

Softwood Lumber

want, in the way they want to look after the fish to their own best advantage.

I am afraid that is where we are heading: to the point where the U.S. will once again win this battle for control of our sovereignty, take control out of our hands of the way in which we manage our forests.

The government has a responsibility and I know it is going to fight this. It keeps telling us it will fight it. Let us turn to the history of the dispute so far. We have lost with the west coast salmon. We lost with the east coast lobster. We won on the pork temporarily, but we have been told over and over by American trade representatives that the battle is not yet finished because they have not yet won. It is not over until they win. That is their attitude.

The beer issue is not totally resolved yet but so far they are winning. They are winning on the Honda cars. They are winning on magnesium and aluminum and they are winning on steel. They are winning every dispute. The only one they have lost, as I say, they are taking to be just an interim matter until they can have another go at it and win eventually. They are determined to win on all of these issues. There is little doubt about it.

The Americans are going to come to us and want our lumber in the not too distant future. This recession/depression will come to an end. Things will improve. They are going to need more houses. If they are going to build more houses, they cannot produce their own lumber fast enough to do it. They are going to need some of ours.

In the meantime, we are slaughtering our forests, in some cases high-grading in order to ship lumber out at a minimum loss, not at a profit. None of the companies in British Columbia, none of the large ones at least, are making anything out of their logging and sawmilling these days. It is just a matter of trying to recover not all but some of their fixed costs while they keep operating and hoping for a turnaround.

There are jobs to be done. There is a tremendous job of reforestation still to be done in the province of British Columbia. There is a lot of work that could be done to improve the productivity of our forests all over the

province of British Columbia and, I would suggest, all over Canada. The government, in its budget that came down just a couple of weeks ago, went through a process of foregoing some \$1.5 billion in tax money. It cut taxes that are really not going to help anybody very much. It is cutting income tax to the extent of half a billion in one year, \$1.2 billion in the second year. It does not put much into the pockets of those of us who are spending the money. We will not really notice the difference. It is putting money into the pockets of the manufacturing and processing industries which are profitable enough to be paying taxes. The ones that are not making any profits do not get any help. It is just the ones that are paying taxes, those profitable enough.

If all that \$1.5 billion it is going to forego in the one year from these items, as well as the cuts in National Defence, were put into a project to rebuild the forest, to make the forest more productive throughout Canada using the same workers who are out of work, using the same companies which are suffering right now with their administration, we could be building our forests up to the point where, when the market turns, when the demand is there and when the prices make it worth while cutting these trees and making this lumber and shipping it out, we will be able to do it to much better advantage than we are doing right now.

That takes planning. It takes a government with confidence in the future of Canada, some confidence in the workers of Canada, some confidence in the industry of Canada. It could be done; the money is there. We need not have given it back to people who are not going to notice the difference. We could have put it to good use, as I say, rebuilding our most important renewable natural resource that we have in this country, apart from the people.

It takes planning, it takes determination, it takes intestinal fortitude. Unfortunately, I see little evidence that this government has any of those things sufficient to do the kind of job that has to be done to save our forest industry, to save our forest workers and even to save the forest industry itself.