

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY, S.O. 82—CANADA-U.S. TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):

That this House urges that the Government press upon the Government of the United States the unanimous views of the House of Commons as expressed in its resolution of May 23, 1986, and insist that the United States rescind the 35 per cent duties on British Columbia cedar shakes and shingles and guarantee that similar measures or other possible trade action will not be applied to Canadian products in the future if the present comprehensive trade negotiations are to proceed.

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in my place to participate in the debate today on the motion which I had the pleasure and privilege of putting before the House earlier. It urges the Government to take decisive action to ensure the interests of the cedar shakes and shingles industry in British Columbia.

My motion does not ask for bombast. It does not ask for a bull-horn, megaphone, diplomatic effort by the Government. It does not ask for posturing. It does not ask for rhetoric. It asks for the Government to wake up and realize that the interests of the Province of British Columbia have been sold out by all people interested in having a free trade debate at whatever cost.

Members of the House from the Province of British Columbia, particularly those in the Conservative Party—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Order, please. I am very sorry to interrupt the Hon. Member but it is not possible to hear what he is saying.

Mr. Boudria: He is making an important speech, and we all want to hear it.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): I am informed that this is an important speech—and I have no doubt whatsoever on that issue—like all speeches of all Hon. Members. I ask Hon. Members to conduct their meetings outside the House.

Mr. Tobin: Mr. Speaker, I hope you will not dock the first few minutes from my time. In any event, I want to tell the House that I am not surprised. Hon. Members on the Government side of the House are paying as much attention to the motion which seeks to address the concerns of British Columbia as they paid to the letter from the Premier of British Columbia to the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney). They have as much concern about 20,000 people who may be unemployed in British Columbia as they have for the Premier of British Columbia who wrote a letter to the Government, ringing a bell, sounding an alarm, and demanding action three weeks ago. Yes, I am in good company.

On May 7, 20 days ago, the Premier of British Columbia wrote a letter to the Prime Minister which contained a

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warning. He said that 20,000 jobs were at stake and that hundreds of millions of dollars of GNP in that province were at risk. He said: "Mr. Prime Minister, I want you to wake up. I want you to quit posturing, to quit the rhetoric, and to quit looking for photo opportunities. Go to the privacy of your office, get on the telephone, and make a telephone call". The Prime Minister ignored him. The Prime Minister admitted today that he totally ignored the Premier of British Columbia. He said that he had assurances from somebody down south. He thought everything was okay in that context and that he could ignore a premier of this country.

This is the same Prime Minister, pumped up with his peacock feathers spread in colourful array for all to see, who said that he was promising a brand new day for Canada. This is the same Prime Minister who said "no more shall the premiers be ignored; we are going to operate on the basis of consultation and co-operation".

However, what did the Prime Minister do when 20,000 jobs and the accompanying paycheques which put bread and butter on the table were at stake? What did he do when one of the longest serving premiers in Canada wrote him a letter and took the unusual step of specifically asking him to telephone the President of the United States? What did he do? He shoved it in a file because there was no photo opportunity in a telephone call made in the privacy of his office. There was no opportunity to stand centre stage in Quebec City and sing "When Irish Eyes are Smiling" in making a telephone call to the President of the United States. There was no opportunity to grab the bull-horn or the megaphone, to beat one's chest, and to blow up and bombast in false, contrived, and phoney outrage in a private telephone call to the President of the United States. He ignored it.

That naive view was engendered in the Prime Minister when he was a young boy. He used to sit, in the eastern townships of Quebec, on the knee of an American industrial giant and sing for a quarter. I believe that naive view of the world has cost 20,000 people in British Columbia dearly. Hon. Members should also be aware that that *faux pas*, that naive reaction, or that inability to act in terms of its danger and potential impact upon the country is a bit like an iceberg. In Newfoundland we have colossal masses which float on the water—icebergs. Fishermen see mountains of blue ice sticking up and they say to themselves: "That is a hazard. I have to watch it because it can sink my boat". However, fishermen know that only 10 per cent of the iceberg is above water and that 90 per cent of that dangerous mass is below water. It is beautiful to look at but dangerous to get close to. The Prime Minister has not understood that the 35 per cent tariff which has now been imposed upon cedar shakes and shingles in British Columbia is but the tip of the iceberg.

We have an industry in this country worth \$3 billion. It is located primarily in British Columbia and it is called softwood lumber. The cedar shakes and shingles industry is worth \$250 million, but the softwood lumber industry is worth \$3 billion in exports. Now there is a petition before the President of the