber, I know the member will ask his own Prime Minister about his position on that.

The member asks: Where are you going to get the money from? Here are two quick answers. I would seek from the members opposite unanimous consent on a motion of the House to amend the budget to eliminate the entertainment tax which would bring in \$1.1 billion to the Government of Canada; and I would eliminate the \$153 a day to the Senate. Let's spend that money on health care policy instead.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Order. I ask the honorable members to revert to the subject before the House.

[*English*]

Mr. Peter L. McCreath (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State (Finance and Privatization)): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have an opportunity to rise to participate in this debate. I compliment the hon. member for Winnipeg North for bringing forth this very important topic for discussion in the House today. There is no