

[English]

In the United States, that tax was seen as part of the softening up process, the process widely remarked on by American commentators, whereby the United States established its expectation and its intention of hegemony in the free trade agreement. A sophisticated lobby was able to manipulate public and legislative opinion, not only within the United States but within Canada, to the ultimate advantage of the American economy.

Those fee increases which have now been introduced to justify the removal of the softwood lumber export tax will of course affect the competitiveness and prices of all lumber products to all Canadians. Let us not be deceived into believing that softwood lumber is the only component of the product mix the bounty of our forests yields us. From the railway tie to the toothpick, all markets will be affected. All Canadian consumers will pay higher prices because of these ill-counselled, hasty and peremptory measures the Government is now withdrawing.

American sales into the Canadian market have had their effect and may continue to have their effect. The 25 per cent of our industry that is still affected will, as will the sectors that are now unaffected, continue to feel the damage of the Minister's concessionary and ill-prepared negotiating approach in this agreement as in the other agreement.

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[Translation]

INTERPARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

Mr. Marcel Danis (Verchères): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 101, I have the honour of tabling, in both official languages, the Parliamentary delegation's report on its official visit to Mexico.

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[English]

CORPORATIONS AND LABOUR UNIONS RETURNS ACT

PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Mrs. Jennifer Cossitt (Leeds—Grenville): Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Legislative Committee on Bill C-91, an Act to amend the Corporations and Labour Unions Returns Act, I have the honour to present the Bill to the House without amendment.

Introduction of Bills

EXCISE TAX ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

Hon. Tom Hockin (for Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre)) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-101, an Act to amend the Excise Tax Act.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the Hon. Minister have leave to introduce the Bill?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the two opposition Parties for their courtesy. There have been discussions and I think you would find that there would be unanimous consent in the House to send the Bill to Committee of the Whole House on the understanding that it would be dealt with as the first order of Government business. There is also an understanding among the Parties that the item would be completed in all stages by 4.30 this afternoon.

Mr. Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, what the government House Leader just said does reflect the understanding of our Party on the matter. I would like to make a suggestion. If by some chance we complete consideration of the Bill through all stages before 4.30 and the person who had the floor in debate on the trade motion, the official spokesman for the NDP, is not present, perhaps we could suspend the sitting of the House until the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) is ready to give his statement on tax reform at 4.30.

Mr. Lewis: Agreed.

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, indeed there have been discussions between the Parties. However, recognizing the contents of the Bill before us and the fact that it does a number of things other than simply extend the date for the fuel tax exemption, but in fact results in some increases, I suspect that there will be adequate debate to fill the time until 4.30.

Mr. Speaker: I take it that there is agreement with the suggestion put forward by the Minister of State (Mr. Lewis) and it will be so ordered. I also take it that if the Bill should happen to be completed before 4.30, the Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap (Mr. Riis) would have no objection to the Chair adjourning until 4.30 to go along with the suggestion which has been extended as a matter of courtesy by the other two House Leaders to his own Party.