

I repeat that the only way out of a countervailing duty order would be to satisfy the U.S. Government. That would mean stumpage increases on top of the countervailing duty order - a double whammy that the industry would have to bear until the U.S. concluded that the so-called subsidy was eliminated.

Some of the critics have predicted massive job losses resulting from our agreement. As a federal Minister I must always be concerned with the employment effects of government actions. But we must recognize a few points.

First, the forest industry has always been a cyclical one, with ups and downs. Secondly, as the shakes and shingles tariff has shown, the effects of a tariff or charge are difficult to predict.

Most importantly, however, the organization most concerned with protecting these jobs, in the forestry sector, the I.W.A. has fully supported our efforts. Doug Smyth of the I.W.A. has advised me that they:

"Stongly believe that it was absolutely essential to conclude a negotiated settlement with the United States which will guarantee that the increased taxes on softwood lumber shipments to the U.S. be kept in Canada."

As before, we continue to work closely with the provinces, industry, and labour on this matter.

I would be pleased to take your questions.