

Supply

thing was for the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) to call his friend, the President of the United States, to ask him to cease and desist from imposing of a 35 per cent tariff on shingles and shakes. Does the Hon. Member not think that that would be the first thing for a leader of this country to do? The P.M. claims to be very friendly with the President of the United States. Does the Member not think that the P.M. would do what he said in a speech, that when negotiations get tough, you call, you negotiate, you deal—you at least communicate with the person? I know a letter was written last week. I know the House passed a motion unanimously condemning the 35 per cent countervailing duty. Does the Hon. Member not think that the Prime Minister should be working in the interests of all Canadians, especially British Columbians and those working in the industry, by picking up the phone, calling the President and saying: "Ron, desist or quit harassing Canadians with unwarranted taxes?"

Mr. Brisco: Mr. Speaker, I take my colleague's point. He is a colleague because we are both in the House professionally. I have known him almost as long as he has known me!

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Brisco: To respond to the Hon. Member's point, if he reflects on the actions of his Prime Minister and the actions of any Prime Minister historically, he will find that there is a great deal not said in the House of Commons that has been done. I do not have any hesitation in my own mind, on the basis of what I do know and on the basis of what I think I know, that the dialogue between the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Minister for International Trade (Mr. Kelleher) has been on ongoing process. There was an element of confidence that the problem would be resolved without this kind of negative impact so that we would not today be debating the issue we are.

When the Prime Minister said he was shocked and amazed, so were we all. I think that amazement, shock and disappointment was based on the knowledge of the Prime Minister and other Ministers of the Government. They had already put forth a major effort on this issue as they are doing on the softwood issue. They will continue to do so even during this debate.

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Hon. Member about the common thread in a lot of his speeches which can only be described as slash and hack, trying to blame everything in British Columbia on the NDP, even after his friends, the Social Credit Government has been in office continuously for the last 10 years. The Member's Party has the largest parliamentary majority in this part of the century. He claims to be somehow crippled by an inability to deal with what has just happened to the shake and shingle industry.

Since September, 1984 unemployment has gone up continuously in British Columbia as a result of the Member and his Government's policies. They did nothing about potato dumping. Of the 150 petitions filed by the U.S. against various

Canadian commodities, he and his Government have never ever responded. The count is zero for the number of times he and his Government have taken responsive actions to these actions from the United States. We will see the shake and shingle industry basically wiped out unless the Prime Minister calls the President. We see the crazy, insane policies of his cabinet colleague from British Columbia in relation to fisheries in B.C. and the crazy policies of his cabinet colleague, the Minister of Transport (Mr. Mazankowski) on night flight MEDIVACS.

It now appears clear that the Prime Minister will not phone the President because this issue is not high enough on his agenda to require a phone call, but these shake and shingle workers will be left hanging out to dry. Only the President can veto the tariff matter, even though today it has not been signed into law. Does the Member think it is satisfactory that the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Miss MacDonald) sometime in the next couple of weeks will announce a couple of Canada Works projects for those shake and shingle workers who have been laid off so they can pick up paper in the streets in Mission—Port Moody? Is that good enough, Mr. Speaker? Or does the Hon. Member support retaliation, the retaliatory measures that will be announced in the next few days by the Secretary of State for External Affairs? Is that the route to go?

Mr. Brisco: Mr. Speaker, I do not know what the Hon. Member for Skeena (Mr. Fulton) has been smoking—

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I think that is unparliamentary. I suggest the Hon. Member might want to withdraw his comment. He is imputing motives.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): I do not know whether I want to rule on this, knowing how these things evolve, but perhaps the Hon. Member for Kootenay West (Mr. Brisco) might want to reconsider his comment.

Mr. Brisco: Mr. Speaker, certainly if it will make the Hon. Member more comfortable, I am quite prepared to exchange the word "smoking" for "chewing". Tobacco does have a strange effect on the stomach and perhaps subsequently it affects the brain. But for the Hon. Member for Skeena to suggest that some retaliatory action will be taken is to suggest that he sits in the inner sanctum of the Cabinet. For that he will have a very long wait. Is he prepared to cross the floor now? I respect the Member and I would be delighted to have him as a colleague on this side of the House, but beyond that the Member knows his Party is tied to the coattails of the Liberals. He knows what kind of a thrashing was taken. If I make reference to the policies of the national New Democratic Party, surely he understands why. I can stand up for my riding and I can represent the concerns of my constituency, and I think that I do that reasonably well.

Mr. Keeper: Tell Ronald Reagan to get off their backs and withdraw.