

**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.

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, you are aware that we have finally reached an agreement with the United States on the issue of softwood lumber, after months of intense effort on behalf of the Government, and after a study of the many complex issues that this matter brought before us.

I wish to remind you that one of the reasons why this is so important, and the measures we are taking are so vital, is that Canada is very much a forest nation. Including our northern territories, all of Canada in some way is involved with forestry, as is all of Canada involved in some way with trade.

I wish to assure the House that in bringing forward this measure we have acted in the national interest, we have acted consistent with our GATT obligations, and we have acted in a way that is infinitely better than the alternative before us, which was to accept a countervailing duty.

In terms of the national interest, I would like to review with you that we in our agreement moved to protect our sovereignty. The Opposition would allow the U.S. to overrun our forests. We acted to protect our revenues. The Opposition would pay these revenues to the U.S. We acted to protect our industries. The Opposition would expose those industries to other countervails. We acted to protect jobs. The Opposition's preferred option, countervail, would cost jobs.

In terms of dealing with our GATT obligations, I would like to remind the House that Canada is an international trader. We are in the big leagues in trade. Canada, along with the European Community, the U.S., and Japan, are the four big trading interests which account for 40 per cent of the world trade. The Opposition would take us out of the big leagues. The Liberals would send us down to the minors. The NDP would leave us on the bench.