

Mr. Mazankowski: You were out doing your interview.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): We in this quarter of the House do not accept the initiative of the Prime Minister. We believe it has been ill-conceived. We believe it has been ill-managed and poorly negotiated. We believe it was ill-timed. The homework has not been done. The preparation was not done. There was no public debate. There was no mandate from the Canadian people. There has been no debate in Parliament. Not once have we had a debate in Parliament on this issue. The provinces have been inadequately consulted. Yesterday we heard the Premier of Quebec reasserting what he believes is his right to have a veto on these negotiations, or on the result. The Premier of Ontario has taken the same position. I must say that I do not know where the new Premier of British Columbia stands on this particular point.

For sure, the United States is our principal partner. We desperately need access to its markets in terms of competitive ability, market share and so on. But there is a rising protectionist sentiment in the United States. The newly-elected Democratic Congress, a Democratic Senate and a Democratic House of Representatives has accentuated that sentiment of protectionism. The Government was naive in thinking that the very fact of beginning negotiations with the United States would, by itself, dissipate that sentiment of protectionism in Canada's favour and would eliminate or exempt Canada from it. Of course that was naive, and of course it has not happened.

I believe we have to examine that naive assumption. I believe Members of the House must put a question to themselves. Is the United States really after free trade, or fair trade, or managed trade? Is the United States using the cover of these negotiations to extract a series of managed trade deals from Canada?

● (1300)

I do not know whether the Minister has had the opportunity to personally examine or be briefed on the new United States Trade Bill which was introduced in the United States Senate and supported by 52 or 53 Democrat and Republican Senators. That is not a free trade operation. That is a managed trade operation. That is not a fair trade operation. The Minister states that it is worse than that, and it is.

I am proud to sit in the House, but in terms of a legislative chamber the U.S. Senate is a pretty good deal. There are no administrative responsibilities, only debate and analysis. Those Senators love it, and it is a great club. They call it a level playing field. Fair trade is a level playing field. I love the expression "level playing field" because every time I have seen an American negotiate on that basis what he really means is "it is our field, it is our referee, we draw the lines, it is our goal posts, and it is our ball". Now we have the United States Trade Bill.

I believe that we should now reassess the negotiations with the United States. We should ask our American friends what are the real objectives. Is it free trade, or is it a managed trade

The Budget—Right Hon. Mr. Turner

arrangement? Are these negotiations being used by the United States to extract from us deal after deal. There was 15 per cent on the export of softwood lumber. What is next? Pulp and paper, steel, potash, oil or gas, hydro?

[Translation]

Recently, I had the honour of speaking with Premier Bourassa, and I said: Watch out, Mr. Premier, if it's 15 per cent today on softwood lumber exports, watch out for your pet James Bay project. Thanks to the pitiful negotiating by this federal Government, the Americans will be tempted to make us put a 15 per cent tax on our hydro exports as well. They see those guys in Ottawa as rank amateurs. The way we were set up by the United States on the softwood lumber issue will be repeated, and next time, it could be on just about anything.

[English]

When the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) telephones the Prime Minister this afternoon, ask him how the weather is, would you? Tell him that when he is down there to pick up the phone to his friend, the President of the United States. I know that the President is a little distracted and wondering what is in the computer bank. But in any event, call him and say, "Look, Mr. President, the boys, the Members, the girls—

Mr. Mazankowski: Which group, you or Axworthy?

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Sheila will not like that, John.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): No, no, I was trying to find the right word. The persons, the Members, the people. Equality is so rampant in the Liberal Party that we no longer have distinctions.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Ask the President what are the real intentions of the Congress. We ought to know. We would like to have a statement from the Prime Minister, not the Minister for International Trade (Miss Carney). We have seen her final offer after final offer after final offer. We wish a statement from the Prime Minister stating at what stage are these negotiations, where are we going, what is on the table, and what is not on the table. We must start to dissipate the uncertainty, and the business uncertainty in Canada in order to know where the country is going.

The Chief United States Negotiator, Peter Murphy, stated that everything is on the table. The former Speaker of the House of Representatives, Tip O'Neill, was up in Canada at \$25,000 an hour and told us that he liked Canadians, but in these negotiations you have to give a little. I have not met Tip O'Neill for a long time. I did like him. When I next see him, I will say, "Tip, give a little? We have given already on FIRA, it is gone; the National Energy Program is gone."

Mr. Mazankowski: You were against it, too.