

*Supply*

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne):** The period for questions and comments has now ended. The Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap (Mr. Riis) for debate.

[English]

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap):** Madam Speaker, as Canadians looked at their newspapers over the weekend and again this morning, they saw in almost every newspaper in Canada headlines such as, "Disaffected westerners spawn new federal political Party". That description was not quite right because when you look at who were those westerners meeting in Vancouver this past weekend you will see that they were almost exclusively Conservatives. As a matter of fact, the largest contingent was from Alberta.

**Mr. Masse:** I saw some disappointed New Democrats.

**Mr. Riis:** When you look through the list, 95 per cent were card carrying members of the Conservative Party. They said that they have been betrayed by the Conservatives, and they feel that the only way to register their concern, after sending the largest majority of westerners to the House of Commons hoping that their views would be put on the parliamentary table, and now having been abandoned by the P.C. Government, is to form their own political Party. I think that speaks clearly for itself.

Today we discuss another betrayal of western Canadians and a betrayal of Canadians generally. More and more when people try to determine what the future of Canada holds they will not be paying attention to what is going on on Parliament Hill, they will be looking at Congress. Decisions being made in the United States are having increasingly more impact on the future for our country. When asked to test the Cruise missile, the Government said yes, let's test the Cruise missile. When the Americans wanted to take over West Kootenay Power and Light Company, the Government said yes. When they wanted to have a 10-year monopoly on American drugs being sold in Canada, they were given that right. When they wanted to take over Dome Petroleum, the Government gave them the right to take over Dome Petroleum. When they wanted to impose a special tax on Canada's softwood lumber industry, that was fine. As a matter of fact, the Canadian Government itself imposed that 15 per cent tax to keep Canadian wood out of the United States.

● (1210)

In this weekend's newspaper, there was a report from the National Forest Products Association of America indicating that the new tax imposed by Canada has achieved what it was intended to do, it has kept Canadian wood out of the United States market. As a matter of fact, Canada's share of the United States market slipped to 28.7 per cent in the first two months of 1987, down from 31.5 per cent a year earlier. Now the United States does not even have to pass its own laws to keep goods from coming from Canada. The Government of Canada will do it for it. This is nothing short of a betrayal.

Over the last few days a former Prime Minister has spoken about the Meech Lake Accord and has called the Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Mulroney) a weakling. Indeed, we could consider to what extent the Prime Minister has betrayed Canada. A few weeks ago, the Prime Minister went from place to place in western Canada saying, "We will fight the Americans on this gas issue, we are concerned". Well, some fighter. That was like the Minister for International Trade (Miss Carney) when she was sitting on the beaches of Maui saying, "We will fight the softwood issue, we will fight them on the beaches of Hawaii, we will stop the Americans". Yet the Government imposed its own tax on the softwood producers of Canada.

Maybe the best thing that could happen to us is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Masse) not to speak to his counterparts in the United States, for the rest of the cabinet Ministers including the Minister for International Trade not to speak to their United States counterparts and for the Prime Minister not to phone or write letters to Mr. Reagan any longer. Whenever he does this on our behalf, we are betrayed. We are sold out.

As the speaker from the Liberal Party indicated when the American—good grief, I was going to say when the American Prime Minister—when the Canadian Prime Minister was in the United States saying that Canada was now open for business, what he meant was that it is now for sale. In two and a half years we have seen more foreign transactions and takeovers in our economy than in any other similar period in history. In fact, there have been 2,200 foreign transactions, primarily takeovers by American companies. We are now seeing more intrusion than ever.

I respect the honesty of the Minister of Energy. On many occasions he speaks forthrightly. Last Thursday, he said that the implementation of this rule will extend the United States regulation into Canada. Indeed, I appreciate his point. The United States is now deciding how we should export our natural gas. The United States is now determining our export policy for natural gas, just as it is now deciding how we should impose softwood lumber stumpage rates in the various provinces.

I think it is time the Parliament of Canada said something about this. It will have the opportunity to do so today as a result of this Opposition Motion. Parliamentarians ought to say that it is time Parliament started determining our economic policies, not the Congress or the quasi-judicial bodies in the United States.

Let me identify the extent of this natural gas disaster for western Canada. Perhaps as much as \$400 million will be lost as a result of the Government's inability to deal effectively with the United States in ensuring a movement of Canadian exports to the U.S. The United States has indicated its concern about this incredible wave of Canadian natural gas invading its markets. What a peculiar view considering that between 4 per cent and 5 per cent of the United States' demand is met by Canada. As a matter of fact, in the last few months there has