

Government Orders

Mr. Richardson: You've got the heavyweights out today.

Mr. Butland: Indeed. Well said.

I want to get back to the steel industry that this government has truly decimated. When our own people who work in trade suggest that we are fair traders, why do the Americans not treat us fairly? Why do they not?

Even our own Canadian Trade Tribunal has removed dumping tariffs against 11, 12 or 13 other countries. We say: "Let their steel come in. There is no evidence that they might dump. There is no evidence." Yet the Americans harass us on a regular basis and the dispute panel mechanism has been a total flop.

Even the Algoma Steel Corporation has suggested we have lost faith. I do not blame them because we cannot win. I have read the rulings. I am not a lawyer, but the language tells a layperson that we cannot win a ruling. It is impossible. So what has this bought? What does the government say? Well, our people say we are fair traders and why are we treated this way? The Americans jump all over us and we do not even say ouch. We do not say anything. We are silent.

I think it is time that this government played a little bit of hard ball with the Americans. I know the hon. member for Burlington would agree with me, that we have not been aggressive enough. We have been too quiet. We are silent. I have written letters but obviously that does not mean anything. Someone says we have the heavyweights out today. Well, maybe that is it. They do not pay attention to anybody. They would never pay attention to an MP from lowly Sault Ste. Marie. Well it is time they listened.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Butland: The Canadian people will demand that the government listens. I think the people in Sault Ste. Marie will demand that it listens.

The Prime Minister should do the honourable thing, not only for everybody here in the House, but for the good of the Canadian people, even for his own members. I think he should do them a favour. Get a new leader and we might get some new direction. We look upon that favourably.

Mr. John A. MacDougall (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, earlier, as you know, I tried to extend the question period of the hon. member for Skeena, but knowing the manner in which the NDP like to hit and run, I felt that probably I could not get that.

Mr. Fulton: You know the rules.

Mr. MacDougall: What I would like to say is that for many years the NDP always had the feeling of the working people, that they were there to support them in the regions of the country. They were there to support the miners, the loggers, the individuals working in industries, the resources, the fishermen, the agricultural communities. The NDP was always there to stand up for and believe in the fact that this country was built from its resources.

I have been here nine years now and the last number of years it is unbelievable the way they have flip-flopped. The party that was built to form and strengthen Canada for the working people has thrown that out the window. They are too interested in supporting the interest groups, those that are willing to put our miners out of work, put our bush workers out of work, put our fishermen out of work because it is popular and because it is the urban centres of this country from which they get their votes. They have more interest in the power of being in power, which will never happen, rather than representing the regions of this country.

I ask this question of the hon. member from Sault Ste. Marie, someone who comes from northern Ontario. Someone should be standing up and fighting for northern Ontario rather than sitting back taking this gunk that is coming from the hon. member for Skeena.

I ask the hon. member, does he not think that Fednor, which was developed for northern Ontario, has benefited regions of northern Ontario? Does he not believe in the Sudbury neutrino centre? It is the only one in the world. Does he not support that? Does he not support the fact that the Nordic Games are coming to northern Ontario? Does he not support Community Futures?

These are policies that have been developed by the Prime Minister and this government. Northern Ontario is something that the previous government forgot about. I say to the hon. member, if he is really sincere about northern Ontario, if he is really sincere about what is happening, would he fight the hon. member for Skeena and fight for those people who live in the regions of this country?