

Mr. Fulton: October 16.

Mr. Rodriguez: —on October 16? It stated it was British Columbia and Ontario which was really subsidizing the softwood industry with low stumpage fees. The Atlantic region had the highest stumpage fees of the whole nation. There was some feeling even among the First Ministers when they met in the west on this issue that the Atlantic Provinces would be exempt from the 15 per cent export tax. But after General Custer finished negotiating at Little Big Horn in Waikiki, it turned out that the Atlantic region got included. Then there was a fight to get some exclusions and exemptions and who got exempted, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Fulton: Irving.

Mr. Rodriguez: Irving is not exactly a struggling softwood lumber producer. I think it owns just about everything that is not planted and rooted.

Mr. Fulton: Or tied down.

Mr. Rodriguez: All the small and medium producers of softwood lumber in the Atlantic region are now subject to this 15 per cent tax.

Mr. Langdon: Ninety-seven of them.

Mr. Rodriguez: Ninety-seven in at least 40 single industry towns in the Atlantic region. There are all sorts of studies done about the single industry towns. Here is one particular situation where the Government has been digging the hole and acting as pallbearer for the single industry towns in the Atlantic region. One would get the distinct impression during this last week as we have been debating this particular Bill that we are pallbearers for those communities in the Atlantic region which depend on the softwood lumber industry. They are now subject to this 15 per cent. That is tough negotiating?

The Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) gave the ball to the Minister of State for International Trade. He said: "I have given her the ball. Watch her go". She took the ball and what did she do with it?

• (1600)

She said: "We looked the Americans in the eye and they blinked three times". As far as she was concerned it was a blinking contest. What has she done in the process? We had such a good case, one which we won in 1983. Right was on our side. Yet in this process of negotiation she even gave away our right to prosecute the matter before the GATT.

Surely, if it was believed that we were right and that we had won the case in 1983 then the response should have been: "I will see you in court, brother". The Minister said: "Blink, blink, blink," and it was gone. If we had such a good case then why did we not say to the Premier of British Columbia: "In the interests of Canada and our sovereignty, Mr. Premier, you just sit tight there in British Columbia. We are going to prosecute this case. The Americans are wrong. They are dead wrong in

Softwood Lumber Products Export Charge Act

accusing Canada of subsidizing our softwood lumber industry."

I think we should have fought the case in court. We are now just whipped on the issue, and we will be whipped down the line on another issue while all the Government can do in terms of retaliation is pick on Christmas trees and books. Just look how tough we are. We sell \$30 million worth of Christmas trees to the Americans and they sell us \$1 million worth. What do we do? We are going to be tough and tax their Christmas tree imports into Canada. We are going to tax reading. That is Tory toughness. I think the Government should be ashamed of itself for having sold away the birthright of this nation with respect to this particular issue. It is a marshmallow government. I think it should be dismissed to the dustbin of history.

Mr. Fulton: As soon as possible.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[Translation]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 66, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the Hon. Member for Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe (Mr. Tobin)—Unemployment insurance—Payment of benefits in Atlantic region. (b) Regional disparity; the Hon. Member for Parkdale—High Park (Mr. Witer)—External affairs—Lifting of sanctions against Soviet Union; the Hon. Member for Cape Breton—East Richmond (Mr. Dingwall)—Natural resources—Utilization of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick coal in Ontario—Request for study. (b) Request for government consideration.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

SOFTWOOD LUMBER PRODUCTS EXPORT CHARGE ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Miss Carney that Bill C-37, an Act respecting the imposition of a charge on the export of certain softwood lumber products, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee, and the amendment of Mr. McDermid (p. 2601).

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the House ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The question is on the amendment of Mr. McDermid: