

*Customs Tariff*

They do not have a vision of an independent country, of an independent Canada, that is able to make its own way in the world and that is able to stand up on its own economic feet. They do not see that Canada has enough of a vitality and imagination to be able to function as a free country, free not just politically but also culturally and economically. They feel that Canadians just do not have it in them to be able to do that. They feel that we must make all sorts of concessions to the United States in order to get some favoured position, some favourable consideration by the Americans, so that when the United States goes through, and surely it must go through, major internal economic reorganization, somehow Canadians will be spared the measures that the Americans are threatening to take.

**Mr. Manly:** Fat chance.

**Mr. de Jong:** As my colleague says, "Fat chance". I think the Americans are out there to protect themselves. I think one expects them to do that. There is not necessarily anything that is immoral about that. Nations have the responsibility of looking after their people and themselves. I wish this Government would take the same position as far as Canada is concerned and stand up and say: "Canada first". If it says that, then we would not be involved in these types of negotiations that we have been involved in with the United States.

● (1600)

The Government's ability and technique of negotiating leaves something to be desired. As my colleague pointed out, before the Government sat down at the bargaining table, it already gave away several major chips. What a manner in which to negotiate! These people are so anxious to tie our fortunes to the American fortunes that they are willing to give almost everything away.

In conclusion, in answer to my friend and colleague, I find the Government's handling of this most shameful, the fact that it stated one thing before and during the election, and since coming to power has totally changed its position. It is now going to force this through Parliament. It is calling upon a committee of Parliament to travel across the country and receive representations from Canadians and industry, without our seeing let alone digesting the hundreds of pages of technical documents that will be associated with this agreement. I find that a most shameful act. It is shameful to this Parliament and to the people of Canada.

**Mr. McKenzie:** The NDP Members have been making repeated statements about former positions of Conservatives in regard to free trade. Many of us have had to change our positions on the free trade concept because of the protectionist attitude in the United States.

I wish to refer to the many various positions of the NDP, and read some of its trade resolutions from March, 1987. The NDP stated, "Increase activities to promote trade". We are increasing activity to promote trade. The NDP went on to say,

"Pursue mature state-to-state relationship and cease to deal with the U.S. on an issue-by-issue basis". That is what we are doing. We do not wish to deal on an issue-by-issue basis. The NDP is correct there, but it has obviously changed its position.

The NDP goes on to state, "Explore sectoral free trade with the U.S. and other countries with production safeguards similar to the Auto Pact". That is what we are doing. In regard to the free trade policies from the 1987 convention, the NDP states, "Expanded trade will benefit Canada. Tariffs are outdated". We realize that, that is why we are proceeding with these trade talks and the committee travelling across the country. The NDP also states, "Build up export markets for small firms". That is what we are doing.

The NDP and others have made repeated comments about the softwood lumber deal. The Leader of the NDP stated that the decisions made by the Mulroney Government would wreak havoc on our major export industry and could cost us thousands of jobs. We are accused of abandoning key aspects of sovereignty. The fact is that the industry is booming. In B.C. the forest products industry is well on its way to a record-breaking profit year. The net losses for the United States are \$140 million while Canada will make a \$117.6 million gain. In August, several firms had already earned more than they did in all of 1986. Softwood lumber production throughout Canada has set new records so far in 1987, and exports to the United States remain near the record high levels of 1986. The NDP was all wrong on that. I would like to know when it has ever been right.

**Mr. Riis:** Call an election and find out.

**Mr. McKenzie:** The de Havilland deal was another example. The NDP predicted total disaster if de Havilland were sold to Boeing. The sale immediately generated \$90 million for the federal Treasury, plus a further \$65 million payable in successive instalments. The sale has resulted in orders for 42 Dash-8 aircraft, valued at over \$400 million, and the company has orders and options on hand for another 132 aircraft. That was another false prediction of the NDP.

Another one where it was out a mile was where it predicted with the 1985 Budget that 200,000 Canadians would lose their jobs. It was dead wrong. Over 900,000 new jobs have been created. I would like to know when the NDP has ever been right about anything.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** May I ask the Hon. Member for Regina East (Mr. de Jong) to give a short answer, if possible, as the time for questions and comments is practically over.

**Mr. de Jong:** Mr. Speaker, I will be very brief in responding to the Member from the Conservative benches.

There is not very much to say. The quotes he gives are somewhat weak. The quotes he was giving do not show that in 1987 we would be in favour of what is proposed here. In fact, the very opposite is true. The fact is that the Member cannot see that, and it says volumes.