

Customs Tariff

our permission and nothing was done over the whole summer to advise American authorities of our deep concern.

Secondly, Star Wars. One has the feeling that the Conservative Government, under the pressure of public opinion, said "Nyes" to the President of the United States, that is a private yes and a public no in order to save its neck because the Canadian people do not want the Canadian Government to take part in Star Wars.

Since a statement was made on this matter, we now know that some Crown corporations and the National Research Centre might take part in Star Wars with the blessing of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence (Mr. Nielsen), when the Prime Minister said to us in the House that the Government would not be involved.

Thanks to Bill C-71, we now know where the Conservative Party really stands as shown in the statements made by the Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance (Mr. Lanthier) himself. Mr. Speaker, I want to quote from the speech made in the House by the Parliamentary Secretary during the debate on second reading of Bill C-71. He said that at the Quebec Summit, and I quote the Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance:

At the Quebec summit, our valiant Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Mulroney) and the President of the United States (Mr. Reagan) decided, among other trading initiatives, to put an end to protectionism in the exchange of goods and services between our two countries.

The Parliamentary Secretary, with his close relationship with the Minister of Finance, must know what he is talking about. Something certainly happened at the Quebec Economic Summit. What happened is that once again the Prime Minister of Canada abdicated his responsibilities as the Prime Minister of a sovereign state before the President of the United States. Mr. Speaker, the Americans now consider us as a 51st State much more than as an independent and autonomous neighbouring country, and we cannot accept this situation.

The Minister of State for Small Businesses, who is in this House today, knows very well what that means: the abolition of protectionist measures. A decision will have to be made very soon by the Cabinet whether the Government of Canada will maintain the quotas imposed by the previous Liberal Government, with special protective measures in the textile, footwear and garment industries. A number of the decisions made by the previous Government are coming to an end, and I do not have to remind the Minister of State for Small Businesses that Dominion Textile has just closed its plant not only in the most important town in his constituency, Saint-Jean, but also in the most important town of the neighbouring constituency, Valleyfield. Hundreds of workers were laid-off because of that decision by Dominion Textile, and why? Because that company is in a difficult position, because it has to face very tough competition from abroad.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance tells us that the Prime Minister of Canada and the President of the United States embraced in Quebec City, and that they decided to put an end to protectionist measures. Well, I cannot support Bill C-71 which amends, which reduces certain customs tariffs to let Canadian products compete with American or foreign products; that is what will happen. What will the passing of that bill bring? The possibility that Canadian manufacturers will lose jobs. All these liberalizing, free trade measures, all those measures putting an end to the protectionism put in place by the previous Government, will jeopardize job security directly for hundreds of Canadian workers.

I hope the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance when he spoke on Bill C-71 was wrong, that he did not say precisely what happened behind closed doors during the discussions held between the Prime Minister of Canada and the President of the United States and that this Progressive Conservative Government will continue to accept its responsibilities and protect thousands of jobs in the Canadian textile, footwear and clothing sectors.

[English]

Motion agreed to and Bill read the third time and passed.

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● (1750)

TAX COURT OF CANADA ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed from Monday, September 24, consideration of the Motion of Mr. MacKay (for the Minister of State (Finance)) that Bill C-72, an Act to amend the statute law relating to income tax and to make a related amendment to the Tax Court of Canada Act, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

Mr. George Baker (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, as I was about to point out yesterday, this particular Bill before the House includes some minor changes to the Federal Tax Court of Canada Act. It does not really make an amendment of any substance but it does provide that someone must justify a request for an *in camera* proceeding before the Tax Court. The Bill also makes amendments to other Acts including an Act to amend the statutory law relating to income tax and to make related amendments to the Canadian Pension Plan and the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971.

I believe a problem will arise with the overload of cases that will appear before the Federal Tax Court of Canada as a consequence of the actions of the Government which decided to cut back in various government Departments. When the unemployment insurance scheme is cut back by \$250 million, for example, more cases end up before the Federal Tax Court of Canada.

Why do they end up there? When people are judged ineligible for unemployment insurance, they appeal that decision