

## S. O. 31

[English]

## SOFTWOOD LUMBER INDUSTRY

**Mr. Réginald Bélair (Cochrane—Superior):** Mr. Speaker, last Friday the U.S. commerce department's International Trade Commission handed down yet another ruling, declaring that Canadian softwood lumber exports to the United States are unfairly subsidized.

This ruling, which has resulted in a punitive action of 14.48 per cent duty on Canadian lumber imports, is totally unacceptable. The softwood lumber industry stands to lose some \$440 million a year as well as thousands and thousands of jobs.

The Americans are not playing fairly. Canadians more than ever believe that the free trade agreement is a one-way street leading straight to the United States. This is an election year in the U.S. They are using protectionism for political gain. This is the third time in 10 years that the Americans have changed their definition of a subsidy only to suit their purposes.

Clearly, this is harassment and the Canadian government should retaliate by imposing an import tax on American products. This is a provocation that absolutely needs to be responded to.

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## CANADA-U.S. FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

**Mr. Stan Wilbee (Delta):** Mr. Speaker, today I join with all Canadians in expressing my disappointment in the unfair bully tactics of the U.S. government. Last Friday's announcement of a 14 per cent countervailing duty on our softwood lumber exports to the U.S. is a reflection of simple-minded political protectionism. This is completely unjustified and inappropriate in this difficult period of global economic restructuring. Fortunately for Canadians, we are able to turn to the dispute settlement mechanism of the free trade agreement for a just ruling.

I am equally disturbed by other unfair U.S. trading practices, such as the "Buy American" provision of the Surface Transportation Act. This act bars Canadian manufacturers from supplying construction materials to the U.S. for use in federally funded projects. It has had a detrimental effect on the cement and steel industries in my riding of Delta.

I encourage the Canadian government to take every step possible to ensure a level playing field for Canadian producers.

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[Translation]

## TOBACCO INDUSTRY

**Mr. Benoît Tremblay (Rosemont):** Mr. Speaker, this morning we attended a demonstration of tobacco industry workers who came to denounce the special tax on exports of their products.

This discriminatory tax makes exports of their products uncompetitive and endangers hundreds of well-paid jobs, especially in Montreal and Quebec City. The factories concerned by these job losses are located in some of the poorest neighborhoods of our two cities, where unemployment is already over 20 per cent. We need measures to create jobs, not eliminate them.

Canada is the only country in the world to tax its products for export in this way, even though it has no import tax on tobacco products. This is an incentive for companies to produce outside our borders. This tax is wrong. It must be abolished immediately.

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[English]

## BOB DRAWARD

**Mr. David Bjornson (Selkirk—Red River):** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a constituent of mine, Mr. Bob Draward of St. Clement's, Manitoba. He recently completed an 800 kilometre dog sled run to raise funds for the Manitoba division of the Canadian Cancer Society.

Mr. Draward was accompanied in the final leg of the trip by a young girl from Winnipeg, Marie-Josée, who is currently undergoing treatment for cancer.

The efforts of Canadians like Mr. Draward to raise funds for the Camps for Kids program and research projects is most needed and greatly appreciated.

On behalf of all Canadians, I would like to thank Mr. Draward and all the participants in the Mushing for Miracles dog sled run.