

*Oral Questions*

Chairman of the United States Coalition on Fair Lumber Prices said that he wanted a 25 per cent to 30 per cent duty on Canadian softwood lumber. The Minister also knows that this afternoon at three o'clock the same Coalition will issue a press release indicating that the Canadian offer is not acceptable. Will the Government of Canada capitulate again and raise the Government's final offer from 15 per cent to 25 per cent as has been demanded by the United States Coalition?

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, I have already answered similar questions in the House today by saying that we are not negotiating with the lumber producers in the U.S. The Government of Canada is dealing with the U.S. Department of Commerce on this issue and I have not had any information back from the Secretary of Commerce at this time.

## MINISTER'S POSITION—CANADIAN PROPOSAL

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, I wonder why the Government is continuing to negotiate this cowardly agreement to establish an export tax on softwood lumber when already hundreds and hundreds of workers in the softwood lumber industry in northern Ontario are being laid off. Does the Government not simply weaken its case by continuing to negotiate a side deal with the American Coalition, knuckling under with a final offer at 10 per cent, then going to 15 per cent? Will it be 20 per cent or 25 per cent next while the industry is already being shut down?

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, as I said previously in the House, our proposal contains a combination of measures which are designed to ensure that any revenues remain in Canada, that the provinces retain flexibility in determining stumpage pricing, that a dangerous precedent in U.S. countervail policy will be avoided, that the ability of the provinces to determine their own natural resource management policies will be unimpaired, and that Canadian sovereignty will not be infringed. Those are the reasons for adopting this approach.

\* \* \*

● (1140)

## AGRICULTURE

## ASSISTANCE FOR GRAIN PRODUCERS

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. It follows up an earlier question, and what he had to say about his commitment to western grain producers. On the first day after the Government announced its intention to do this outside the House, I asked the Prime Minister about the timing and urgency of it. The Prime Minister said that the Government intended to act "in the shortest possible time—"

That was clearly sending a message to western grain producers that the action would come, if not before Christmas, certainly in this fiscal year. Will the Prime Minister live up to that commitment, or was it all a big scam simply to win an election in Saskatchewan?

**Mr. Mazankowski:** What have you got against farmers, Ed?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** What is it with the NDP always opposed to the interests of farmers? You do something, it's not enough. You do something, it's not fast enough. In point of fact, you are fundamentally opposed to a Government assisting farmers in this measure.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I would ask the Right Hon. Prime Minister to address his response through the Chair.

**Mr. Mulroney:** My apologies, Mr. Speaker.

The Government will act precisely along the lines of the undertaking that was given to the House of Commons.

**Mr. Broadbent:** When?

**Mr. Mulroney:** The Hon. Member who is shaking his head went into Saskatchewan. He said that the issue in the campaign, at least in his area, was going to be between his integrity and that of the Prime Minister, and look what happened to you.

**Mr. Broadbent:** And the people of Canada will be saying, look what happened to you, after the next election.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Neither Member will be saying anything if they do not check the language that they are using. I do ask that all Members direct their remarks through the Chair.

## PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** During the course of the election campaign when the Prime Minister said that the Government planned to act in the shortest possible time, would he not agree that a producer on the Prairies thought that would mean soon, that it would mean before Christmas, that it would certainly mean in this fiscal year? If that is the message that he wanted to send out, will he live up to that commitment and make sure that those hard-pressed producers on the Prairies get that money in this fiscal year? Will he give us that commitment?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I have done it before, and I have done it earlier today. As we indicated we would, we have worked with the farmers, the producers, and the provinces to make sure that this was done, as I had indicated, in the shortest possible time. That was the undertaking. The modalities of it will be announced very shortly, before Christmas, by the Minister of Agriculture.