

*Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement*

whole country on the table, we have ended up with tougher laws applied to us.

Last week the American President signed into law the omnibus trade Bill and with it, a brand new series of trade measures. Last March, Ambassador Gotlieb, our ambassador in Washington, wrote a letter to the Members of the Congress stating clearly that this law was contrary to the spirit of the trade agreement, it was damaging to international trade and it was contrary to the principles, rights and obligations of international rules. He cited a new definition of subsidies and new powers, but I will not get into technicalities.

We asked the Minister questions in the House. We asked him what he would do about this. He said: "Oh, boy, we're really going to get tough, can't have that happen". Well, it has happened. The U.S. has introduced a new protectionist trade law with tough new measures, and the only answer we can get from the Parliamentary Secretary is that it has been watered down. When we asked him how, he could not say.

We phoned the Department of External Affairs, the trade office and the embassy in Washington to ask how the new law had been watered down, to give us an example of the changes that have been made. There is no such document. There has been no analysis done. Perhaps it has been done, but it is not going to be made public because the changes have not been made. The fact is that the new powers under the U.S. trade law are much tougher. They redefine subsidies on a much broader basis. They give new powers to the President to retaliate. They give new import relief measures and 95 per cent of the measures that were in Ambassador Gotlieb's letter are still in that Bill.

Every other independent minded country in the world, Japan, France and the European Economic Community, are protesting and are threatening to take the U.S. to GATT. What do we get from the Government of Canada in protecting the Canadian interest? We get a whimper, not even a word.

This Prime Minister said that our highest priority is to have an agreement that ends the threat to Canadian industries. Here is a new U.S. protectionist Bill now in law, and the Prime Minister of Canada did not say a peep about it. The Minister for International Trade, that big, brave, brawling, blustering, blasphemous blow-hard from Newfoundland, what did he say about it? I do not think he said anything. Did you hear him say anything, Madam Speaker? Did you read a statement from the Minister for International Trade about the omnibus trade Bill? No, I guess he was off in Newfoundland talking to all those fishermen or getting rid of railways or something.

Surely we can see how illogical this is. Talk about a joke being perpetrated on the Canadian people. How can we look back on what the Prime Minister said about getting all this new protection while faced with a brand new trade Bill that really puts it to us?

• (1600)

As if that were not enough, the U.S. Congress and administration introduced in their implementing legislation brand new measures to punish us even further and extend their power to harass Canadian industry. They brought in amendments to say that U.S. industry can petition the trade office to undertake studies to determine whether or not Canadian exports have government subsidies. You do not have to do the work any more, just ask us, we will pay all the bills and take those Canadians to task.

This morning the Minister for International Trade was in high dudgeon about the Leader of my Party's comments in Newfoundland about the way in which the implementing legislation creates a real threat to the Canadian fish processing industry. He stamped up and down and swore that the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition was guilty of the worst kind of calumny. He was not telling the truth. I went back and read the U.S. Bill. This is it right here, passed by the U.S. Congress, and here is the section. It is a long section and I will read it to you: "Canadian Controls on Fish". I am reading from the U.S. legislation: "Within 30 days of the application by Canada of export controls on unprocessed fish exempted per agreement under Article 203, or the application of landing requirements per fish caught in Canadian waters, the President shall take appropriate action to enforce U.S. rights under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. In enforcing those rights the President has discretion to bring a challenge to the offending Canadian practices before GATT, retaliate against such offending practices, or seek resolution directly with Canada", et cetera.

That is the East Coast fishery we are talking about. If the Minister can somehow interpret this legislation as being protection against U.S. protectionism, then he had better put windshield wipers on his glasses because there in the Bill itself is the U.S. taking unto itself the right to challenge our ability to require processing of fish in Canada. They will take the raw fish but when we try to provide processing, there is the U.S. legislation saying we cannot do it. I ask you, is that ending the threat of U.S. protectionism which harasses and restricts our exports?

Furthermore, this same Bill carries with it instructions for the U.S. to renegotiate all the measures dealing with investment, culture, energy and resources to get even more than they got, to say nothing of the right of the U.S. to continue to apply steel quotas and implement new provisions on agriculture. Is it any wonder that the farm groups that appeared before the committee, the Western Canadian Pool, the largest farm organization, the advisory group to the Wheat Board, all said they feel we are in real danger for that reason? Yet the Bill itself provides new loopholes for U.S. trade action.

What about our own legislation? There is another great sort of *coup d'état* on the part of the Prime Minister. He was such a smart negotiator that he agreed to entrench in the legislation that we passed as part of the agreement the softwood lumber