

incidental reasons than any Government in the past, far exceeding anything we saw in the pipeline debate.

There has been no sense of shame on the part of the Conservatives. There has been no regret or apology, no ability to understand what they were doing. They were totally incapable of understanding that one of the real victims of this whole debate has been Parliament itself and that they have put in jeopardy this fine institution by the way they have used their jackboots to simply tramp on the rights of the House. It seems to me that is one of the first casualties we have to look at.

I invite you back at three o'clock when we can continue our discussion.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this day.

At 1.01 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 31

[Translation]

FREE TRADE

COMPLEMENTARY NATURE OF AGREEMENT

Mr. Marcel R. Tremblay (Québec-Est): Mr. Speaker, the recent meeting of representatives of the GATT countries in Montreal once again demonstrated that all negotiations aimed at reaching a trade agreement are laborious and do not always produce the expected results.

The Federal Liberal team and their leader propose a multilateral agreement as an alternative to the Free Trade Agreement between Canada and the United States. Such a proposal shows a lack of realism, experience and judgment on their part.

Canada cannot go backwards and accept a sudden and abrupt increase in customs tariffs when it has taken almost 50 years to bring them down to their present level. The Free Trade Agreement is an insurance policy against this reversal of things since it provides for the phasing-out of all trade restrictions between our two neighbouring countries and for the stabilization of our long term economic policy.

S. O. 31

Today Canadians are proud to have given their confidence to the Right Hon. Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Mulroney) and to have supported his proposal for a bilateral agreement with our major trading partner, the United States, while striving at the same time to liberalize further international trade. The Free Trade Agreement, Mr. Speaker, is complementary and non-exclusive.

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[English]

TRADE

SOFTWOOD LUMBER TAX—LAY-OFFS ANNOUNCED BY G. W. MARTIN COMPANY

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, earlier this week the G. W. Martin Company of Sault Ste Marie and Searchmont announced that it will be laying off 65 employees in its softwood lumber operations there. This represents over half the employees in the sawmill in the hamlet of Searchmont. This is a devastating blow for this small community.

These lay-offs have resulted from the Government's infamous export tax on softwood lumber which has cost the company \$981,000 during the last two years and is now costing half of the workforce in Searchmont their jobs. I call on the Government to rescind this tax which has cost the softwood lumber industry in northern Ontario millions and millions of dollars and will cost thousands of jobs this winter if the Government does not act. The Government must act now to save these jobs in northern Ontario's softwood lumber industry.

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HOUSING

TRINITY—SPADINA CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING PROJECT

Mr. Dan Heap (Trinity—Spadina): Mr. Speaker, thanks partly to this Tory Government, 36,000 children in world-class Toronto must depend on food banks, many because their food money must be spent on rent.

A co-operative group in Trinity—Spadina is trying to build affordable housing. It is ready to go to tender to build 62 units, family and single, two-thirds of them rent-geared-to-income. However, when construction costs rose, this Government refused to give more dollars to meet the cost. Instead, it slashed the number of