

which they have worked within has been destroyed and delivered into the steel fabricating industries and steelworkers of Ontario.

This example of the Prime Minister's just society might in his opinion be good economics for that region of Canada with all the political clout and good economics for the Liberal Party of Canada, but I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that it is bad nationalism and disastrous to regional good will which is so precious in Canada today. I am not against anti-dumping safeguards because they are a necessary fact in industrial life. I say again that within the spirit of GATT and by precedent of the anti-dumping tribunal, the concept I propose is sensible and equitable for a country such as Canada, covering just less than ten million square kilometers, touching on the Pacific Ocean, the Atlantic Ocean and 4,000 miles of border with the United States.

I ask again that the government reduce the level of regional inequity by accepting the principle that safeguards be applied to those regions or markets where the threat or reality of injury exists, and that safeguards not be applied to those markets in Canada where the threat or reality of injury does not exist.

The wide-flange steel beam situation is volatile and has reversed itself in the last six months. The decision made by the government last June 13 and announced last Saturday, June 24, will create chaos in the B.C. industry because the government has not announced the margin of dumping. The Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance are working against a healthy Canadian federation with this type of confrontation. Once again I urge them to rethink the matter and decide in favour of regional equity.

Algoma is playing a very cute game with the west. They are not accepting Alberta orders but, on the other hand, are accepting B.C. orders—not turning them down but saying they cannot supply at this time. Their games leave no alternative but for the B.C. government to reopen the tribunal hearing on the grounds that Algoma cannot supply. This is such a waste when what we need today are jobs and productive work. This policy of the government and its continued rigidity in this direction is costing jobs in western Canada. You cannot keep this country together with that type of centralized policy.

● (2217)

Mr. Ed Lumley (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the comments of the hon. member for Capinolo (Mr. Huntington) concern the question of applying anti-dumping duties on wide-flange steel beams imported into British Columbia. He is proposing that the current remission order be extended beyond its present expiry date of June 29. As hon. members are aware, the remission order was provided by the government in order to allow sufficient time for fabricators in British Columbia, as well as in Alberta, Newfoundland and the Yukon Territory, to adjust to the new situation following the decision by the Anti-Dumping Tribunal that imports of dumped steel were causing injury to Canadian producers.

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The hon. member appears to base his case on his view that a regional market for these products exist in British Columbia. This view was, of course, not shared by the Anti-Dumping Tribunal when it examined the issue in the terms provided for under the Anti-dumping Act. Hon. members will be aware that section 16(4) of that act requires the tribunal to take fully into account in its determination of injury the definition of domestic injury as provided for in the GATT anti-dumping code. This definition sets out the circumstances in which a country may be divided into two or more competitive markets for the purposes of considering injury to domestic production.

We were advised that the Algoma Steel Corporation is making a considerable effort to ensure that western Canadian consumers will be supplied with wide-flange steel. In this regard, it should be kept in mind that the imposition of anti-dumping duties does not prevent imports and, although western imports of wide-flange steel are down so far this year, I understand that the availability of wide-flange steel to western Canada is equivalent to that of last year.

With respect to the request concerning the remission of the anti-dumping duties, the government has considered the matter and I understand that a reply has gone today to the premiers concerned. The government has decided not to extend the remission order in view of the fact that the prices at which steel is moving internationally have increased significantly over the past few months by comparison with the unremunerative levels which had prevailed previously.

Nonetheless, many steel mills around the world are working well below capacity and the potential for large shipments of injuriously priced steel into the Canadian market still exists. Against this background, and in view of the fact that the remission program on imports of wide-flange steel shapes for use in British Columbia, Alberta, Newfoundland and the Yukon Territory was intended as a temporary and transitional measure, the federal government has decided not to review the remission order beyond its present expiry date of June 29, 1978.

I can assure the hon. member, however, that the final determination of normal values of wide-flange steel shapes under the provisions of the Anti-dumping Act will be made shortly so that, while injurious dumping of these products in Canada will not be countenanced, the products will land in British Columbia ports as in the rest of Canada at competitive prices. This, I believe, should serve the best interests of all parties concerned.

FINANCE—DUMPING DUTY ON WIDE-FLANGE STEEL BEAMS

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock): Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary secretary's answer to the hon. member for Capilano (Mr. Huntington) is nothing short of misleading. To suggest that Algoma is planning to do everything it can to supply the western Canadian market, particularly the B.C. market, is nothing short of misleading when just a month ago they put the western Canadian fabricators on allocations, as the parliamentary secretary knows, based on a percentage of